ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713
www.stpaulsnewarkde.org
Growing in faith. Growing in community.
Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, October 11, 2026

10am Service of Holy Communion

In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
We believe all people are created in God's image.

Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families, you are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.
If you need any other help with worship,
please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

✢ GATHERING ✢

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

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

PRELUDE "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" arr. Burkhardt
SONNE DER GERECKTIGKEIT

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

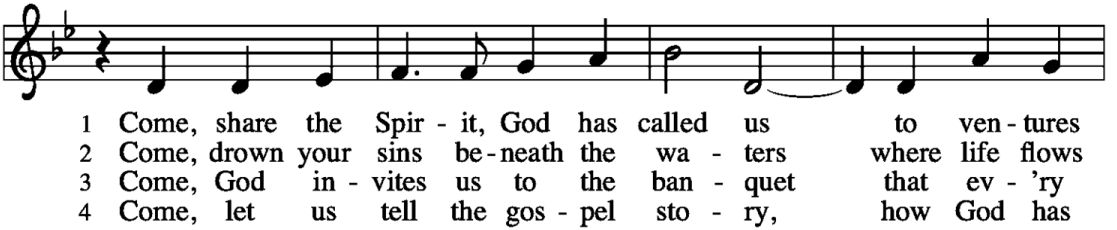
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

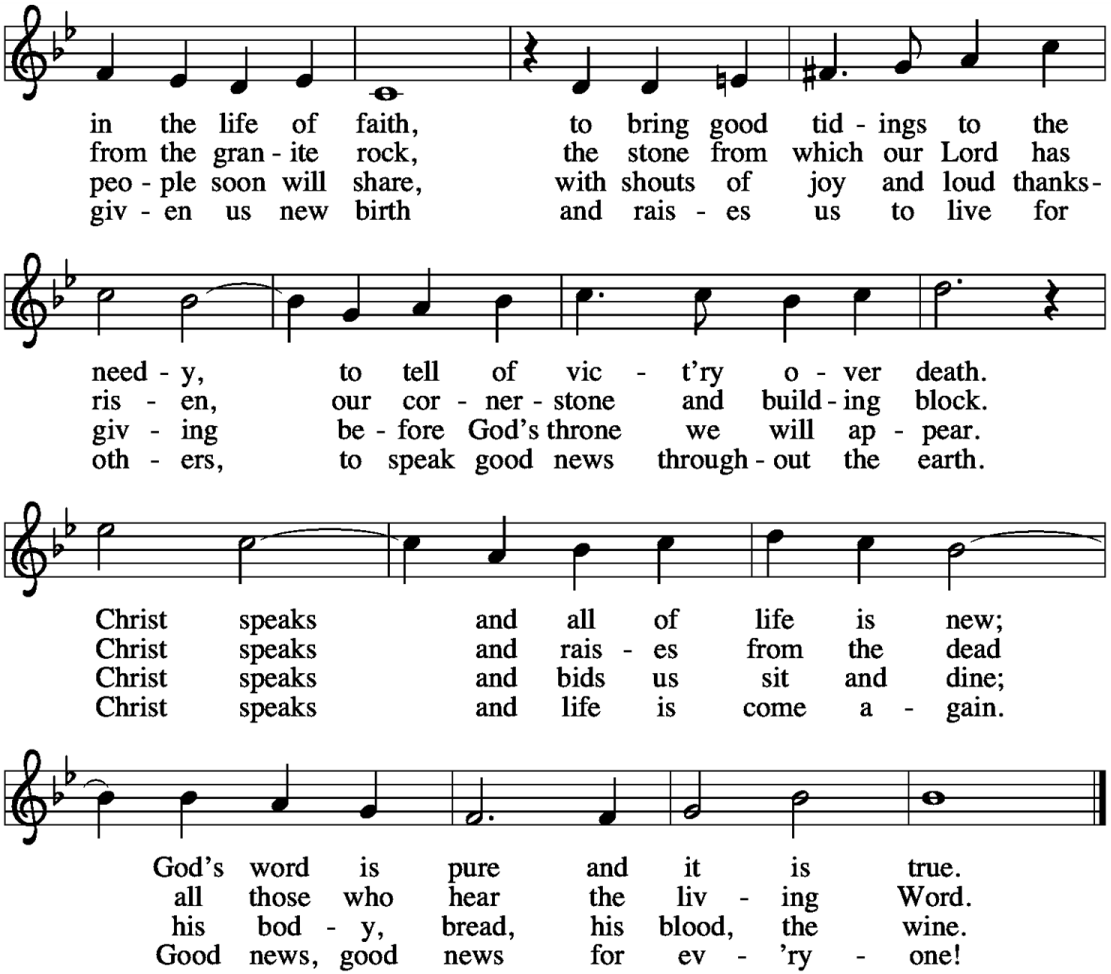
In the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
Calling to mind the frailty of our human condition, let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Good and loving God,
you made your abundant creation for the use and enjoyment of all people. We confess that we have held the things you have given us too closely, and have not shared freely with all in need. Help us to receive your gracious word and to practice generosity in our daily lives. Amen.
God calls us to see good and to turn away from evil. To those who have faith in Jesus Christ, God grants forgiveness of sin, ✢ strength in our weakness, and the promise of eternal salvation.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN **Come, Share the Spirit**
ACS 1045





Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, alt.
Music: ST. PAUL'S ARDMORE, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
Text © 1987 Augsburg Fortress
Music © 2017 Augsburg Fortress

