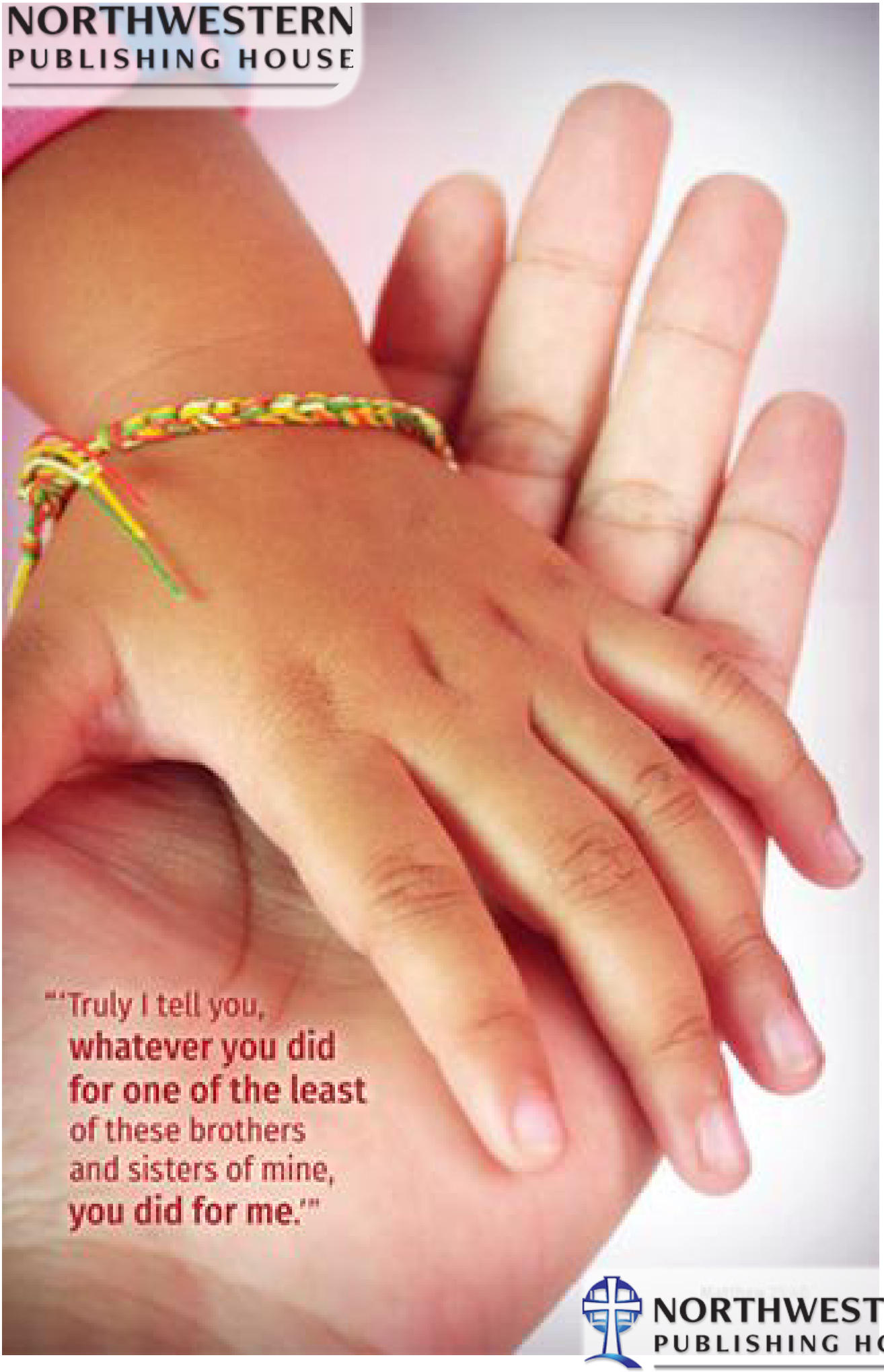
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Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4465 South Blosser Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Office: 714-474-7023
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, November 22, 2026 10:00 a.m.

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Theme of the day:

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 491 **"Come, You Thankful People, Come"**

♫ **Come, you thankful people, come;**
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, shall provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home,
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
give his angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Please stand for last verse:

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home;
gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in your garner to abide.
Come with all your angels, come;
raise the glorious harvest home.

