Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Week 1 of Fall Stewardship Series
October 4, 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 **"**Prelude in C Minor" (J. S. Bach)

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,

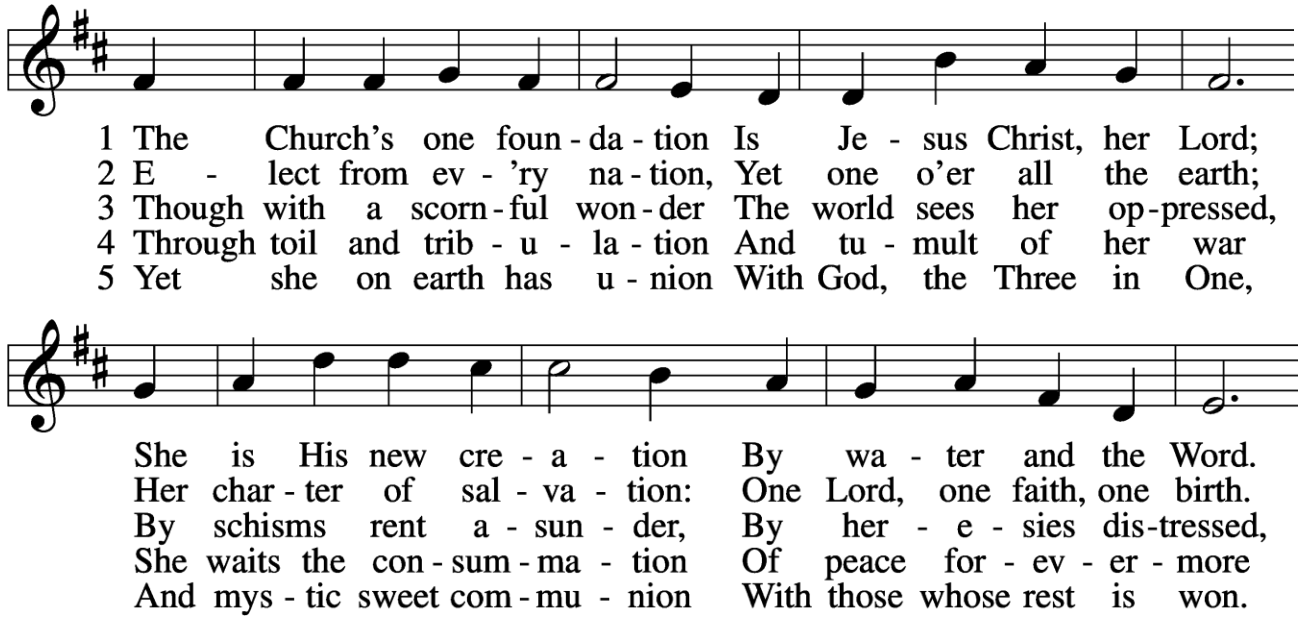
C have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

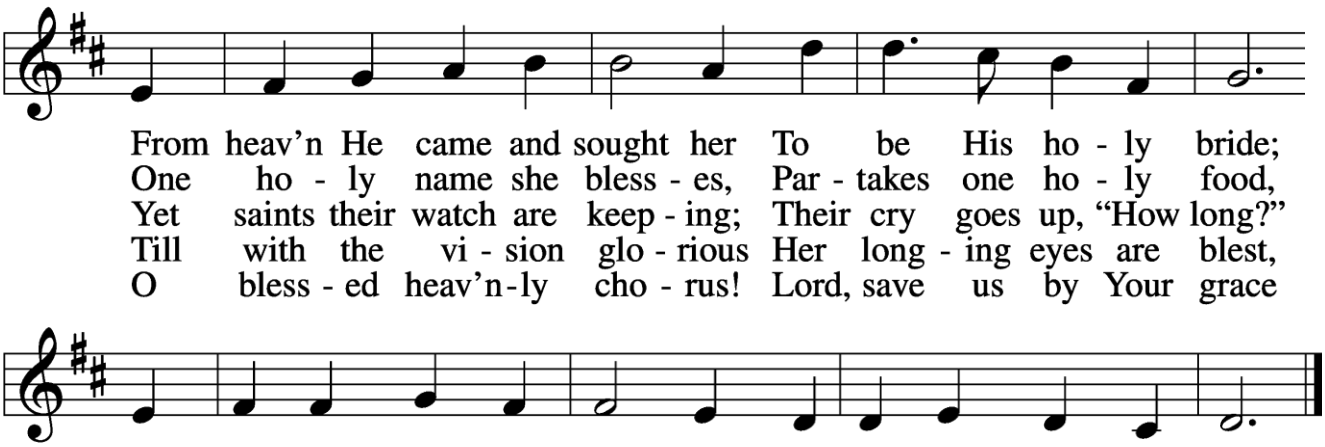
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" (LSB 644)





Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76
Text and tune: Public domain

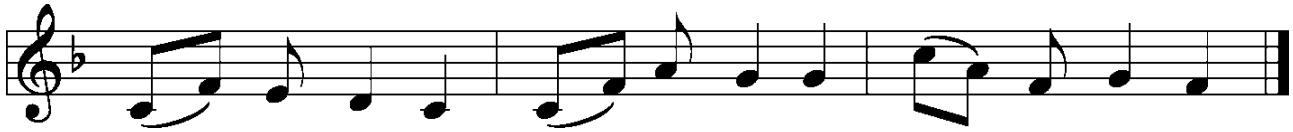
Greeting

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.

