Joy Lutheran Church of Rockwall, Texas

302 N. Goliad - Rockwall, Texas 75087
(214) 716-7539 • www.joylutheranchurch.org

North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

North Texas/Oklahoma Mission District

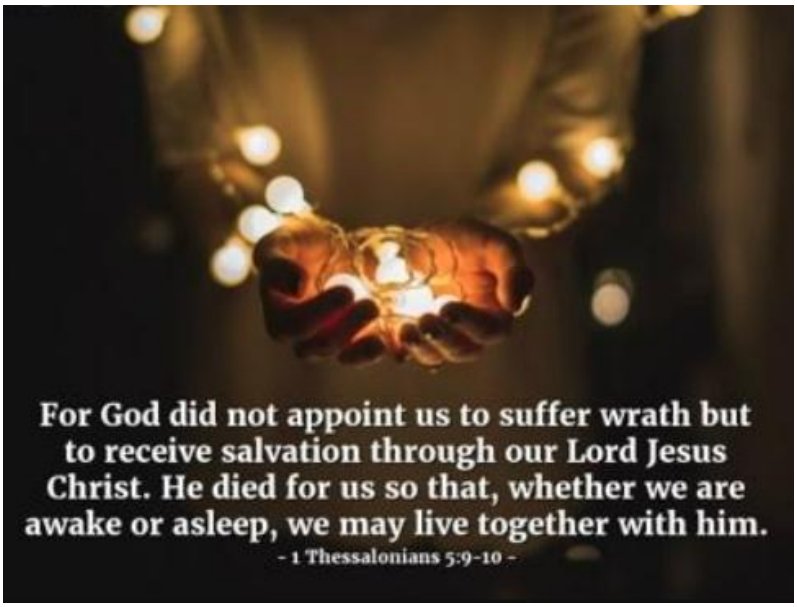
Bringing Joy to the Heart of Rockwall

We are a community of faith, formed in the grace and joy of Jesus Christ.

We are a people involved in God's sure and unfolding promise to mend His creation through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are a church under the cross of Christ, shaped by the ancient rhythms of Christian worship, fellowship and service to others.

COME SHARE THE JOY!



Our Pastor
Rev. Martin Moore
martinmoore55@gmail.com
(979) 551-6222

Our Council President
Rhonda White
rhondawhite08@gmail.com

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (YEAR A)
NOVEMBER 15, 2026



Our Members, Guests and Visitors

We are all on a journey of faith; God does not expect us to make the journey alone.
Please contact us if we can be of help in any way.
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Prelude

You may use this time to prepare your heart for worship

- Welcome! Whether you are a longtime member or visiting for the first time, you are a gift from God to us. Guests, please fill out the card on the back of your pew and place it in the offering plate later in the service. May the love of Christ comfort you, and the love of His people encourage you!
- All who are baptized and desire to share in the Body and Blood of our Lord are welcome to receive Communion.
- Children in worship are a blessing! A worship bag (filled with coloring pages and crayons, children's bulletin, etc.) is available at the back of the sanctuary to use during worship. Ask an usher if you need assistance.
- We've started an Artists' Gathering, which includes drawing, painting, crafts, etc., every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please come join us in the Fellowship Hall.
- Adult Sunday school starts at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday, and the Youth lesson starts at 9:30 a.m. on the third and fourth Sundays of each month.
- A Worship & Music Team Meeting is Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30 pm.
- The Ladies' Ornament Exchange Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Luigi's Italian Restaurant in Rockwall.
- Helping Hands collections for the Food Bank is December 6th. If you are unable to donate non-perishable food items, cash is always welcome.
- A 'Hanging of the Greens' (and Crèche) Party with Meatball Subs is set for Sunday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m. at the church. All are invited.
- The White Elephant Exchange Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Paul & Linda Manak's home, located at 2125 Clubview, Rockwall.
- The NALC North Texas/Oklahoma Convocation is December 12th at San Miguel Lutheran in Ft. Worth from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Please remember to review the Blessing Board to volunteer for various ministries.

