Christ the King Lutheran Church



Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
11:00 a.m.

All Are Welcome

Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here. Called by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people, inclusive of culture, age, race or ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or family structure. We are committed to the work of racial equity and justice within and through our community that we all may be transformed to be fully the body of Christ in our world. We invite you to worship with us, receive Christ's gift of Holy Communion with us, share your own story with us, and serve with us as we strive to live into God's universal embrace in Jesus Christ.

Helpful Directions

Whether you are a new member or visiting for the first time, we welcome you!

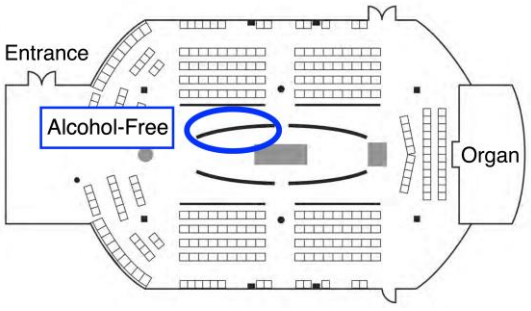
- Greeters and Council Members are identified by name tags and are happy to assist you participating in today's services.
- Restrooms are located in the ministry building. From the nave, follow the cloister through the courtyard and enter the double doors; you will find the restrooms on your left. Gender-neutral restrooms are in the basement and on the second floor.
- Firearms are strictly prohibited within our buildings and courtyard at all times.

For Children and Parents

- As we worship, children are invited into the PrayGround. Children's worship bags are available at the entrance to the nave. Children's Bibles are in the pews.
- For families with infants, our nursery attendants are available to provide care.
- The nursery is accessible through the courtyard.
- If it gets too loud, we have headphones with the blankets located at the entrance of the nave.

In Holy Communion Christ is present and welcomes all.

Please come to the altar rail at the direction of the ushers, taking an individual glass from the table at the end of the front pew. Our Holy Communion Bread is gluten-free. Alcohol-free wine is offered at the altar rail quadrant near the PrayGround circled in blue on the diagram. You may choose both bread and cup or either. Christ is present in all for all.



Cover: *Parable of the Ten Talents*, Modern Orthodox Iconography.

HOLY COMMUNION

Gathering

Those who arrive early are invited to explore the Ofrenda in the narthex.

The pealing of the bells and prelude serve as opportunities to center oneself before worship. We ask the assembly to refrain from conversation.

Pealing of the Bells

Prelude *Toccata per le levatione* from the Messa della Madonna,
Fiori musicali
Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

Rise in body or spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

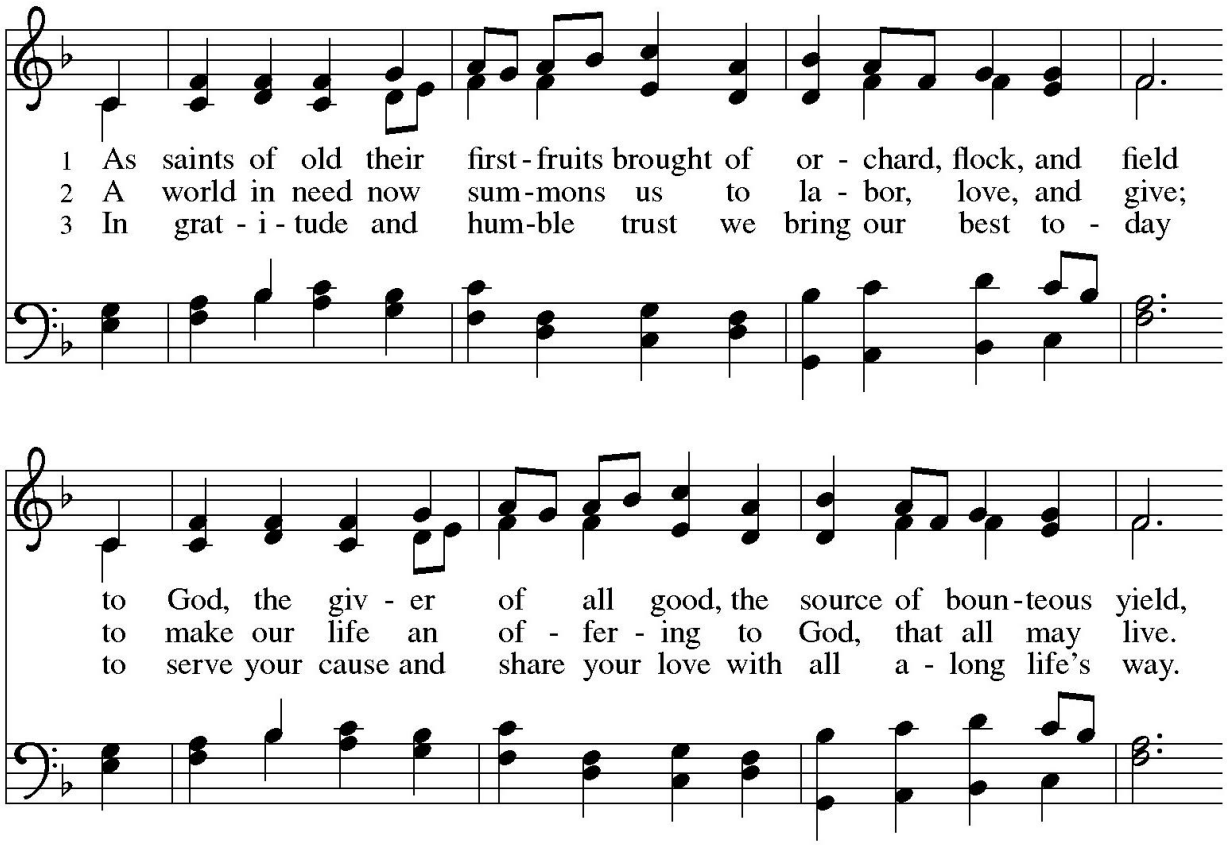
Kneel or sit as silence is kept for reflection.

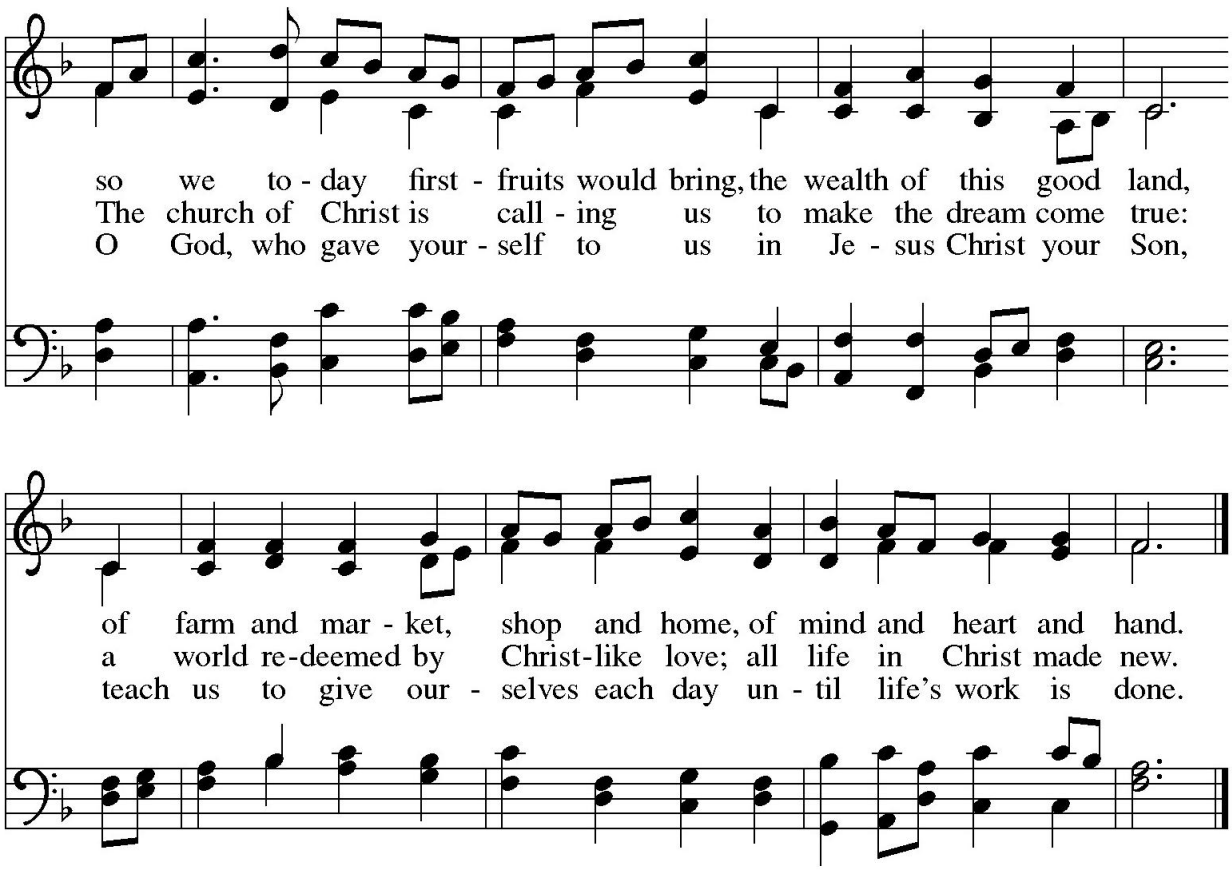
Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rise in body or spirit.

