

St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Service of Word & Prayer in Honor of Veterans

November 11, 2026

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Jesus to all the veterans and families who are with us. Thank you for your service. Whether you are a member of St. John's or joining us for the first time, please know how grateful we are for your presence.

Today is an opportunity to pause, to remember, and to give thanks. Through scripture, prayer, and song, we honor those who have served our nation and ask God's blessing upon them. May this time together be a source of encouragement, gratitude, and peace.

PRELUDE

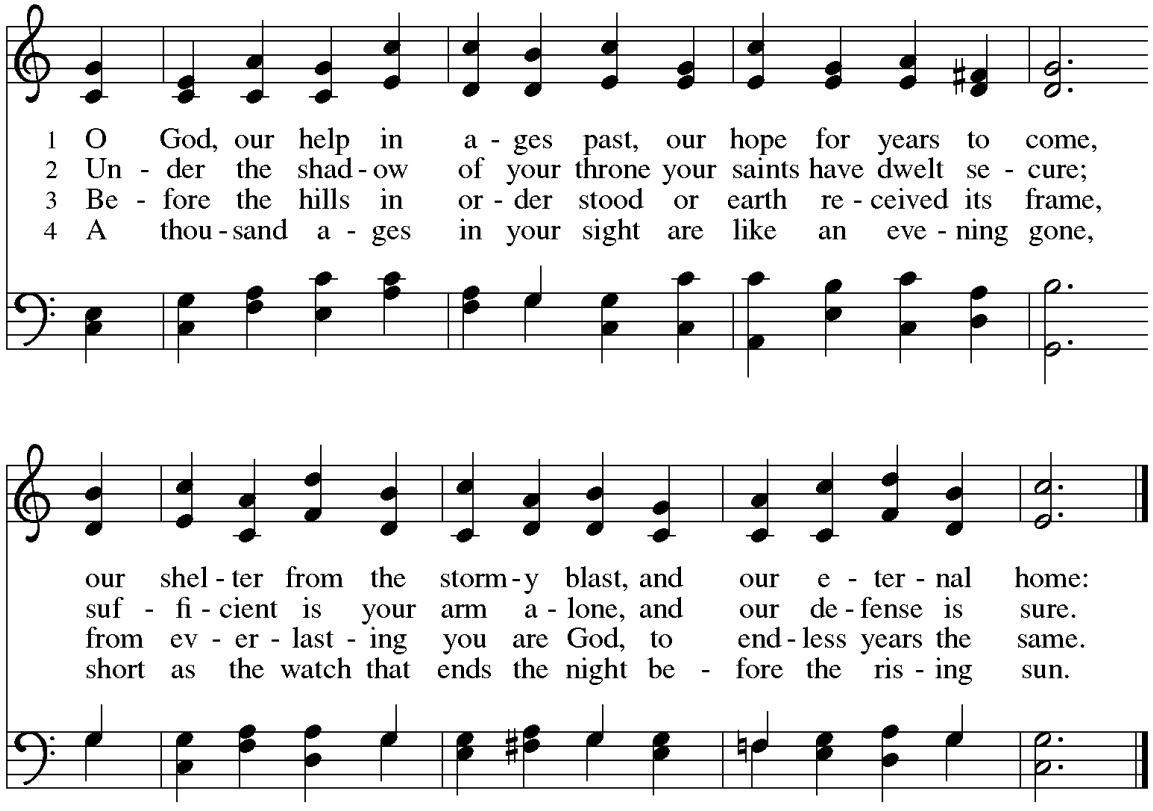
Sonata I – Purcell

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.**

GATHERING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past ELW 632



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. We honor their courage, sacrifice, and faithful service, and we remember with gratitude those who have given their lives. Bless all veterans with your gracious care and keeping. Grant healing to those who bear wounds of body, mind, or spirit; comfort those who carry the burdens of their service; and surround them and their families with your abiding presence. Guide us all in the ways of justice, reconciliation, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: MICAH 4:1–4

A reading from Micah.

