

October 26th, 2025  
Reformation Sunday  
10:30am



**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

7595 Center Parkway  
Sacramento, CA 95823  
(916)421-5039  
office@slelca.org

**Visit our website at**  
**[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)**

**Pastor Rob Williamson**  
pastorrob@slelca.org

**Jane Fanucci, Choir Director/Organist**  
jef100bicen@yahoo.com

### **Pastor's Notes on Liturgy**

The word “liturgy” comes from an ancient Greek tradition called *leitourgia*, a system where the rich would finance the Greek State as a voluntary moral obligation. The word comes from *litos ergos*, meaning “work for the people” or “public service.” This was how Martin Luther viewed liturgy: as the work of the people of God.

Liturgy is meant to make us feel something. In 1928, an unknown author wrote that “the purpose of liturgy is to quicken the mind, energize the body, awaken the soul. So may the entire being be braced to action at once heroic and redemptive.”

Our liturgy is based on Luther's liturgical order published in 1525. Luther was adamant that this should not dictate the only way for a believer to worship; as a result, the instructions in our hymnals express that most of the portions of our service *may* be used, not that they *must* be used. He believed that worship and liturgy were not the same, but that liturgy was meant to shape worship as the ritual enactment of Word and Sacrament.

Like Luther, we use the word “liturgy” for the standardized order of events during a religious service. Liturgy is meant to create a sense of unity among a group of believers and remove any sense of individual ownership. Writing about liturgy's purpose, Rabbis Frishman and Knobel, writers of Jewish *siddurs*, said that liturgy “must challenge narcissism; that challenge begins by saying to a worshiper: your voice is here amidst others.” This sentiment is mirrored in the words of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “It is the voice of the church that is heard in singing together. It is not I who sing, but the church. However, as a member of the church, I may share in its song.”

Through this sense of more-than-me, we are connected through the liturgy to *all* believers, not only those sitting in the pews beside us. The meaning behind the words are expressed by people around the world and throughout time. We are connected to a rich religious history, and our theology is deeply embedded into every part of our liturgical order.

# HOLY COMMUNION

*Please silence your phones during worship service*

## GATHERING

*The people of God gather for worship*

### PRELUDE

Jacob Wilson

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The people of God reflect on the sins they bring before God and hear the proclamation of their forgiveness. This prepares them for worship with the awareness of the gift they are given.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God,  
**we are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We trample on the needy.**  
**We grumble about your grace to others.**  
**We turn away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found.**  
**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.  
In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**Amen.**

*You are invited to stand as able.*

## **GATHERING SONG ELW #504**

*Music is a communal and relational activity. The people of God sing in a display of unity, the one voice of the Body of Christ.*

### **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## GREETING

*Taken from 2 Corinthians, these words are called the Apostolic 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.**

## KYRIE

*The people of God pray for mercy and blessings upon creation.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*The people of God sing a hymn or canticle of praise to God for the mercy and blessings given to creation.*

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

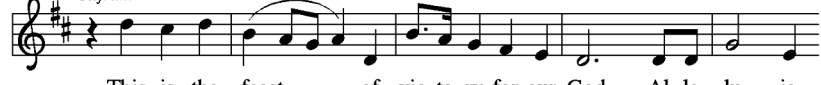


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

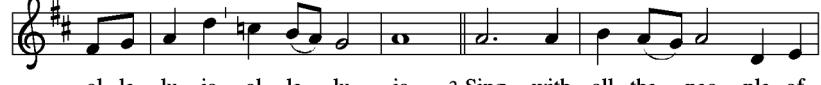


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

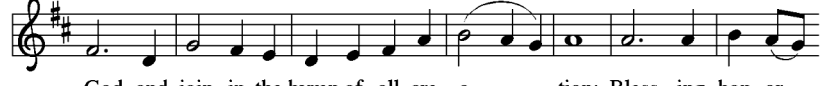
*Refrain*



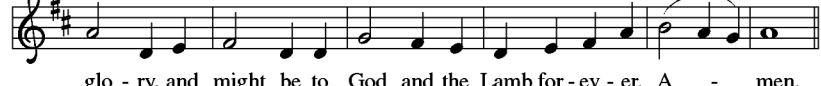
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



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

*The people of God pray a single prayer, often based on the general theme of the readings/festival day.*

Let us pray.

**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.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*Traditionally from the Old Testament or Acts of the Apostles, the first reading is the story of the people of God through the ages.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalm 46

*The psalm is not considered one of the readings but rather a support for them.*

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be  
moved, and though the mountains shake in the  
depths of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of  
God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.
- <sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- <sup>9</sup> 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.
- <sup>10</sup> **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be  
exalted in the earth."**
- <sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.



## SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

*Traditionally from the Epistles (letters of the apostles), the second reading offers insight into the way of Christ.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

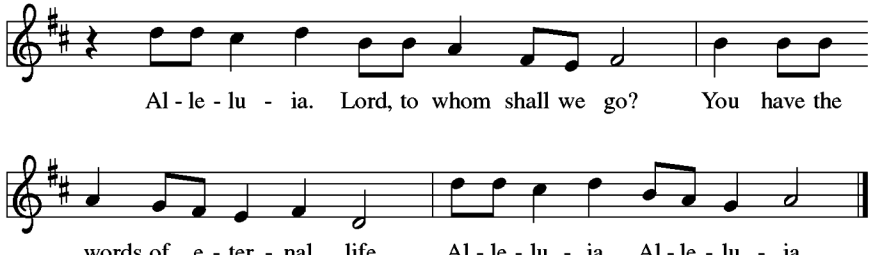
*The people of God offer music to the glory of God.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*Time is set aside for faith formation of the young.*

*You are invited to stand as able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

*The story of Jesus Christ is told.*

The holy gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 8:31-36

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*The pastor or another minister helps the people of God interpret the scripture.*

*You are invited to stand as able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #729**

*The people of God sing the principal hymn of the service, emphasizing the message of the day or season.*

**The Church of Christ, in Every Age**



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*The people of God profess their faith together.*

**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**

*The people of God pray for God to intercede, balancing the needs of the whole world with that of the local community.*

*Each portion of the prayers ends:*

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## **PEACE**

*The transition point between Word and Sacrament, the people of God share the peace with each other, reminding each other we are all part of the Body of Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say "peace be with you," or similar words.*

*Please be seated.*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

*The people of God offer a portion of what they have been given back to God in a response of thanksgiving and stewardship.*

**SOLO - Karen Linfor**

**"You Can't Beat God Giving"**

## OFFERING SONG

*The people of God sing a song of humble gratitude to God.*

*You are invited to stand as able.*

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come." The score ends with a double bar line.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*The people of God pray to God in thanks and supplication.*

Let us pray.

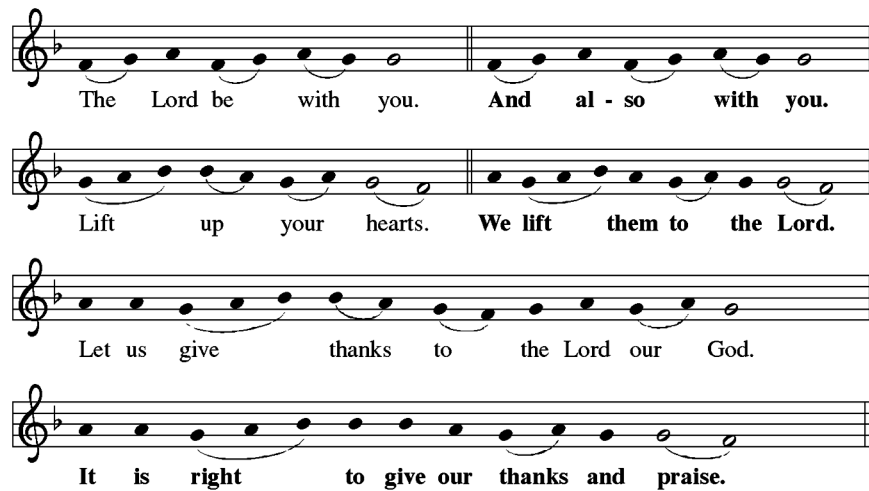
**Lord of all good gifts, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**

**Bless these offerings and the covenant we make with you through these forms and cards. Make of us good stewards of your creation, using the abundance you offer to us to support and sustain your good work in this community and the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

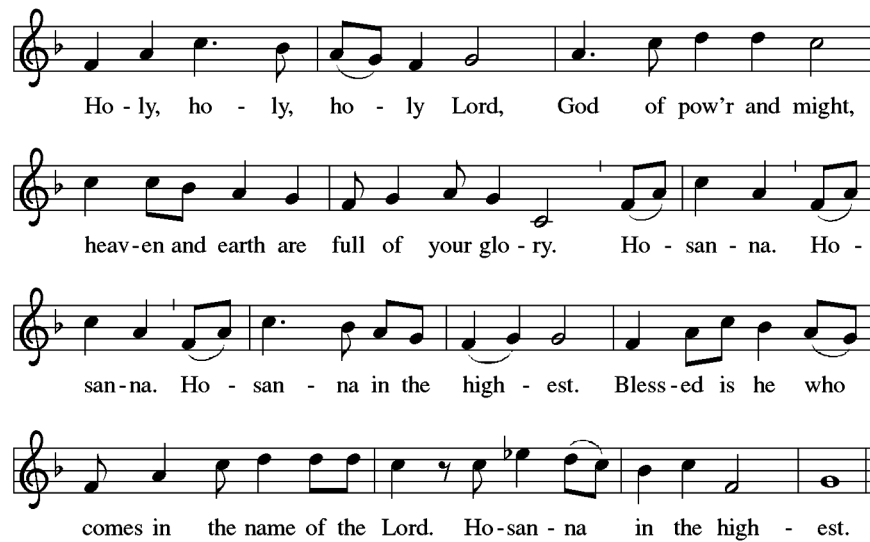
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The most theologically dense portion of worship, the Great Thanksgiving includes the Sursum Cordia (Latin: Lift up your hearts), Preface, Sanctus (Latin: Holy), Anamnesis (Greek: Remembrance), Words of Institution (taken from Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and 1 Cor. 11), Mysterium Fidei (Latin: Mystery of Faith), Epiclesis (Greek: Invocation), and Doxology (Greek doxologia: saying glory).*



