Reformation Sunday
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
October 25, 2026

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
1115 Greenbrier Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Welcome and Announcements

(Please take some time to prepare for worship in the quiet as we light the altar candles…. If you are worshipping online, we invite you to have something to eat and something to drink, ready for communion)

Prelude **"Celebration Mambo"** **David Arivett**
Agape Quintet

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
All: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
All: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,
All: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

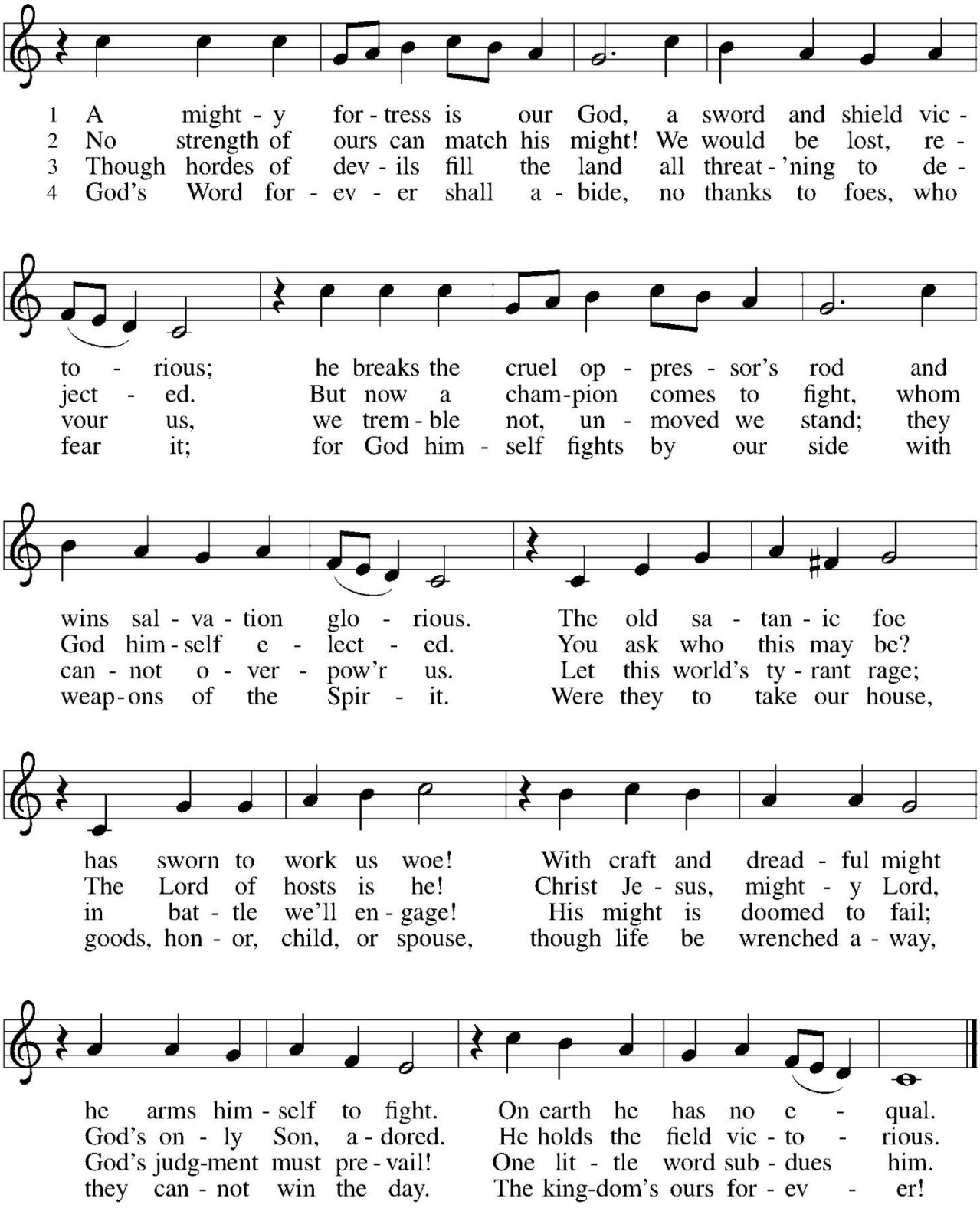
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn

Gathering Hymn **"A Mighty Fortress is Our God** **ELW# 504**

(Ein Feste Burg)

Verses 1, 2, 3, and 4 - Large print words found on page 22

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated.

