Grace Lutheran
Worship Folder
November 14 & 15, 2026



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.
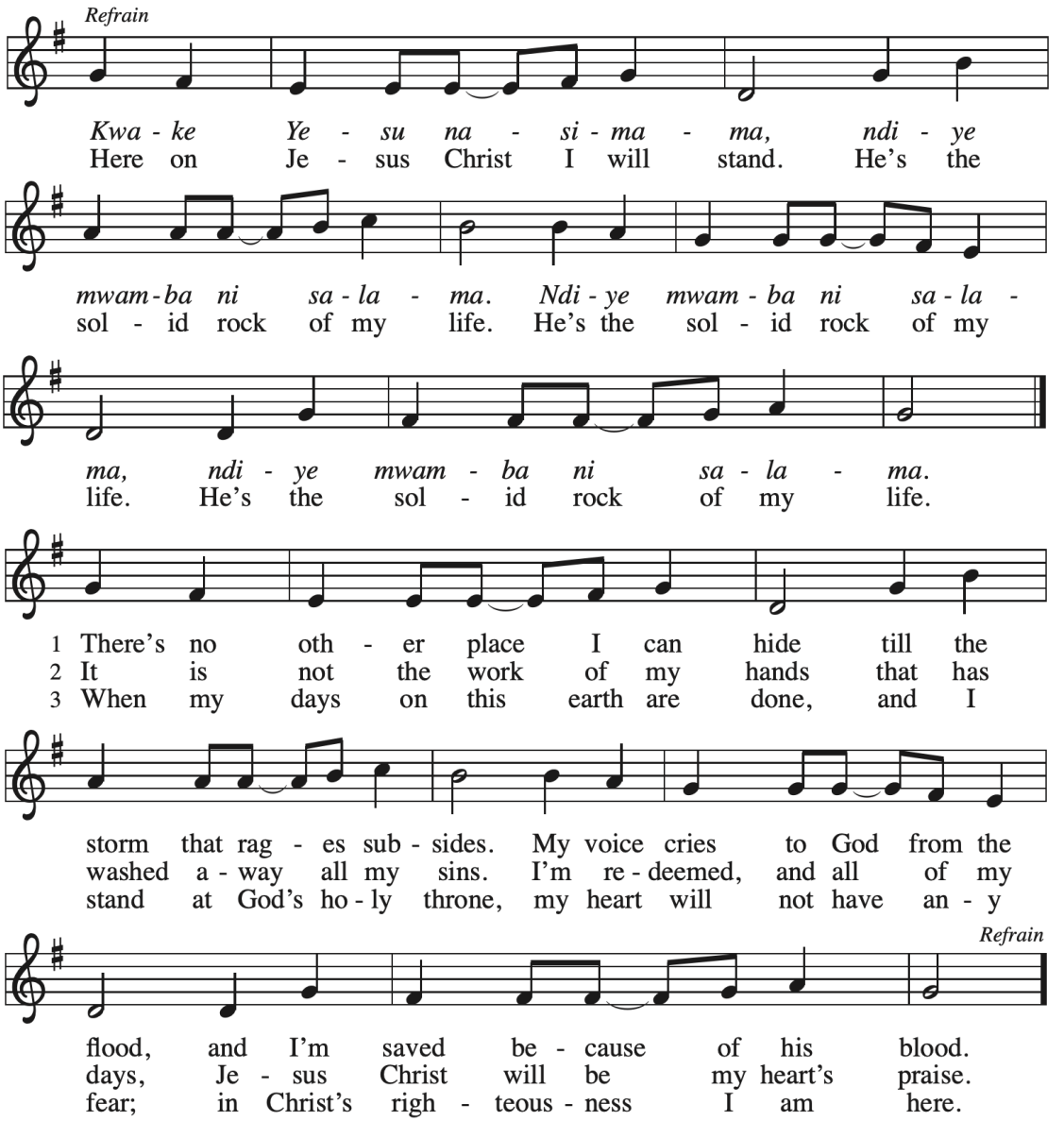
P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" **ACS1024**



Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer
Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik
English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

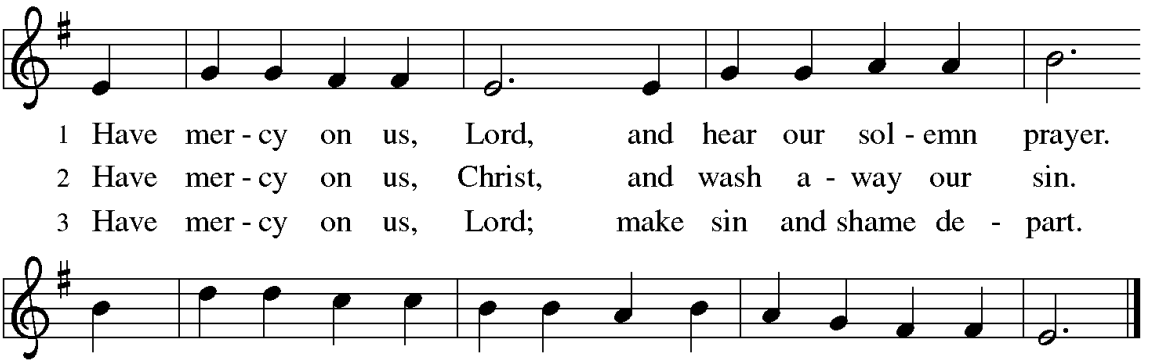
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GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

