25th Sunday after Pentecost

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

8:30AM TRADITIONAL

Bethany Lutheran Church

4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

bethany-denver.org



Here We Stand.

The Kessler Collection at Bethany

On **Saturday, November 21**, Bethany Lutheran Church will host a combined lecture and choir concert, featuring artifacts from the prestigious Richard C. Kessler Collection, the largest collection of Reformation artifacts outside of Europe. The lecture will be given by Dr. Richard “Bo” Manly Adams, Jr., Margaret A. Pitts Distinguished Director of Pitts Theology Library and Associate Professor in the Practice of Theological Bibliography at Candler School of Theology. The Chancel Choir will perform beloved Lutheran hymns in conjunction with information about the artifacts.

The event will begin at **6:30 PM** in the **Sanctuary**, and the artifacts will be on display in the chapel before and after the event. This will be a night to remember - come learn and celebrate!



✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE Sonata V Felix Mendelssohn

I. Andante II. Andante con moto III. Allegro maestoso

WELCOME *Pastor Nate Preisinger*

To fill out your digital connection card, go to **www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect**.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Deacon Debra Alba*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

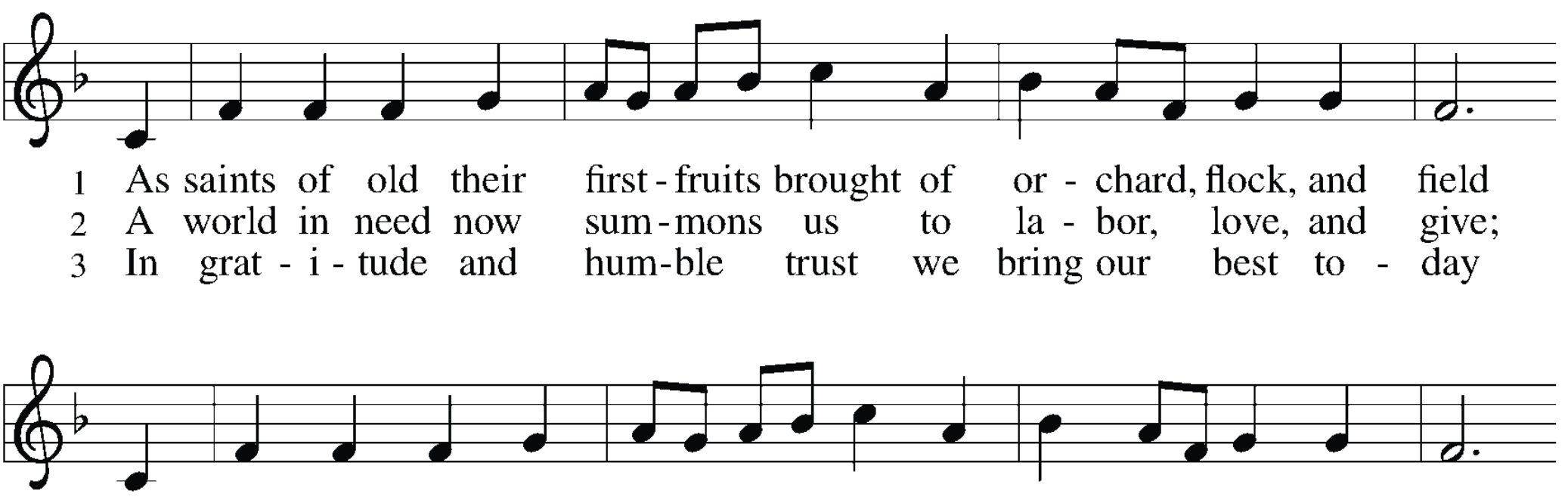
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn — As Saints of Old — ELW 695

