St. Mark Lutheran Church

A congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

welcomes you!

November 8, 2026



The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

"SHINE" CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1ST SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

105 EAST "D" STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR

THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

+ **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! ***"Quiet Bags"*** (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).

+ An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

+ **Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

+ **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw**, **Myaamia**, **Kaskaskia**, and **Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

PRELUDE *"Reflection on 'Kremser'"* *D. Lasky*

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Blessed be the one God – Father, ☩Son, and Holy Spirit - our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

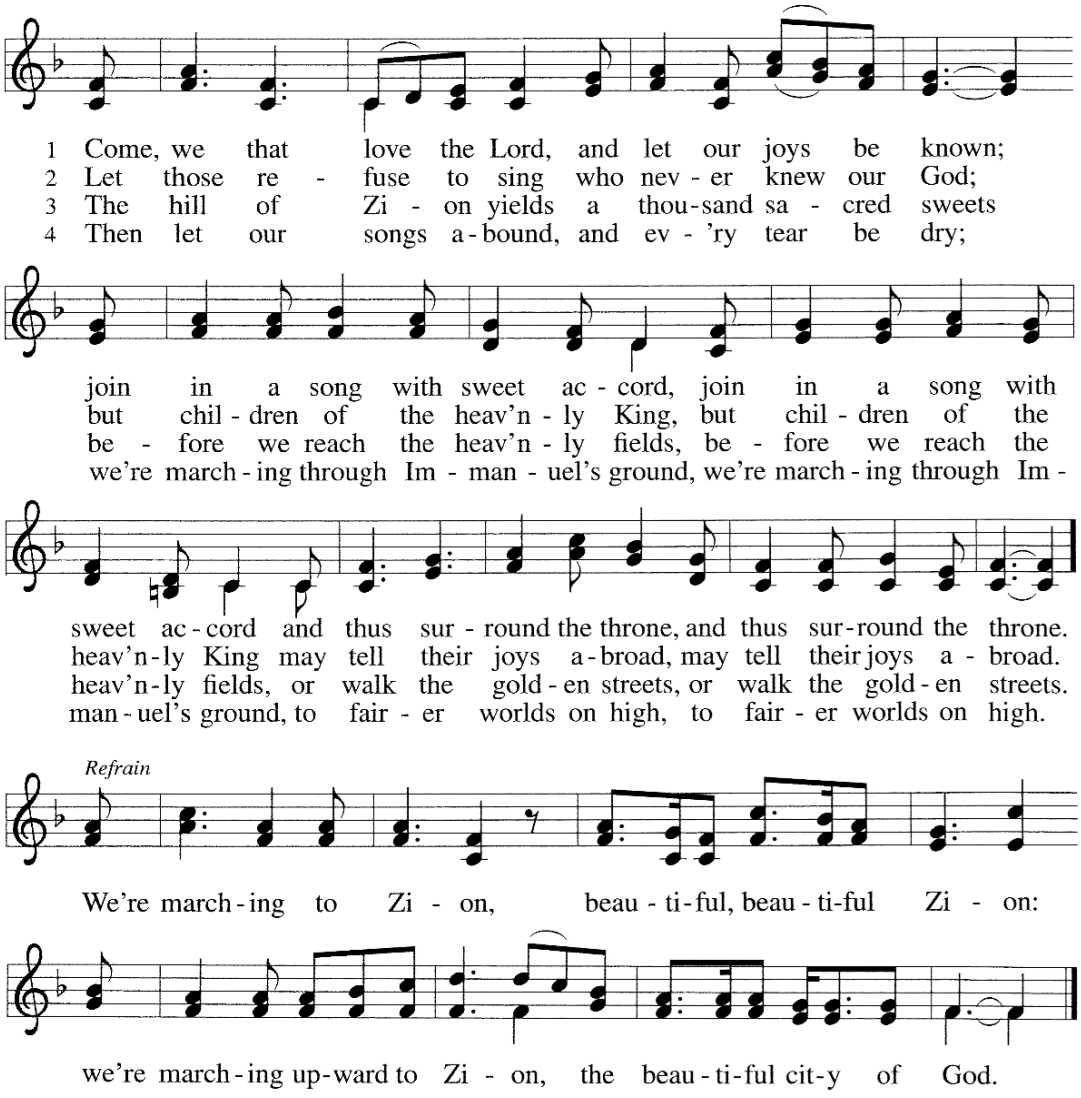
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

You may **KNEEL** *or* **remain as you are**. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are ☩ forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN **"Come We That Love the Lord"** **ELW 625**



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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.
Amen. *Following the prayer, please* **SIT.**

