Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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 "Praeludium" (Dietrich Buxtehude)

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

P Almighty God,

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

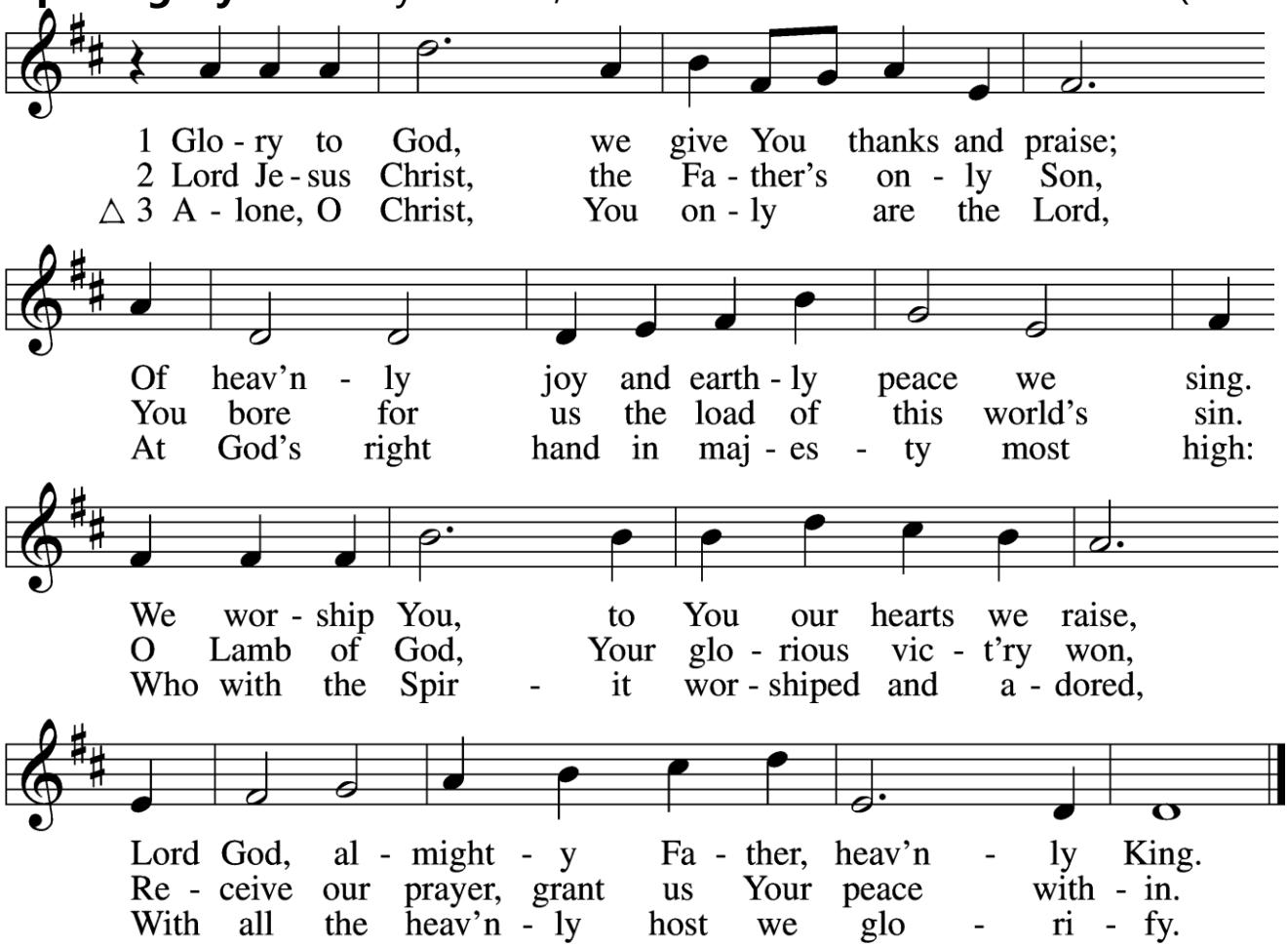
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn "Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise" (LSB 946)



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Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877–1949
Text: © 1991 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
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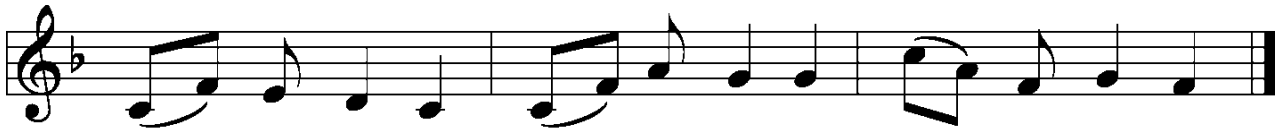
Greeting