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



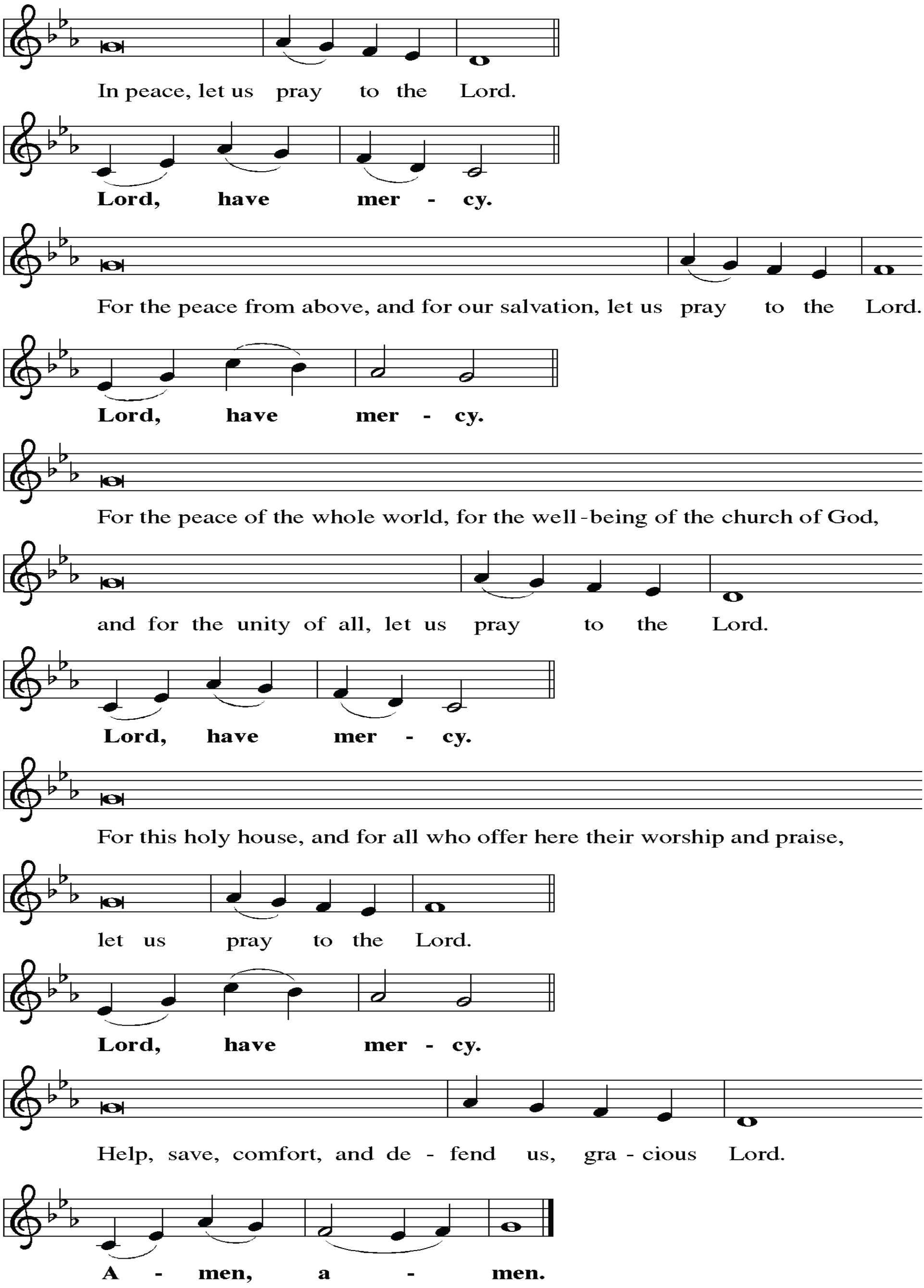
Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Greeting — *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

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.

KYRIE


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men, a - men.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

ELW 163



Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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**