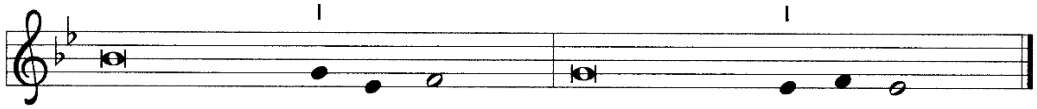
WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM: Psalm 70 *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



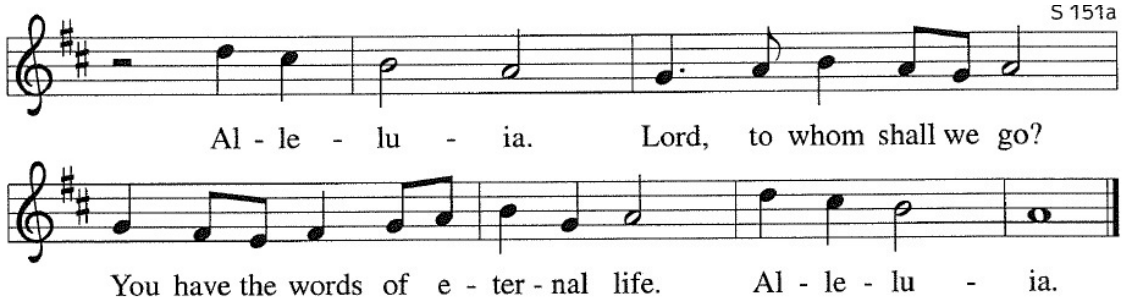
1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and | be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

[13]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. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15]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. [16]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. [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 be with the Lord forever. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly* **STANDS** *to welcome the gospel.*



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to the apostle Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

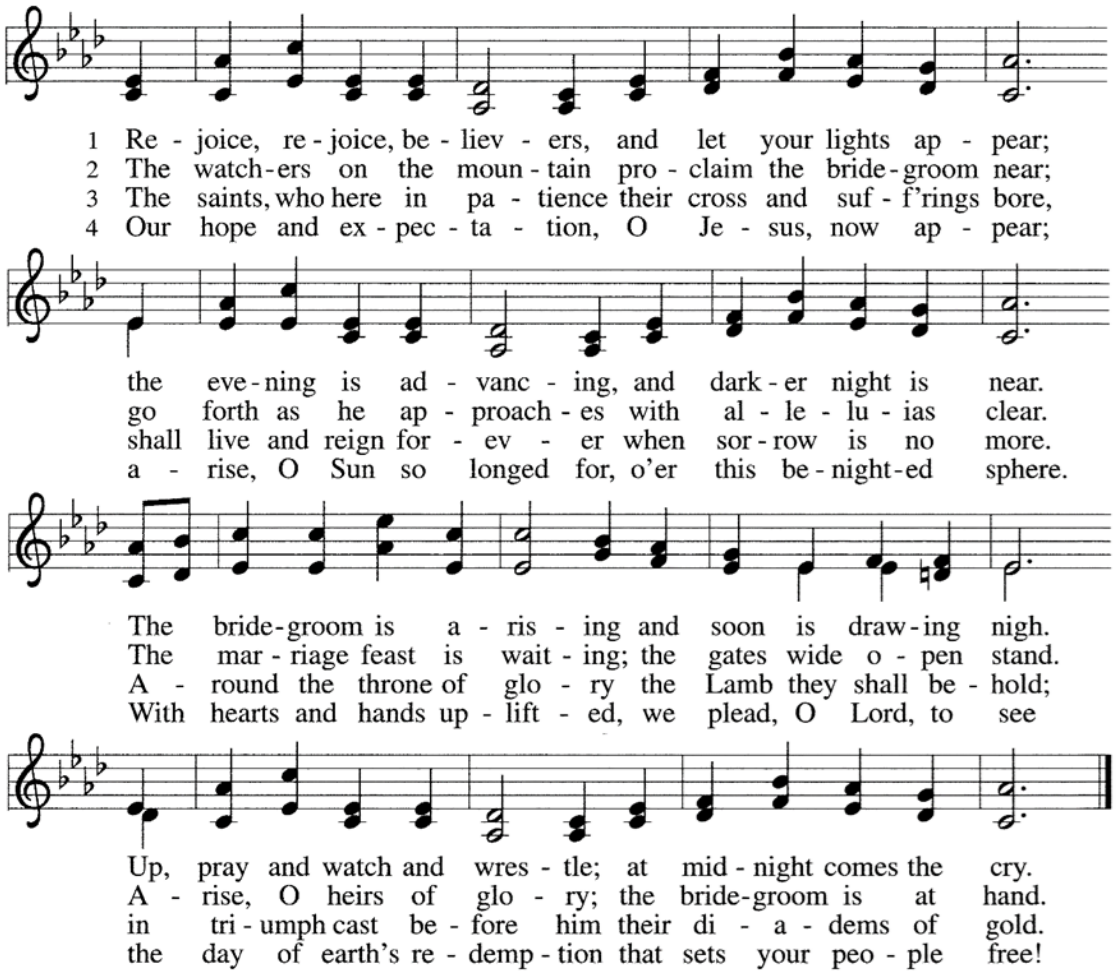
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]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.' [10]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. [11]Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please* **SIT**

