

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

• 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, November 12, 2023 •  
24th Sunday after Pentecost



## WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *Fugue on “St. Anne”*

J.S. Bach

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us  
and calls us beloved.

**C Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy One,

**C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts.  
We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one  
another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our  
hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to  
serve your creation. Amen.**

P Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

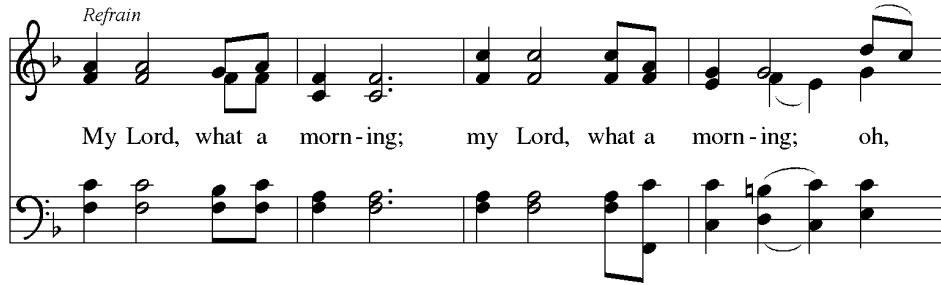
Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to  
rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *My Lord, What a Morning*

*All Stand & Sing*

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

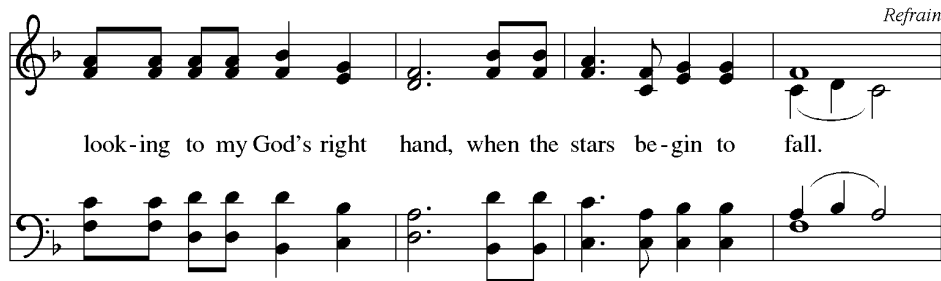


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

## 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.

# KYRIE

*All Sing*

*P*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

*C*



Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*



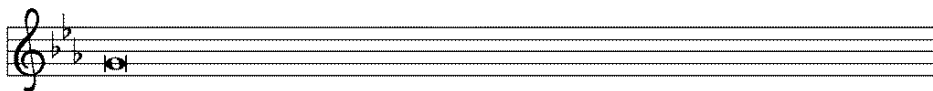
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

*C*



Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*



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



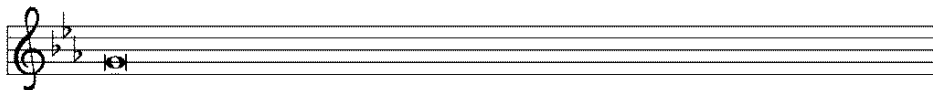
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

*C*



Lord, have mer - cy.

*P*



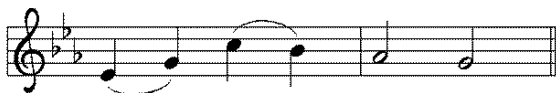
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

*P*



let us pray to the Lord.

*C*



Lord, have mer - cy.

P



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

C



A - men, a - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*All Sing*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



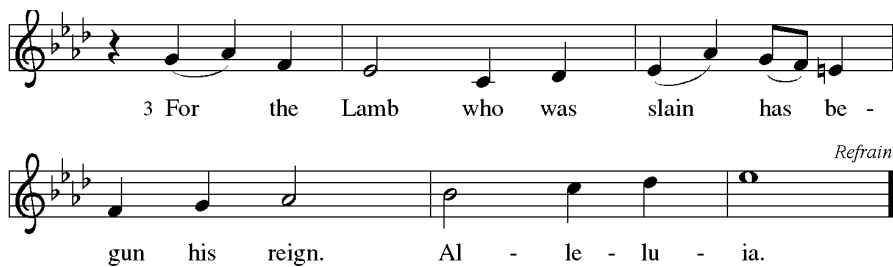
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## FIRST READING

**Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from Amos, the fifth chapter.

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the fourth chapter.

