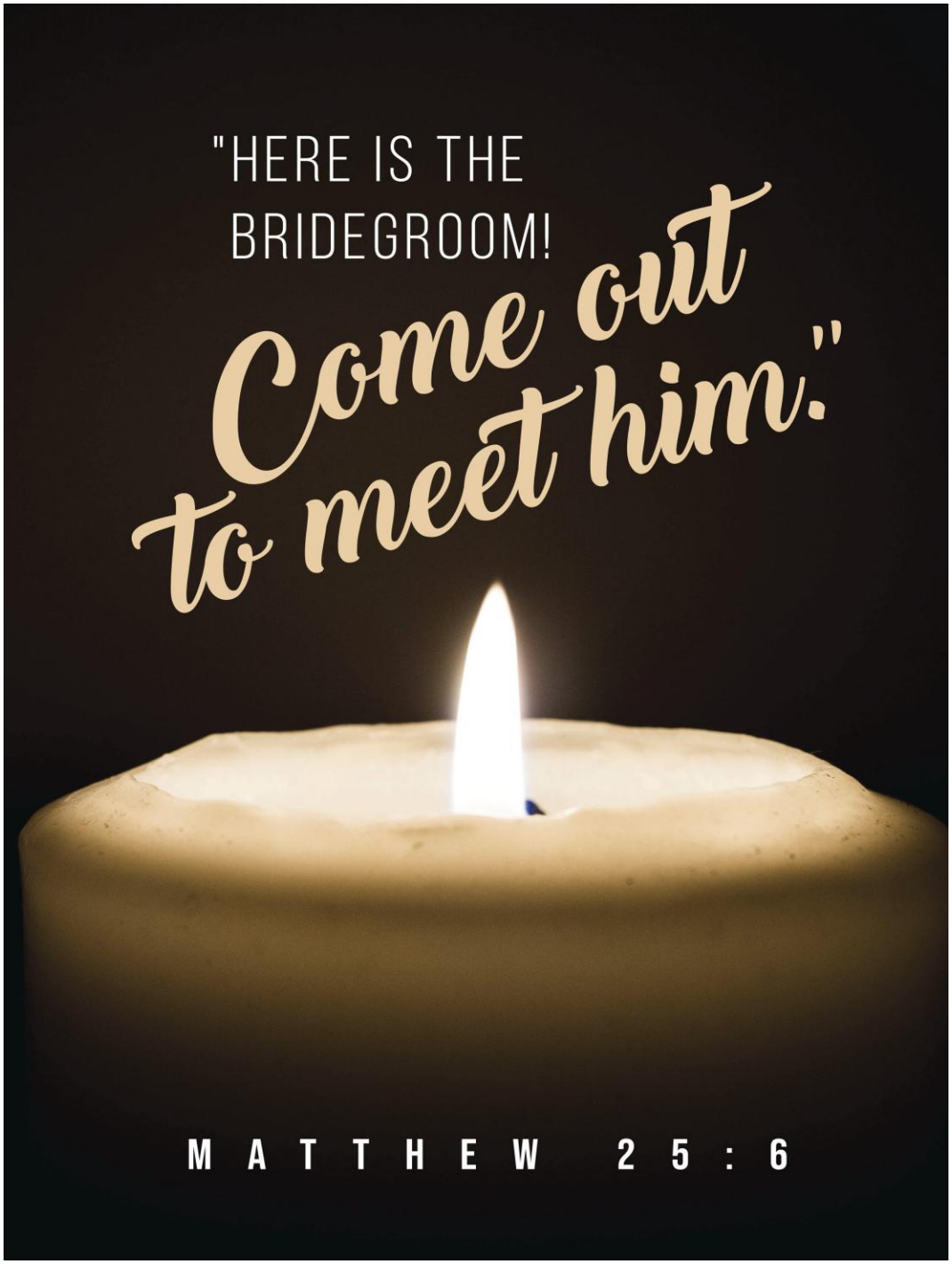


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 8, 2026

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

November 8, 2026 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We thank Sue Schlessman for teaching and leading our youth bells and chimes. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell
Welcome and Announcements
Please stand if you are able

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

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.