SERMON **The Rev. S. Blake Duncan,** *guest preacher*

Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** *to proclaim the word of God in song.*

HYMN OF THE DAY **"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"** **ELW 244**



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 *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "God, in your mercy," is* **"Hear our prayer."**

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Natalie & Cody** Best, **Don** Boatman, **Rob** Buck, **Cindy** Collingham, **Lorraine** Crannage, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage, **Michael** Foppe**, Ola** Fulton**, Mary** Hill**, Morris** Kugler, **Diane** Maes, **Bruce** Martens, **Lucy** Montgomery, **Ron** Neustadt, **Jon** Newton, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Wilma** Shroat, **Cohen** Summers, **Nancy** Tegtmeier, **Carol** Weshinskey**, Gary** Weshinskey, **Cheryl** Whitaker

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following* ***the Peace****, you may be* ***seated*** *for a few moments.*

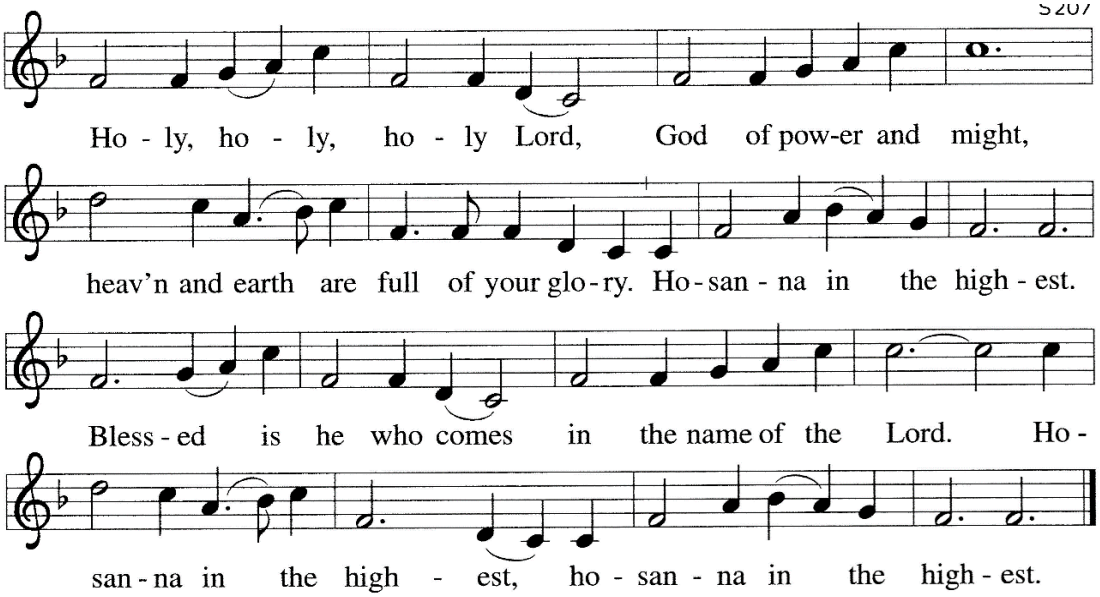
CHOIR ANTHEM *"River in Judea"* *Jack Feldman & Linda Marcus; Arr. by John Leavitt*
Text can be found on the last page of the bulletin

OFFERING *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*
Assistant: Let us pray together…
Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be 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…we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

