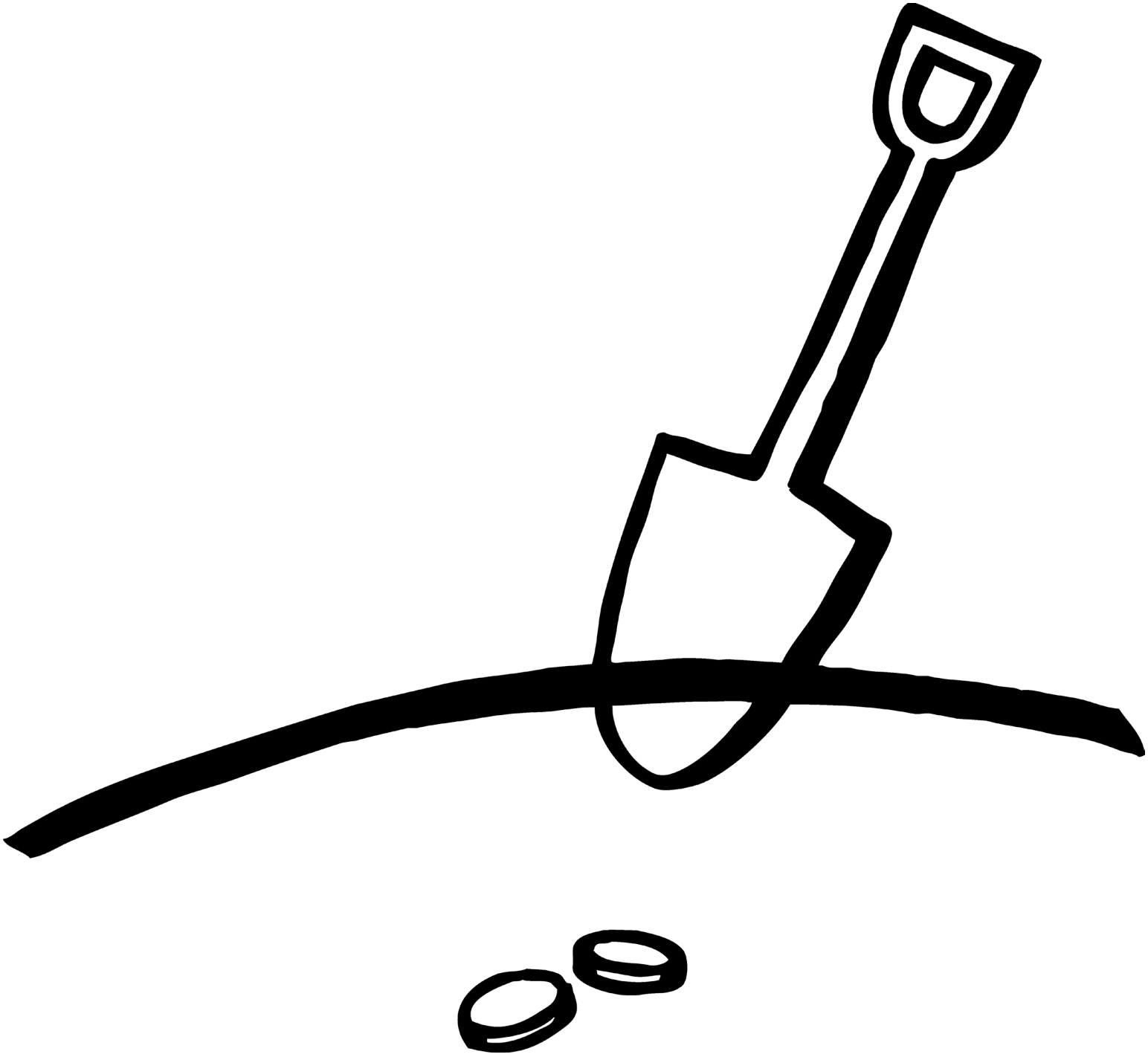
MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Sunday, November 15, 2026
Pentecost 25



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-1188
www.messiahsi.org

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

As the Confession and Forgiveness begins, all may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Congregational responses are in bold

** Asterisks throughout the order of worship indicate the people standing, in body and/or in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynnetta Hartson, reader