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 word and sacrament in 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.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn *"Come, All You People"* ELW **819**

Text st. 1 and music © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music, notated by I-to Loh; English paraphrased by I-to Loh.
Text sts. 2 & 3 © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
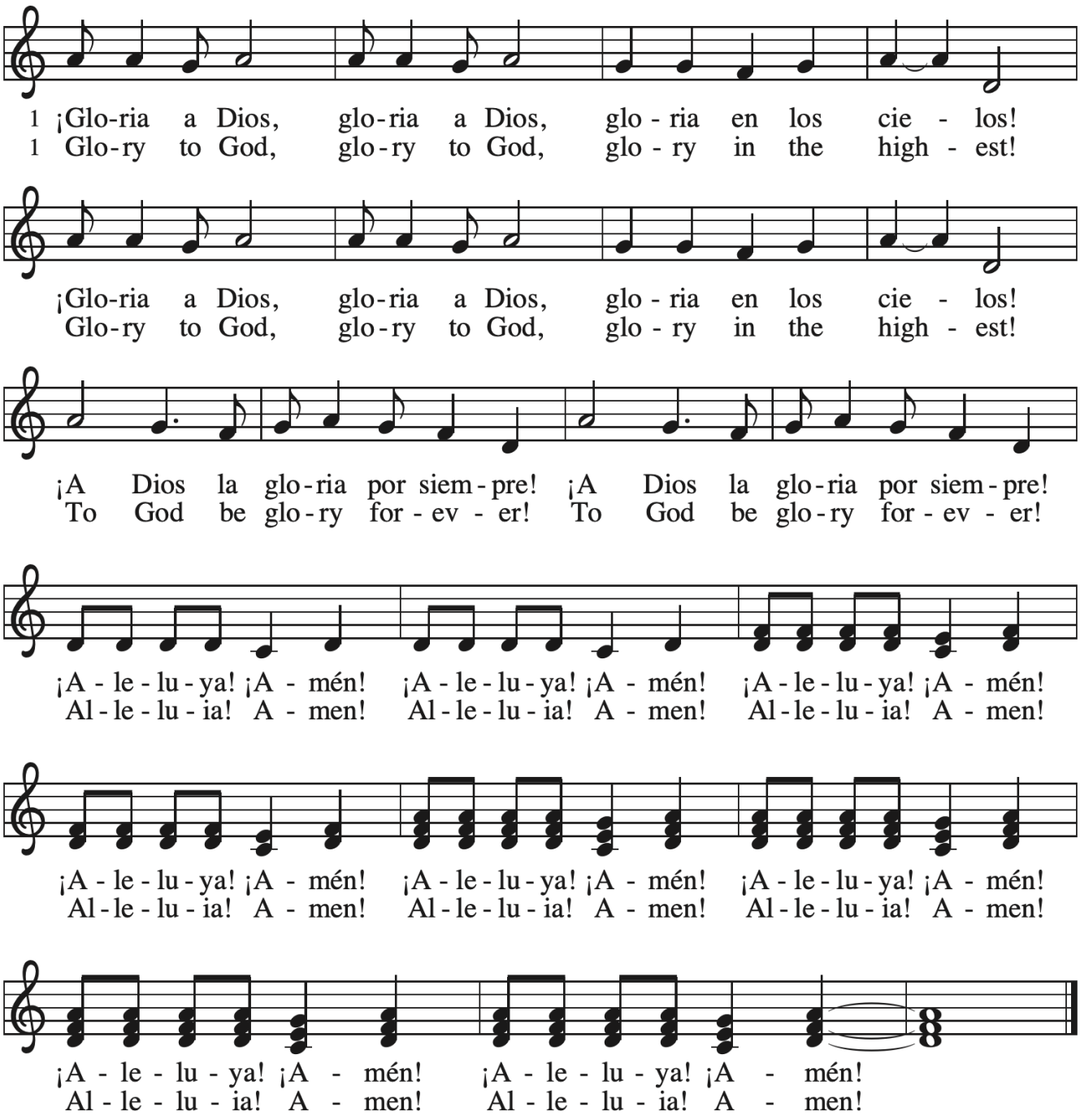
1 Come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.

2 Come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.

3 Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.

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.

Canticle of Praise



2 Glory to God,
glory to God,
glory to Christ Jesus!

3 Glory to God,
glory to God,
glory to the Spirit!

2 ¡Gloria a Dios,
gloria a Dios,
gloria a Jesucristo!