[1] In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's temple
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
[2] and many nations shall come and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
[3] He shall judge between many peoples
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more;
[4] but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

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

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:31–39

A reading from Romans.
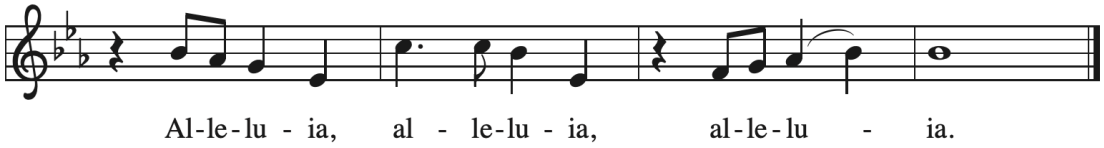
31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not
withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?
33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is
Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for
us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or
nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced
that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: JOHN 15:9–17

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you
will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said
these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
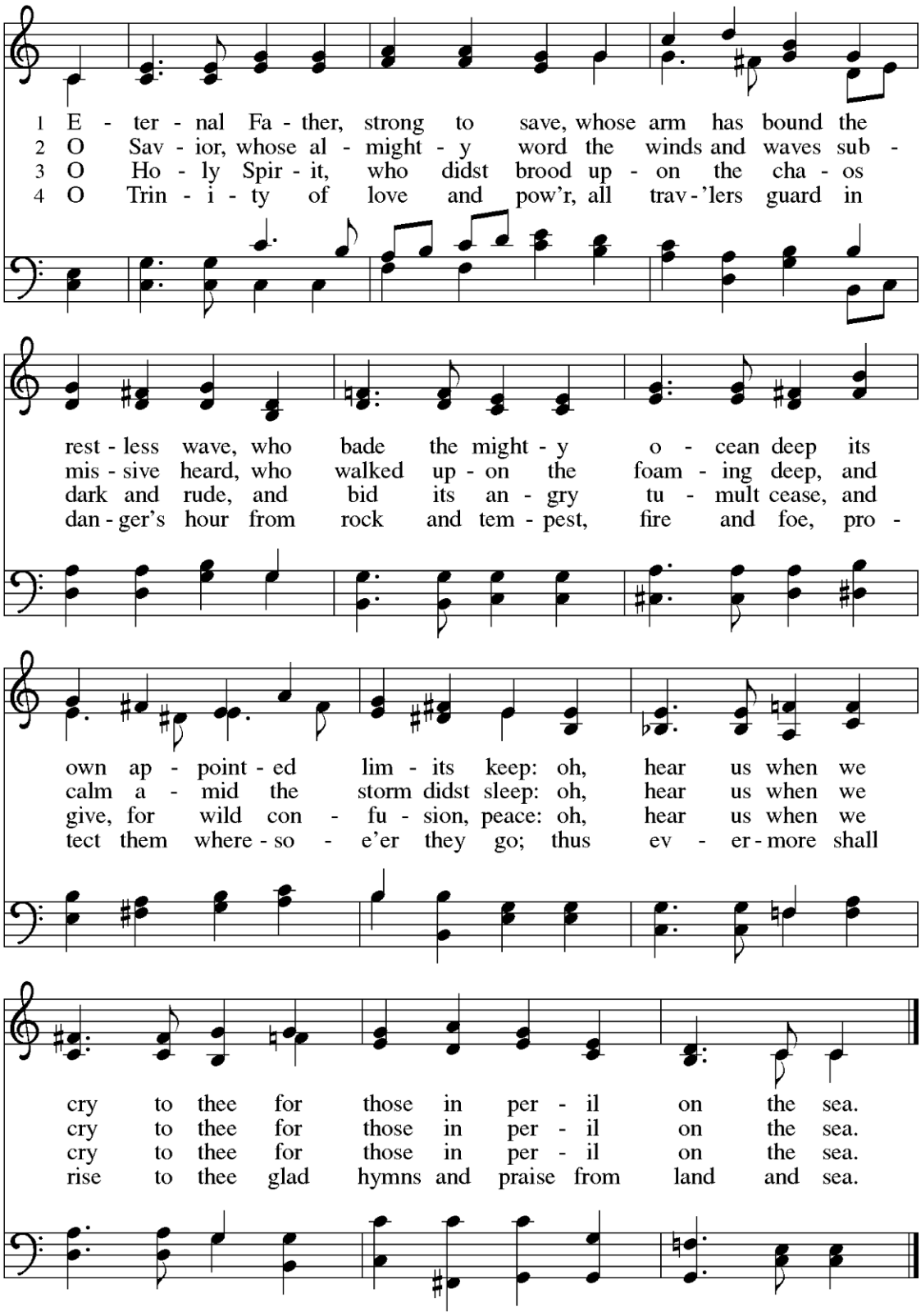
12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love
than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I
do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I
have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.
16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so
that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so
that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* ELW 756



RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

A Prayer for the United States Army – Veterans, stand as you are able.
Almighty God, our refuge and strength, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served in the United States Army. We remember with gratitude their courage, sacrifice, and devotion to the welfare of others. Be near to those who carry the wounds and burdens of their service, and grant them healing, peace, and strength for the days ahead. Guide all who serve today in the ways of justice, compassion, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the United States Navy – Veterans, stand as you are able.
Eternal God, whose Spirit moved over the waters at creation and whose Son calmed the raging sea, we give you thanks for all who have served in the United States Navy. We remember those who have sailed far from home, endured the perils of the sea, and given their lives in service to others. Grant your abiding presence to all who serve upon the waters, comfort those who wait upon the shore, and bring healing and peace to all veterans; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the United States Marine Corps – Veterans, stand as you are able.
Gracious God, you are our strength in times of trial and our hope in every adversity. We give you thanks for the men and women of the United States Marine Corps, for their courage, steadfastness, and willingness to serve. Remember especially those who have endured the hardships of battle and those whose lives have been forever changed by their service. Strengthen the bonds of fellowship among them, heal their wounds, and grant them the peace that only you can give; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the United States Coast Guard – Veterans, stand as you are able.
Lord God, you are the refuge of all who call upon you and the guardian of those in danger. We give you thanks for the men and women of the United States Coast Guard, who have served upon our seas, rivers, and shores. We remember with gratitude their vigilance, their courage in the face of storms, and their dedication to saving lives. Bless those who have served, comfort those who mourn, and sustain all who continue the work of rescue and protection; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the United States Air Force – Veterans, stand as you are able.
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, whose glory fills the skies, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served in the United States Air Force. We remember their dedication, courage, and sacrifice, and especially those who have lost their lives in service. Watch over all who take to the skies, sustain those who serve upon the ground, and grant healing and rest to veterans who bear the burdens of their service. May your peace guide their hearts and your presence remain with them always; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