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

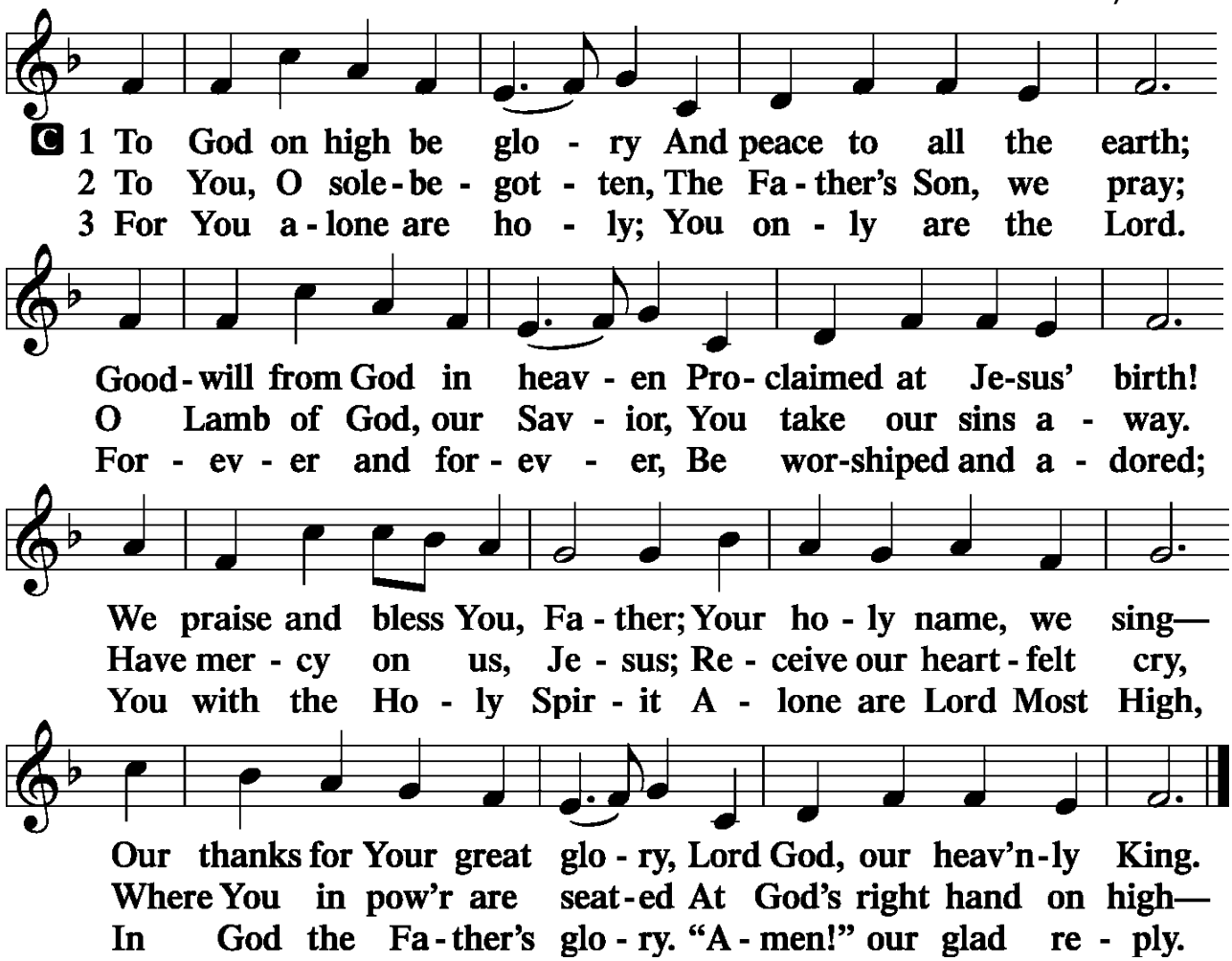
Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.

Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;

We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,

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:
Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "What do you mean by repeating
this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour
grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? 3 As I live, declares the
Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Behold, all
souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is
mine: the soul who sins shall die. [...]
25 "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of
Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? 26 When a
righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice,
he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. 27 Again,
when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed
and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. 28 Because he
considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had
committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel
says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not
just? Is it not your ways that are not just?
30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his
ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the
transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new

heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? [32]For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm *(read responsively)* Psalm 25:1-10