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him." (Psalm 96:9)

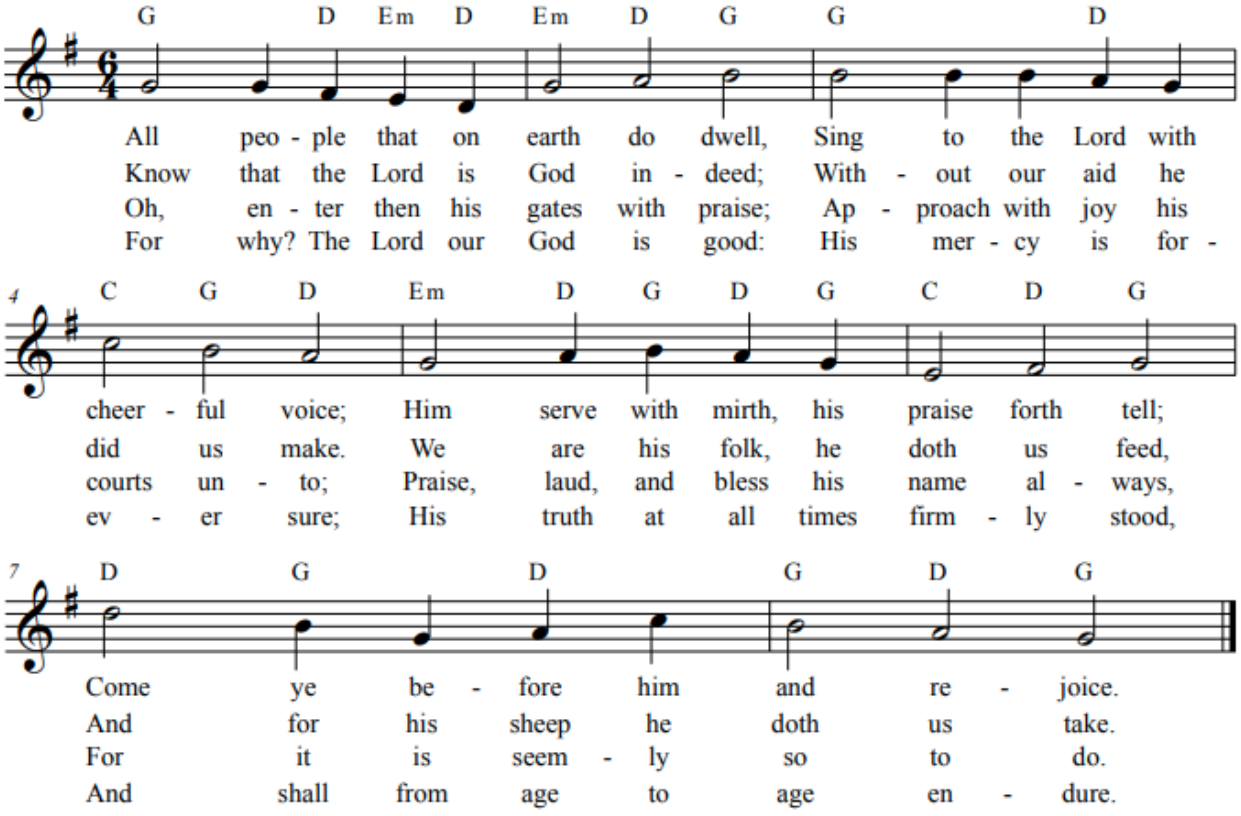
Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN~ "**ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL**" *(Green P. 245)*

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Psalm 67:3

Text: William Kethe, d.1594 — Tune: Louis Burgeois, 1510-1561



5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As the Pastor says the Invocation, the Sign of the Cross ✢ may be made in remembrance of our baptisms.

Pastor (P): "In the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
Congregation (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."

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

(P): "Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another."…

(P): Most merciful God,
(C): We confess that we are in bondage 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all your 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.

