24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday November 7th, 2026, 4:30 pm
Sunday, November 8th, 2026, 9:00 am



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

300 Logan St.
Merrill, WI 54452
Pastor Justin Smoot

715-536-5813
www.oslcelca.org
Marlene Graap, Organist

Welcome to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
We are a worship-centered, joyful community,
serving where Christ leads.

LOVE SERVE STRENGTHEN
all people in Jesus Christ

Welcome to Worship

At OSLC, we have a tradition of participating in worship, because it is our gathering to practice prayer and fellowship.

- Bold Print indicates responses spoken by all.
- You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand if you are comfortable doing so.
- Children are welcome in worship. If they want to help out with any portion of the service they can do so, just ask the pastor. There is also a place for them to color and play on the north side of the worship space. Sitting up front is also an effective way to help them see what is going on.
- On Sunday morning, the ushers will pass the offering plates, but we also have a QR code that will take you to our Vanco (online giving) site.
- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Our Saviour's. Please come forward as indicated. Please fill out a communion card so that we can have a record of who communion. You can also use the communion cards or visitor cards to reach out to the pastor.
- We have large print bulletins if you need them as well as hearing devices with headphones

Altar flowers are given by .....Betty Latzig
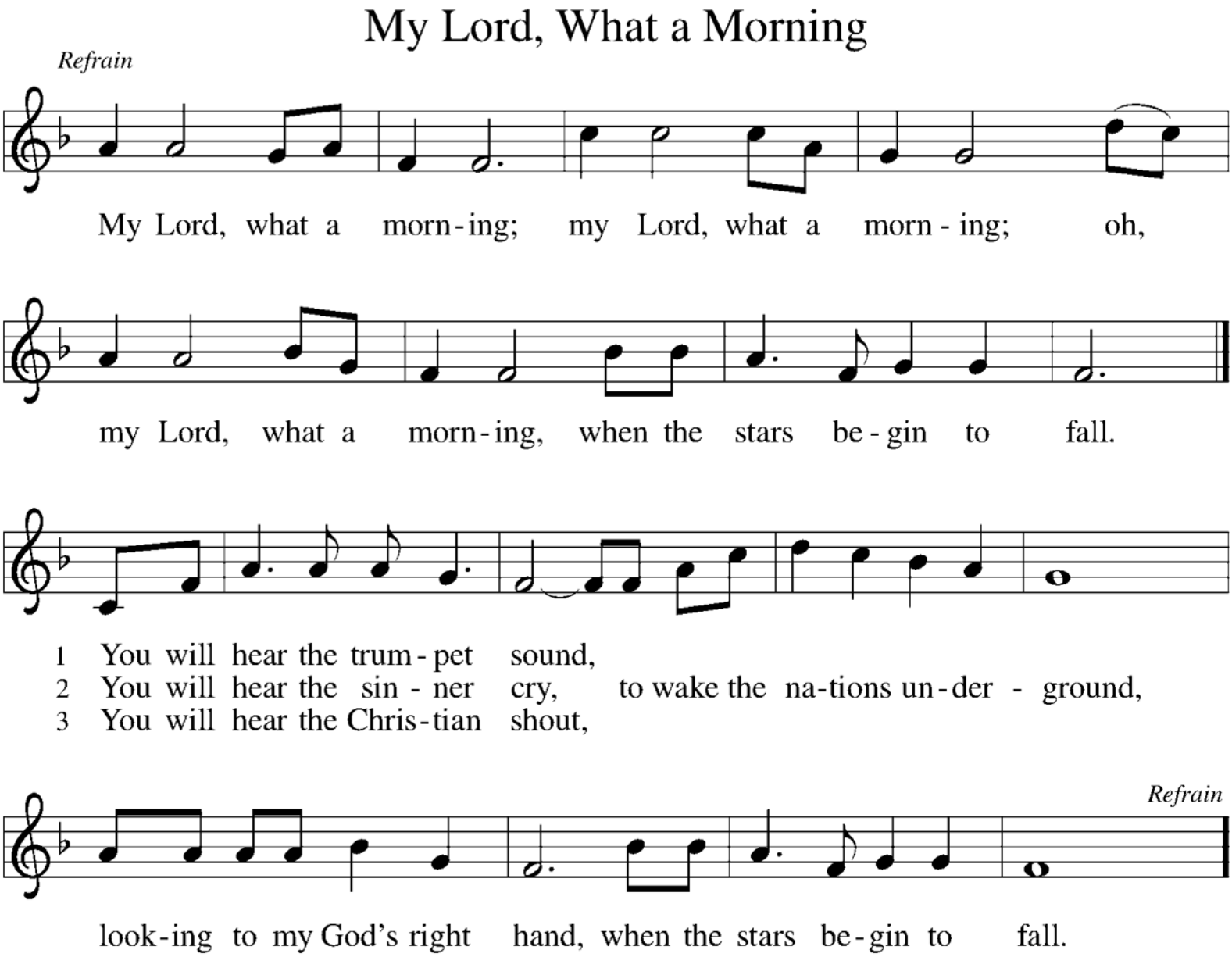
Sing for Joy is sponsored by.....Emily Edmund in memory of Jerry Wick

