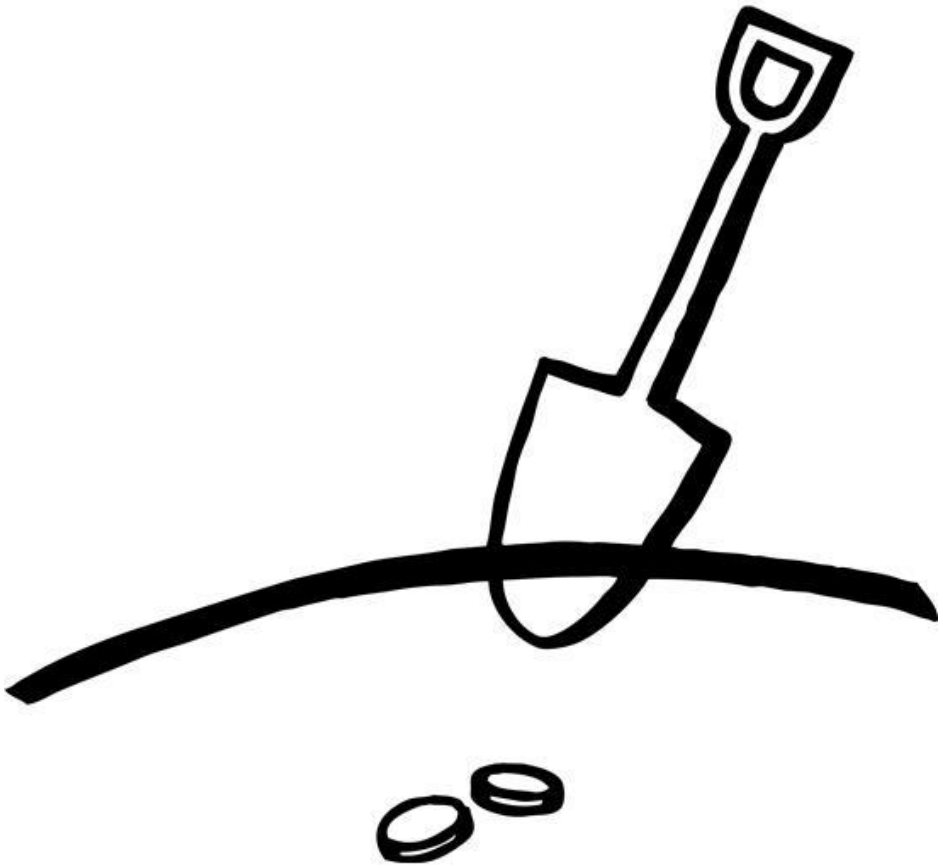
TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 15, 2026



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information
Rev. Timothy L. Craven
Home: (717) 738-3838
Mobile: (717) 468-9049
E-Mail: revtlc@ptd.net

Director of Music
Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575
E-Mail: vickiekissinger@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education
Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Rodger Sweigart, Dave Haldeman, Melanie Brubaker, Ethel Sensenig, Jane Pittman, Kelsey Reed Butler, Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Bob Getz, Lori Oberholtzer, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, Ruth Hollinger, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Shannon Brown, Shirley Sweigart, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Mary Weidman, and Marty Leed & Family.

Clifton Center in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer Faithful Living, Denver: Vivian Gehr
Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson & Shirl Tobias
Ephrata Hospital: Pauline Sawyer
Gardens at Stevens: Nevin McQuate Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley
Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen
Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

Denise Hoffer, Denise Good, Kathy Lindman, Mary Morton, Pastor Dave Miller, Mary Thorn, Sheri Kiefer, Sam McClearen, Tina Strepko, Scott Coleman, Wendy Bentz, Nancy Good, Kevin Gavin, Brenda Reed, Doris McNally, Amanda Stuck, Tyler Herr, Brandi Erhart, Emily Martin, Deb Correa, Brooke Stewart, Mary Lou Crum, Lorna Buohl, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Brian Kerns, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay and Margaret Weller.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Barry Kreider, Dave Bentz, Eugene Hackamn, Pat McQuate, Leroy Landis, Marion Dissinger, Helen Blank, Mike Leed, Nicole Bibbus, Rob French, Donna Kennedy, Robert Hackman, Marion Briere, Carl Usner, Peggy French, Marion Gideon, Bishop Guy Edmiston, Pastor Marty Sheaffer, George Wolf, Sally Wealand and Bob Farr.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude: *"Love Lifted Me"* - Lani Smith