KYRIE ~ *(Green, P. 78)*

(P): "In peace, let us pray to the Lord." **(C): Lord, have mercy.**
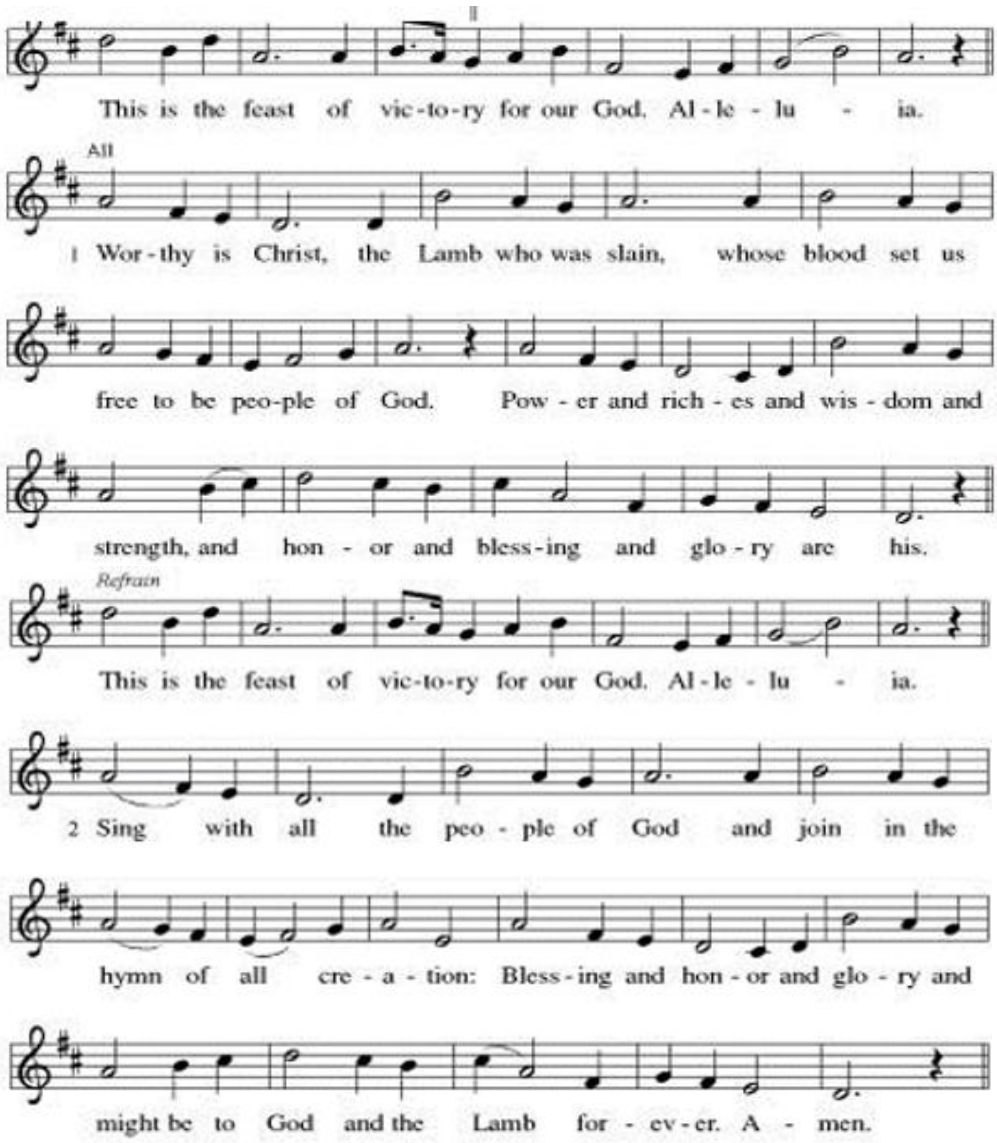
(P): "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord."
(C): Lord, have mercy.
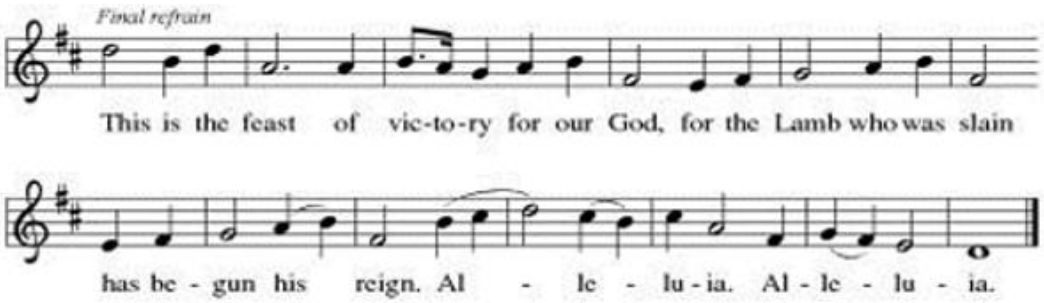
(P): "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." **(C): Lord, have mercy.**