Gathering

For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)

Announcements

**Gathering Hymn* *ELW 438*



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

*Greeting

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

And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

JOSHUA 24:1-3A, 14-25

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-7

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times

3 that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done.

We will recount to generations to come the power of the Lord.

5 The Lord gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel, commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children; We will recount to generations to come the power of the Lord.
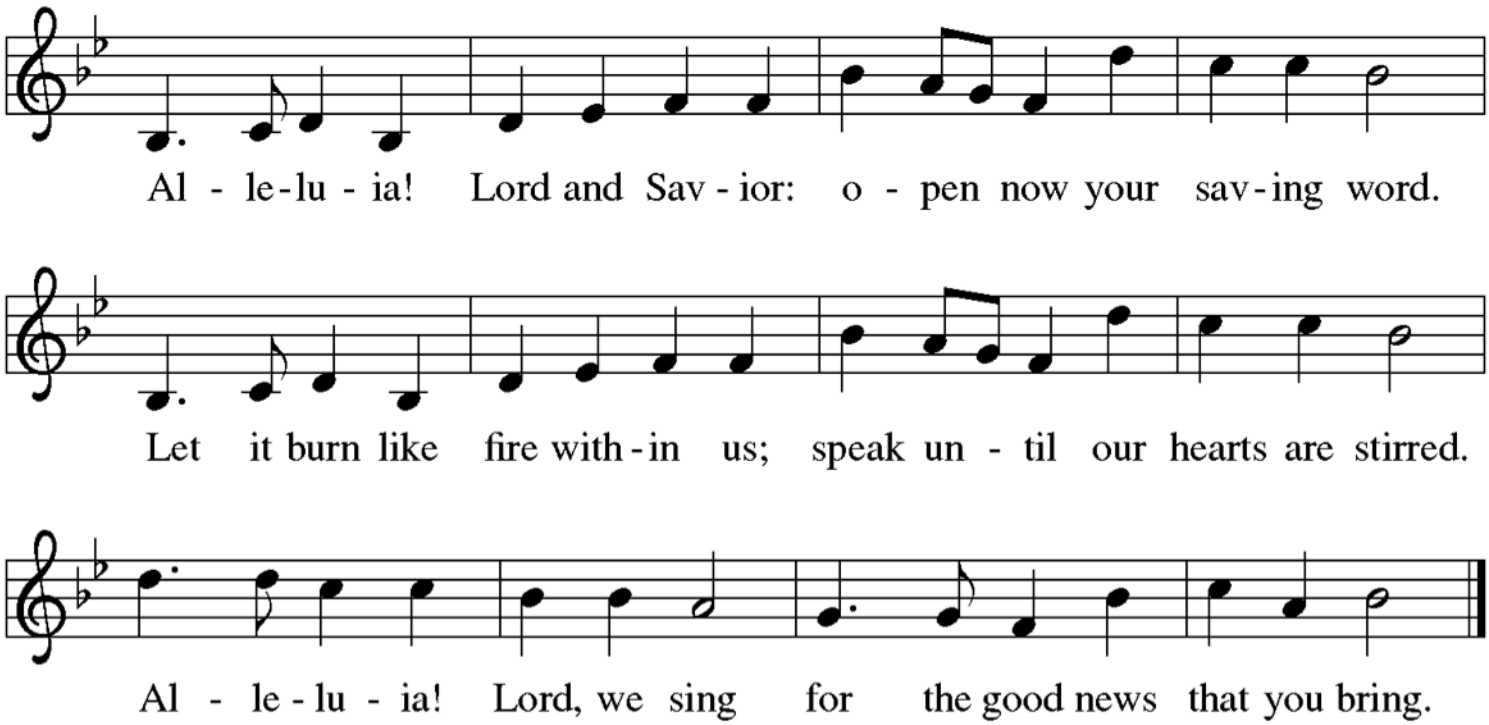
6 that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 so that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God's commandments.

