Reformation Sunday

10/25/2026

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

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

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

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

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#504 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW#651 "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power" vv. 1-4

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C **gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

L A reading from Jeremiah: [31]The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. [32]It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. [33]But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [34]No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 46

L [1]God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C [2]**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

L [3]though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
C [4]**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

L [5]God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
C [6]**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

L [7]The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
C [8]**Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

L [9]behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
C [10]**"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

L [11]The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

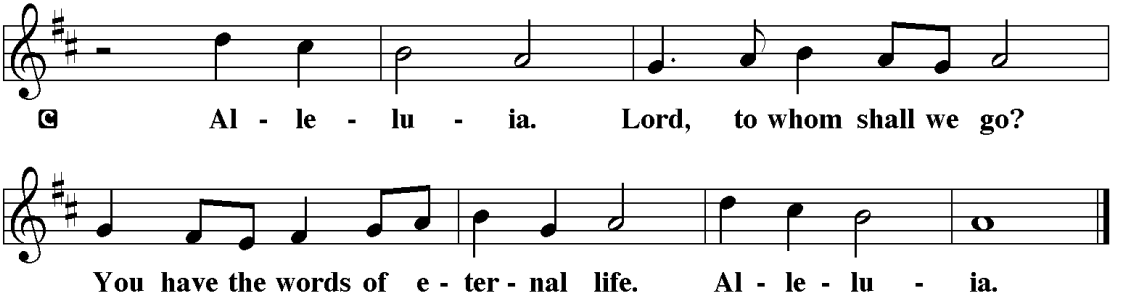
SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

L A reading from Romans: [19]Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20]For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[21]But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22]the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23]since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24]they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26]it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. [27]Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. [28]For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

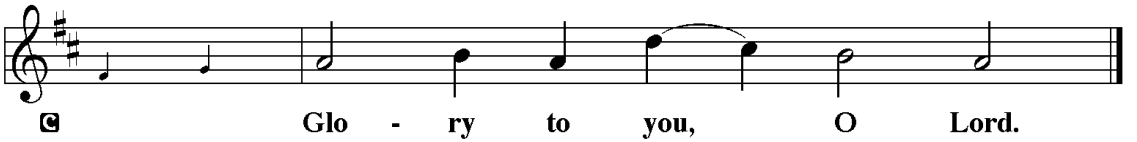
L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



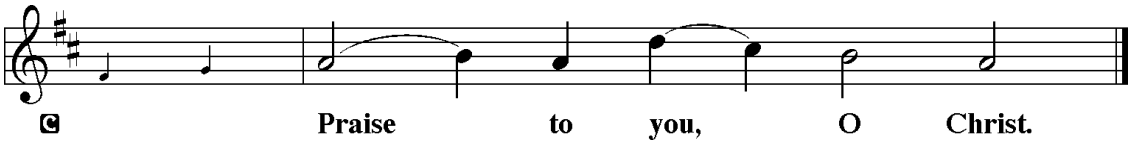
GOSPEL READING John 8:31-36

P The Holy Gospel according to John.



P 31Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you
are truly my disciples, 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you
free." 33They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been
slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" 34Jesus
answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
35The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place
there forever. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#517 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

SERMON: (Sermon Audio Link)

Please stand, as you are able.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

L Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

L As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Kessa Rome, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- For all those affected by war and armed conflict around the world, especially in Iran, Gaza, Ethiopia, Syria, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Myanmar…

- For ongoing protests and demonstrations in France, India, Albania, and Serbia…

- For rescue and recovery efforts in Tibet following an earthquake…

- For all victims of gun violence, especially in Bend and Happy Valley, OR; and Karak, Jordan…