PRELUDE "Diademata" arr. Blersch

Shirley Newhart, organ

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Leader: Compassionate God.
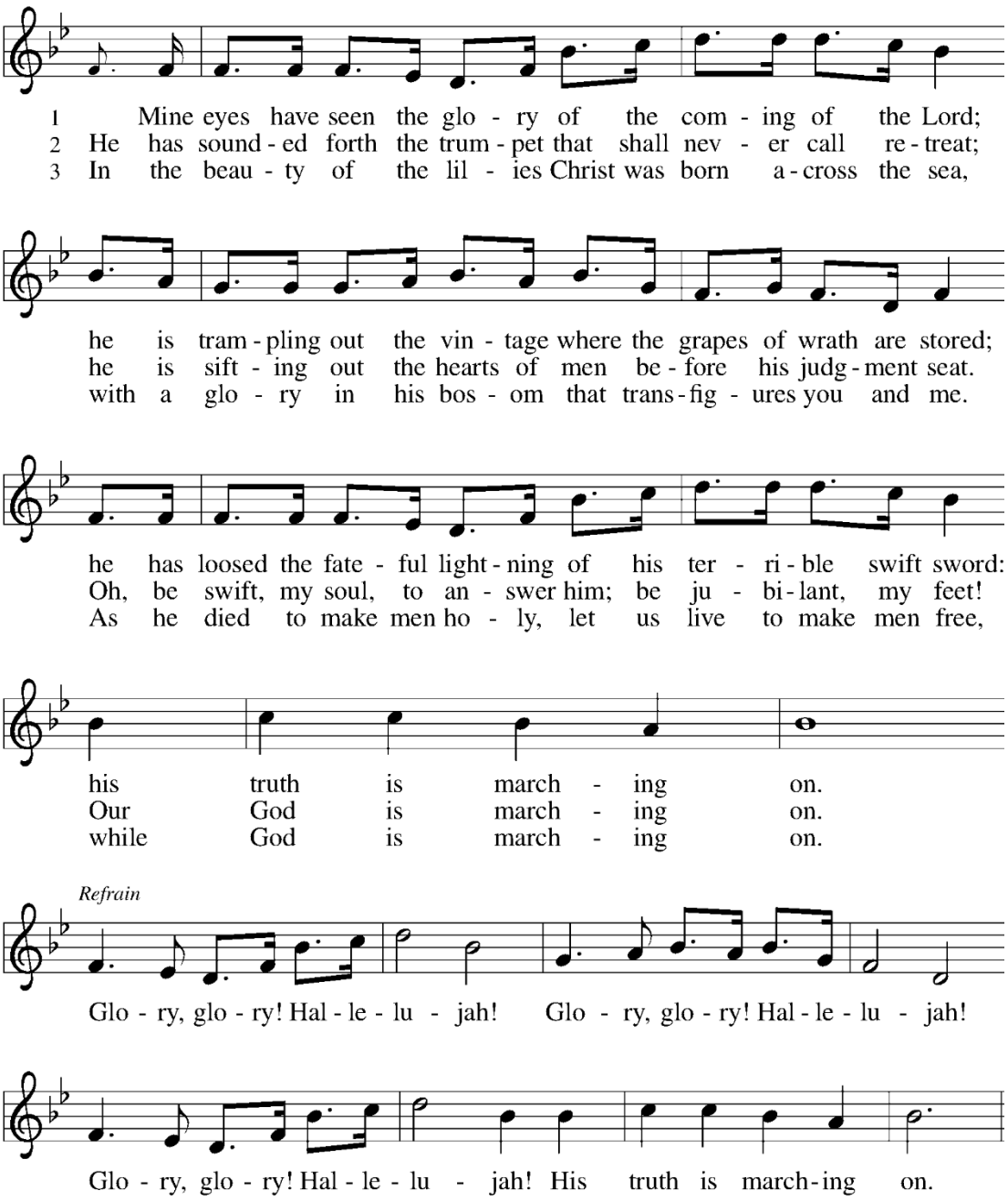
People: we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

People: Amen.

*GATHERING SONG "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

Hymn 890



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent

*GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

"

Kyrie" is a Greek word meaning "Lord." In Christian liturgy, particularly in Kyrie Eleison, it's used as a plea for God's mercy. The full phrase, "Kyrie eleison," translates to "Lord, have mercy," and has a common element in various Christian worship services since the 4th century.