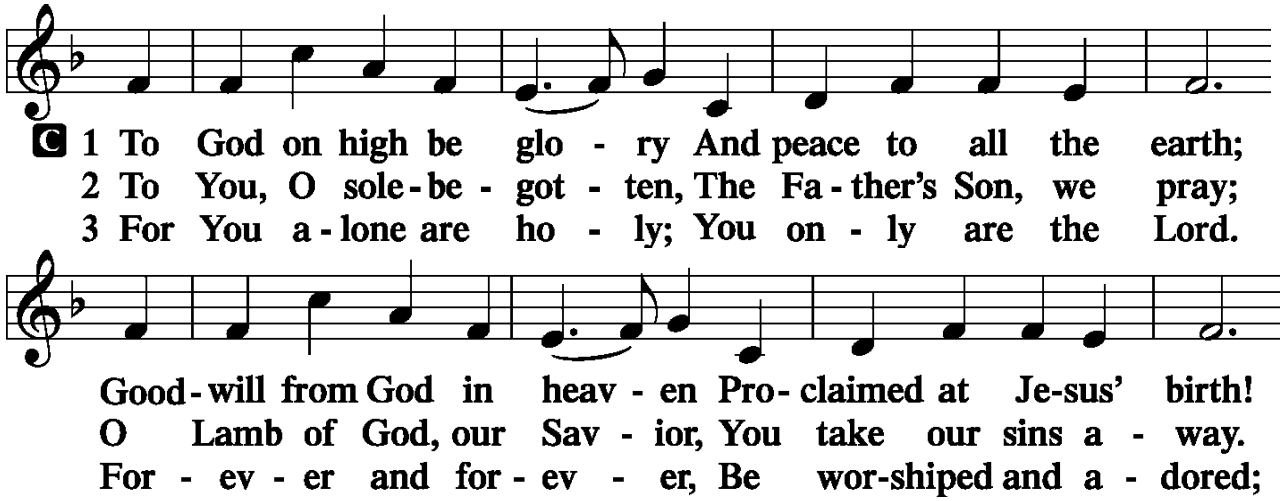
Kyrie

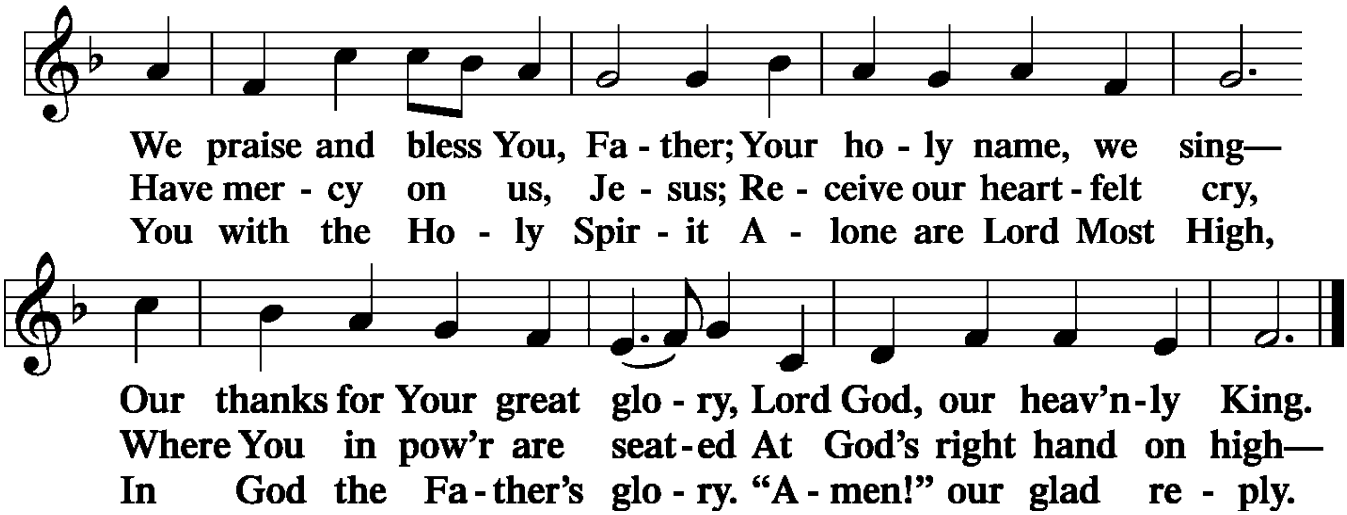
Mark 10:47



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.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 Isaiah 5:1-7

[1]Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. [2]He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. [3]And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. [4]What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? [5]And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. [6]I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or

hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 80:7-19

L Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

C You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

L You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

C The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.

L It sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.

C Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

L The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

C Turn again, O God of hosts!
Look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,

L the stock that your right hand planted,
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

C They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!

L But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

C Then we shall not turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call upon your name!

L Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!
Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

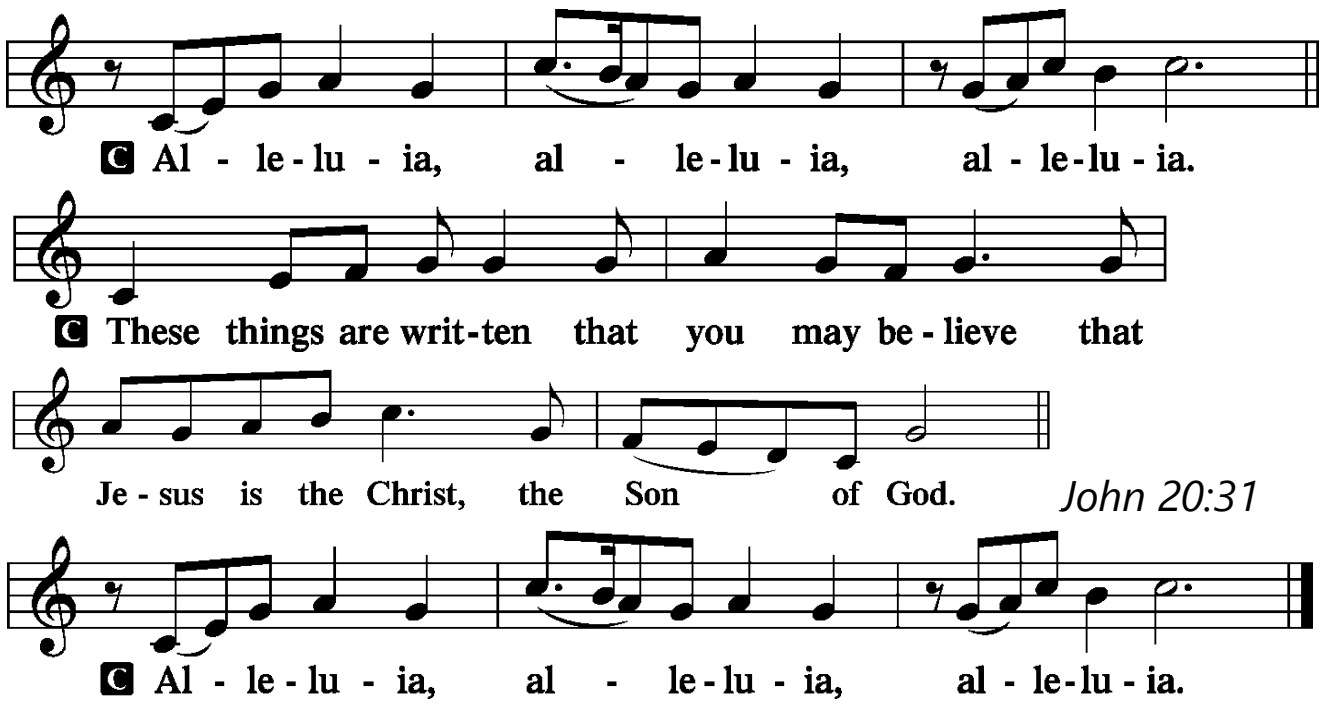
Epistle Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have
more: [5]circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe
of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6]as to zeal, a
persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.
[7]But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8]Indeed,
I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things
and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9]and be found
in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,
but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God
that depends on faith— [10]that I may know him and the power of his
resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his
death, [11]that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from
the dead.
[12]Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press
on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
[13]Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I
do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
[14]I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Matthew 21:33-46

℗ 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.*

33[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. **34When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.** 35And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' 39And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other