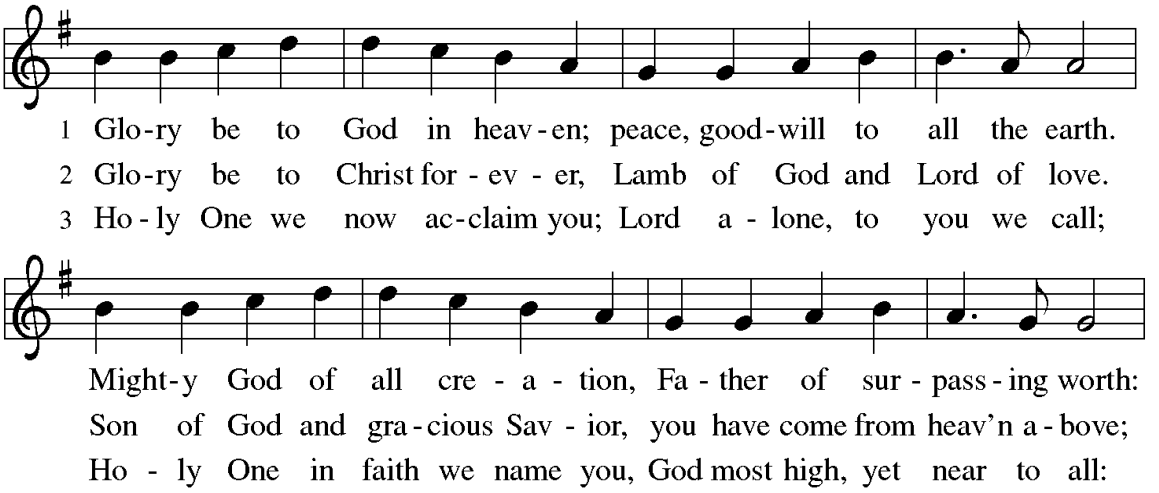
C: And also with you.

KYRIE

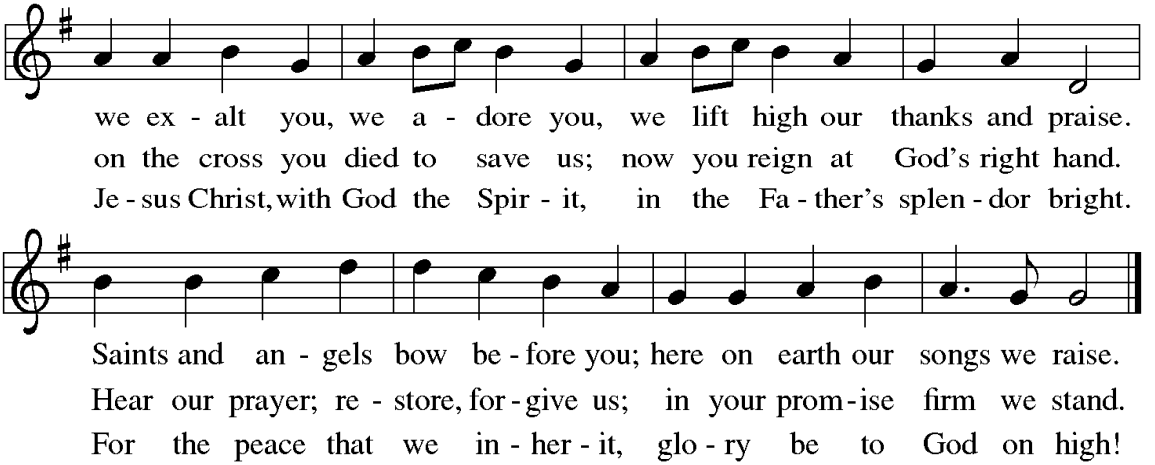


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HYMN OF PRAISE



Text: Martin A. Seltz; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven. Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress. Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.



P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

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WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand! The LORD has
prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build
houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink
wine from them. 14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the
sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will

be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, [16] a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. [17] I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. [18] Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

[1] Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.

[3] You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;

[5] you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

[6] **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

[7] For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

[8] **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

[[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.

[11] Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?]