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.
Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #688** *"Lord of Light"*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen
P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen
P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
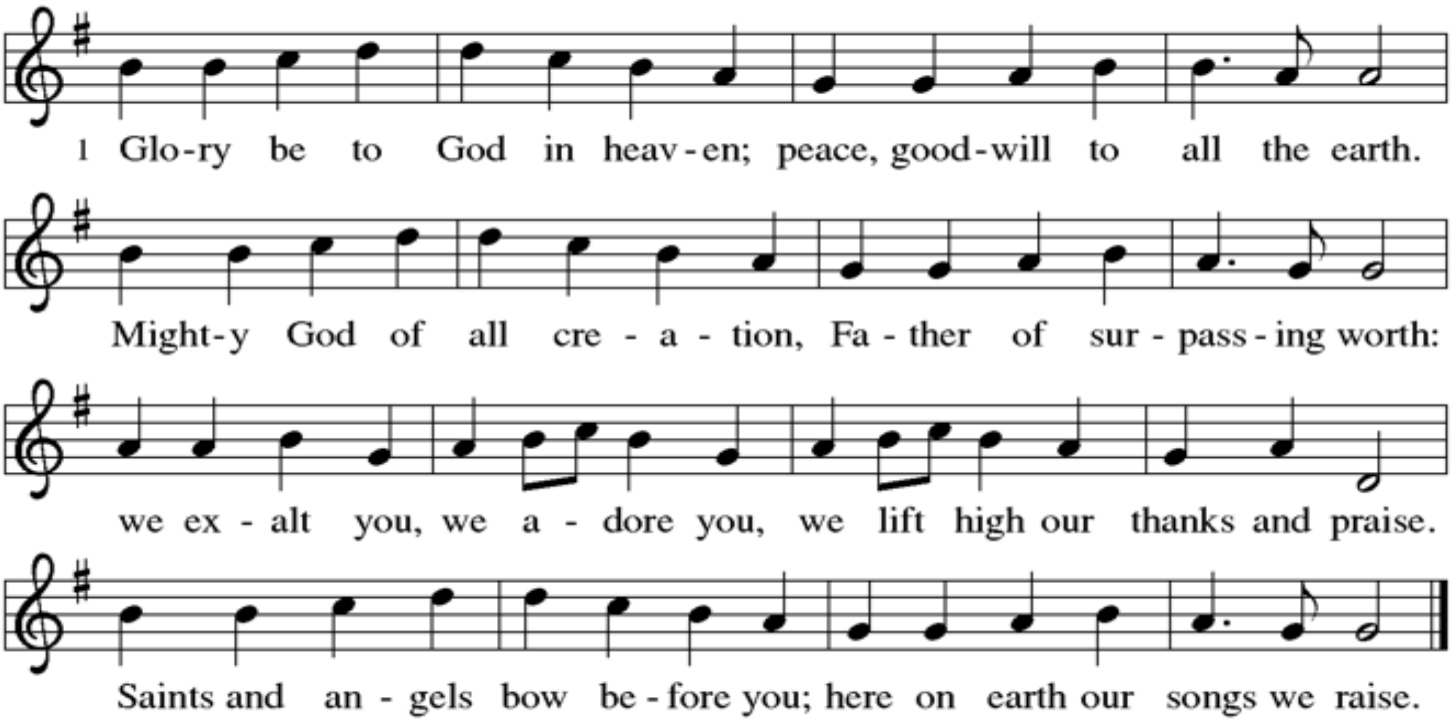
(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,
C: 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.
C: Amen

***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.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**



***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**
P: Let us pray.
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.
C: Amen

✝ GOD'S WORD ✝

FIRST READING **ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18**

Lay Reader (Nancy Hain): Reading from Zephaniah the 1st chapter.