We will recount to generations to come the power of the Lord.

*Gospel Acclamation

We stand and sing to welcome the Gospel reading
as we would welcome Christ.



*MATTHEW 25;1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.
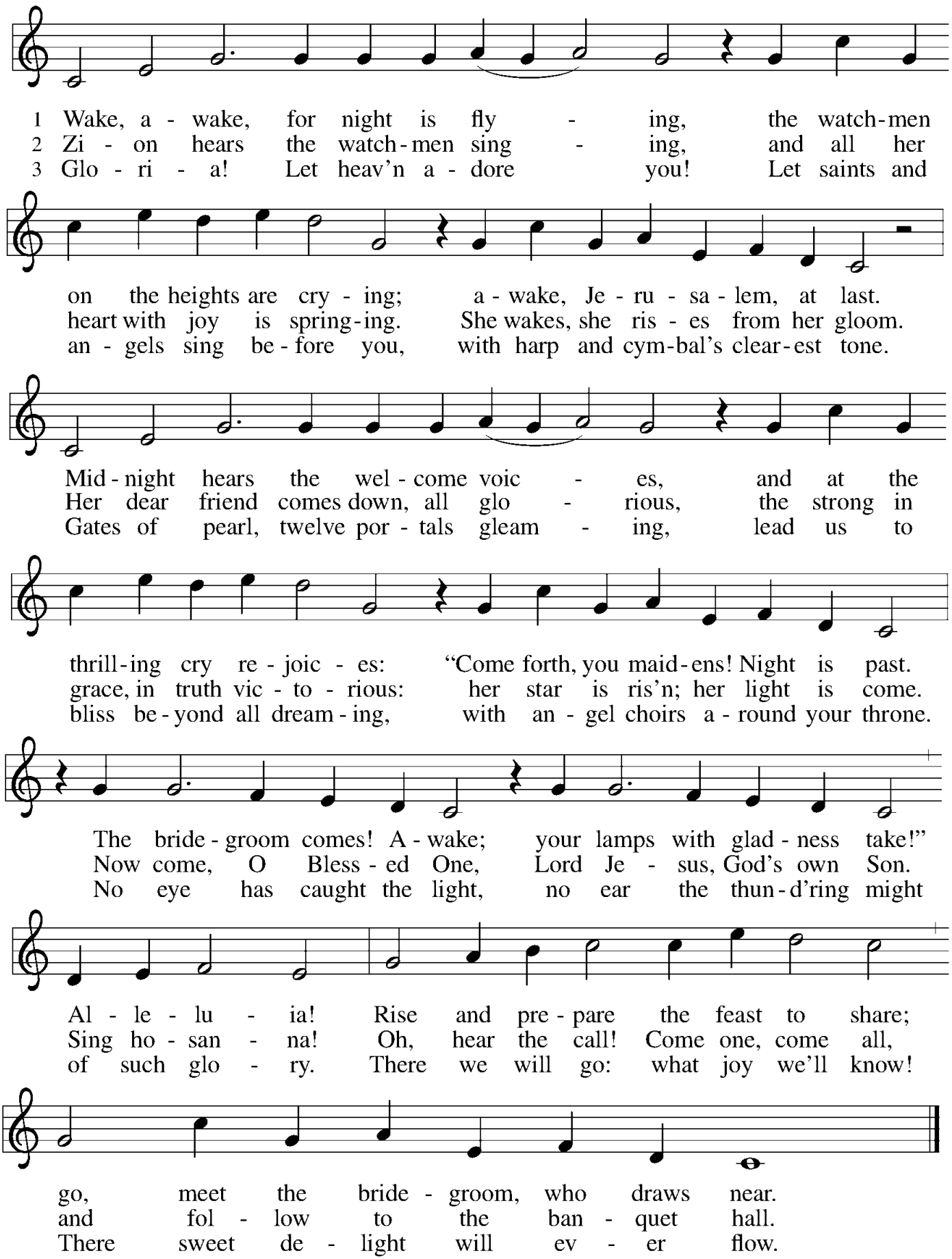
The Gospel of Our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Pr. Justin H. Smoot*

**Hymn of the Day* *ELW 436*

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



*Apostles Creed

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe and are marked with the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, let us profess our faith

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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

*Prayers of Intercession

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Each petition ends with the following response.