Gathering Hymn 695 *As Saints of Old*



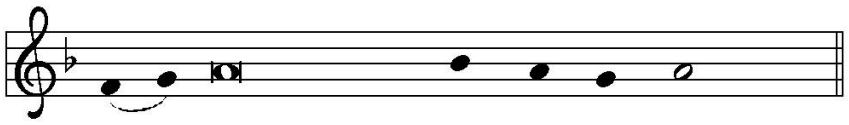


Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

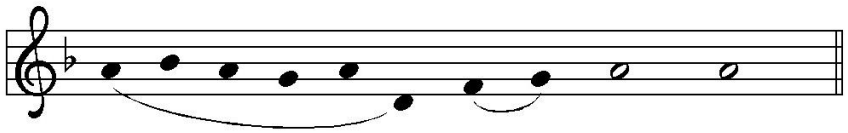
Greeting

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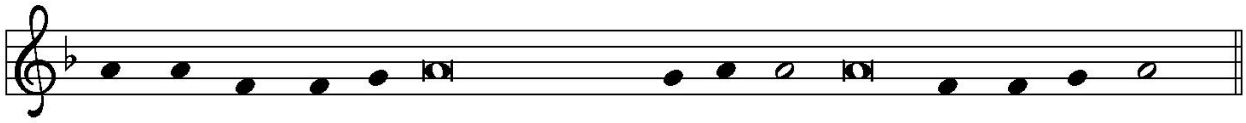
Kyrie



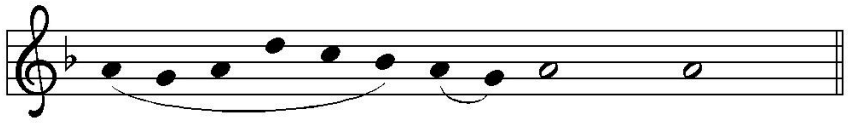
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
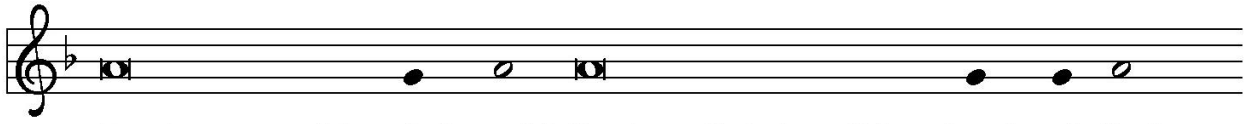


Lord, have mer - cy.



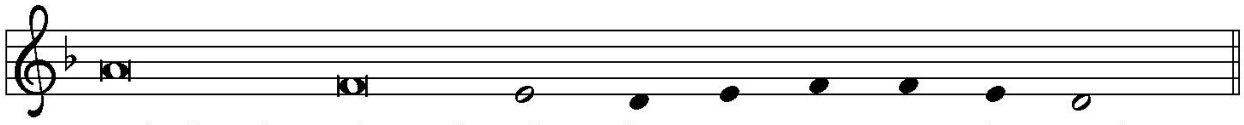
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.
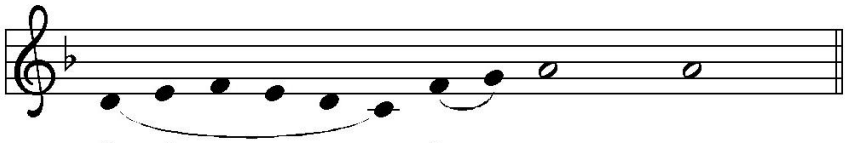


Lord, have mer - cy.
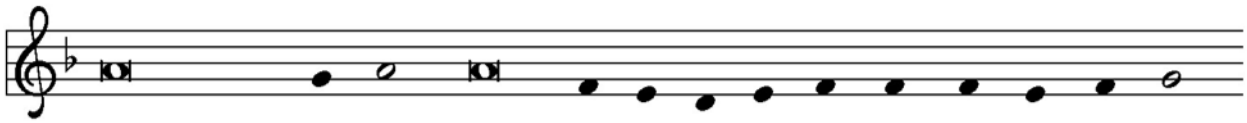


For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,
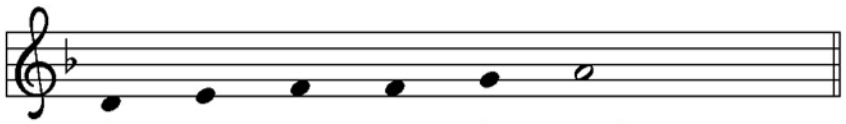


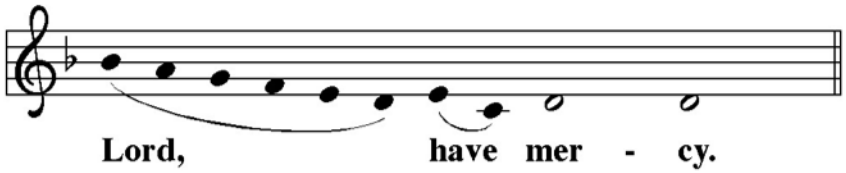
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
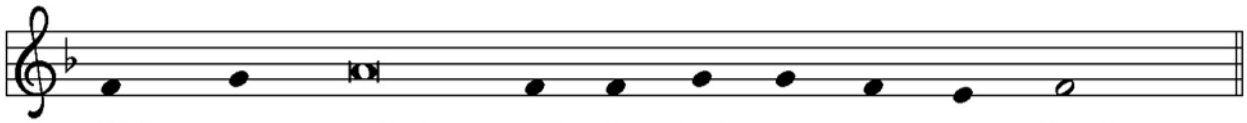


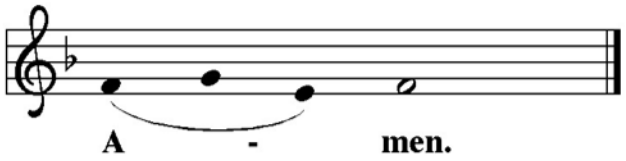
Lord, have mer - cy.