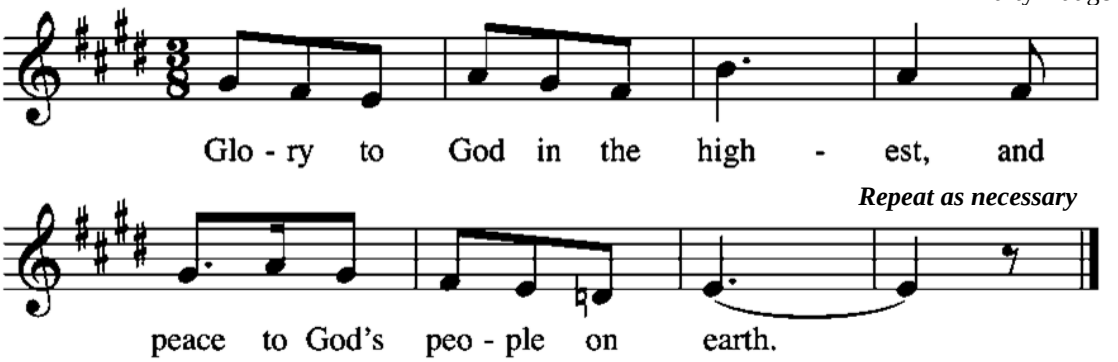
GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation. *Isaiah 25:9*
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.

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE **Glory to God** *Now the Feast Setting*
Marty Haugen



Be seated.

✢ WORD ✢

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING **Exodus 32:1-14**

The Israelites forge a golden calf

A reading from Exodus:

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the
people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who
shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land
of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2 Aaron said to them, "Take
off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your
daughters and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off the gold rings from
their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took these from them, formed them in
a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel,

who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5 When Aaron saw this, he built
an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be
a festival to the LORD." 6 They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings
and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink
and rose up to revel.

7 The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought
up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; 8 they have been quick to turn
aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an
image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are
your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " 9 The LORD
said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10 Now let me
alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them,
and of you I will make a great nation."

11 But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your
wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt
with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It
was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and
to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath;
change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember
Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own
self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven,
and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they
shall inherit it forever.' " 14 And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster
that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 106:1-6, 19-23 *Read responsively by verse*

1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
2 **Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD**
or proclaim in full God's praise?
3 Happy are those who act with justice
and always do what is right.

4 **Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people,**
and visit me with your salvation;
5 that I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad
with the gladness of your people,
that I may glory with | your inheritance.
6 **We have sinned as our forebears did;**
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
19 They made a bullcalf at Horeb
and worshiped a molten image;
20 **thus they exchanged their glory**
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
21 They forgot God their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,
22 **wonderful deeds in the land of Ham,**
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
23 So you would have destroyed them,
had not Moses your chosen stood in the breach,
to turn away your wrath from consuming them.
Remember, O LORD, the favor you have for your people. *Ps. 106:4*

SECOND READING **Philippians 4:1-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always

A reading from Philippians:

1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

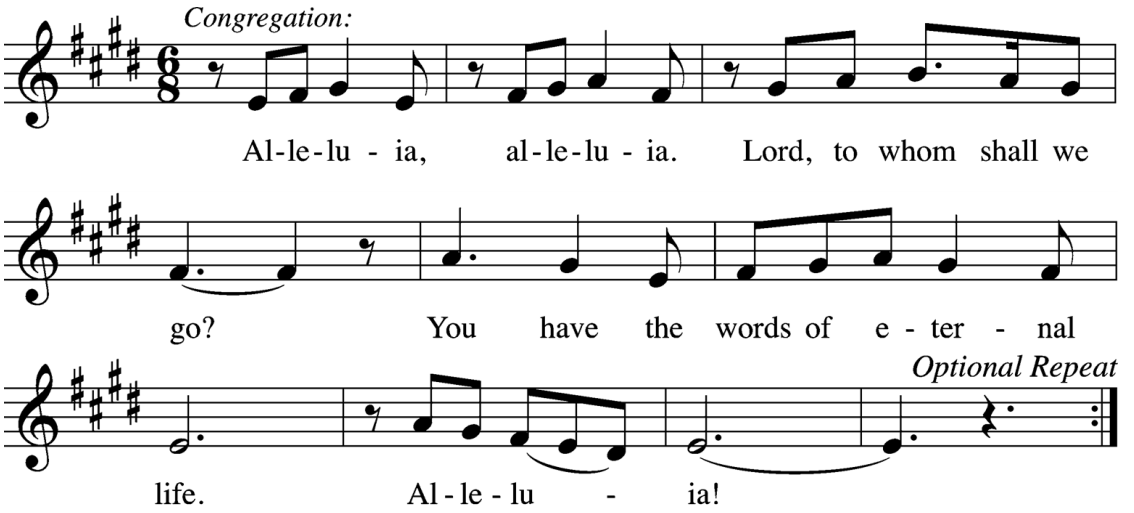
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received
and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

ACCLAMATION **Alleluia** *Now the Feast Setting*
Marty Haugen



HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 22:1-14**

The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast

The Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven
may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent
his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they

would not come. [4] Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been
invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been
slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' [5] But they
made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6] while
the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. [7] The king was
enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
[8] Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not
worthy. [9] Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the
wedding banquet.' [10] Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all
whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with
guests.

