

# *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610-346-8500

[durhamlutheran.org](http://durhamlutheran.org)

Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor

**November 12 , 2023**

**24th Sunday after Pentecost**



## **Introduction to Worship**

*Today the prophet Joshua calls Israel to choose God and set aside all other gods. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.*

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

**[www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran](https://www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran)**

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## Prelude

## Welcome

## Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.

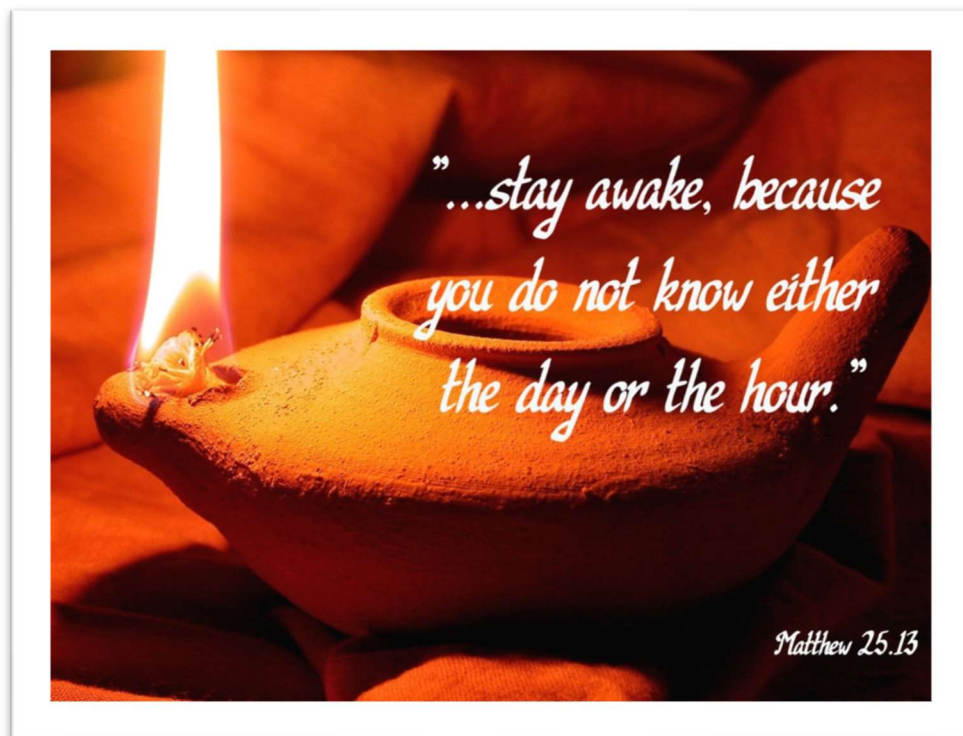
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.

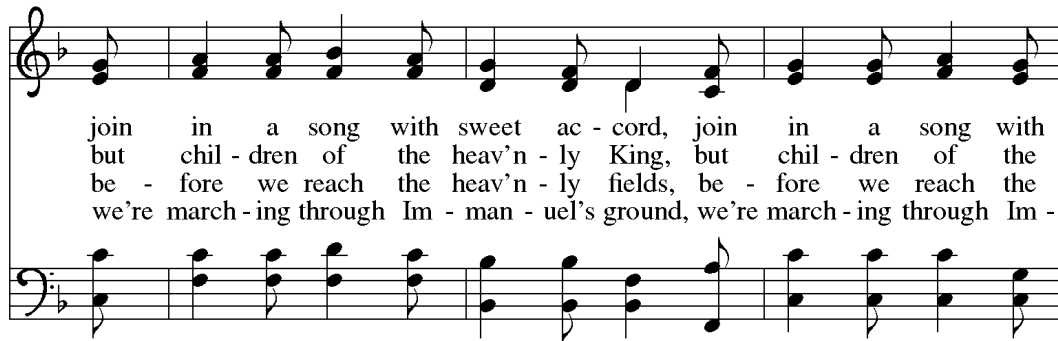
**C: Amen.**



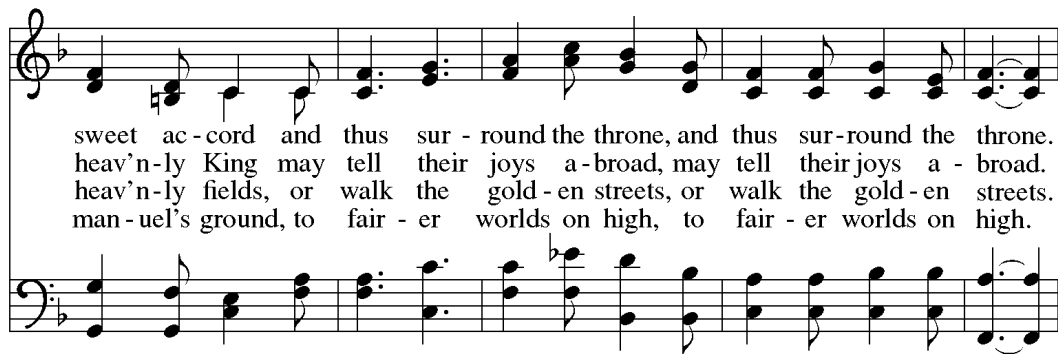
**Opening Hymn - ELW 583**  
**Come, We That Love the Lord**  
*We're Marching to Zion*