...God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

Amen.

*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

Meal

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Offering

Saturday: Please place your offering in the plates in back.

Sunday: The ushers will collect the offering, if you wish to give electronically, please visit our website: oslcelca.org or scan the QR code.

**Confession and Forgiveness

God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor your father and your mother.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not murder.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not commit adultery.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not steal.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not covet.

Lord, have mercy upon us and write all these, your laws, in our hearts, we pray.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

**Dialogue*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

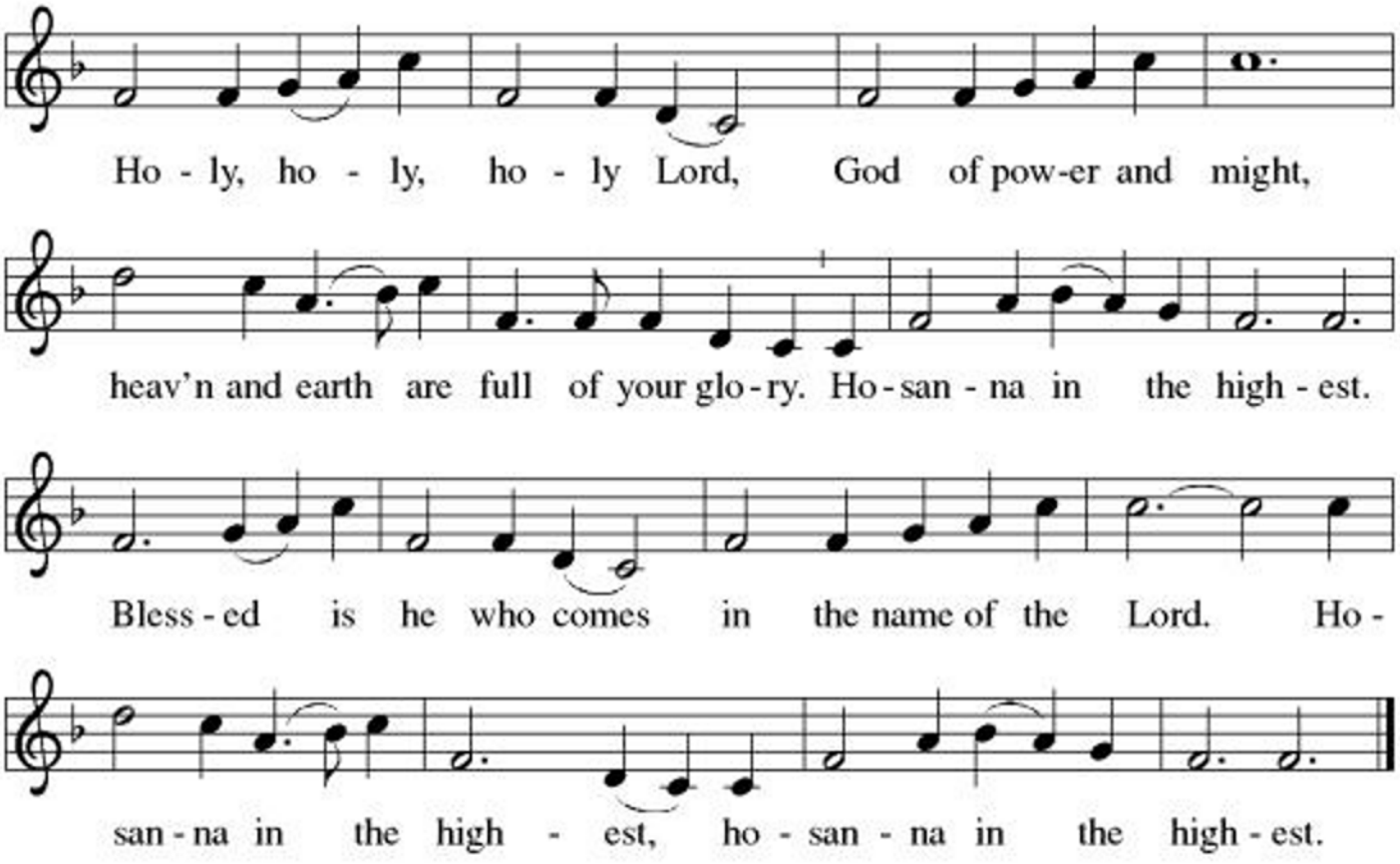
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....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