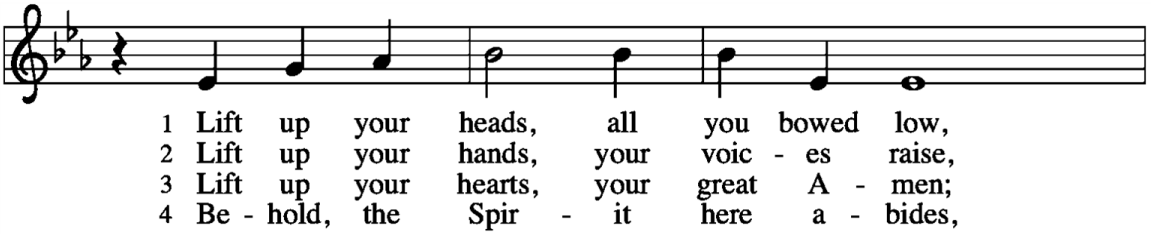
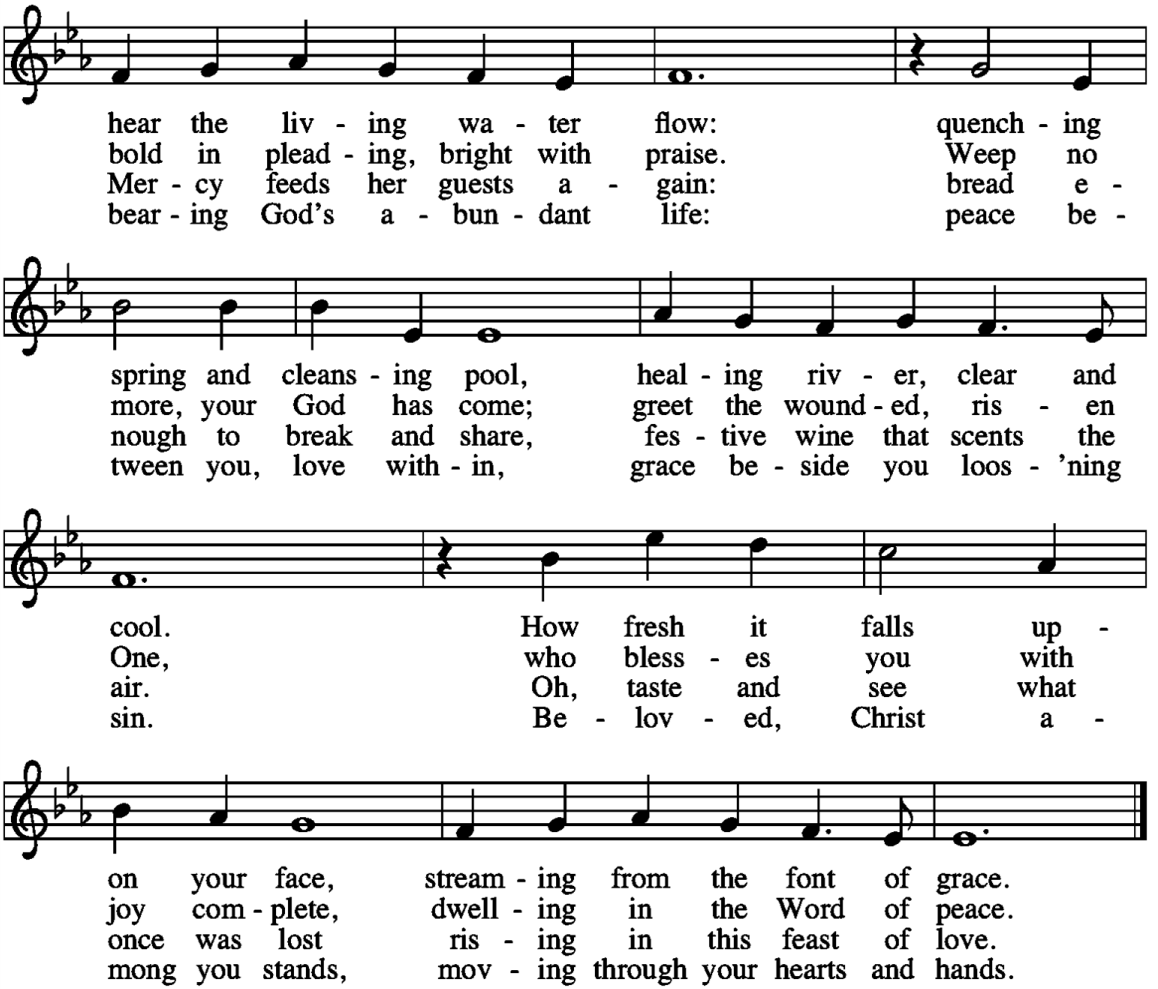
[11] "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who
was not wearing a wedding robe, [12] and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get
in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13] Then the king said to
the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14] For many are called, but
few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY **Lift Up Your Heads**
ACS 1032



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: WEST LEESTAD, Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979
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PROFESSION OF FAITH — Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope,
we confess 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

As we await the full harvest of the Spirit, let us offer our prayers to God who is abundant in every good gift.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Bring peace to places of conflict, especially Ukraine, Southwest Asia, Haiti, and Sudan. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering, especially Sherry, those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…(*brief silence*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation and those of our partners in ministry, especially Community

Lutheran Church in Frankford and Grace of God Lutheran Church in Millsboro, to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, especially Bella. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Teach us to pray, O God, and grant us wisdom in our asking, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly exchanges Christ's peace in word and gesture,
while respecting the boundaries of those around us,
saying, **Peace be with you.**

Be seated.

