# *The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost* November 12, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship

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

### PRAYER FOR VETERANS

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## PRELUDE

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

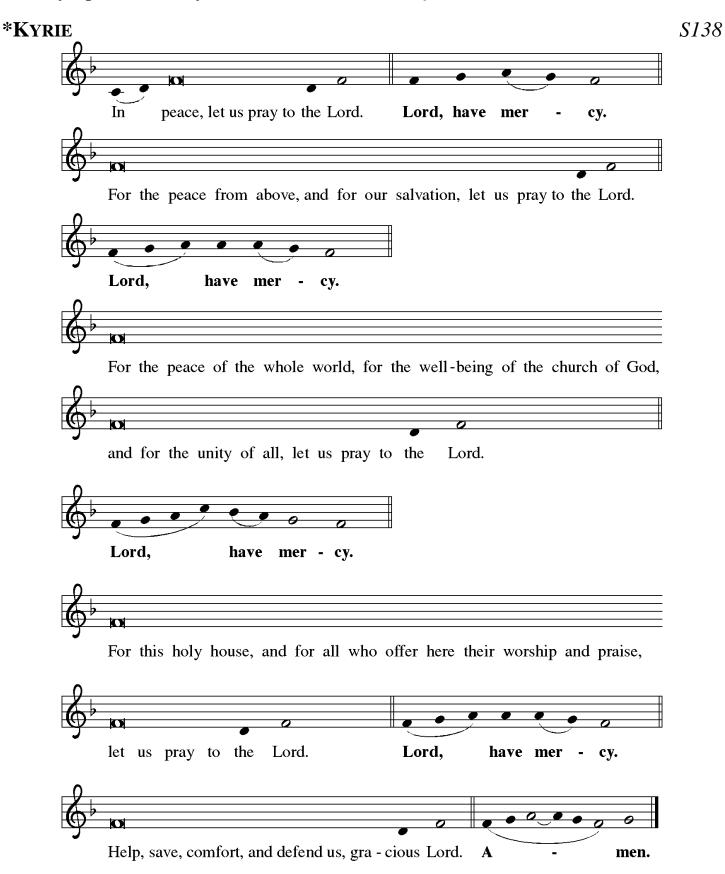
- *P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. *C:* Amen.
- *P*: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.
- P: Holy One,
- C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the 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.

**\*OPENING HYMN** Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying ELW # 436



#### \*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.





## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: 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. *C:* Amen.

## FIRST READING: JOSHUA 24:1-3a, 14-25

- <sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3a</sup>Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.
- <sup>14</sup>"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
- <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."
- <sup>19</sup>But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." <sup>21</sup>And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" <sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." <sup>23</sup>He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." <sup>24</sup>The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." <sup>25</sup>So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

### **PSALM 78:1-7** (read responsively)

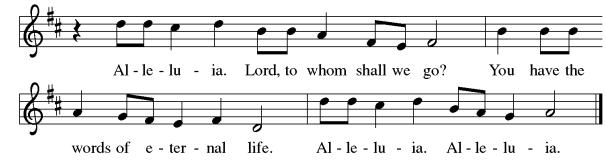
<sup>1</sup>Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

- <sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—
- <sup>3</sup>that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from their children.
- <sup>4</sup>We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done.
- <sup>5</sup>The Lord gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel, commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children;
- <sup>6</sup>that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- <sup>7</sup>so that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God's commandments.

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<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.

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



### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### \*Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

## Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.

## HOMILY

Pastor Mary Hendricks

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** 

How Firm a Foundation

ELW # 796

### \*APOSTLES' CREED

*P*: 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:* 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: 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, *C*: Your mercy is great.
- A: 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, *C:* **Your mercy is great.**
- A: 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, *C*: Your mercy is great.
- *A:* 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, *C:* Your mercy is great.
- *A:* 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, *C:* Your mercy is great.
- A: 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, *C*: Your mercy is great.
- *P:* We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. *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 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. *C:* Amen.

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*P*: The Lord be with you.

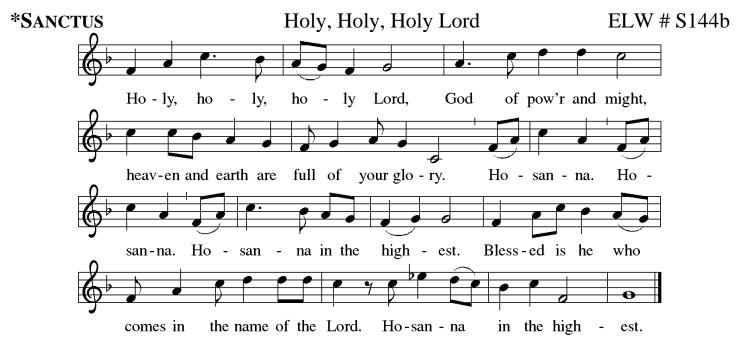
## C: And also with you.