L To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

C O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

L Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

L Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

C Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

L Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

C Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

L He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

C All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

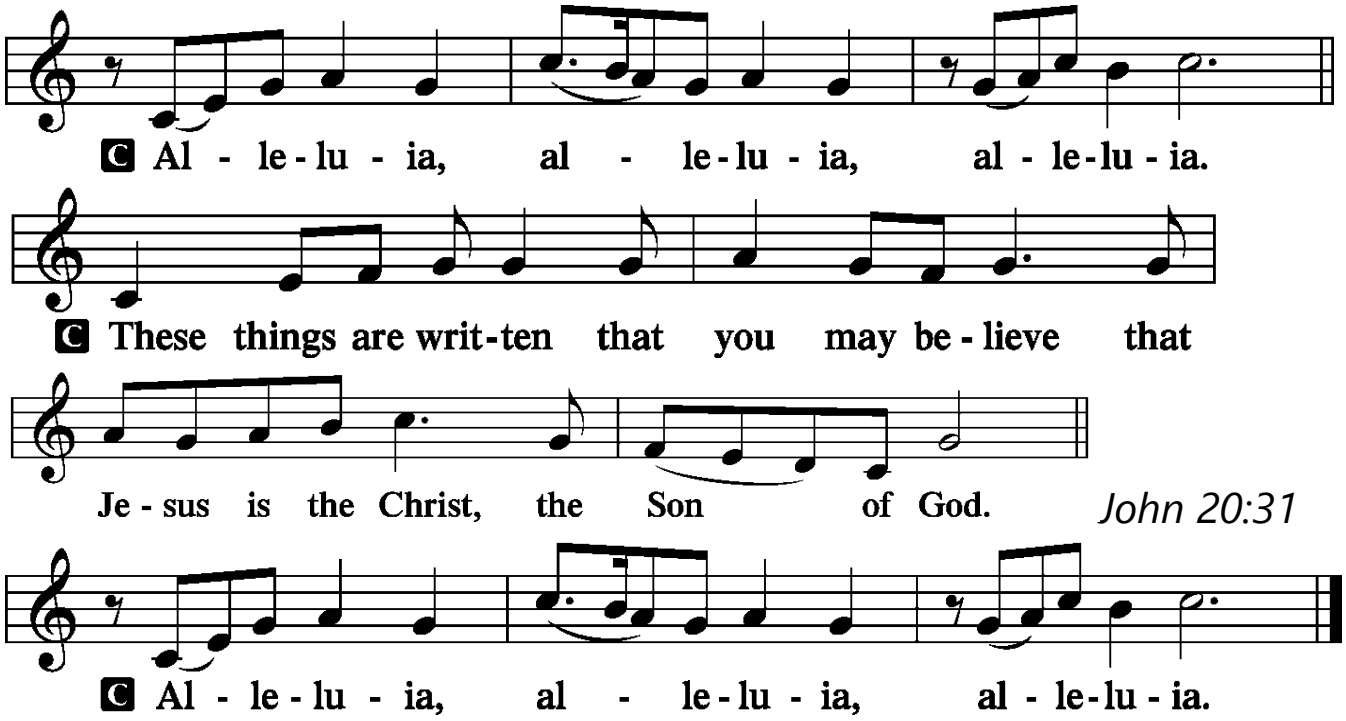
Epistle Reading Philippians 2:1-18

[1]If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any
participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2]complete my joy
by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord
and of one mind. [3]Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility
count others more significant than yourselves. [4]Let each of you look not
only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5]Have this
mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6]who, though he
was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be
grasped, [7]but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being
born in the likeness of men. [8]And being found in human form, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even
death on a cross. [9]Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed
on him the name that is above every name, [10]so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
[11]and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father.
[12]Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as
in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own
salvation with fear and trembling, [13]for it is God who works in you, both
to will and to work for his good pleasure.
[14]Do all things without grumbling or questioning, [15]that you may be
blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of
a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in
the world, [16]holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I
may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. [17]Even if I am to
be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your
faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. [18]Likewise you also should be
glad and rejoice with me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first 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.*

[23]When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24]Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. [25]The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [26]But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." [27]So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. [28]"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29]And he answered, 'I will

