Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Week 3 of Fall Stewardship Series
October 18, 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 "A Call to Celebration" (D. Angerman)
(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,

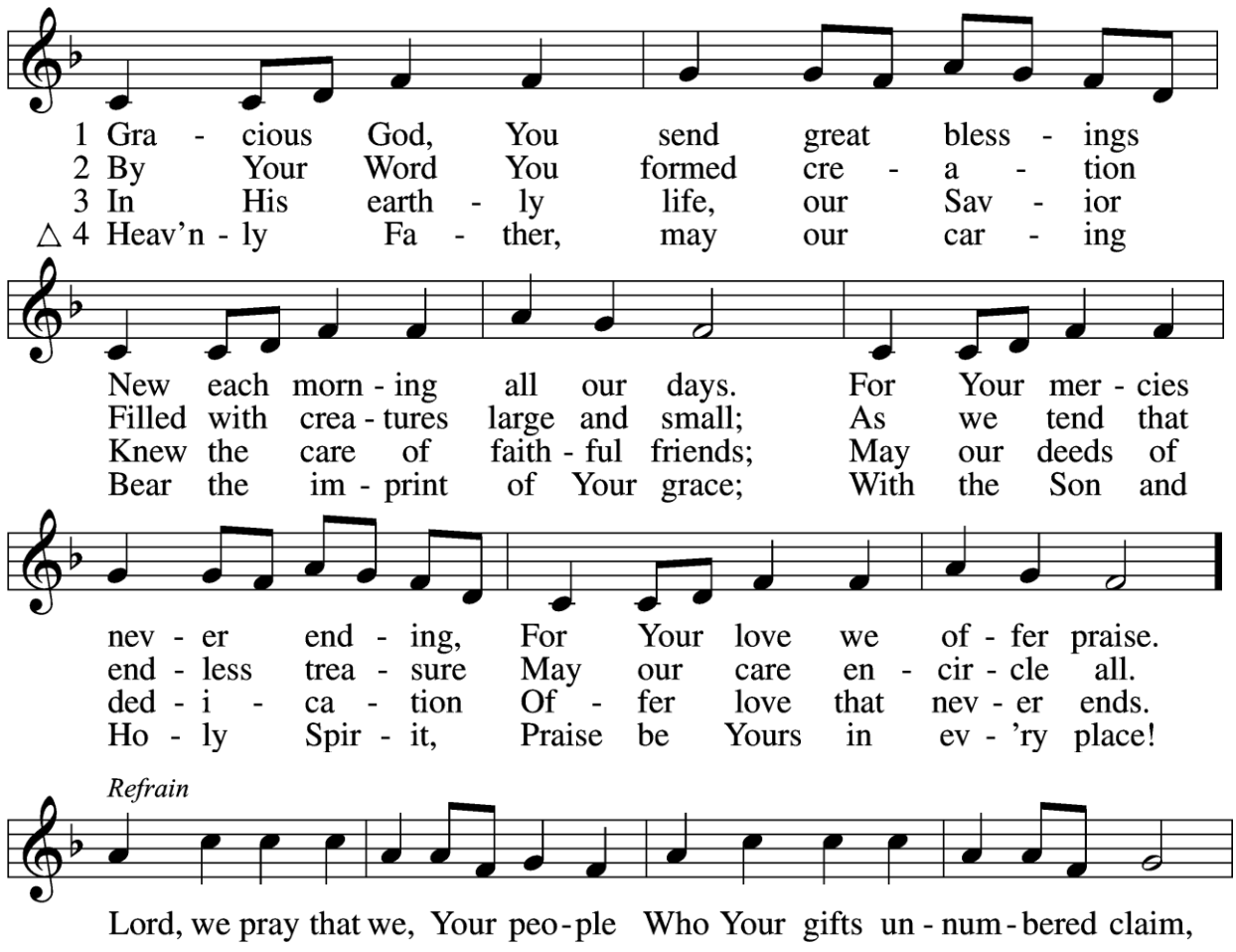
Ⓒ **have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

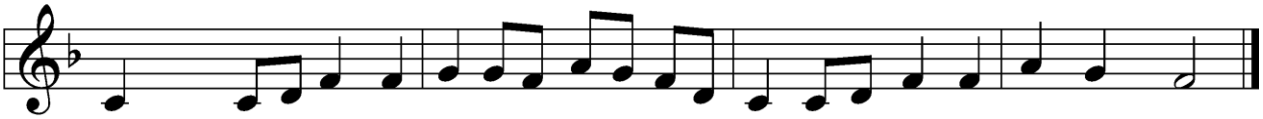
Ⓟ Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

Ⓒ **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" (LSB 782)





Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati
Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
Tune: Public domain

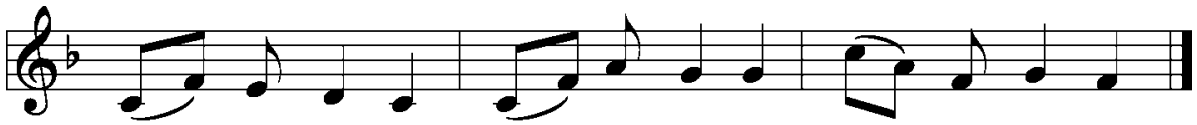
Greeting

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.