*KYRIE

Leader: Not by our own strength or goodness, but by your grace alone, O God, are we made righteous.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: When we place our trust in ourselves rather than your promises, turn our hearts again to Christ.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Renew your church by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may live in the freedom of the Gospel.

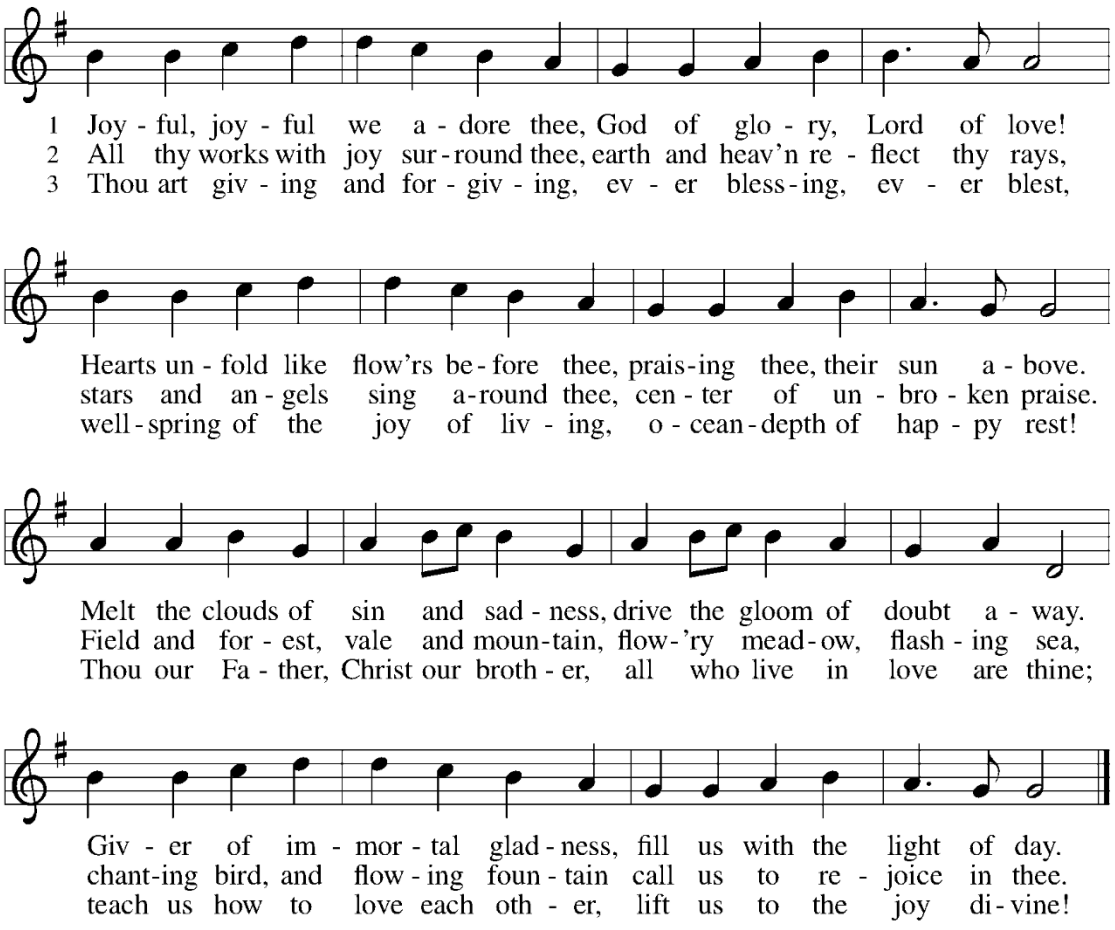
People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the grace that claims us, the faith that sustains us, and the love that makes us new, let us give thanks to God!

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Hymn 836

Verse 1



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "We Remember You" Harrah/arr. Larson

Chancel Choir

We remember you, we remember you;
by your sacrifice of love all glory now is due.
At this table here mercy hovers near.
Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup, we remember you.

Precious risen Lamb, Jesus who was slain,
now enthroned in glory, forever you will reign.
Gladly we embrace both these signs of grace.
Thanks is offered up; in this bread and cup, we remember you.

WORD

Lynnetta Hartson, reader

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Old Testament 827

Zephaniah presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

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,

The reading of Scripture is the time that God makes known his will: God desires mercy and salvation.