L: 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.
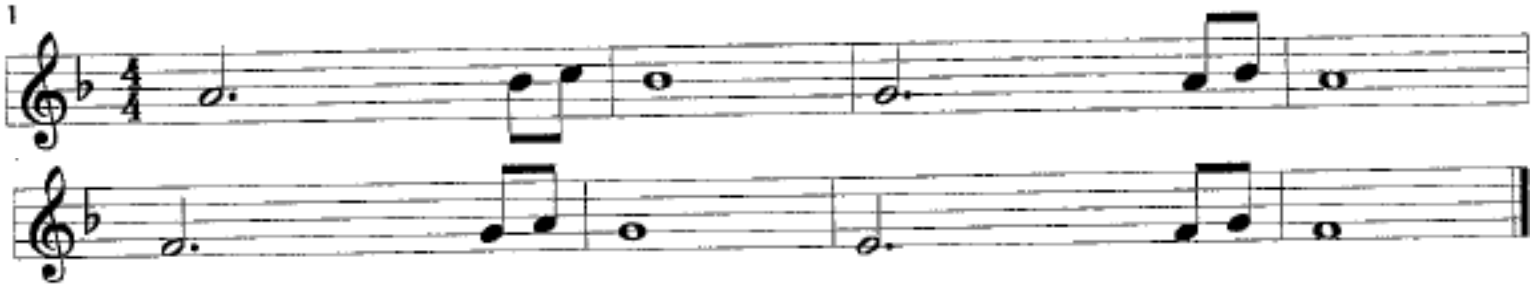
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
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.

THE PSALMODY **PSALM 90:1-12**



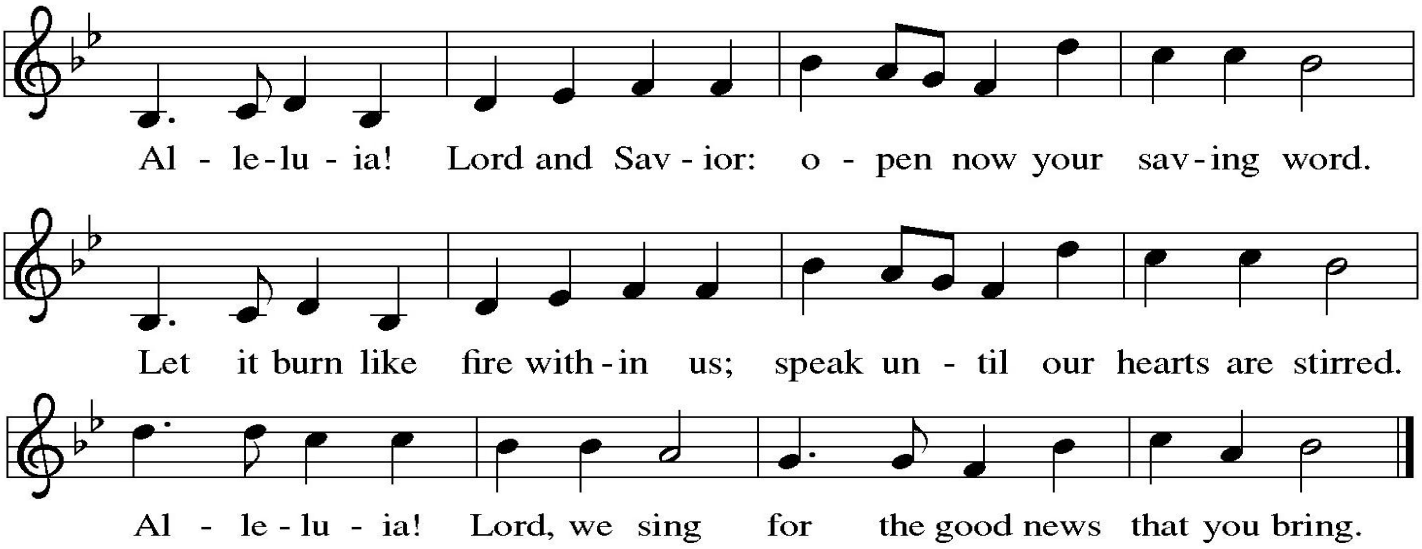
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

