# *Third Sunday after Epiphany* January 26, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and

congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**I Need Thee Every HourDate

David H. Hegarty, Arranger

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P*: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

#### C: Amen.

*P*: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

*C:* you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In + Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
C: Amen.

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

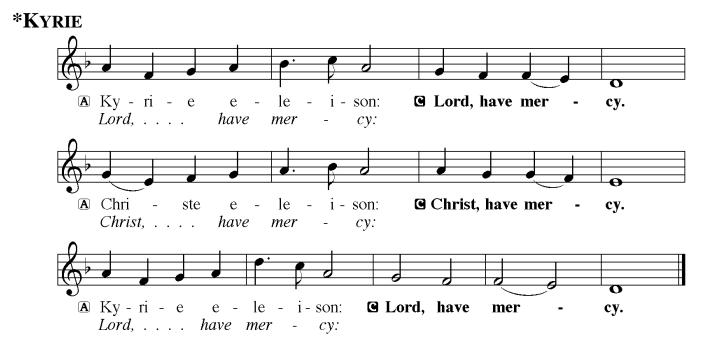
God of Grace and God of Glory

*ELW #705* 



#### \*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.** 



**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** 

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW #671



Music: Graham Kendrick Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere 99 10 10 3 3 and refrain

#### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: Let us pray* ... Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *C:* Amen.

#### FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

<sup>1</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 19** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God,

- and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- <sup>2</sup> One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup> their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,

#### where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

<sup>5</sup> It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

# <sup>6</sup> It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;

## nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

- <sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
  - the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

- <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- <sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
- <sup>12</sup> Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- <sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

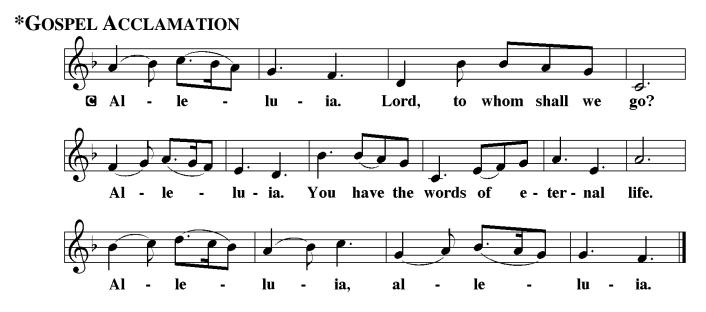
#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body.<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>a But strive for the greater gifts.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.



#### \*Gospel Luke 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### HOMILY

Pastor Traci

#### \*APOSTLES' CREED

- A: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C: 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 THE CHURCH**

- *A:* With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- A: As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- A: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- *A:* As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*P*: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. *C*: Amen.

#### **\*THE PEACE**

- *P*: The peace of the LORD be with you always.
- C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray ... God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. C: Amen.

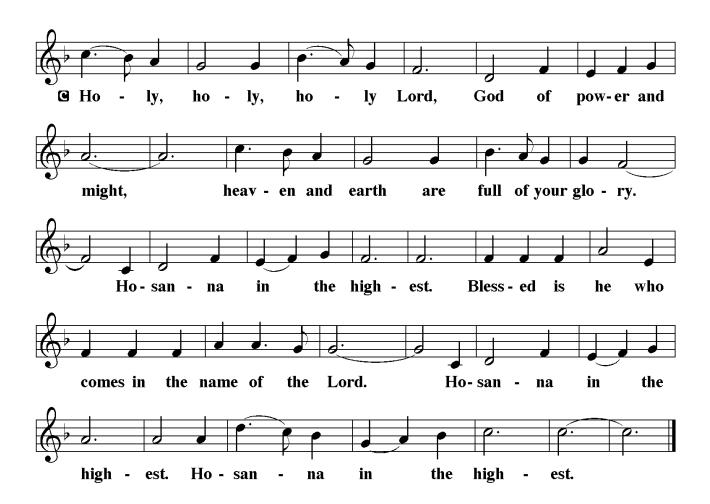
#### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- *P:* The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- *P*: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