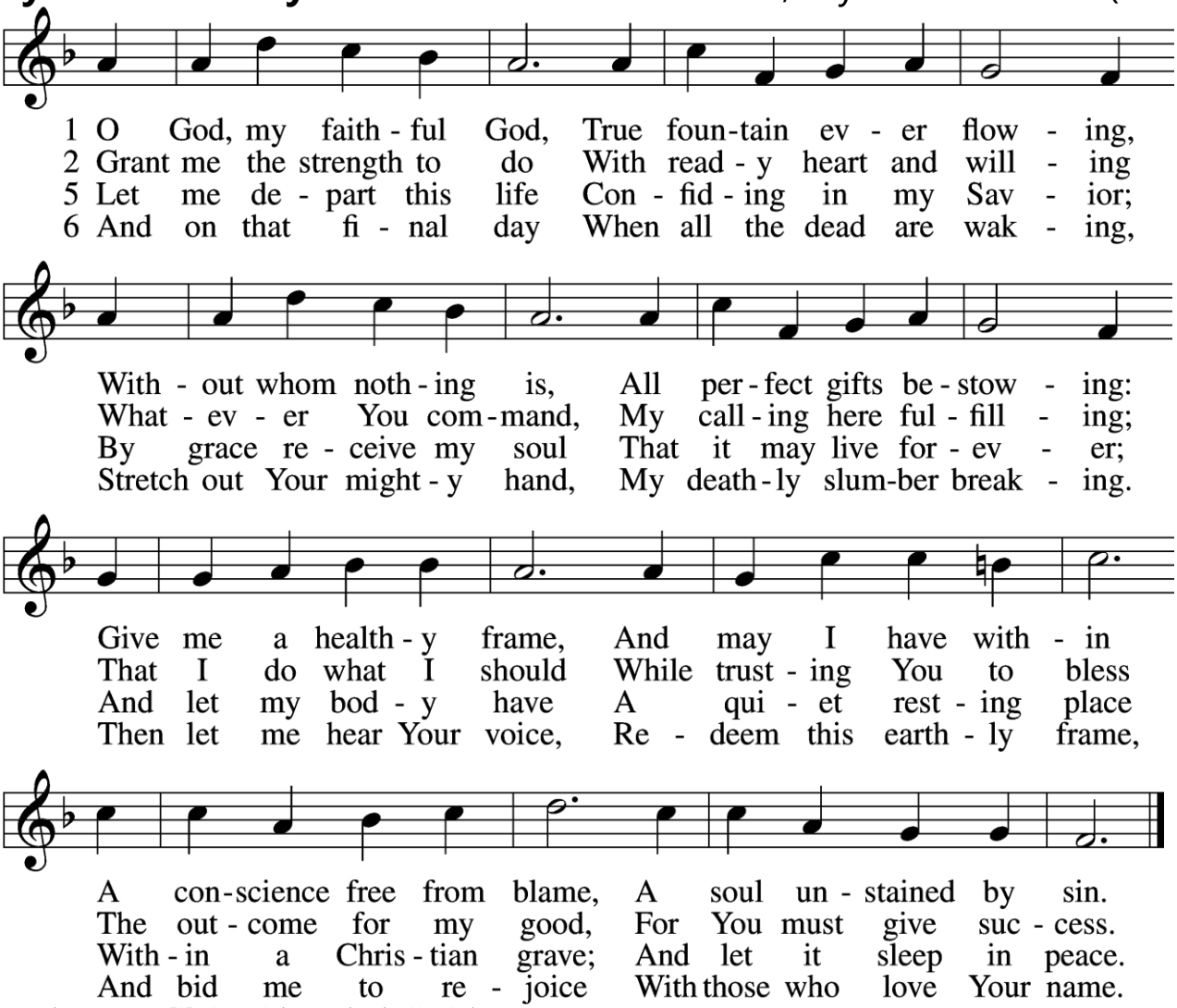
not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. [30]And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. **[31]Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.** [32]For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "Pearls from the Parables: Saying and Doing"

Hymn of the Day "O God, My Faithful God" (LSB 696)



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
Text and tune: Public domain

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]*

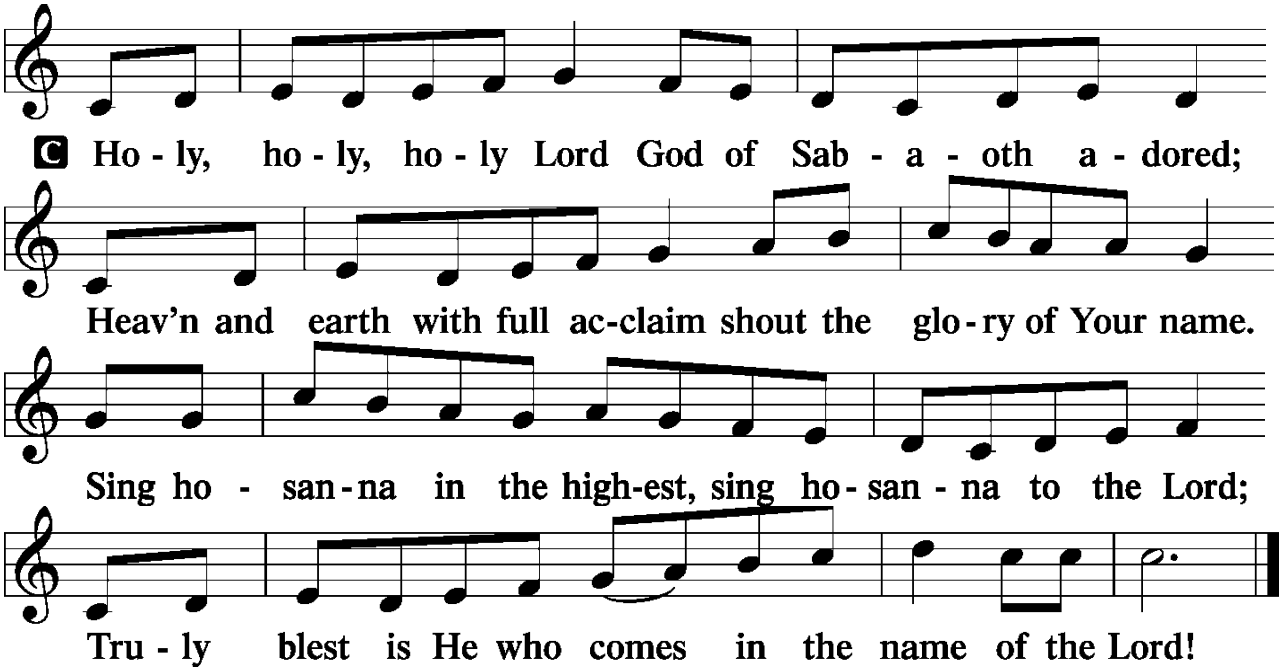
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 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."

