Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 – 10:30 a.m.
Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Prayer before Worship:

As we come into your presence, O God, bless this time of worship. Unite our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

✢ ✢ ✢

Welcome

Pre-Service Music "Elegy" (Noel Rawsthorne)

Ringing of the Bells

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
Psalm 130:3-4

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able

℗ Almighty God,

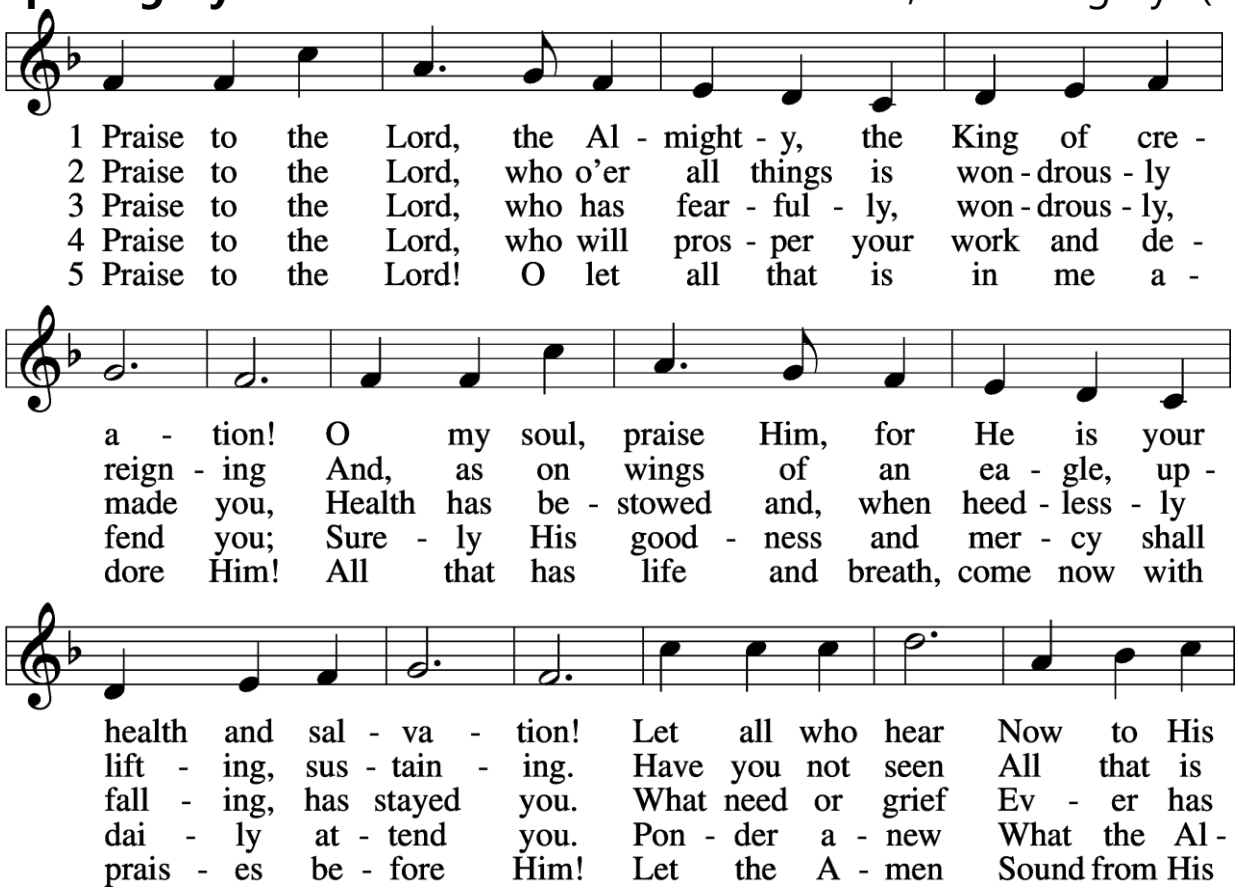
ℂ **have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