#### C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### **\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



#### \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*P*: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

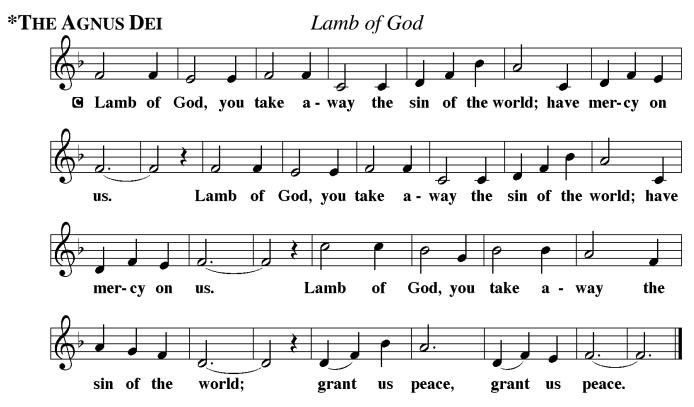
Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: Amen.

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

- 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



#### **\*INVITATION**

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION HYMNYou Satisfy the Hungry HeartELW # 484

#### \*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**

*A: Let us pray...* Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, *C:* **Amen.** 

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

*P*: The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. *C*: Amen.

#### \*SENDING SONG

Let Streams of Living Justice E	ELW # 710
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#### \*DISMISSAL

*P*: Go in peace. Live in hope. *C*: Thanks be to God.

**\*POSTLUDE** 

Living for Jesus Gerald Peterson, Composer

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**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Carl Alexy from the Alexy family.

#### Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Acolyte – Mace Baker Our Acolyte – Mace Baker Our Assisting Minister – Tina Harclerode Our Lector – Greg Haffling Our Usher – Dennis Smith Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal, Jane Fagans Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner **First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"** 

# This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Jen – Mon.- Fri.: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

#### This Week Events

via Zoom
ig Room
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**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Dr. Ramon Burket, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Marilyn Horton, Don Hosterman, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Pat Mountain, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, Dan Ross, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Karyl Sawinski, Doug Smith, Robyn Smith, Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.** 

Away at School: Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).



Prayers and Christian sympathy are asked for Stanley, Michele, Ashley, and Nathan Smith and the family of Marie Stock upon her death on Sunday, January 19. Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the first organizations in and last organizations out of communities affected by natural and human-made disasters. 100% of gifts to LDR earmarked for a specific aid response help affected people in that area until recovery efforts are complete.



# LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Scan to give online



Give through your congregation or make out your check to Lutheran Disaster Response and send it to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Lutheran Disaster Response" or "U.S. Wildfires" on your check's memo line.



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### **Parish Directory**

Please submit changes to your address or telephone number to the office at 814-793-2413 or stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com ASAP so it can be included in the 2025 Parish Directory.

### **Offering Envelopes**

Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive offering envelopes (or if you would like to have your name/address changed or removed).

# **Annual Giving Statements**

2024 Giving Statements are now available in the Narthex. Please review ASAP and contact the church office with any questions. Those not picked up by month end will be mailed.



## **Martinsburg Food Pantry**



Volunteers from Salem Church, along with regular volunteers, will be assisting with the distribution of food on Thursdays, February 6 and February 20, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.

The items most needed are: Beverages, Fruit, Kidney Beans, Pasta Sauce, Paper Towels.

Many thanks to those that helped at the two Thursdays in January: Carla Brumbaugh, Lottie Ebersole, Sarah Detwiler, Nan Grove, Connie Lamborn, Peggy Steinfurth, and Audrey Stern! Also, we thank and appreciate the monetary gifts of \$130. from St. Matthew members!

Thanks and appreciation for your help!