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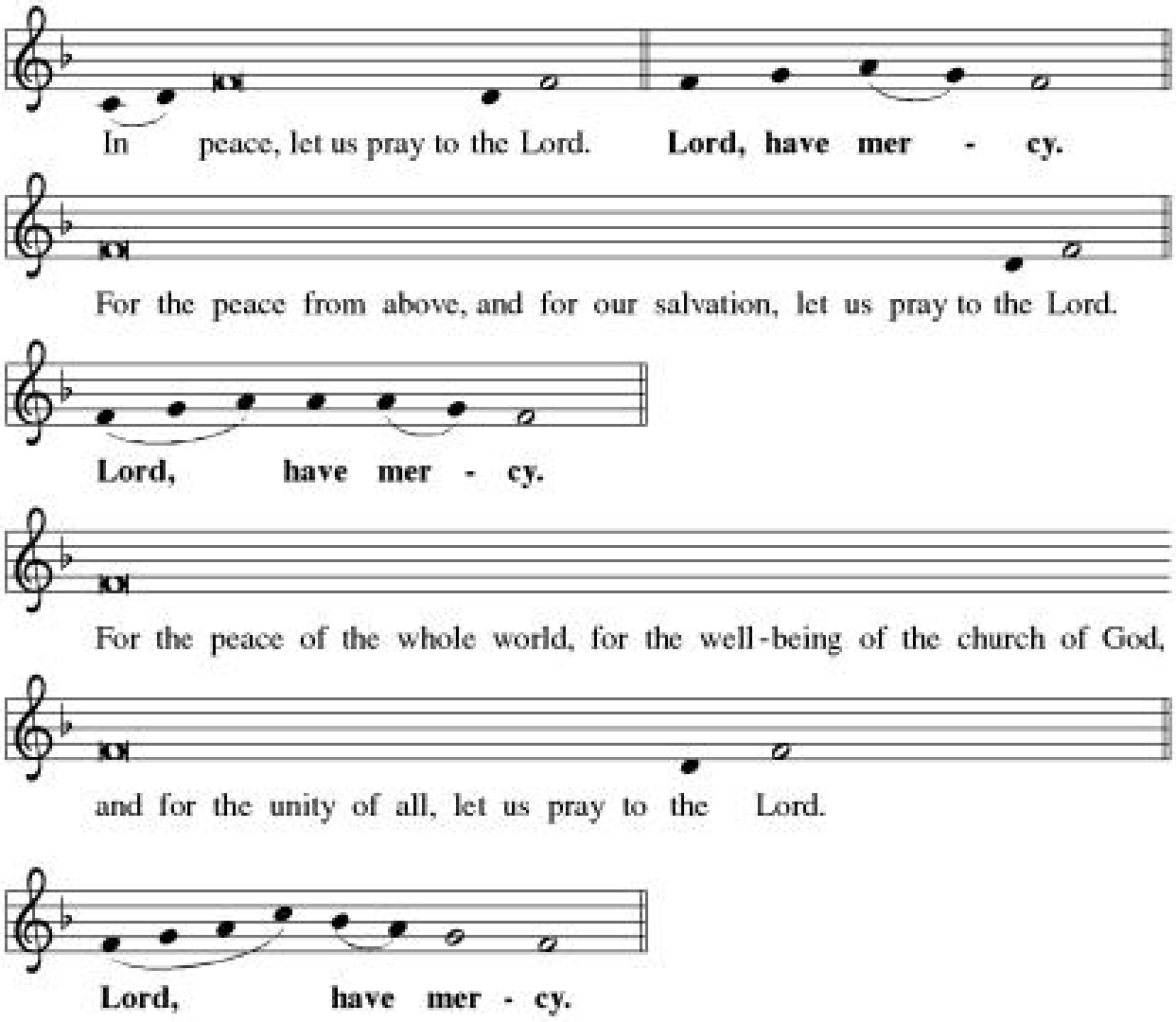