Ultimately, this word points us to the Word, the incarnate Son of God.

Through Christ — God's only Son — are we able to know the Father's favor and grace.

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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 90:1-8,12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

Leader: [1] Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

People: [2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.

Leader: [3] You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

People: [4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

Leader: [5] you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

People: [6] **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Leader: [7] For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

People: [8] **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

Leader: [12] So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

New Testament page 181

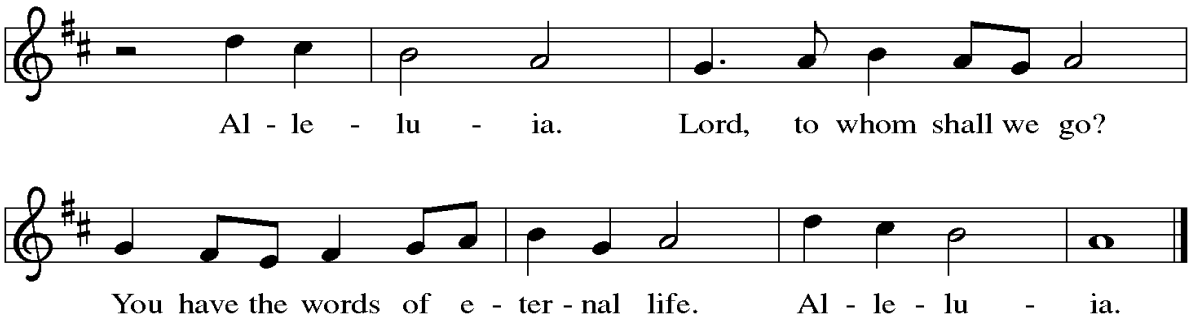
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[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



*GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

New Testament 24
Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.
People: 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.

SERMON "Buried for Safekeeping"
Pastor Jason Talsness
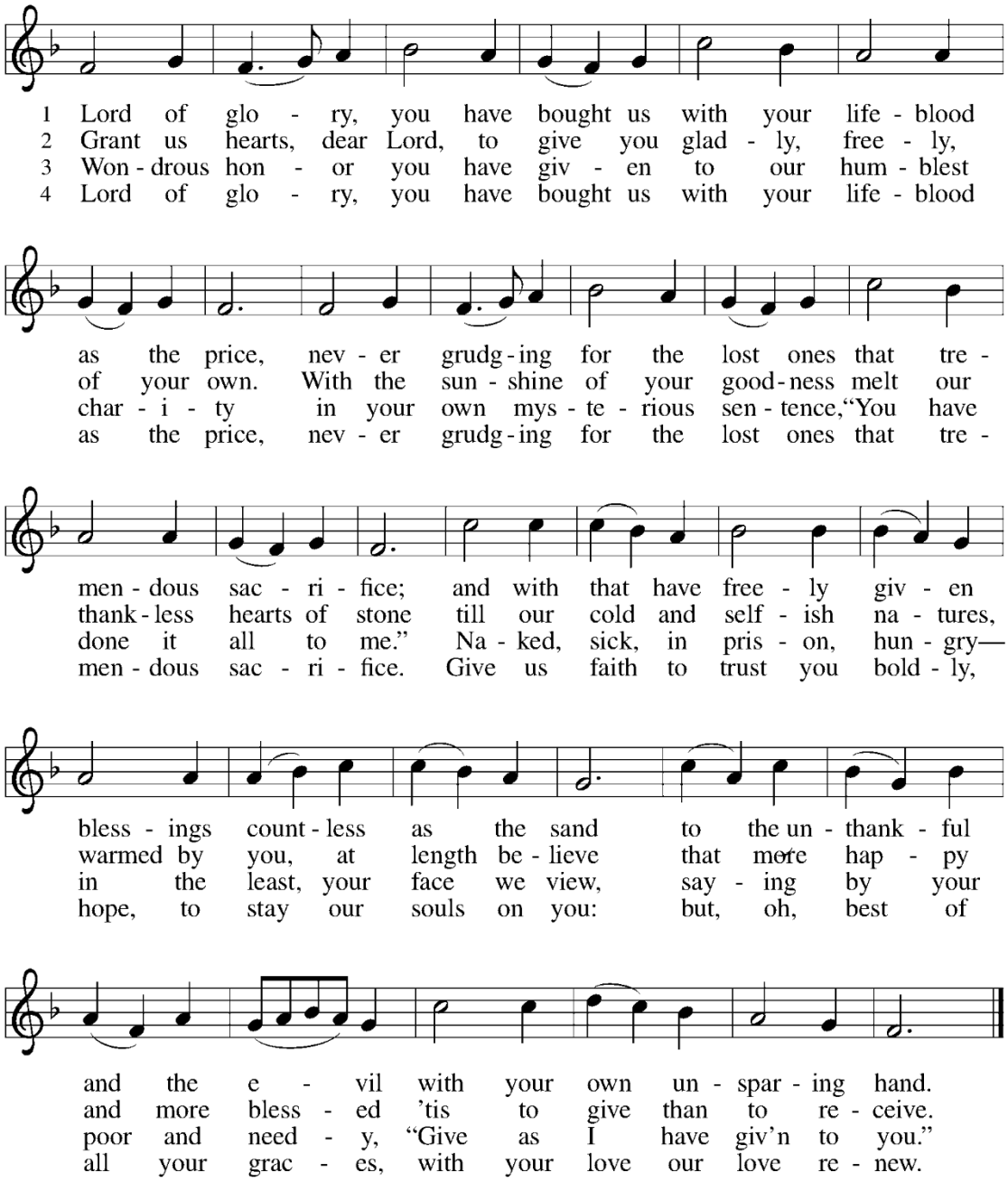
One vase of today's Altar Flowers was donated by Tim Andrews and dedicated to his wife Barbara, who is recovering from surgery for a broken hip.

