Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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 "Pageantry" (Cathy Moklebust)
Handbell Choir

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,

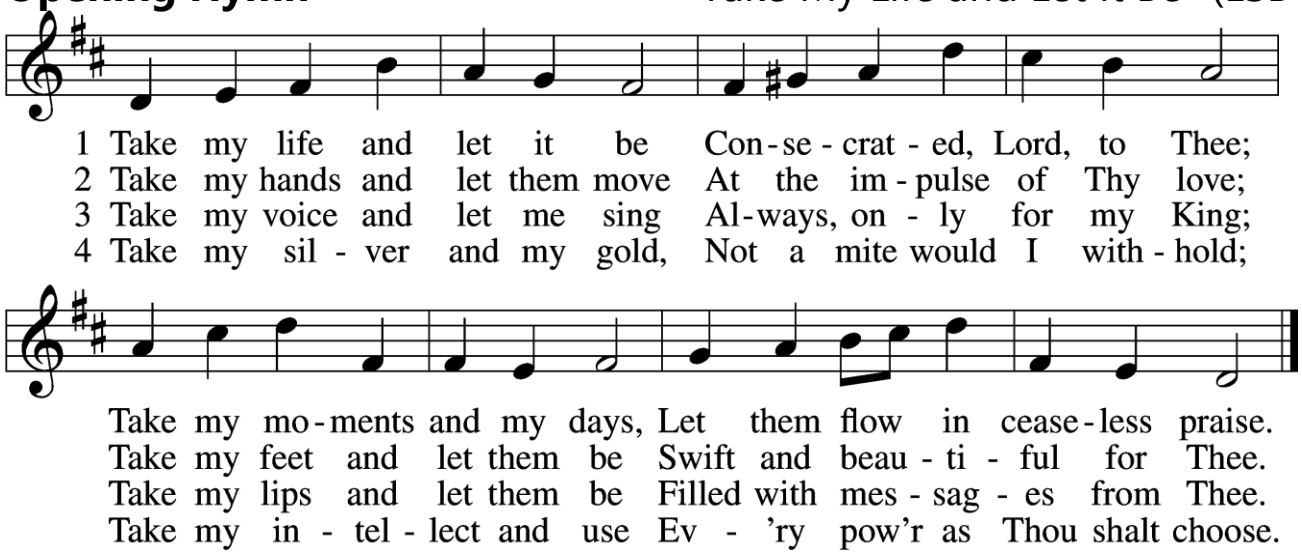
ℂ have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

℗ 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 "Take My Life and Let It Be" (LSB 783)



5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870, Text and tune: Public domain

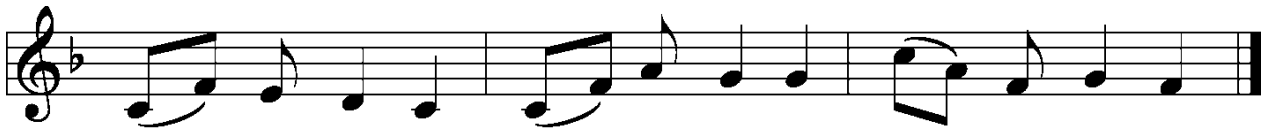
Greeting

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.

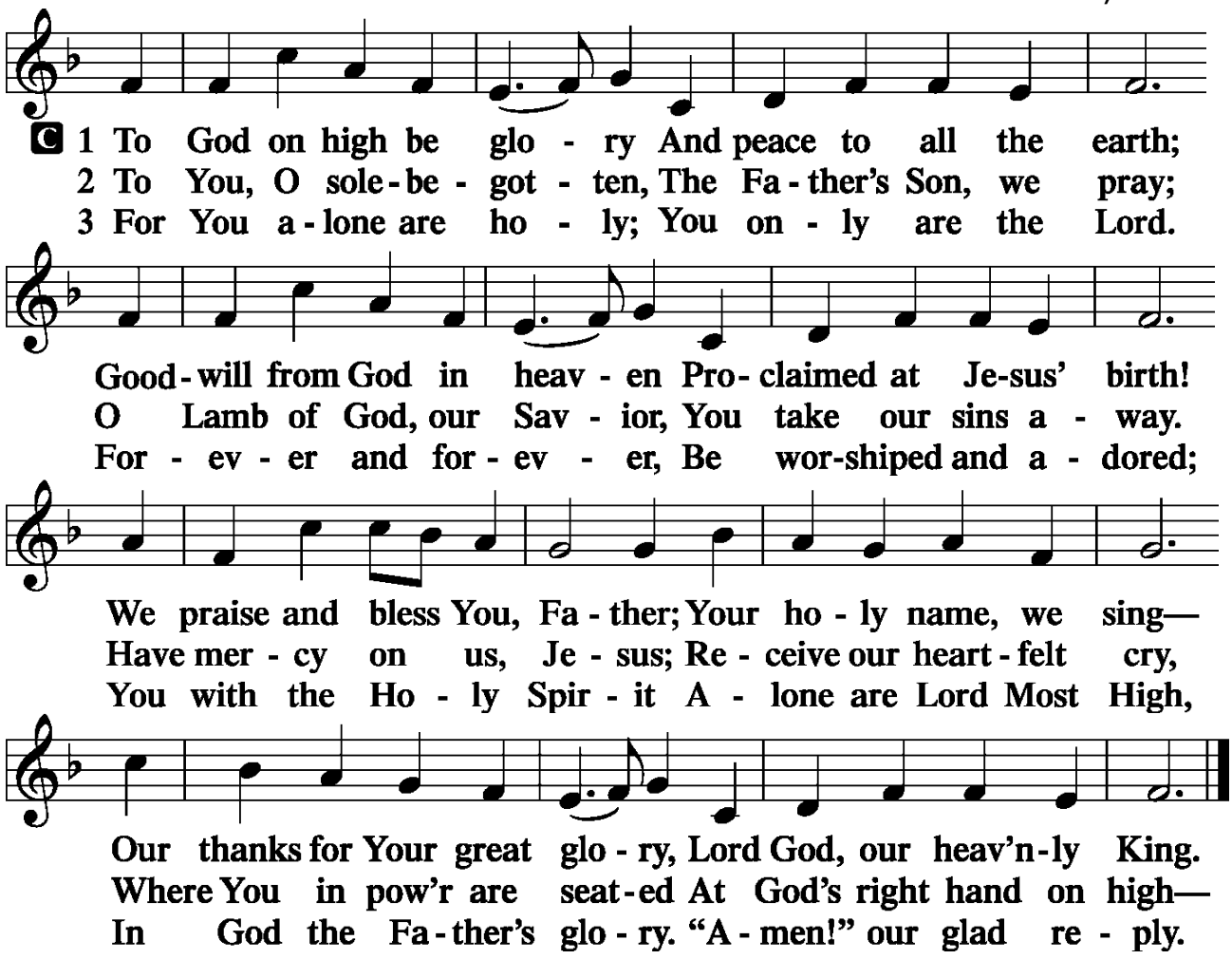
Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:
Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

