# MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.**

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
November 15, 2026
228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436
www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900
@MessiahOaklandNJ
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

*The congregation is invited to worship in any way that is comfortable and meaningful such as standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You are invited to join in worship by speaking the responses in bold type.*

## SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**
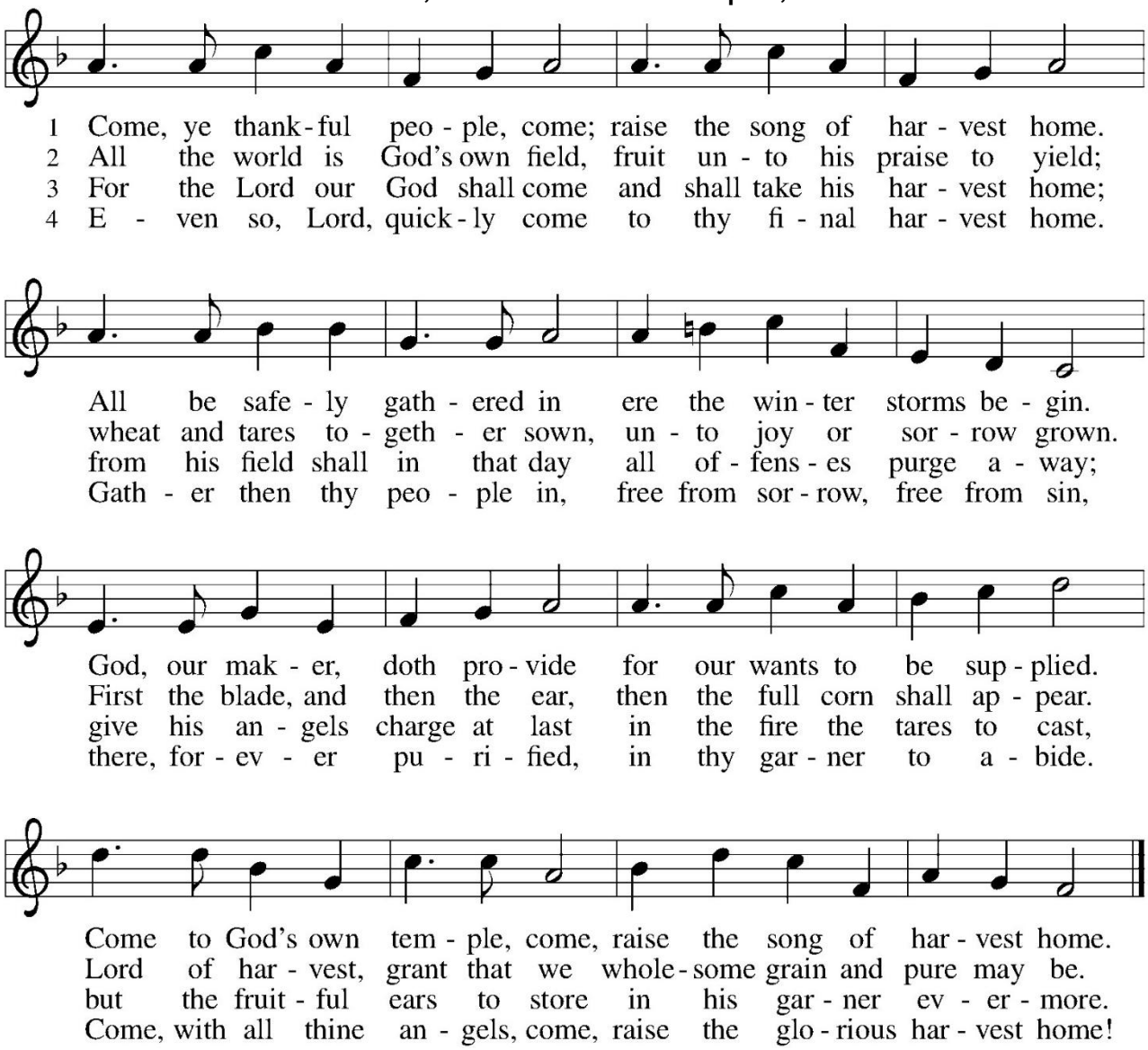
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,
**we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace.☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ELW #693
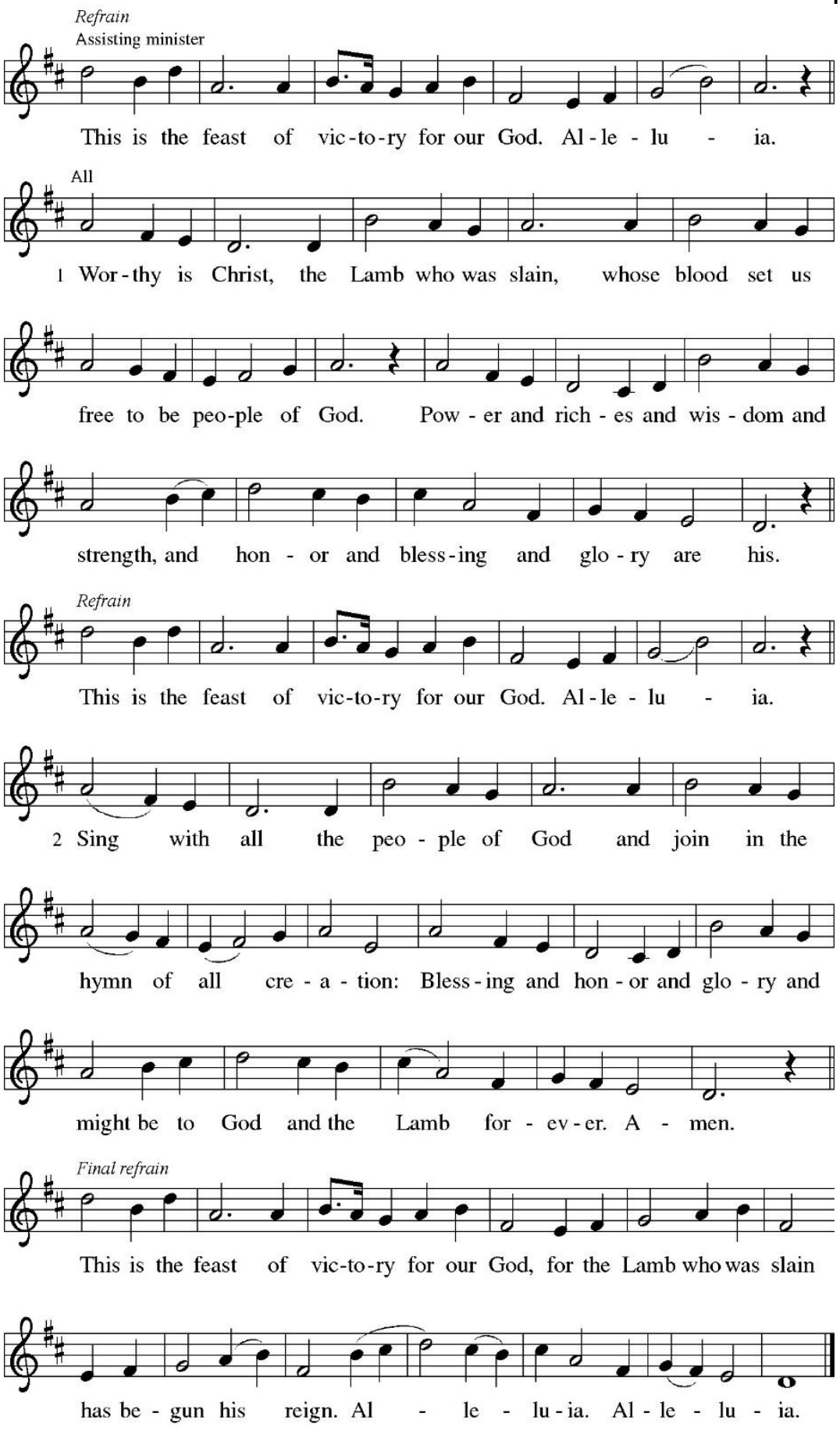



**GREETING**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** This Is the Feast ELW pg.149



**FIRST READING**: **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his
guests.12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will
punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their
hearts,"The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm."13 Their wealth
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.14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the
warrior cries aloud there.15 That day will be a day of wrath, 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,16 a day of trumpet
blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements.17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall
walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their
blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.18 Neither
their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the
LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be
consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants
of the earth.