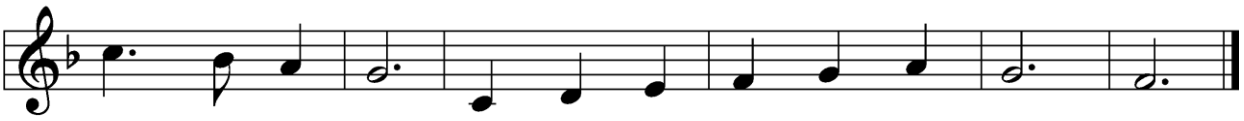
℗ Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

ℂ **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (LSB 790)





Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund
Text and tune: Public domain

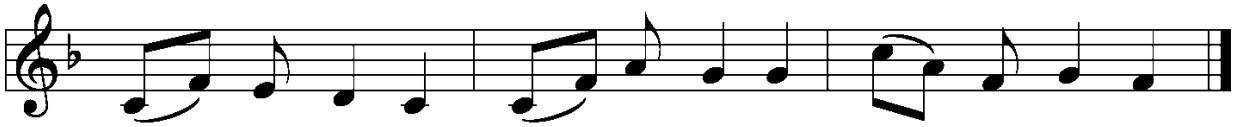
Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

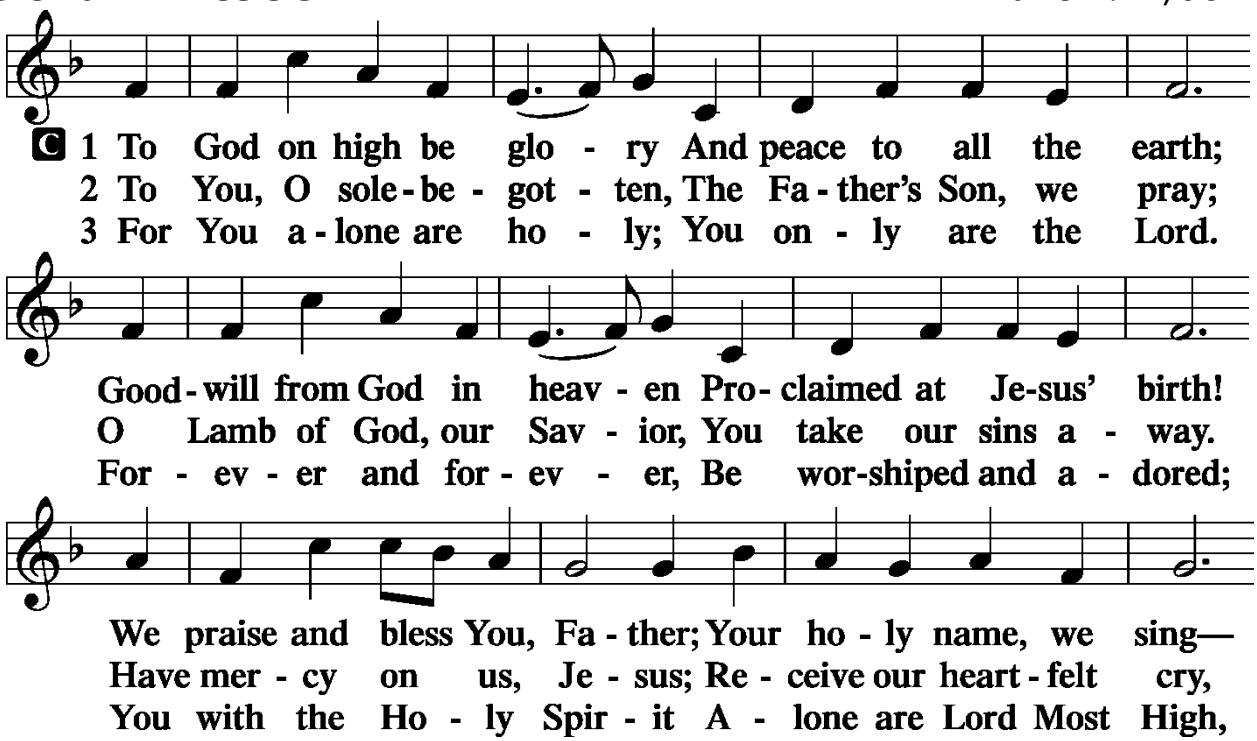
Kyrie

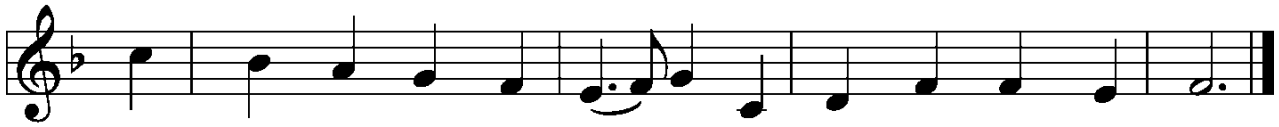
Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29





Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Commissioning of Church Council and Church Leaders

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

15When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It
may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we
did to him." 16So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father
gave this command before he died, 17'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the
transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'
And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of
your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18His brothers also
came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."
19But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20As
for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it
about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
21So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he
comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *(read responsively)* Psalm 103:1-12

L Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

C **Bless the LORD, O my soul,**
and forget not all his benefits,

L who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

C **who redeems your life from the pit,**
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

L who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