(P): "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord." **(C): Lord, have mercy.**

(P): "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord." **(C): Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "THIS IS THE FEAST"





PRAYER OF THE DAY

(P): The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

(P): Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(C): Amen

Please be seated

HOLY WORD

(God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song)

FIRST READING:
Zephaniah 1:7-16

7Be silent before the LORD God! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has
prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8And on the day of the LORD's
sacrifice — "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array
themselves in foreign attire. 9On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over
the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.
10On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail
from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11Wail, O inhabitants of the
Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12At
that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are
complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will
he do ill.' 13Their goods 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." 14The great day of the LORD is near, near and
hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries

aloud there. 15A day of wrath is that day, 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, 16a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

(P): The Word of the Lord
(C): Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 90:1-12

1LORD, you have been our refuge*
from one generation to another.
2Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,*
from age to age you are God.
3You turn us back to the dust and say,*
"Go back, O child of earth."
4For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past*
and like a watch in the night.
5You sweep us away like a dream;*
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6In the morning it is green and flourishes;*
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7For we consume away in your displeasure;*
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
8Our iniquities you have set before you,*
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9When you are angry, all our days are gone;*
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10The 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.
11Who regards the power of your wrath?*
who rightly fears your indignation?
12So teach us to number our days*
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING
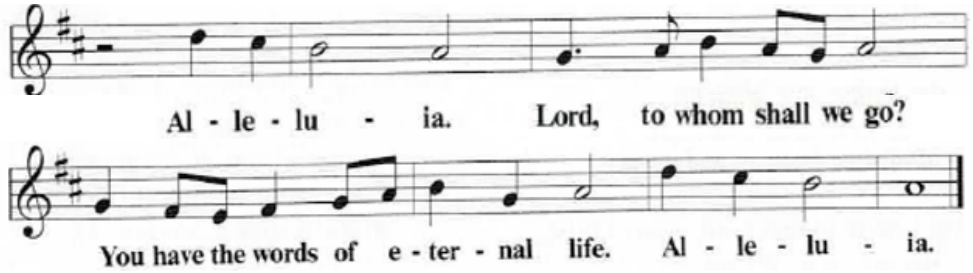
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have
anything written to you. 2For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3While people are saying, "There is peace
and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4But you are not in darkness,
brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5For you are all children of
light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6So then let
us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7For those who
sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8But since we
belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has not destined us for wrath,
but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us so that
whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11Therefore encourage
one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

(R): The Word of the Lord
(C): Thanks be to God!

Please stand for the Reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ "ALLELUIA"



THE HOLY GOSPEL

(P): The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter.
(C): Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

14{Jesus said to the disciples,} “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who
called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with
them, and he made five talents more. 17So also he who had the two talents made
two talents more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the
ground and hid his master’s money. 19Now after a long time the master of those
servants came and settled accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to
me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well
done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you
over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And he also who had the two
talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have
made two talents more.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful
servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into
the joy of your master.’ 24He also who had received the one talent came forward,
saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and
gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ 26But his master answered
him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not
sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my
own with interest. 28So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten
talents. 29For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an
abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