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
Congregation: And also with you. *(spoken)*

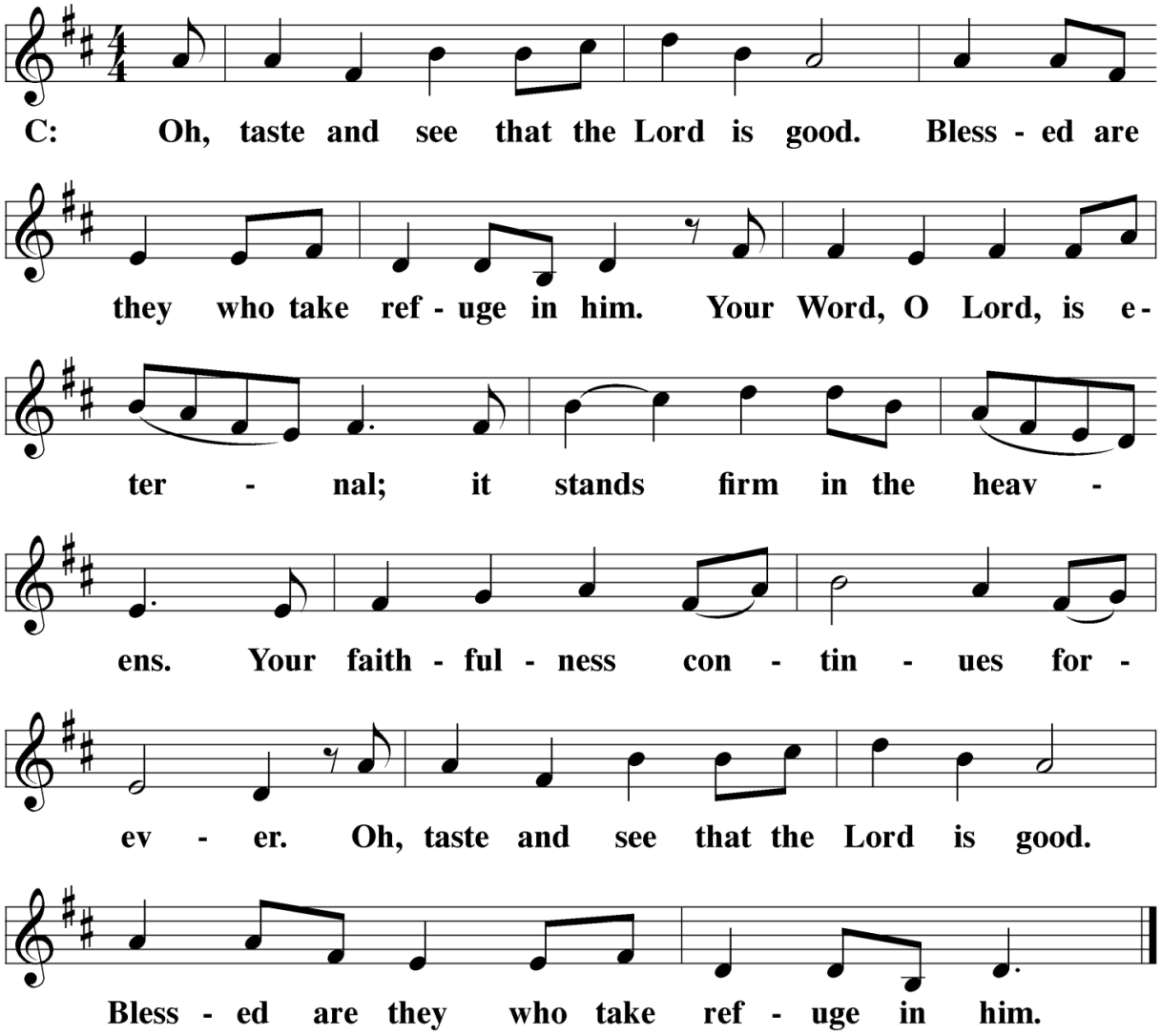
M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



M: Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♫ Amen. *Please be seated.*