C **The LORD works righteousness**
and justice for all who are oppressed.

L He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

C **The LORD is merciful and gracious,**
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

L He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

C **He does not deal with us according to our sins,**
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

L For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

C **as far as the east is from the west,**
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Epistle Reading Romans 14:1-12

[1]As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel
over opinions. [2]One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak
person eats only vegetables. [3]Let not the one who eats despise the one
who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the
one who eats, for God has welcomed him. [4]Who are you to pass
judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he
stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him
stand.
[5]One person esteems one day as better than another, while another
esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own
mind. [6]The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord.
The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to
God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives
thanks to God. [7]For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to
himself. [8]If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.
So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9]For to this
end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead
and of the living.
[10]Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you
despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of
God; [11]for it is written,

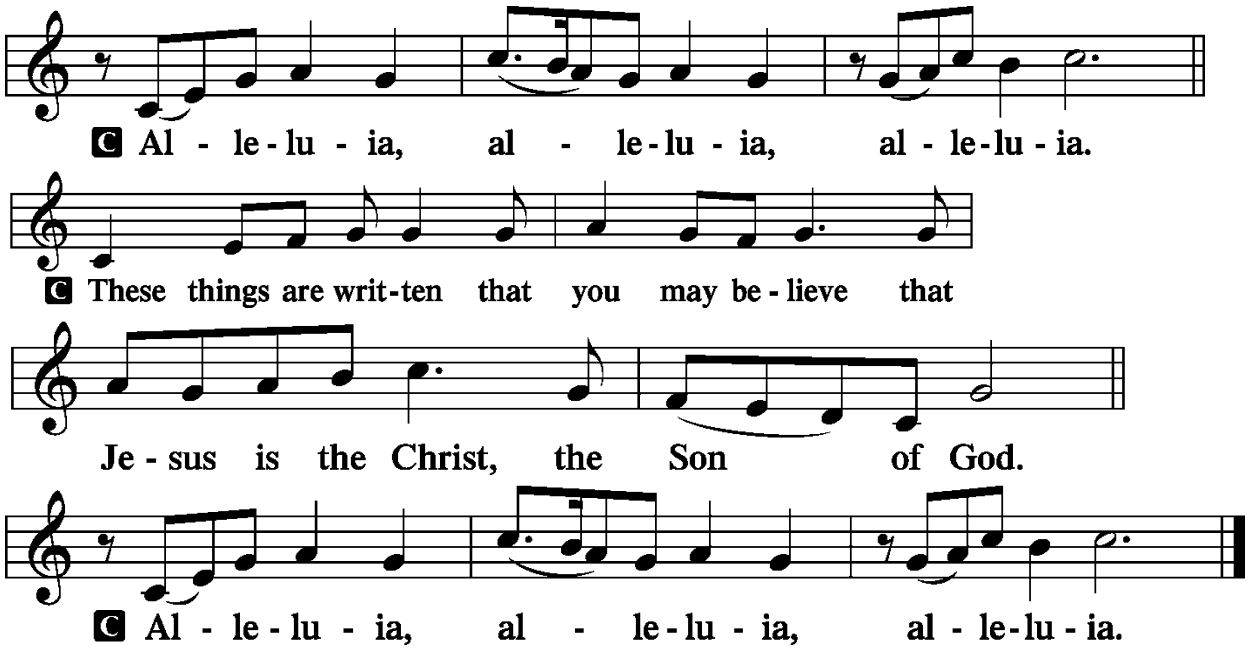
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