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

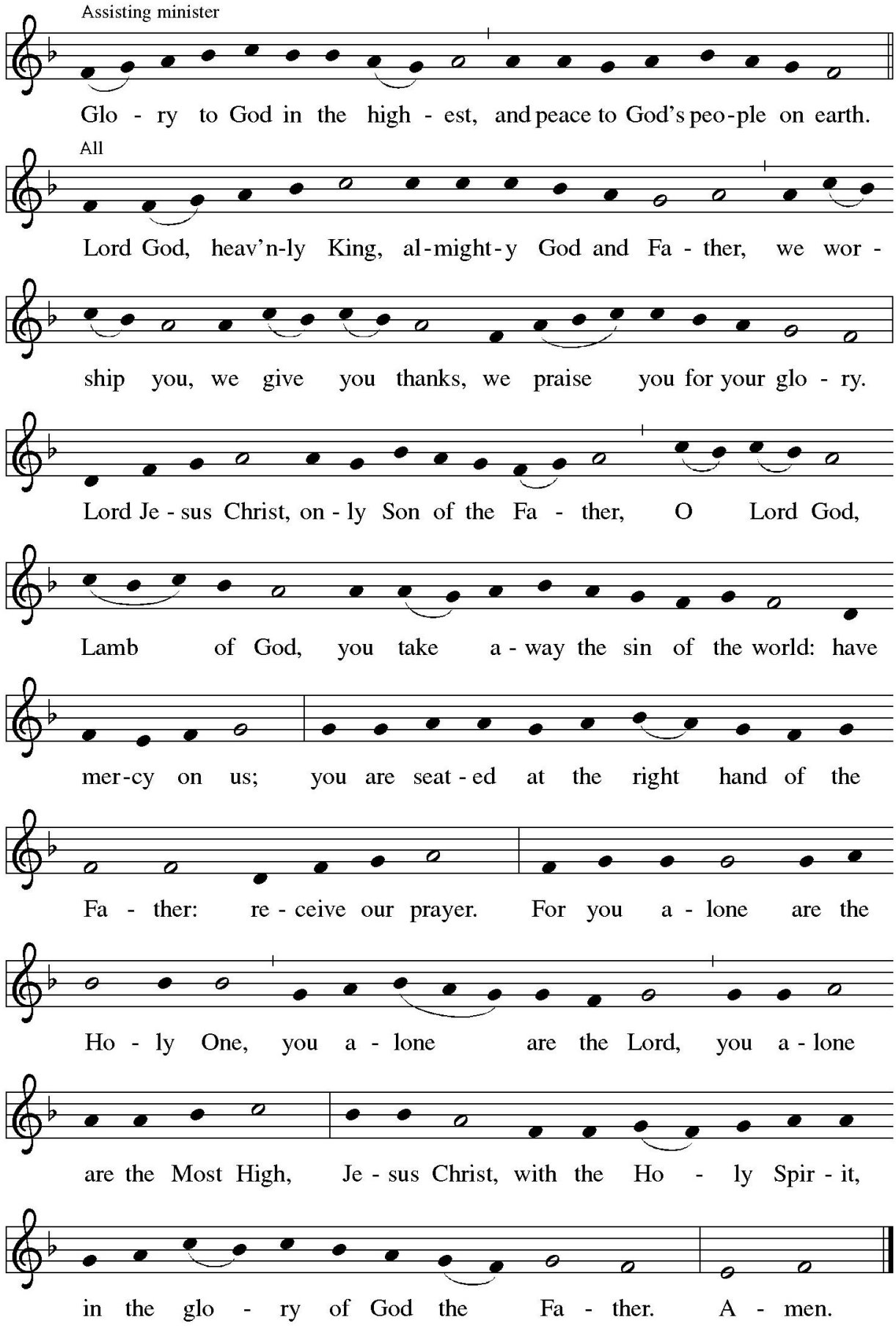

let us pray to the Lord.


Lord, have mer - cy.

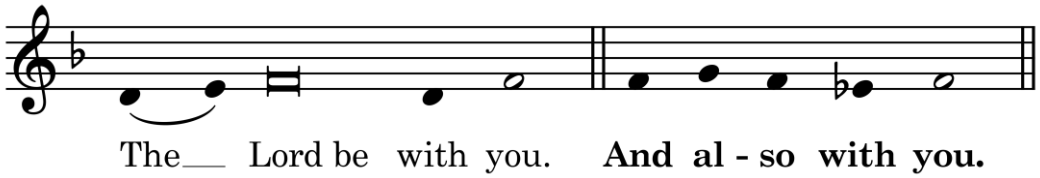

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.


A - men.

Gloria


Assisting minister
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -
ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone
are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day



Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Word

sit

First Reading — Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The day of the LORD
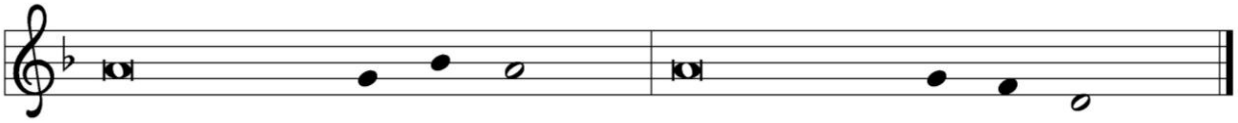
7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.

15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life. or The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-12

Sung in alternation by verse



1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past and like a watch | in the night;**
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

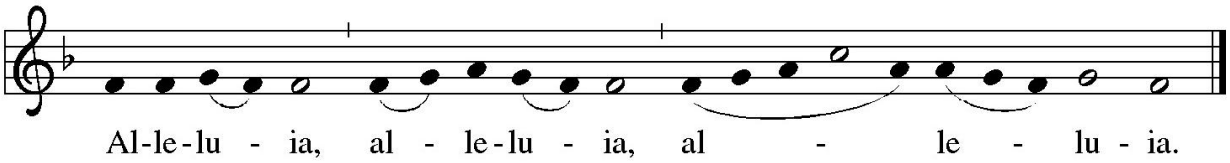
Be alert for the day of the Lord

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do
not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very
well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When
they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will
come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there
will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for
that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let
us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for
those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at
night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the
breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our
Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or
asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life. or The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation



Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit.
John 15:4, 5

The deacon reads the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

The story of the slaves entrusted with talents

The Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he
gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In
the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in
the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who
had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five
more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge
of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the
two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me
two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a
few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came
forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping
where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I
was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have
what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You
knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not
scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers,
and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.
28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.
29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an
abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will
be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