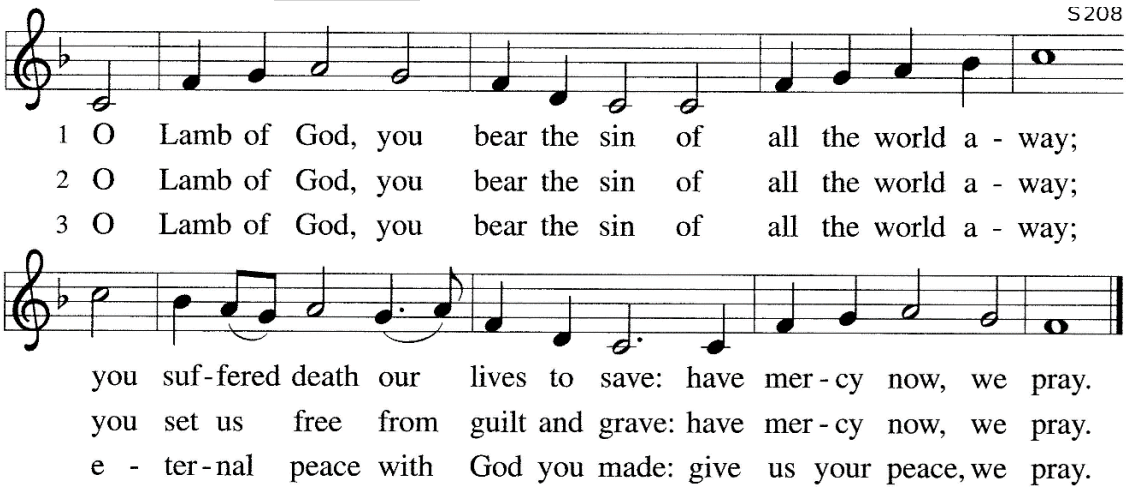
THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

LAMB OF GOD *Please* **SIT**

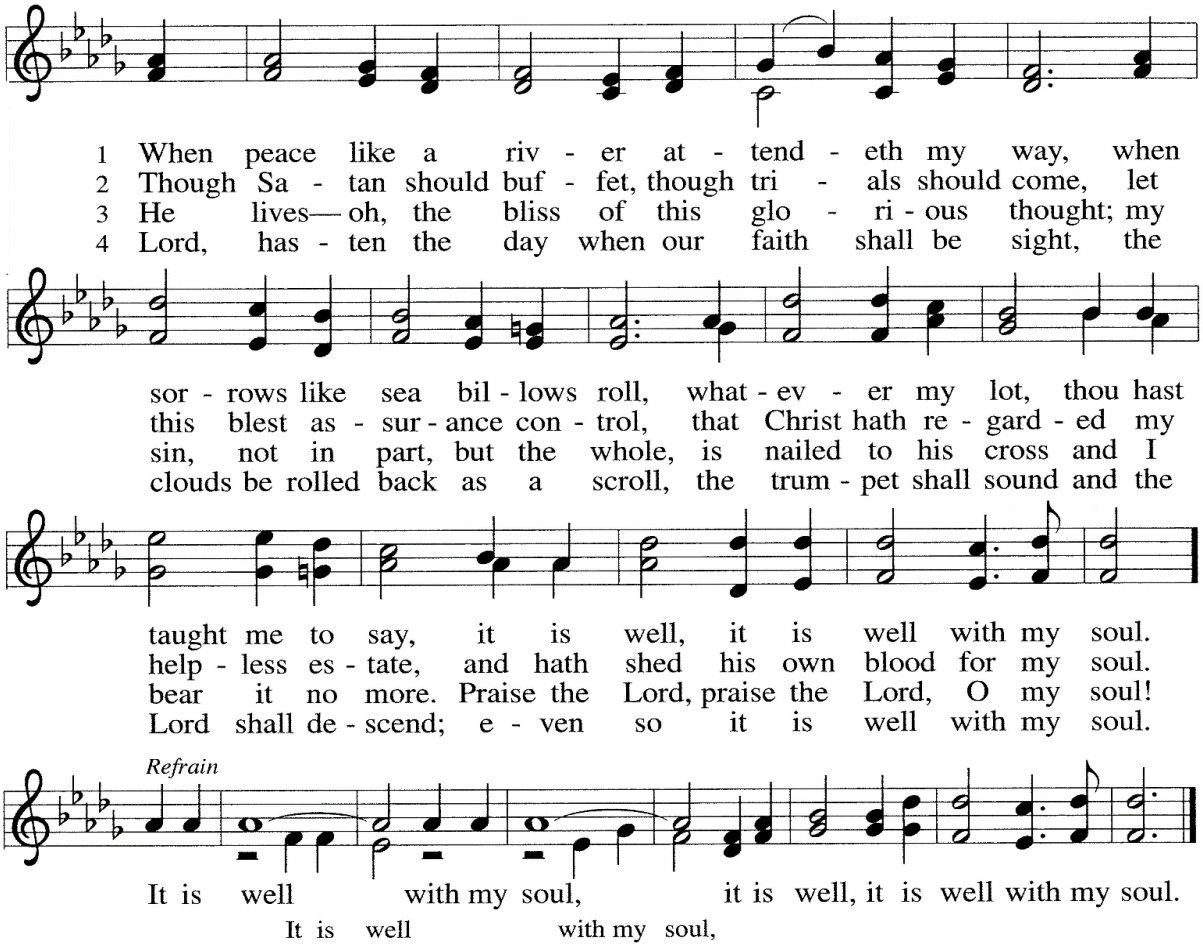


COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***Communion is open to everyone**. In this sacrament, **we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine**. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