☩ MEAL ☩

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS *In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

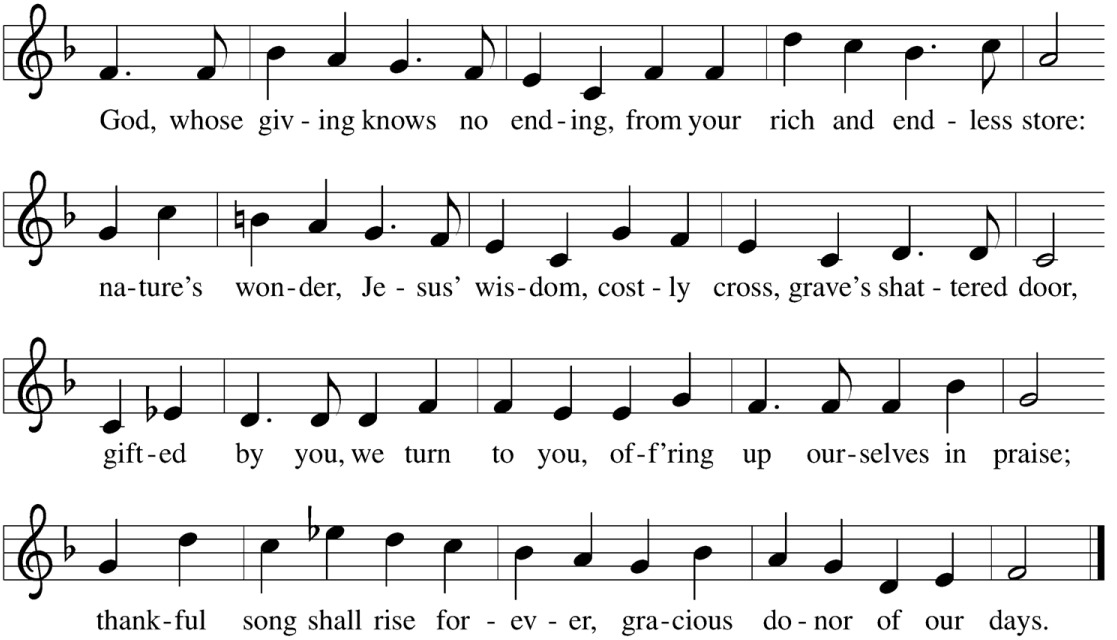
At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad *(the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask* ***visitors*** *to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask* ***members*** *to update any changes to their information so records are maintained.*

ANTHEM "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" arr. von Kampen
Sanctuary Choir

Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY **God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

ELW 678, *Verse 1*



Text: Robert L. Edwards
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry
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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

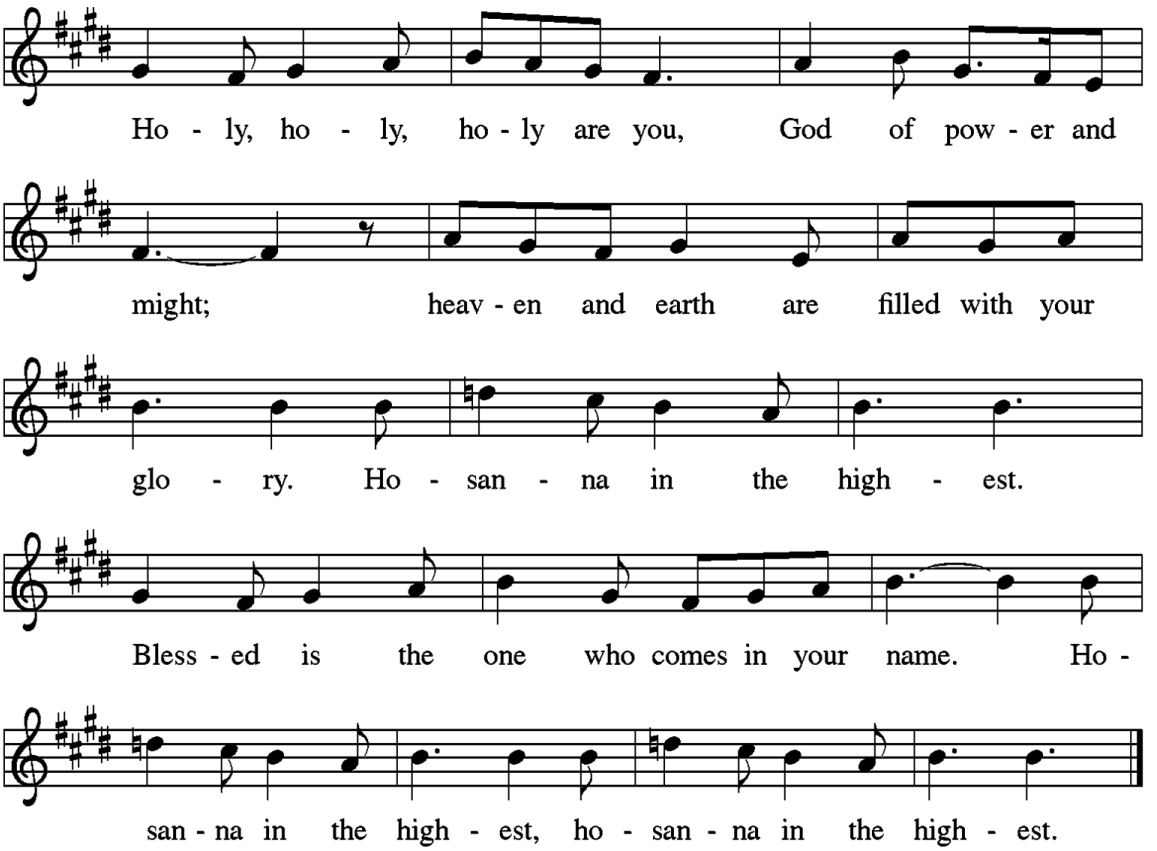
Kind and gracious God,
by Christ's death on the cross you have given new life to us. Receive these gifts as tokens of our love for you, that we might give thanks for the fullness of your salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Now the Feast Setting
Marty Haugen