[12]So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

℣ Glory to you, O Lord.

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

21 Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin
against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to
him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.
23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle,
one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And
since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife
and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the
servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I
will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that
servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same
servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a
hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay
what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him,

‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ [30]He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. [31]When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. [32]Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **[33]And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’** [34]And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. [35]So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon “Pearls from the Parables: Forgiveness”

Hymn of the Day "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (LSB 843)

Profession of Faith The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the

prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ☩ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church *[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

P Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."

Please respond by saying ***"Hear our prayer."***

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

(Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Merciful God,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, 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.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

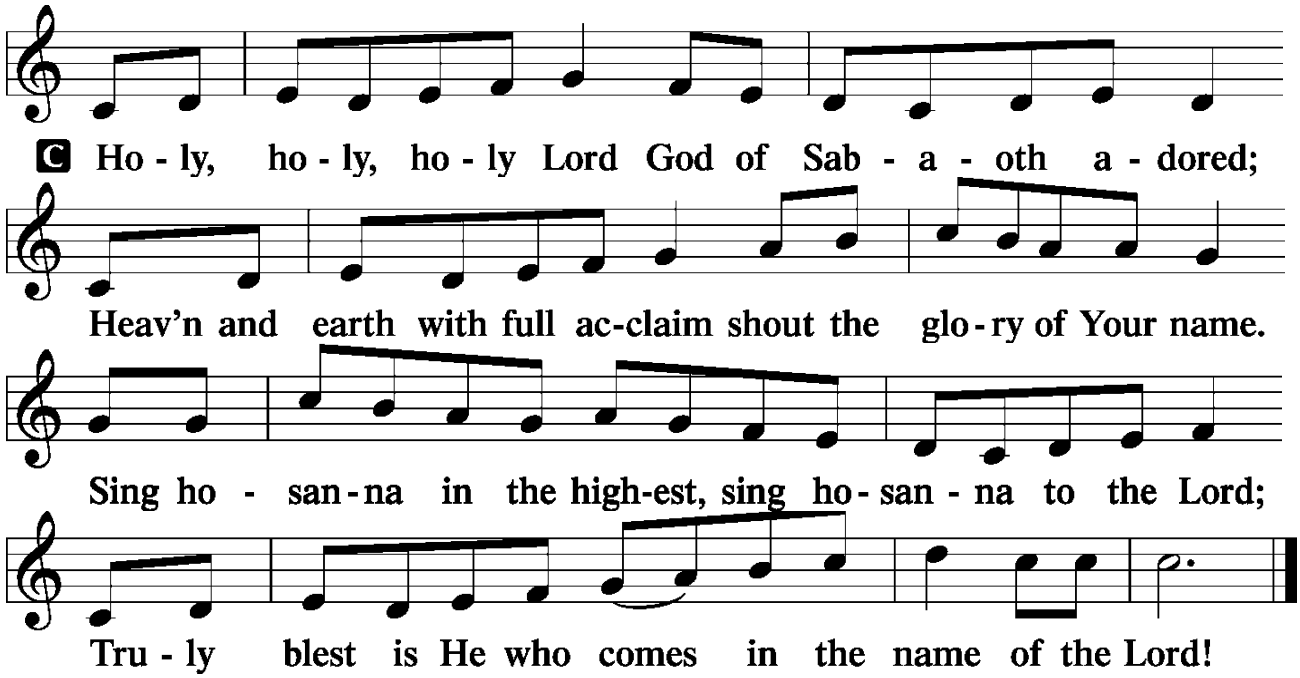
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *[Psalm 136]*

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

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.