*Lord's Prayer

Gathered around our Lord's Table, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.
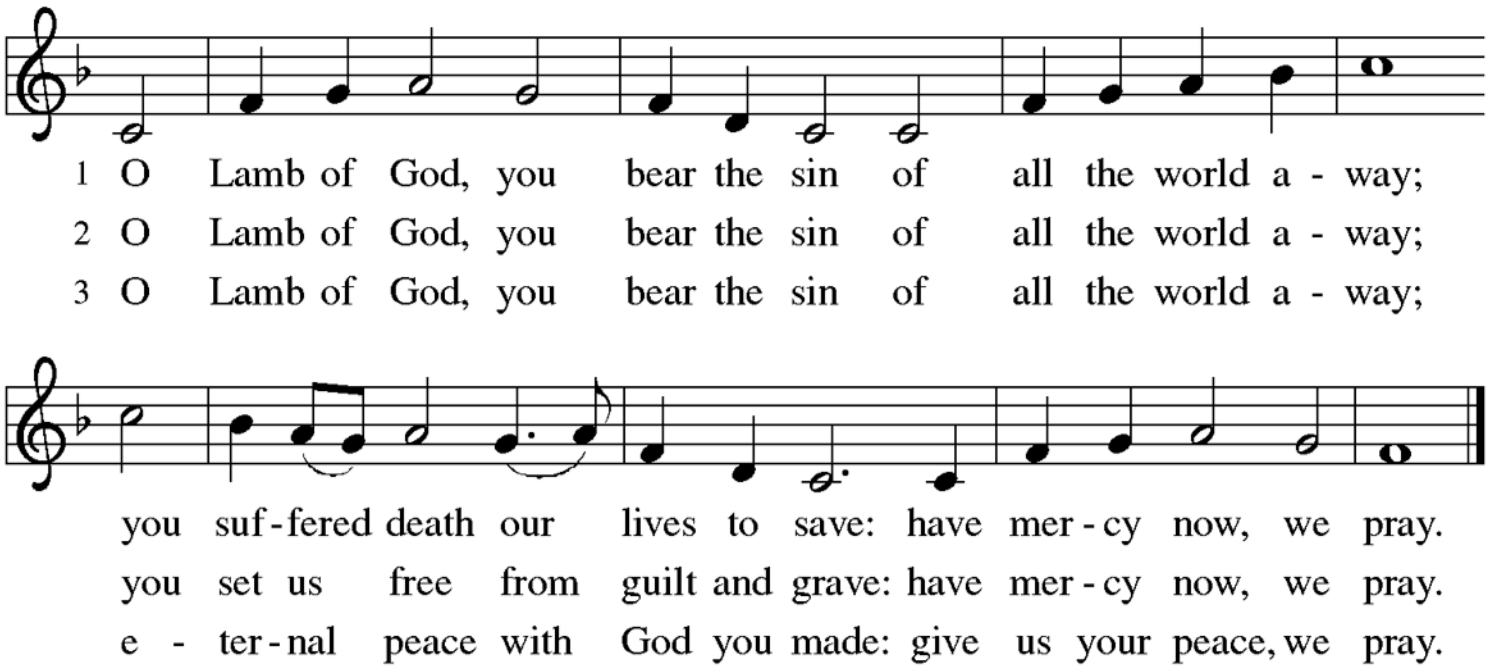
*Invitation to Communion

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Distribution — ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

We have gluten-free hosts available. The lighter colored drink is non-alcoholic. Please fill out a communion card or a visitor card and hand it to the ushers who will direct you down the center aisle.

Lamb of God



SENDING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:5, 13)

Holy God, as you have accompanied your people through times of captivity, wilderness, and exile, shelter and sustain all those who flee persecution, oppression, warfare, violence, hunger, and poverty. Open our hearts and homes, our gates and doors so that they fine safety, peace and welcome – a place to live in freedom and without fear, through Jesus Christ, our refuge and our hope.