sit
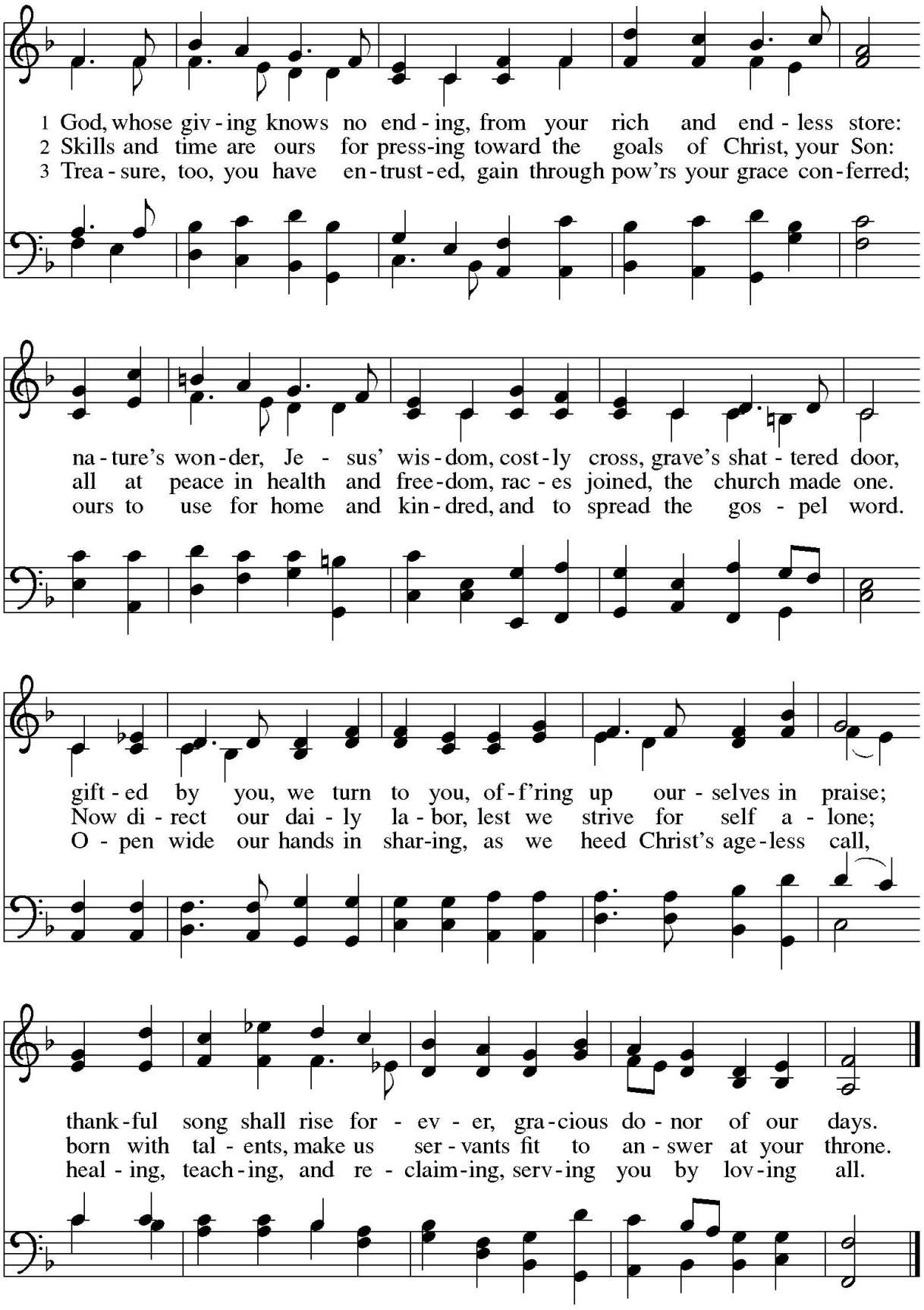
Sermon

Silence

At the conclusion of the introduction, the assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.



Hymn of the Day 678 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Baptism Anniversaries and Apostles Creed

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism as we rejoice with all who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Lannie Lesher, Andrew Kraebel, Justin Schneewind, Kennedy Wolf, Jacob Eddington, Ashlyn Whitefield, Luke Whitefield, Kylie Whitefield, Christine Wagener, Ulf Henningsen

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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. Amen.

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*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Prayers of Intercession

Sit or kneel. Those in the Prayground are invited to light a tea light on the Prayground altar or color their prayers at this time and will be collected during the offering.

Compassionate God,
hear our prayer.

The deacon prays.

Prayer for Peace

O God,
it is your will to hold heaven and earth in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of
our wraths and sorrows, and give
peace to your Church,
peace among nations,
peace in this nation,
peace in our homes, and
peace in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Rise in body or spirit.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say:
Peace be with you.

sit

Meal

Offering

If you give through your bank or online, please place a reusable "Our Offering" card in the basket. These cards are located in front of you in the pew backs. Offerings may be mailed to the church office, 2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005, or given through this QR Code.

Motet — My Lord, What a Morning
Traditional spiritual Arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949), adapted by Albert Blackwell

My Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways,
joined that heavenly band.
My Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

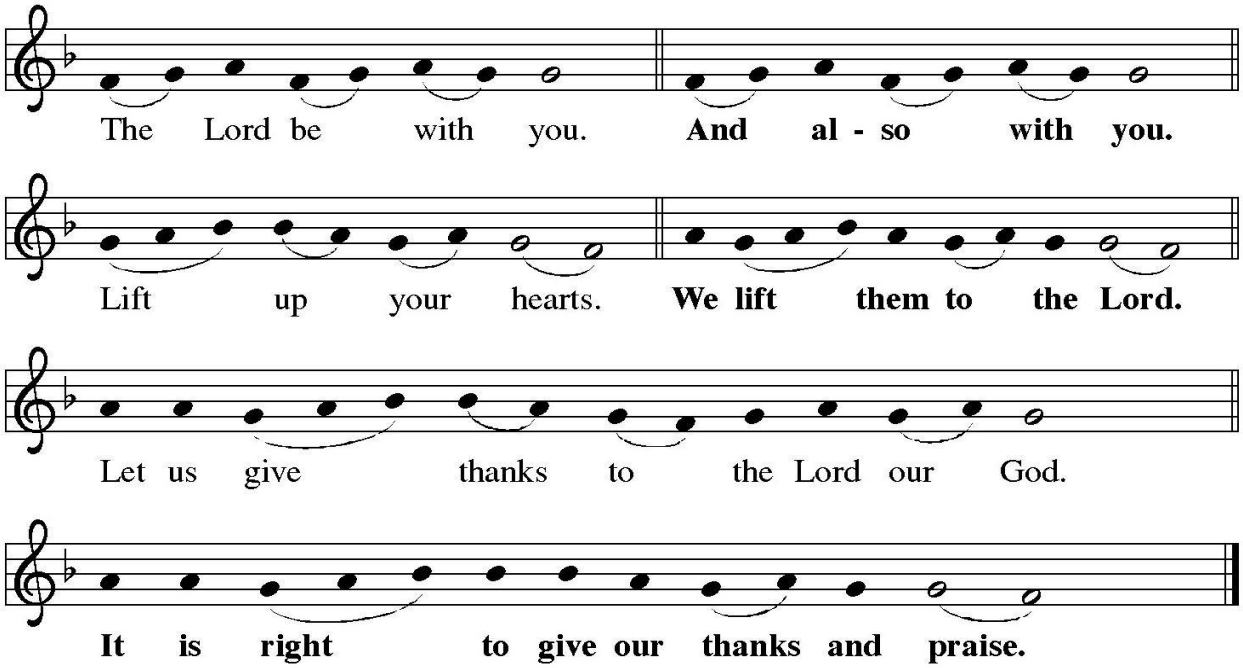
Rise in body or spirit.