The Words of Our Lord *Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

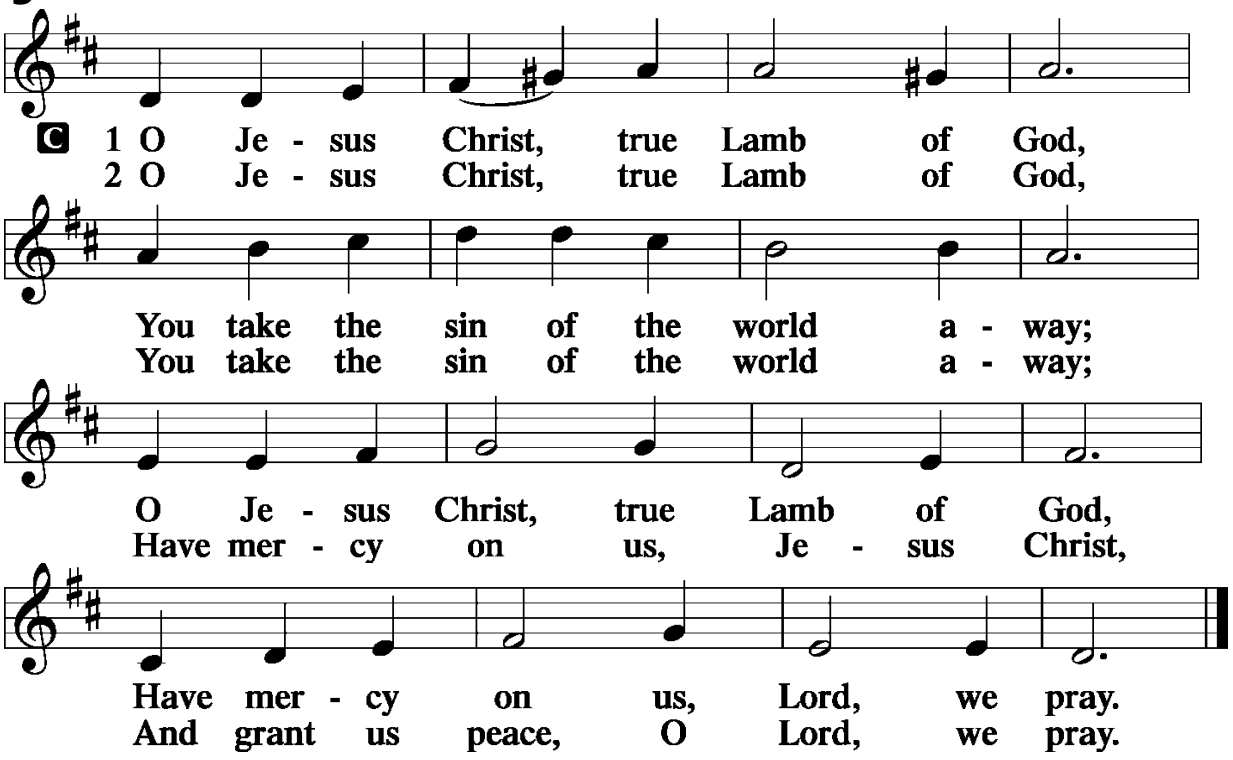
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *John 1:29*



Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution

Distribution Anthem

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" (Bradley Ellingboe)

St. John's Choir

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

There is welcome for the sinner, And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; There is healing in His blood.