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.
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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

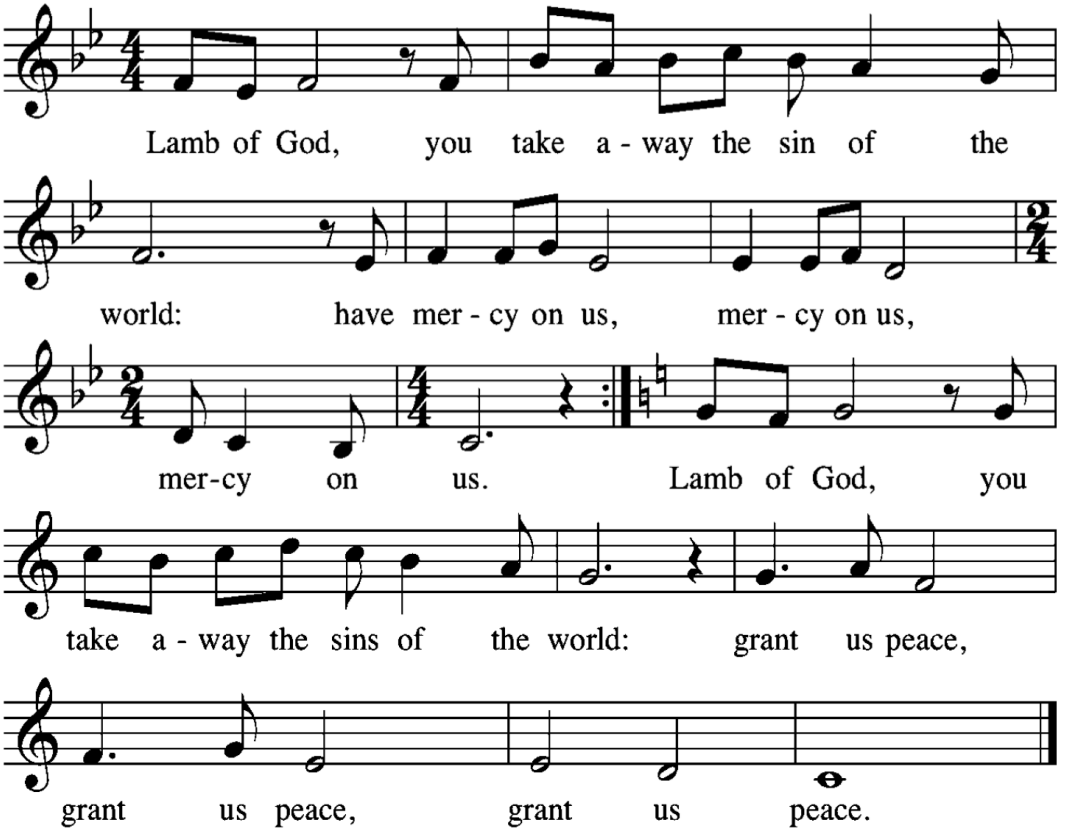
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hear the words of our hearts as we pray
as Jesus has taught us, saying:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Let all who seek receive the bounty of this meal.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