[12] **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

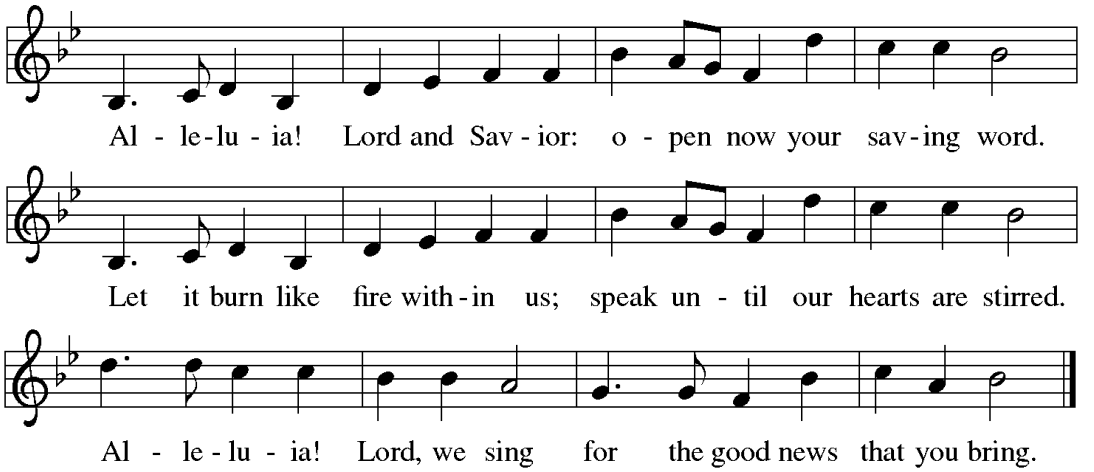
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of
the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and
security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a
pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not
in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light
and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not
fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep
sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to
the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet
the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are
awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build
up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.
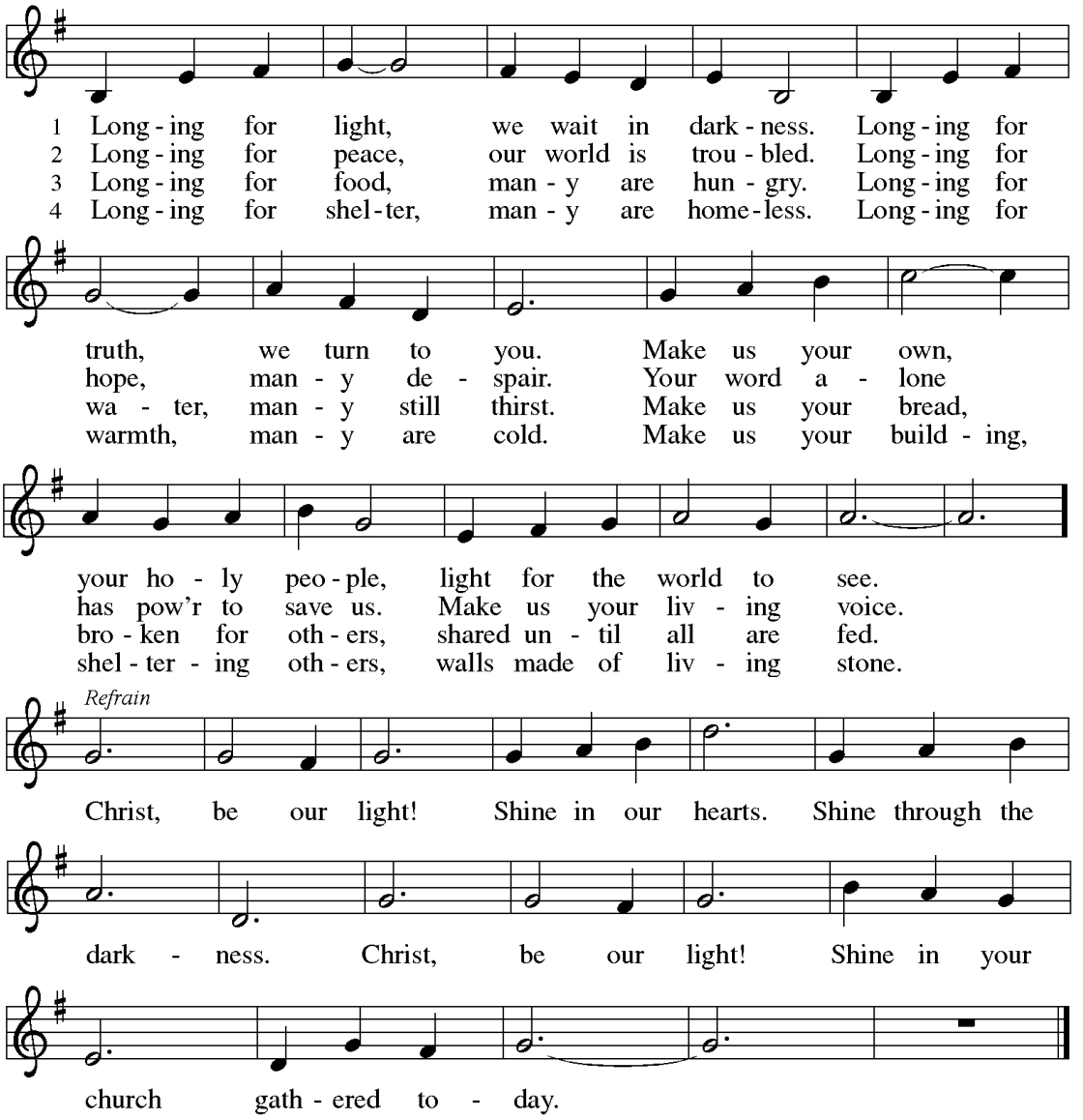
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned
his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At
once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and
made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made
two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a
hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received
the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master
said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a
few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said
to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24
Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering
where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the
ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and
lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I
did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and
on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the
talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who
have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have
nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave,
throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.' "