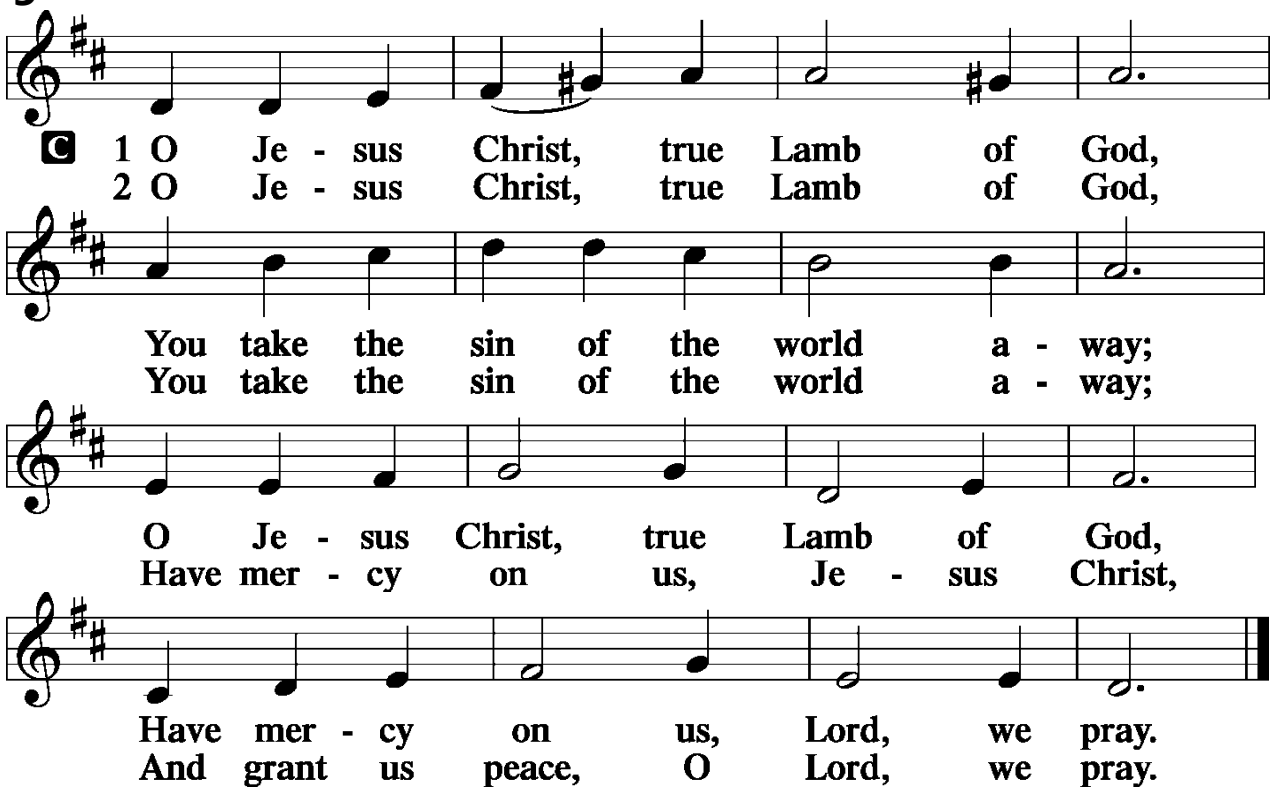
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My
✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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 "A Vineyard Grows – Trad. English Folk Song"
(K. Lee Scott)
St. John's Choir

Amid the world's bleak wilderness
A vineyard grows with promise green,
The planting of the Lord himself,
The planting of the Lord.