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; who on this day overcame  
death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection  
opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all  
the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts  
of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending  
hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel,  
the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land,  
the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great  
high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**



## LORD'S PRAYER

*The people of God pray as Jesus taught his disciples.*

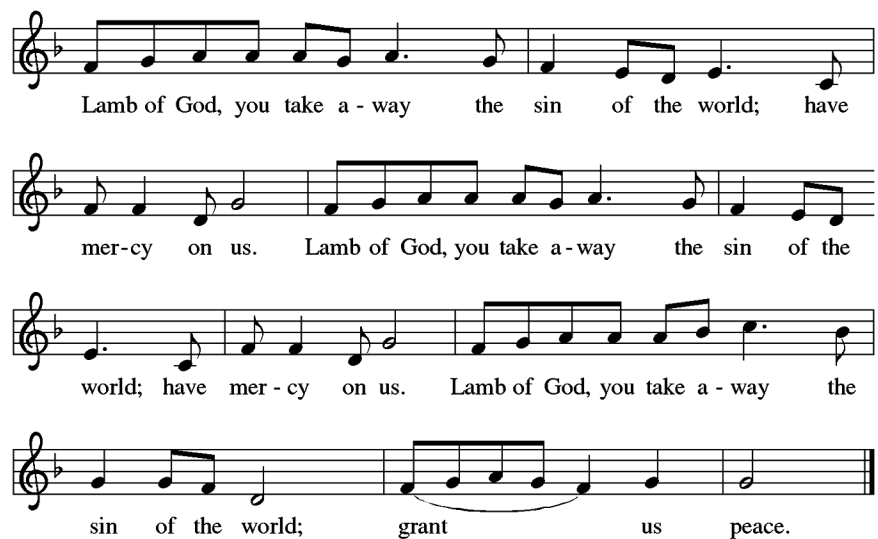
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Come forward by the center aisle at the usher's invitation. Those not yet communing will receive a blessing. Bread will be placed in your open hands. Grape juice is in the pink glasses in the center of the tray encircled by wine in clear glasses. Individual communion packets are available near the entrance for those who prefer them.*

## COMMUNION SONG

*The Lamb of God is traditionally sung to help the people of God prepare to come before God.*

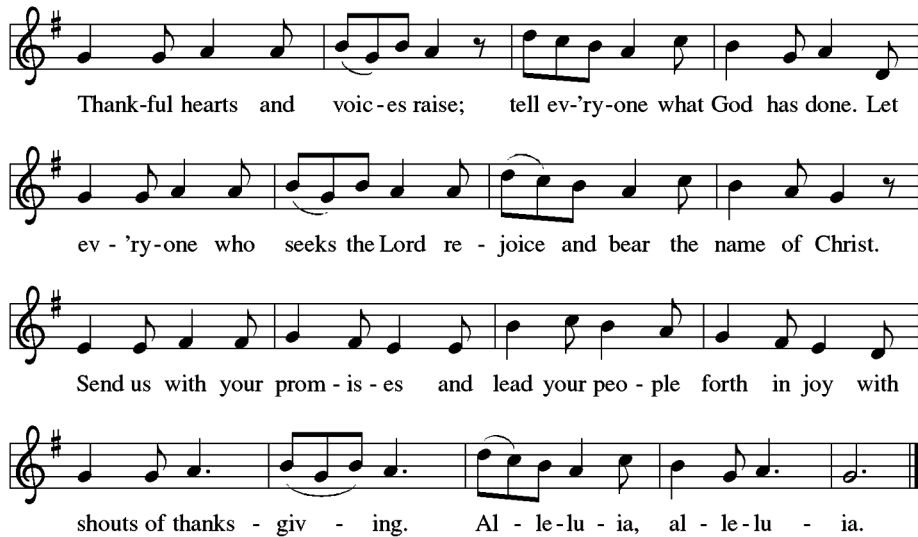


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## POST COMMUNION SONG

*The people of God sing a song of thanksgiving for the gift of salvation that has been given.*

### Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*The people of God give thanks and ask for God's blessing on their ministry in the world.*

Let us pray.