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)

HYMN OF THE DAY "Christ, Be Our Light" **R715**



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

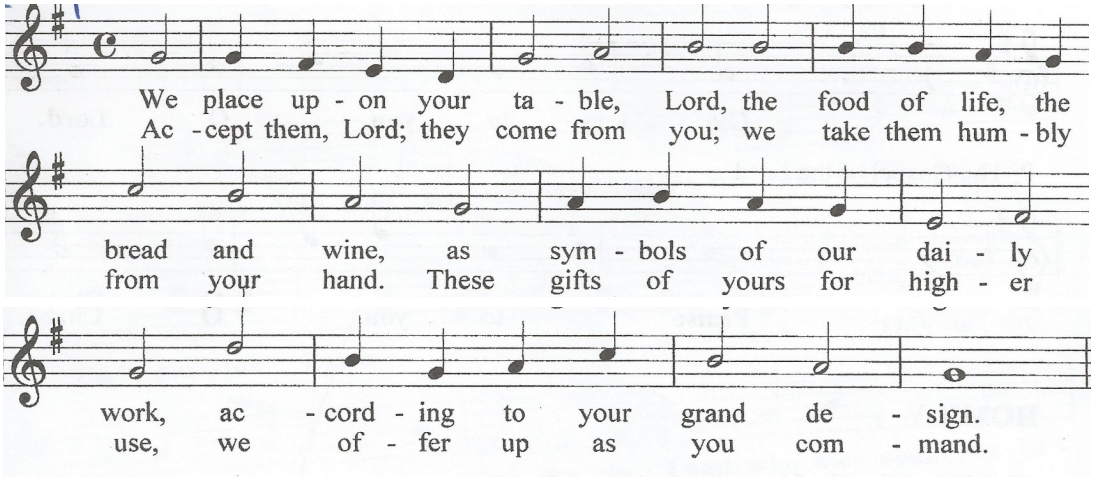
INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(the assembly stands as they are comfortable and sings as the gifts are brought forward)*



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P: Let us pray...Loving God,
C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

P: This is Jesus's table. He invites all to come and receive the gifts that strengthen us, that help us be God's people this day and always.

(There are gluten-free wafers available. Please ask the Pastor for one. And there is grape juice in the center of each tray, the clear juice.)

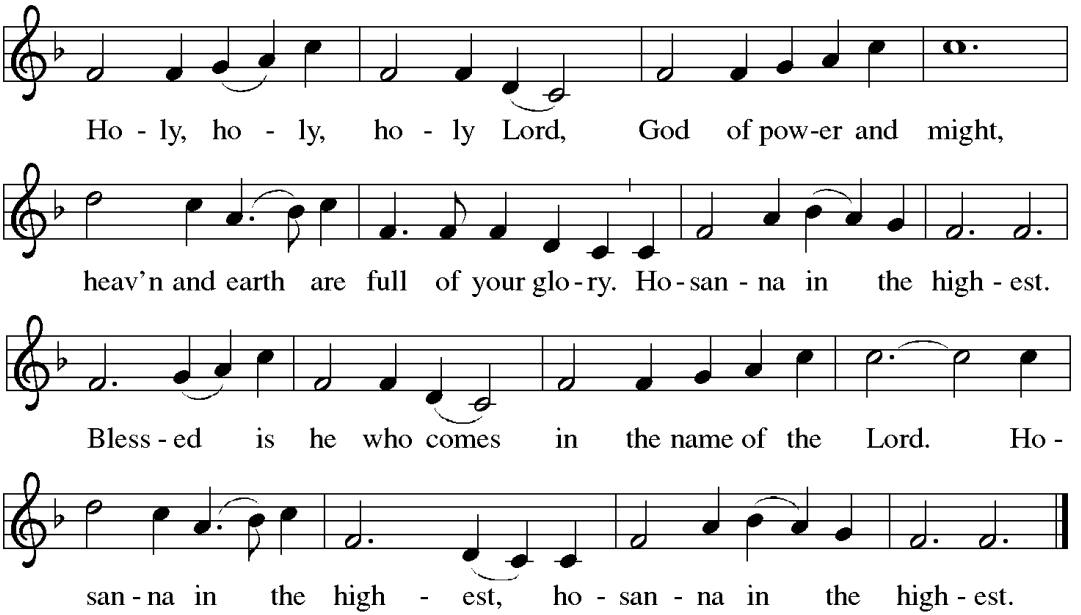
GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
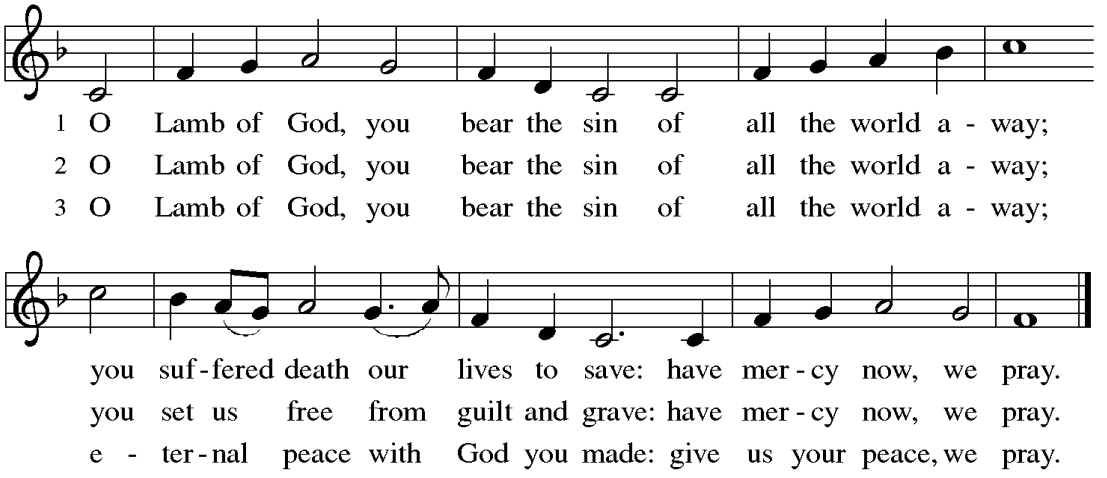
LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