6"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
7let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to
our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8For my thoughts are not your
thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9For as the
heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *(read responsively)* Psalm 27:1-9

L The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

C **When evildoers assail me**
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

L Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

C One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.

L For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

C And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

L Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

C You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."

L Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

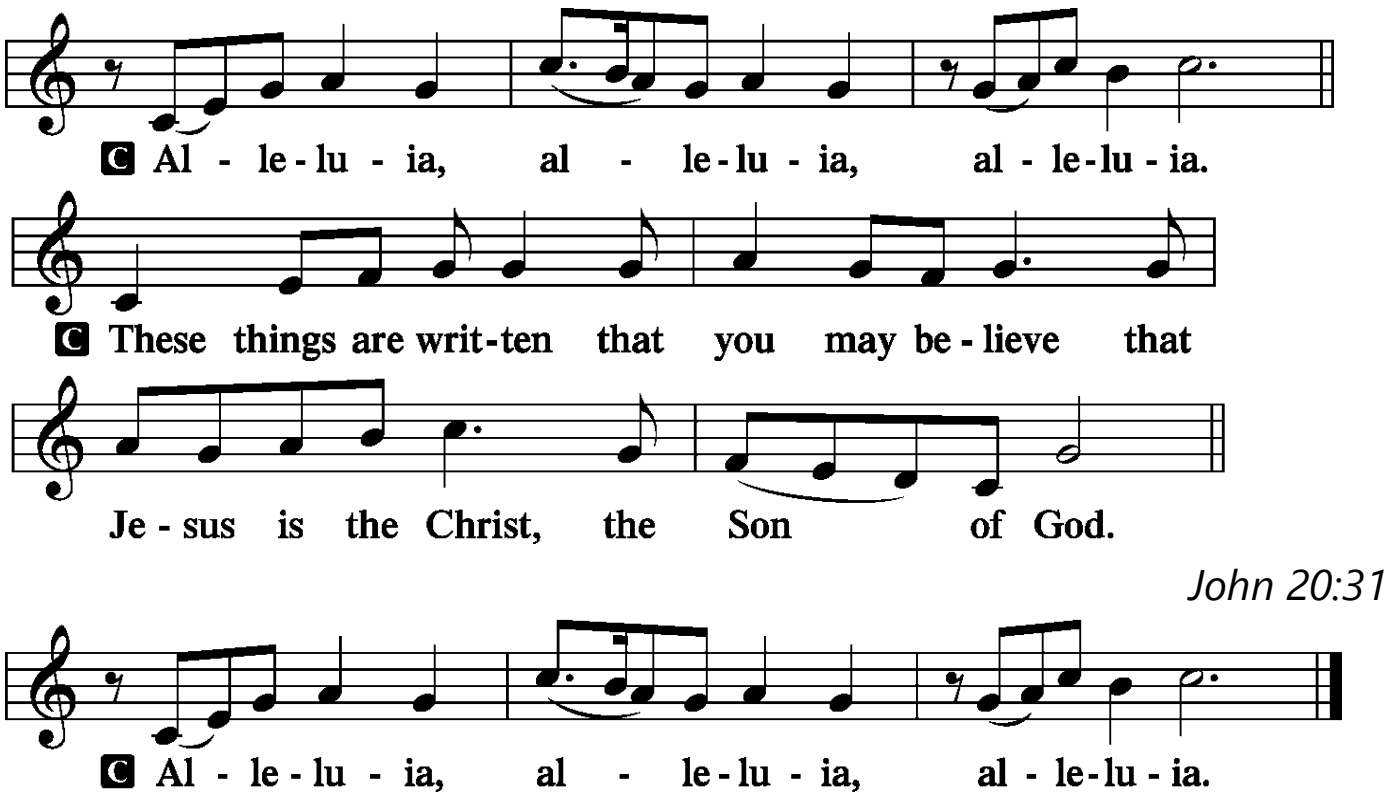
Epistle Reading Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really
served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout
the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for
Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord
by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without
fear.[…]
19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus
Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation
and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now
as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh,
that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I
am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with
Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary
on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and
continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in
me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my
coming to you again.
27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that
whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are
standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the
faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents.
This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and
that from God. 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ
you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, 30 engaged
in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C 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.*