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

**THE PSALM: 90:1-12** will be read responsively

1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the**
**earth were born, from age to age you are God.**
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is**
**past and like a watch in the night;**
5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away
suddenly like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
7 For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
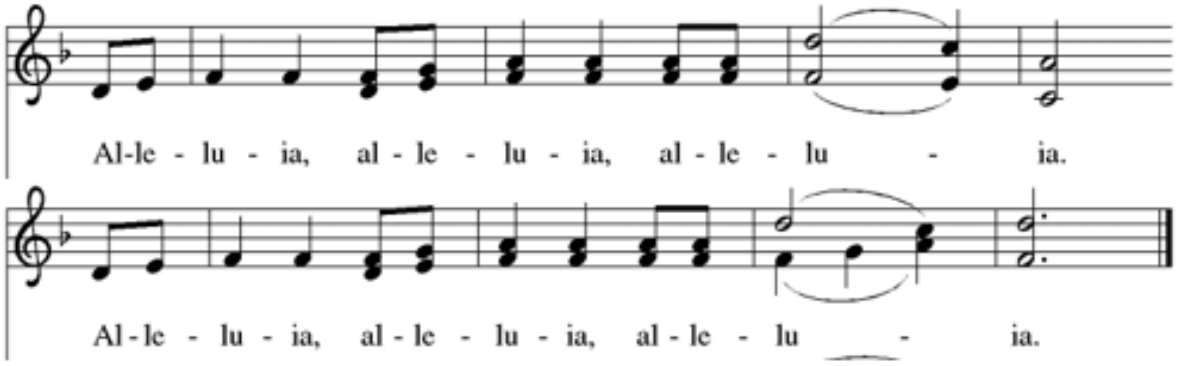
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 **So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #175



**GOSPEL:** The Holy Gospel According to **Matthew 25:14-30**
**Glory to you, O Lord**
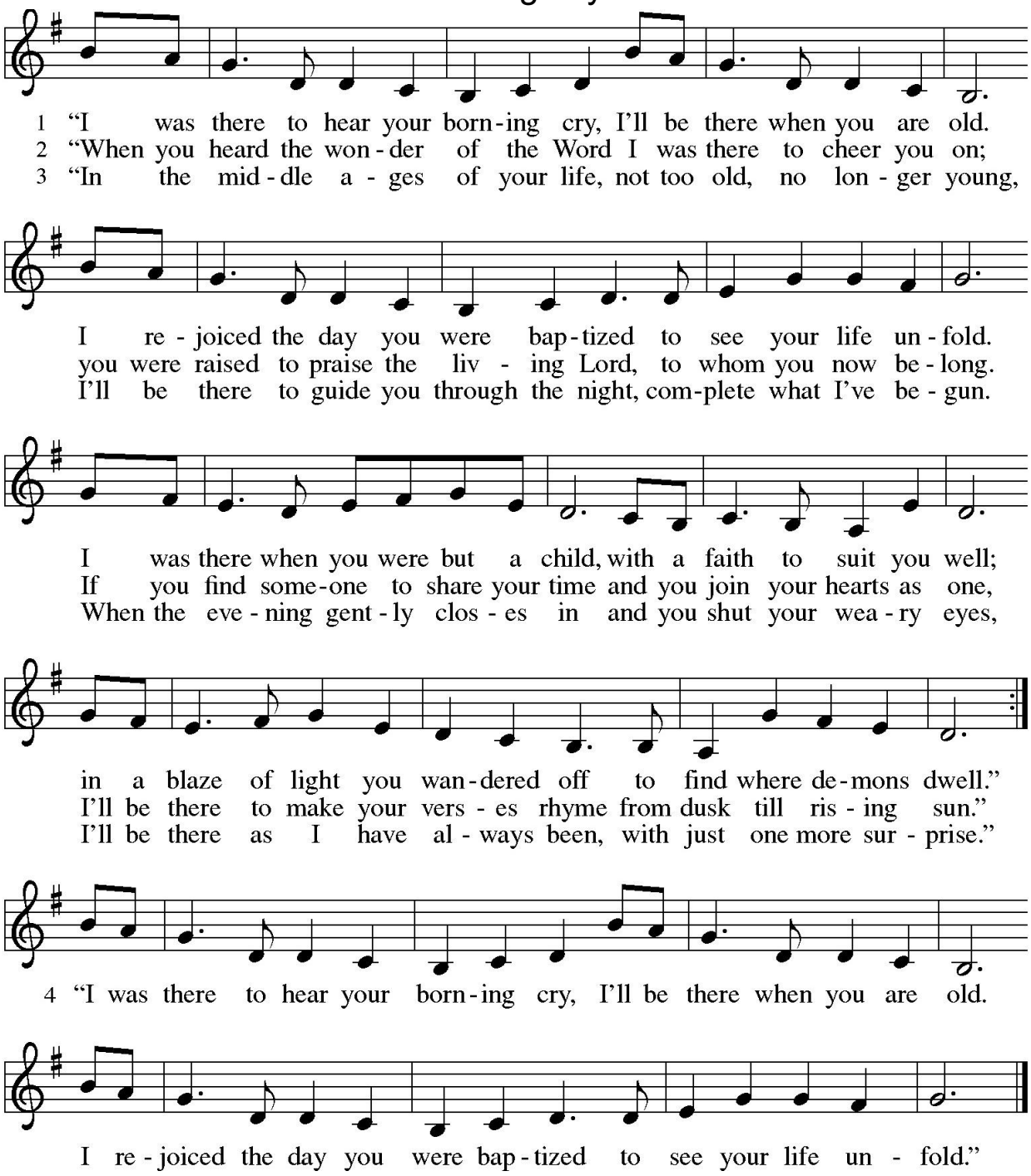
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a
journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;
15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each
according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who
had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made
five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents
made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one
talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's
money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and
settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'
21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two
talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me
two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received
the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you
were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering
where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master
replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you
ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return
I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the
talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all
those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance,
but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY — Borning Cry — ELW #732