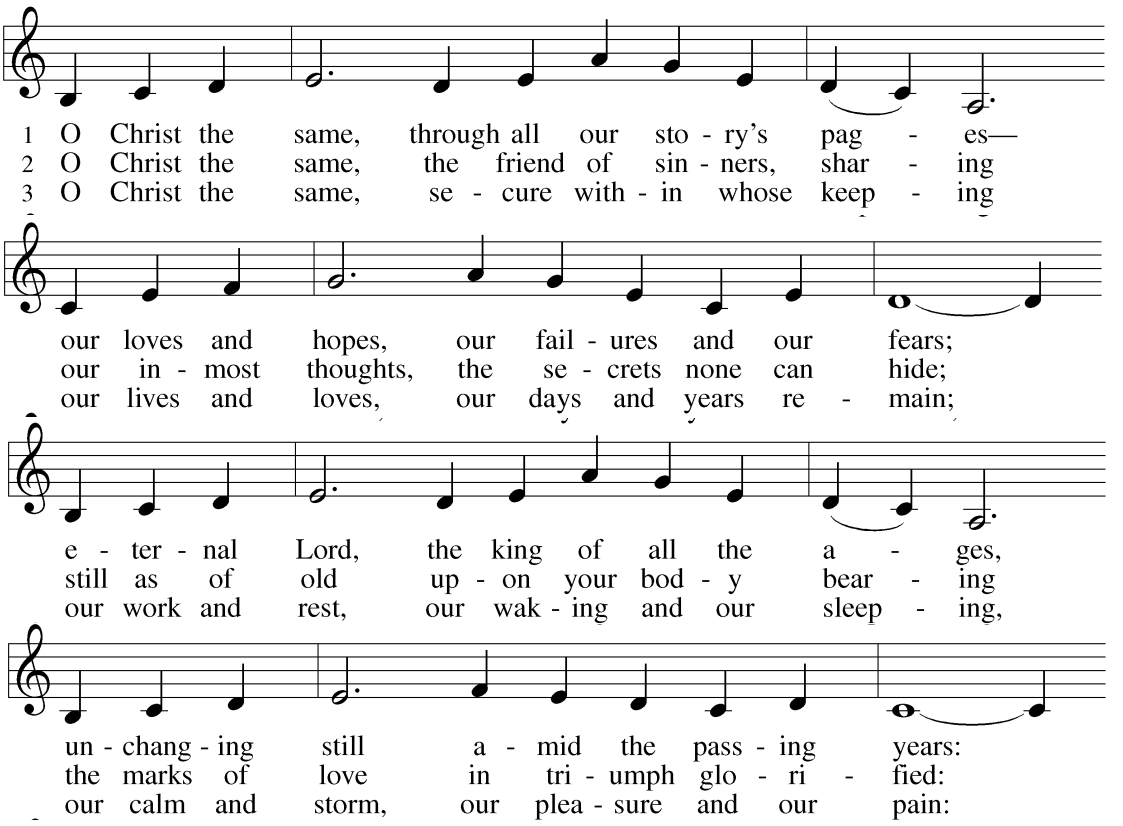
(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