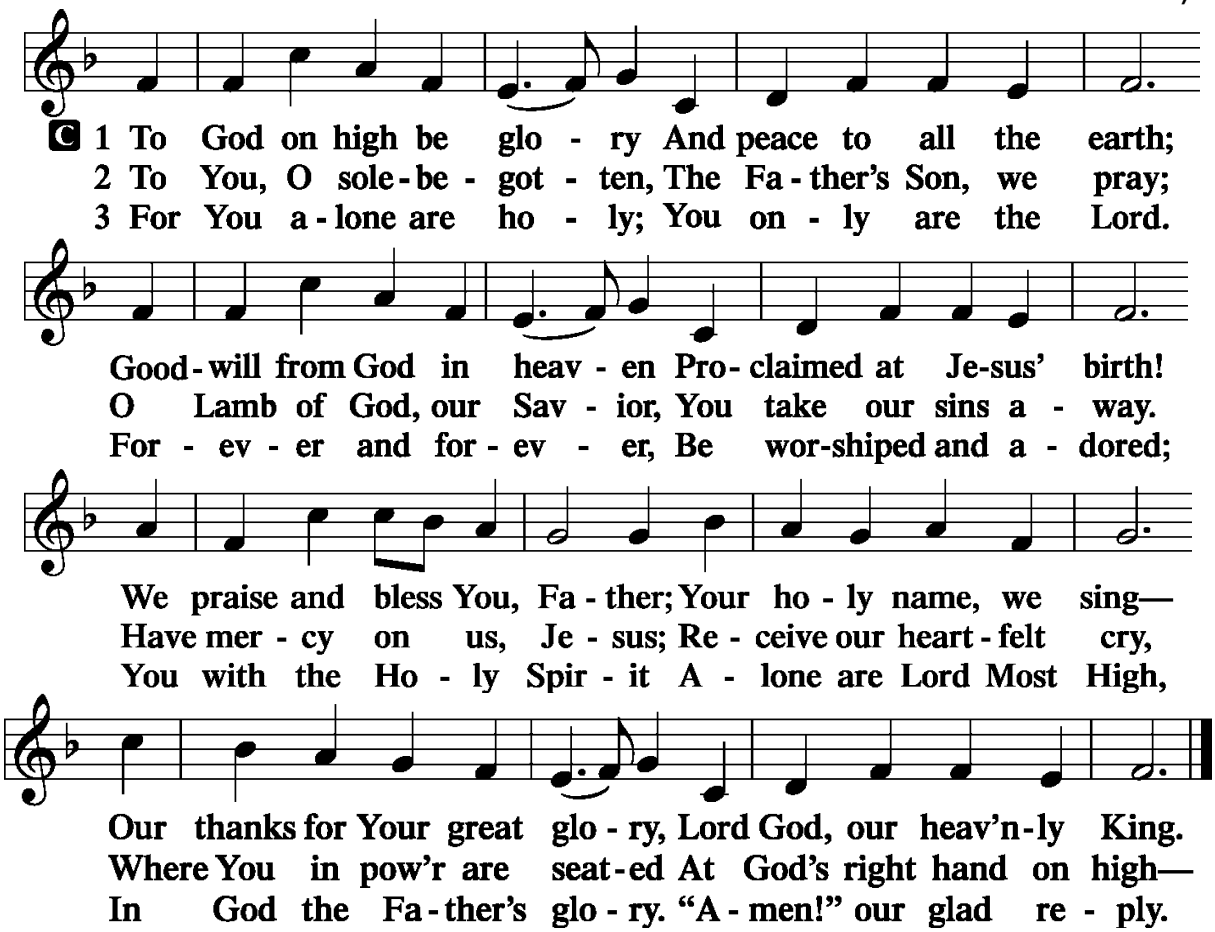
Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Salutation and Collect of the Day

℗ The Lord be with you.

ℂ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; 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 45:1-7

[1]Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have
grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to
open doors before him that gates may not be closed: [2]"I will go before
you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron, [3]I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4]For the sake of my servant
Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though
you do not know me.
[5]I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip
you, though you do not know me, [6]that people may know, from the
rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am
the LORD, and there is no other. [7]I form light and create darkness, I make
well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things."

℔ This is the Word of the Lord.

ℂ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 96:1-13

L Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

C **Sing to the LORD, bless his name;**
tell of his salvation from day to day.

L Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

C **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;**
he is to be feared above all gods.