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All Stand & Sing*

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

## GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and in her  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, and saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart new joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,  
an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym-bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
for her Lord comes down all glo - rious, the strong in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where, dwell - ing



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious. Her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
with the choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has seen, no ear has yet been trained to hear,



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the  
Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we  
what joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -



Lord, whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.  
view where you have bid us dine with you.  
sound; ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.  
Music: WACHT 1701; Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608



## **APOSTLES CREED**

**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**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world,  
and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Take My Life that I May Be*

Chamber Choir

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me*

*All Stand and Sing*

The musical score is written for a Chamber Choir in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your'. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948  
 Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

## DIALOGUE


*Pastor*

*Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Pastor*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*Cong.*



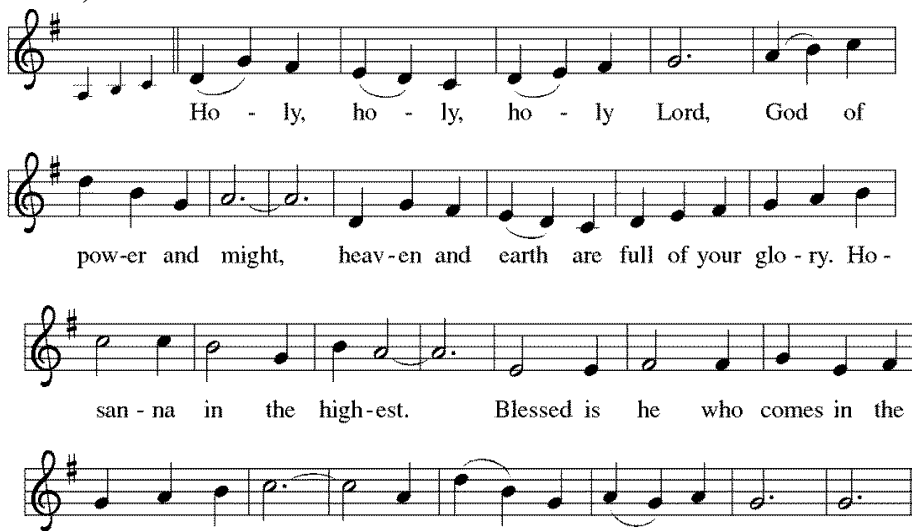
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*All Sing*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## COMMUNION

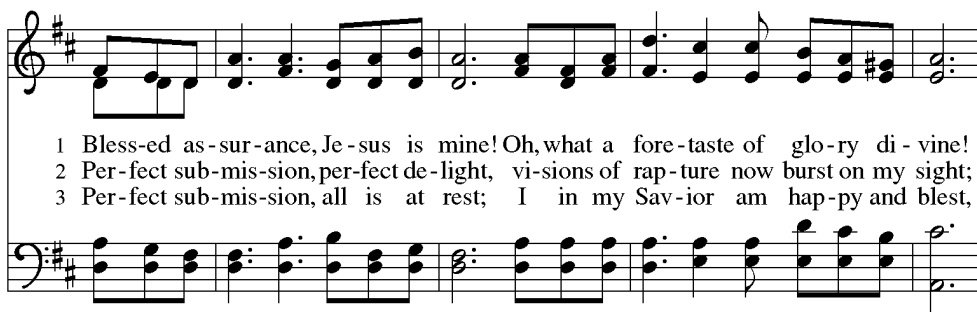
*During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.*