## HOLY BAPTISM OF ISAAC WILLIAM

*Those participating in the baptism gather at the font. Assisting Minister addresses the family and sponsors.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

***We present Isaac William for baptism.***

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Isaac William baptized? ***We do.***

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live among God's faithful people,
engage with the word of God and come to the holy supper,
teach the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture a life of faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God
and tell people about Jesus by what he says and does.
As he grows in the church and through the guidance of loved ones,
he will learn to care for others by seeking after justice and peace;
and by caring for all of God's Creation.

*Assistant Minister, family, and sponsors.*

Family and Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Isaac in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? ***We do.***

*Assistant Minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, do you promise to support Isaac and to pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Lay Reader addresses the assembly.*

We ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

*Assisting Minister addresses the assembly.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

## BAPTISM

*Pastor addresses the family and sponsors.*

Isaac William, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Pastor lays hands and prays:*

Sustain Isaac William with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

*As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:*

Isaac William, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen**.

## WELCOME

*A lighted candle is presented by the Assisting Minister.*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven. **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Applause of welcome/please sit.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
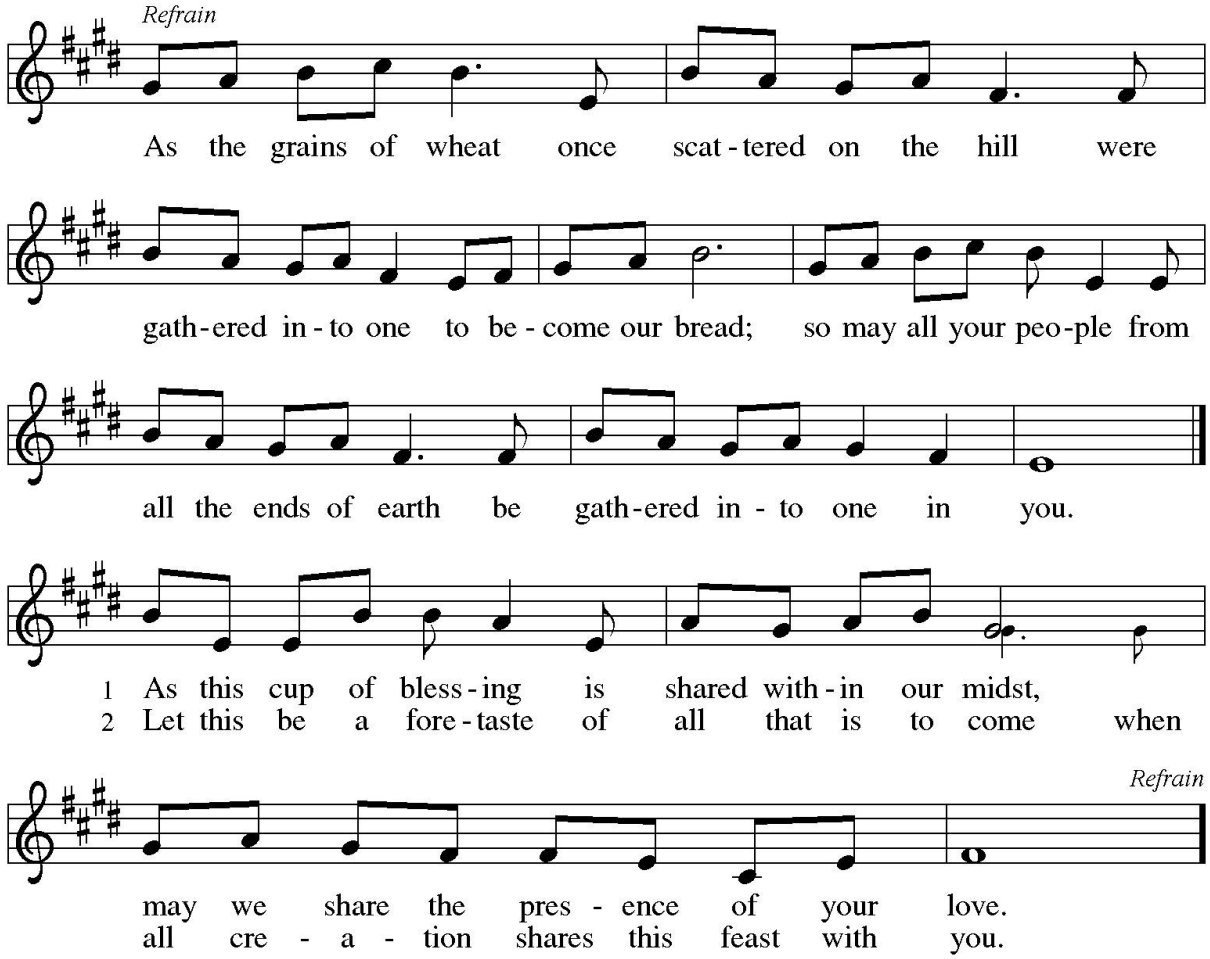
*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, such as a handshake, hug, or peace sign and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## OFFERING

*Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary, sent to the church office, or given online by using the QR code to the right.*