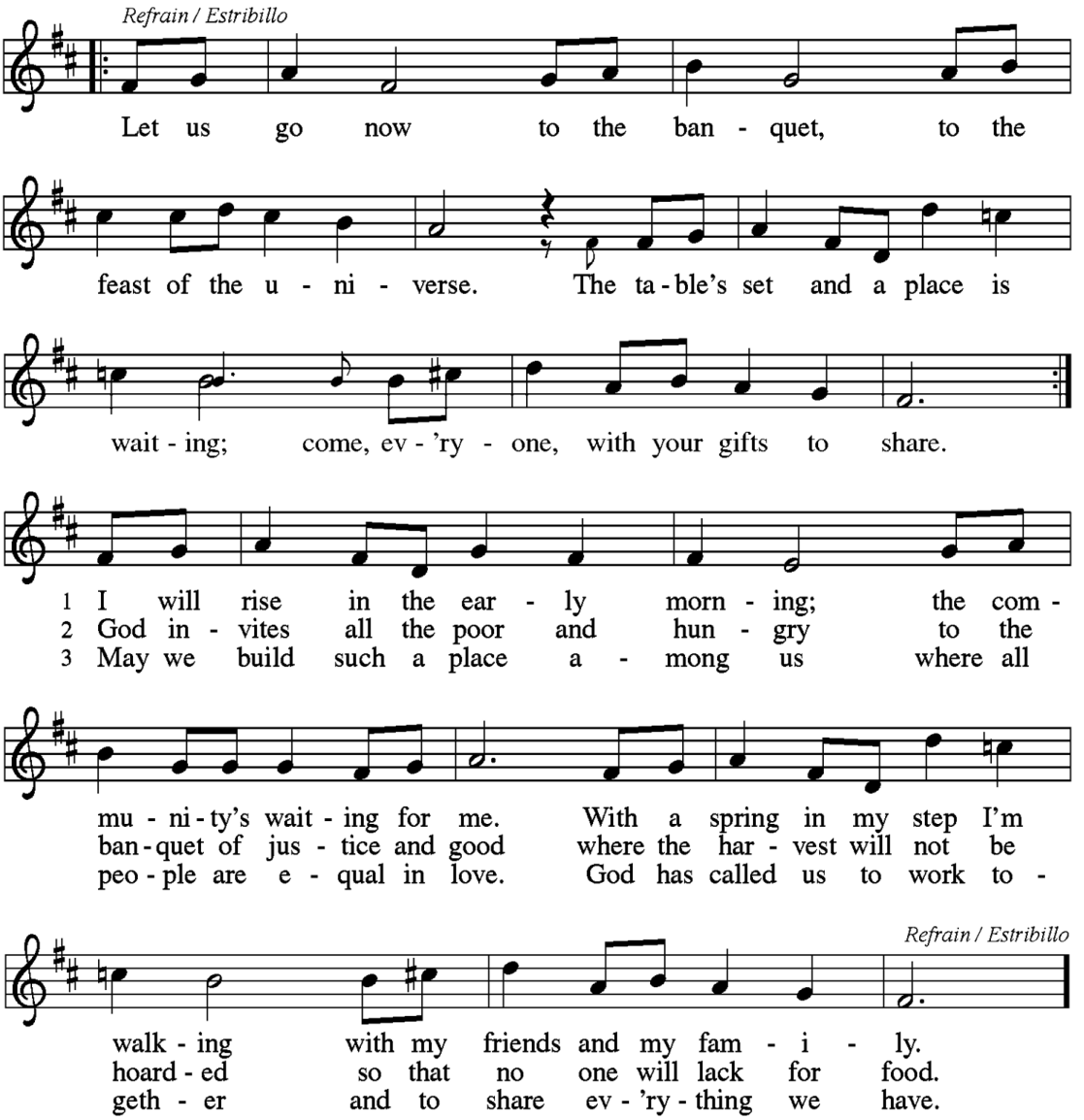
In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Our communion bread is gluten-free. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

ELW 523

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
Music: VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE, Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955
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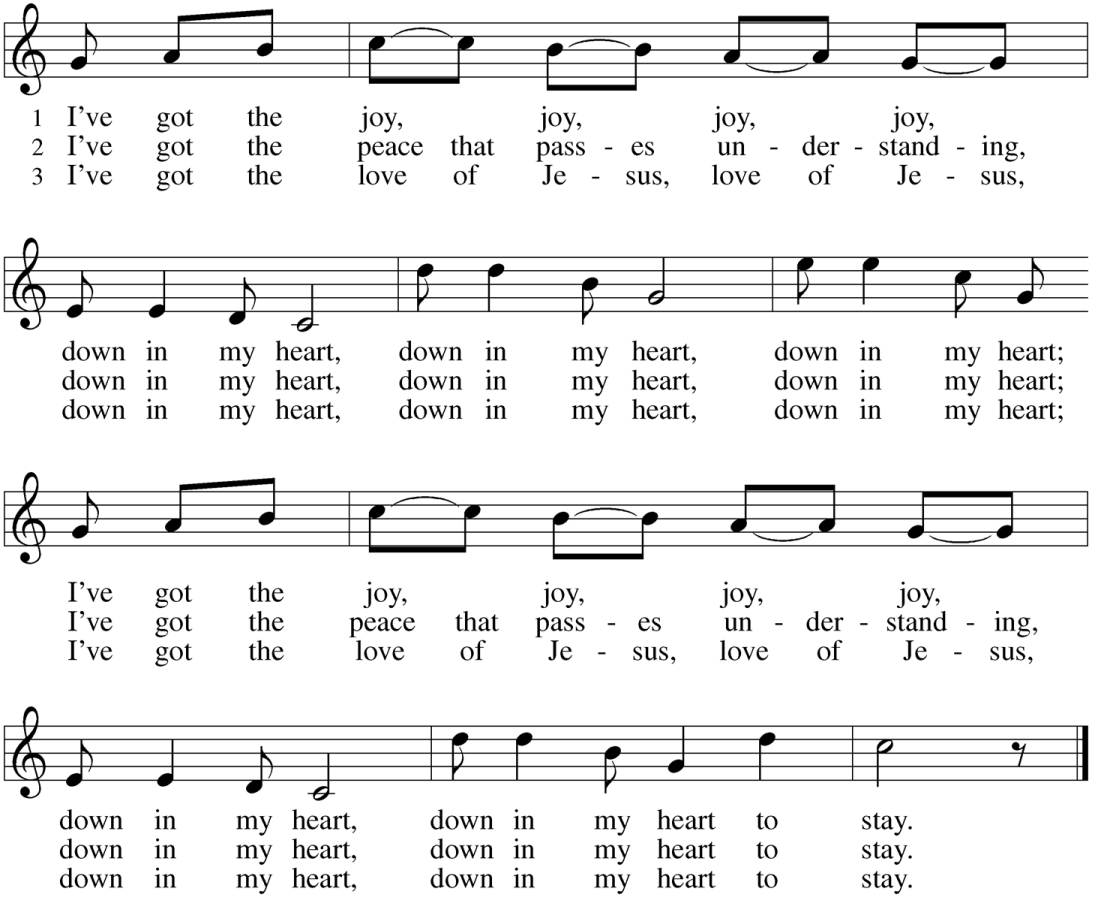
I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy
TFF 257