## LAMB OF GOD ..... All Sing

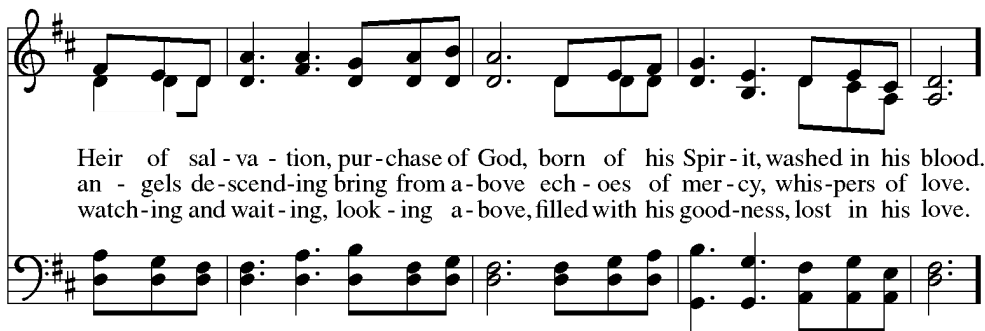
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
 way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Blessed Assurance*

*All Sing*

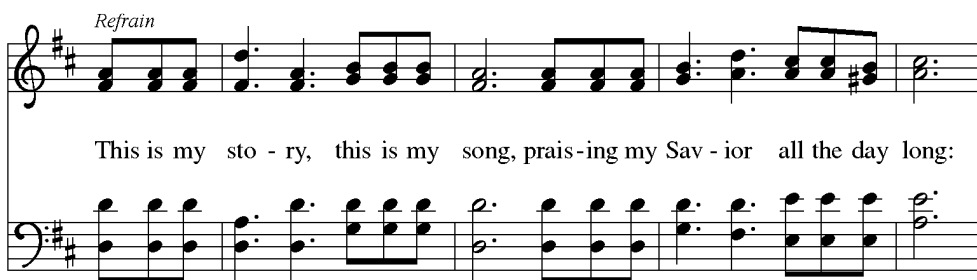


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: William Kewell, b. 1925, m. 1-3; Gilbert E. Dear Jr., b. 1950, m. 4, 6; w. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1937, m. 1-3, 6b.  
 Music: A. V. A. H. William Kewell, 1960.  
 Reprint: 1-3 and new G. Lohman World Publications, m. 4 and music edit. © 1972 Contemporary Worship Co., unless otherwise noted.

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

**C** **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Lord Jesus,

**C** **in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**P** May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

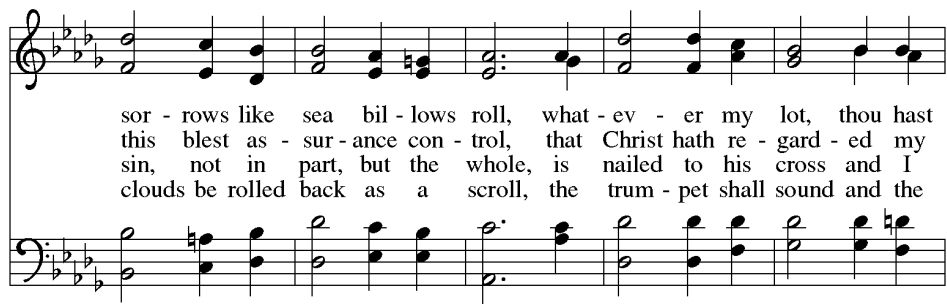
**C** **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN: *When Peace like a River*

*All Stand & Sing*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876



## **SENDING**

**P** Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Sleepers, Wake*

Walther

\*Thank you to our lector, Ashley Hyman.

\* The altar flowers were given by Debbie Mendez in memory of Ruth and Andres Mendez, Sr.

*Our 2023 Angel Tree sign ups are live! Check the link in the weekly email to sign up or contact Shelia Kelly (704)718-6161.*

## **This Weeks Schedule:**

### **Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship

12:00 pm – Church Council Meeting

4:00 pm – Kid's Club

4:00 pm – Small Group 1

5:00 pm – Adult Handbells

5:00 pm – HCY

6:00 pm – Church Choir

### **Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Christian Education Meeting

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

7:00 pm – Small Group 2

### **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm – Youth Handbells

6:45 pm – Women's Bible Study

7:00 pm – Chamber Choir

### **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Outreach Meeting

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