## OFFERTORY

As the Grains of Wheat ELW #465



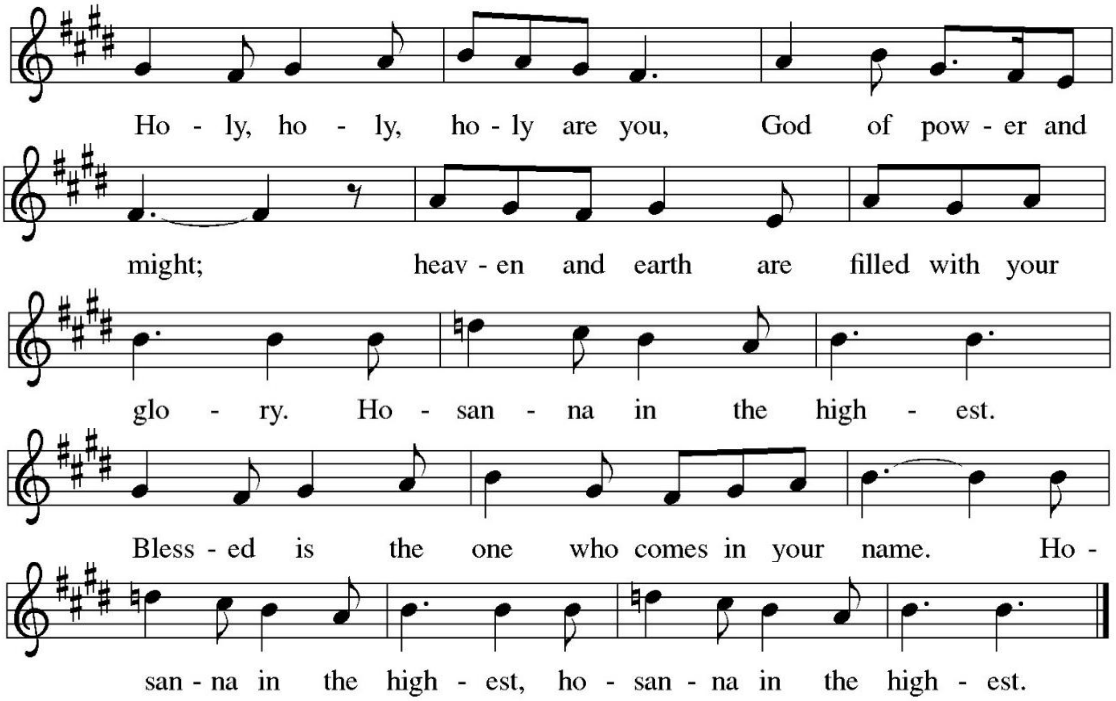
## OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

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.**

## COMMUNION RESPONSE Holy, Holy, Holy ELW #191




## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

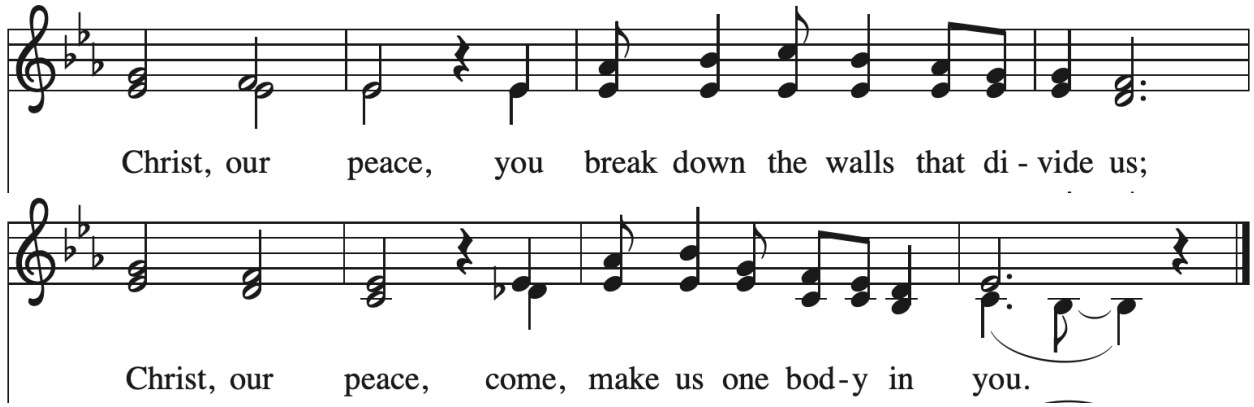
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