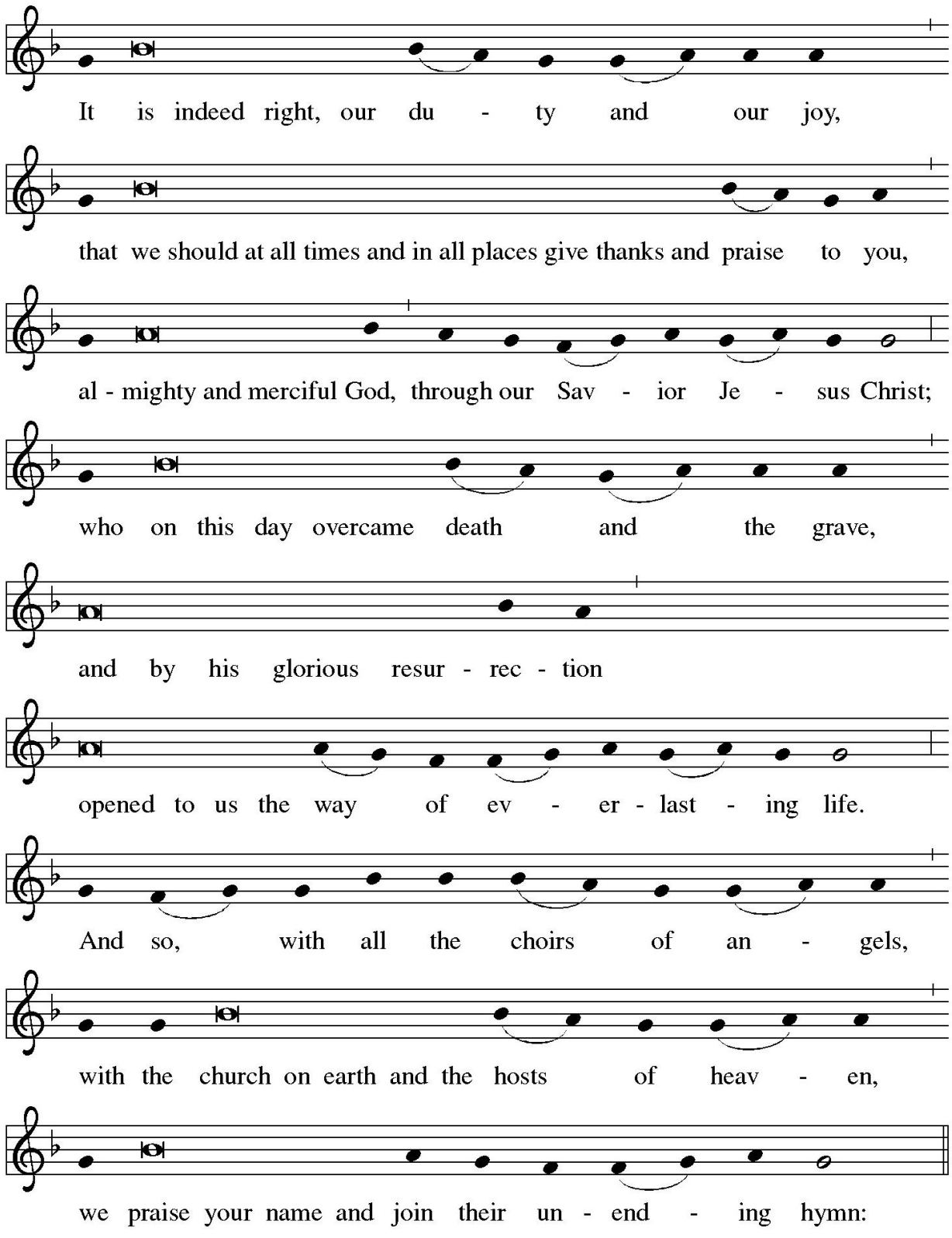
Offering Prayer

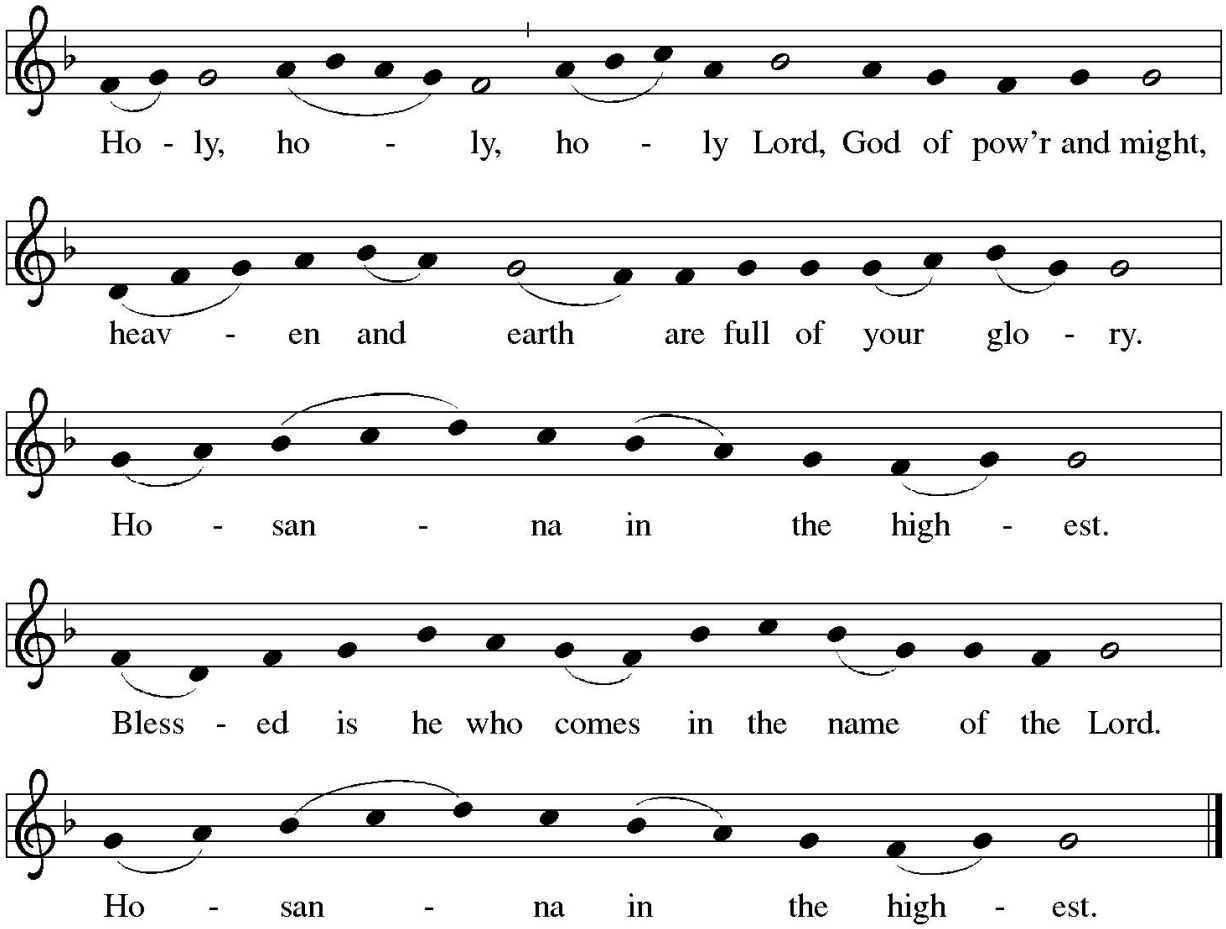
Let us pray:

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving




It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



The presiding minister continues in thanksgiving and intercession.

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
We thank you for the new world to come
and for the love that will rule all in all.
We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,
the people of your promise:
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile,
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