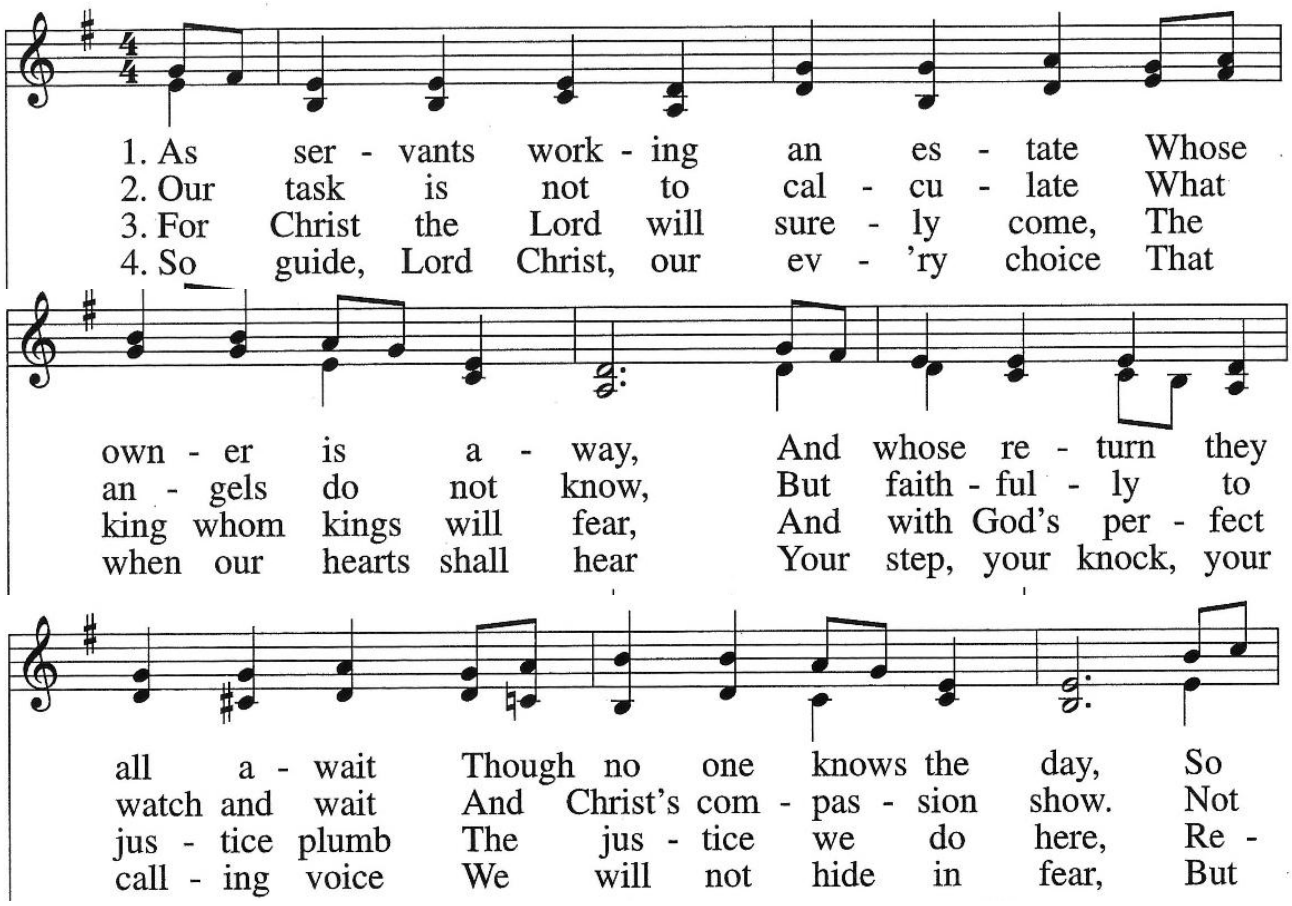
tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." [42]Jesus said to them,
"Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders
rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?
[43]Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people producing its fruits. [44]And the one who falls on this
stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush
him."
[45]When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
perceived that he was speaking about them. [46]And although they were
seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to
be a prophet.

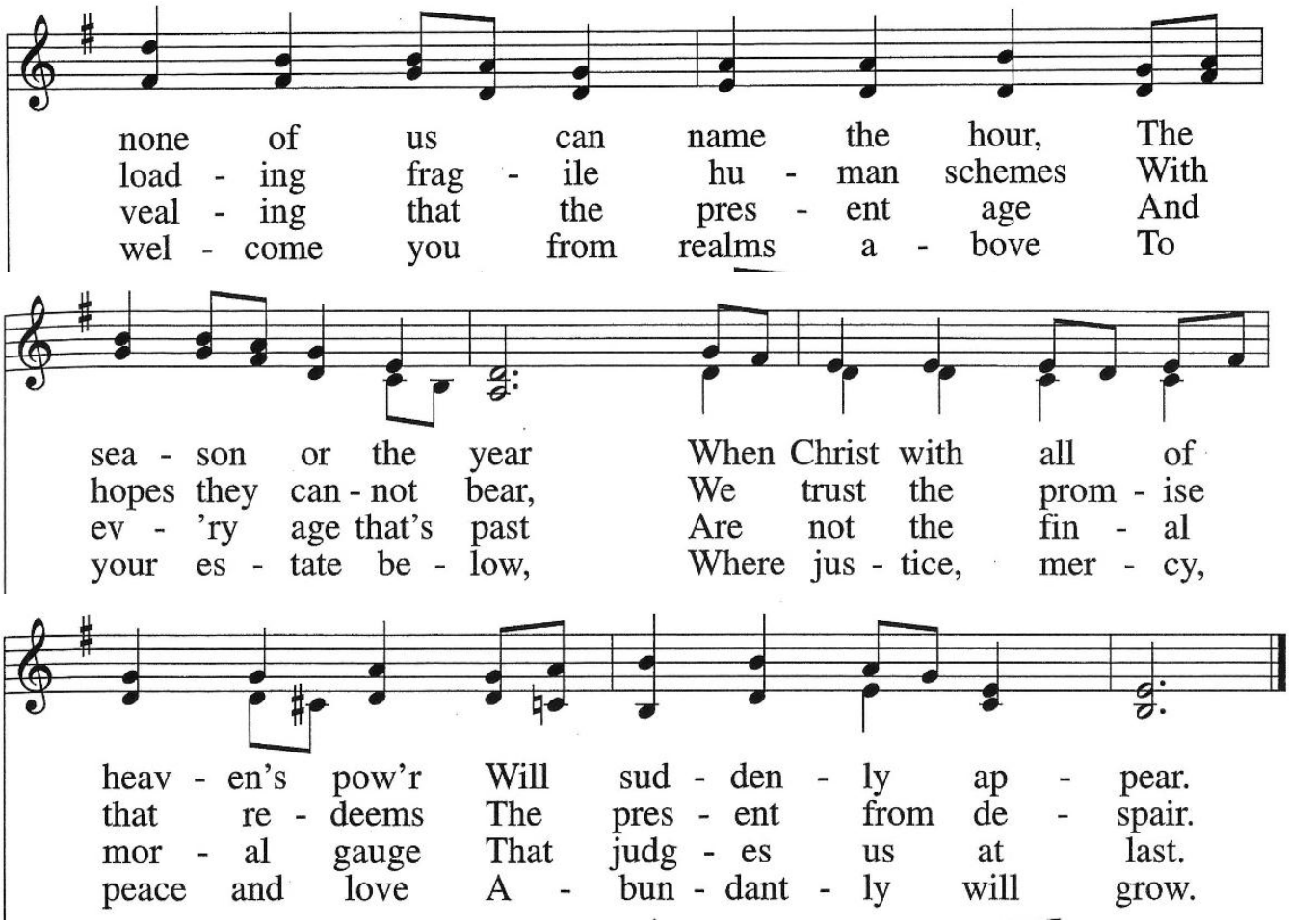
℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon "Fruits of Faith: Squatters"

