## **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA**

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00
16 NOVEMBER 2025

# THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

## We are followers of Jesus, seeking God's justice, peace, and grace in personal and common witness.

Our hope each Sunday is to go out of God's house with good courage into our diverse jobs and obligations—with family, civil society, government, business and education. We pray for the peace and well-being of all peoples. The Gospel calls us wherever we are to use our time and talents for others and for the common good.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Prayer leader: Yanis Eberhart

Reader: Jonathan Mtata, Belinda Mziray

Altar care: Clare Duran

Assisting ministers: Tara Brandenburger, Simran Goraya,

Jameson Kiologwe, Naomi Mungure

Ushers: Lydia Liu, Naomi Mungure

Church school: Marc de Chassey, Pia Hannewald, Kiki Lawal, Ritu Suna

Offering counters: Johnny Camaddo, Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

Flowers: Rumiko Jaussi

Videographers: Ray Woodcock, Breanna Ndwiga

## Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

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pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch www.genevalutheran.church Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost + 16 November 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Aoteroa/New Zealand, Australia* 

Welcome

Song

Not Afraid

by Maverick City Music Sung by Olivia Anderson, Yanis Eberhart, Simran Goraya, Bryce Morrison, Anotidashe Mtata, Jonathan Mtata, Naomi Mungure, Nanah Naing'olah

> I found a freedom worth fighting for I have a reason to sing a song Yeah, I got a freedom worth dying for And that's Jesus

I'm not afraid of the dark, 'fraid of the darkness
Everywhere that I walk, I pray to God
Who would've known?
Who would've known He would talk to me?
Took the time to walk with me, opened my eyes, now I can see

Everything's gon' be alright Joy is coming in the morning light Oh, weeping may endure for a night

Greeting

Bryce Morrison

Hymn (stand) Christ, from whom all blessings flow

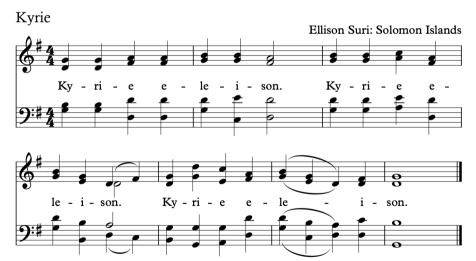


Call to Prayer (sit)

## Prayer of Confession

It would be a lot easier, gracious God, if we were all loving, gentle, and wise, whole in body, mind, and spirit, serving you and those you love with one heart.

But we confess we are not free from our own preferences, from our own gnawing resentments, from our own selfish wants. The stranger is not always welcomed. The difficult are too often ignored. Connections can easily fray with hurts repeated or strengths ignored. Lifting each other up can become a burden with the joy draining away. In your mercy, turn us to each other so we embrace each other in your love, suffering together, rejoicing together, falling together, picking each other up, laughing together in the faithful folly of trying to follow the way of the cross of Jesus Christ, leading to life full and free.



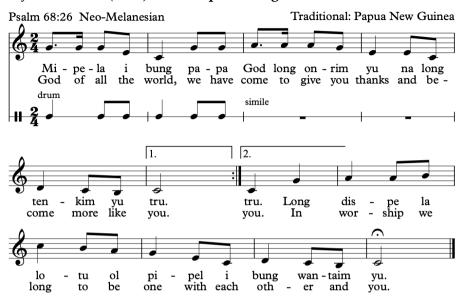
Music © 1996 Ellison Suri, Church of Melanesia, P.O. Box 19, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Lord have mercy.

## Words of Forgiveness

## Hymn of Praise (stand)

## Mipela i bung



© The Asian School of Music, Worship and the Arts, P.O. Box 10533 Broadway Centrum, Quezon City 1112 Philippines. English © Fred Kaan, © Stainer & Bell, P.O. Box 110, Victoria House, 23 Gruneisen Road, Finchley, London N3 1DZ, England.

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Epistle Reading (sit)

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one Spirit

we were all baptized into one body—

Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—

and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is,

God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body,

but the members may have the same care for one another.

If one member suffers,

all suffer together with it;

if one member is honored,

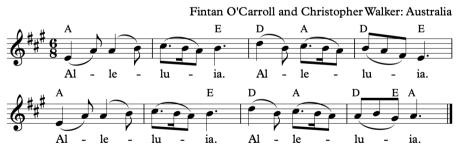
## all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia (stand)



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Gospel Luke 5:17-26

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 5. *Glory to you, O Lord.* 

One day, while [Jesus] was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem were sitting nearby, and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a stretcher. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your stretcher and go to your home." Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saving, "We have seen incredible things today."

