

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A congregation of the North American Lutheran Church
& Augsburg Lutheran Churches
2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 (715) 542-3701
Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

November 8, 2026

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

(715) 542-3701

Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-891-0259
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Ken Beier	715-891-2705
Joanne Pierce	414-477-5804
Shawn McCormick	715-605-2552

Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as ***all*** *are welcome to the Lord's table.*
Thank you for joining us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.
Go to the Church website at www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org and look for the YouTube symbol.
Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155, PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560
Or on the church website – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
You can donate through our PayPal account.
"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

Readings for November 15, 2026 24th Sunday After Pentecost

First Reading	Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18
Psalm	90: 1-12
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Holy Gospel	Matthew 25: 14-30

Awake to the Grace of God

Linked with the reading from 1 Thessalonians and Psalm 90, Jesus' parable of the talents invites a full-hearted response to God's lavish gifts of faith and purpose: "Use 'em if you've got 'em!" The people of God are meant to be engaged, alert, and ready to share what we have received from our prodigally (wastefully) generous God. While the parable has sometimes been interpreted in the context of judgment, a careful reading also spotlights the beauty of the faith-generated response to God's lavish grace.

One word for this is *stewardship*. Presented in light of God's gift of faith and purpose, this "churchy" term can today be transformed to new understanding in the proclamation of the gospel text. Instead of the weight of obligation and duty we so often associate with religion, we are invited today to another way: What does it mean to be awake to the grace of God? On the surface Jesus' parable is a simple premise: the contrast of workers who please and workers who disappoint their master. Psalm 90 sings to us to carefully treasure our lifetimes, for there is something at stake. First Thessalonians is a letter reminding people they have exactly what they need to survive and thrive.

What does it mean to be awake to the grace of God?
In a time when so many people are discouraged with work, home, life, and church, a word from Jesus' parables may be healing, enriching, and startlingly attractive. The gospel text today is an opportunity to remind the people of God that there is a depth to faith that is sustainable. In fact, beneath the parables of Jesus is a depth it will take a lifetime to unpack.

Thank You to Karen Carter for leading service today!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE AT 5:30 P.M.

Service includes Holy Communion

CHURCH SCHOOL
Reminder to send your children (or grandchildren!) to join our after-school church school! The school bus will drop the children off right at the door of the church on Wednesday afternoons at around 3:45. Church school lasts until 5 pm. All are welcome to join us at the Wednesday evening service that follows at 5:30 pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Person – NEW CONTACT: KARIN MCCORMICK: (715) 614-7670

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

STEP ONE:

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets

STEP TWO:

You can provide flowers in two ways:

1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.
2. You may **contact Karin McCormick**, and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as ***"Altar Flower Donation".***

ANY QUESTIONS? **Contact Karin**

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM
Please consider making a donation for this very worthwhile program headed up by the Krieck family. Pink envelopes are located on the Narthex table for your use.

QUILTING
Please join the quilting group at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. You don't need to know how to quilt or sew – if you can tie knots, they can use your help!

CALL COMMITTEE
Here are the Call Committee members. Please feel free to contact them if you have any questions.

Lloyd Andersen	715-892-3513
Karen Carter	715-542-4049 or 715-525-1733
Ginger Eade	608-317-9563
Shawn McCormick	715-605-2552
Joanne Pierce	414-477-5804
Charlie Rice - Chairman	715-617-1398 or 715-479-9336



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:
Dick, Teresa, Deb, Jim C., Sue L., Gordon S., Joan E., Sharon G., Ken H., Paul S., Lloyd A., and Evelyn A.

(Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this "current issues" list or moved to "ongoing list")

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:
Larry, Mary Lou, Graham, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Bob B., Ron, Bonnie, Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim, Barb, Sharon B., Tom P, Tom A., Crystal L.

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:
Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, Dylan and Sgt. David

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:
Elisabeth

Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

Special Prayers

Please keep our church council, the Call Committee and every member of this congregation in your prayers as we search for a new Shepherd.

*Please or email Jean Maines at **jamaines2012@gmail.com** or text her at 715-891-3344 or contact Sharon Brooker at **plclerk@gmail.com** or text her at 715-892-7049, if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list or if you are in need of prayers.*



CONTACT INFO

In addition to any listed office hours, we are also available anytime by phone!