**O God,**

**through this meal you have strengthened us**

**and appointed us to be your servants.**

**Send us to do good and to share our possessions**

**with all in need.**

**We ask this in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG ELW# 836

*The people of God sing together in preparation for departure.*

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

## DISMISSAL

*The people of God are sent out into the world.*

Go in Peace. Do not lose heart.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Jane Fanucci

### Worship Assistants

|                    |                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Announcements:     | Chet Madison                                    |
| Altar Care:        | Kelly Boyer                                     |
| Communion Servers: | Karen Linfor, Kirsten Ireton,<br>& Connie Reule |
| Prayer Leader:     | Shirley Prouty                                  |
| Reader:            | Karen Linfor                                    |
| Refreshments:      | Triss & Holly Hoppman                           |
| Song Leader:       | Karen Linfor                                    |
| Trumpet:           | Paul Maki                                       |
| Trombone:          | Pastor Rob                                      |
| Usher:             | Bill Myers                                      |

### Flowers Today Provided by:

*Vicki, Romiro, & Sharon*

In Remembrance of Mom Gladys & Dad Arthur

- And -

*Karen Linfor*

In Remembrance of Family October Birthdays!

### THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

**October 26 – November 1, 2025**

|                            |                         |                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Today                      | Holy Communion          | 10:30 am             |
| <b>Reformation Potluck</b> | <b>- Education wing</b> | <b>after worship</b> |
| Monday                     | Soul Sisters - Room 4   | 12:00 pm             |
| Wednesday                  | Choir Practice          | 6pm - 7pm            |

\*\*St. Luke's, will be a voting center for Sacramento County.

The voting center will be set up in Schultz hall beginning *October 23rd through November 7th*. Schultz Hall will not be available during these dates. If you need access to Schultz Hall, please call/text (916)768-7424.



**Sunday, November 9, 2025**

There will be a special congregational meeting following worship on *Sunday, November 9th*, to discuss the City of Sacramento's proposal and vote on the sale of the back parcel of St. Luke's grounds. Please put this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.

---

To the congregation:

I am asking that you think back to Pastor Rob's sermon this past Sunday regarding "Stewardship." Please search your heart about adding your name to the list of folks who assist in the worship service as Readers and Prayer Leaders.

If you have an interest in participating, please reply to me, or to the church office.

Thank you, and God bless you!

Remember, "You Can't Beat God Giving"!!

In Him,  
*Karen Linfor*





"WELCA is sponsoring a Baby shower for baby Arthur Hughes. All are invited!"

Mommy-to-be: Megan Calleja

Daddy-to-be: Jack Hughes

When: **Next Sunday, November 2**

Time: **3:00 pm**

Where: Multi-purpose Room

Registry: Amazon - under Megan Calleja

A luncheon of sandwiches, salads and cake will be provided!

Questions? Call Faith Thomas at 916 205-5032



**CHURCH**  
**WORKDAY**

Let's all come together to refresh, beautify and take care of our church campus.

An all members work day is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th at 9:00am

*Contact Kelly Boyer with any questions*



**THANKSGIVING 'FIX-INS' FOOD COLLECTION DRIVE**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 THRU SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9**

The Community Concerns Board is collecting Thanksgiving 'Fix-Ins' for the Elk Grove Food Bank Sunday, October 12 through Sunday, November 9. Extra Flyers with a list of suggested food items are on the Opportunity Table in the Narthex. Drop off your donations in the bin located under the Shepard Jesus located at the back of the Sanctuary. If you are not able to bring your donation(s) to the Church, please contact the Office (916-421-5039) to arrange for a pickup from your home.

If you have any questions or need information about the collection drive, check out the article in the October News & Views or you can ask any member on the Community Concerns Board.

Thank you!

Community Concerns Board



## Reformation Poem

So much more than a church  
My home since birth  
My first memories  
As delicate as a dove on her perch  
The smell of books and crayons  
The taste of bread and wine  
The thorns in the crown  
The way stained glass shines  
Most things in life are ephemeral  
Like a bubble about to burst  
But our faith is eternal  
As we put God first  
No stairs needs to climb for His love  
The 95 thesis nailed on the door  
The olive branch in the beak of a dove  
We will live with him in paradise forevermore  
He paid the price that was too heavy a debt for us mere mortals to pay  
We got three for the price of one on the bloody tree that day

- Katie Light ( Karen Linfor's granddaughter)