

PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS of JOY.

PSALM 16:11

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
NOVEMBER 18, 2018 – 9:00 AM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY as we hear Jesus teaching us about true strength. [Sundays and Seasons]

BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER! We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher, Tom Kearns or David Crouse.

PINK PRAYER CARDS: You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the altar rail for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. <u>Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.</u>

"LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!" Christ Lutheran's Prayer Chain is available daily for prayer for members, friends and family. You may call JoAnn Sallo, chairperson at 201-666-2156 or the church office with your joys or concerns.

HOLY COMMUNION: All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

NURSERY FACILITIES: There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

NEED AN OFFERING ENVELOPE? We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website (www.clc4u.com) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance

Parish Administrator: Doris Crouse

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Open on Sundays: 9:00 and 10:30 am

[For today's worship all portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders. Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type**.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. Source of all life, we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. Forgive us. Reform us. Change us. Help us be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and work to heal your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us. Our sins are forgiven, ₱ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

[Please remain standing as you are able.] **GATHERING SONG** — "Open the Eyes of My Heart" [Words and Music by Paul Baloche] D^5 A/C# O-pen the eyes __ of my heart, __ Lord, _ o - pen the eyes _ of my heart; G²/B G^2 Asus/D Dsus D I want to see You, _ I want to see You. _ D^5 A/C# O - pen the eyes __ of my heart, ___ Lord, __ o - pen the eyes ___ of my heart;_ G²/B G^2 Asus/D 12 D You, _ I want to see I want to see You. G^2 A Bm 16 To see You high and lift - ed up, ____ shin - ing in the light of Your glo -Asus Em11 Bm 20

[Song continues on the following page.]

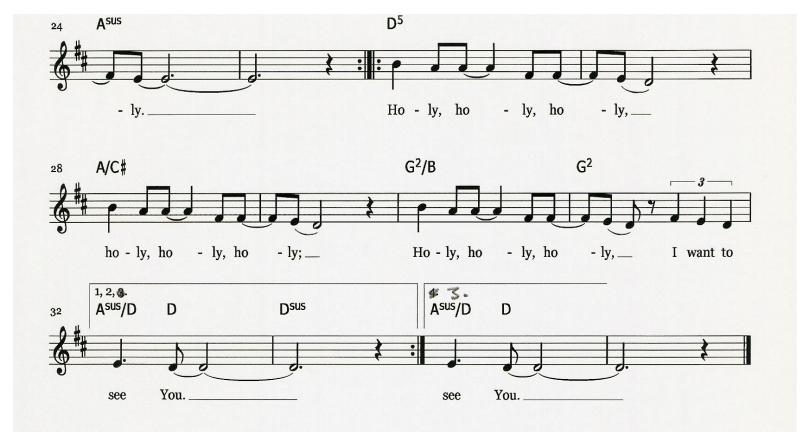
As we sing

ho - ly, ho

- ly, ho-

Pour out Your pow'r and love; ____

- ry. ___



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

Let us pray. Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON [The congregation may sit.]

THE FIRST READING – Daniel 12:1-3

¹"At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

[Please stand as you are able.]

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Mark 13:1-13 Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ²Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished? ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

⁹As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. ¹⁰And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ¹³and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

[The congregation may sit.]

CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

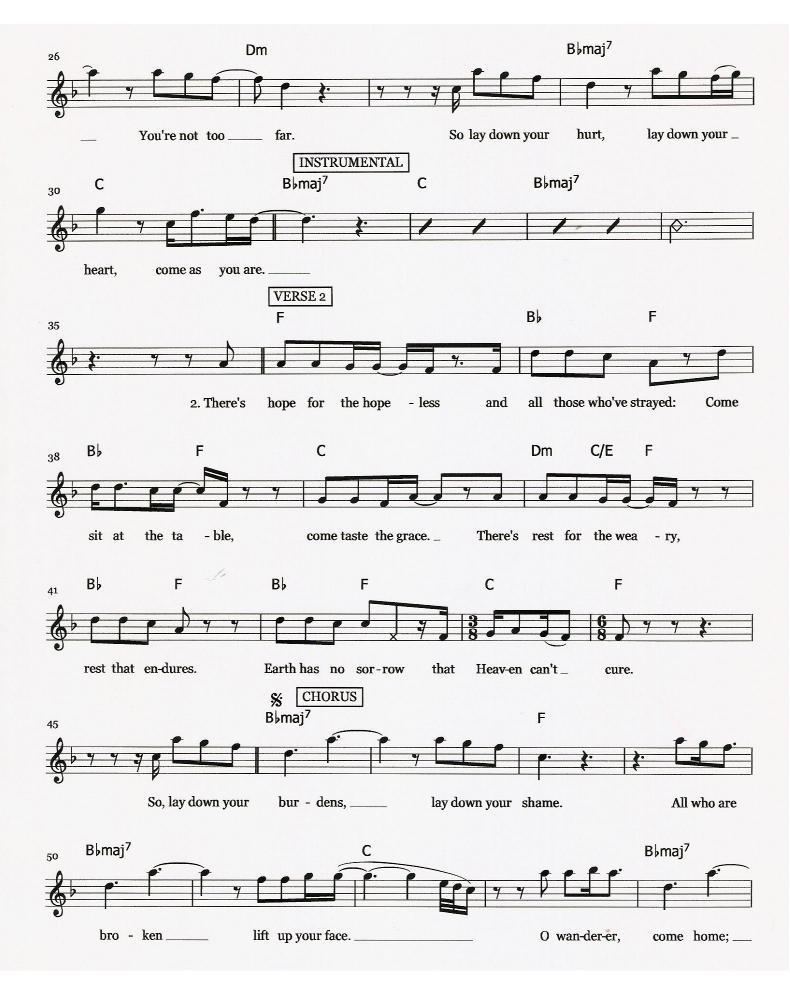
[Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