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344
Email**: treasurer@sotlsayner.com or jamaines2012@gmail.com**

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049
Email: **secretary@sotlsayner.com or plclerk@gmail.com**
Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

Karen Carter, Lay Minister
kcarter@nnex.net
(715) 542-4049

BOOKSHELF REMINDER
Remember to check out the bookshelves in the south entryway! All books are there to be shared and you are also welcome to leave books if you wish.

ATTENDANCE

Wednesday, October 28: 6
Sunday, November 1: 32

THANKSGIVING MEAL:
We're getting an early start on planning this year!
Our annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be on Thursday, November 26, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. As always, we are working with St. Mary Catholic Church and St. Germain Community Church to present this dinner. Sign-up sheets for helping with the dinner are in the Narthex.

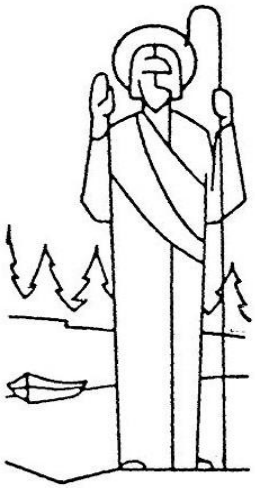
SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX CAMPAIGN:
Please take home a partially filled box to complete. Boxes are due back at the church by November 16th. Thanks for your help!

ALTAR FLOWERS
Flowers for the altar today are provided by Tammy Meissner and Kristi Tarkowski "In Memory of Doug Tarkowski".

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24th Sunday After Pentecost, November 8, 2026



Greeting & Announcements

Invocation *(Please remain seated.)*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession And Forgiveness

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Compassionate God,

We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.
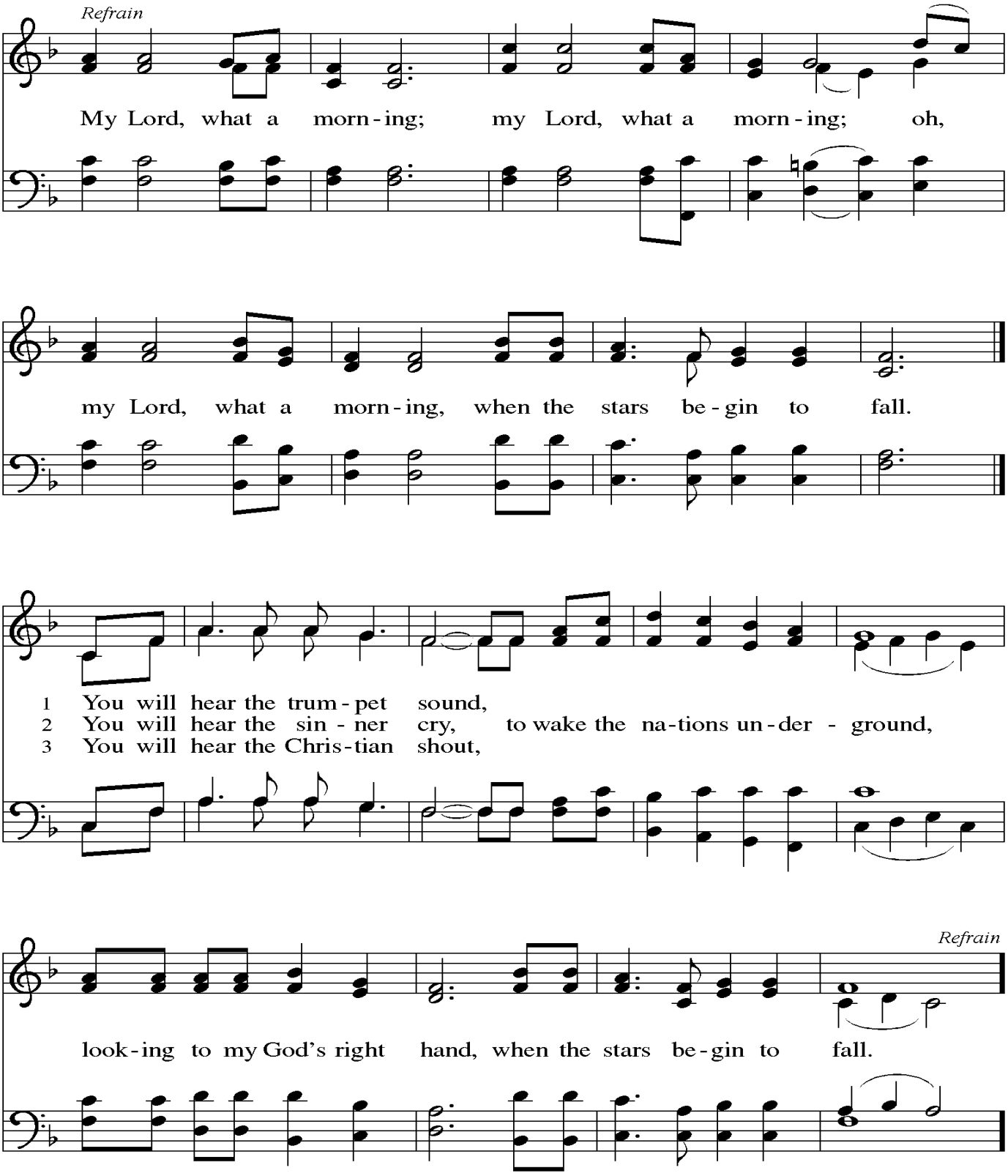
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen

Gathering Song **"My Lord, What a Morning"** ***ELW 438***

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

My Lord, What a Morning



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.

Opening Dialog *(Philippians 4:4-6)*

Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice!
Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.

Let us not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present our requests to God.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice!

Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

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.

First Reading **Amos 5: 18-24**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
[2] Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

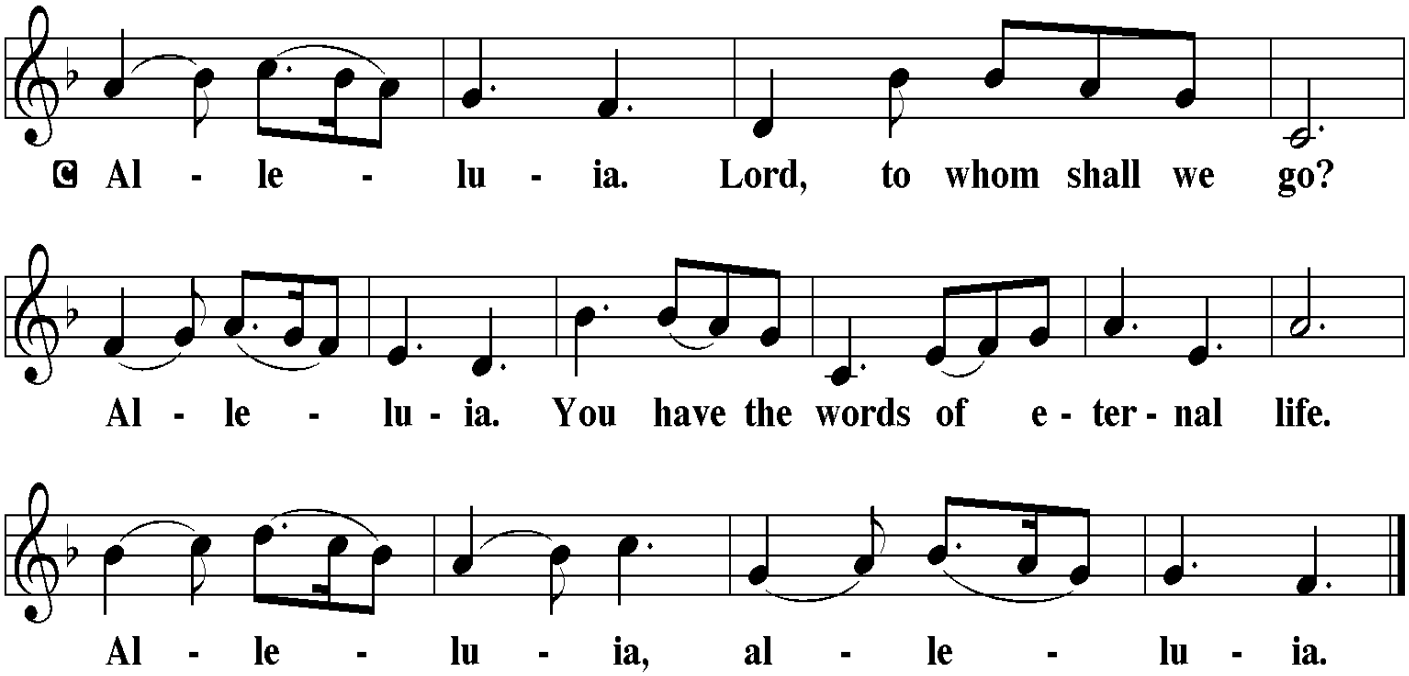
**[4] Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever,
"Great is the Lord!"**

[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.
**You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry.**

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*



The Holy Gospel According to….