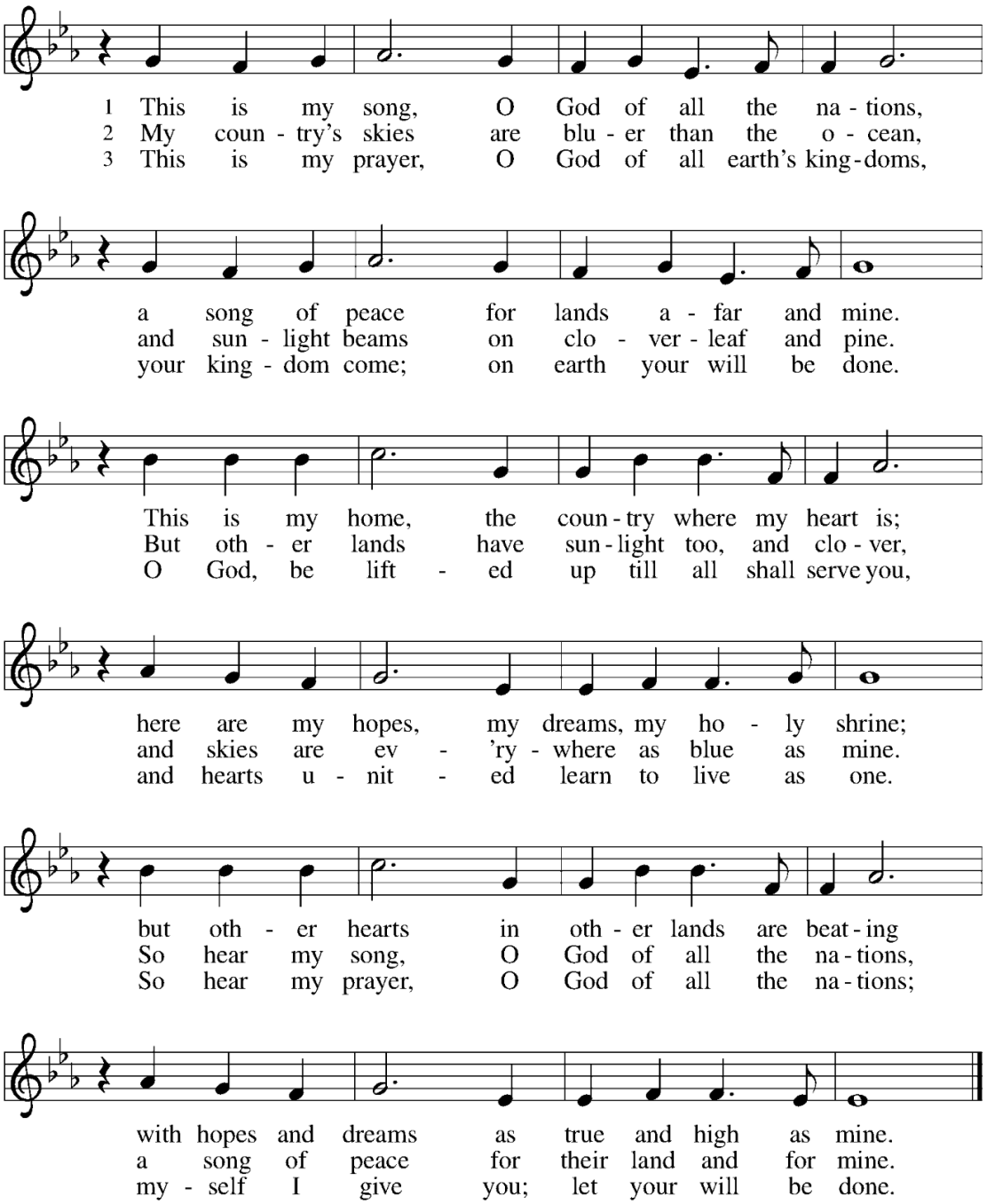
For everything there is a season.
A time for war and a time for peace.
A time for every activity under heaven.
For a season of life you gave up freedom to become a servant.
For a season of life you put the lives of others before your own.
For a season of life you sacrificed for the sake of others.

Your season of military service is complete,
yet your life in Christ knows no end.
In baptism Christ claimed you as his own
and grafted you into his servant body.
The burdens you carried in military service,
and those you carry now,
are not far from Christ but are taken by our Savior to the cross.
They are swallowed up in his death,
and you are raised with Christ to resurrection life.
We give thanks to God for your season of service
and for your life in Christ among us today.

May the One who gave you the will
to deny yourself, sacrifice, and serve,
bless you with faith, hope, and love all your days,
in the name of the Father, the ✢ Son,
and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING

This Is My Song ELW 887



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve your neighbors, honor one another, and work for justice and peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Concerto in D – Teleman

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