SERMON - "Worth It"

Words and Music by David Crowder, Matt Maher and Ben Glover



[Song continues on the following page.]





APOSTLES' CREED [Please stand.]

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 THE DAY [Please remain standing.]

Loving God, you teach us to keep nothing from you. We bring to you all our prayers, large and small, those heavy on our hearts and those known only to you.

Gracious God, you made the church through the working of the Holy Spirit, and you provide the assurance of faith through your Son. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, our military chaplains, and our friends in the Upper Pascack Valley Interfaith Clergy Council. Guide us in our proclamation of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You desire peace for the whole world. We pray for Donald, the President; Cory and Robert, our Senators; and Josh, our Federal Representative. Provide refuge for those in harm's way, bring an end to war, and instill in political leaders the radical love for all that comes from you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray to you almighty God, in this time when wildfires tear through communities in California. You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Do not let us fail in the face of these events. Uphold us with your love, and give us the strength we need. Help us in our confusion, and guide our actions. Keep all fighting the fires safe. Grant peace, strength, and mercy to all first responders. Heal the hurt, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver any who are still in peril. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You reveal your compassion through caregivers, advocates, and medical professionals. Heal the sick, deliver the suffering, bind up the brokenhearted, provide shelter for the homeless and food for the hungry. We pray especially for . . .

Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Karin Anderson, Bill Caver, Susan Bachstetter, John Bliefernich, Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy, Elizabeth Danko, Ken Eastlund, Kim Herrera, Mae Hulburt, Jane, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Marie Kober, Julia Kopcso, Camp Koinonia, Kristi, Henry Krumrei, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Sharon Schumann, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar, families of viral outbreak victims at the Wanaque care center

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

STEWARDSHIP: "What I Give"

HOLY COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Come, not because you are perfect but because, through Christ Jesus, you are invited.

[The congregation may sit.]

HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.

At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail.

Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),

followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups.

A chalice with wine is also available.

Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.]

[Please stand.]

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BLESSING

Dear God, thank you for the food we eat and the friends you give us to play with. Help us to remember that everything good comes from you. And, may we bless others like you bless us.

Amen.

BLESSING OF RETAIL WORKERS

Paul writes: Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]

We are pleased, dear God, to honor all who work in retail Cashiers, stock clerks, customer service managers, sales associates, bridal consultants, and buyers are just some of the many job titles we carry or encounter while at the store. People in sales and commerce do more than give us goods in exchange for money. They help everyone buy the items they need to live and thrive. Retail workers connect us to the material items that connect us to each other so that we can live out our call to love and serve each other.

God, you have blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death: Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets; Mary, the mother of our Lord; Peter, James, Mary Magdalena, Phoebe, and all the disciples; and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past, in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

We give you thanks, O God, for those who labor in retail. We ask you to bless the fruits of their work. In times of challenge, bring them wisdom. In times of stress, give them patience. In times of busyness, grant them peace. Give each of them grace to set a good example to all, to be just and true in all their dealings, and to be gracious and generous and courteous toward all. May you, O loving God, help them serve all people in humbleness and love.

May our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you, bless you, and may God's face always shine upon you.