The Flower and Candle Calendar for 2027 is now posted on the Narthex Kiosk.

Please consider donating to support Altar Flowers or the Eternal Candle in November or in 2027

*HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Hymn 707



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

*APOSTLES' CREED

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.

DEDICATION OF COMMITMENT CARDS

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)

Leader: God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

People: Amen.

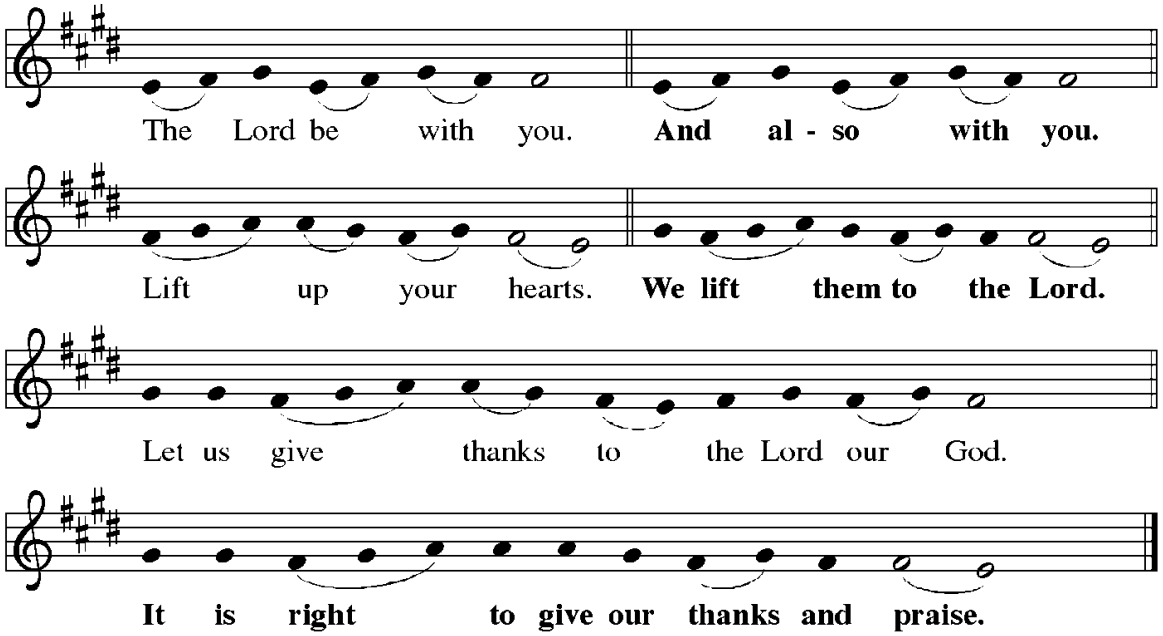
*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