Linda Smith

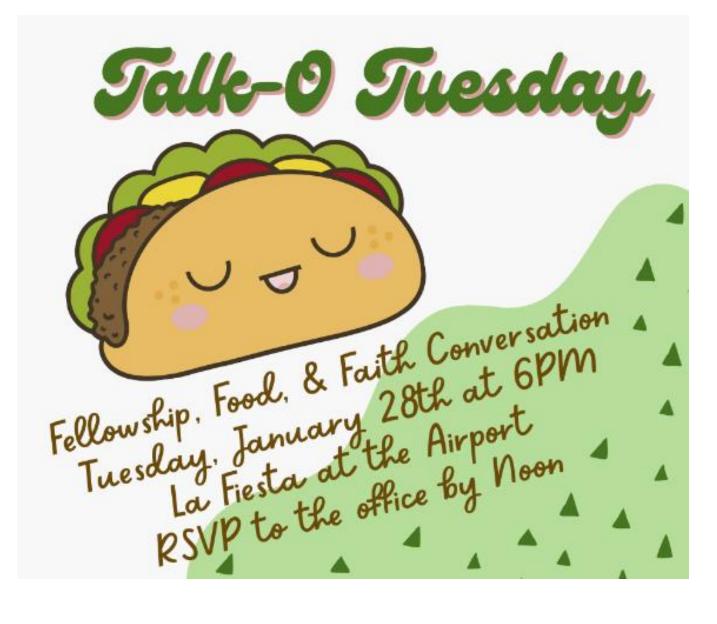
#### **Church Messenger**

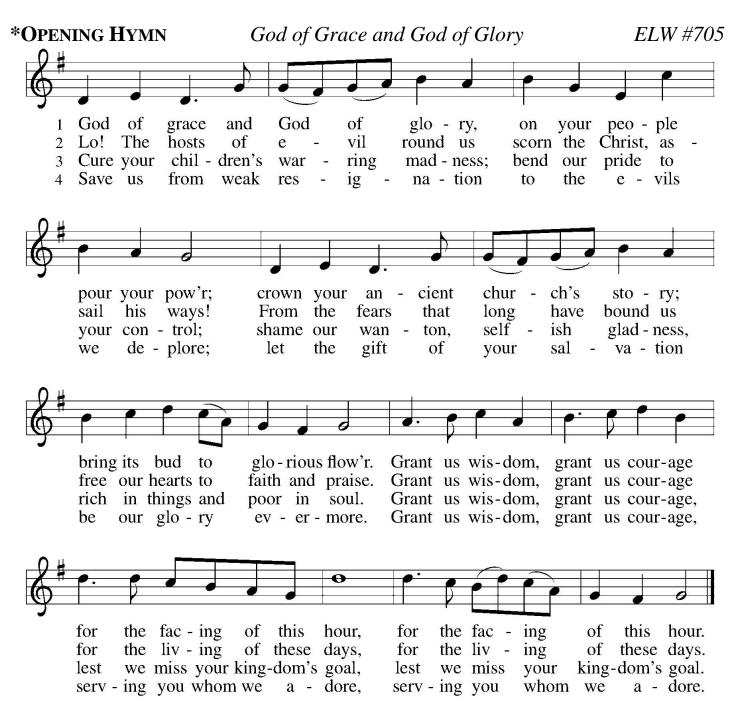
The January 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

#### **Altar Flowers**



The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00





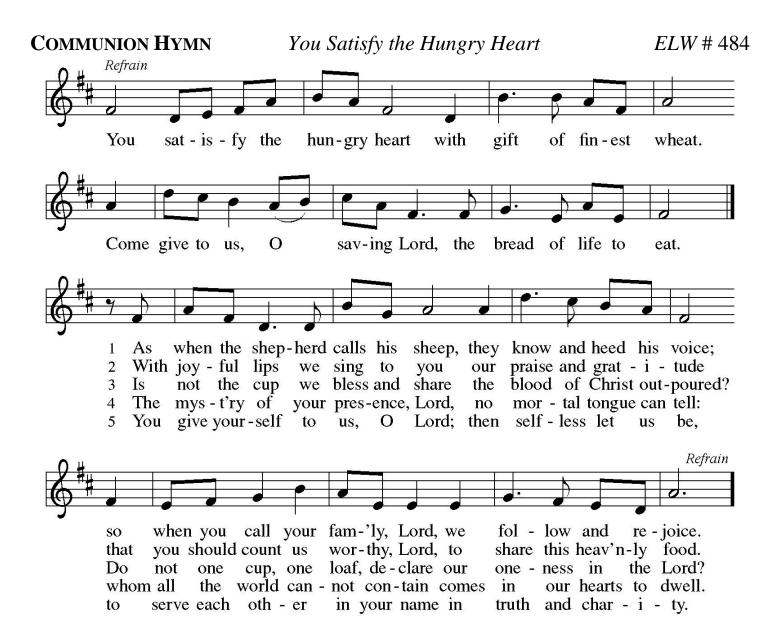
Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932 **\*HYMN OF THE DAY** 

Christ, Be Our Light

*ELW # 715* 



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia. \*SENDING SONG

Let Streams of Living Justice

*ELW* # 710



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.