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 child- | ren of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night; R

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. R
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 num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

CHILDRENS SERMON

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 25:14-30**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: 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 the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: *"While You Can, Make A Difference"* -Pastor Craven

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"O, That I Had A Thousand Voices"*
-Jay Althouse

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED**
C: 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

✝ Prayers of Intercession ✝

*P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

P: You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine (*especially*). Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (*other specific leaders or groups may be named*). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

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

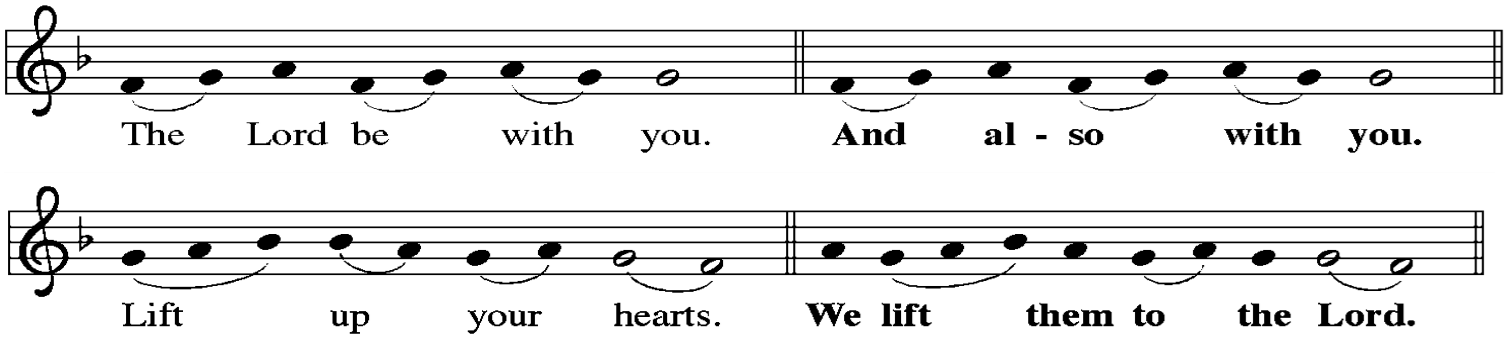
***THE PEACE**
P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

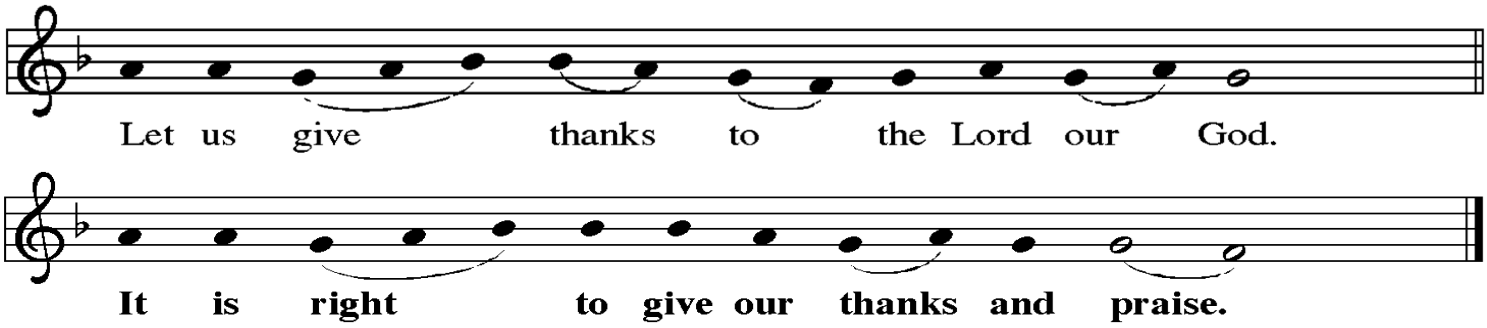
***OFFERING HYMN** *"Here I Am Lord"*
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