Text: George W. Cooke
Music: DOWN IN MY HEART, George W. Cooke

After all have communed and returned to their places,
remain seated.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Gracious God, through the gift of this meal you heal our brokenness and strengthen our spirits. Increase our faith in you, that the power of this holy sacrament might bring us new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✢ SENDING ✢

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH—ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

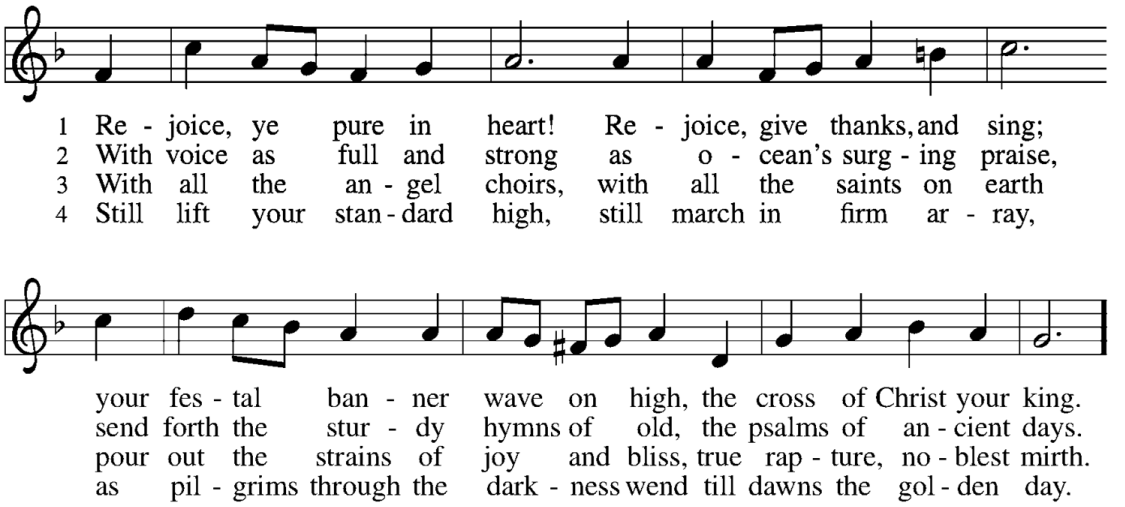
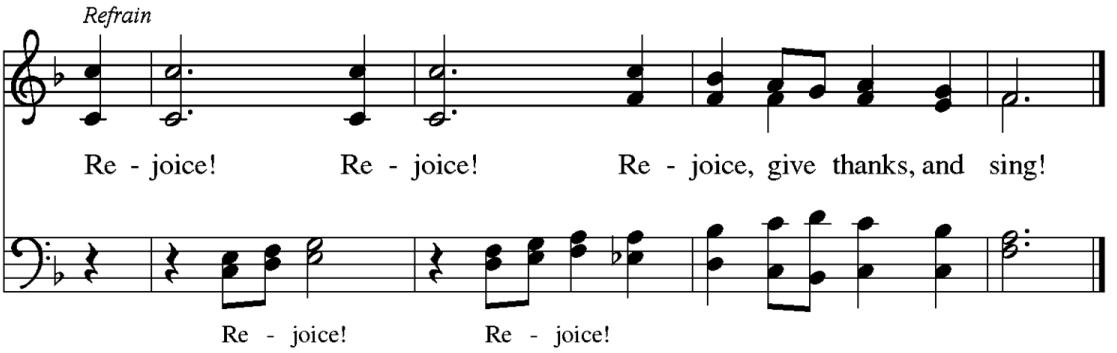
May the gracious gifts of the Lord God be upon you,
and increase the work of your hand.

Almighty God, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN — Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

ELW 873 (harmony)

Verse 3: Right (ambo) side
Verse 4: Left (organ) side



5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Welcome others as Christ welcomed you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Postlude No. 2" Denis Bédard
pour orgue

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Linda Grund
Lector:	Ping-An Tjoa
Communion Assistant:	Victoria Kenyon
Bread Provider:	Linda Brammer
Altar Guild:	Lynn Deschere
Flower Guild:	Gale Paul

The flowers in the chancel are given
to the glory and praise of God.

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EXPENSIVE WEDDING. EXPENSIVE GRACE.

An average wedding in North America can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars—or more! From the venue to flowers to food, invitations to music to photos, formal wear to centerpieces to officiants, getting married is not cheap. In today's gospel Jesus tells a parable about a wedding invitation, a banquet, and God's grace. Jesus teaches about a king who ultimately invites all people to a wedding banquet. At first this parable seems to portray a wide open and gracious invitation to a wedding celebration. However, by the end it is hard not to feel sorry for the poor guy who gets a last-minute invitation but gets thrown out for not wearing the correct wedding duds! Again, getting married is not cheap—but neither is grace.

Receiving God's grace changes people. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught, God's grace is not cheap; it comes at a great cost upon the cross. Once we receive this costly grace, our lives are never the same. This grace compels us to act and calls us to bear fruit with our lives, sharing this grace with others. To continue to live in the same way after receiving this gracious invitation is not an option. So what are we to do? We simply receive the gracious invitation to the banquet and find a changing room—it's time to live a new life.