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

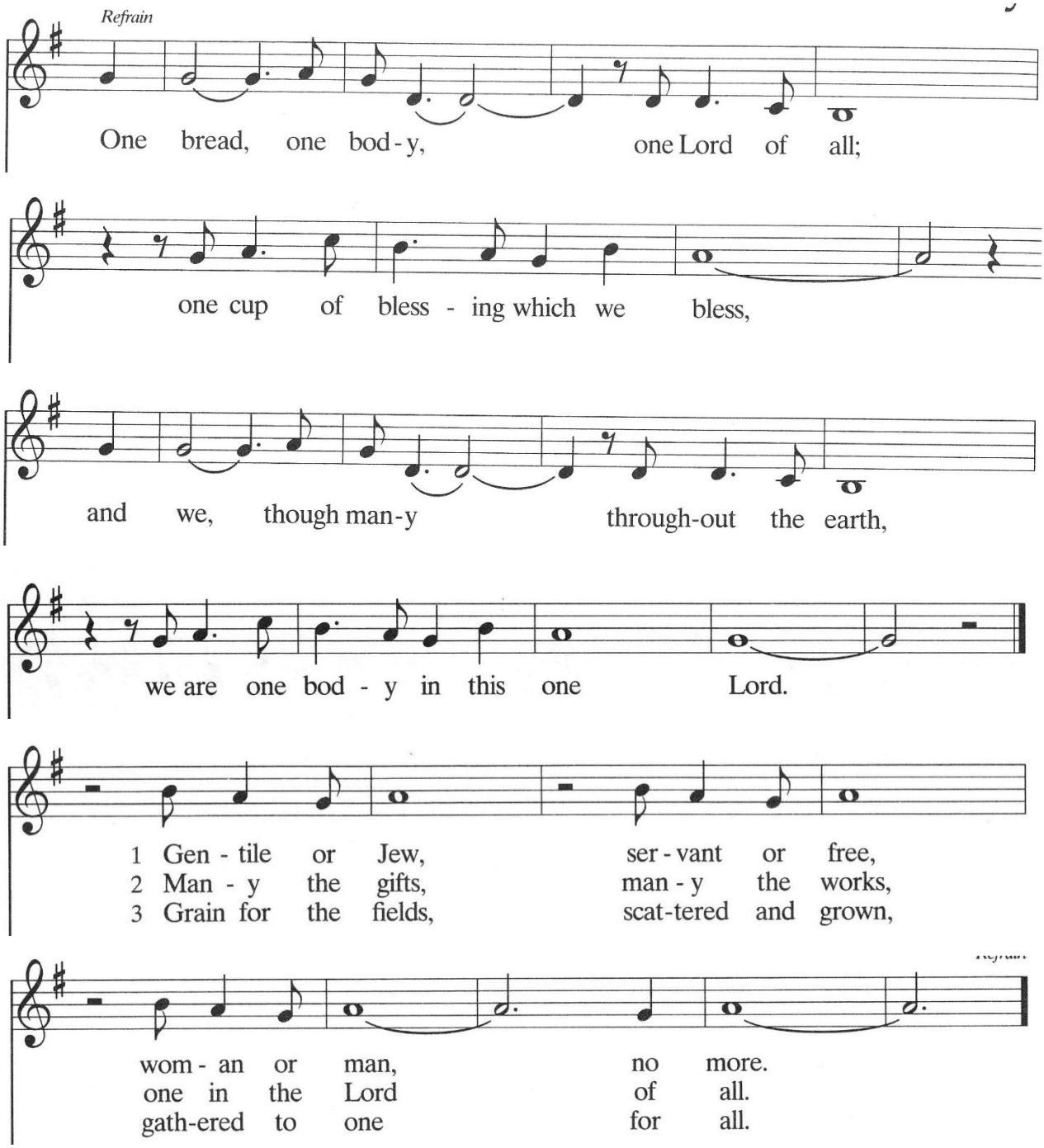
For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