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading Matthew 25: 1-13

The Gospel of the Lord….

Praise to you, O Christ.
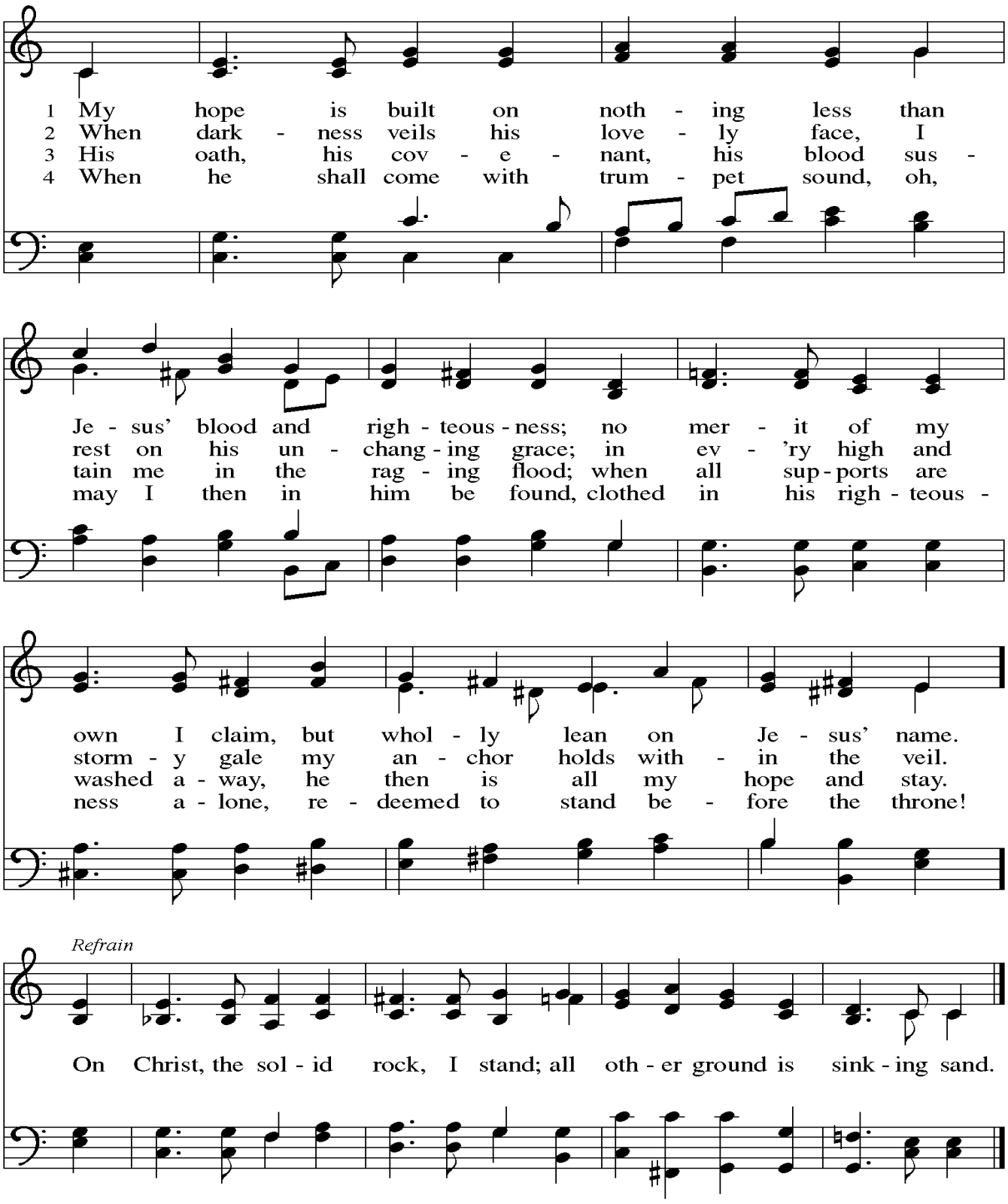
(Please be Seated)

Sermon Karen Carter

Hymn of the Day ***"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 597***

Please stand as you are comfortable

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



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

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please share the peace as you are comfortable, then please be seated)

Offering (We will receive our offering today in the traditional manner)

For those of you worshipping with us at home -You can mail your donations to:
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2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560
Or on the church website www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org You can donate through our PayPal account.
"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

Presentation Of Gifts

Offertory Prayer

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.
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.