3 ¡Gloria a Dios,
gloria a Dios,
gloria al Espíritu!

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.
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. Amen.
Please be seated

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24
A reading from Amos.

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.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 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.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 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.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 70 (Read responsively)

[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.

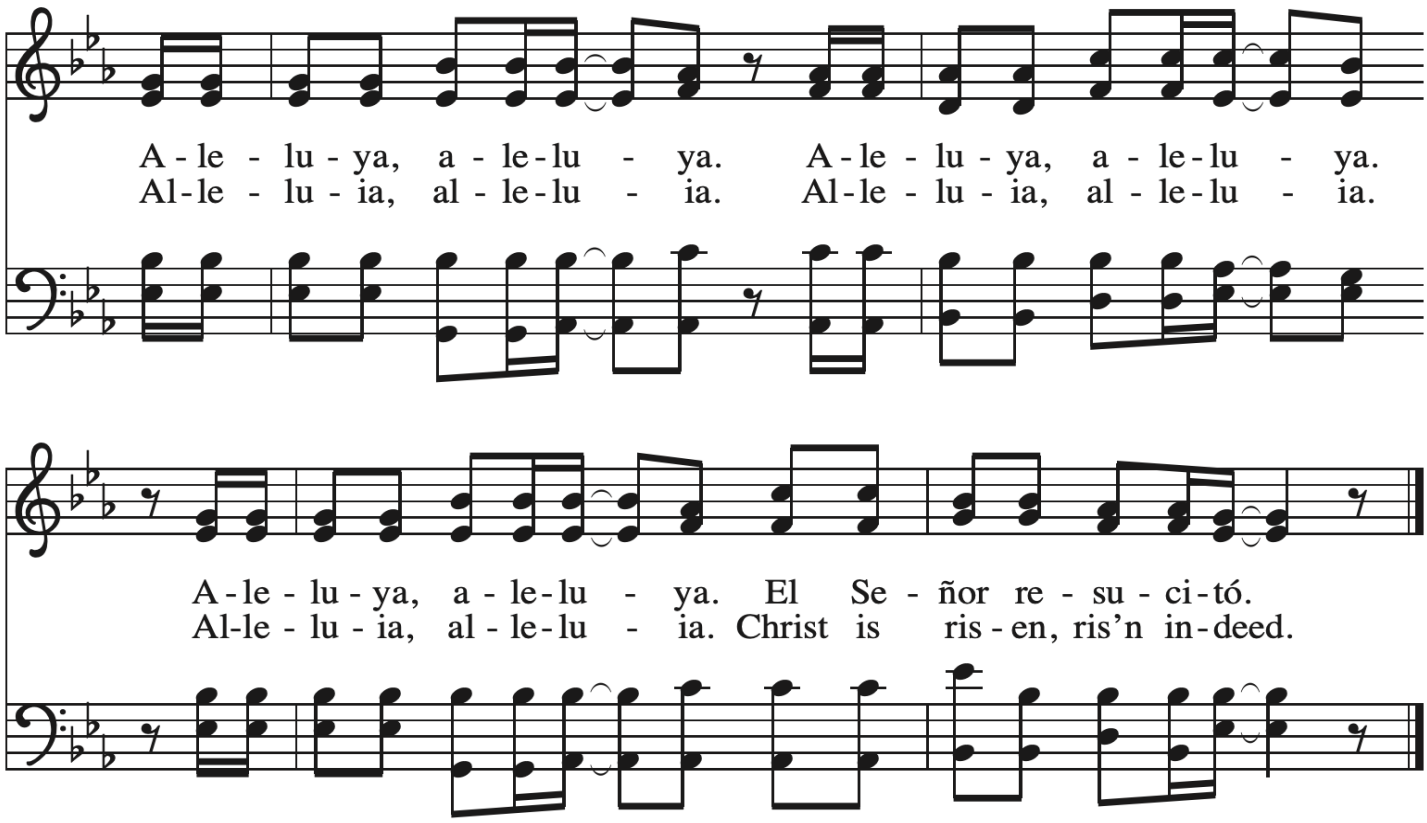
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

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.