L For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

C **Splendor and majesty are before him;**
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

L Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

C **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;**
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

L Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

C **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!**
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

L Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C **let the field exult, and everything in it!**
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

L before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

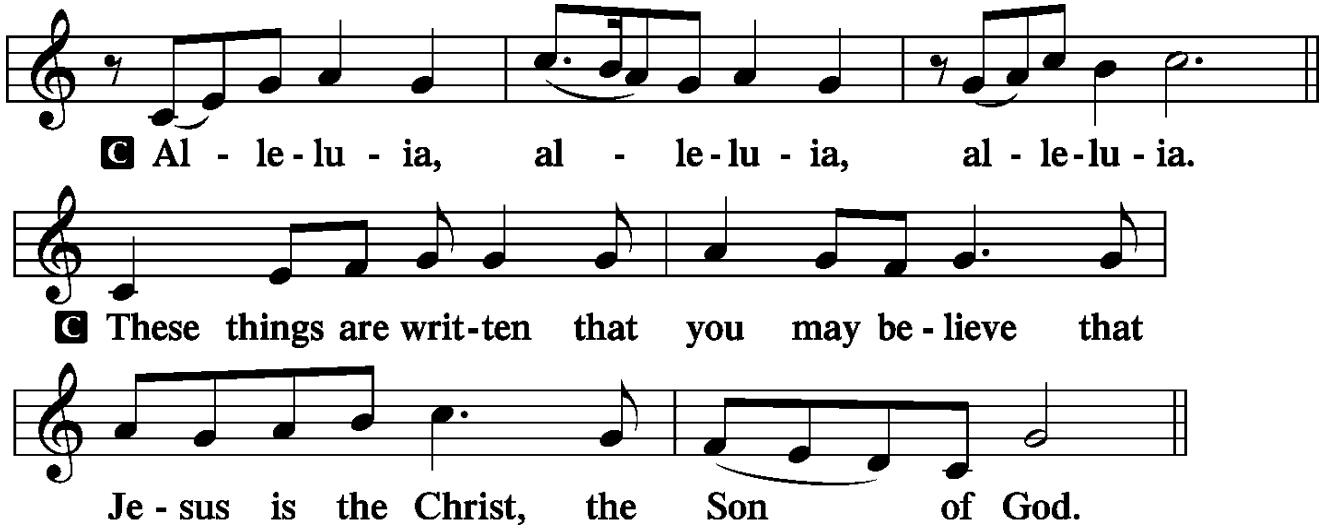
Epistle 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

[1]Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.[2]We give
thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our
prayers, [3]remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and
labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4]For we
know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5]because our
gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy
Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to
be among you for your sake. [6]And you became imitators of us and of the
Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the
Holy Spirit, [7]so that you became an example to all the believers in
Macedonia and in Achaia. [8]For not only has the word of the Lord
sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God
has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. [9]For they
themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among
you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true
God, [10]and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the
dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

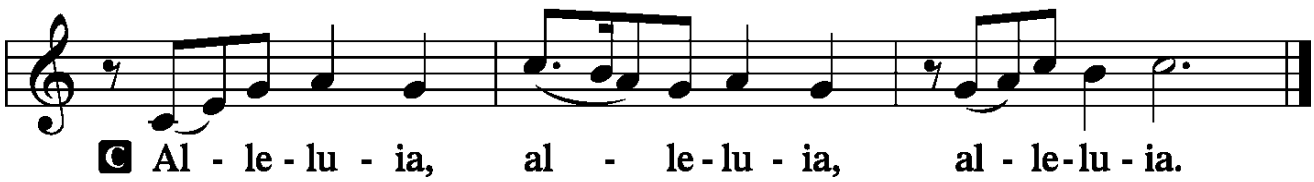
L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



John 20:31



Holy Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second 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.*