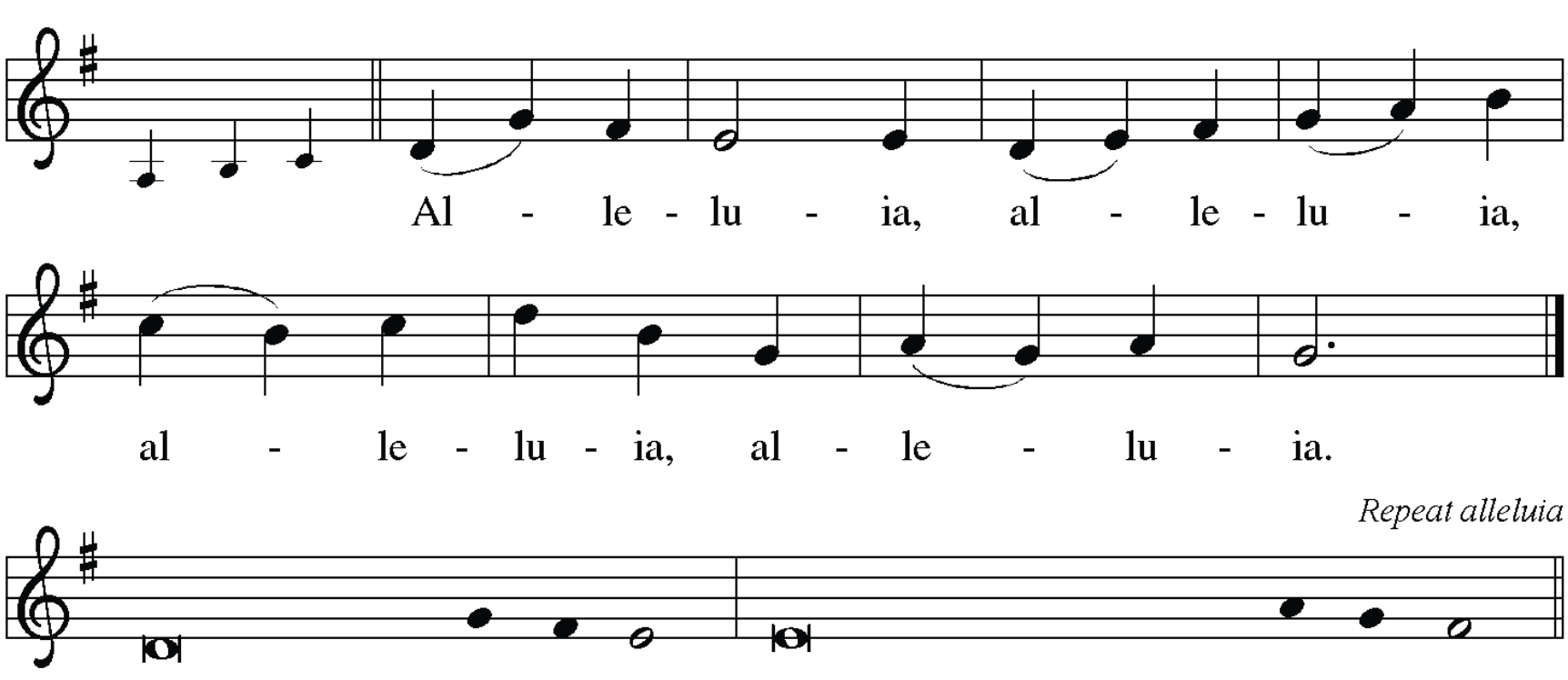
✠ Word ✠

Psalm 90:1-12

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.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, **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 *Deacon Debra Alba*

Hymn of the day

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Apostles' Creed

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Blessing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace please be seated.

✠ Offering ✠

Abundantly Bethany *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

- **Rice and Bean food breakdown TODAY**
- **Bethany Town Hall at 11:30 in room 312 TODAY**
- **Footsteps of Paul Congregational Trip Info Session at 12:15 TODAY**
- **Bethany Outdoor Adventure Nov 21**
- **Here We Stand Nov. 21**
- **Advent Fest Nov. 29**

Offering

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash -** Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- Unlock your phone, hold near the **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the plate as it is passed