[13] 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. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15] 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. [16] 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. [17] 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.
[18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
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:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] 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.' [10] 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. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Youth Bells *"Jesus Loves Me"*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Public Domain

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *"My Lord, What a Morning"* ELW **438**

Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual Public Domain

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Prayers of the people:

Response: God, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Youth Chime Offering *"Amazing Grace"*

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt. Public Domain

Please stand if you are able

Offertory *"We Are An Offering"* ELW **692**

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Offertory Prayer
Let us pray.
Holy God, gracious and merciful, 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.

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table
Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal 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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
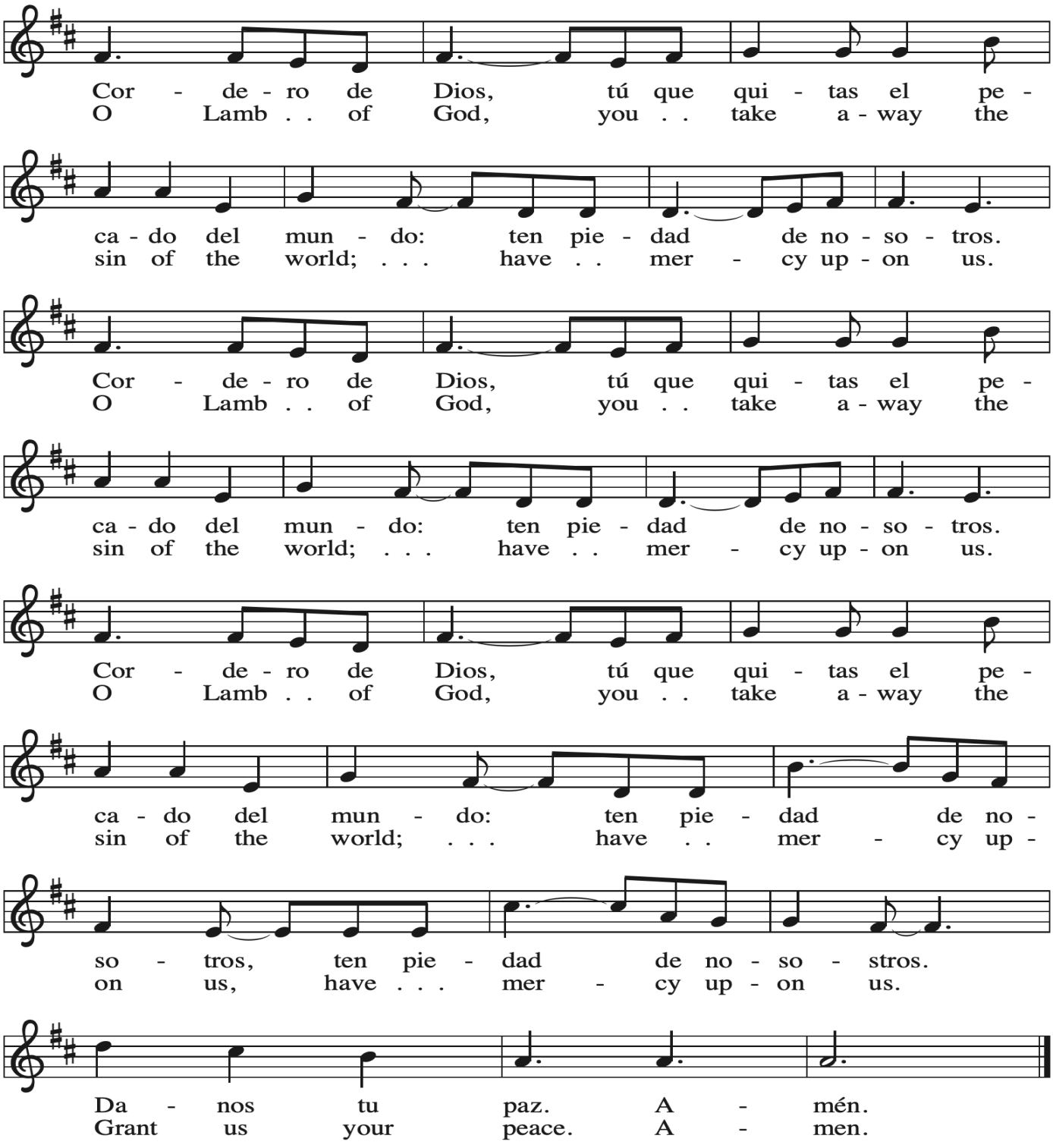
Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one
in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life, Word made flesh,
Power of the Most High, now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Please be seated

Distribution



Distribution Hymn: *"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"* ELW **488**

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."