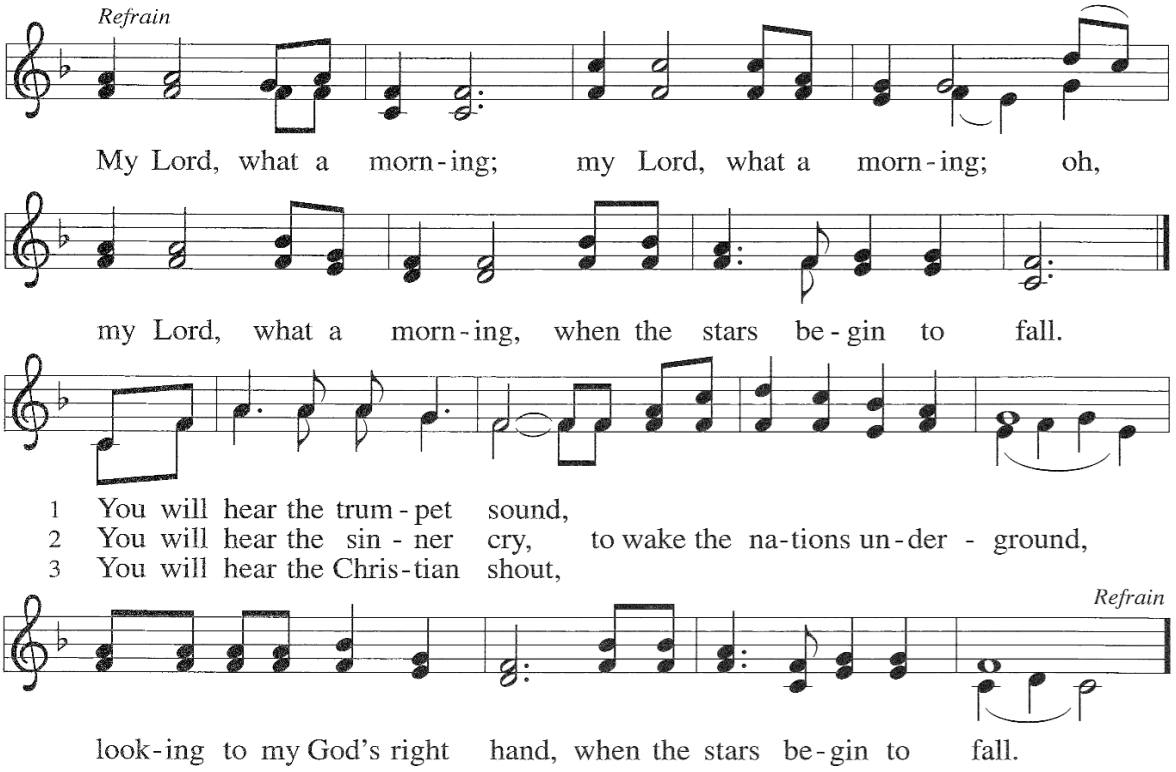
- ✠ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✠ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✠ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✠ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✠ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

COMMUNION HYMNS "When Peace like a River" ELW 785





"My Lord, What a Morning" **ELW 438**



After the distribution is complete, please **STAND** *as you are able for the blessing.*

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together…

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Most Holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