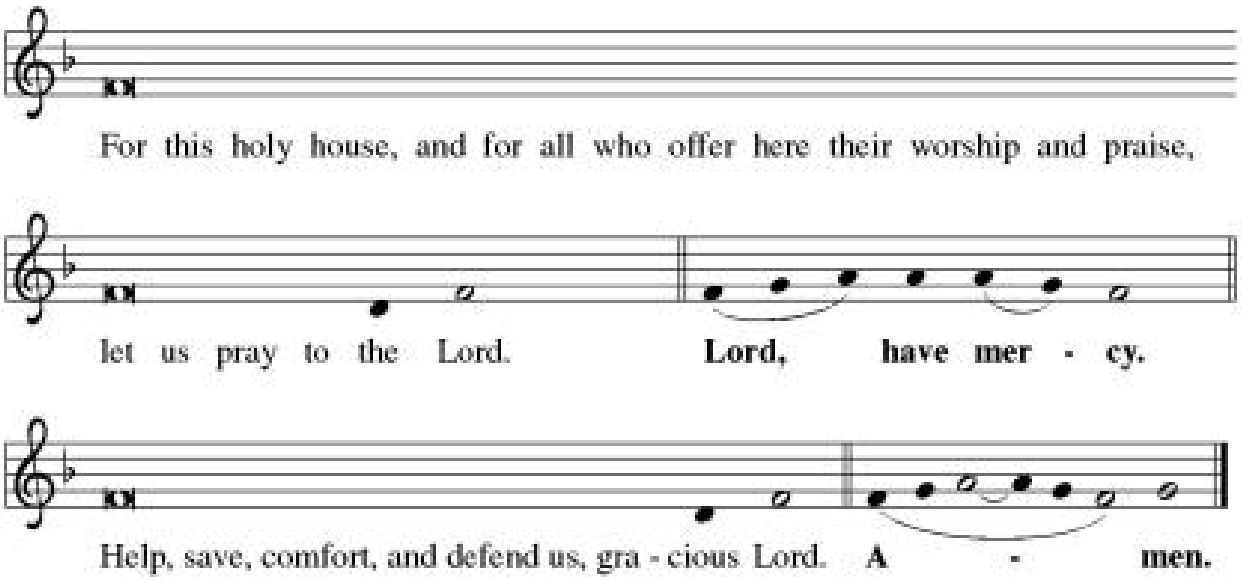
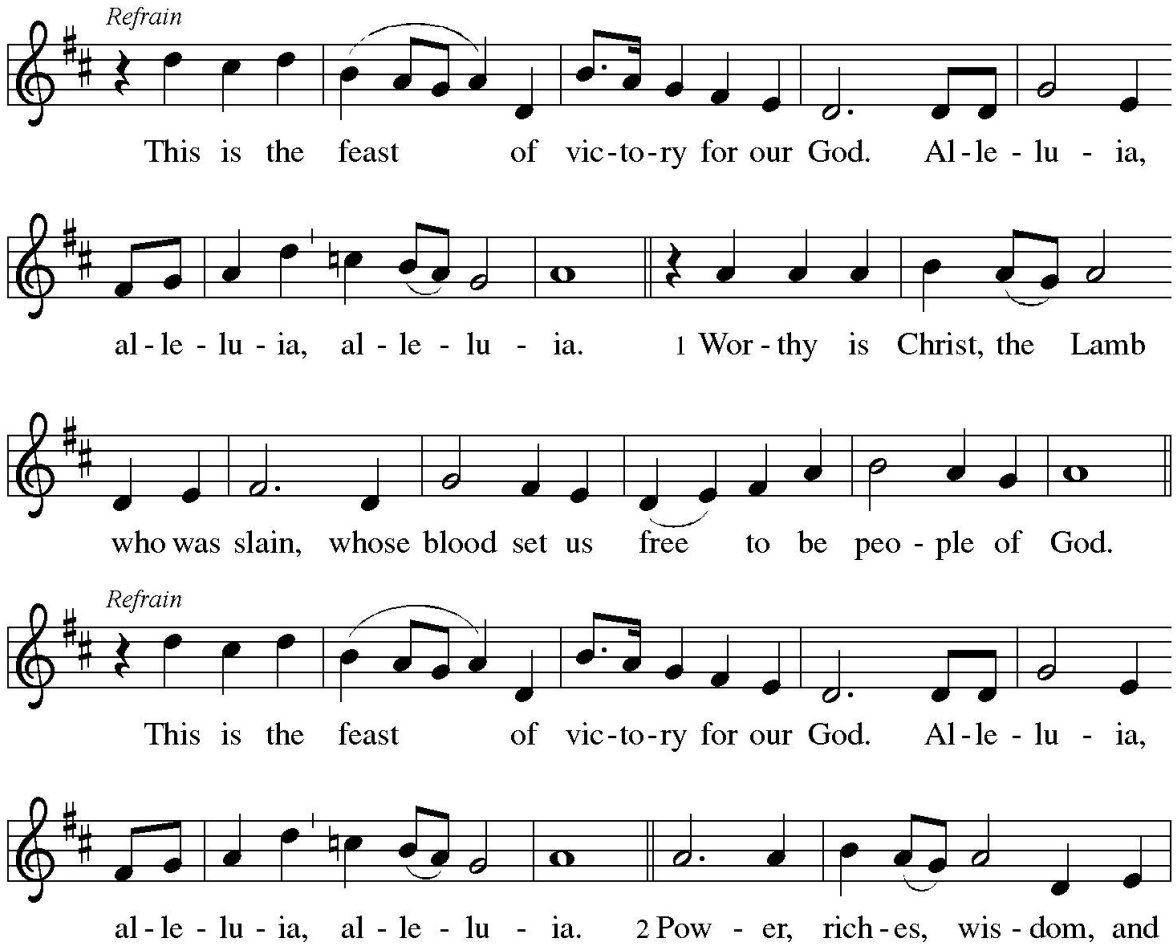
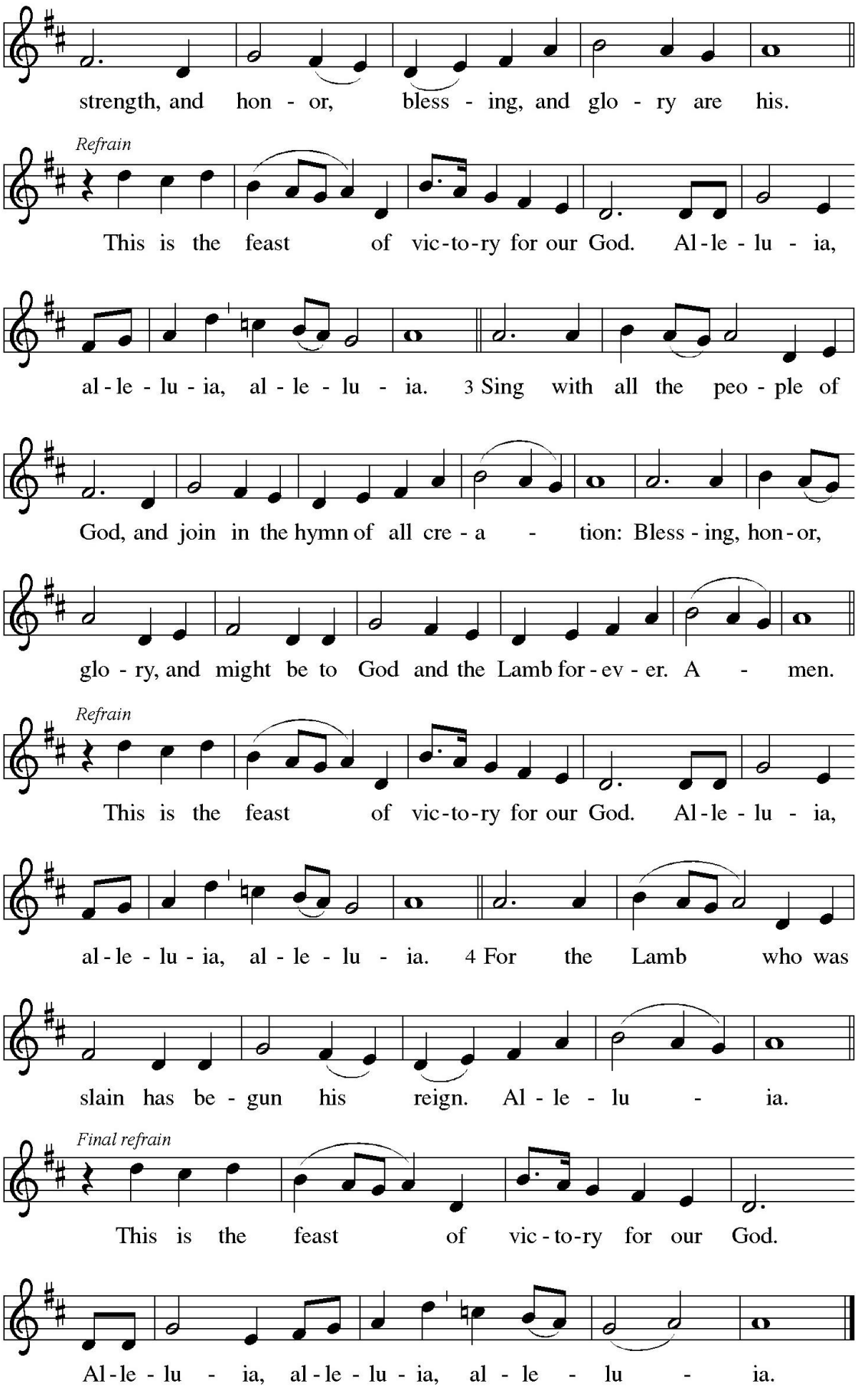