(P): The Gospel of the Lord.
(C): Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated
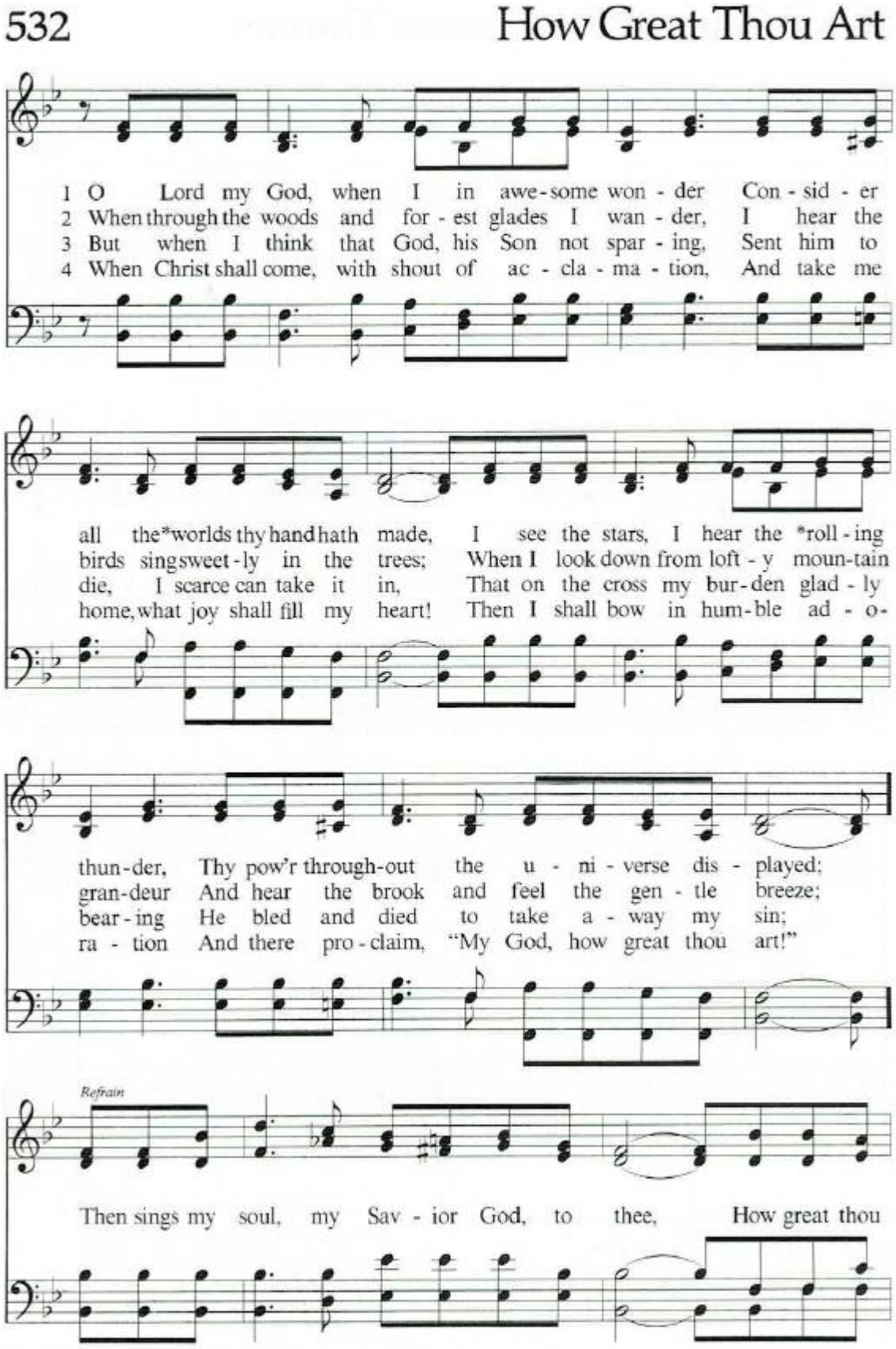
HOMILY FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AWAKE, ALERT, AND ASSURED

”Everything bad is going to come untrue.”
Timothy Keller’s pithy summary of the Christian hope of Christ's return.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ "HOW GREAT THOU ART" *(Green, P. 532)*



Please Remain Standing

APOSTLES' CREED

(P): "With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed."

(C): 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 CHURCH

(P): Confident in God's steadfast love through Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

(P): … Lord in your mercy. **(C): hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

(P): Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **(C): Amen**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

(P): "The peace of the Lord be with you always." **(C): And also with you.**

(P): "Let us share that peace with one another."

Please be seated as the gifts and offerings are collected

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Please stand as the gifts and offerings are brought forward