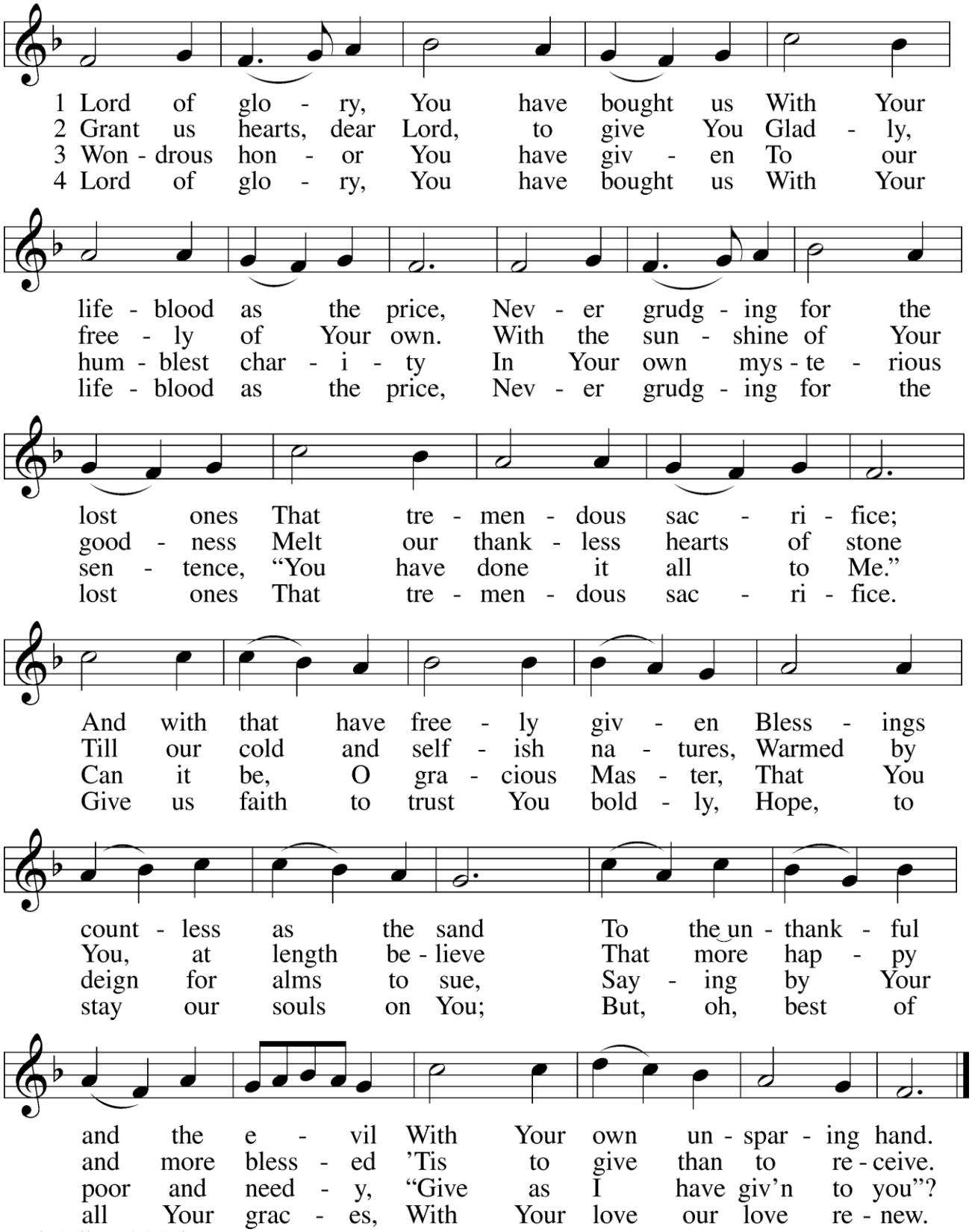
15Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk.
16And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" **21They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** 22When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon "Fruits of Faith: The Things That Are God's"

Hymn of the Day "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" (LSB 851)



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87
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]*

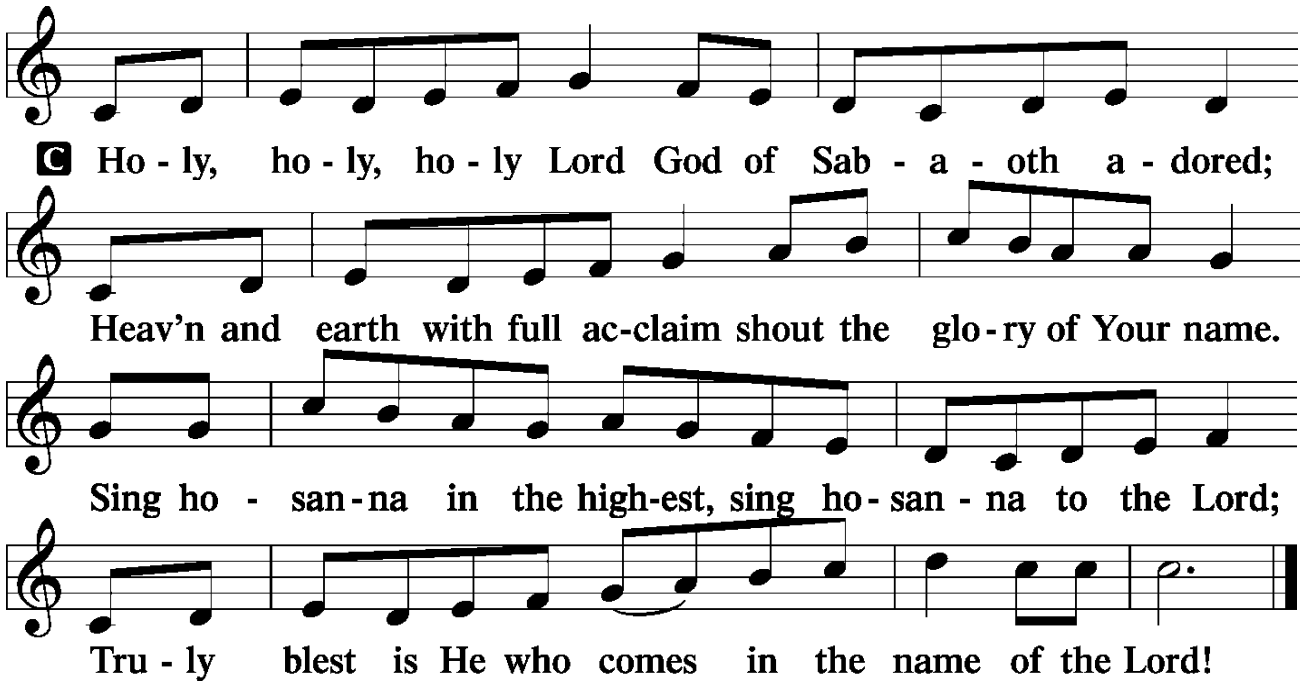
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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*