MEAL

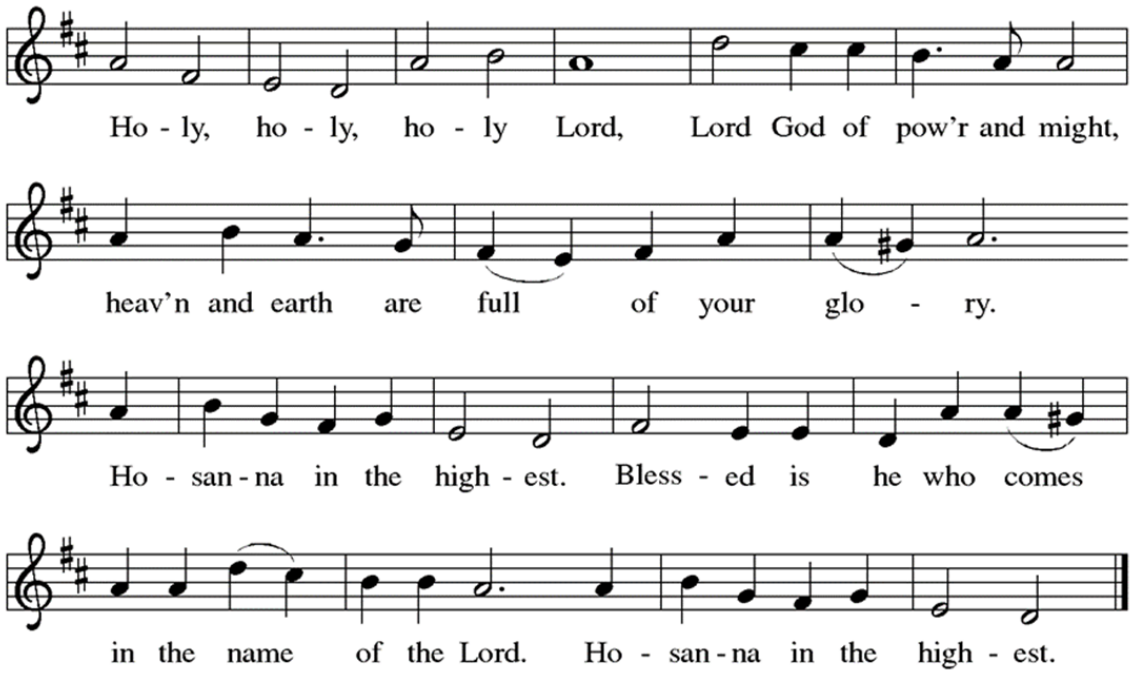
*DIALOGUE



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, …
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

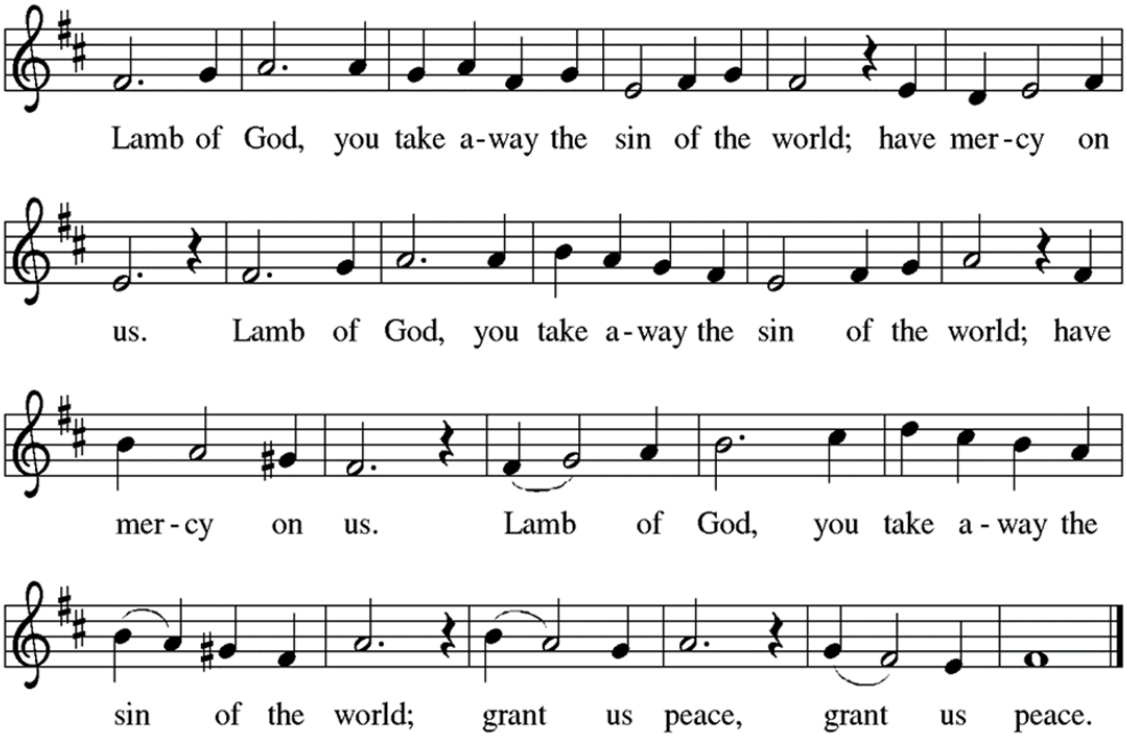
*LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"