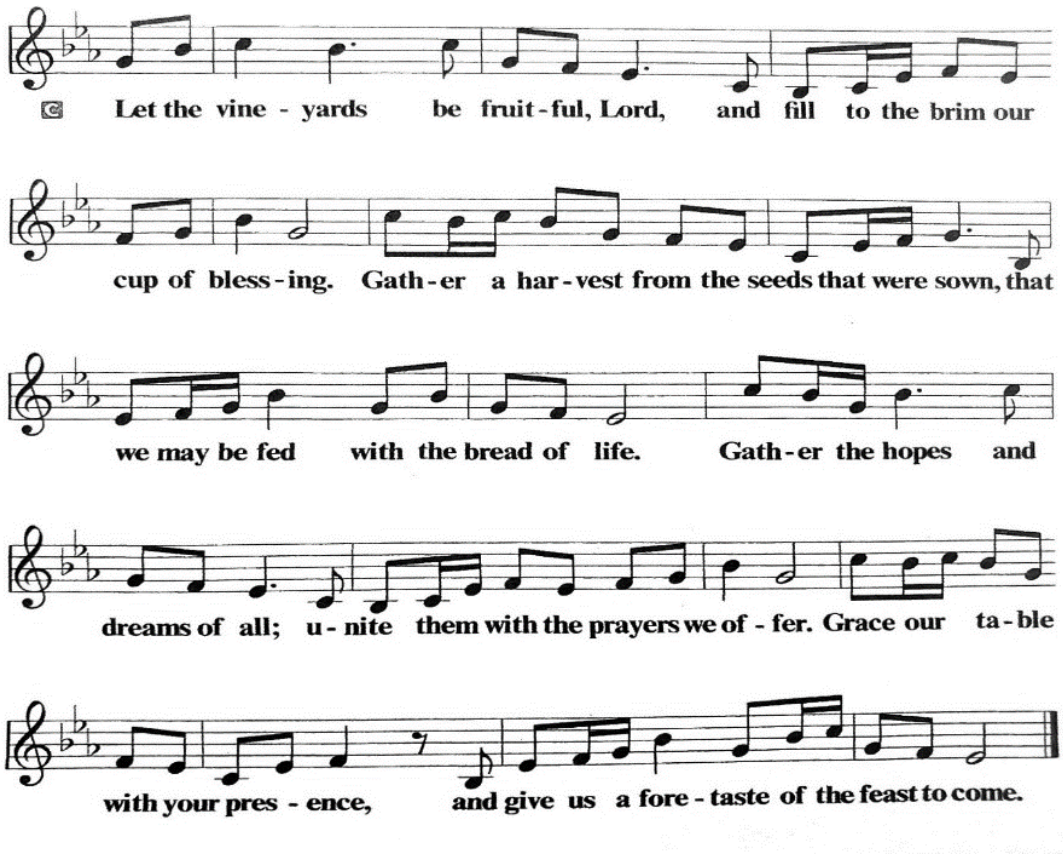
Please be seated [after sharing the peace - ushers will collect offering]

GATHERING & PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

As the gifts are brought forward to the altar,
we will sing the Offertory Response

Please stand.

"LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL"



OFFERING PRAYER

(P): Let us pray.
(C): Gracious and Merciful Father, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain standing

THE HOLY MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(P): The Lord be with you. **(C): And also with you.**
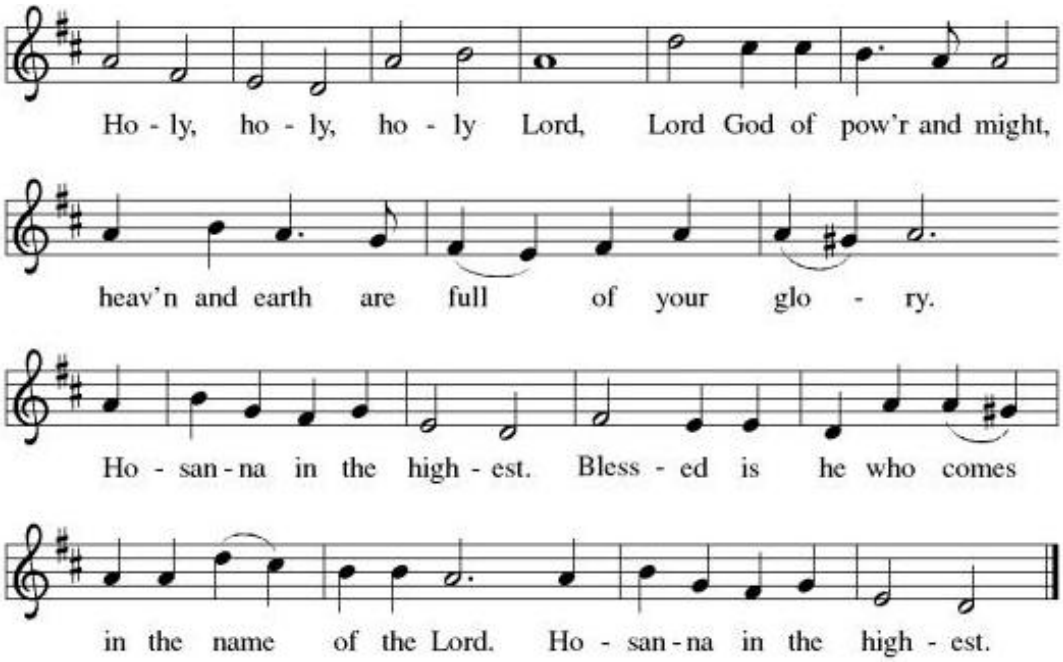
(P): Lift up your hearts. **(C): We lift them up to the Lord.**