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2]After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3]And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4]and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' [5]So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. [6]And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' [7]They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' [8]And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,

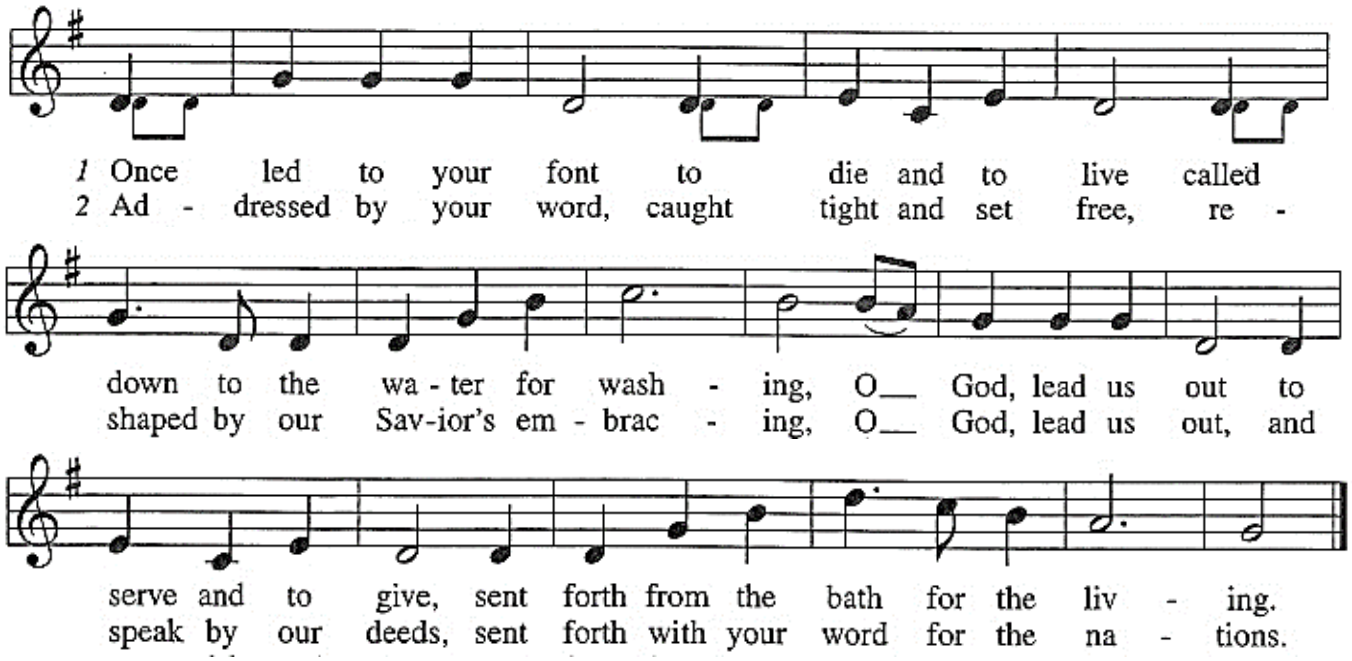
'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' [9]And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. [10]Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. [11]And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, [12]saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' [13]But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? **[14]Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.** [15]Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge me generosity?' [16] So the last will be first, and the first last."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℣ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal Song "Once Led to Your Font" *(stanzas 1 and 2)*



Once Led to Your Font: A Keyboard Collection, Mark Sedio, ISBN 0-8006-7785-4
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2005

℗ Holy Baptism today is given for Cooper Kyle Banda, child of David and Ellie Banda. Serving as his sponsors are Tyler and Nicole Iwamura.

Presentation of Baptismal Candidate

℟ *We present Cooper Kyle to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.*

The Address *The pastor speaks to those assembled for Baptism*

℗ In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

℟ *I do.*

The Thanksgiving *The pastor pours the water to be used for Holy Baptism into the font*

℗ The Lord be with you.

℄ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℄ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Flood Prayer *This prayer, written by Martin Luther, acknowledges God's saving acts throughout history by means of water.*

℗ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

℄ **By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.**

L In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the slavery to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

C **He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

C **To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

The Renunciation *Candidates for Baptism and sponsors join together in renouncing the works of Satan.*

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R *I do.*

The Profession of Faith*Candidates for Baptism, their sponsors, and the congregation join together in affirming their belief in the triune God.*

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ?

C **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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

The Washing *The pastor baptizes the candidate(s) with these words:*

P Cooper Kyle, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Laying on of Hands *The pastor lays hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit's work in their life:*

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy Sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Cooper Kyle: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C **Amen.**

The Sealing *The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized with oil prepared for this purpose. As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:*

P Cooper Kyle, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C **Amen.**

A lighted candle is given to the baptized with these words:

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

℗ Finally, let us pray for the parents of this child:
O God, giver of all life, look with kindness upon Cooper's parents, David and Ellie. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally the salvation you have given to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