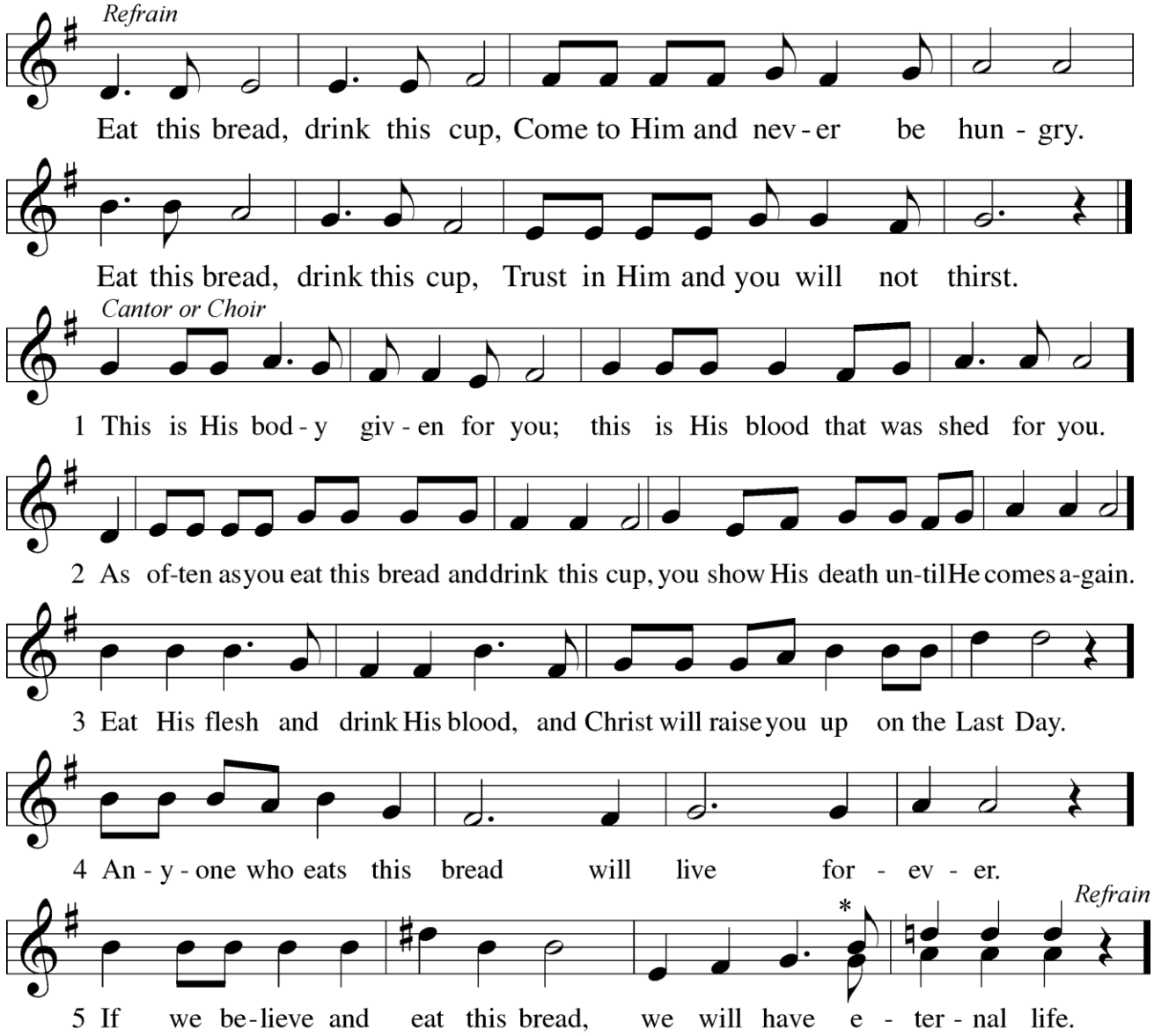
His love selected this terrain,
His vine with love he planted here
To bear the choicest fruit for him,
The choicest fruit for him.

We are his branches, chosen, dear,
And though we feel the dresser's knife,
We are the objects of his care,
The objects of his care.

From him we draw the juice of life,
For him supply his winery
With fruit from which true joys derive,
From which true joys derive.