***OFFERING PRAYER**
P: Blessed are you,
C: O Lord our God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

✝ WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER ✝

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

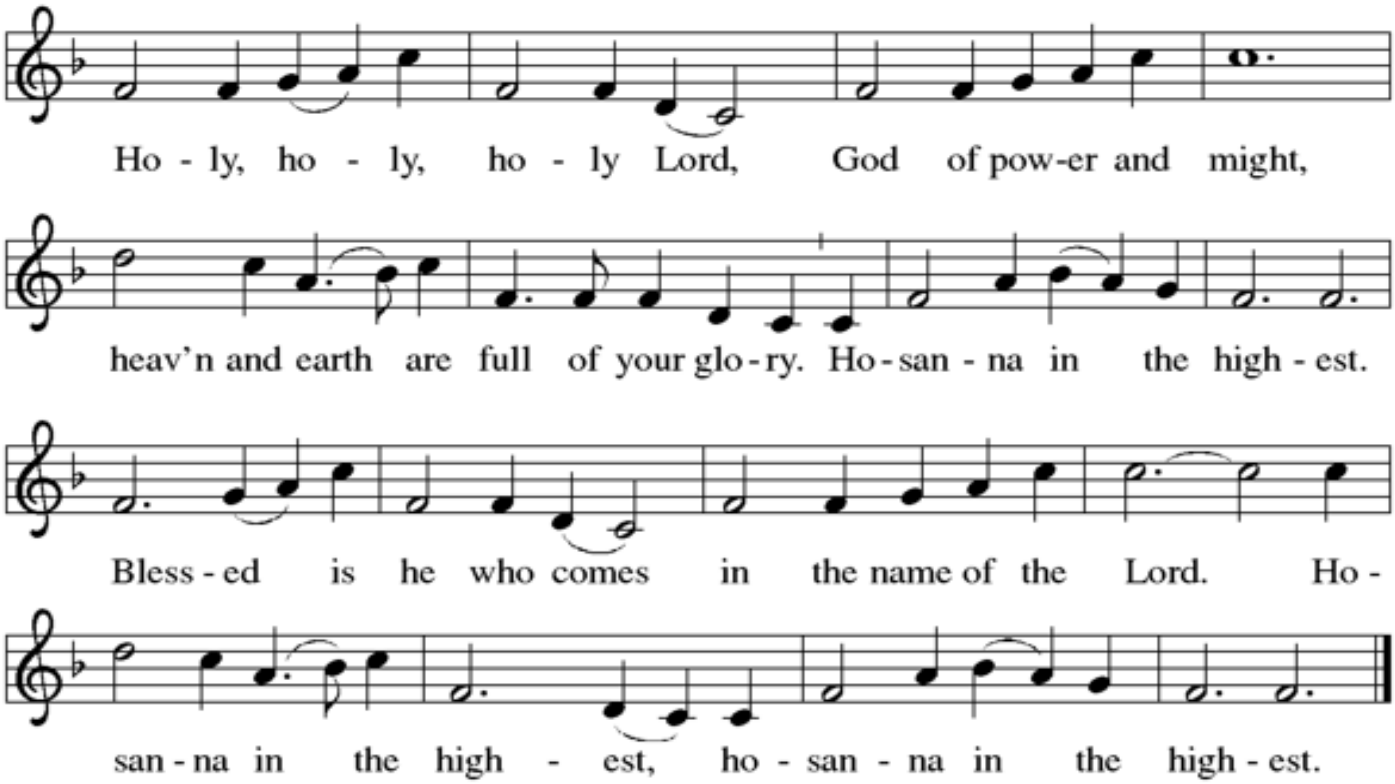




***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

***THE SANCTUS**



***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**
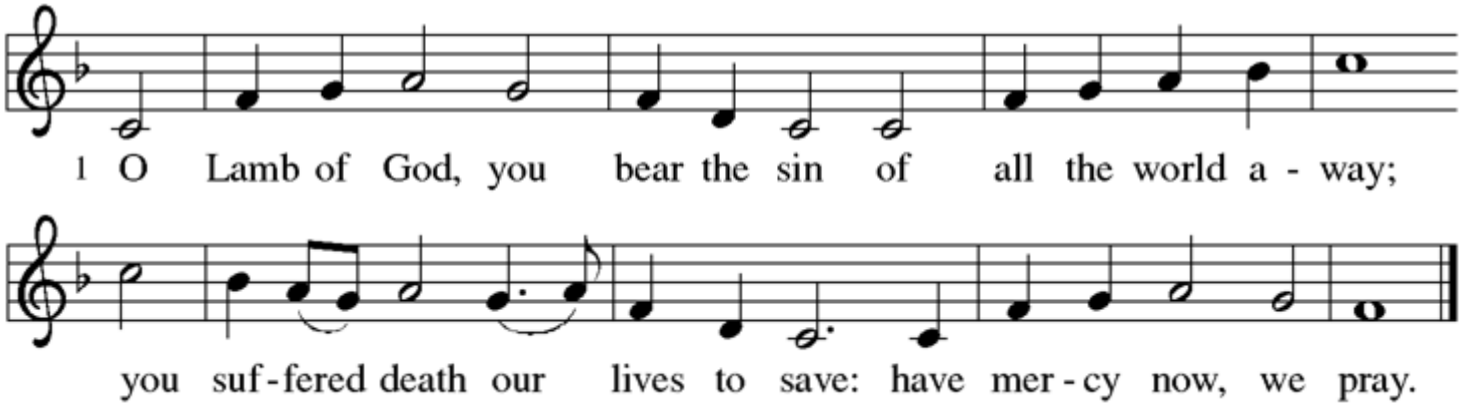
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: 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.

***TRADITIONAL 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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



All Baptized Christians are welcome for Communion.
(If you would like baptized, see Pastor Tim.).
We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. To receive the sacrament wine, take an empty cup from the tray. A grape juice option and gluten free communion wafers provided. If you cannot come to the Chancel, Communion will be taken to you.
Please notify an Usher.
Those in the parking lot partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion
Hymn #742: *"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"*
Hymn #661: *"I Love To Tell the Story"*
Hymn #781: *"Children of the Heavenly Father"*
Hymn #616: *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210: *"Blessed Be God"*
Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**
P: Let us pray.
Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.
C: Amen

✝ WE LEAVE TO SERVE ✝

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**
P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN:** *"O Christ the Same"* Insert Sheet

DISMISSAL
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *"Fantasia"* - English Melody

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven
Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold
Organist: Vickie Kissinger
Lay Reader: Nancy Hain
Communion Assistant: Linda Weaver
Psalmist: Choir
Videographer: Hayden Leonhard
Soundboard: Troy Adair
Ushers: Lowell Yost and Nancy Eberly



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated
To the Glory of God by
Janet and Ed Dewey
In Honor and Memory of Service Members

Weekly Receipts Report as of 11/12/26	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	68
Online Attendance	126
General Receipts	$2,905.00

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



Poinsettia Flowers for Christmas

The time has come to order Poinsettias for the Christmas season. The price for one 6.5" potted, red or white poinsettia with 5 or more blooms will be $9.50. An option to round up to $10.00 will benefit the proceeds contributed to the Needy Fund.

Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided and place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give to Pat Haller at church. Please make checks payable to Mellinger's Lutheran Church.

Last day to order flowers is Sunday November 22.
Please pick up flowers after either Christmas Eve service Thursday December 24.



6:00 Wednesday
November 18

November 25 @ 6:15

December 2, 9, 16 & 23



7:00 Wednesday
November 18

December 2, 9, 16 & 23

Bell ringers needed for Advent and Christmas Eve!

Let me know if you are interested in ringing bells. You do NOT need to be able to read music. I look forward to seeing you ring!

A correction to the November Newsletter:

Under Council meeting information it was noted the Cocalico Builders of Hope purchased a house. The following was asked to be stated:

"Cocalico Builders of Hope has yet to find a house and is looking for one to buy. This is for their transitional housing program in conjunction with Community Hive (formerly Ephrata Area Social Services)."