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

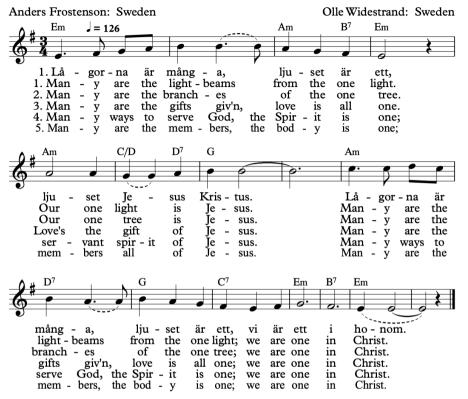
Alleluia

Sermon (sit)

Olivia Anderson, Yanis Eberhart, Simran Goraya, Bryce Morrison, Anotidashe Mtata, Nanah Naing'olah

#### Hymn

## Many are the light-beams



Music © Olle Widestrand, Kälkbacksgatan 1, S-554 46 Jönköping, Sweden. Swedish © AF-Foundation Hymns and Songs/Verburn, S-104 65 Stockholm, Sweden. English © Estate of David Lewis, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7HL, England.

## 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 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. Prayers of Intercession (sit)

God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Peace (stand)

The peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you.* 

Gathering of Gifts (sit)

Knocking on your front doorstep Music by Jonathan Mtata

Knocking on Your front doorstep I've
Been trying to find a way to be set but
My Lord, my soul can't take it I'll
Be running from the start to my death I
Don't know what's going on
All these times is flowing on
All these sins are growing on me

Refrain: But God, your faith still covers me You've been looking like redeemer Your love is comforting I've been searching for some peace I, been looking, searching, finding Ways to be your one from ninety To be the one you saved And to be the one to Praise you Lord.

2. I know that God has been watching you
Hiding in the shadows maybe true
You gotta keep up looking for Him too
Till the day that He finds you
I don't want to waste my days
I just want to take Your ways
I just want to say I'm found
Be able to say
Mwari mati sei
(God, what did you say)

Almighty God
Lord of my heart
Take away the sins in path
Break away the chains I have on
I have on

## Refrain

Remember that God is watching you I don't want you to fall back through Lord I need You to be my guide I don't want you to leave my side Remember Remember
That God is here

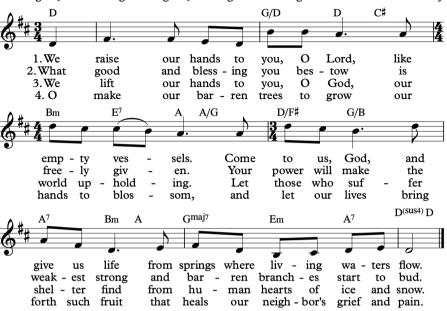
## Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.

You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.

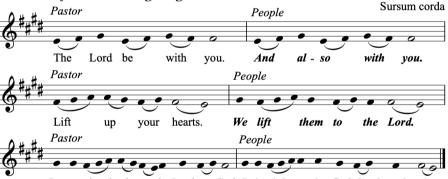


## Offertory (stand) We raise our hands to you, O Lord

Norwegian, Svein Ellingsen. English, Hedwig T. Durnbaugh Trond Kverno: Norway



## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

#### Words of Institution

## Remembering

At this the table of Jesus Christ,

we remember that as we eat this bread, we become his body.

As we drink this wine, we become his blood.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

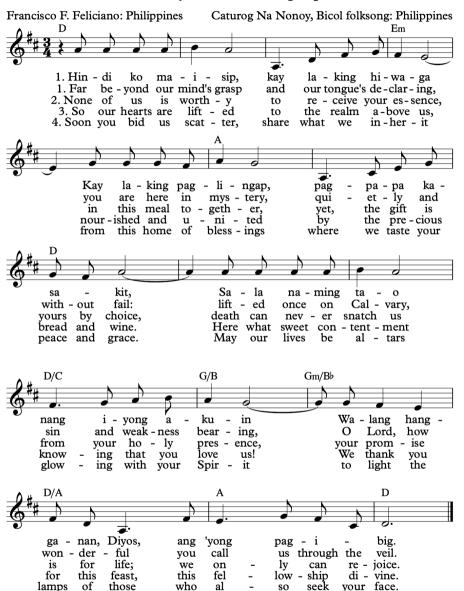


#### Communion

All are welcome for communion. We gather around the table. Take any empty space. You will receive the bread. Then choose a cup: dark cup for receiving wine or a lighter cup for grape juice. When you have drunk, place the used cup on the next tray. Sisters and brothers, come, let us receive the gifts of God together.

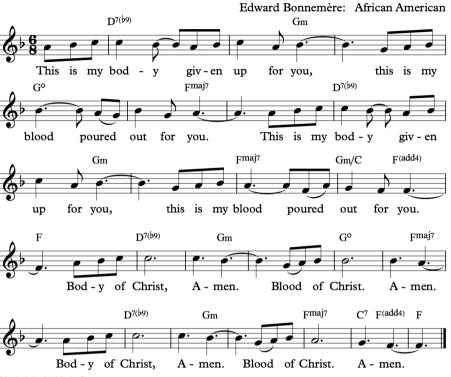
## Songs during Communion

## Far beyond our mind's grasp



Words and Music arrangement, Francisco F. Feliciano. English, James Minchin. © Asian Institute of Liturgy and Music, Manila, Philippines

## This is my body

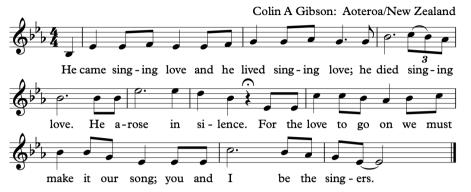


Music © Amity Music Corp.