(P): Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **(C): It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

THE PROPER PREFACE

(P): "It is indeed right and salutary 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 this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"

SANCTUS - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Please remain standing.

HOLY MEAL

(God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.)

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.

(P): 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.

(C): Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

(P): Therefore, gracious Father, 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.
(C): Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(P): Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of His resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
(C): Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

(P): Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
(C): Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(P): Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
(C): 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

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(P): Come, for all has been prepared.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We invite all baptized believers to come forward and receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children are invited to come with arms folded across their hearts to receive a blessing from the pastor. Both the elements of wine and grape juice are offered. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and communion will be brought to you.

Please stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

(P): May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **(C): Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(P): Let us pray: "We give you our thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord."
(C): Amen

Please remain standing.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
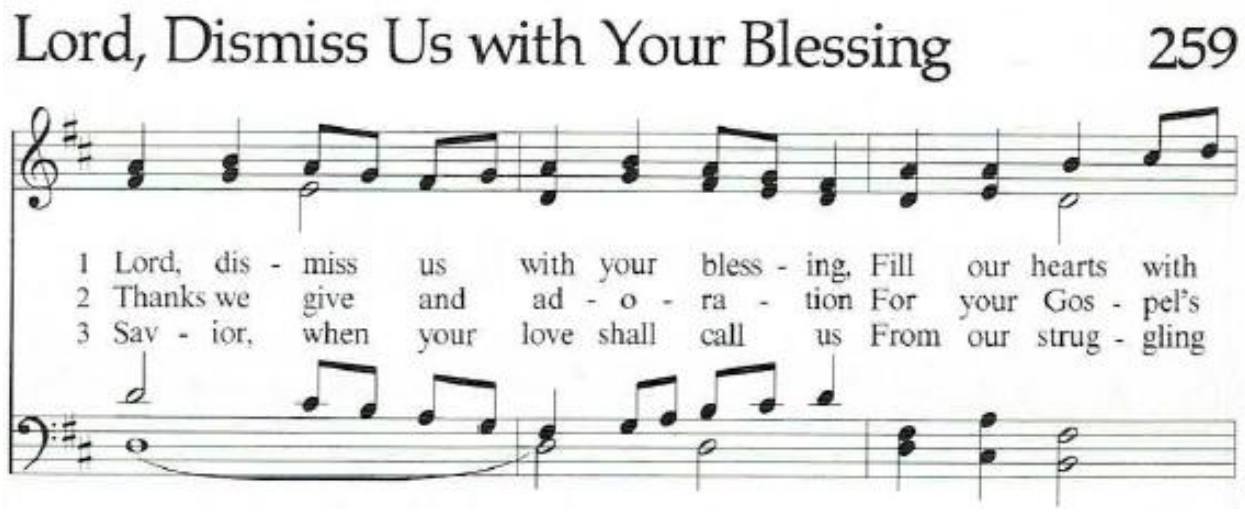
SENDING