3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.

4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.

Distribution Hymn: *"When Peace like a River"* ELW **785**

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888 Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876 Public Domain

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain
It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His care.

Amen

Prayer After Communion
Let us pray.
O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Blessing
The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and ☩ grant you peace.
Amen

Sending Hymn *"Soon and Very Soon"* ELW **439**

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing.

1. Soon and very soon we are goin'
to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin'
to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin'
to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin'
to see the King!

2. No more cryin' there, we are goin'
to see the King,
No more cryin' there, we are goin'
to see the King,
No more cryin' there, we are goin'
to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin'
to see the King!

3. No more dying' there, we are goin'
To see the King,
No more dying' there, we are goin'
To see the King,
No more dying' there, we are goin'
To see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin'
to see the King!

3. Soon and very soon we are goin'
to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin'
to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin'
to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Dismissal
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *"Soon and Very Soon"*

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EMI Christian Music Publishing.

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
"A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known"
And a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor — Church: 419-625-2192
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday — Cell: 419-680-0358
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary — 419-625-2192
E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Organist: Nathan Samsa
Usher: Chuck Thompson — Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws
Audio/Visual Tech: Jon Baaske — Communion Assistant: Paula Hoffman Laws
Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com — Attendance: Nov. 1 - 60
Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

2026 The Year of the Way of Love. "We love because he first loved us."
Bible Verse for *1 John 5:2–3*
"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome".

Council asks the congregation to pray that we give thanks for those who have shared their faith journeys; that we should all aspire to do the same.

Communion Clean-up today: Paula Hoffman Laws
Nov. 15 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Clean-up – Sandy Thompson

22 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
29 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Clean-up – Sandy Thompson
Dec. 6 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws Clean-up – Paula
13 – Set-up – Jim Kluding Clean-up – Jim
20 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
24 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Clean-up – Elizabeth
27 – No Communion Jt. Worship at Zion Huron
Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Elizabeth Libben or Sandy Thompson.

The Giving Tree is up! St. John's will help with the needs of families in Erie County! Please take a tag and have your gifts and supplies back by Sunday, Nov. 29th. Each package must have their **Name, Age, Gender and case worker initials**.

Hanging of the Greens! Mark your calendars to decorate St. John's sanctuary for Christmas! Hanging of the greens will take place on Sunday, November 22nd right after worship along with a pizza fellowship. Please plan to join us!

Poinsettia Orders: It's time to order your poinsettias for the holidays. Order deadline is Sunday, November 15th. Fill out the order with your payment and put in offering plate.

Joint Advent Worship: The members of Zion Lutheran Church Huron will join us for worship on **Sunday, November 29th**. Following worship, we will have an Advent Party which will take place in the fellowship hall. Lunch will include a pasta bar with all the toppings. Games and crafts for the kids as well as fellowship time for the adults.

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing: Zion and St. John's will be ringing the bell at Cornell's on Saturday, December 5 from 9 am – 7 pm for the Salvation Army. If you would like to help ring the bell, please call Kris during Zion office hours and she will add your name to the list? Office hours are M-Th 9am-2pm. 419-433-4711 It's a first come first serve for time selection!

Happy Birthday to Milly Reed and Dawn Schlessman.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 8TH THRU NOVEMBER 22ND

Sunday, November 8	9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Confirmation Class Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship
Wednesday, November 11	10:00 am 4:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Book Discussion Chapters 5 & 6 meets in Upper Room Worship Team meets in Upper Room Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, November 15	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship
Tuesday, November 17	6:30 pm	Council Meeting meets in Upper Room
Wednesday, November 18	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, November 22	9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Worship Pizza Lunch and Hanging of the Greens



We will beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season with poinsettias. Please place your order by **Sunday, November 15th**.

No. of plants_____@ $12.50 each_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
St. John's Lutheran Church

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Deceased)_____

_____

IN HONOR OF (Living)_____

_____