- For elections and political transitions around the world…

- For interfaith cooperation and understanding…

L With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

L Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

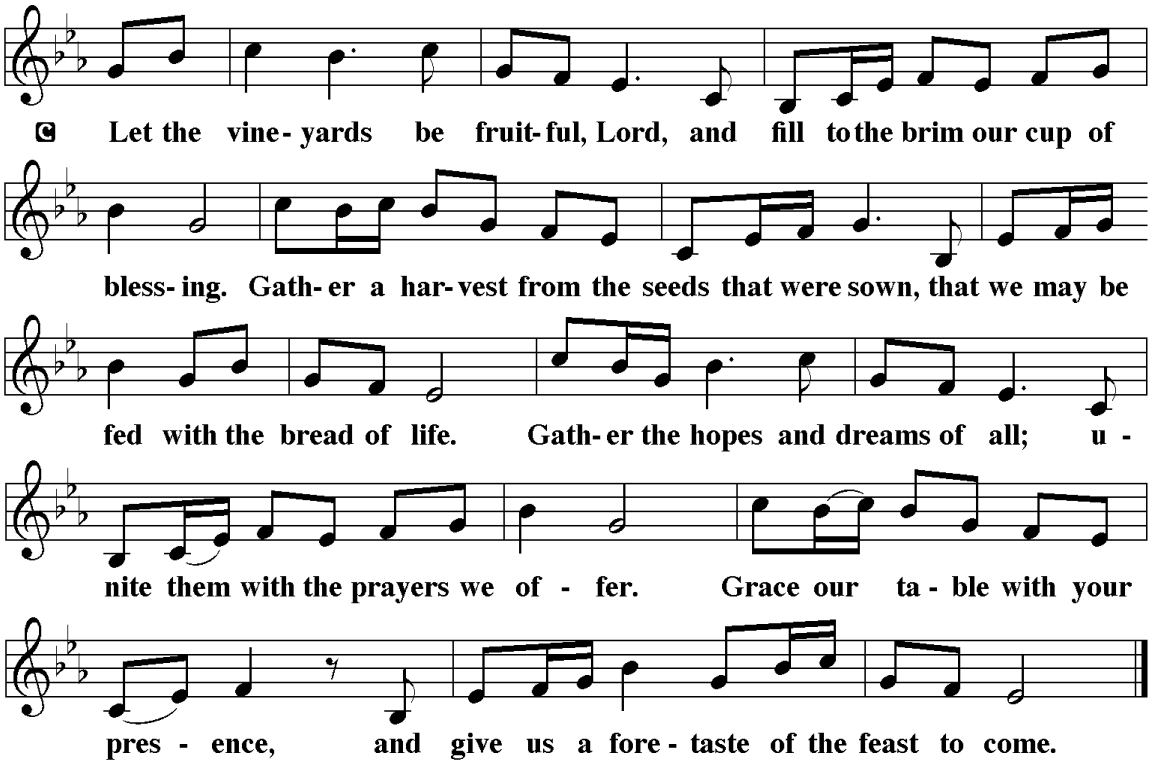
C Amen

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

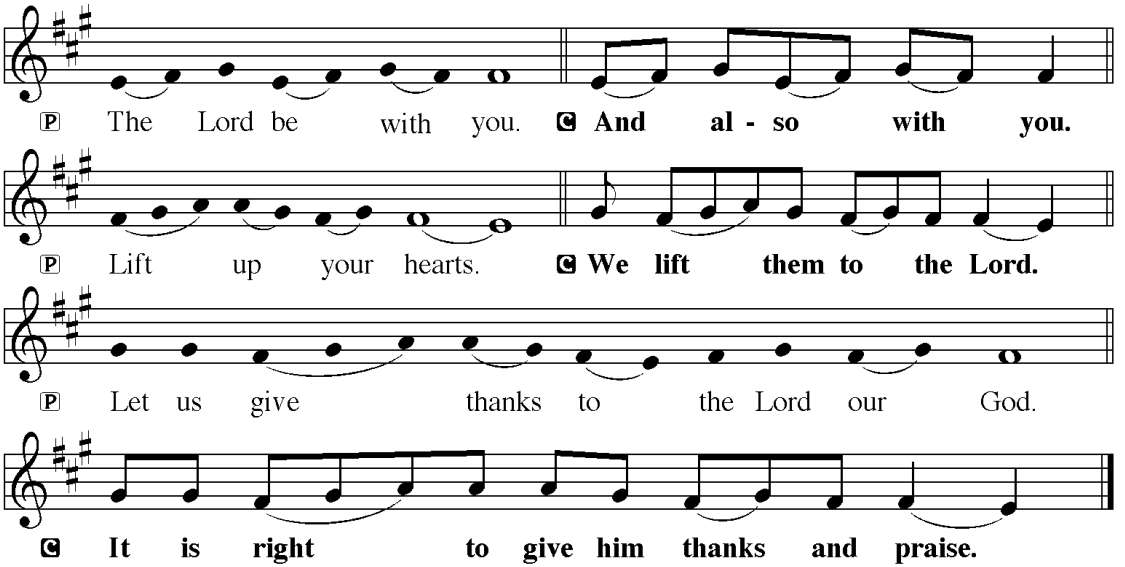
OFFERING*: (On-Line giving Link)