## I will live for you alone



## He came singing love



English and Music © 1994 Hope Publishing Company.

- 2. Faith replaces love.
- 3. Hope replaces love.
- 3. Peace replaces love.

Sending Forth (stand)

## Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements (sit)

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Thank you...

... to our congregation's young adults' group for all their work in planning, preparing, and leading today's worship service!

## Congregational Assembly - Sunday 23 November

Our annual year-end assembly will take place in person following worship next Sunday, 23 November. During the meeting, we will adopt a budget for 2026 and elect a nominating committee for new members of the church council.

Assembly materials were sent to all members by email this past week. If you did not receive the message or would like a hard copy of the assembly reports sent by post, please contact the church office. For those unable to attend in person, it will be possible to attend via Zoom—a link will be sent out this coming week. Members, please plan to attend—your voice is important, and we need at least 50 members for a quorum.

#### Stewardship for 2026: Sustained by One Spirit and Many Gifts

We are currently in the midst of our annual fall stewardship campaign, reflecting on the bounty of our combined gifts and talents. In worship, we are reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians and considering the rich array of gifts in our faith community. What are the gifts that God has given to you? What are the gifts from our community that sustain you?

We are now encouraged to offer our estimates of giving for the coming year. Giving forms are available to take with you this morning; these will also be sent by email this coming week. Please take this step of participating in our ministry in an intentional way in the year ahead.

## **Nursery Care Available for Young Children**

Nursery care is available during worship on Sunday mornings for children age 3 and under. Two paid staff—Simone Lange and Beatrice Tarimo—will alternate weeks working in the nursery from 11h00 to 13h00. Children are always welcome in worship, but for families who wish, this option will now be available. Contact the church office with any questions.

## Young Adults' Group

If you're 18-30, you have a place here! Join our young adults group to grow in faith, build friendships, and walk with Christ. We'll be meeting up one Friday and one Saturday per month at church (top floor). To get connected, please text or approach Naomi (+41762146607), Olivia (+41764493137), or Ano (+41795502633).

#### Creative Writing Group - Tuesday, 18 November at 19h00

Everyone who loves to write is invited to join the creative writing group, meeting in the Gemeinderaum at the church, once a month on Tuesday evening, 19h00 - 20h30. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 18 November at 19h00. Bites will be provided. All welcome! Please contact Cynthia Wilbers or the church office for further info.

#### Serving at the Soup Kitchen

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 13 December 2025. It takes place from 8h00 until about 13h00 at Le Jardin de Montbrillant (Rue de Montbrillant 3) just behind Geneva Cornavin train station. All are welcome to sign up and help prepare and serve a warm meal. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn (chriselis\_benn@bluewin.ch) for more information.

#### Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **5 December at 6.30 pm, Christmas dinner in the gemainderaum.** Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, or the office for more information.

## More Righteous Eyes, Singing 22 November at 9h30

We are preparing a flexible hymnbook for our congregation with hymns and liturgy that we use often in our worship. This should save some photocopying costs as well as be more ecological with paper. The best way of finding mistakes is to sing through everything, with many eyes in correction mode and red pencils at hand. We will be singing songs from all over the world that have become part of our repertoire. What we lose in strained eyesight searching for a misspelled *heven*, we gain in the joy of singing songs that continue to encourage our faith. We will do this again in the Gemeinderaum, Saturday 22 November, 9:30-11:30. Coffee will be available.

## **Serving Weekly Coffee Hour**

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

23 November – Group D

7 December – Group A

30 November – Group E

14 December – Group B

If you can help on a week when your group is assigned, please let your group's coordinator know

Cover image: Photo by <u>Marlis Trio Akbar</u> on <u>Unsplash</u>

#### This Week's Schedule:

Tues, 18 Nov	19h00	Being With course	
	19h00	Creative writing group	
Wed, 19 Nov	12h00	Being With course	
Thurs, 20 Nov	19h30	Choir rehearsal	
Sat, 22 Nov	9h30	Hymnbook singing	
Sun, 23 Nov	9h45	Confirmation class	
	11h00	Worship and church school	
	12h45	Congregational assembly	
Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30			

**Our church is entirely self-supporting.** Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

**By bank transfer**: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

**By Cash**: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship. **By U.S. dollar check**: Make the check payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," and on the memo portion, write "GMG 0858".

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

**If you are a guest in our congregation today,** please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We'd love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.

ELCG Connecti	on Card
nts	
	Date