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets  
 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

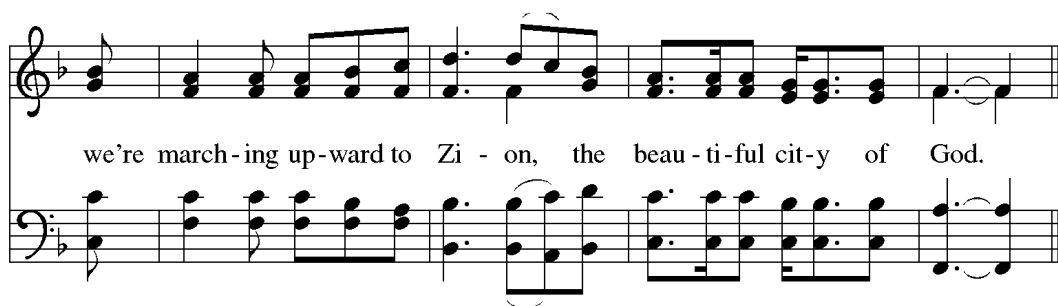


sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.  
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:

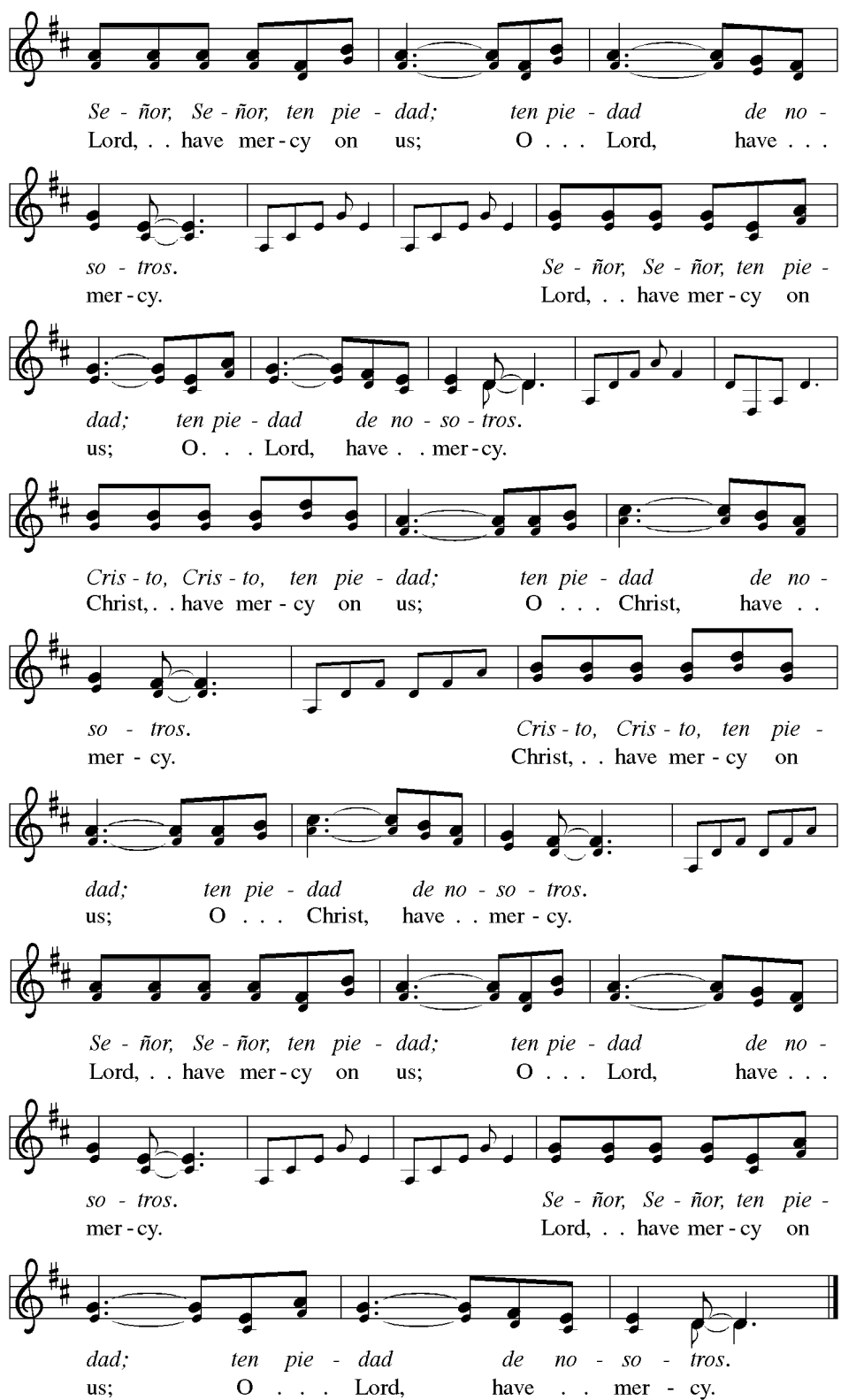


we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

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.

## Kyrie



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -  
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .

so - tros. mer - cy. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -  
Lord, . . have mer - cy on

dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -  
Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .

so - tros. mer - cy. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -  
Christ, . . have mer - cy on

dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.

Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -  
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .

so - tros. mer - cy. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -  
Lord, . . have mer - cy on

dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.  
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: 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.**

(Please be Seated)

## First Reading – Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

*In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