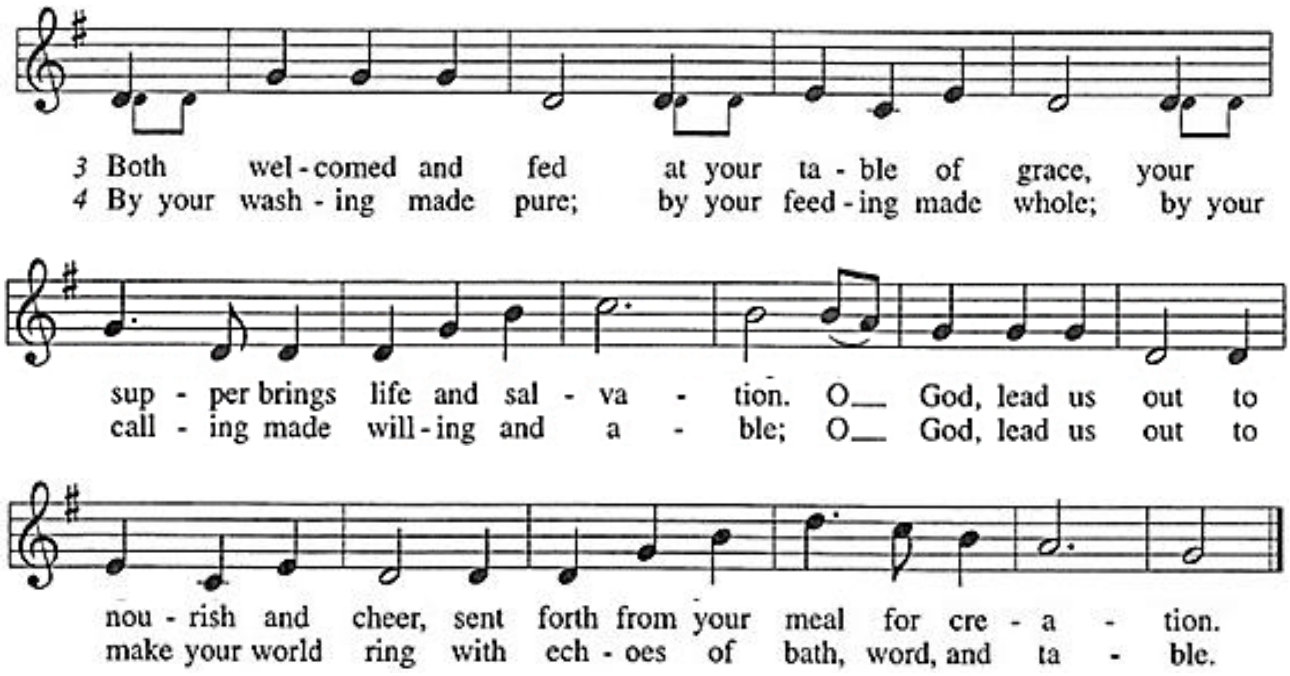
ℂ **Amen.**

The Welcome *Those who have been baptized turn and face the congregation as these words are spoken:*

𝕃 Through Baptism, God has made this child a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

ℂ **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

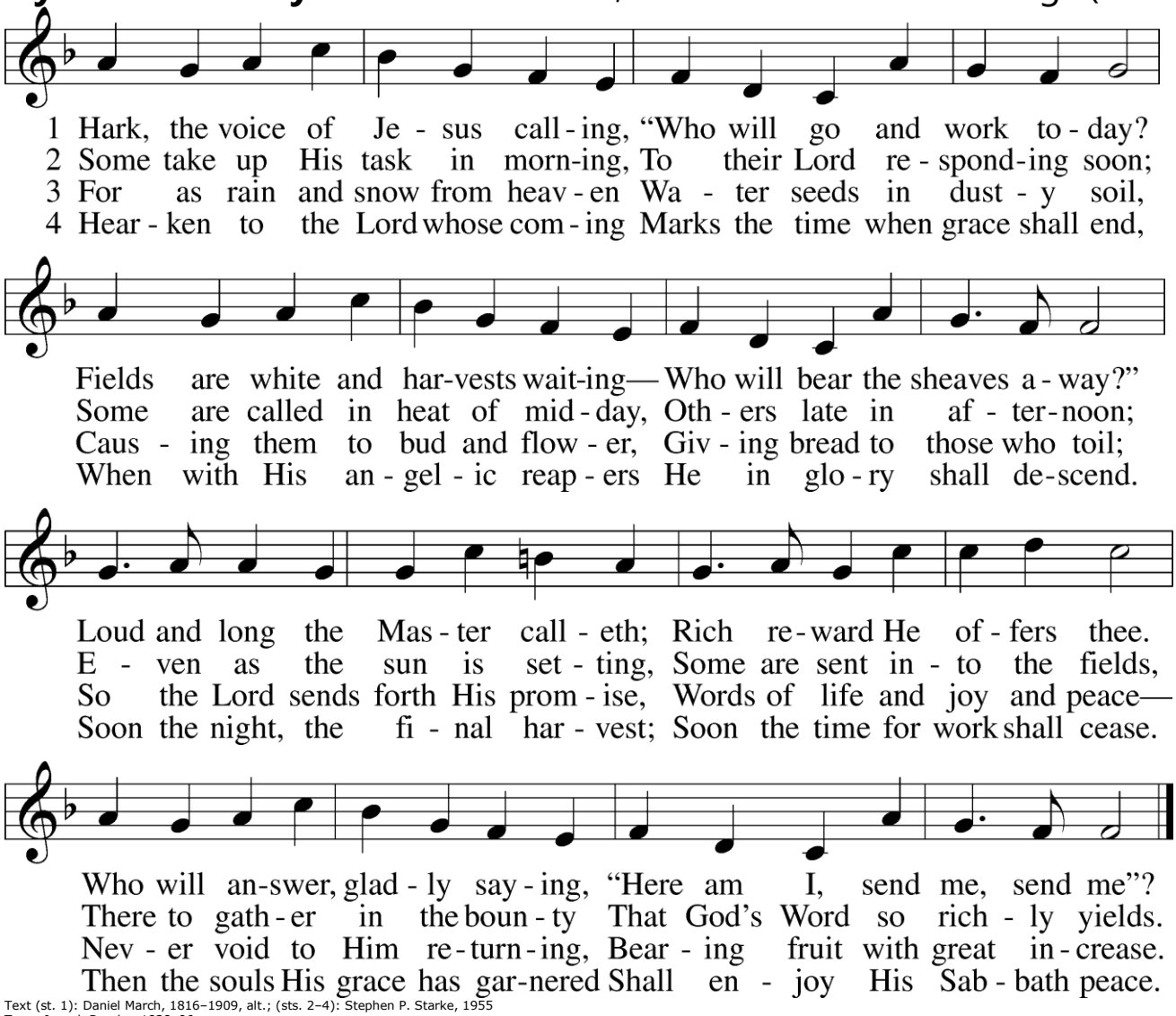
Response "Once Led to Your Font" *(stanzas 3 and 4)*