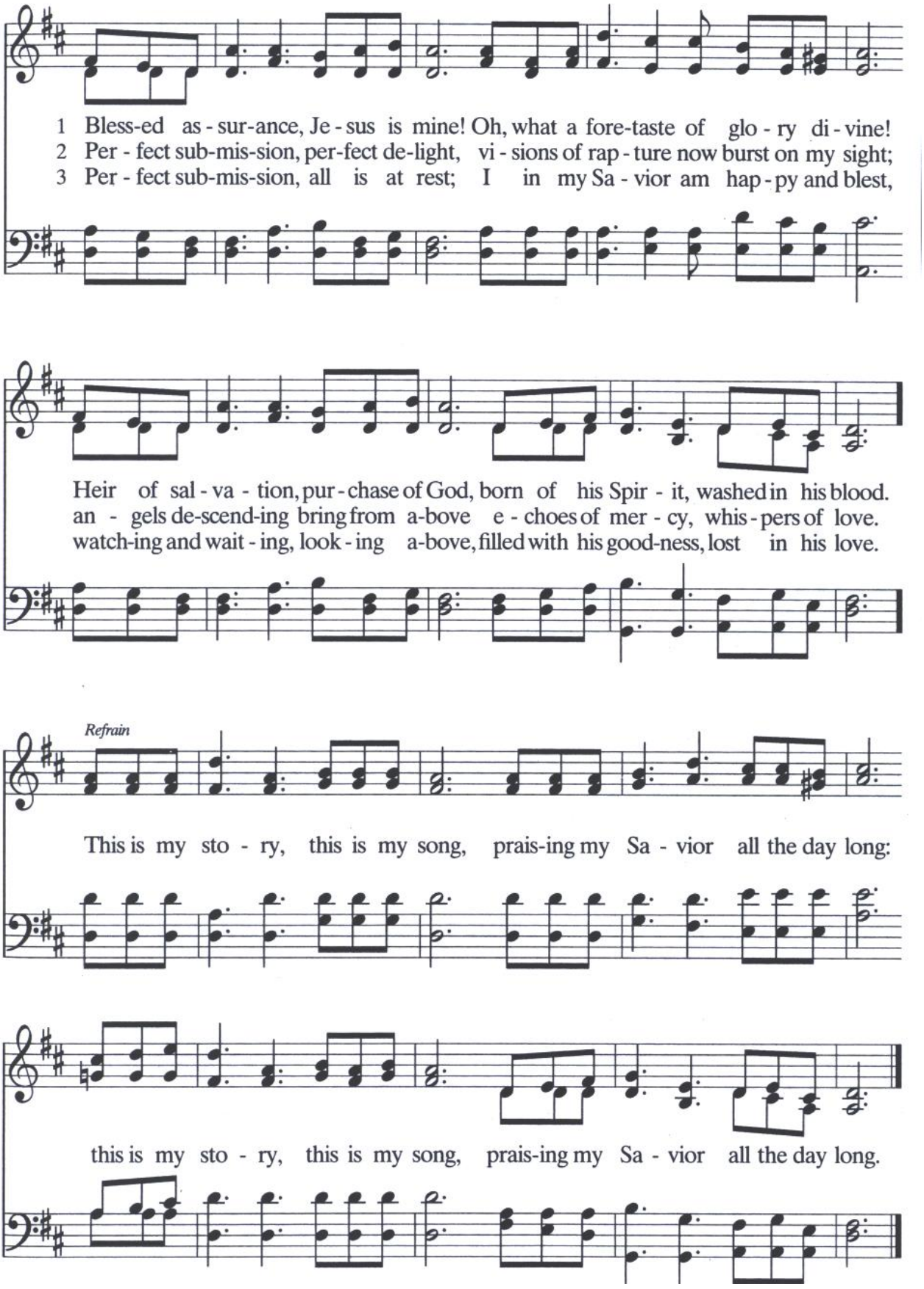
'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; It is something more than all;
Greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.

If our love were but more simple, we should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord.

"One Bread, One Body" (WOV 710)