Hymn of the Day "As Servants Working an Estate" (GIA 81)





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.

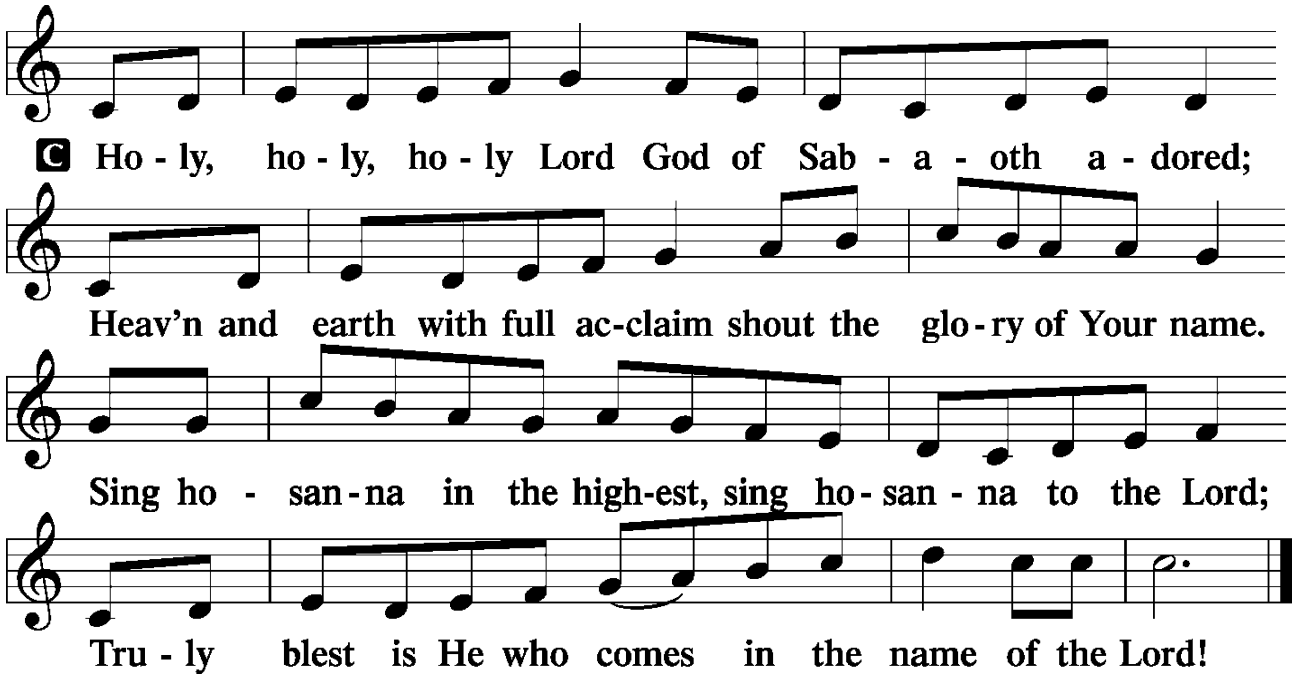
C **We lift them to the Lord.** *[Colossians 3:1]*

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

℗ 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*

℗ 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."