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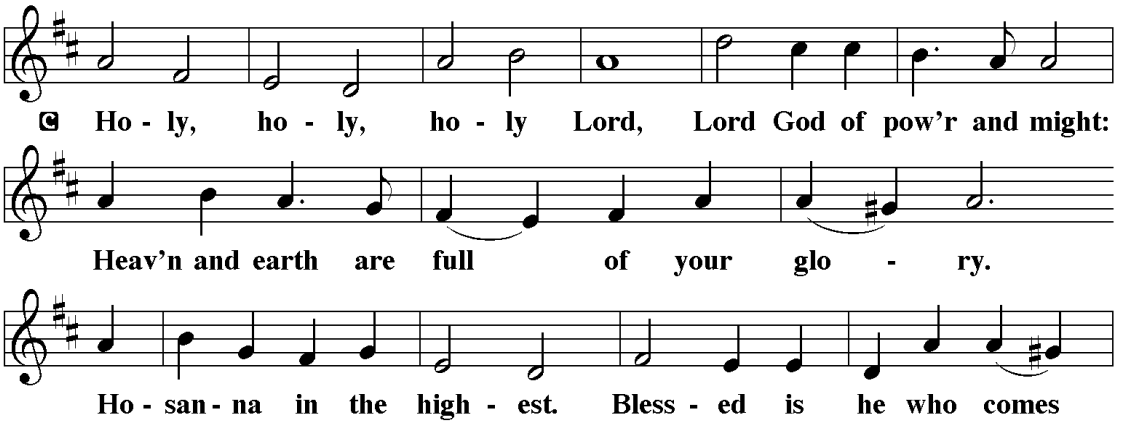


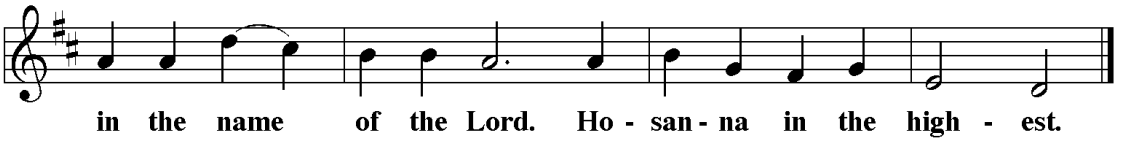
P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:





P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

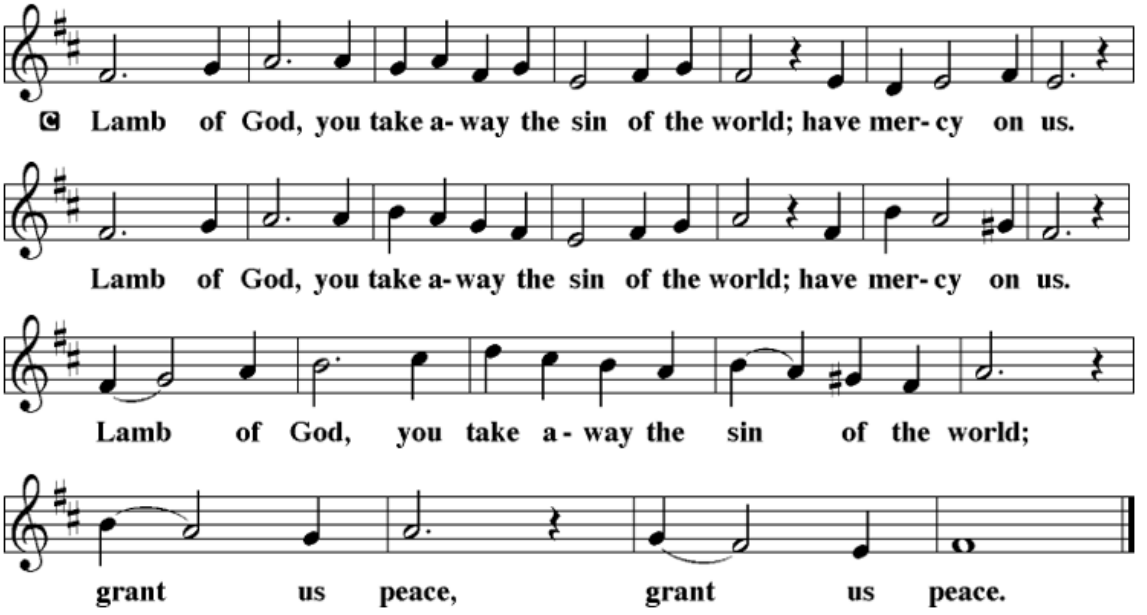
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