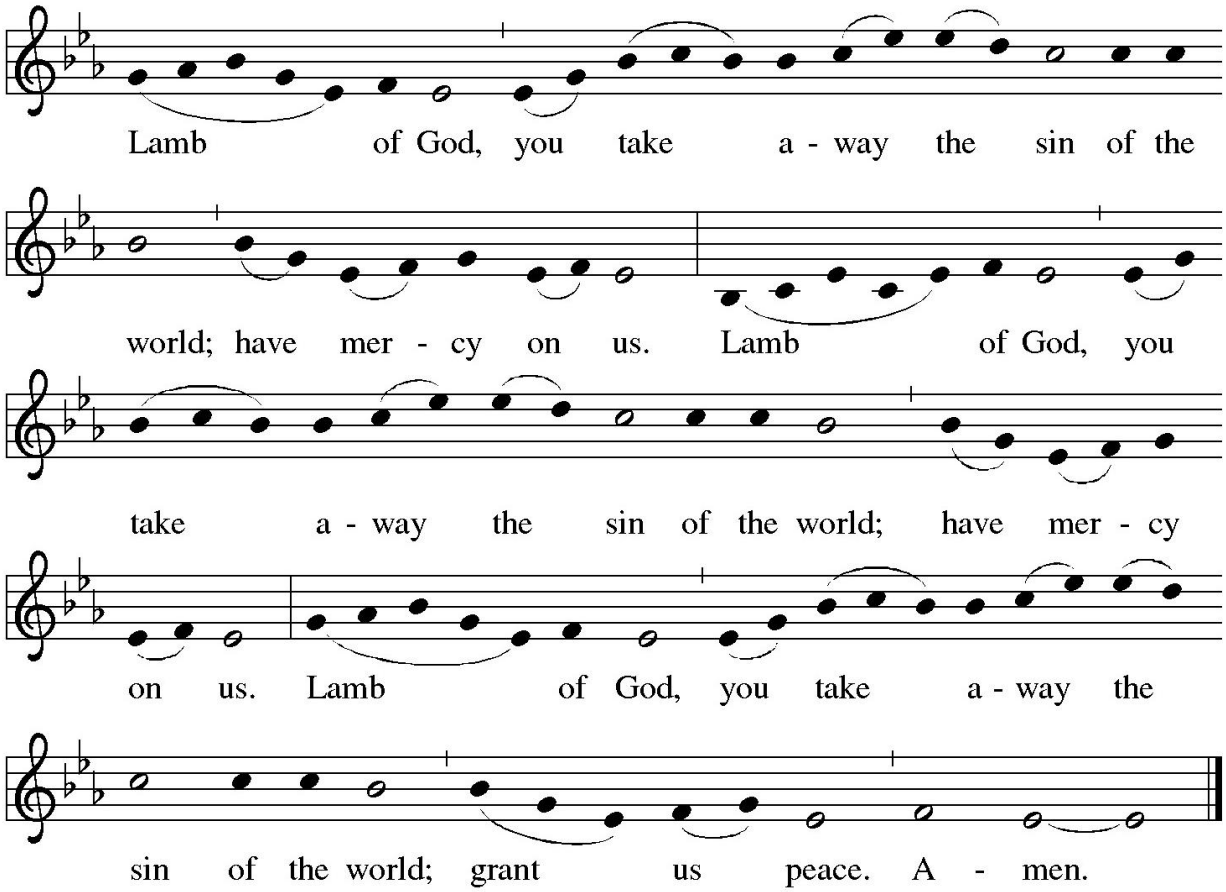
Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.
We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.
But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through whom, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

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.



Communion

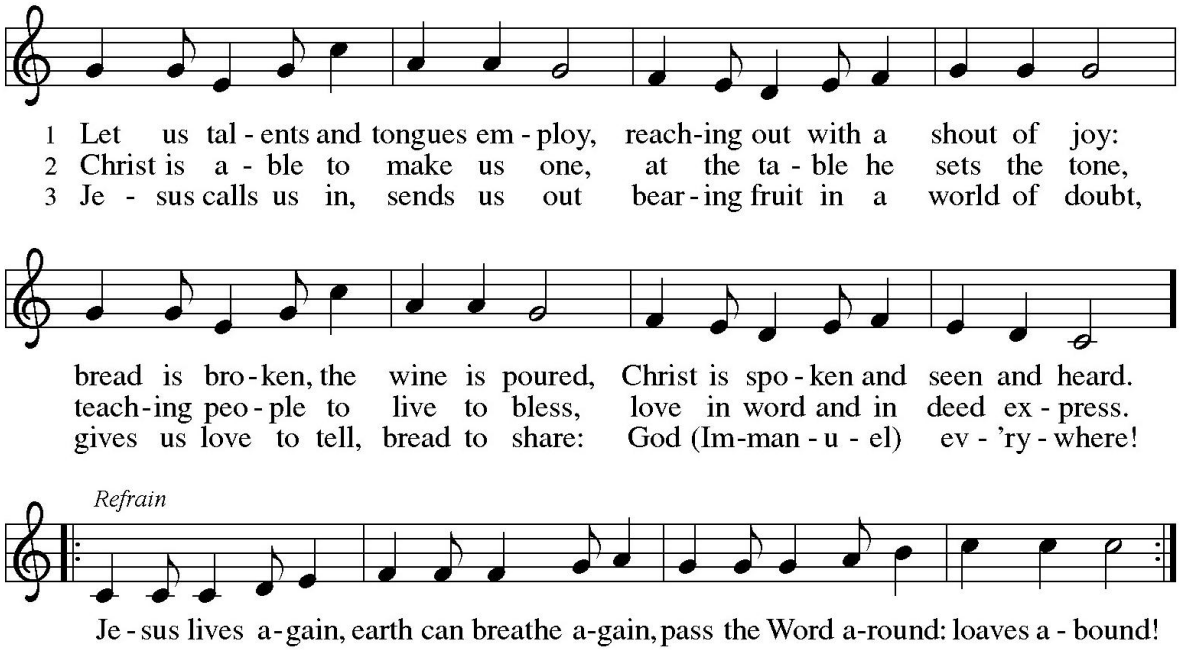
Invitation to Communion

Christ invites everyone to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to take an individual communion cup from the table at the corner of the pews and approach the altar rail from its corner. You may receive the sacrament or a blessing, kneeling or standing. Please return to the seats through the short center aisles where there are trays for used glasses. Children of all ages are invited to commune or receive a blessing.
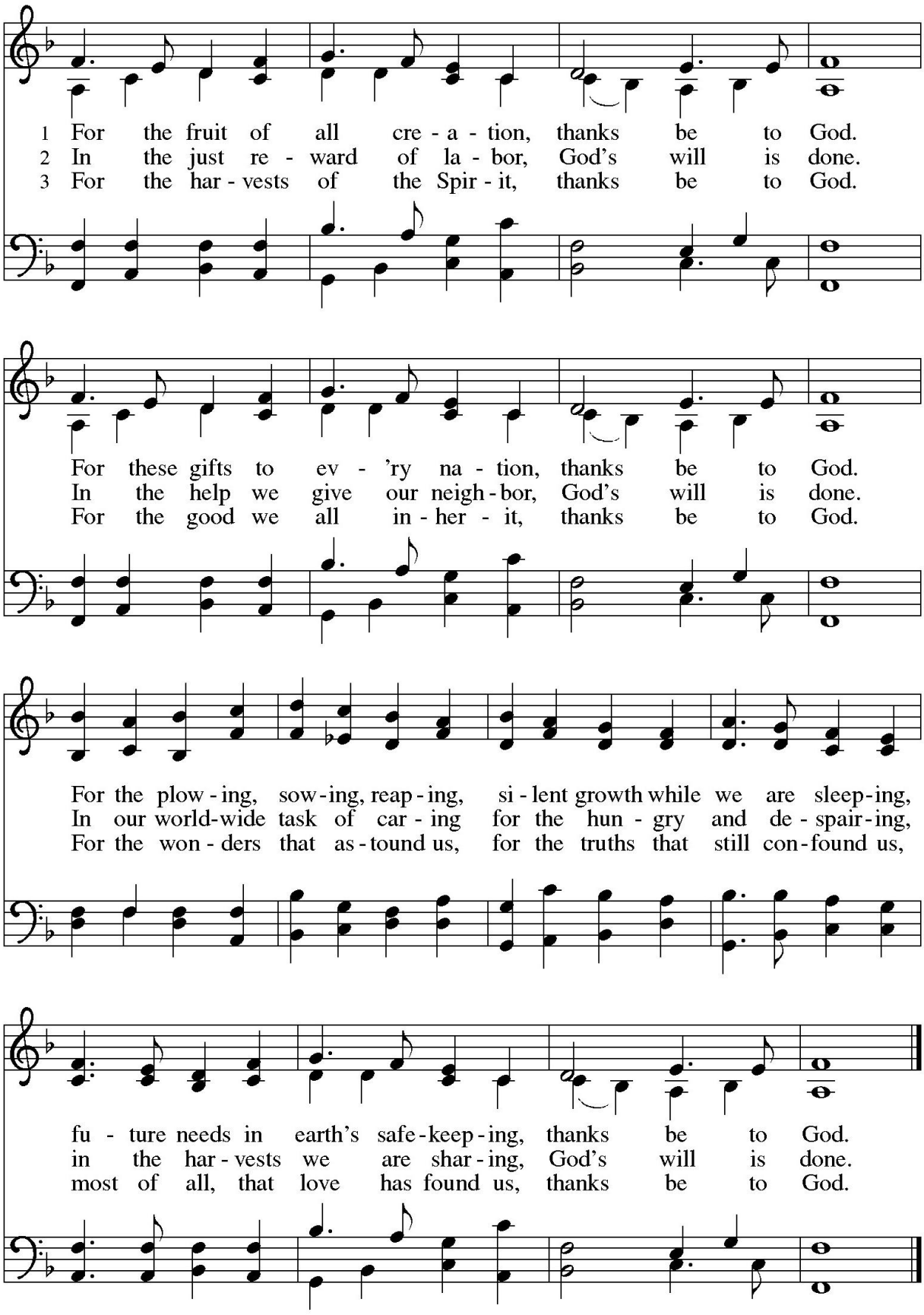
If you do not wish to commune, please come to the altar rail with other worshipers for a blessing.