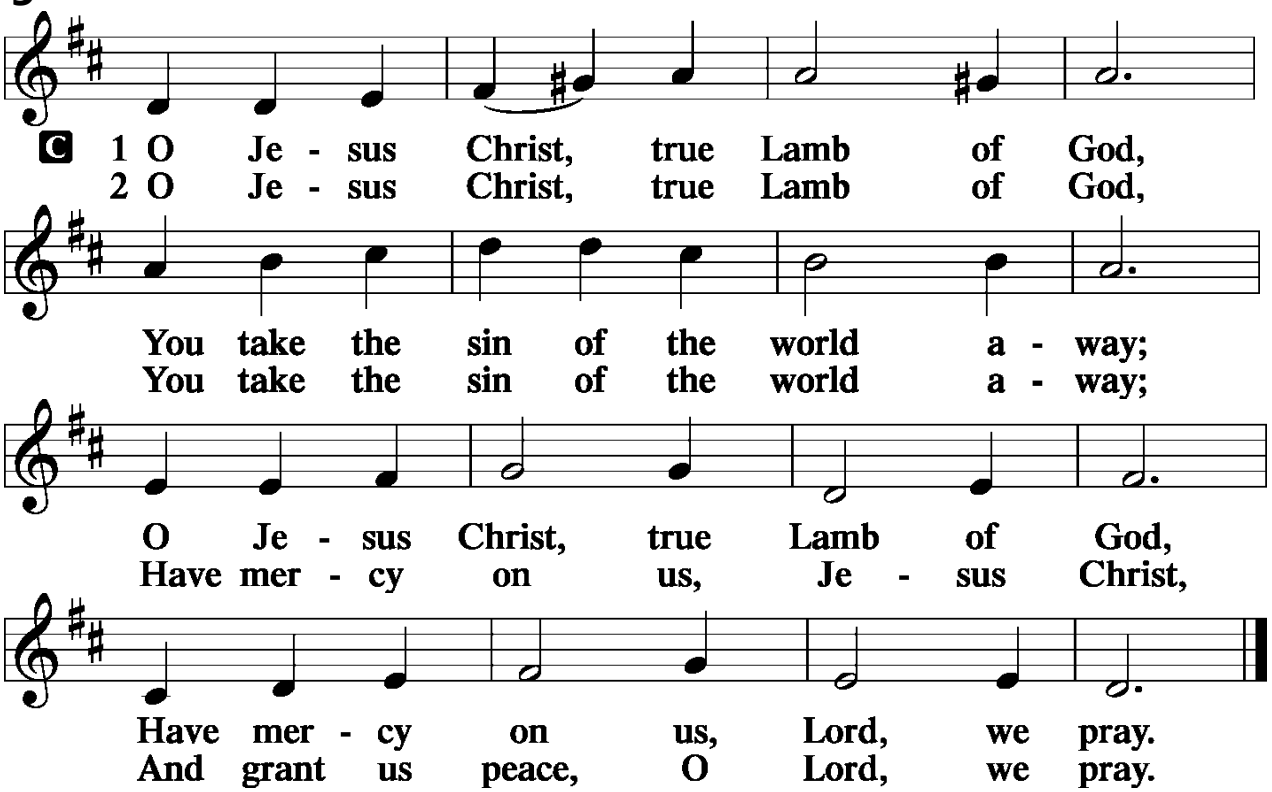
℗ In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *John 20:19*

℗ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

℄ Amen.

Agnus Dei *John 1:29*



Please be seated

Distribution

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 Distribution "Christ is our Cornerstone" (David Ogden)

Christ is our Cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled;
On His great love our hopes we place
Of present grace and joys above.

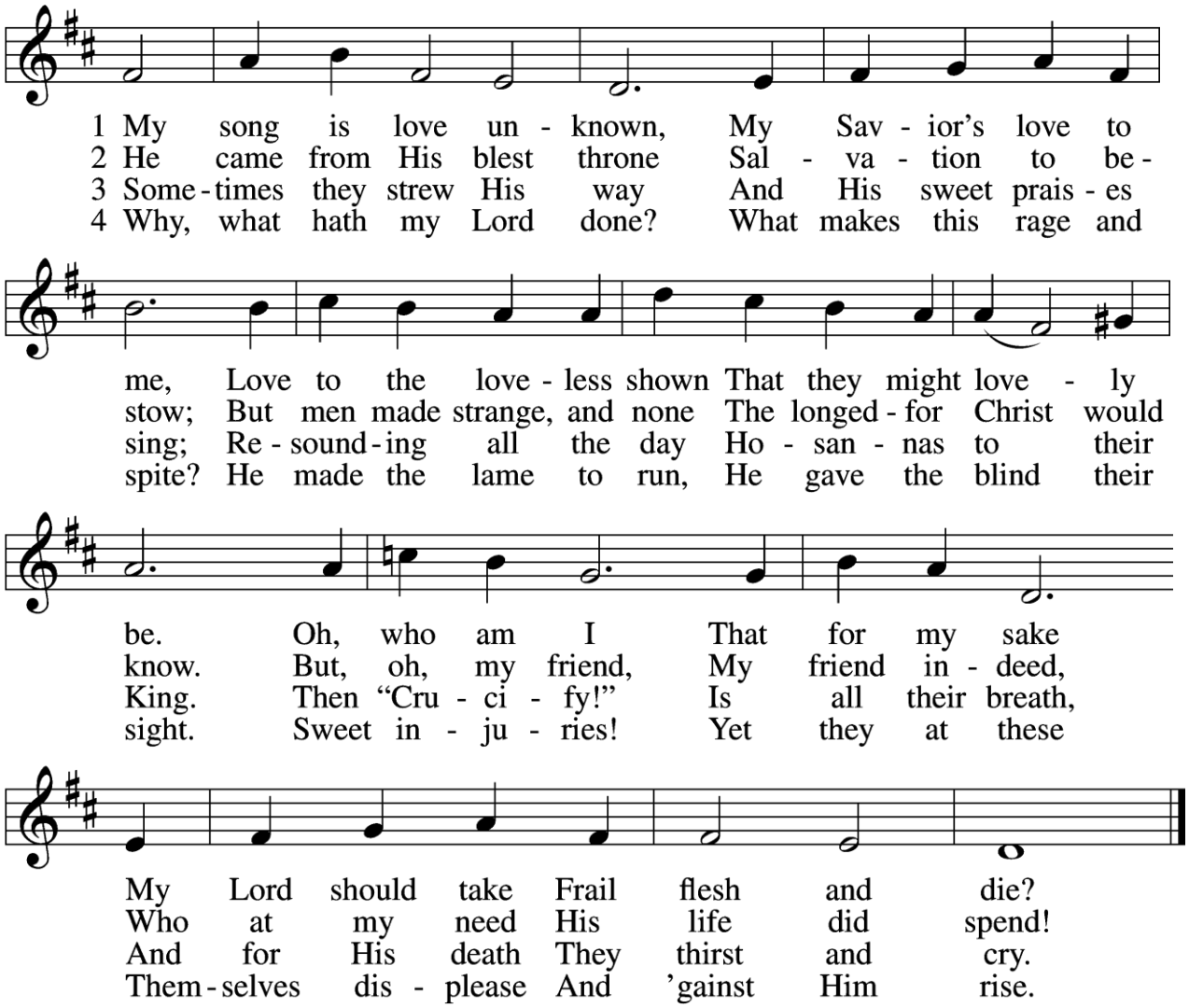
Alleluia! Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God!