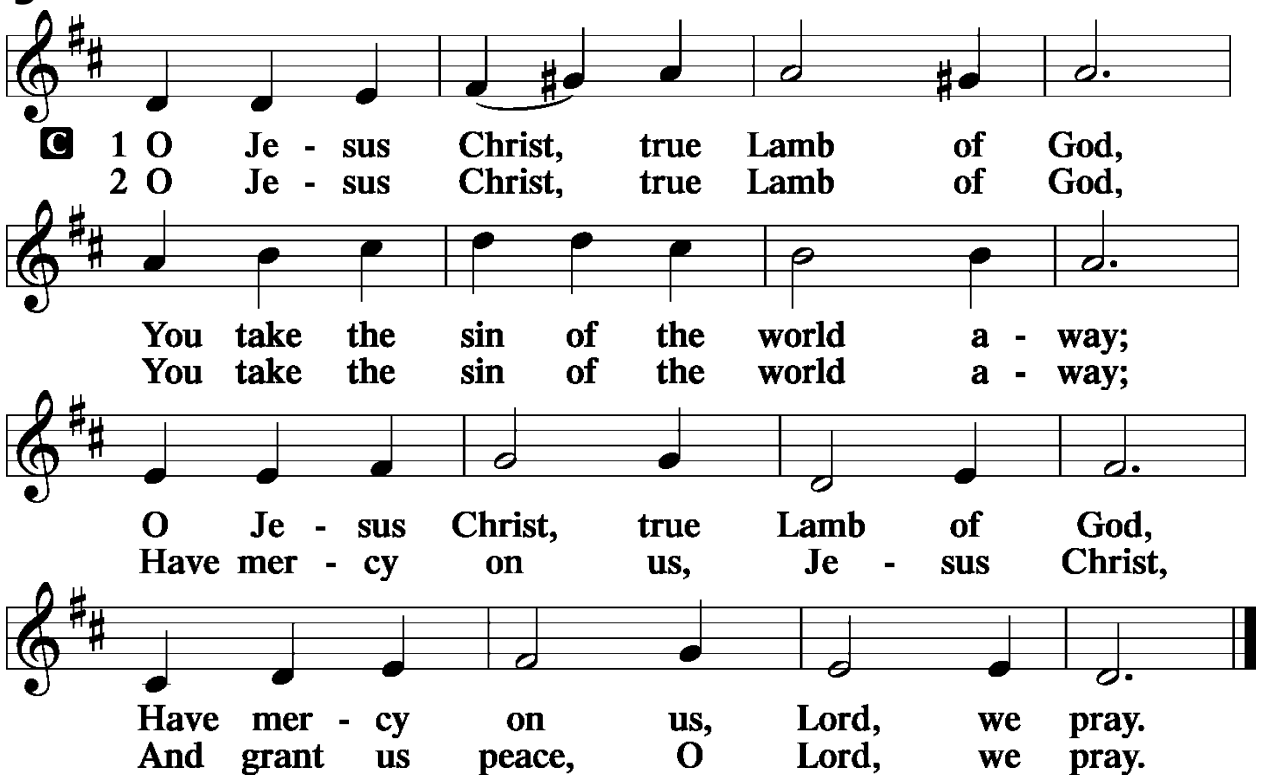
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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

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.