Amen.

*Benediction

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn

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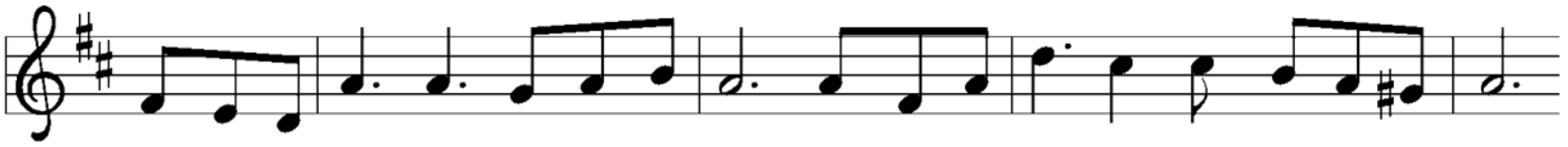
*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
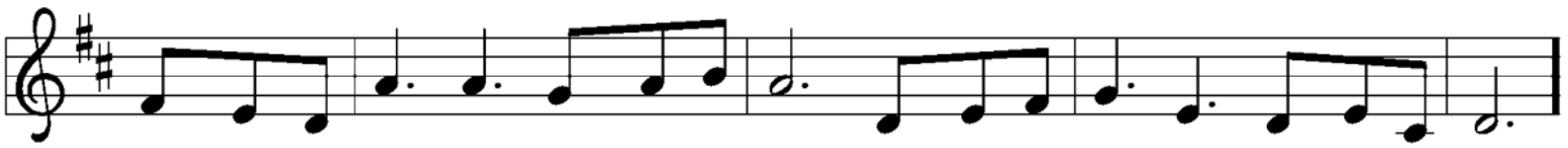
Thanks be to God.

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Blessed Assurance
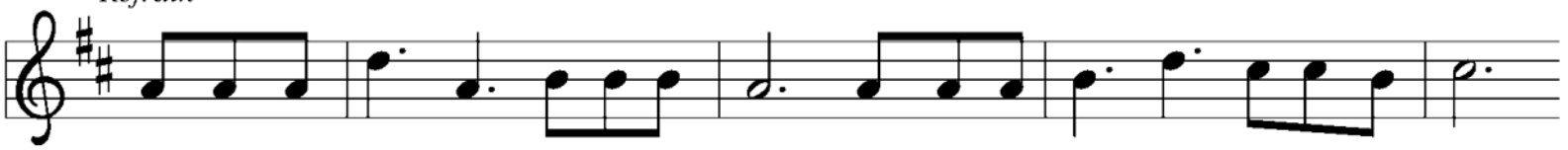


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,
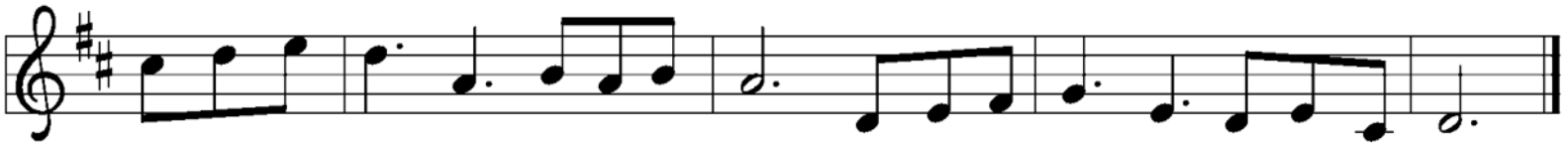


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



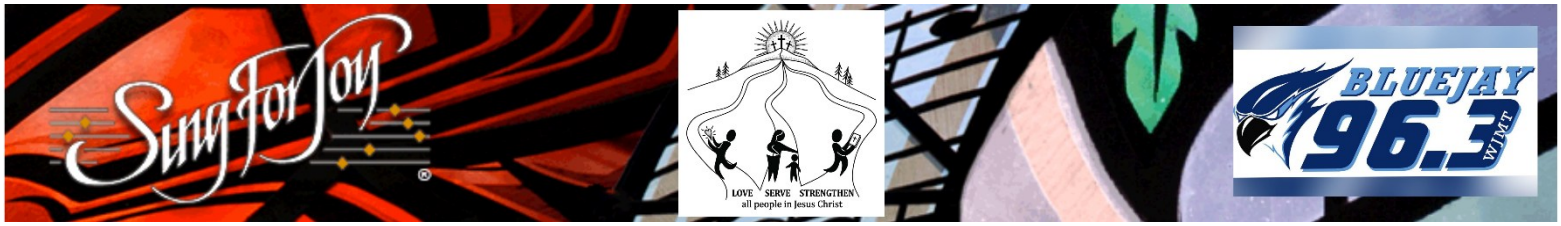
This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
300 Logan St. Merrill, WI 54452
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm
oslcelca.org office@oslcelca.org 715-536-5813
Pastor@oslcelca.org