Canticle of Praise

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Anthem "Goin' Home" arranged by CK Linderkamp

WORD

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34 Assisting Minister

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like
the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand
to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I
was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law
within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and
they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to
each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of
them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and
remember their sin no more.

AM: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46 Read Responsively by Whole Verse Assisting Minister

AM: 1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
All: 2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

AM: 3 though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

All: [4] **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

AM: [5] God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

All: [6] **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

AM: [7] The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

All: [8] **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

AM: [9] behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

All: [10] **"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

AM: [11] The LORD of hosts is with us ;the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

[19] Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

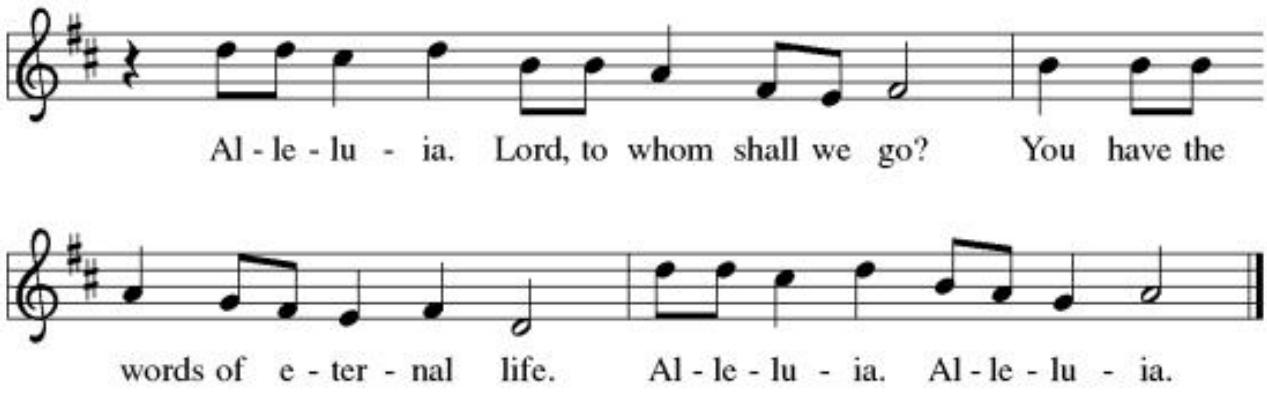
[21] But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

[27] Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law?

That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. [28] For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

AM: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation

P: The holy gospel according to John the 8th Chapter
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

[31] Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." [33] They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

[34] Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35] The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36] So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The gospel of our Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ

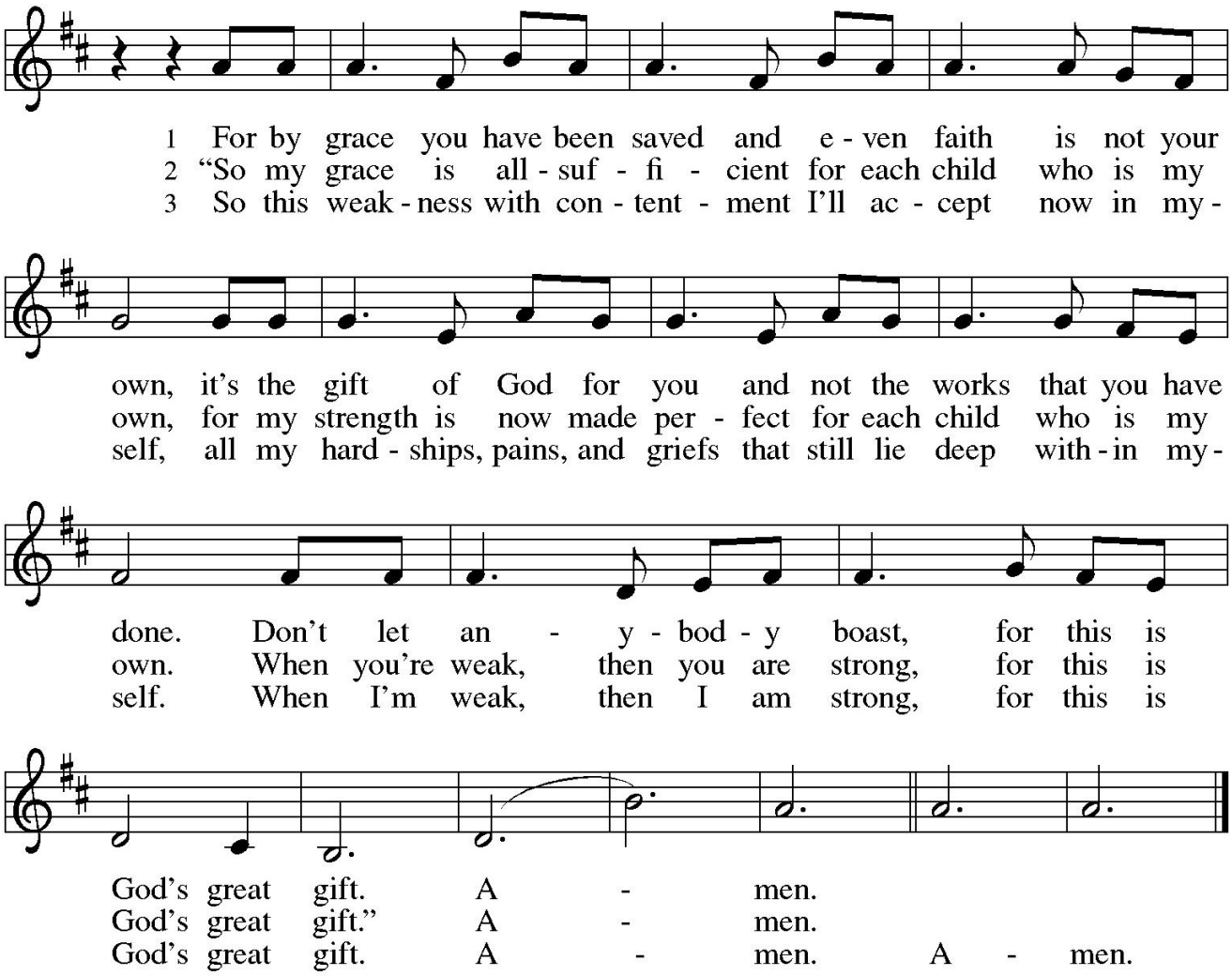
Please be seated.