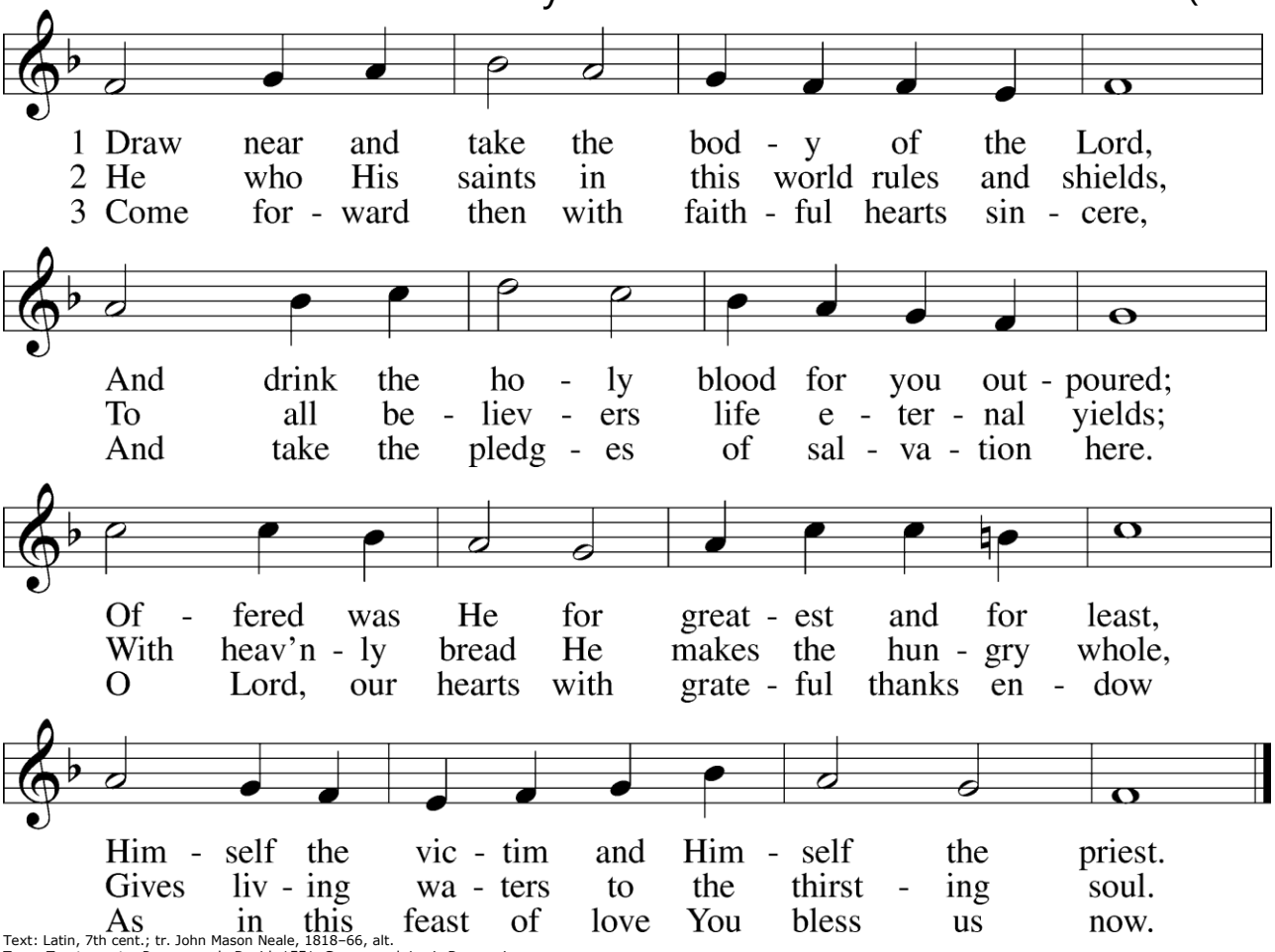
Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and

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.

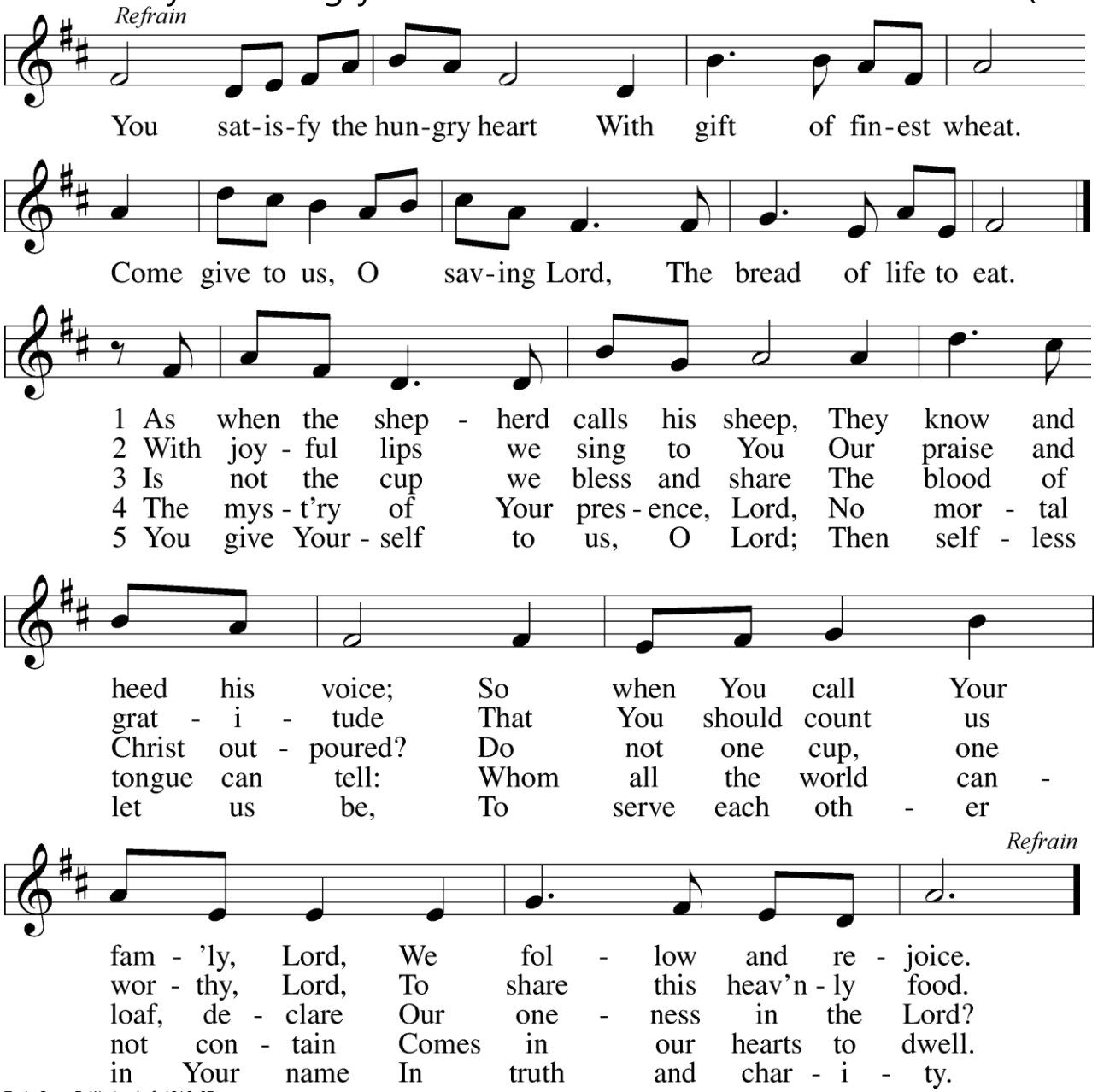
Music at Distribution "The Heavens Are Telling (from 'The Creation')"
(F. J. Haydn)
(Handbell Choir)