Anthem Many Gifts, One Spirit Allan Pote

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

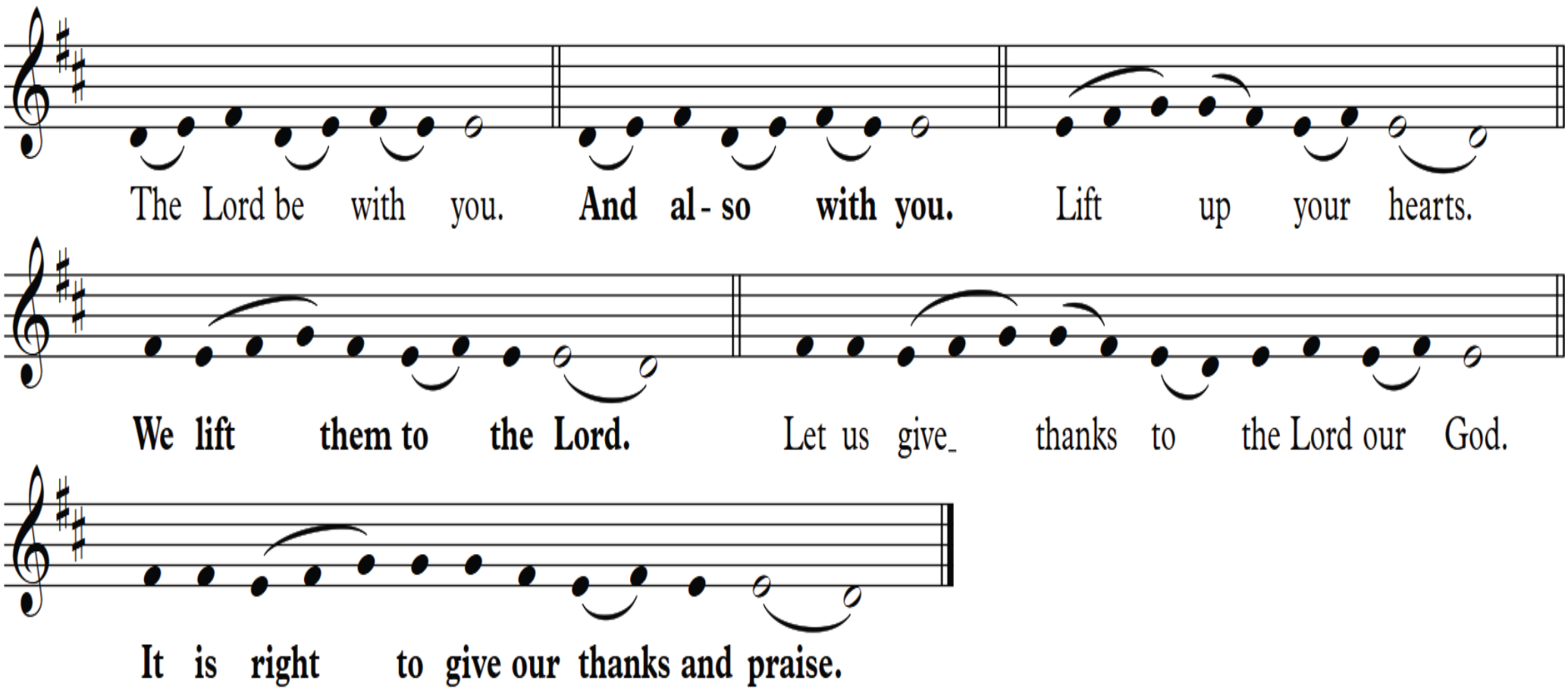
Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice.
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.
O God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways,
we are walking to your throne.
Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.
Take our many ways of working,
blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow,
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