Sermon **Pastor Walter Still**

Please rise, in body or spirit for the Hymn of the Day

Hymn the Day **"For by Grace You Have Been Saved"** **ELW# 598**

(Armolaulu)

Verses 1, 2, and 3 - Large print words found on page 23

Text: Kari Tikka, b. 1946; tr. Michael Harper
Music: ARMOLAULU, Kari Tikka
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Apostles' Creed

All: 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.

Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of Intercession **Assisting Minister**

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

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. O God, we also pray for all at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, Alley Shoppe, Open Door, House of Praise, Ministerio Dias de Gloria, the East Side Collaborative Churches, our mission partners in Tanzania and for Remnant Christian Network. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. We pray especially for Marjorie Anderson, Sven & Marion Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Brenda Boogren, Tom Brackey, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Marie Erickson, Judy Hanggi, Charles and Laurie Helgason, Betty Hasse, Patricia James, Sarah Jansen, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Chuck Linderkamp, Maria Lopez, Marilyn Nelson, Dennis Rasmusson, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Dave Thomas, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, MaryAnn Wistrom and those we name in our hearts. (pause) Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: We ask your blessings on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. We especially pray for our committees who are working on the Legacy Plan, Celebration, Worship Service, Membership, Archives for this church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Please rise, in body or spirit, for the sharing of the peace.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also, with you.

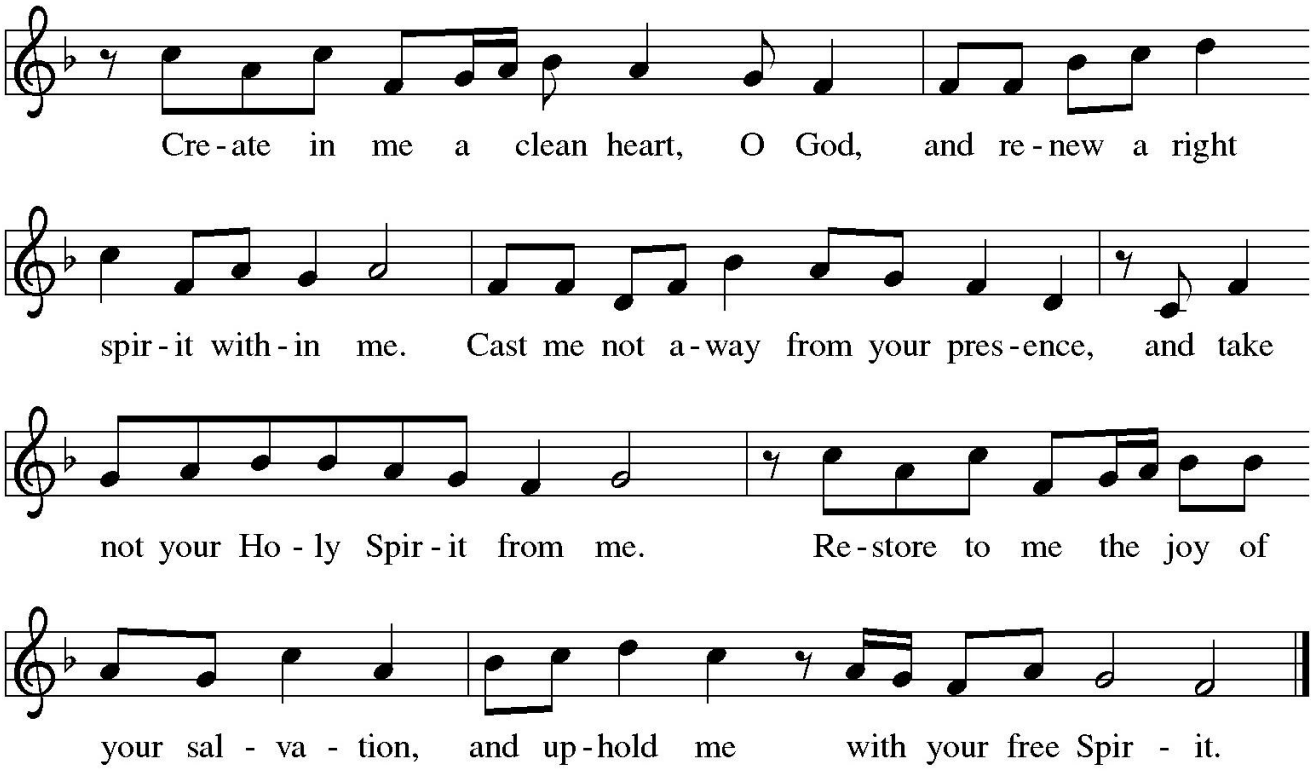
Please be seated.