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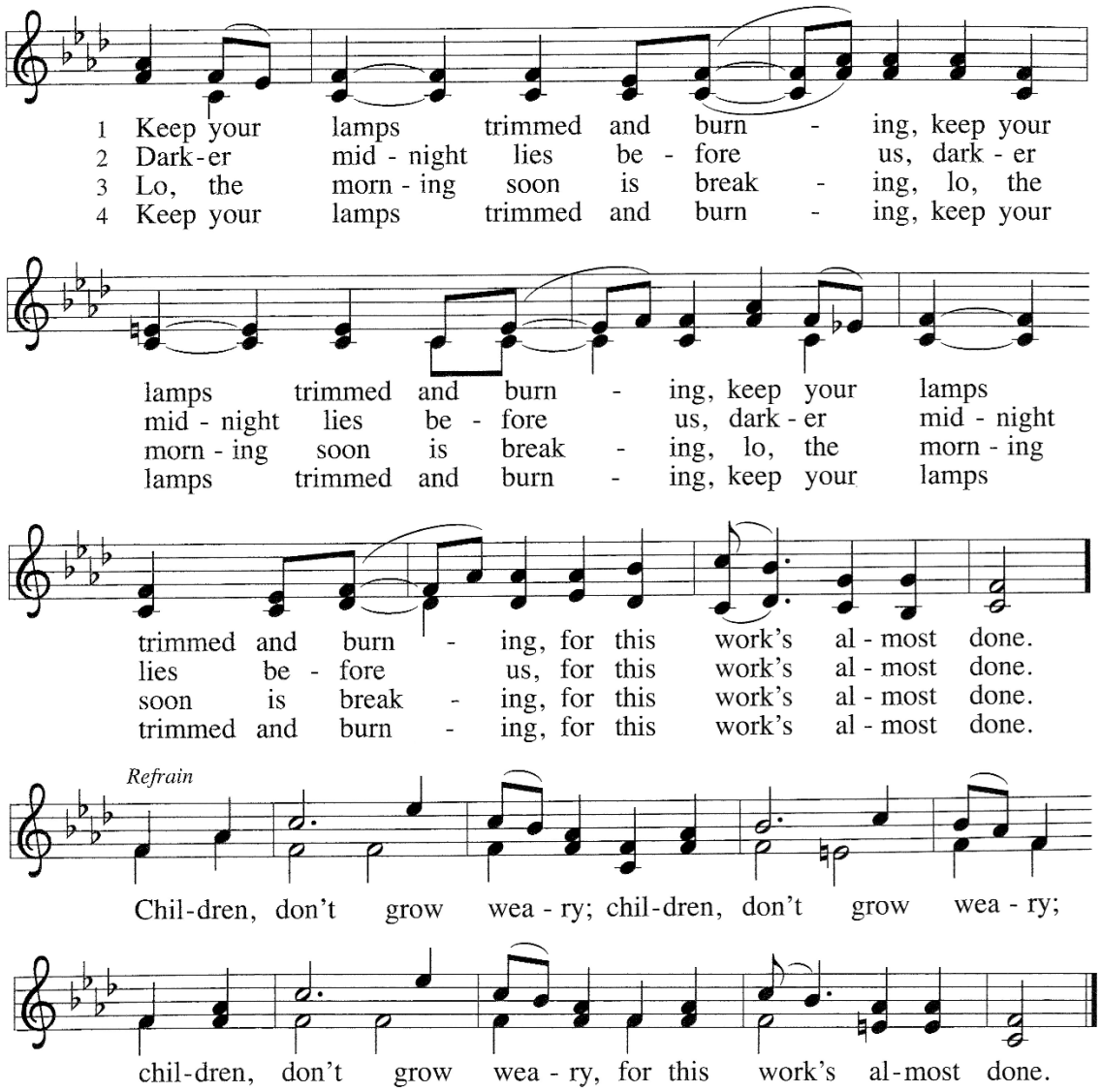
SENDING HYMN **"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed"** **ACS 949**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *"Let's All Give Thanks and Praise"* *R. Williamson*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Guest Presider & Preacher: The Rev. S. Blake Duncan + **Assisting Minister:** Corbin Monfre
Crucifer: Frank Dressel + **Lector:** Aaron Fuchs + **Chalice Bearer:** Tom Partelow
Tech Minister: Greg Martens + **Safety Volunteer:** Missy Kembrell
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Rex Rothgangel & Rick Crosby

Mark Times

News & Notes for the week of November 8, 2026

Wednesday, November 11:	*Office closed for Veterans Day*	
	12:00PM	Ladies Lunch Bunch – Charlie's Place
Thursday, November 12:	4:15PM	Voice Choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – *Parish Hall*
Saturday, November 14:	5:00PM	*Star Trek* Saturday – *see below for location*

Pastor Out of Town

Pastor Brian is taking vacation time **through tomorrow, Monday, November 9,** and possibly extending to part of Tuesday, depending on travel situations. In case of **pastoral emergency**, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier at 785-220-5528**.

Ladies Lunch Bunch THIS Week

The LLB will meet this **Wednesday, November 11** at **12 noon** at **Charlie's Place** (200 Mascoutah Ave., Belleville). **Call Peggy Andersen** at **618-791-0992** with questions**.**

Star Trek Saturday Gathering on November 14 – NEW LOCATION

Attention St. Mark Trekkies and friends! We will gather from across the quadrant **THIS Saturday, November 14** at **5:00PM** at **Mary Hill's home** (**1600 Westhampton Trce**, Belleville). Join us for out-of-this-world adventure and conversation as we enjoy an episode together and note the theological themes within. Wear your costumes if you've got them, and bring a dish to share – fresh or replicated!

Pumpkin Palooza returns NEXT Sunday!