Once Led to Your Font: A Keyboard Collection, Mark Sedio, ISBN 0-8006-7785-4
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Sermon "Pearls from the Parables: Kingdom Economics"

Hymn of the Day "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" (LSB 827)



Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–96
Text (sts. 2–4): © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain

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

℗ 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:

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

℃ **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

Ⓛ Merciful God,

℃ **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

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

℃ **And also with you.**

℗ Lift up your hearts.

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

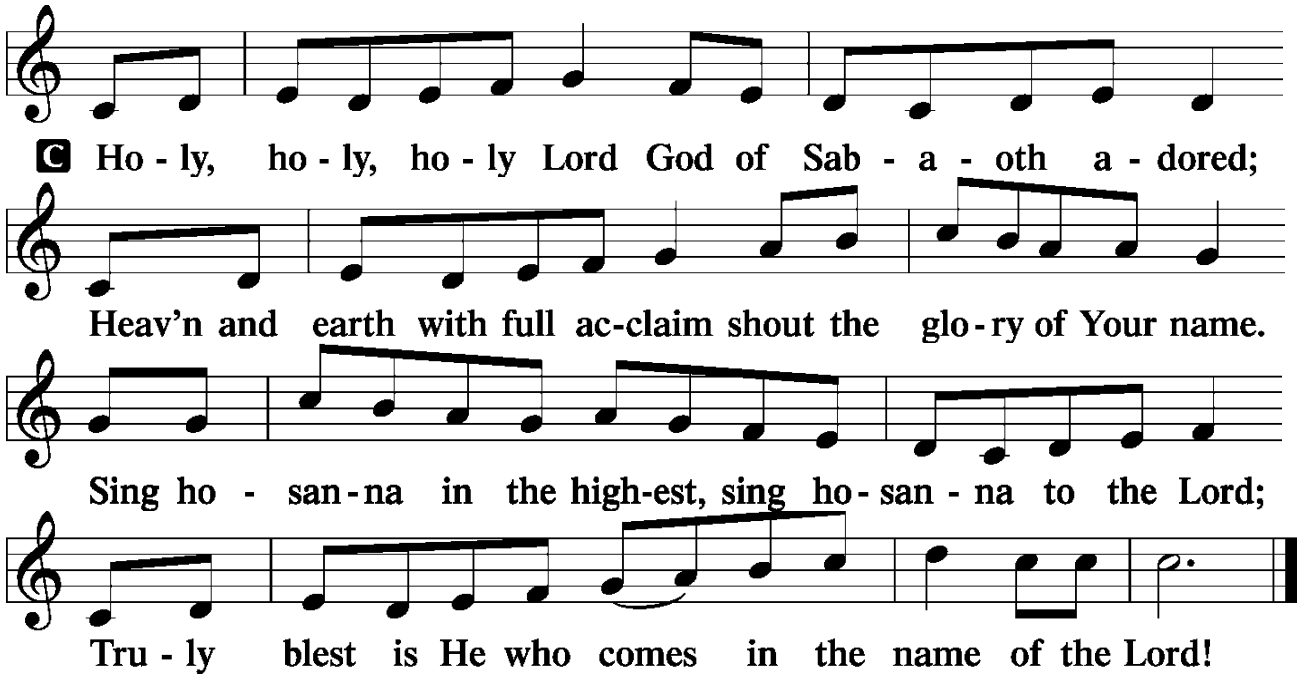
℗ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

℗ 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 singing:

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*

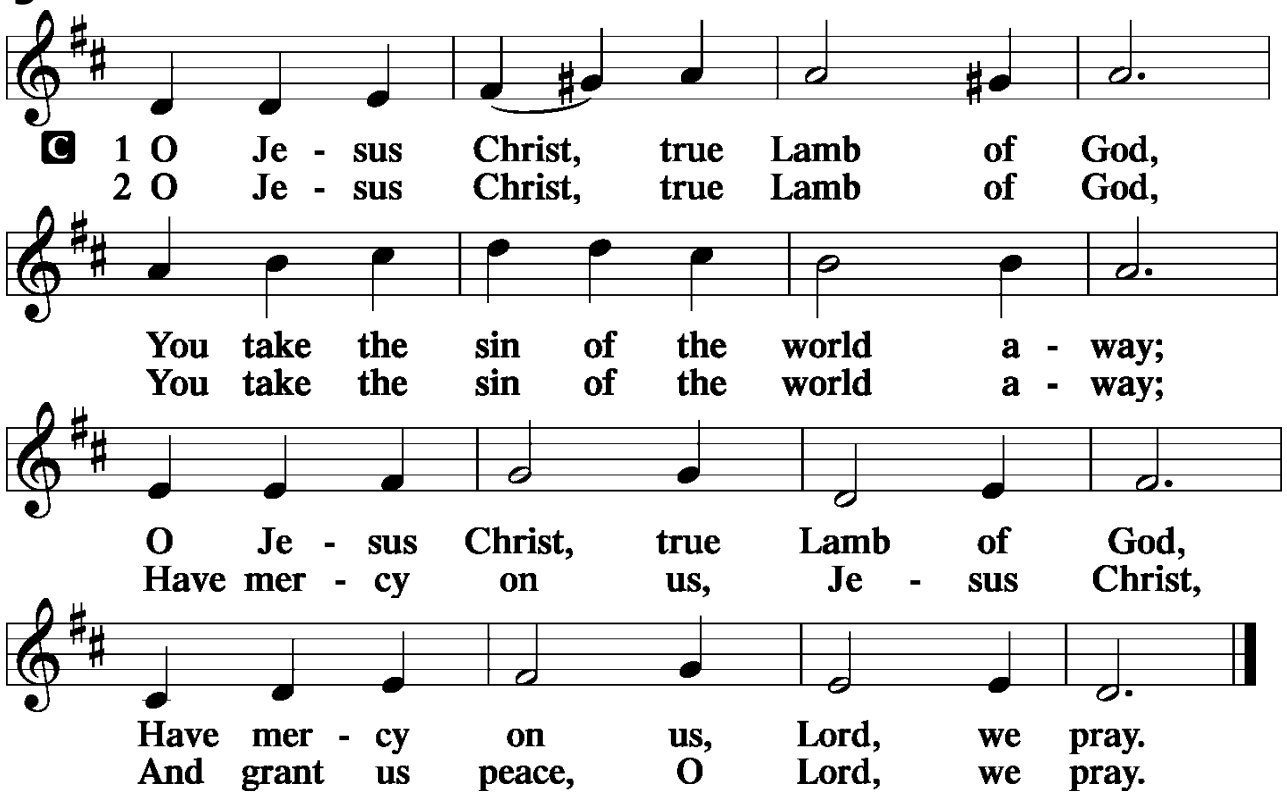
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.

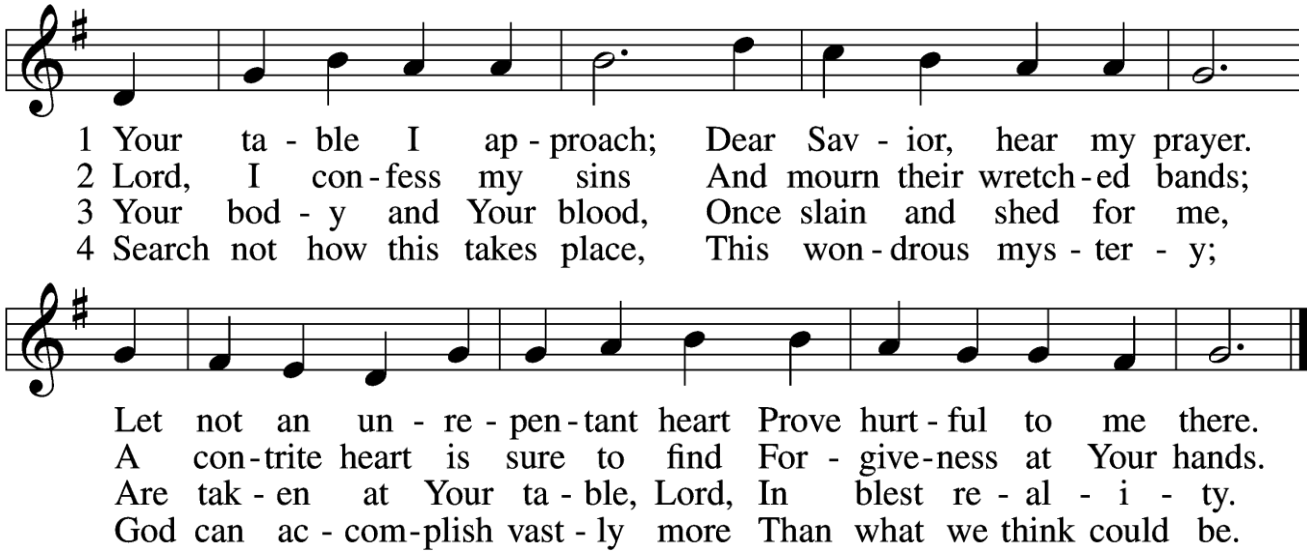
Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

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 — "He Leadeth Me" (Sandra Eithun)
Handbell Choir

"Your Table I Approach" (LSB 628)