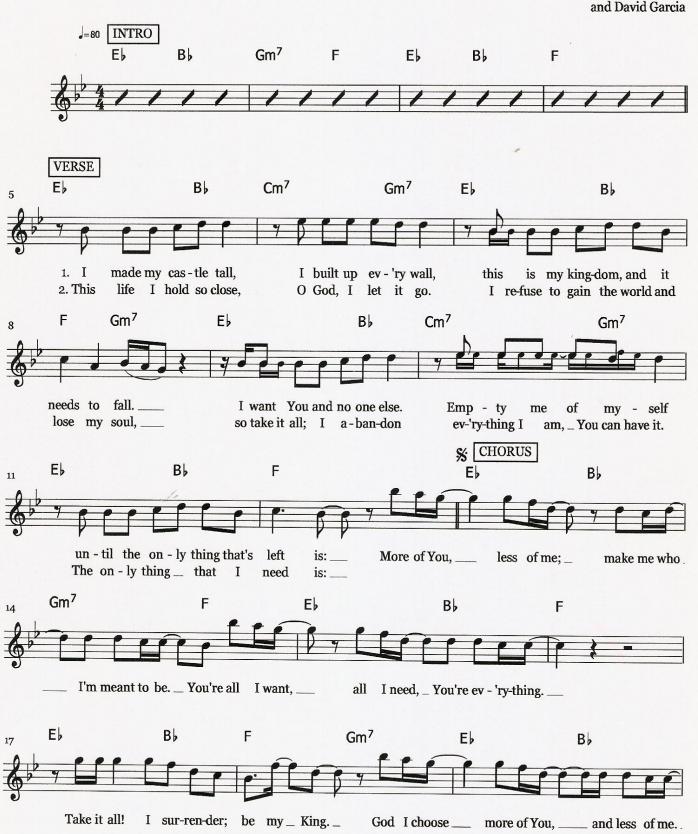
Amen.

And may all of us, in our encounters with those who work in retail, see the face of Jesus, knowing that every one of us is made in the image of the Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

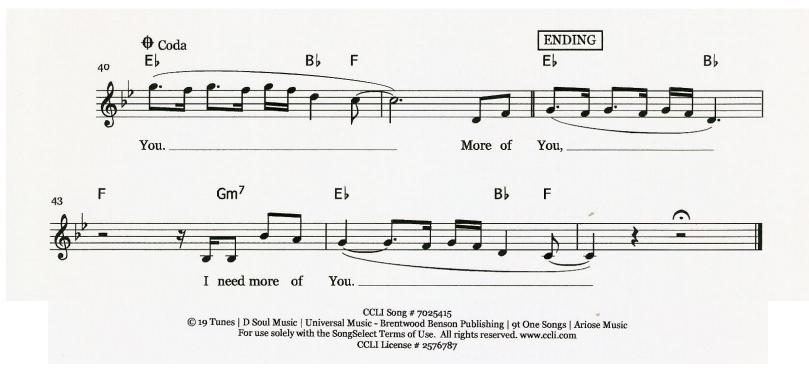
SENDING SONG - "More of You"

Words and Music by Colton Dixon, Ben Glover and David Garcia





[The song continues on the following page.]



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: The Apocalypse

Pastor Marc A. Stutzel

When we hear the word apocalypse, we usually think about the end of the world. We imagine massive wars, incredible natural disasters, and an unbelievable amount of destruction and anguish. The apocalypse is good for comic books and action movies but it's not, typically, something we want to live through. One of the ways we anticipate the apocalypse is by asking the question: "What will the end look like?" But that wasn't a question the bible really spent a lot of time talking about. Instead, the communities who wrote, read and shared these biblical words wanted to know: "What is the meaning of our suffering?" Those who contributed apocalypse stories to the Bible (Daniel, Revelation, and even bits of the gospel according to Mark) were trying to find meaning in "their own struggle and suffering." [Revelation: Interpretation Commentary, page 43]

Today's reading from the book of Daniel is an attempt to find meaning. Daniel is the youngest book in the Old Testament section of our scriptures. The book was set in the years after Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians (in the aftermath of the year 586 BCE) but it was probably written 400 years after that. Daniel was composed at a time when the Jewish community faced severe persecutions from the ruling authorities. Judaism was outlawed and Torah scrolls were burned. Religious rites were abolished and children were discouraged from gaining the marks that defined them as part of the Jewish community. Rabbis and students were persecuted and killed. The Jewish community, especially the one centered in Jerusalem, tried to make sense of their suffering. The book of Daniel was a response to that suffering and today's text is the beginning of the final scene of Daniel's four visions of the apocalypse. But it's not a vision of the end. It's a vision of a new beginning.

Daniel's vision of the afterlife is less about details of "what" happens and, instead, is centered in hope. Daniel doesn't try to mask the seriousness of suffering, pain, sadness and fear. He doesn't say that what we experience in our life is, somehow, "less real" than it is. Instead, Daniel acknowledges that life can be hard and that following God is not always easy. Our faith requires us to sometimes say "no" to the ways the world tries to turn us from God, each other, or call to love the world. There can be a deadly consequence for that "no." But the world doesn't define our value or worth; only God can. And through the Spirit and our relationship with Jesus, we are defined by that connection to the divine. This connection is what gives us a new sense of purpose, love and hope. This connection is what, today and always, gives us life.