COMMUNION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Compassionate God,

People: **through the gifts of bread and wine**
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

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SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION
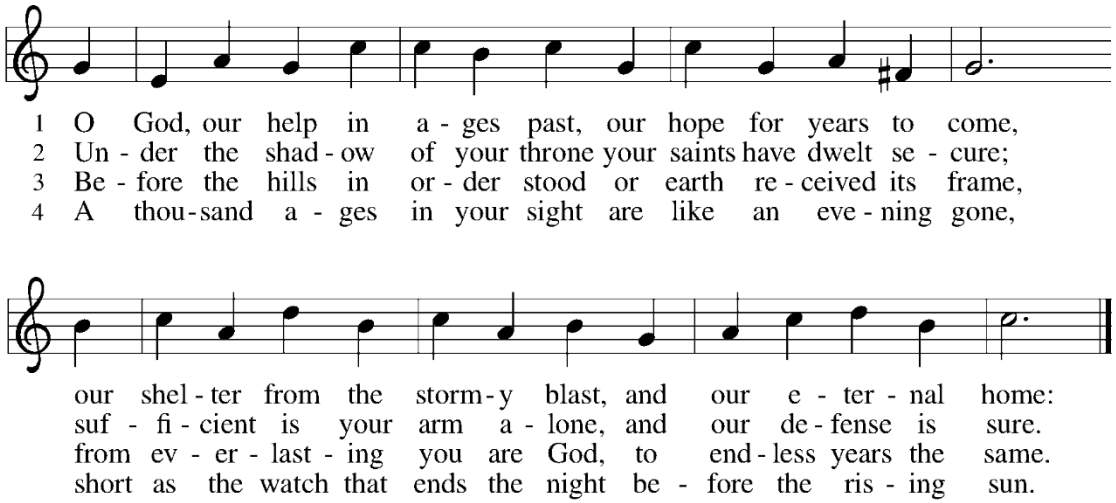
Leader: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn 632

Verses 1-4



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

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*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE "Jesus Shall Reign" arr. Haan

Shirley Newhart, organ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Italics indicate outside group

Sunday, November 15	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Annual Meeting
Monday, November 16	*8:00 am Landings Garden Club* 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, November 17	2:00 pm Outreach Ministry
Wednesday, November 18	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 19	3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, November 20	
Saturday, November 21	

MESSIAH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Wednesday-8:30 am to 11:30 am

Friday-Closed

ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website (messiahsi.org) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader. This link may be used for paying for altar flowers and other church-related activities. Questions? Contact the Church Office.