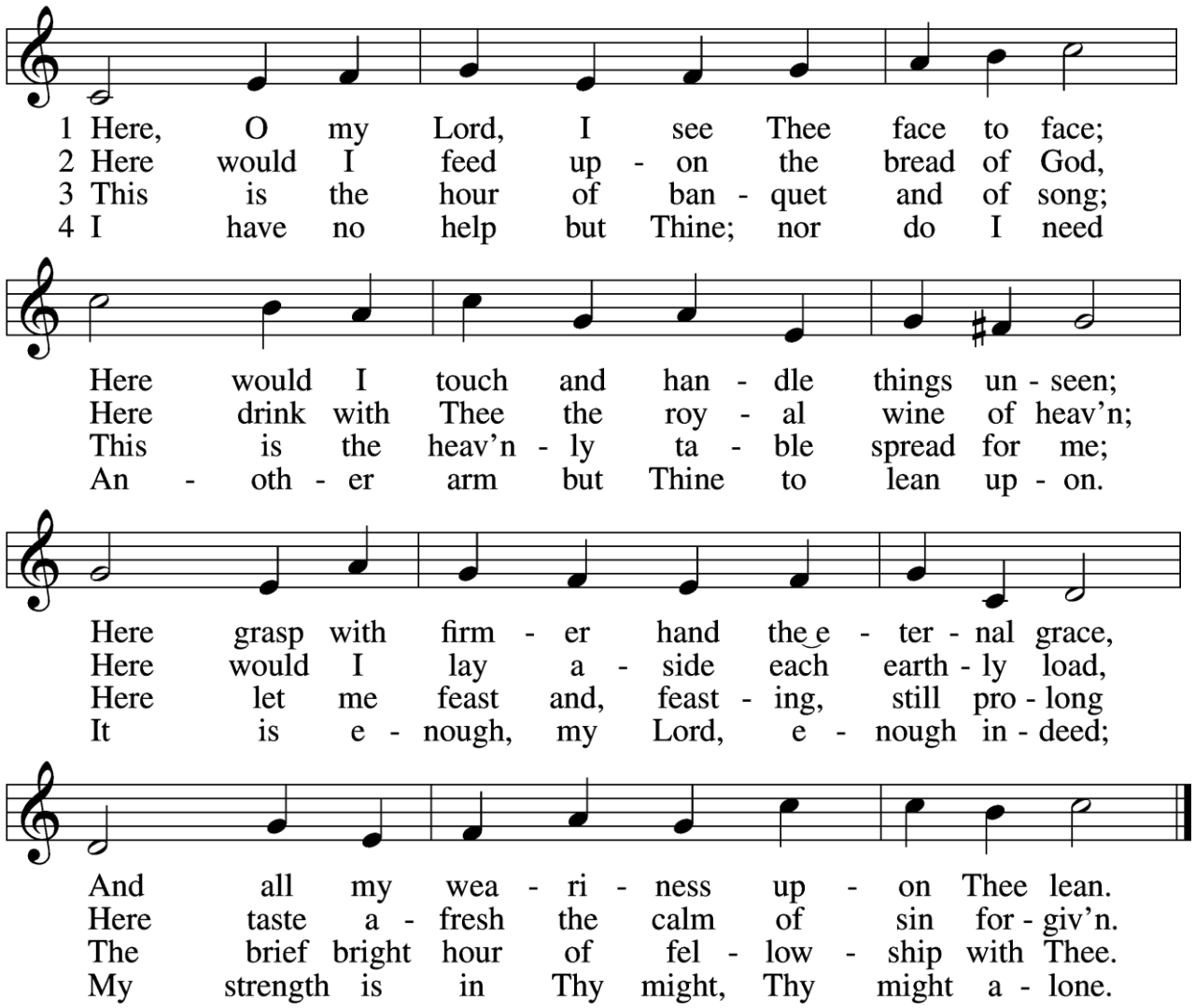


5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt., Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois, Text and tune: Public domain

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face" (LSB 631)



5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

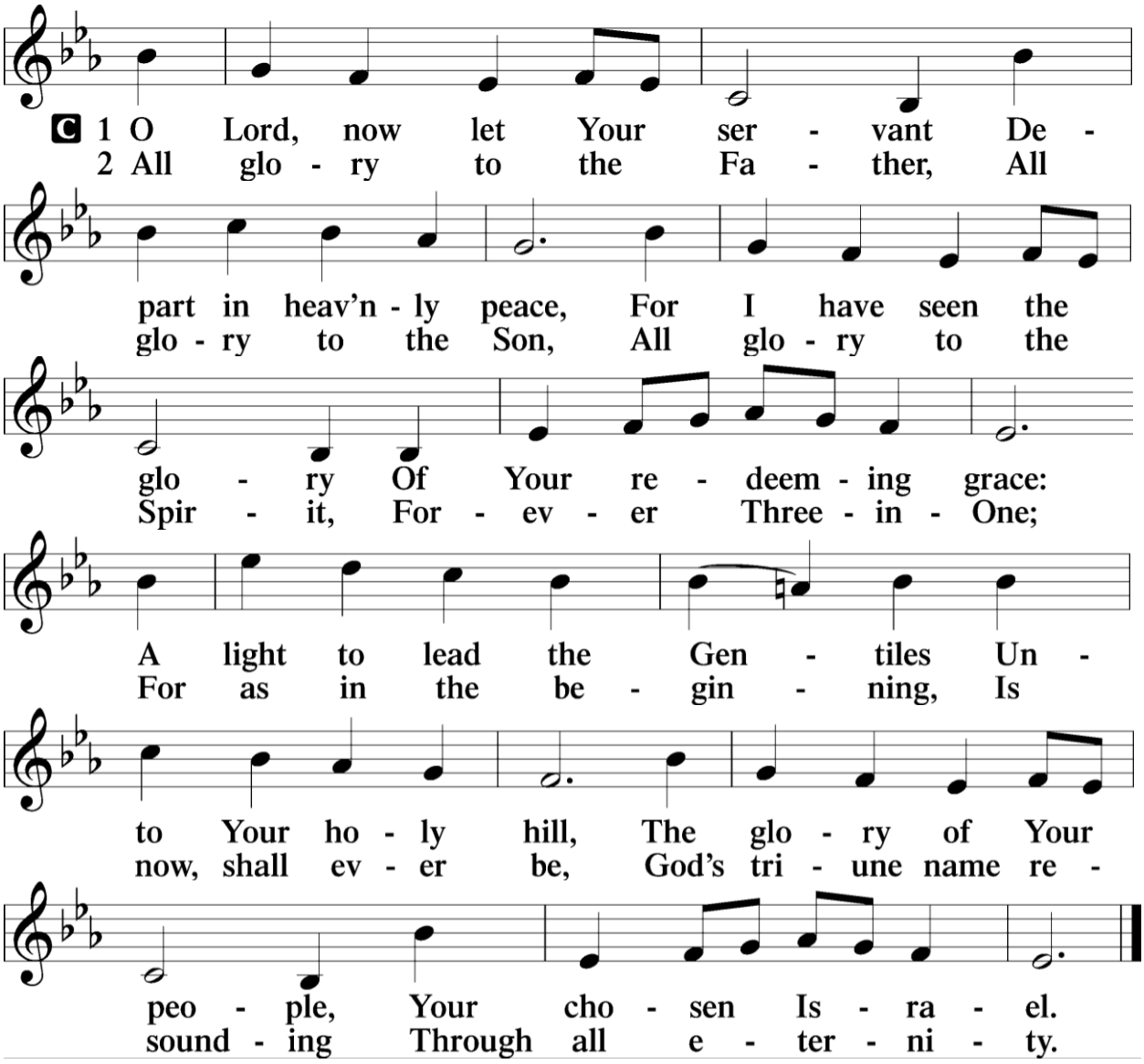
6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt.
Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