✠ Meal ✠

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

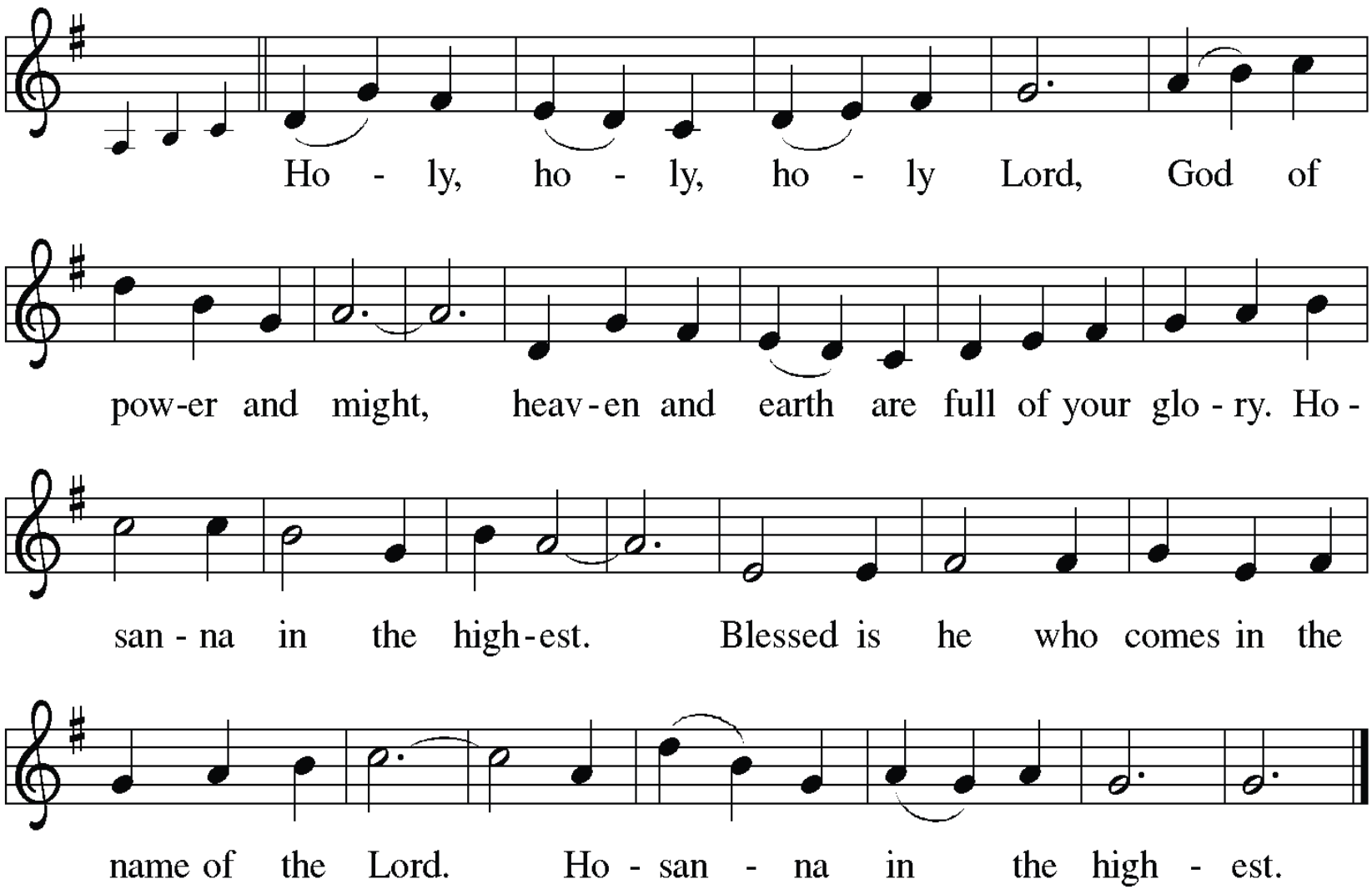


Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Blessing of the Bread and the Wine

The Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Instruction

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Distribution

Lamb of God

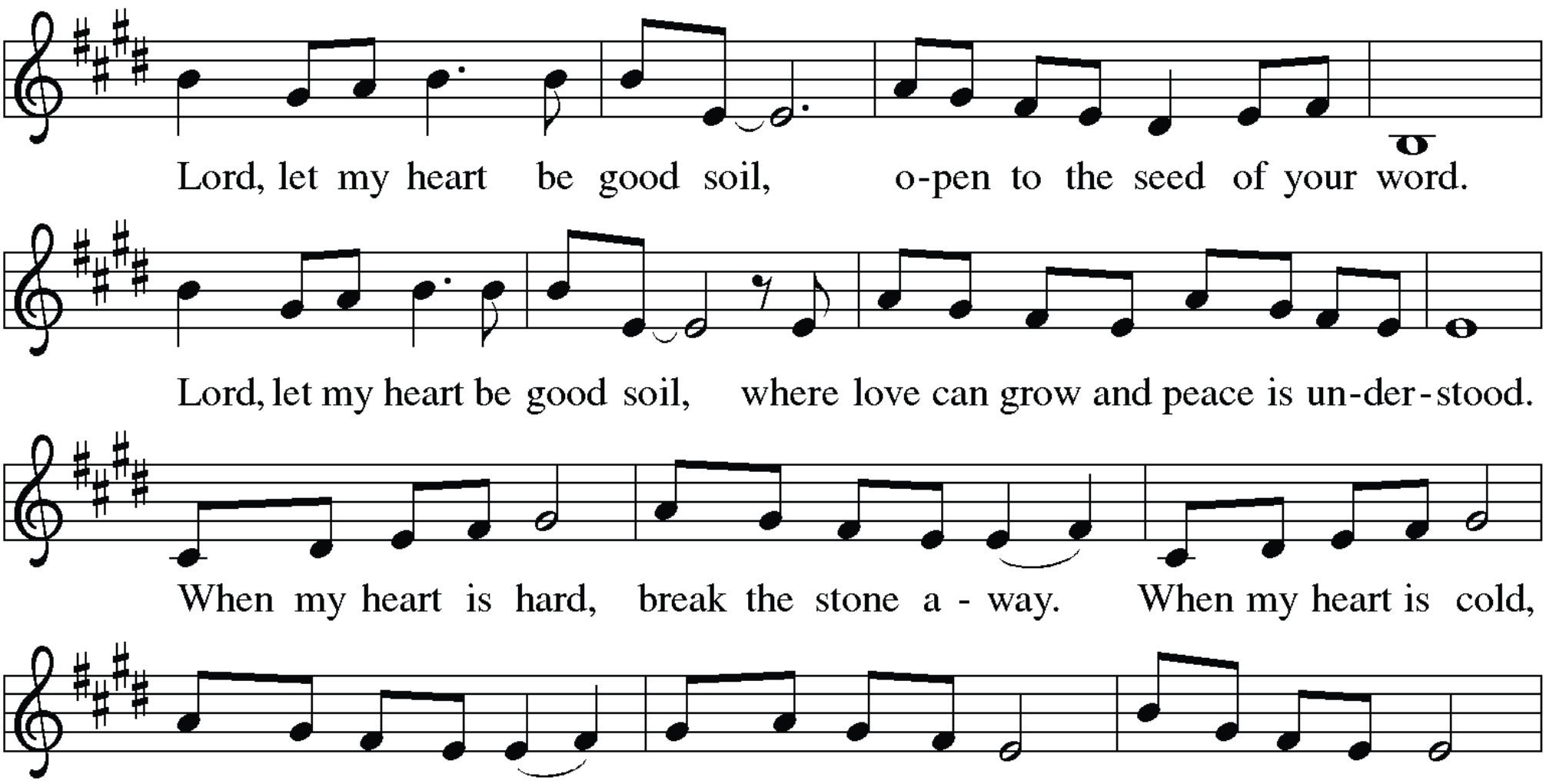


Communion Music I want to Walk as a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Tom Trennney

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the start to give light to the world, the star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
I want to see the brightness of God, I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on, and show me the way to the Father.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Communion Hymn Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil ELW 512



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Table Blessing

✠ Sending ✠

Benediction *Deacon Debra Alba*

Sending Hymn Christ, Be Our Light (vs. 1, 2, 5) ELW 715

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



New to Bethany? Stop by the Mission Center for a welcome to Bethany Gift.

DISMISSAL *Deacon Debra Alba*

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany. Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;
Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;
Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Fugue in D Major Johann Pachelbel

Things to Know About News & Events

Happening Today:

- **Beans and Rice** for Metro Caring in the Fellowship Hall
- **High School Youth - TODAY** 11:15am Room 400
- **Town Hall** 11:30-12pm in Room 312
- Pick Up your **Angel Gifts Tags** by the Mission Center
- **Footsteps of Paul Trip** info session 12:15p room 210

Happening Next Sunday:

- **Angel Gifts** drop offs by the Mission Center
- **Bethany Christmas Decorating** after both services, decorating for Advent and Christmas season
- **MomCo bake sale** - 8-11:30am Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events

Worship:

- **Rejoicing Spirits** worship and dinner **Nov. 15 4-6pm** Lord of the Hills Aurora

Education/Faithformation:

- **Footsteps of Paul Trip** info session Nov. 16 1pm & 6:30p room 210
- **Wednesday Night Programming -**dinner 5:15pm, 6-7pm education hour, 7:15 worship
- **Advent Fest Nov. 29** after worship in the Great Hall - food, crafts, devotions and fun for all.
- **Book Study "**Low Anthropology" by David Zahl Dec. 6 & 13

Hospitality:

- **Bethany Outdoor Adventures** Nov. 21 10am South Valley Park west of Denver near Ken Caryl/C470

Outreach:

- **Global Mission:** Bethany's Global Mission Ministry proposals are due Nov. 17

Look for full details for all our news and events on the Bethany website: Bethany-denver.org/news

YTD Financial Update (July – October)

	Prior Year -YTD Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Contributions	$469,960	$513,777	$509,335
Expenses	$687,647	$743,324	$767,937
Income/(Loss)	($215,687)	($228,161)	($258,602)

Things To Know About Worship

Welcome to Bethany! If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.

Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!

Sunday Worship services: (8:30am Traditional) - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy. (10:00am Casual Blended) a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.

Participating in Worship: There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.

Communion Statement: Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.

Safety: Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.

Hearing Assistance Device: Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.

Worship Servants: Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!

Children at Bethany: Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:

Fidget Station: We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fear fully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship.
Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.

Busy Bags: Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Pick one up on the way in and return it on the way out.

Nursery: For directions to our staffed Nursery, please speak with an usher.