Hymn 674 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Hymn 679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

Rise in body or spirit.

Communion Blessing

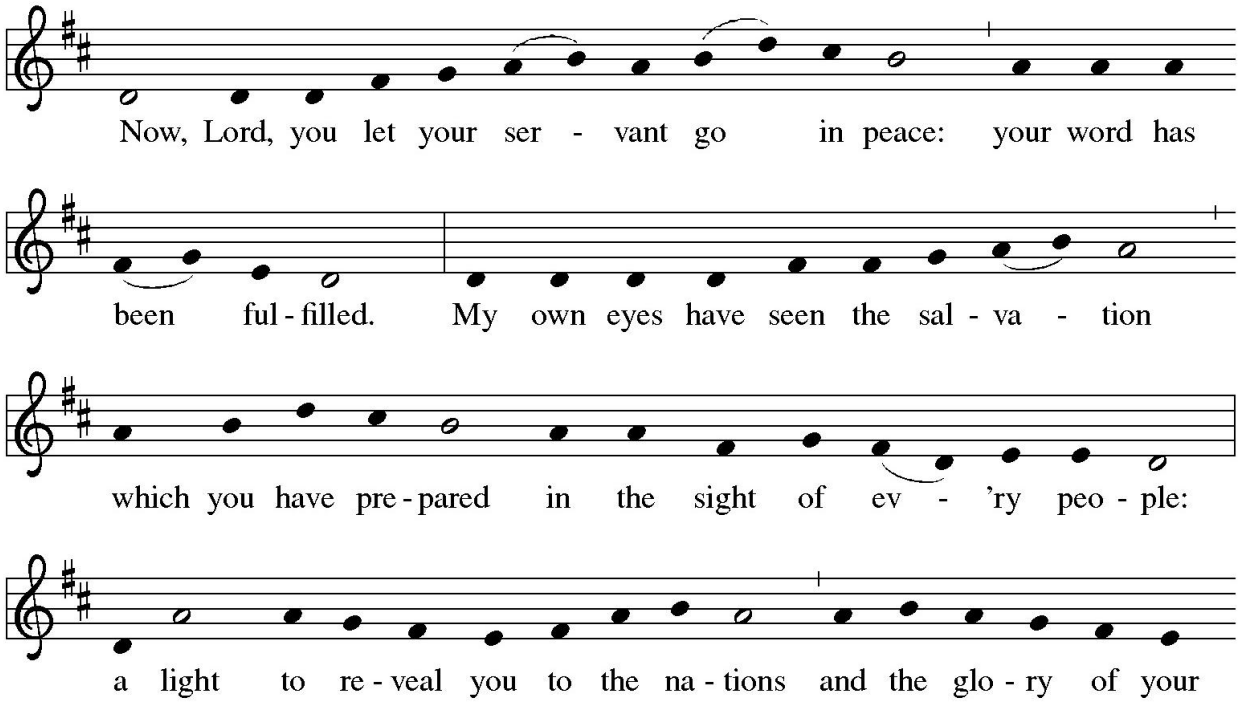
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

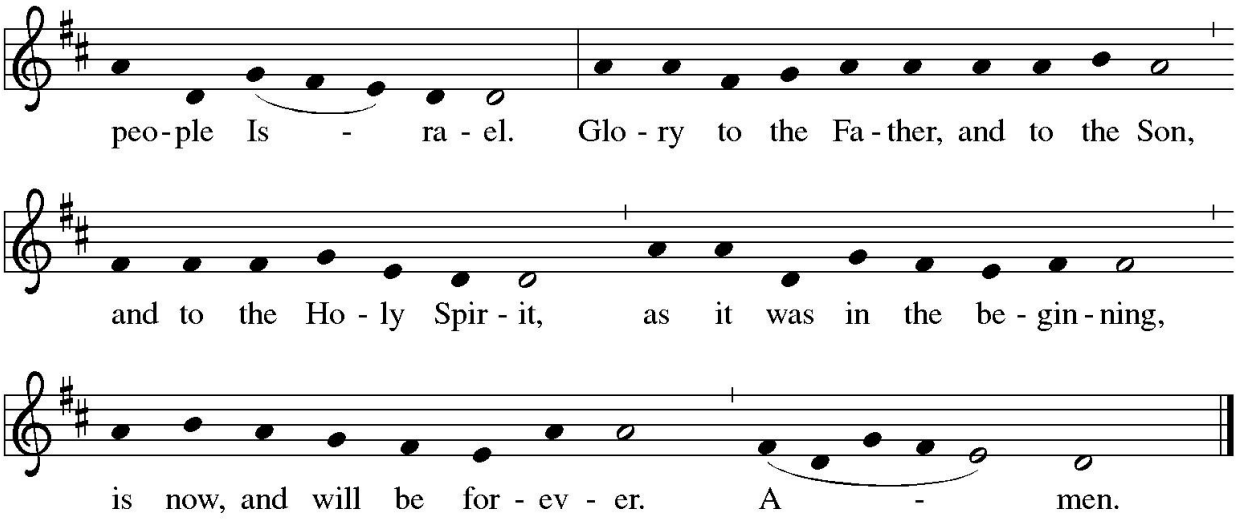
This congregation's Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) are given bread and wine from this liturgy to share with those who are hospitalized, home-bound, or otherwise unable to be present in the liturgy.