- 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; 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 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

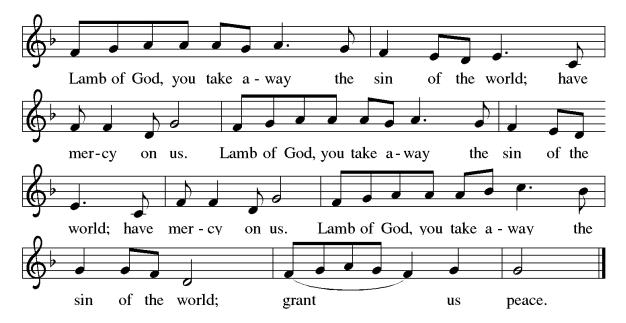
- *P:* Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death, we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge.
- We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

- 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, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.
- Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.
- 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 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.

**\*THE AGNUS DEI** Lamb of God ELW # S146



#### \*INVITATION

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

COMMUNION HYMNWhat Feast of LoveELW # 487

#### \*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... Lord Jesus, 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.. C: Amen.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

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.

\*SENDING SONG Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand ELW # 441

#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031 Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media. **Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God given by Elaine Buchart in memory of loved ones.

|   | Sowing Cod and Us  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | 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 Financial Bookkeeper – Laura Orczeck                         |  |
|   | Our Sexton – Phil Claar  |  |
|   | Our Assisting Minister – Jane Hoenstine                          |  |
|   | Our Lector – Mike Lamborn  |  |
|   | Our Cantor – Elaine Smith  |  |
|   | Our Acolyte – Calleigh Wright                                    |  |
|   | Our Usher – Greg Haffling  |  |
|   | Our Altar Guild – Jackie Lightner, Tina Harclerode               |  |
|   | Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster                             |  |
|   | Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner                  |  |
|   | Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to "United Lutheran Seminaries" |  |
| _ |  |  |

Today we welcome Pastor Mary Hendricks to our morning service as guest preacher and officiant. Thank you for filling in for Pastor Traci today.

## This Week at St. Matthew:

## 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Pastor Traci on vacation from 11/8 – 11/15 \*Please call Pastor Drew McCaffery at 814-538-9036 for emergencies. Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **This Week Events**

| Today –    | Sunday School 9:30 a.m.   |
|------------|---|
|            | Worship Service 10:30 a.m.                                      |
| Monday –   | Cub/Boy Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.                           |
| Tuesday –  | Council Meeting, Zoom Only 6:30 p.m.                            |
| Thursday – | Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 9:00-11:00 a.m.                      |
| Saturday – | Scouts Pancake Breakfast, Martinsburg Firehall, 7:00-11:00 a.m. |
| Sunday –   | Blessing of the Hunters   |
|            | Sunday School 9:30 a.m.   |
|            | Worship Service 10:30 a.m.                                      |
|            | Fellowship Meal After Worship                                   |
|            | December Messenger Deadline                                     |

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred

Brandenberg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Ted Chipperfield, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Greg Dick, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Kay McGraw, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Lyndsay Tremmel, Drew Wenzel, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Tim Wilson, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.** 

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

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

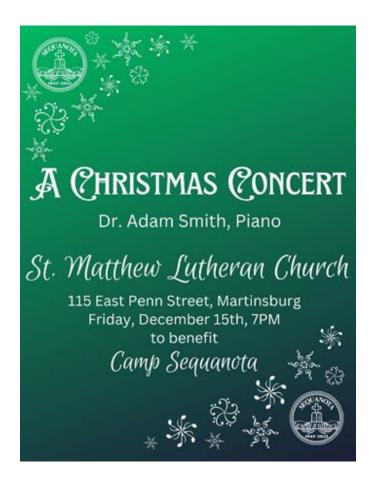


The annual Fellowship Meal will be held next Sunday, November 19, 2023, immediately following worship.

The Fellowship Committee will provide a pulled pork sandwich (regular and slider size) and a beverage. Table service will be provided as well. We ask that you bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share with others.

We look forward to this time of fellowship and thanksgiving. Hope to see you there!

## Fellowship Committee



## **Reminder: Annual Meeting**



This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at the end of the 10:30AM worship service on Sunday, December 3rd. If you have questions about the budget in advance of the meeting, please see Treasurer Beth Garner or Finance Committee Chair Jim Barley.

## **Blessing of the Hunters**

Next Sunday, November 19th, we will include the rite of Blessing for Hunters in our worship liturgy. Please feel free to wear camo or orange and take part in the prayers for a safe and fruitful hunting season.

## **Cove Christmas Love**

Our community is coming together to collect items for area families to help make their Christmas a little merrier. Due to lost jobs or low paying jobs, medical expenses, etc., some families in our community are unable to enjoy Christmas as a lot of us do. Please help us help them to feel the Love of God, friends, and community this Christmas. We will updating you soon in the bulletin on how you can help out.



## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

Please speak with Pastor Traci if you have any interest in attending the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans.



Allegheny Synod Youth Event Grades 6-12 December 8-10, 2023 Huntingdon, PA

Registration is Now Open \$10 deposit/ for Familes & Friends -St. Matthew covers the remainder See Pastor Traci for forms & details



**2022** Audit The full church audit of 2022 is available in the church office.

## **Martinsburg Food Pantry**



Volunteers from the Mt. Pleasant Church will be assisting the regular helpers with food distributions on Thursday, November 16 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.