MEAL

Offering Anthem "This Is My Father's World"

arranged by Craig Curry

Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Offering Song

Offering Song

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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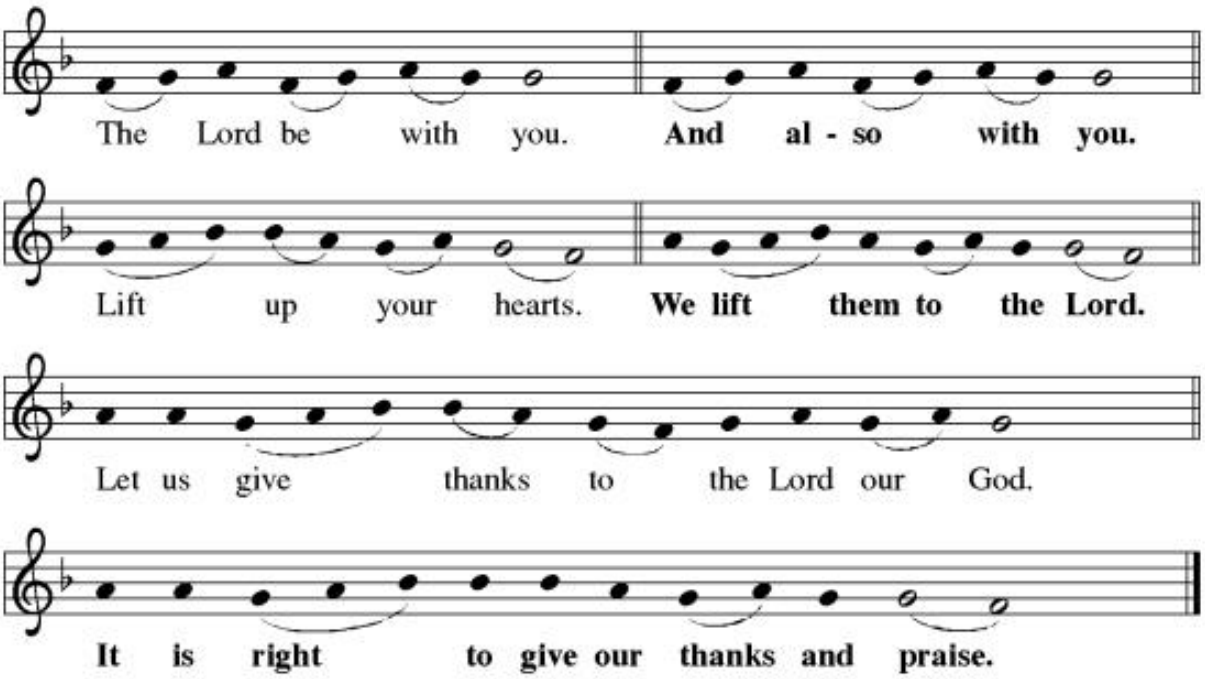
Offering Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

All: Amen.

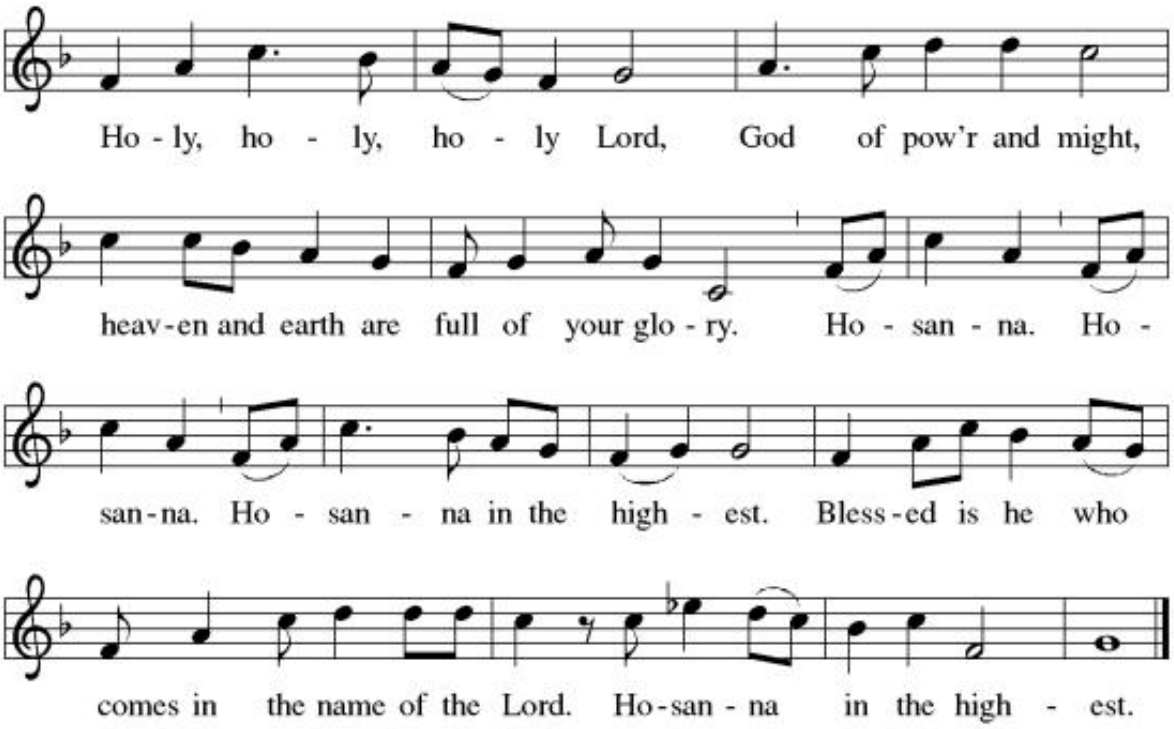
Please be seated.

Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right, 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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

All: Amen

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

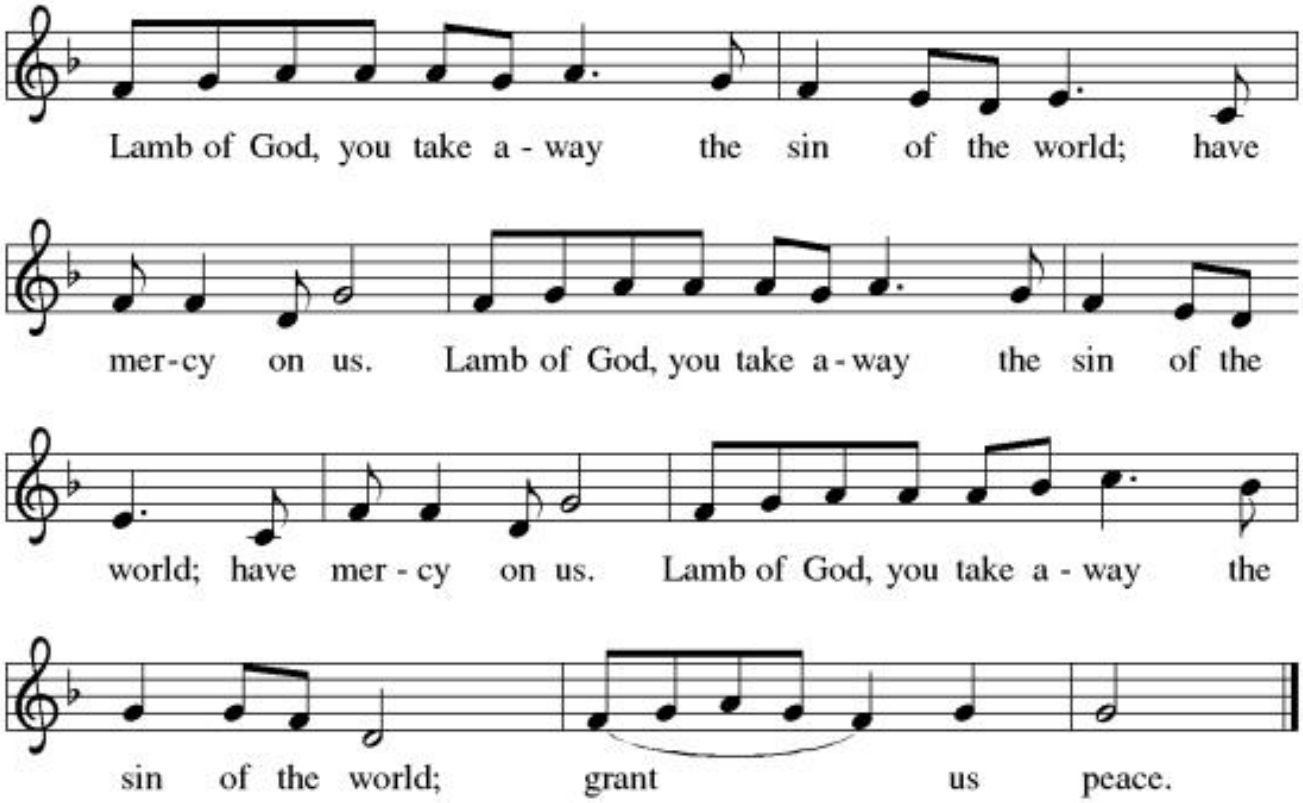
Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion

As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward. Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to receive the wine. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you. Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.

Lamb of God



Communion Anthem **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**
arranged by Mark Hayes and Tracy Icenogle

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

All: Amen.