Words of Institution *(Service of Distribution)*
(These elements have been consecrated by one Pastor Reiff)

As we gather before these **consecrated** elements of bread and wine for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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."

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As we prepare to receive this bread of life and this cup of blessing, we pray that we may be strengthened through our participation in the body of Christ.

I invite you to join with me and let us pray with confidence the words that our Savior gave us.

Lords 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

Invitation

Distribution *(Please be seated)*

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All is ready, all are welcome, our Lord and Savior invites us to come.
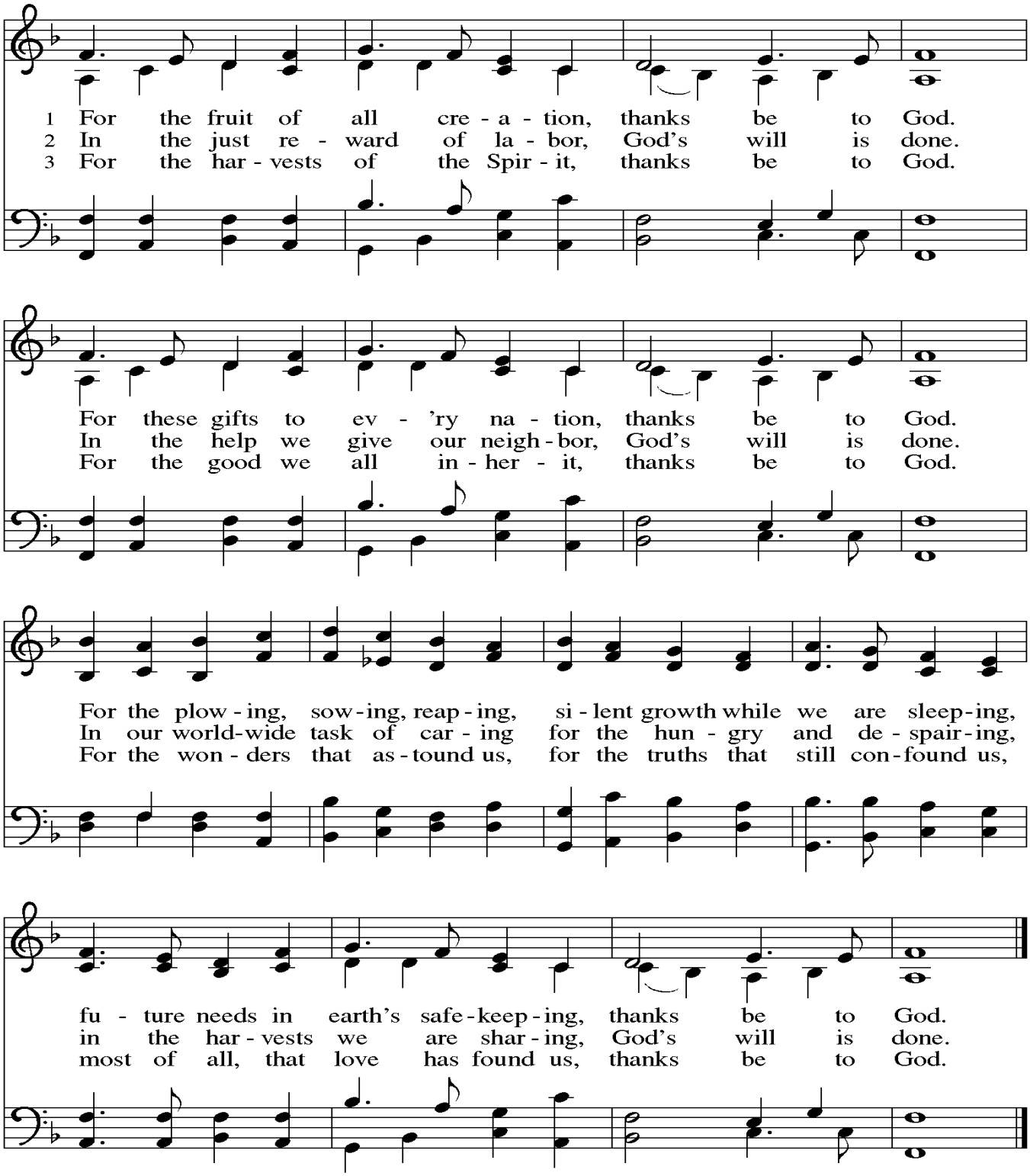
All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the clear chalice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward.