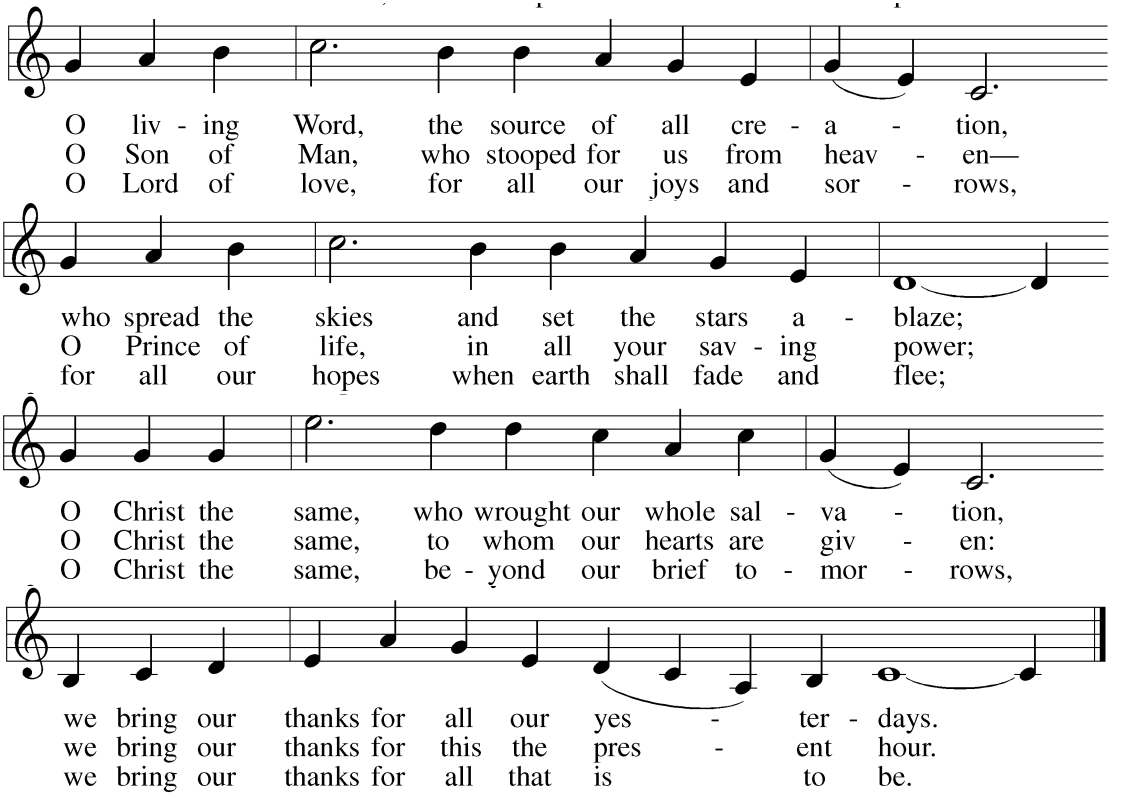


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COMMUNION HYMN "O Christ the Same" **WOV778**



(Continued on next page)



Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.
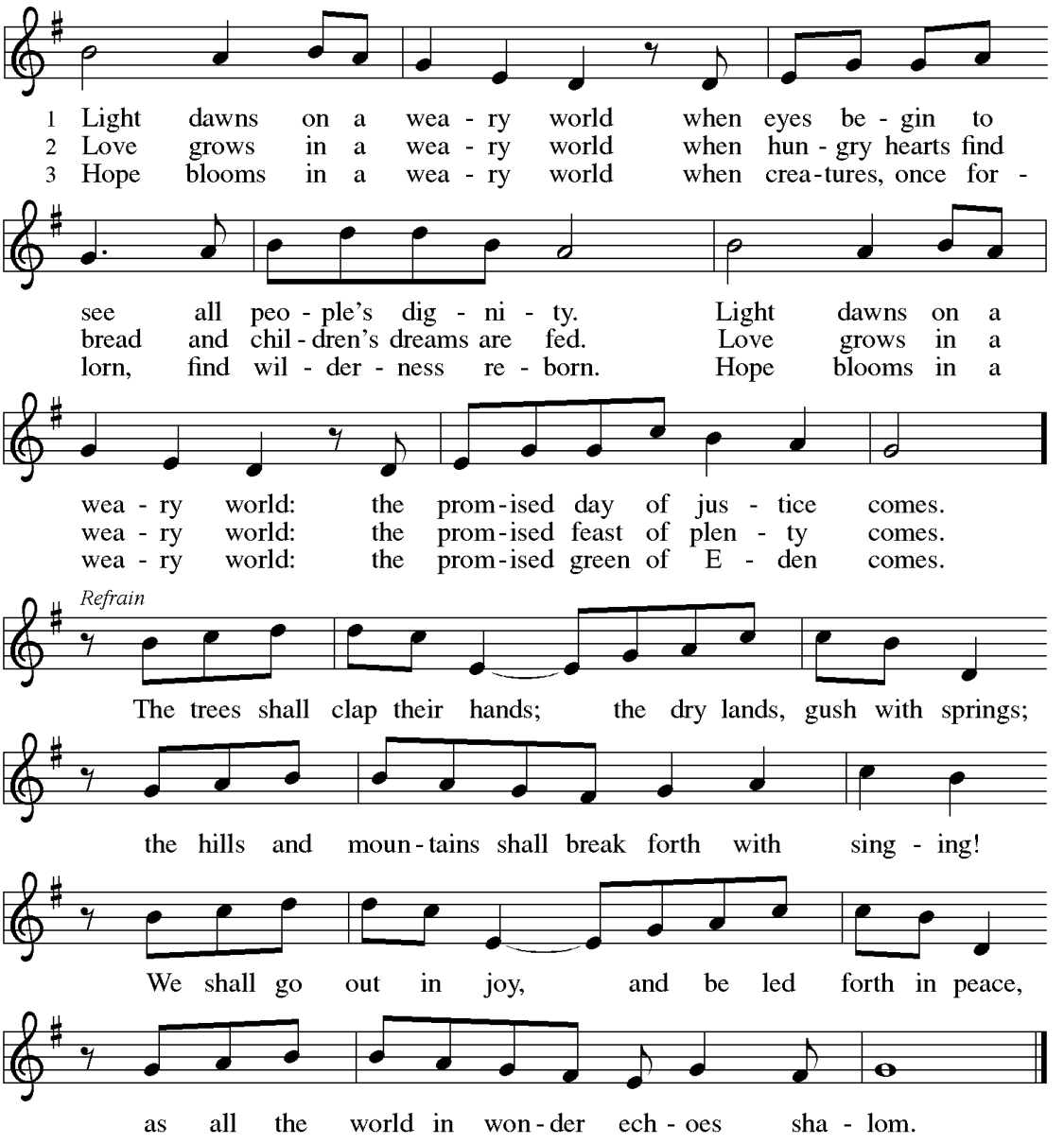
P: Let us pray...Compassionate God,
C: through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
C: Amen.
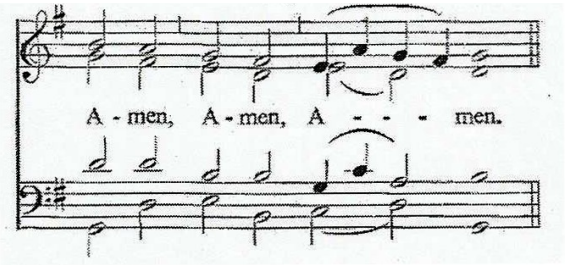
SENDING HYMN "Light Dawns on a Weary World" **R726**



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Seek equality and justice for all.
C: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE

✞ ✞ ✞

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats
in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Rev. Eugene Bacon for leading worship, preaching and presiding this weekend.

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Immanuel Lutheran/Big Rapids, Supply Pastors; and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas and Synod Staff.

PRAYER LETTERS

Please sign the prayer letter(s) each week that we send out telling other churches and ministries they have been included in our prayers. **Fill the page with our names.** The letter(s) are on the podium by the table in the Office Lobby.

THANKSGIVING CARDS FOR LOVING CARE MEMBERS

Please stop in the Office Lobby this weekend and sign Thanksgiving cards for our Loving Care Members.

IN OUR PRAYERS
Joel Suszek, Morgan Kibbe & Baby Colton, Meredith Smith, Jon Crow, Larry Garant, Patti Tucker, Bonnie Cross, Darlene Freel, Hope Kamyszek, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Elfie Jahnke, Robert Larsen, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Kelly Pankey -- Linda J. Muma, Erin Stokes, Nicole Zbytowski, Dana Cruse-Malcomson, Cheryl Gauthier, Tamyra Rychlinski, Maria Shelton, Lynsie, Tyson, Georgia, Lyle Beck, Candy & Tom Laughlin, Joan Vanover, Mychele Allmacher, Sandra Beck, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Jordyn, Maggie, Joseph Hansen and Baby J. We also remember the family of Maria Bleau (Donna Morgan's sister-in-law), who passed away on October 28th.
Military: Don Witt, 6-month deployment from Alpena, Will Stafford (Rich & Sherie McTaggart's grandson), Amelia Berles, US Air Force Pilot Training, and Michael Herrmann, US Air Force.

ADULT CHRISTIAN ED - NOVEMBER 15
Have you ever wondered about mysticism? Do you think it's people sitting around chanting "Ohm" or singing "Kumbaya"? What is it, what makes someone a mystic, who are some of the famous mystics? For example, remember Dag Hammarskjöld? You might be surprised to learn that he was a mystic. Learn the answers to these questions and discover the lives and legacies of mystics throughout history at the Adult Christian Education class on Sunday, November 15.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND - NOV. 14 & 15
On November 14 & 15 we will be collecting donations for the Little Food Pantry. Items that are used the most are cereal, peanut butter, jam, and personal care products such as toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and soap. We are also collecting hats, mittens and socks to place in our Little Food Pantry for those in need this winter season.