## COMMUNION

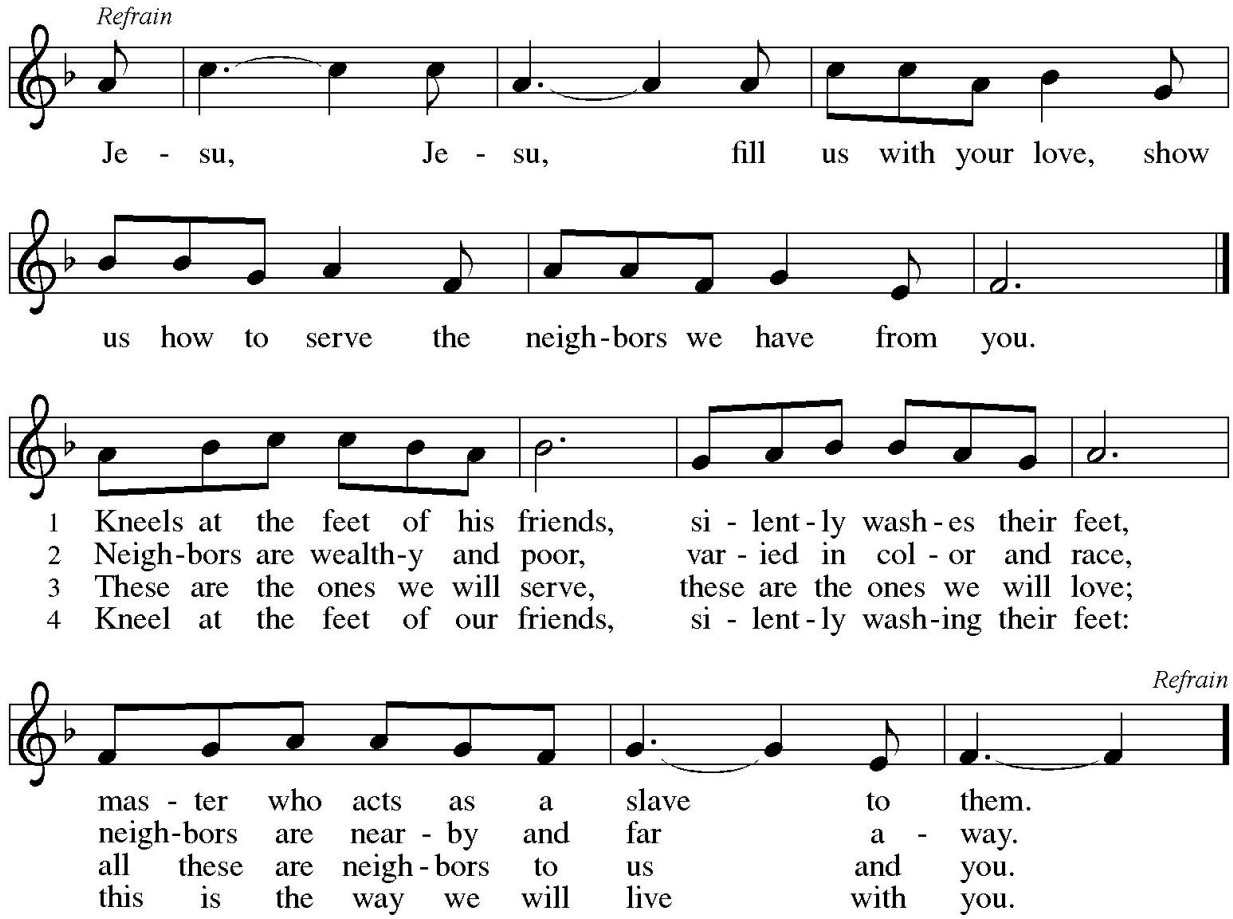
We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable to you, either from your seat using the prepackaged elements or by coming forward to the altar rail. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles and pick up a cup from the silver plates. You will be given a wafer and then offered wine (first chalice) or grape juice (second chalice). For those communing online, please join us using whatever bread/crackers and wine/grape juice you have at home. All are welcome at God's table.

The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you. **Amen**

## COMMUNION SONG — Christ Our Peace — ACS #1037




## COMMUNION HYMN — Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love — ELW #708




## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**
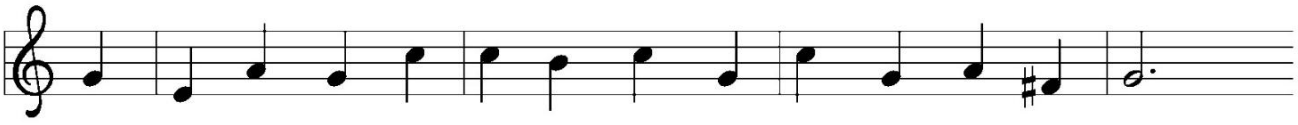
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**
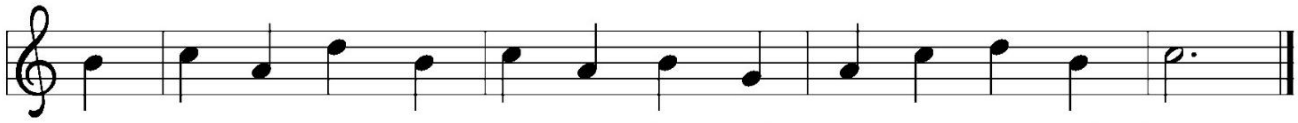
**BLESSING**