Communion Hymns *"For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW 679*

For the Fruit of All Creation

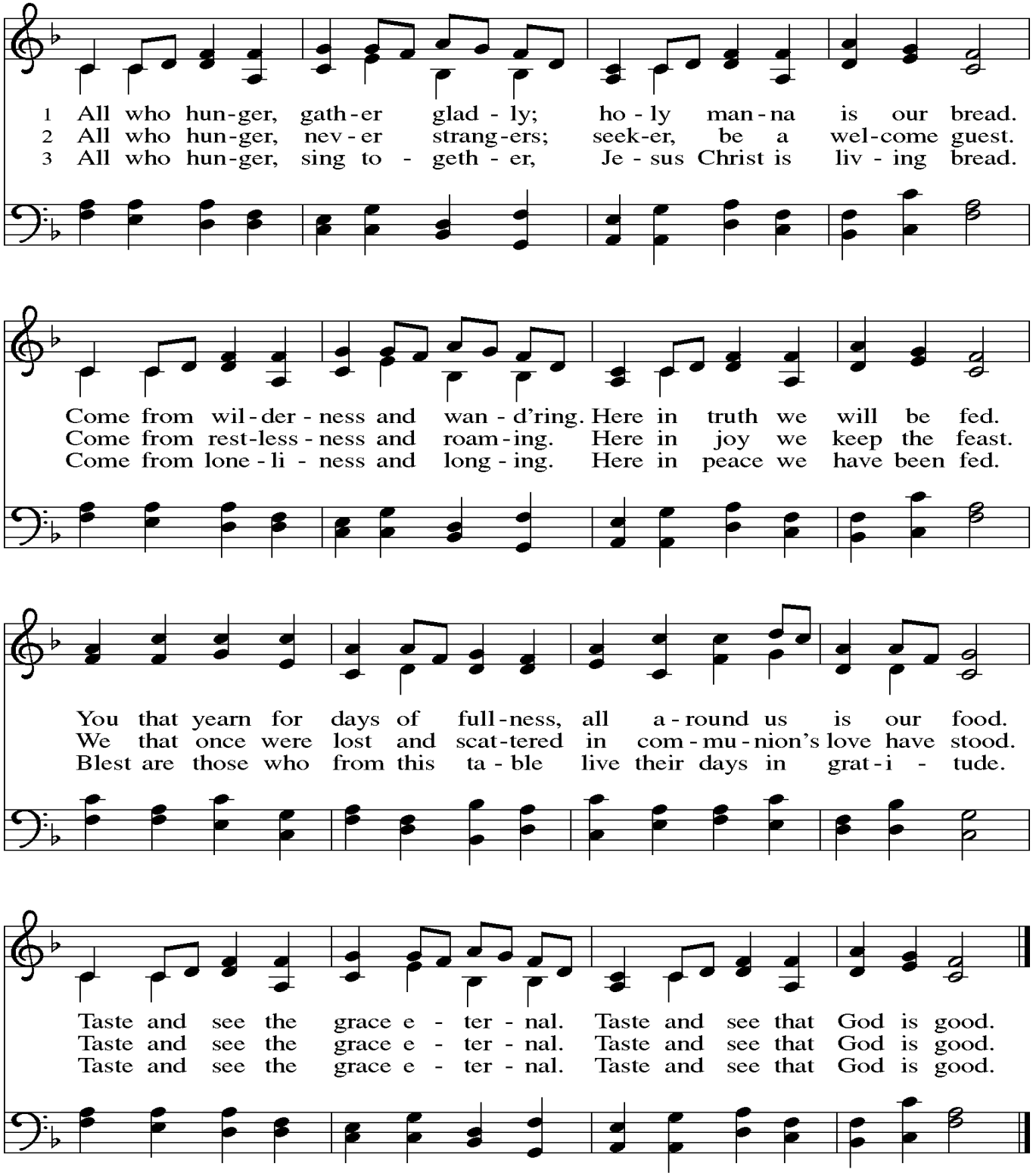


Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" ELW 461

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Communion Blessing (*Please stand as you are comfortable*)

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

Amen

Prayer

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.