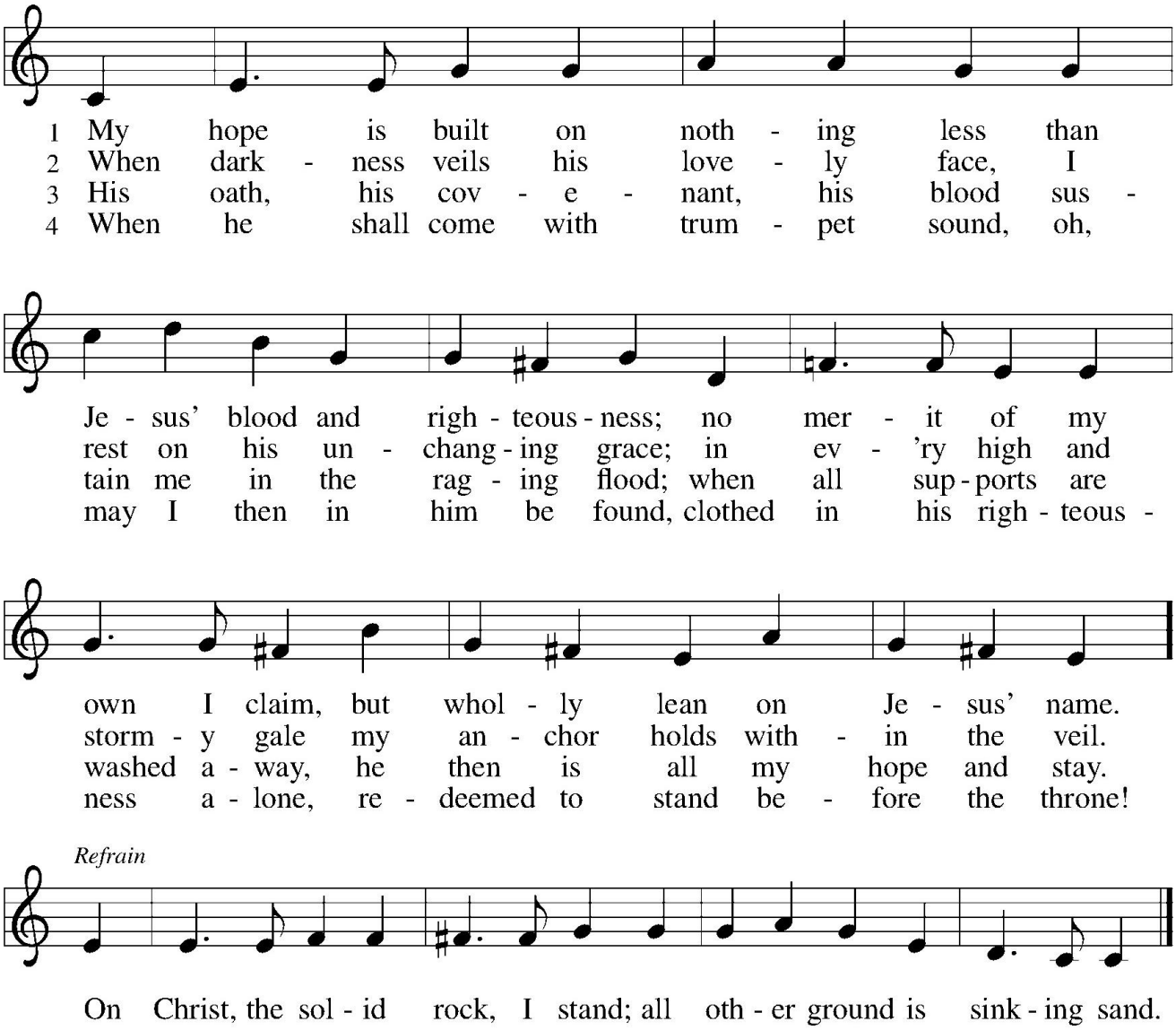
SENDING

Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.

Sending Hymn **"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"** **ELW# 597**

(MELITA)

Verses 1, 2, 3, and 4 **-** Large print words found on page 24



Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arranged by Brad Henderson**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter Still
Music: Agape Quintet
Assisting Ministers: Valerie and Orval Osmundson
Communion Assistants: Elaine and Charles Rorhbach
Song Leaders: Janine Almquist, Paul Kowitz or Linda Strohkirch
Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic, Jim Persoon and or Ryan Henk
Ushers: Elaine & Charles Rorhbach and David Almquist
Hospitality: Valerie and Orval Osmundson

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Our service today will be live streamed if anyone would like to view our new website or be connected to Facebook. From sundaysandseasons.com.

Happy Reformation Sunday From the Agape Quintet!

We are so happy to be back again at Arlington Hills. Blessings to all!
The Agape Quintet:
Ben Anderson-drums, Matt Shervey-keys, Greg Stinson-bass, John Egnell-trumpet and fluegelhorn, Chuck Linderkamp-woodwinds, guitar, vocals.

Sunday, November 8th – Following the Worship Service

There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, November 8th following the Worship Service to vote on the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that: We the members of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN, declare our intention to discontinue ministry and authorize the Congregation Council and its Authority Team to take whatever steps necessary for the wind-up and dissolution of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church.

The Church will hold its last worship service on Saturday, November 21, 2026 followed by a banquet.

Be it further resolved that we approve the proposed Legacy Plan of the distribution of assets of this congregation according to the procedures prescribed by the St. Paul Area Synod, the ELCA and the Minnesota Statutes.

Be it further resolved that we approve the proposed Authority Team and authorize them to conduct the legal business of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, until such time as the Church is wound up and dissolved, in accordance with the foregoing resolutions as approved by the Congregation herein."

Every Meal – Fighting Child Hunger – Today we welcome Dan Bjorkquist from Gustavus Adolphus who will speak on behalf of ESCo and Every Meal-Fighting Child Hunger program. Here is the link for you to sign up if you would like to help out.

Volunteer on Sign Up Genius or email danbjorkquist@outlook.com

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FADA82FA0F8C43-51760629-every#/

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday Services – 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Mondays – Alley Shoppe Volunteers
9:00 a.m. - noon

Tuesdays - Alley Shoppe – Volunteers - 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Alley Shoppe Clients - 9:30 a.m. – 1:30

Please, No Donations this fall.

Wednesday – ROMEO's Breakfast – 7:30 a.m. Perkins

November 1 – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary – Followed by a forum

November 8 – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary –We will be taking a member's photo in the Sanctuary and then a Special Congregation Meeting in the Reception Room.

November 15 – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary – Reception thanking Pastor Walter and staff.

Saturday – November 21 – Holy Closure Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

Gathering Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Hymn of the Day: For by Grace You Have Been Saved

1 For by grace you have been saved and even faith is not your own,
it's the gift of God for you and not the works that you have done.
Don't let anybody boast, for this is God's great gift. Amen.

2 "So my grace is all sufficient for each child who is my own,
for my strength is now made perfect
for each child who is my own.
When you're weak, then you are strong,
for this is God's great gift." Amen.

3 So this weakness with contentment I'll accept now in myself,
all my hardships, pains, and griefs
that still lie deep within myself.
When I'm weak, then I am strong,
for this is God's great gift. Amen. Amen.

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Sending Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.