Sing For Joy

Sunday morning at 10:00 am, we broadcast the St. Olaf Collage's Sing for Joy radio program. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor of, or in memory of, anyone, or just because you love religious music, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. You can also contact the church office as well.

Prayer List



Lois Ullman, Adam Norman, Cash Beyer, Laurie Sprague, Earleen Fox, Katie Hahn, John Hahn, Andy Semling, Chad Semling, Karleen Bebel, Gilman Smoot, Richard Ollmann, Elayne Ollman, Sarah Willman, Jane Eshleman, Jerrald Laak, Lee Ann and Lindy Lindquist, Larry Lebal, Barbara Kampstra (Bea Lebal's Sister),Scott Buttke Halena Anderson, Stacy Dummer (niece of Ruth Nelson-Lau), and the families of , Jerry Wick, Faye Marsceau, Carri Leyk and Norma Thompson.

Sunday Fellowship



Pr. Justin will usually make a pot of regular coffee; all we need is some sweet treats from you. Sign up in the lounge or surprise us!

November 8th Susie Latzig **November 15th** Korrine O'Malley.

November 22nd Ruth Nelson-Lau **November 29th** Korrine O'Malley

This Week's Events – November 7th – 14th



November 8th	9:00 am Worship Service
	2:00 pm Worship Service – Pine Crest
November 9th	10:30 Outreach
	11:00 am Funeral – Norma Thompson
	1:00 pm Miriam Circle
	6:45 pm Bible Study
November 10th	3:00 5:00 pm Diaper Closet
	3:30 pm Finance Committee
November 11th	10:00 am Faithful Followers @ Our Saviour's
	6:00 pm Confirmation Class
November 12th	8:30 am Mission Sewing
	11:00 am Worship – Bell Tower
November 14th	4:30 pm Worship Service

Birthdays This Week – November 7th – 14th



November 9th	Susie Latzig
November 11th	Gene Bebel
	Afton Ladewig
	Joanne Zunker
November 12th	Owen Rhodey
November 13th	Karen Buntrock
November 14th	Eric Annis
	Roxanne Johnson
	Cameron Peterson
	Gregory Smith

If you know of additions or corrections to the Birthday list, please let the office know so that we can update our records.