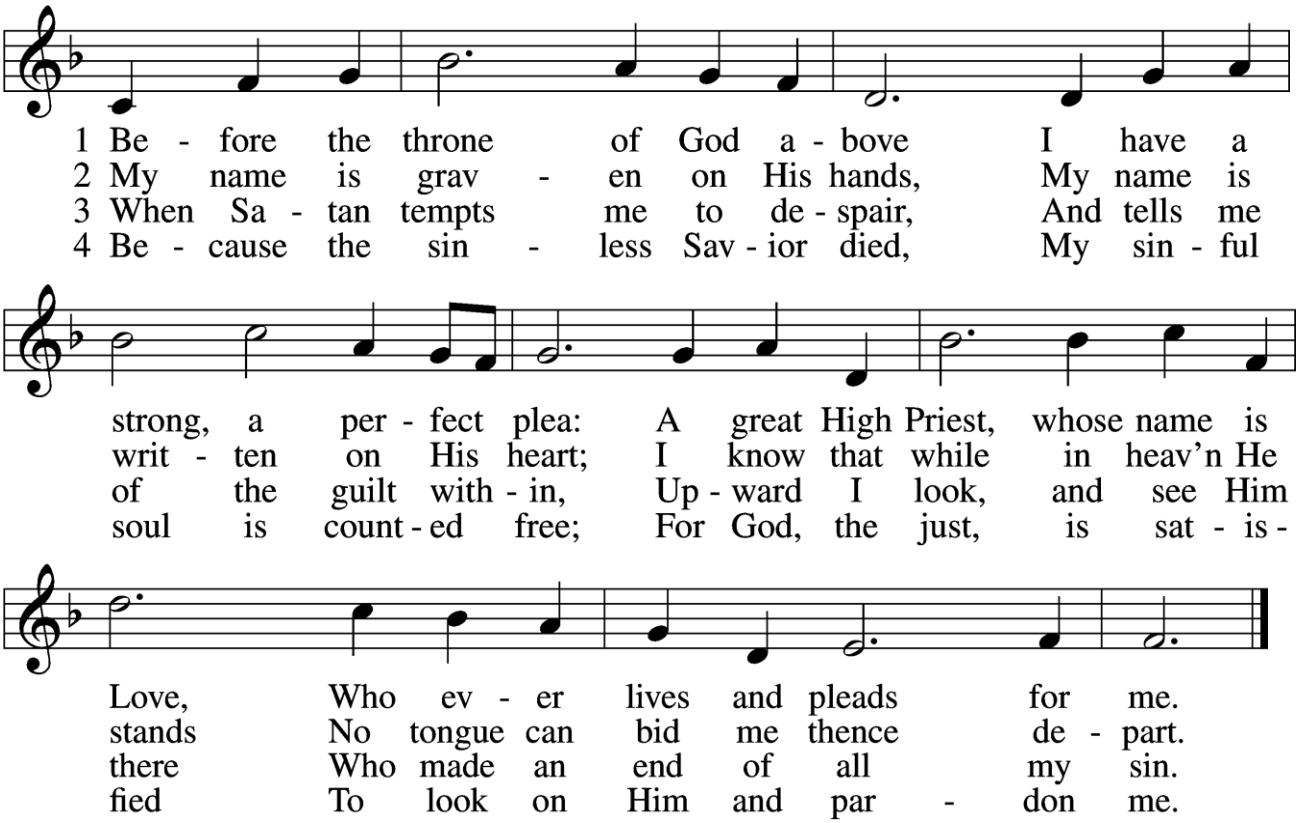
Vine, keep what I was meant to be:
Your branch, with your rich life in me.

"Eat This Bread" (LSB 638)



Text (sts. 1–2): Stephen P. Starke, 1955; (sts. ref, 3–5): Robert J. Batastini, 1942; (sts. ref, 3–5): Taizé Community
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94
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"Before the Throne of God Above" (LSB 574)



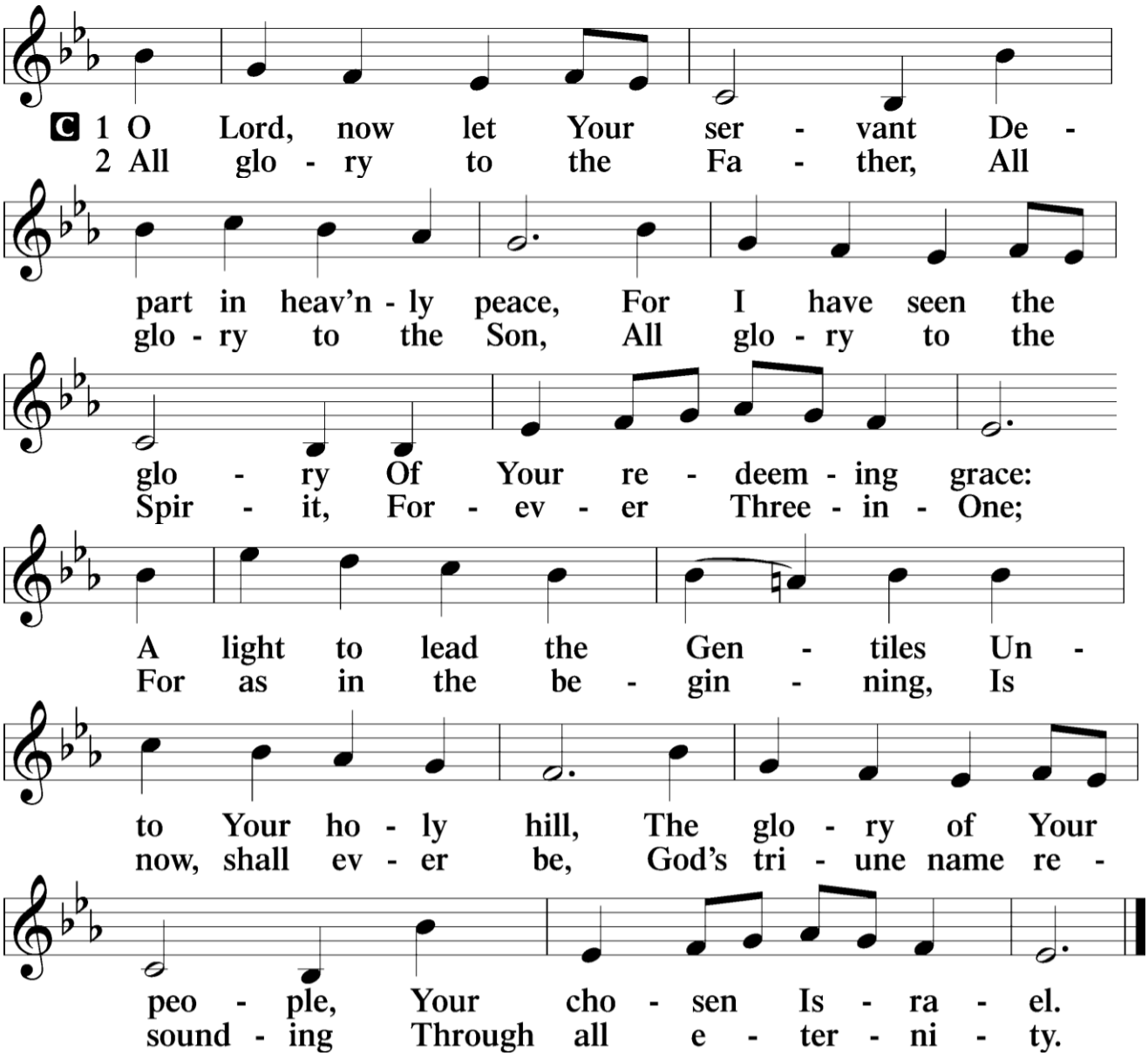
5 Behold Him there! The risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!