Our monthly food drive is being held this weekend and food prices are climbing. Our pantry is used for food insecurity as well as donations. Your non-perishable food donation often brings hope to those less fortunate.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE NOVEMBER BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES NOV. 15
Baptism is an event to celebrate and remember throughout our lives as Christians. We celebrate with you, your family, and friends as you grow in faith and love. Join us Sunday, November 15, after the 9:30a.m. service to celebrate all November baptism anniversaries. If you have a photo, your gown or candle to share, please bring it with you.

RUTH CIRCLE - NOVEMBER 18
The Ruth Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Our lesson this month is on page 46 in the *Gather* magazine. All women are welcome to attend.

GRACE LUTHERAN THANKSGIVING DINNER!
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 ~ 5 P.M.
Grace Lutheran will provide a church family Thanksgiving Day dinner at 5:00 p.m. The turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy will be provided. Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to pass – your favorite side, dessert, rolls, salads, whatever you feel inclined to bring! We will offer delivery to our Loving Care Members at 4:00 pm to allow them to also partake in our Thanksgiving Dinner. **For delivery, please call Peggy at 989-354-2640.** Delivery will be made shortly after 4:00 p.m. so our delivery crew can make it back to eat as well. ***If you can help with delivery please contact Peggy so she can list the drivers we will have as well.***

Please sign up and include the number attending and the dish you wish to bring and share. A sign-up sheet is located in the Office Lobby. **Requests for delivered meals need to be called in to the church by Monday, November 23 so deliveries can be coordinated.** All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING - JOIN US NOVEMBER 29 AFTER WORSHIP
We're putting up the tree and the greens and the candles on Sunday, November 29th. Join in preparing the church for the season. **Please sign the sheet in the Office Lobby if you are able to help.**

2026 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST TREE
The Christmas Wish List sponsored by United Way of Northeast Michigan has officially kicked off matching gift recipients to donors. Grace Lutheran's Christmas Giving Tree will be in the Office Lobby, beginning November 7, with tags listing items needed. **If you take a tag please have the gift returned by Monday, November 30th**. **Please wrap the gift and return it with the original tag.** Thank you for your participation. United Way is targeting 371 children this year by providing basic needed items for Christmas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED
Help! We are looking for volunteers to help teach our Sunday School class as we hope to get the program started again this January. We believe it is important for our young children to learn the wonderful stories and lessons of the Old and New Testaments and to grow in their understanding of God's love and grace. If you would enjoy helping them discover God's grace and Jesus' love, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Elsa Phillips after Sunday's service or call her at 989-884-1809.

BAKE SALE - DECEMBER 5
The Ruth Circle is planning a bake sale at Grace on **Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Donations of baked goods, candy, canned goods and craft items from the congregation are greatly appreciated to make this a success. We depend on the bake sale money to enable us to donate to 12 charities from Grace Lutheran Church through the WELCA Ruth Circle. **Bake sale items can be brought to the church on Friday, December 4 beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day until 5 p.m.** Any questions, please call Darlene Freel at 989-464-0085. Please also let us know if you can help on Friday or Saturday. Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Scott & Morgan Kibbe on the birth of a son, Colton Bernard Kibbe, on Friday, October 30. Colton joins big brother, Matthew. Colton's great-grandmother is Vicki Piontkowski.

PASTORAL CARE
With Pastor Tom's retirement, he is no longer available for pastoral care needs. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please contact Peggy at 989-255-8850. We have several pastors available and ready to provide pastoral care during times of need. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED
Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries can be found on our website at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org/2026-birthdays

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday – 15th **LFP Collection Weekend**
9:30 am **Worship**
Baptism Anniversary
Celebration follows
11:00 am Adult CE - Lounge

Monday - 16th
8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Tuesday - 17th
8am-noon Church Office Open
9am-noon Quilting/Sewing

Wednesday - 18th
8am-noon Church Office Open
1:00 pm Ruth Circle
5:15 pm Choir
6:00 pm Bell Choir

Thursday - 19th
8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved
1:30 pm Connect Meeting

Friday - 20th
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Saturday - 21st
5:00 pm **Worship**

SERVING NOVEMBER 14/15

Ministers ..... God's People
Pastor ..... Rev. Eugene Bacon
Music Director..... Claire Witt
Organist ....Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst...... Audrey Garant, Wayne Lewis
Lector ..... Dawn Anderson
Ushers..... Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom, Cindy Domrase (Saturday)
Greeters .....Bruno Hirzel, Tom Lappan
Altar Guild..... Sandy Welch, Karen Slaght
Livestream Team ... Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
Counters.....Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Coffee Hour .....Rick & Sharon Engstrom

SERVING NOVEMBER 21/22

Ministers ..... God's People
Pastor .....Rev. Tom Downs
Music Director..... Claire Witt
Organist ....Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst...... Audrey Garant, Wayne Lewis
Lector ..... Audrey Garant
Ushers..... Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom, Cindy Domrase (Saturday)
Greeters .....Rick & Sharon Engstrom
Altar Guild..... Sandy Welch, Karen Slaght
Livestream Team ... Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
Counters.....Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Coffee Hour ..... .Ruby Haske & Family

Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

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