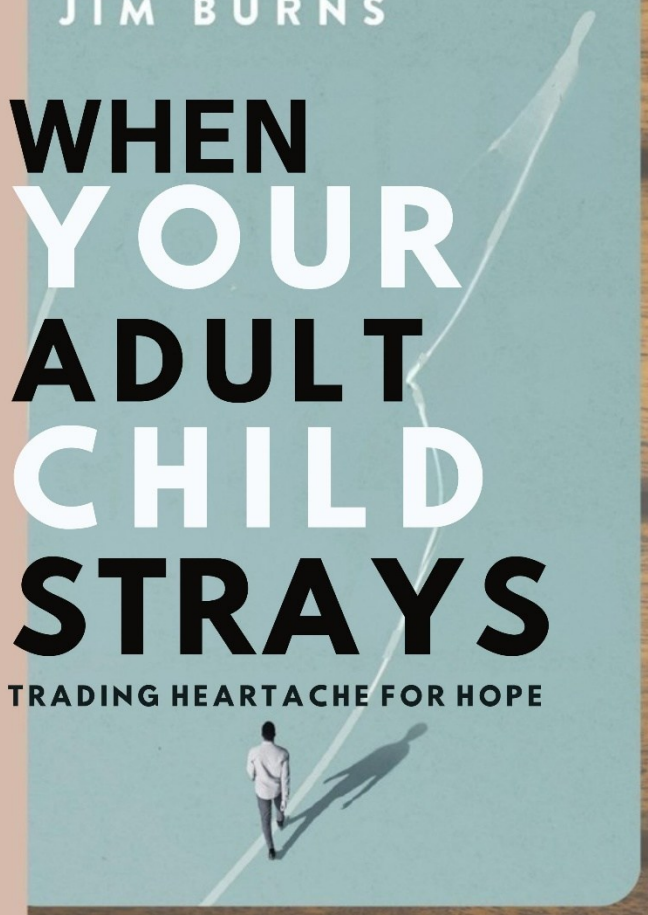
Quilters Update



The quilters are desperately low on sheets for quilting. The wanted/needed items are sheets, blankets and mattress pads. If you are cleaning out your closets and have excess of any of these items, please feel free to bring them to the church and the ladies will put them to good use.

Book/Bible Study

CHRIST UMC & OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN



Wednesday @ 10am

Nov 4	Christ UMC
Nov 11	Our Saviour's
Nov 18	Christ UMC
Nov 25 -	No Class

At Christ UMC we will be discussing this book. Copies are available in the office

At Our Saviour's we will be reading 1st Kings.



It's Time to Sell What We Rolled

Lefse making is now complete and it's time to sell what we rolled. Lefse sale dates are **Saturday November 14th and Sunday November 15th at service times**. Hope to see you there!

The Skinny Tree is Here – Let the Countdown Begin



As you read this, the Skinny Tree is up in the narthex for Lincoln County's Christmas Spirit Project. This is an opportunity for you to purchase gifts for less fortunate area children. To participate all you need to do is choose a tag with gift suggestions from the Skinny Tree, sign the registration sheet and you're good to go shopping! Complete directions are attached to each tag. **If you take more than one tag, please make sure the tags are from the same family. The due date to bring the gifts back to Our Saviour's is Tuesday December 1st.** Thank you for sharing your Christmas Spirit to bring joy to others!

Blessing Container

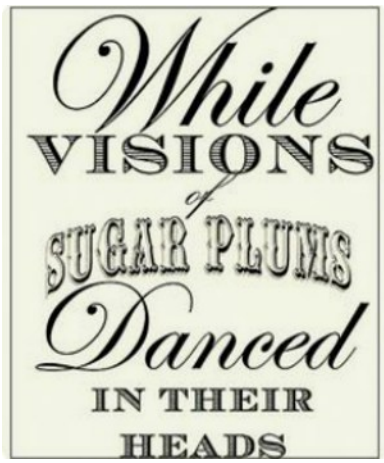


There will be a "blessing container" available for you to share what you think the Food Pantry would like/need. The container will be out through December 6th. As the container fills, Barb Fraser has offered to take the items to the Food Pantry - she is looking forward to making several trips! If you would like Barb to do your shopping just give her a call at 715-451-1549 and she will be glad to help you out. Thank you.

Sharing Christmas



Do you have a small Christmas decoration you could share? The shelves in the lounge could use some brightening up for the holiday season - angels, nativity scenes, trees, etc., small enough to fit on one of the shelves. If you can share something, simply place it in one of the empty spots and print your name on a label (you will find it on the library desk). Please put your label next to the item that you share. Thank you for sharing!



Christmas Cookie Exchange

It may not be sugarplums doing the dancing, but it might be gingerbread, peppermint, peanut brittle, and fudge. They're dancing because Our Saviour's Third Annual Cookie Exchange is right around the corner!

The Outreach Team hopes you can share two or three dozen of your homemade Christmas goodies for the exchange. Please bring them to the lounge before 10 am on December 6 - in a disposable container or a plate with your name on it. Also, don't forget to bring a container to carry home the treats you choose. If you bring two dozen items, choose two dozen to take home.

Please sign up on the sheet in the hall. That way we'll know how many tables to set up

Come! Kick off the holiday season with merriment and munching!

News from East Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

Wisconsin River Valley Annual Conference Meeting

Our Wisconsin River Valley Conference Annual meeting will be on:

Date: November 22, 2026.

Place: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau

Time: Starting at 2:00 pm. Doors will open at 1:00 pm for a time of fellowship and Hospitality to connect with those in our conference.

If you would like the information and resources for this meeting, please stop by the church office to get a copy. As a reminder, each congregation can bring the number of voting members per Synod Assembly guidelines.