6 At one with Him, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Text: Charitie L. de Chenez, 1841–1923, Tune: Vernon Griffiths, 1894–1985, Text: Public domain, Tune: © 1971 Faber Music Ltd. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318

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

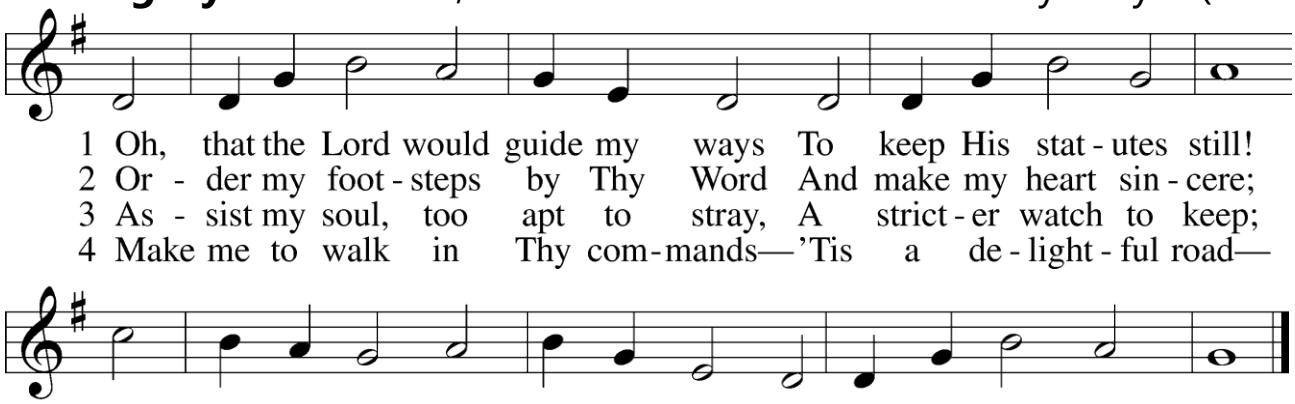
L Let us bless the Lord.

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 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" (LSB 707)



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude "Boléro de Concert, Op.166" (Lefébure-Wély)

✢ ✢ ✢

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Michael Nordvall
Communion Lay Assistant	Tish Nordvall
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Breanna Tillman
Crucifer	Christian Pleisch
Ushers	Andrea Godwin Joseph Godwin
Altar Care	Barbara Pate
AV Operators	Greg Auld Jurgen Gobien
Welcome Host	Denise Canter
Nursery	Angie Vazquez Elizabeth Romeo Melissa Malinowski



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

SCAN HERE TO

CONNECT WITH SJLC

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Read/Sign up for newsletters

Register or attend events/classes

Request for prayers

Connect on social media

...AND MORE!

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A Vineyard Grows – Trad. English Folk Song arr. K. Lee Scott (1988 Morning Star Music Publishers)

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St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Church and ECEC Staff

Pastor	Rev. John Meehan	pastor.meehan@sjlc.com
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE	jennifer.hills@sjlc.com
Director of Music	David Leahey	david.leahey@sjlc.com
Office Administrator	Michelle May	office@sjlc.com
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith	finance@sjlc.com
Director of ECEC	Melinda Hale	ecec@sjlc.com
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells	ecec.admin@sjlc.com

Contact Us

Office: 703-971-2210
ECEC: 703-971-3581
Website: www.sjlc.com