L: A reading from Joshua, the twenty-fourth chapter.

<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: Psalm 70

L: <sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

C: <sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

L: <sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

C: <sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

L: <sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

A reading from Thessalonians, the fourth chapter:

<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 (Please stand if you are able)

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!*  
*al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!*

## The Gospel – Matthew 25:1-13

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

P: The Gospel according to Matthew. **C: 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.”

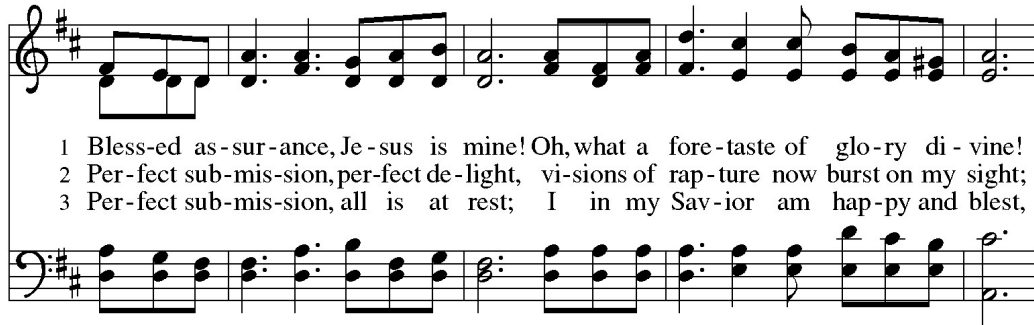
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you. O Christ.**

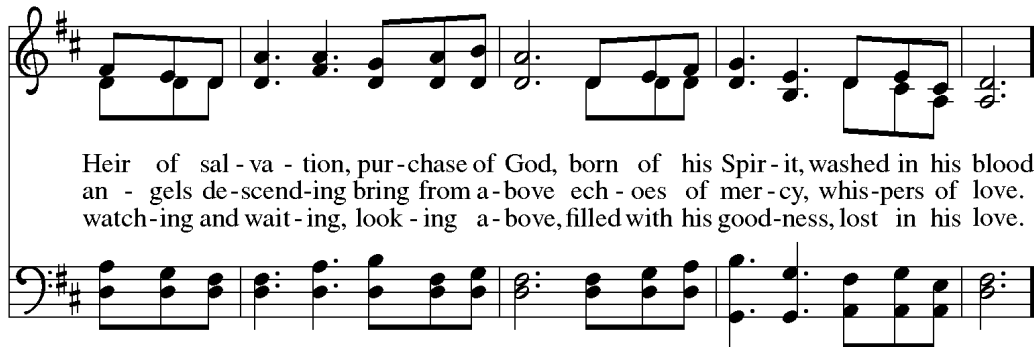
**Children’s Sermon / Sermon** (please be seated)

**Hymn of the Day: ELW 638**

## Blessed Assurance

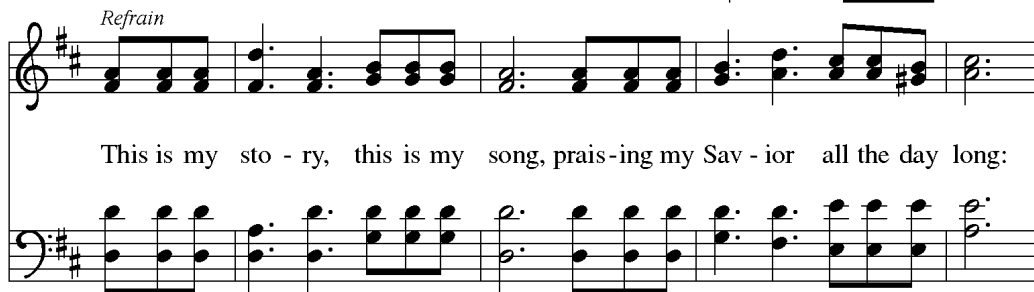


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Suzanne Mauer, Oluchi Ngoka, Jack Pyne, Chris, Elizabeth, Benjamin, and Nathaniel Roberts have come to our congregation and expressed their desire to affirm their faith as members of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham.