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** O God, Our Help in Ages Past ELW #632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost, November 22, 2026
10:00am Worship Service

## November Benevolence of the Month

Covenant House

## This Week at Messiah

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
7:30 pm Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Band Practice
THURSDAY: 12:00 pm Bible Study
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

## Today's Ministers

**Guest Pastor:** Rev. Keith Ross
**Assisting Minister:** Nancy Krause
**Musician:** Steve Malski
**Lay Reader:** Brigitte Albrecht
**Usher:** Ron Rubner
**Greeter:** Michele Weintraub
**Communion Assistants:** Nancy Krause & Jerri Angermueller
**Altar Guild:** Marilyn Rubner & Kristen Rios
**Flower Guild:** Michele Weintraub
**Video Tech:** Alex Boyce
**Counters:** Brigitte Albrecht & Cesar Rios
**Coordinating Councilor:** Michele Weintraub
**Coffee Hour:** Nancy Krause

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Daily Bread | A Season of Stewardship**
As we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," we give thanks for the ways God provides for us and invites us to share. This week, please take time to prayerfully consider your pledge to support Messiah's worship, congregational care, and outreach in the coming year. You may place your completed pledge card in the offering plate today or next Sunday, November 22, when we will bless our pledges during worship. Thank you for the many ways you share God's gifts at Messiah and with our neighbors.

**Advent Project:** Today we will be working on an Advent project followed by a special coffee hour! We will also be writing Christmas cards to be sent to veterans or a nursing home.

**The Thanksgiving Tree:** Items to help provide Thanksgiving dinner for local families due today Nove. 15!!. Root vegetables (potatoes, celery, carrots, etc.) will be collected outside the church on Saturday, Nov. 21st.

**Bible Study:** Join us on November 19th at noon for Bible Study. We are using the book **A is for Alabaster.** If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

**Cookie Baking:** Join us on December 6th, after church, as the youth bake cookies for our coffee hours throughout December and to share with the community. Have a special cookie you want? Bring the dough and we'll bake it! Have a family favorite, share the recipe! Have a special request, but don't bake, speak to Linda Axtell!

**Hey Parents!:** We are looking to have our youth/Sunday school prepare a special song for Christmas or Advent using the instruments we purchased last spring. I will be in Sunday school one upcoming Sunday to find a song that the kids are familiar with and enjoy. I will also check with Steve to find a Sunday or two when the kids can practice. Regards, Sue

**Please keep in prayer the following people in our Messiah family:** Jonny & Natalie, Kim, Len, Mike, Sue and Alex. **And the following friends and family:**

Those in the armed forces, especially those connected to our congregation including Evan and Joseph
Erika, Kristen's sister
June, Lee's mother
Helen, Keith, Karen, Clyde, & Lauren, Valerie's cousin, brother & friends
Marilyn & Vincent, Lisa's parents
Melinda, Eleanore's sister
Miro, Vesna's father
Ron & June, Karen's parents
Gayle, friend of Joan & Eleanore
Janice, food pantry volunteer
Jennifer, friend of Sue & Eleanore
John, Joan, Todd, Peggy, Jim, Kathy, Carol, Ellie, and Marianne & family, Ron & Marilyn's friends
Kim, friend of Sue
Michele H. & Dee, friends of Weintraub's
Brandon, Nancy & Bobby, son, friend & uncle of Kim
Peggy & Christine, Alex's aunts
Peter, Terri's father
Thomas, Maria, Gary, & Julie, friends of Tony & Edie
Alexa, Hank, Paula, Julie, Cynthia & Samy, friends and coworkers of Nancy
Andrew & Caroline, friends of Kim & Michele
Roland, son of Eleonore
The family of Jason Gelman
The family of Janie Arcudi
The family of Rich Chimento

*Please let us know if you have changes we should make to our prayer list*

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