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" (LSB 637)



Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

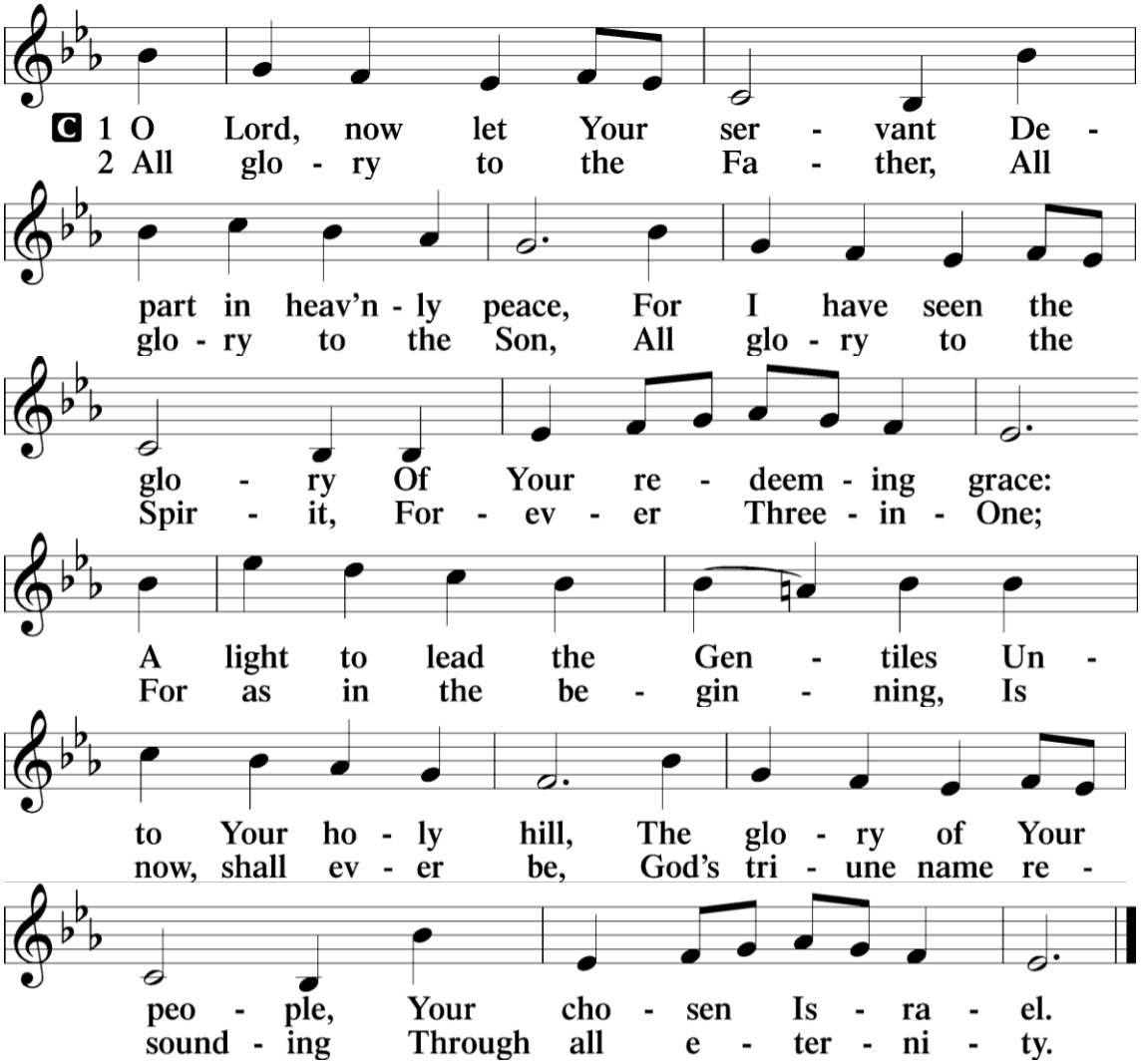
"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" (LSB 641)



Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97
Tune: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–96
Text and tune: © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Publications. 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.