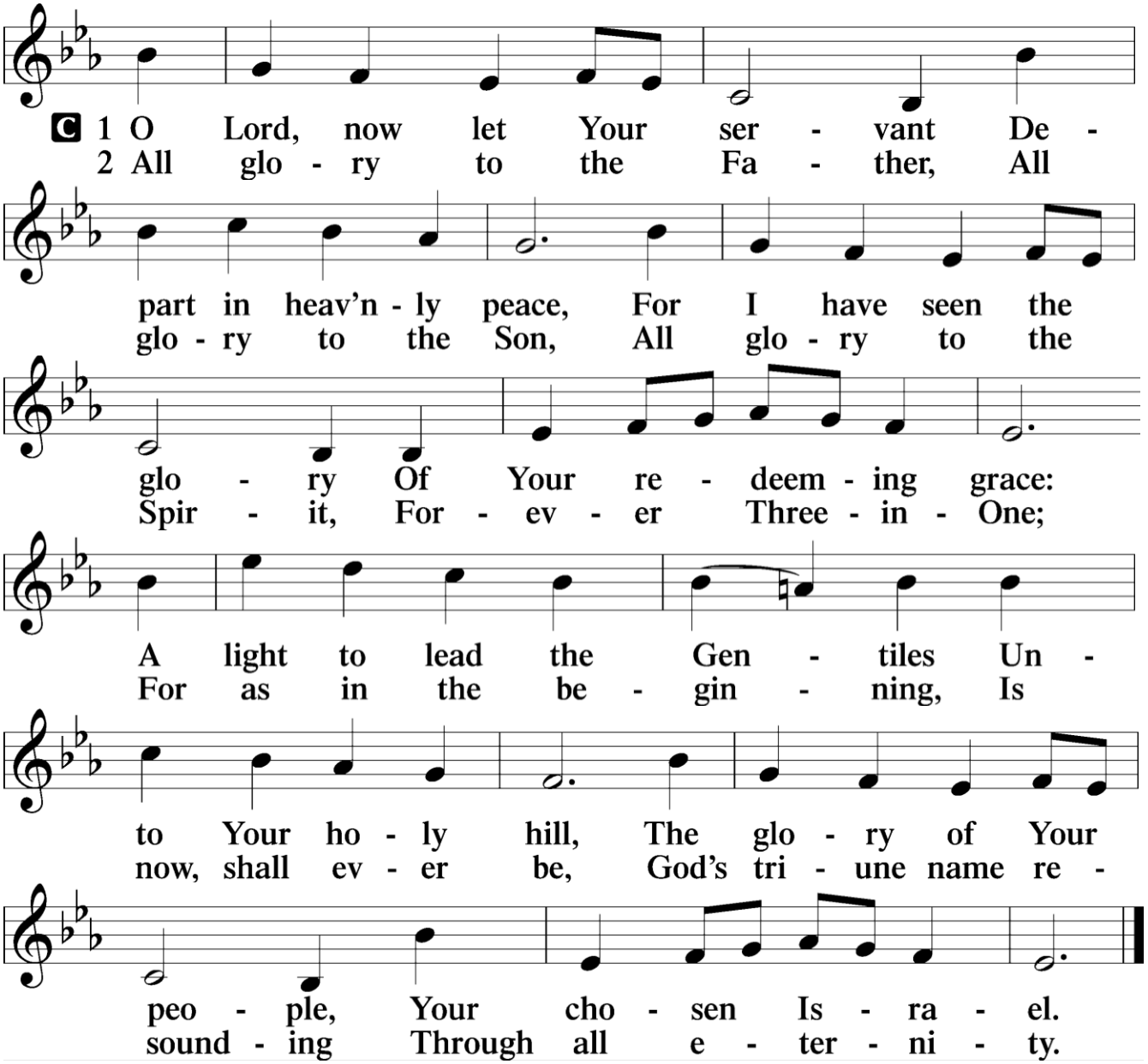


"Blessed Assurance" (WOV 699)



Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis



Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Benedicamus and Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *[Psalm 103:1]*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

Sending Hymn "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (LSB 922)

Postlude "Grand Cheour" (Theodore Dubois)

✢ ✢ ✢

After worship service, please join us in Fellowship Hall for our annual Kick Sunday Tail Gate Party.

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Trevor Hassett
Communion Lay Assistant	Jennifer Hills
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Charlotte Hills
Crucifer	Sofi Hills
Ushers	Fred Esposito Mike Waring
Altar Care	Karen Kemmet
AV Operators	Mark Gilbertson Jim Haugan
Welcome Host	Angela Schulze
Nursery	Melissa Malinowski Charlotte Keppers Angie Vazquez



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by donations to the flower fund.

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...AND MORE!

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