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation, but
only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11, 2026

PENTECOST 20 (YEAR A)

Three sets of meals cluster around the readings today: the meals of Jesus; the church's celebration of the holy supper; and the wedding feast of heaven. In each meal, the invitation is given to all who hunger for God's love: Come and feast on the bread of heaven; come and drink God's mercy; come and be strengthened for service to the needy. As Augustine once said to his congregation, Become the bread that you hold in your hand. Come to the holy supper and learn what it means to be a Christian.

TODAY'S COMMEMORATION

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

ADULT FORUM: ROMAN CATHOLICS COME TO DELAWARE

While the Presbyterians, Anglicans, and Quakers were populating Delaware in the 17th century, our Roman Catholic siblings were relative latecomers to the area. In fact, the first permanent mission wasn't established until 1772. Then, one of the Catholic priests tore out the stove from his church and gave it to a 108-year-old parishioner because church members would not help procure wood for the stove while it was in the church! This and other stories will be recounted as we continue our study of Historic Churches of Delaware on **Sunday, October 11, at 8:30am** in the Blue Room.

BREWING THEOLOGY

Everyone twenty-one and older is invited to join us on **Wednesday, October 21, 7pm,** at the Delaware Saengerbund, located at 49 Salem Church Road in Newark, for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation.

Ministry Month

This week, we continue our celebration of our ministries by thinking about how we steward the resources we have been given. Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship on **Sunday, October 11,** as we hear from Finance, Stewardship, Endowment, Property, and the Memorial Garden Committees. Find a new place to fit into the life of the congregation and how you can help with our abundance of resources!

You Can Help With FISH

The leaves are coming down but FISH is coming up – can you help? The pickup from the Food Bank will be on **Thursday, October 15** at **1pm**, with the unpacking of the bulk items to follow at **1:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. We'll load the food boxes at **6:30 that same evening**, and our distribution will be on **Friday, October 16**, starting at **2pm**. Call or email Keith Bart 302-345-6107 or keith.m.bart@gmail.com with questions about FISH.

Quilters

St. Paul's Quilters will be meeting on **Saturday, October 17,** beginning at **9am** in the Fellowship Hall. We usually meet until about noon. You can come for all or part of that time as your schedule allows. We will be assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Community Services. Please contact Lorraine Fett (lorraine.fett@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Lutheran Campus Ministry

LCM at UD warmly invites you to attend their Fall Fundraiser on **Saturday, October 17 at 2pm**. It will be held at St. Phillip's Lutheran Church, located at 5320 Limestone Road. Come enjoy tasty food, great company with students and LCM supporters, live and silent auctions, and the chance to win raffle prizes!

Trunk of Blessings

St. Paul's Lutheran School invites the congregation to join them on **Friday, October 30 from 3–5:30pm**. We are looking for members to decorate the trunk of their cars or beds of their trucks or SUVs, hand out candy, and help create a special afternoon for our school children. Interested in participating? Sign up in the Narthex. We would love to have our church family be a part of this fun fall celebration!

OWLS

Please join the OWLS on **Sunday, November 8 at 4:30pm** for a Charcuterie Potluck Dinner at the home of Rich and Sue Wallden. (Note the date change from the original OWLS schedule.) While "charcuterie" typically means meat, your tray is limited only by your creativity! How about a taco board, a fruit board, or a mini-sandwich board? After dinner, we'll assemble non-perishable soup boxes (ingredients provided) for a future FISH distribution or the food bank. Please **RSVP** to Sue at slwallden@gmail.com by **November 1**. Hope you can join us!

National Alliance on Mental Illness in Delaware (NAMI Delaware)

Faith communities offer connection, compassion, and hope to individuals and families facing mental health challenges. In that spirit, you are invited to NAMIWalks Delaware on **Saturday, October 17, at 9am,** at Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park in Wilmington. This FREE community event features a 3K walk along the Riverwalk, entertainment, family activities, and mental health resources—all bringing people together, so no one faces mental illness alone. You don't have to fundraise to walk, and you don't have to walk to participate! Enjoy the day, join a team, or support NAMI Delaware from wherever you are. Register for free or learn more: www.namiwalks.org/delaware.

Comments From the Cloud of Witnesses

One early, cloudy morning when I was forty-six, I walked into a church, ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine. This was my first communion. It changed everything. The mysterious sacrament turned out to be not a symbolic wafer at all but actual food—indeed, the bread of life. I realized that what I'd been doing with my life all along was what I was meant to do: feed people. And so I did. I took communion, I passed the bread to others, and then I kept going, compelled to find new ways to share what I'd experienced. I started a food pantry and gave away literally tons of fruit and vegetables and cereal around the same altar where I'd first received the body of Christ. I organized new pantries all over my city to provide hundreds and hundreds of hungry families with free groceries each week… Holy communion knocked me upside down and forced me to deal with the impossible reality of God.

—*Sara Miles*, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*
(NY: Ballantine Books, 2007), xiii-xiv

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

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Church Council
Susie Olson (*President*), Anne Sullivan *(Vice President),* Phillip Gerecke (*Secretary*), Mary Collins *(Treasurer),* Laura Blenderman, Heidi Burch, Kristine Cassar, Mark Deschere, Ian Kenyon.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast – articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10am to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared the following week.

Worship Attendance

Prayer Requests

Electronic Giving

Worship Assistants