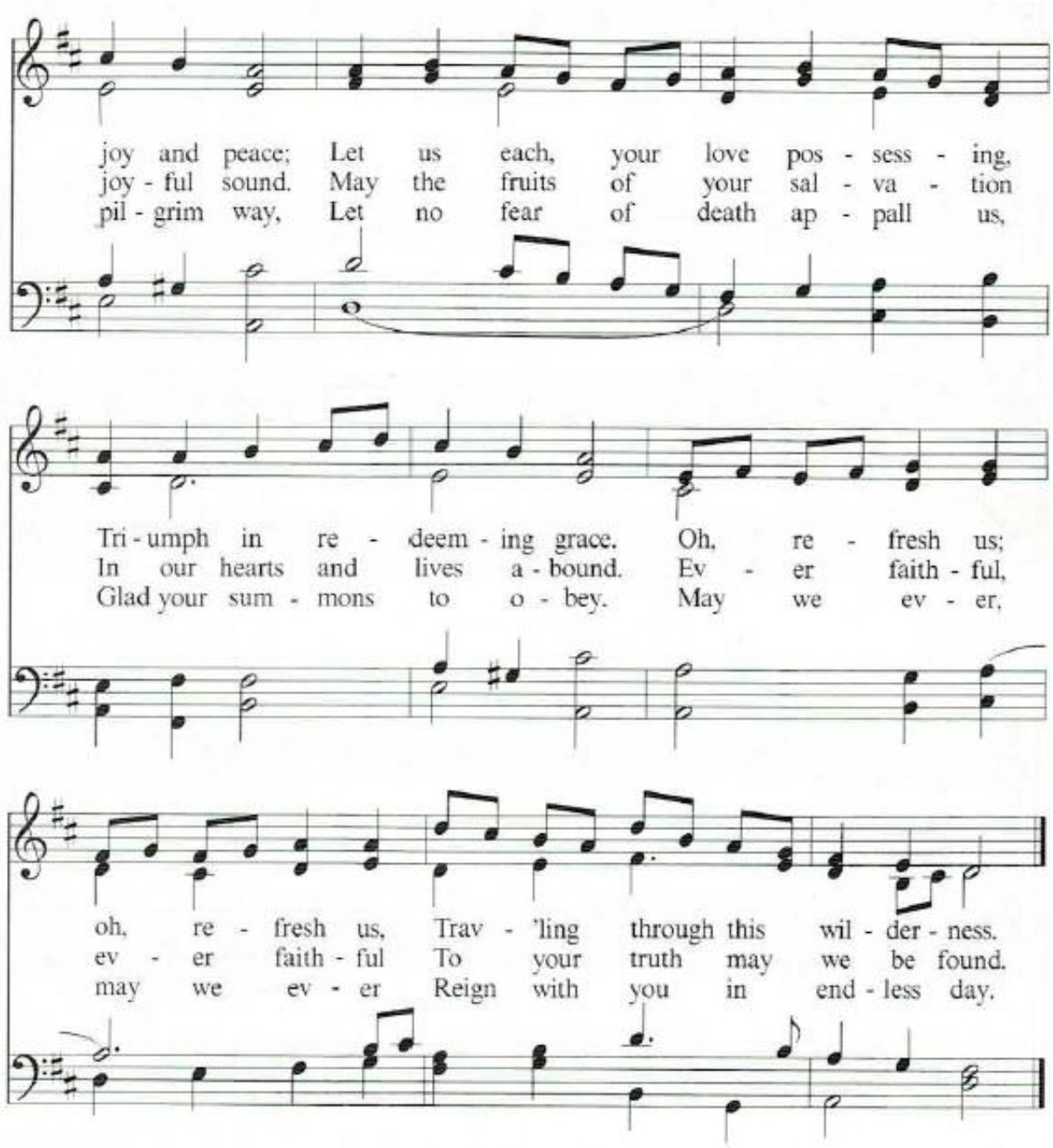
(God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.)

BLESSING

(P): 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.
(C): Amen

SENDING HYMN ~ "LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING" *(Green, P. 259)*





DISMISSAL

(P): "We are called by Christ"
(C): To JOYfully share Jesus and ourselves with our neighbors.

(P): "Go in peace. Share the good news."
(C): Thanks be to God.

OUR WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING:

Greeter:	McCrillis fAMILY
Ushers:	Inez Roach & Sandra Lacroix
Altar Care:	Sharon Johnson
Lector & Communion Assistant:	Joshua Acolyte & Crucifer: Matthew Chubbs and Maxwell Hart
Music & Facebook Monitor:	Rhonda White
Hospitality:	Sandra Lacroix
Offering Count Team:	Rhonda White and Bobbie Chubbs
Altar Flowers:	Chris Briggs

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