NEXT Sunday, November 15, our eagerly anticipated **pumpkin bake sale** between and after all three services is back, with proceeds to **benefit our combined Food Pantry**. Bake a fall treat and bring before services next Sunday!

Community Dinner Volunteers Needed

St. Mark members have been assisting St. Paul UCC occasionally with their **free Community Dinner on Tuesday evenings**. Over the last several months, the number of individuals attending the dinner has increased. We have been asked to provide **two volunteers** on **1st Tuesdays** to assist their existing team. Volunteers would **arrive at 3:45pm** and **finish about 6:00pm**. No heavy lifting involved! Contact Sherri Foppe at 618 791-6148 or cookinsherri2@gmail.com if you would like to assist once a month or every other month.

Boy Scout Food Drive 11/21

This year's Boy Scout Food Drive is on **Saturday, November 21**. We need **volunteers** to help **sort food** for a couple of hours starting at about **1:30PM.**

GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event on November 21



St. Mark will again offer a one-day, two-hour session of *Surviving the Holidays* to offer support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this holiday season with peace and assurance after the loss of a loved one. Join our special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, November 21** from **1–3 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. The free event includes a video, group discussion, and a Survival Guide. Pre-registration is required at griefshare.org/events/294597

*If you've attended this session previously, please consider attending again; grief and loss affect us differently with the passage of time, and you may benefit from another session in ways you can't anticipate.

St. Mark 50th Anniversary celebration!

St. Mark Lutheran Church turns 50 years old in December, and the anniversary committee has been hard at work planning events! A year of celebration kicks off on **Saturday, December 5 at 10:30AM** with a commemorative **worship service** in the place where it all started: the **Belleville Philharmonic Hall**. A luncheon in our Parish Hall follows. Watch for sign-up sheets and invitations coming soon!

"Angel Tree" Project with Lutheran Child and Family Services (LCFS)

St. Mark and St. George's are again participating in the Angel Tree Project Christmas Drive through LCFS. The project provides Christmas gifts to especially needy families in our area. **Children's names/wish lists with instructions are in the narthex/Canterbury Room.**

Remember, you are not asked to provide everything on the child's wish list—**a $60 limit per child** is recommended. However, we realize that may not be possible for many so please consider asking other members, family members or neighbors to share the joy of Christmas with you!

If you'd rather not shop, monetary donations are welcome.

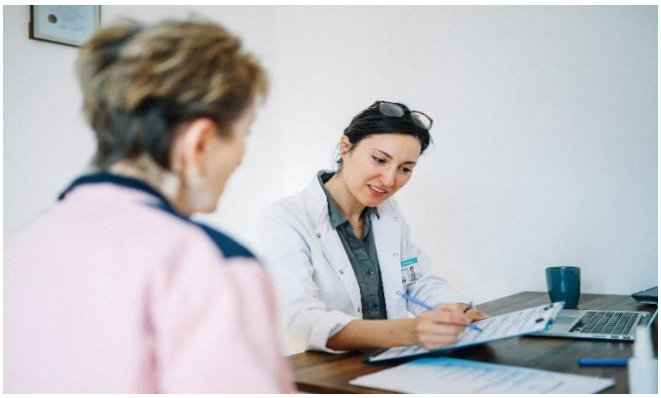
Please return all gifts to church by December 6.



Arby's Fundraiser THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone for dining out at Arby's! We profited **$146.87** from $734.31 in sales. We very much appreciate everyone's participation to help our food pantry!

St. Mark Offerings for 11/1: General Fund: **$4,273.25**; Coffee Fund $56.75;



St Mark Lutheran Church

Parish Nurse Corner

Rebecca Schnitzius RN

November 2026 (Part 1)

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

Diabetes is a chronic health condition that affects how the body processes blood sugar (glucose). Glucose is the body's main source of energy, and insulin — a hormone made by the pancreas — helps glucose move from the bloodstream into cells for energy. In people with diabetes, the body either does not make enough insulin, does not use insulin well, or both. As a result, blood sugar levels rise too high, which can cause serious health problems over time.

Types of Diabetes:

There are several distinct forms of diabetes. Understanding each type helps in recognizing risks and choosing the right path to care:

- **Type 1 Diabetes:** An autoimmune condition in which the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. It is usually diagnosed in children and young adults and requires daily insulin therapy. Type 1 accounts for approximately 5–10% of all diabetes cases. There is no known cause. This type does not produce insulin.
- **Type 2 Diabetes:** The most common form, accounting for 90–95% of cases. The body still produces insulin, but cells respond poorly to it (insulin resistance). It is strongly associated with lifestyle factors such as diet, physical inactivity, and excess weight, though genetics also play a role. Lifestyle changes can help to manage this type of diabetes..
- **Gestational Diabetes:** Occurs during pregnancy when hormones interfere with insulin function. It usually resolves after delivery but increases the mother's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes later in life, and it can also increase health risks for the baby.
- **Prediabetes:** Blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not yet in the diabetic range. Without lifestyle intervention, prediabetes often progresses to Type 2 diabetes. It is estimated that over 96 million American adults have prediabetes — many without knowing it.