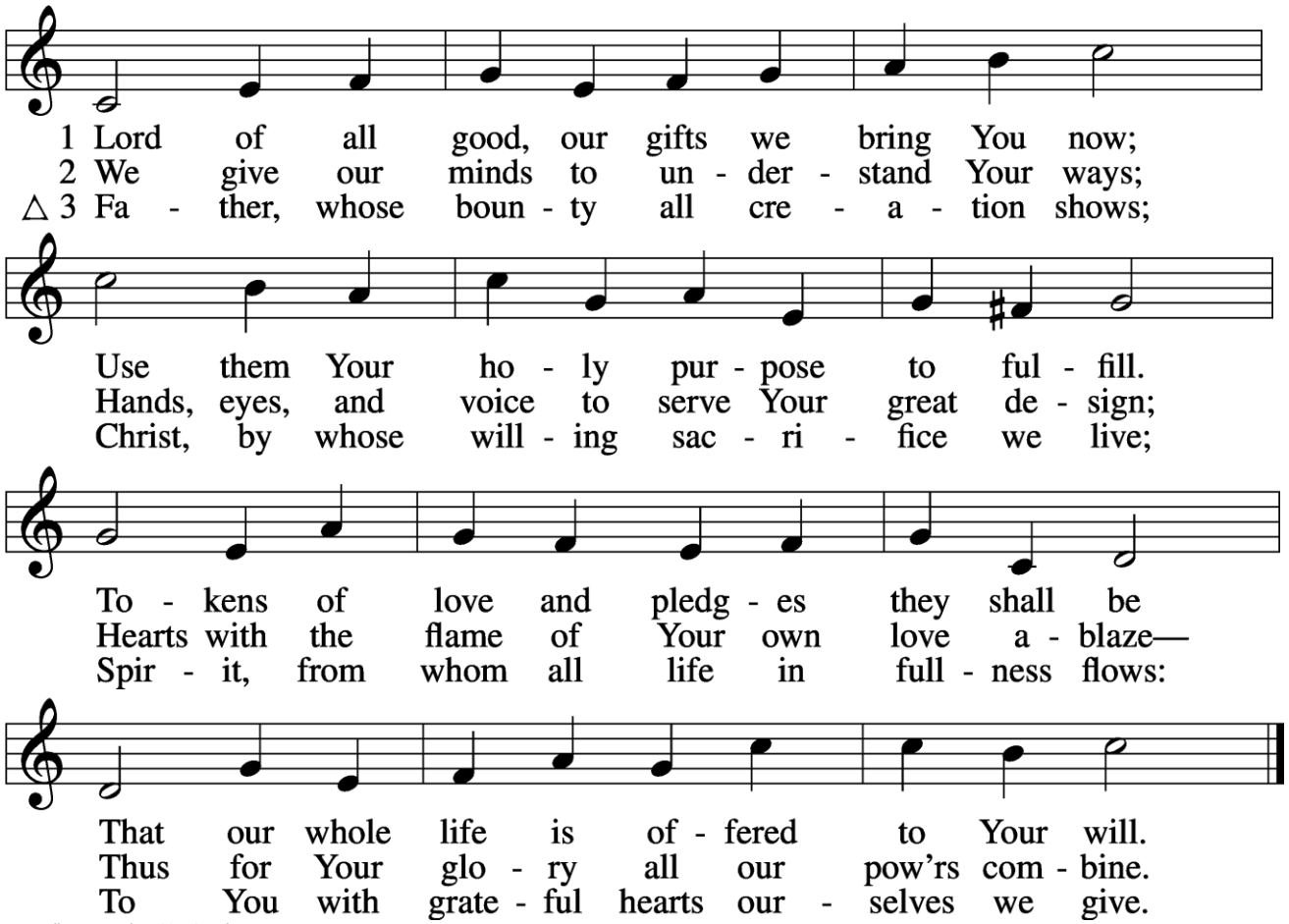
C **Thanks be to God**. *[Psalm 103:1]*

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

"Lord of All Good" (LSB 786)



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.
Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662
Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
Tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Rondo Jubilate" (D. Wagner)

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Welcome/Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Chuck Fosse
Communion Lay Assistant	Jennifer Hills
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Charlotte Hills
Crucifer	Sofi Hills
Ushers	Benjamin May Michelle May
Altar Care	Cathy Long
AV Operator	Caroline Ehlers Mark Gilbertson
Welcome Host	Jan Swicord
Nursery	Christin Kjelland Charlotte Keppers Angie Vazquez



This weekend's altar flowers are 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 member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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