Amen.
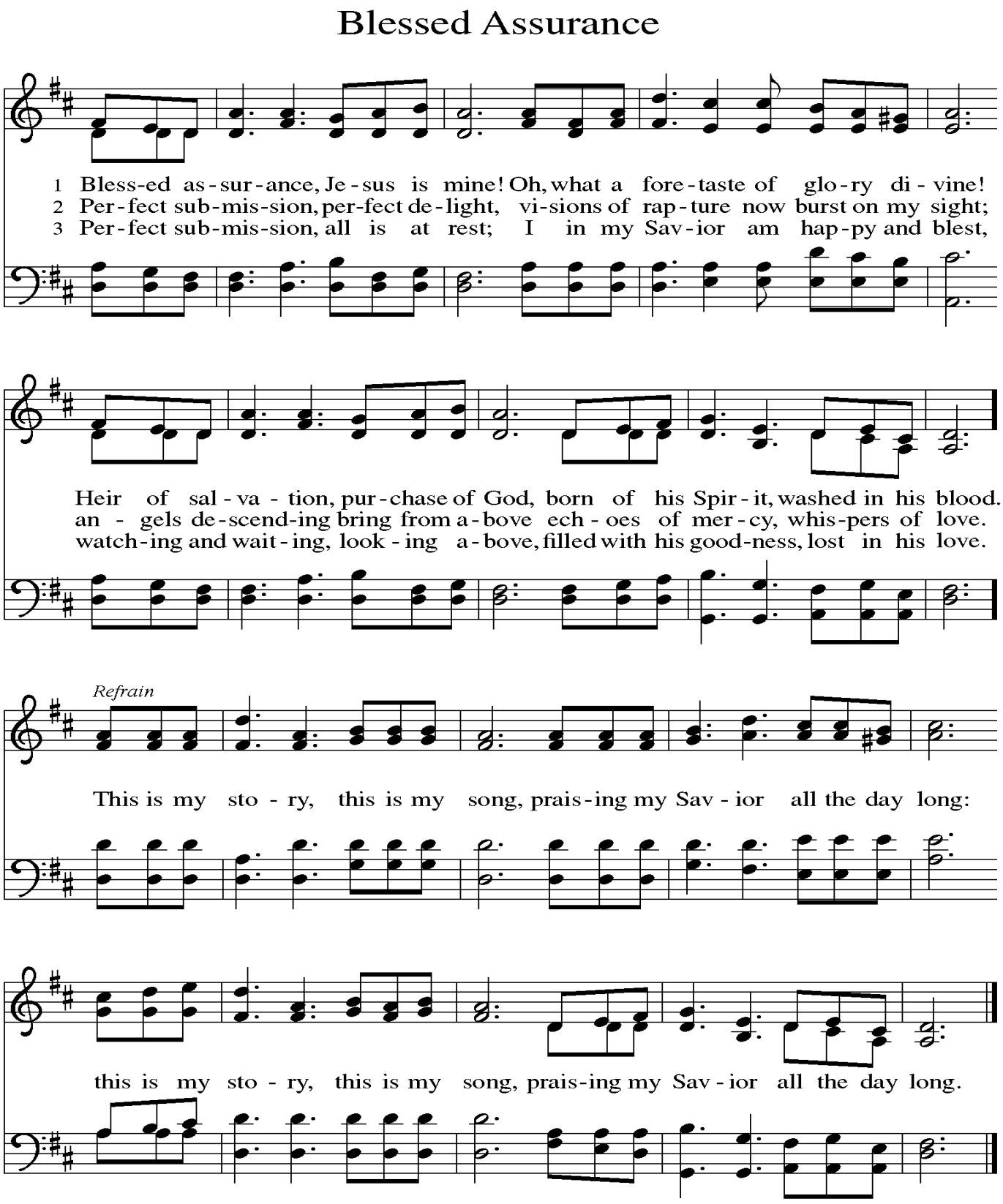
Blessing/Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

A**men**

Sending Hymn *"Blessed Assurance" ELW 638*

Please stand as you are comfortable



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

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.
Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.

Calendar for Week of November 9 – November 15, 2026

Wednesday	November 11, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday	November 11, 2026	Mid-Week Service	5:30 p.m.
Thursday	Novembre 12, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	November 15, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.

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Next Council Meeting:
November 22, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:
Community Thanksgiving Dinner 11 am – 2 pm

Check our calendar of events on the church website for times and dates of events and worship services.

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI
Instagram: sotlsayner

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