O then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim in joyful song
Both loud and long, that glorious Name.

Here, gracious God, do Thou
Forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow,
And mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious shower on all who pray,
Each holy day, Thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from Heav'n,
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore;
Until that day when all the blest
to endless rest are called away.

"My Song Is Love Unknown" (LSB 430)



5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

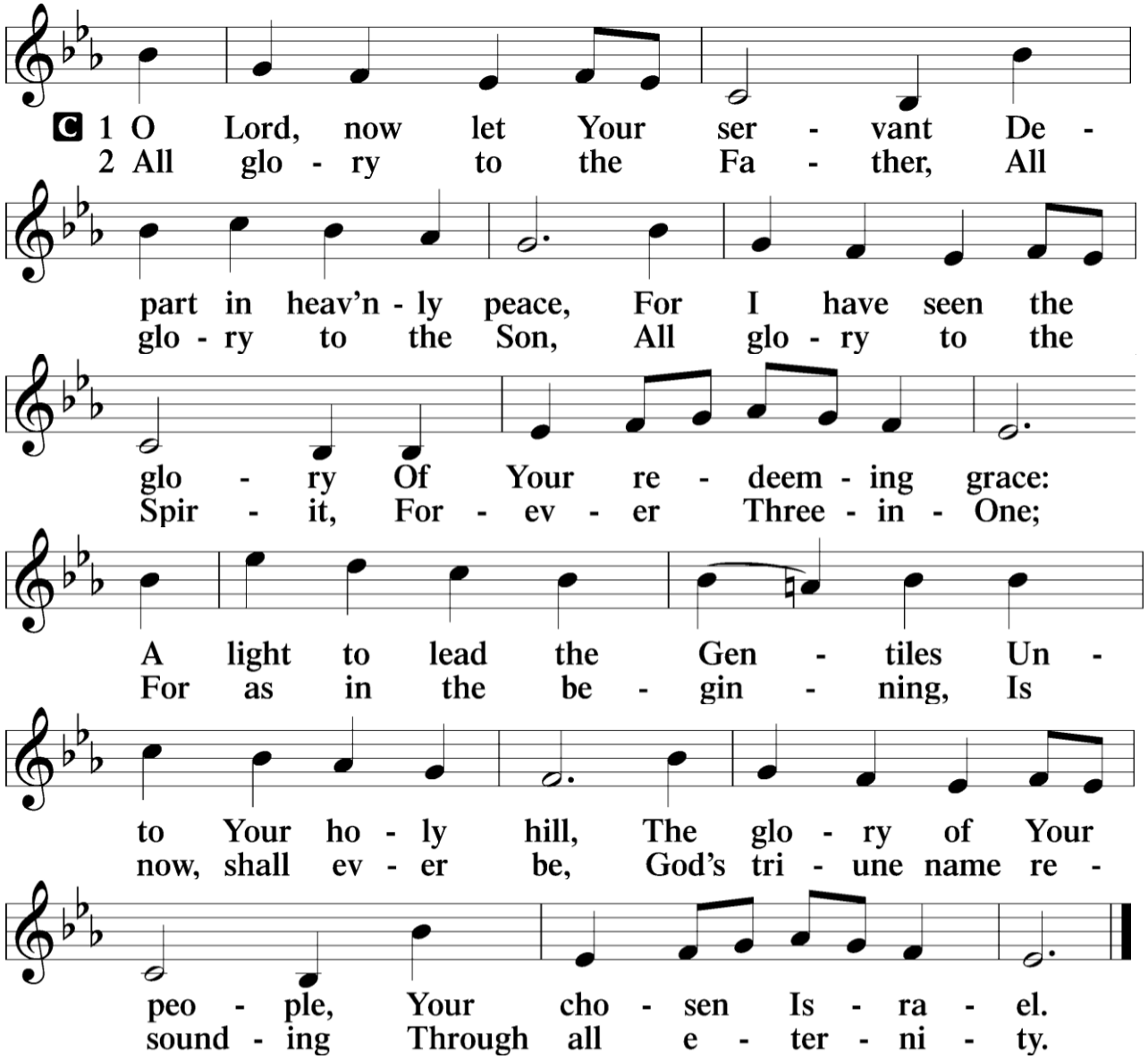
6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