Several churches are providing Thanksgiving dinners for food pantry families that would like to prepare turkey dinners themselves.

Items most needed for November: Cereal, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Fruit, Tomato Sauce.

We appreciate your prayers and support! Thank you for all your donations! *Linda Smith* 



**For Sale:** A 12' x 21' roll of high-quality indoor/outdoor, coffee colored carpeting. It was originally purchased to replace the outdoor carpeting at the main entrance. After tearing up the old carpeting, it was discovered that the concrete was detioriated and determined that carpeting will no longer be used there. Stop in at Cove Flooring to take a look or call the church office.

### **Church Messenger**

The November 2023 *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. 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.



Boy Scout Troop 358 Pancake Breakfast Saturday, November 18, 2023

Martinsburg Firehall



7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Baked Goods available for purchase. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE SCOUTS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!! Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

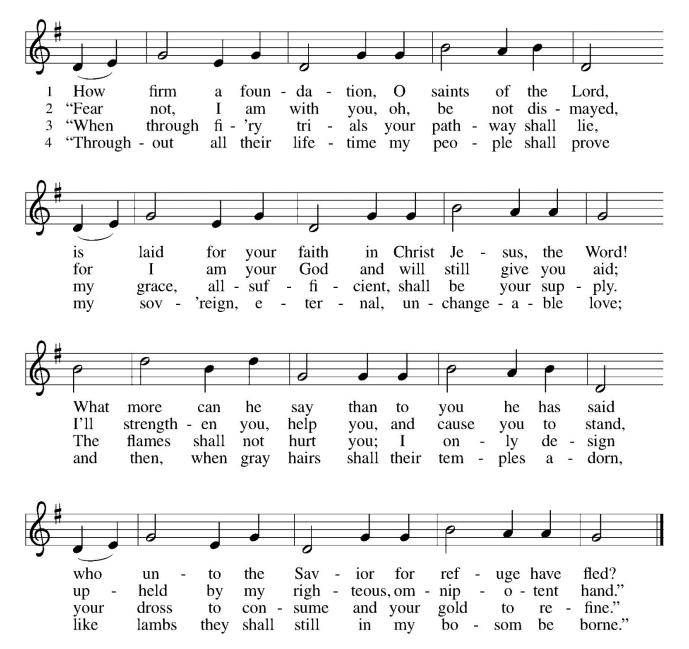


Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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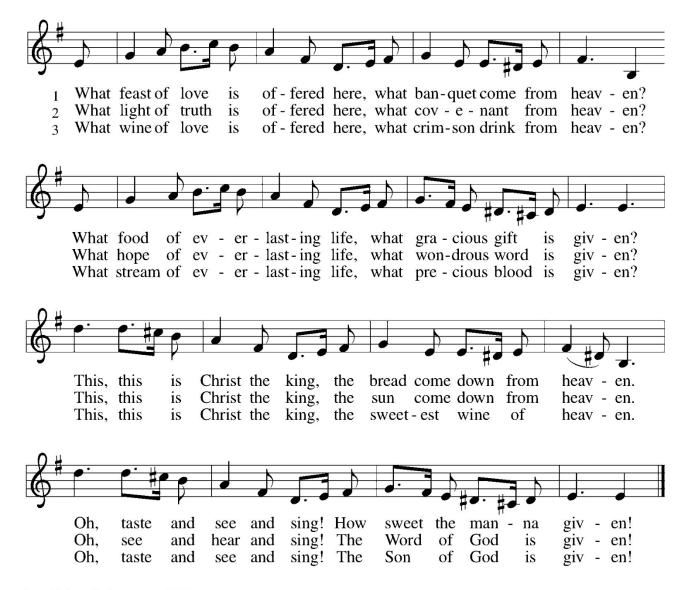
How Firm a Foundation

ELW # 796



Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

What Feast of Love

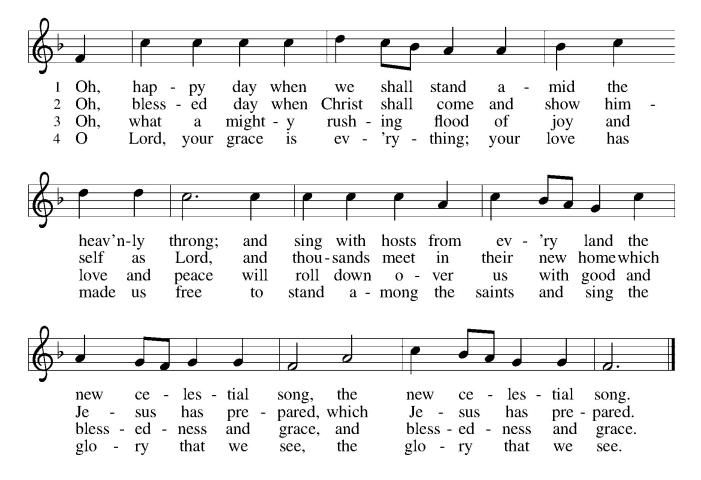


Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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