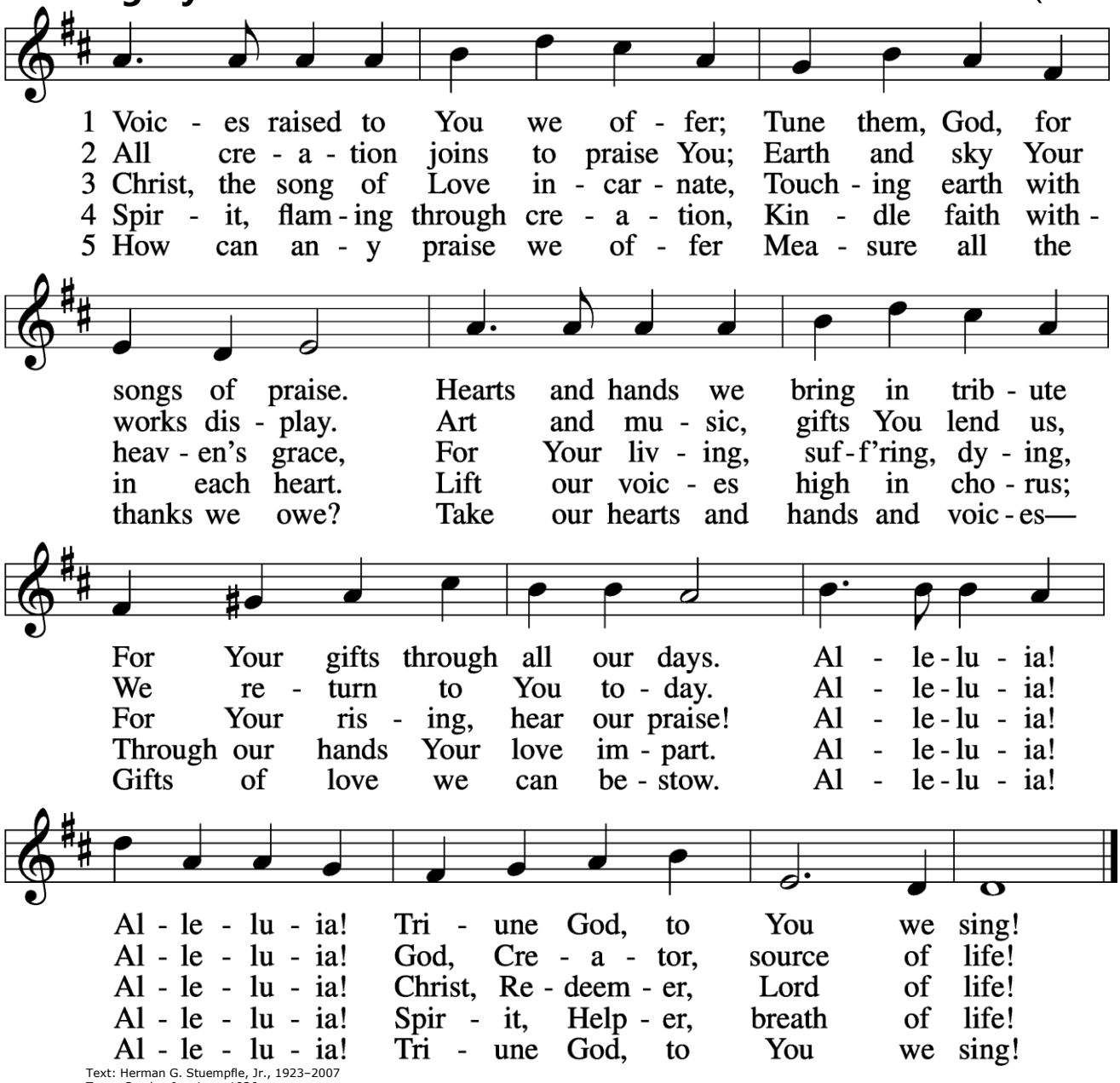
L Let us bless the Lord.

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 "Voices Raised to You We Offer" (LSB 795)



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
Tune: Carolyn Jennings, 1936
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Postlude "Fanfare on 'St. Gertrude'" (Gordon Young)

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Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Thuy Nguyen
Communion Lay Assistant	Mark Guilfoil
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Caleb Rempe
Crucifer	Grace Rempe
Ushers	Benjamin May Michelle May
Altar Care	Maritza Guerra
AV Operators	Greg Auld Jim Haugan
Welcome Host	Debbie Haugan
Nursery	Sarah Finger Tish Nordvall Elizabeth Romeo



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

SCAN HERE TO

CONNECT WITH SJLC

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Give online

Read/Sign up for newsletters

Register or attend events/classes

Request for prayers

Connect on social media

...AND MORE!

Acknowledgments

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Alexandria, VA 22310

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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