Causes :

- Type 1 Diabetes: an autoimmune reaction destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. Symptoms usually appear rapidly, over days to weeks
- Type 2 Diabetes: the body becomes resistant to insulin and/or does not produce enough insulin. Symptoms often develop gradually over years.

Risk Factors for developing Type 2 diabetes and Prediabetes:

- Being overweight or obese
- Physical inactivity
- Poor diet high in processed foods and/or high in sugar
- Family history of diabetes
- Age 45 or older
- High blood pressure or high cholesterol

Signs and symptoms of diabetes:

- Frequent urination, especially at night
- Excessive thirst or dry mouth
- Unexplained weight loss
- Persistent fatigue or low energy
- Blurred vision
- Frequent infections or slow-healing wounds
- Tingling, numbness or pain in hands or feet

Possible complications from uncontrolled diabetes:

- Heart disease and stroke: The leading cause of death among people with diabetes
- Kidney disease: Can progress to kidney failure requiring dialysis
- Nerve Damage: Most commonly affects the feet and legs, causing pain, tingling, or loss of feeling in feet or legs
- Eye damage: A leading cause of loss of vision and blindness in adults
- Foot problems: Poor circulation and nerve damage increase the risk of serious infections with possible amputations
- Dental and gum disease: High blood sugar creates conditions that promptbacterial growth in the mouth
- Mental health challenges: Depression, anxiety, and diabetes distress are more common in people managing a chronic illness

Stay tuned for Part 2: Diagnosis, Management and Prevention



Saturday, November 14, 9:00AM: **Property workday**

Sunday, November 15: **Pumpkin Palooza**

Saturday, November 21, *1-3PM*: **GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays***

Saturday, November 21: **Boy Scout Food Drive**

Sunday, November 29, *10:30AM*: **Congregational budget meeting**

Starting Wednesday, December 2: **Advent soup supper** (6PM) and **Holden Evening Prayer** (7PM)

Saturday, December 5, *10:30AM*: **50th anniversary worship** (Philharmonic Hall)

Noon: **50th anniversary luncheon** (St. Mark Parish Hall)

Sunday, December 13, *5PM*: **Advent Lessons & Carols**



Prayer Intentions

Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Natalie & Cody Best, Don Boatman, Rob Buck, Cindy Collingham, Lorraine Crannage, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Ola Fulton, Mary Hill, Morris Kugler, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Ron Neustadt, Jon Newton, Marilyn Robinson, Wilma Shroat, Cohen Summers, Nancy Tegtmeier, Carol Weshinskey, Gary Weshinskey, Cheryl Whitaker

Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Bert Alvarez, Stellamarie Bearth, John Belz, Jim Boeving, Thomas Boxdorfer, Patty Brennecke, Patrick Campbell, Susan Carson, Christine, Liliam Coleman, Robyn Combs, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Maryann Fernandez, Josh Gansmann, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Goodall, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Glenna Hamilton, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Rachel Knicely, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Bobby McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Lana Perry, Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Larry Powers, Denise Sebastian, James Showmaker, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Tom Stookey, Ingrid Thompson, Gary Timm, Pat Tubbs, Holly Twardowski, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Molly Witherell, Karen Woolf, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Joshua Anthony, Ethan Collins, Tom Fox, Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie, Amy Morgan

Members celebrating birthdays this week

Susan Fuchs (11/11), Anita Robinson (11/14), Mark Sidney (11/14), and Monica Lynch (11/14)

Members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Ann & Greg Martens (11/11)

River in Judea *by Jack Feldman & Linda Marcus; Arranged by John Leavitt*

Oftentimes I dream of music, Of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, One everybody knows.
Late at night, I hear it singing. Then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, The will to go on, Go on.

(Chorus): There is a river in Judea That I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river That my soul cries out To know.

I believe it keeps on trav'lin' But it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.
When I'm weary and downhearted, How I long for the song it sings,
For the calm within its gentle blue, The peace that it brings, it brings. (Chorus)

May the time not be too distant When we meet by the river (meet by the) shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day As we sing once more, once more: (Chorus)

There is a river in Judea (hallelu) That I heard of long ago (hallelu),
It's a singing, ringing river That my soul cries out (my soul cries out)
To the river in Judea. (optional repeat) Hallelujah!!!