If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Cheryl Liebgott and Layne Rabold
Reader	Lynnetta Hartson
Communion Assistants	Oskar Johnson-Liu & Layne Rabold
Evangelism Greeters	Karen Floto & David Driggers
Ushers	Susan & Ron Whitaker
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (host) Amanda Ridberg (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Carl Luecke 11/21

Anniversaries: Pattye & Clarke Field 11/17, Jennifer & Khoa Nguyen 11/17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING & ANNUAL REPORT
Today After Worship

Plan to attend the 32nd Annual Meeting in Peper Hall today following worship. Copies of the Annual Report will be available on the Narthex Table and at the meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The Strategic Planning Committee is pleased to invite to attend the second discussion session to explore, in more detail, follow-on topics identified during our survey as well as planning work earlier in the year. The second session will be held after church in place of Adult Discipleship Class in the Conference Room:

- December 13 - What opportunities exist to further enhance our worship and music experience? Worship and music are foundational elements of our faith experience. How do we use worship and music as an entry point into people's lives and what is our worship and music identity in the future?

Please sign up for this second session on the Narthex Kiosk. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Strategic Planning Committee - Ken Hylander, Howard Anderson, and Barbara Moore.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY
Ladies Christmas Dinner
Thursday, December 3, 5:00 pm

The 5-Spot in Sandfly is the location for this holiday gathering. There is space for 22 people; please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk. Questions? Contact Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

Decorating the Church
Saturday, December 5, 8:30 am

The Men's Group will be trimming the Sanctuary tree at 8:30 am, joined later by the Ladies, who will be responsible for decorating the rest of the Sanctuary and the church building.

Messiah Christmas Potluck
Sunday, December 6, 5:00 pm

The annual event will be held in Peper Hall. The church will provide hams and wine. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk.

OUTREACH MINISTRY
Thanksgiving Baskets
Deadline: Sunday, November 22, 2026

The Outreach Ministry is once again organizing Thanksgiving Baskets of food for the families of students at The Learning Academy (formerly Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy). The ministry is requesting individual contributions of $35 or more (but will be delighted to accept checks in any amount) for these families in need. There are multiple ways for you to donate by check with Thanksgiving Baskets in the memo line at a table in Peper Hall after worship, in the Sunday offering plate or at the Church Office.

You can also donate online at the website messiahsi.org/giving with your debit or credit

card. (Just select Outreach as the Fund, then click on Thanksgiving Baskets for the memo.)

Coat Drive
Start Date: Sunday, November 15
End Date: Sunday, January 31, 2027

Check your closets, storage bins and attics! The Outreach Ministry is collecting outerwear for Square One Ministry, which is run by Cale Robert Hall, Resident Chaplain at Trinity United Methodist Church in Savannah. Donate new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves to provide some comfort and warmth when the weather eventually turns colder. These items will be collected in a big bin in the Narthex, and a member of the Outreach Ministry will pick up collections weekly so there will be no messy overflow. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in donating your items to this worthy cause.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
Deadline: Monday, December 14

Christmas is coming, and soon Messiah's Sanctuary will be brimming with poinsettias. We invite you to give a Christmas poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. The dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The cost is $14 per plant. To order, please pick up an envelope in the Sanctuary, Narthex, or Church Office. Then fill in the form, enclose your check, and return it to the Church Office or place it in the offering plate by Monday, December 14. You can also give online by going to the "Giving" tab at messiahsi.org, enter the amount, choose "Flowers: Christmas and Easter" from the dropdown menu, then check "Dedicate Gift," and enter the dedication you would like in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

SERMON PREVIEW
Buried for Safekeeping

In the Parable of the Talents, the third servant doesn't steal, squander, or lose his master's money. He buries it for safekeeping. His explanation is simple: "I was afraid." But why is playing it safe such a serious offense? Perhaps this parable is less about how much we accomplish and more about what we believe about the one who has entrusted us with so much.

Questions for reflection: Is faith ultimately about protecting what we've been given, or risking something because we trust the giver? Can fear keep us from receiving God's gifts as gifts? What have we buried for safekeeping in our own lives? This Sunday is Commitment Sunday. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of having an annual stewardship campaign?

CHURCH COUNCIL
2026

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(912) 556-8056
skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Peggy Pearson (2026)
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parkpear@aol.com

Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)
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Evangelism Ministry
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Vacant
Finance Ministry

Lisa Oswald (2026)
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Gayle Denny (2026)
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George Lawrence (2026/2028)[2]
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Parker Pearson (no term)
Treasurer
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parkpear@aol.com

Pat Cooper (2027)
Worship & Music Ministry
912.508.4250
cooperpat5@gmail.com

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[1] Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

[2] George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.


IN THE NAME of JESUS
Welcome
Grow
Support
Serve
MESSIAH LUTHERAN