## **Apostles' Creed**

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## **Address and Questions**

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God.

We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

*R: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

## **Welcome**

P: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

P: We give you thanks for our new members whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: 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.*

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: 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 (especially). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you (especially). Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

**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.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

## **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**

### **WE ARE AN OFFERING - ELW 692**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands.

Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,

We give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

We are an offering, we are an offering.

P: 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.**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

### **BLESSING**

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.**



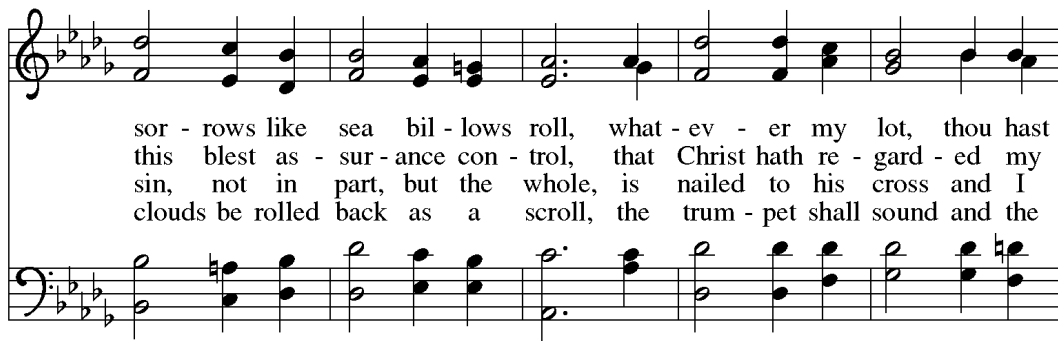
**SENDING SONG: ELW 785**

# When Peace, like a River


## *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

### DISMISSAL

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

### Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
<b>12</b>	Tom Gaun, Mark Harwick, Matthew Mueller, Cathy Mueller		
<b>16</b>			Marion Kempf
<b>18</b>	Chad Harrison		

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES		
<b>Sunday, November 12</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>  After Worship 5:00 to 7:30 PM	<b>Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman</b> Reception of new members. Altar Guild Meeting Confirmation Class @ St. Luke's
Monday, November 13	7:00 PM	Church Council meeting
Tuesday, November 14	7:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 15	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 11:15AM – 1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Choir rehearsal Care -A-Lot visit Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, November 16	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, November 17	10:00 AM	WELCA Meeting
Saturday, November 18	5:00 PM	Saturday Service @ St. Peter's

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES		
<b>Sunday, November 19</b> (communion)	<b>10:00 AM</b> After worship	<b>Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman</b> Worship Committee meeting
Monday, November 20	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	Crop Walk retrospective @St. Peter's
Wednesday, November 22	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00AM – 1:00 PM 12:00 PM	Choir rehearsal Office Hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
<i>Thursday, November 23</i>		<i>Thanksgiving</i>
<b>Sunday, November 26</b> <b>Christ the King Sunday</b> (communion)	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman</b>
Wednesday, November 29	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 11:00 AM - 11:15 PM 12:00 PM	Office Hours Care -A-Lot Visit Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim
Thursday, November 30	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Choir rehearsal Office hours Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

## HELP TO HELP



November Outreach - The November envelope will go to Help to Help, a joint project of Emmanuel church and Rotary in Souderton, who are raising funds to build a school building in Santa Barbara, Honduras.



Keep in your  
PRAYERS

### For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

### For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Jason Bigley; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster;

Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Josephine Gimelson & family; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Sue Kiry; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; The Schutt Family; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

### For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

### For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Stan Aagaard; Michael Barats; Sharon Fogelman; Joann Gary; Betty Kreitz; Lani Schlegel; Don Seipt; Marilyn Seipt; Shawn Stadt; Hal Taylor; Ann Valent

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

[PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org](mailto:PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org)

### Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Choir Director / Organist	Carolyn Williams
Greeter(s)	Josephine Williams
Altar Guild	Val McGinn & Bea von Watzdorf
Acolyte	Leo Grzelkowski
Lector	Mary Crouse
Head / Communion Usher	
Council Counting Team	Barb Naska & Dave Sauter
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz