



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 26, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of her husband, James Blalock, by Ida Blalock.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Preaching	Sarah Delap Bowers
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Dean Nix
Prayers	Jaime Fivecoat
Cantor	Amanda Cook
Acolytes	Lexi Thomas-Harewood Harper Roth
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Beth Hill Jeff Roth Margaret Roth
Praying for Possibilities	Julie Brightwell
Greeters	Mark Allen Debbie Farstad Dale Hamann Sandra Hamann Lani Ludian Mary Beth Ridenhour Chris Sorenson
Ushers	Danny Fagala Calvin Harmon Pattimarie Janssen
Fellowship Hosts	Angie and Emily Hager
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

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.

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.

Amen.

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its
successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet perfume
shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on his
love with sweetest song; and infant voices
shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the pris'ners
leap to lose their chains, the weary find
eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar
honors to our king; angels descend with
songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.**

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekiel.

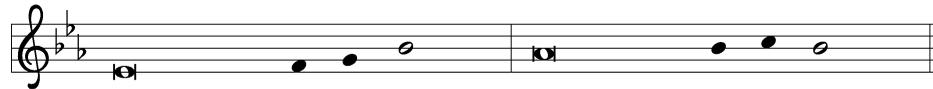
¹¹Thus says GOD Most High: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says GOD Most High. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ²⁰Therefore, thus says GOD Most High to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, God, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, God, have spoken.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.*Psalm
Refrain

We are the peo-ple of God's pas-ture and the sheep of God's hand.

Psalm
Tone¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.⁴**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.⁶**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**^{7a}For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

A reading from first Ephesians.

¹⁵Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that ¹⁶I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, ¹⁹and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. ²⁰God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, ²¹far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. ²²God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, ²³which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

The Word of God for the people of God.

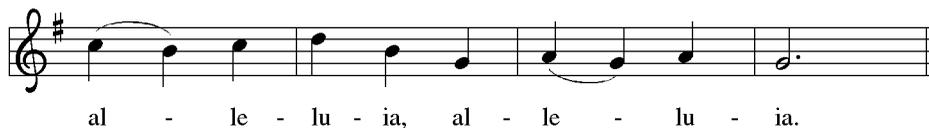
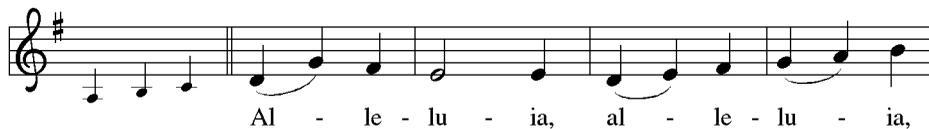
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

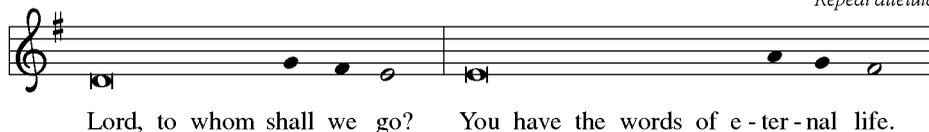
Deacon Sarah Delap Bowers

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ “At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, ³² with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. ³³ The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left. ³⁴ “The ruler will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you blessed of my God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! ³⁵ For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; ³⁶ naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ Then these just will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my siblings, you did it for me.’ ⁴¹ “Then the ruler will say to those on the left, ‘Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! ⁴² I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they in turn will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ The answer will come, ‘The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ They will go off to eternal punishment, and the just will go off to eternal life.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Deacon Sarah Delap Bowers

Please stand as able

O Christ, what can it mean for us to claim you as our King? What royal face have you revealed whose praise the church would sing! Aspiring not to glory's height, to power, wealth, and fame, you walked a different, lowly way, another's will your aim.

You came, the image of our God, to heal and to forgive, to shed your blood for sinners' sake that we might rise and live. To break the law of death you came, the law of love to bring: a different rule of righteousness, a different kind of king.

Though some would make their greatness felt and lord it over all, you said the first must be the last and service be our call. O Christ, in workplace, church, and home, let none to power cling; for still, through us, you come to serve, a different kind of king.

You chose a humble human form and shunned the world's renown; you died for us upon a cross with thorns your only crown. But still, beyond the span of years, our glad hosannas ring, for now at God's right hand you reign, a different kind of king!

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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 brief silence.

Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. We give you thanks for new partners in our community as we continue to heed your call to serve the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Continue to show us new ways to steward this creation. Bless and feed the sheep who give us wool and show us your love for even the goats who constantly escape from their pastures and eat prized roses. Energize us where we lack motivation, knowing that you call us to care for the gifts you have given us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Where laws are proposed and made that may bring about harm and even death to your beloved people, make a way for just and compassionate thinking. Bring an end to our own selfish ways of living which separates us from you and from your beloved people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. Comfort and grant peace to those in hospice care as you also bless the hands and hearts who care for hospice patients. We pray for those who suffer, especially those who we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we are all beloved. Guide us towards new ways of living in the same pasture, in your kin-dom. Soften our hearts to love those who differ from us, who disagree with us, and all those on the margins. When we are tempted to name any of your beloved children as a lowly goat, help us to see how you created the goats just as you created the sheep. Bless and affirm those who have been wrongly told God commands them to depart from God's kin-dom, especially the LGBTQIA+ community who continue to hear that to this day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach ministries of this congregation. Continue your good work of making this place a place of the radical hospitality that calls us to serve those the rest of the world often ignore. Grant our surrounding community with the resources needed to live in harmony, with needs met, and in a way that reflects your mercy and grace. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

ANTHEM

The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

Adult Choir

arr. John Ferguson, text by Thomas Kelly

The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory new;
a royal diadem adorns the mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords belongs to him by right,
the king of kings and Lord of lords, and heaven's eternal light.

The joy of all above, the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love, and grants his name to know.

To them the cross with all its shame is given, the cross with all its grace is given,
their name, an everlasting name, their joy, the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below, they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know the mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him:
his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme.

Please stand as able.

(verses 1-3)

**Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!**

**No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!**

**No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

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.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

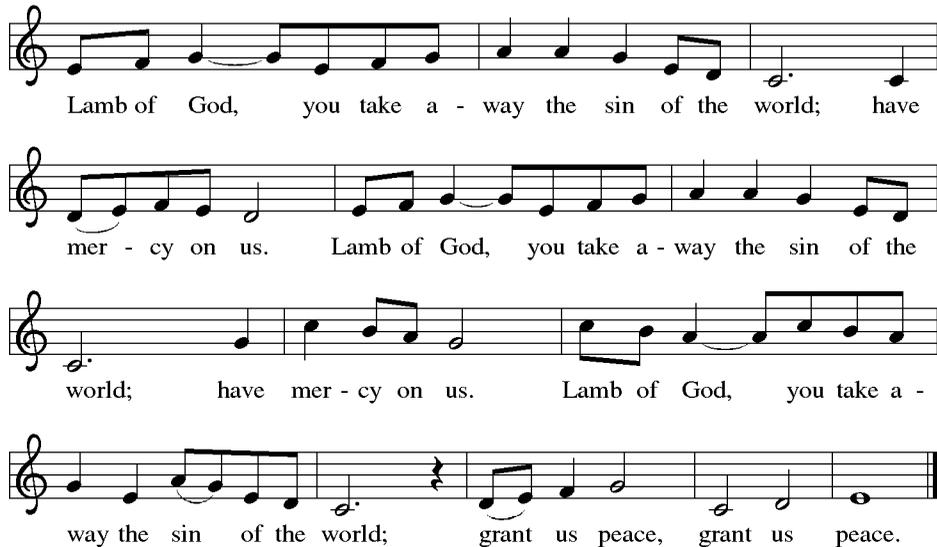
COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Worshippers will come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive a wafer and dip it in the wine to receive communion by Intinction.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin. The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.

Come and revel in heaven's love and light.

Take your place at the table of the King.

The feast is ready to begin; the feast is ready to begin.

Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine. *Refrain*

The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise. Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. *Refrain*

Thine the Amen

#826

**Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.**

**Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.**

**Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore.**

**Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.**

**Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.**

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness
faileth never; I nothing lack if
I am his and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed
soul he leadeth and, where the verdant
pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in
love he sought me, and on his shoulder
gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear
Lord, beside me, thy rod and staff my
comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction
grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport
of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness
faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing
thy praise within thy house forever.**

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know O God
your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.**

**Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own:
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

#441

**Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the
heav'nly throng; and sing with hosts from ev'ry land the
new celestial song, the new celestial song.**

**Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself
as Lord, and thousands meet in their new home which
Jesus has prepared, which Jesus has prepared.**

**Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and
love and peace will roll down over us with good and
blessedness and grace, and blessedness and grace.**

**O Lord, your grace is ev'rything; your love has
made us free to stand among the saints and sing the
glory that we see, the glory that we see.**

DISMISSAL

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

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back corner of the Gym
for refreshments and fellowship .*

Let Justice Flow like Streams

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Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

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CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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Kerry Sease

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Chris Wannemacher