C Thanks be to God.

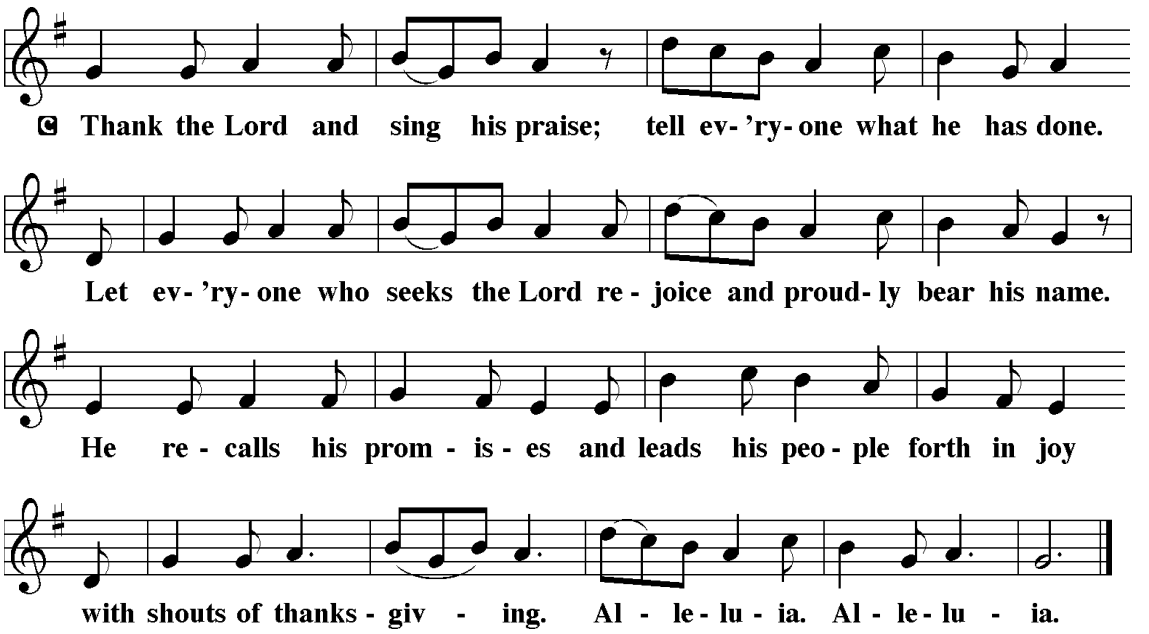
After all have communed, the following is sung:



Please stand, as you are able.

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

C Amen



P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C **you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN ELW#651 "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power" vv. 5-8

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, Oct 27, 10 am – Shock Trauma Presents – Fall Prevention Class at Epiphany – all are welcome
- Sunday, Nov 22, World Hunger Sunday and Annual Congregational Meeting
- Sunday, Nov 29, Opening of the Fontanini Nativity Village
- Saturday, Dec 5, 3:30 pm – Putting up the greens
- Saturday, Dec 5, 5 pm – Family Craft Night
- Sunday, Dec 20, 6 pm – Chocolate and Carols
- Thursday, Dec 25, 7:30 pm – Christmas Even Service

READER SCHEDULE

First Sunday	Heidi and Bob
Second Sunday	Julie and Dave
Third Sunday	Ron
Fourth & Fifth Sunday	Greg

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