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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

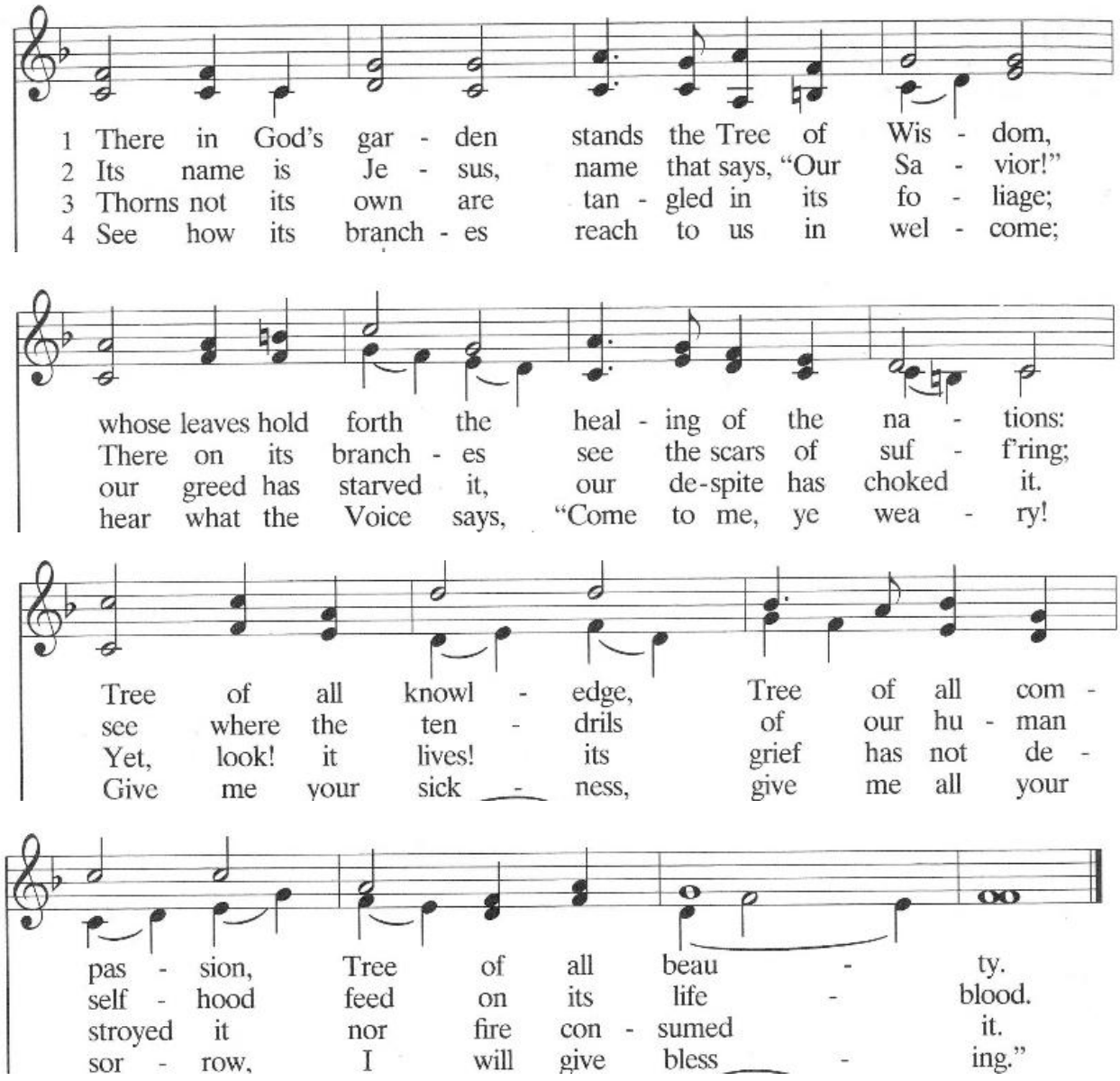
L Let us bless the Lord.

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 "There in God's Garden" (WOV 668)



5 This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose Passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

Postlude "Toccata in Seven" (John Rutter)

✢ ✢ ✢

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome/Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Rich Keppers
Communion Lay Assistant	Thuy Nguyen
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Sean Wilson
Crucifer	Sophie Wilson
Ushers	Cynthia Chen
	Andrew Ehlers
Altar Care	Maritza Guerra
AV Operator	Scott Budzien
	Samuel Rempe
Welcome Host	Joseph Godwin
Nursery	Charlotte Keppers
	Lisa Goodell



This weekend's **altar flowers** are given by Ray Steiger in loving memory of Nora Steiger.

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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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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