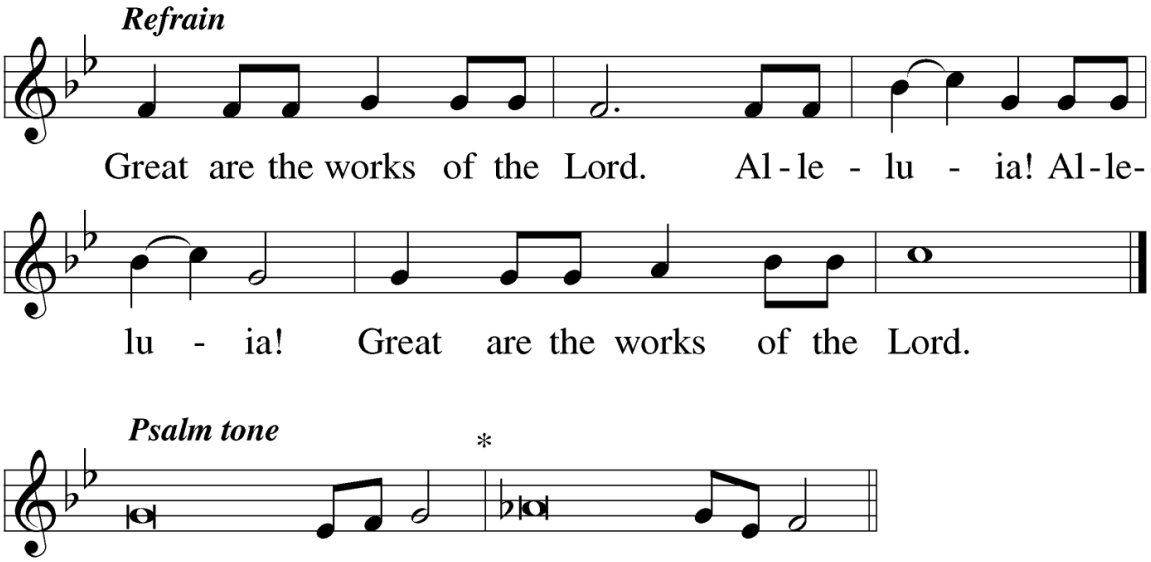
FIRST LESSON: Daniel 7:9,10,13,14

[9]I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire.

[10]A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

[13]I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. [14]To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 45



**My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

**In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.**

Refrain

**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.**

**You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.**

**I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Verse of the Day:

M: Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alleluia. *(Revelation 22:13)*

C: ♫ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46

[31]"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. [32]All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33]He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. [34]Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

[35]For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. [36]I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

[37]"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? [38]When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? [39]When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

[40]"The King will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'

[41]"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. [42]For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. [43]I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.'

[44]"Then they will also answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?'

[45]"At that time he will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.' [46]And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

HYMN: # 487 **"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"**

♫ **Lo! He comes with clouds descending,**
once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

SERMON: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[13]We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. [14]Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.
[15]In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. [16]For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]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 always be with the Lord. [18]Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: # 495 **"The King Shall Come"**

♫ **The King shall come when morning dawns**
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes—
not as of old a little child to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death despite the rage of foes
shall dawn that glorious, welcome morn
for all who know his grace —
the day when Christ in splendor comes
and we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and earth's dark night is past;
that morning cannot rise too soon, that day that e'er shall last.
Then let the endless bliss begin, as heav'n with praises rings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings!

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: ♫ Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: # 612:1,3,4 **"How Great Thou Art"**

♫ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

WELS CONNECTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS: Remember to pray for: little Elias, Dennis Douglas, George Caravana, Molly Webb, Kathy Jones, Art Amarillas, Melinda Brown, Alice Taubman, Monica, Rylan Downs, Jeff Brown, Aaron Taubman, Marlene Washburn, Helen Cummings, Delores Bass, Rick Stovall, Suzy Garvin, Linda Wilkinson, Kathie Stillwater, Louise Perry, Phil Schaaf, and Ilene Trevarrow.

OFFERINGS from this year's Thanksgiving Day service, (this coming Thursday) will be sent to our synod's **Christian Aid & Relief.** It is used for times of natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, famines, fires) and for humanitarian aid (like food for people in Malawi).

THIS WEEK

Tuesday	**ESL** (English as a Second Language), **6:00 p.m.**
Thursday	**Thanksgiving Worship, 10:00 a.m.**
Sunday	**Bible Class and Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.**
	Worship, 10:00 a.m.

COMING UP

Living Nativity, December 13, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Las Posadas, 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day - Festival Worship, 10:00 a.m.