Sending of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn 201 *Now, Lord*





Music: Plainsong, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.
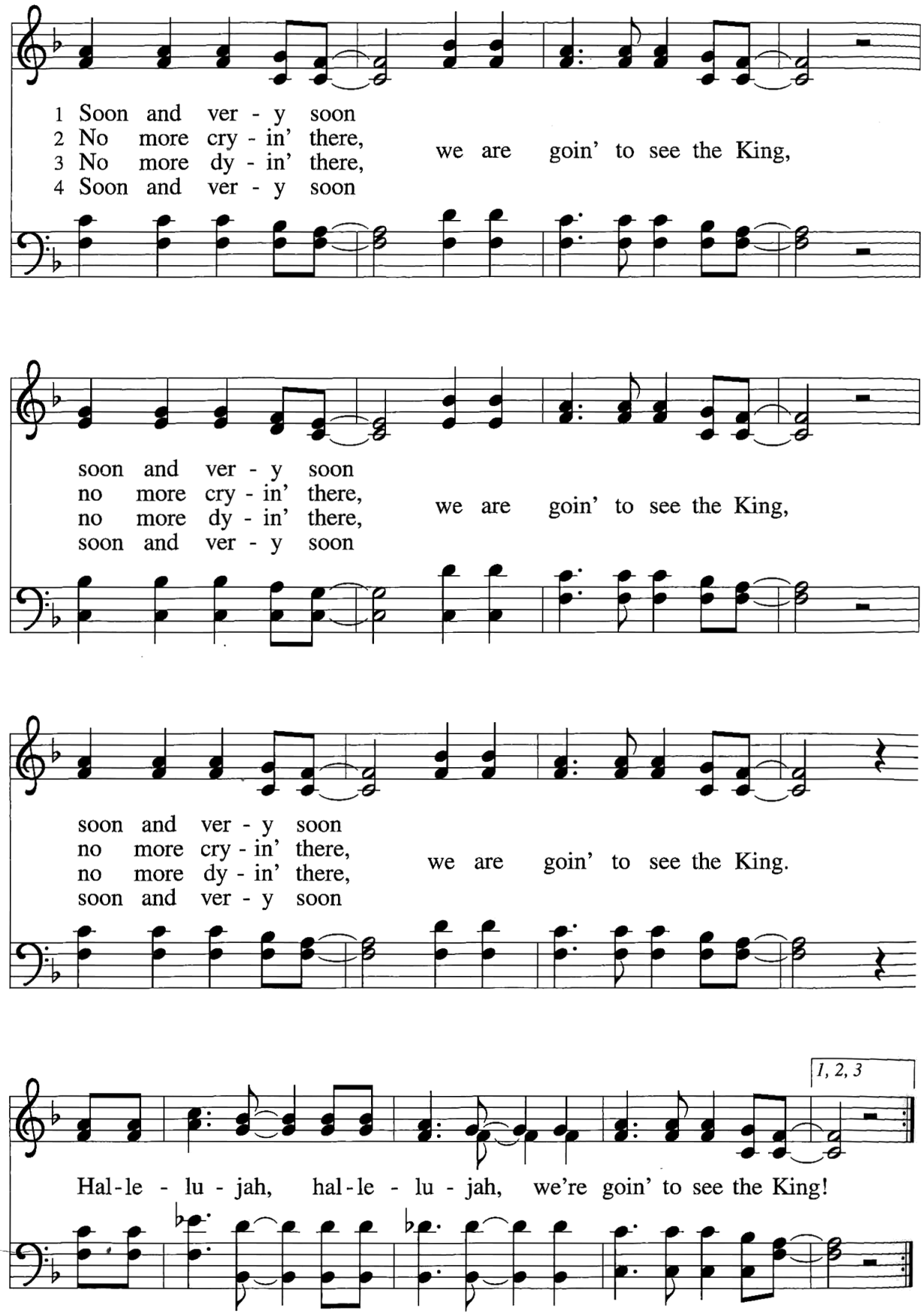
Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
Amen.

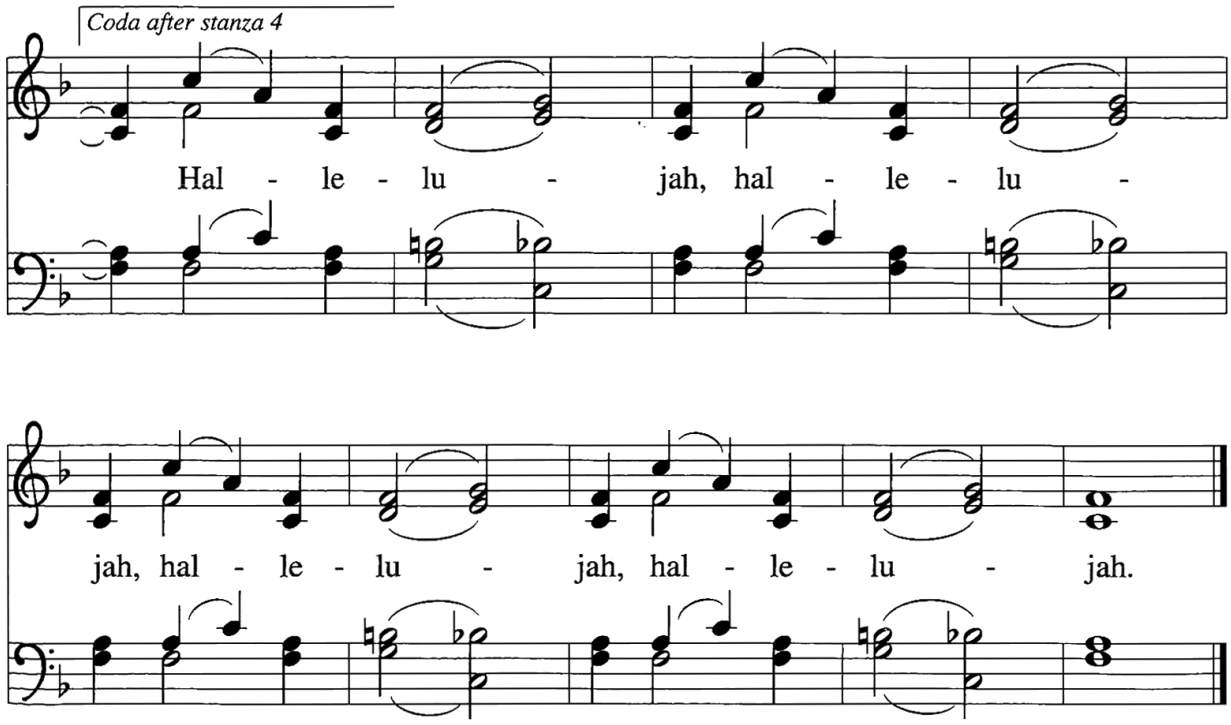
Sending

Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn 439 *Soon and Very Soon*





Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: Andraé Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

VERY SOON
12 12 12 and refrain

Dismissal

Go out in joy, led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude — *Fugue* in G minor, Op. 7 No. 3
Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Pealing of the Bells

Mission Offering *Festival Mission Partners*

Earliest accounts of Christian worship testify to an offering following the Eucharist designated to the poor and the alien by those able to give out of gratitude to God and generosity in imitating Christ.

Month to date contributions are: $566.60

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Reinetta Hansen in thankfulness for the gift of children

Snacks are provided by Donna Olson-Salas
Donations benefit the ELCA World Hunger.

If you are interested in membership at Christ the King Church, please scan the QR code & fill out the short form.

Serving

Jeff Thompson ..... Head Usher
Ute Cezeaux, ~~XXX~~, ~~XXX~~ ..... Ushers
Peter Boecher, Rustin Buck ..... Bellringers
Ben Kerswell ..... Cantor
Martin Jones ..... Associate Organist
Nicholas Ozden ..... Digital Verger
Trish Chapman ..... Lay Eucharistic Minister
Vicki Gorman ..... Lay Eucharistic Minister
Tom Bouldin, Lisa Krueger ..... Servers
Nyla Woods ..... Server/Crucifer
Bill Pelham ..... Assisting Minister
The Rev. Ben Remmert ..... Deacon
The Rev. Amandus Derr ..... Preacher/Presiding Minister

Members of the Altar Guild:

Bette Bowers, Anita Bryant, Carole Derr, Camila Fantony Cervantes, Anthony Donaldson, DJ Fomby, Kerriann Haggadone, Reinetta Hansen, Maureen Lamson, Gaelyn Lesher, Peggy Mathis, Linda Marx, Marie Monroe, Mary Jane Orsburn, Jan Petner, Cynthia Rigoni, Maureen Sahaulla, Eleanor Verret, and Nyla Woods. Duties, a form of worship, include setting communion vessels, linens, and elements, arranging for the flowers, and caring for vestments and sacred objects in accordance with liturgical seasons.

Our Mission

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming and inclusive community nourished by Christ in vibrant worship and committed to God's mission of love and service especially to the oppressed and to the poor.

Our Ministers:

The People of Christ the King Church ..... Ministers
The Rev. Amandus J. Derr.....Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. Ben Remmert.....Deacon of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Cheryl Gaspard.....Executive Administrator
Diego Amezcua.....Congregational Communications Administrator
Nicholas Ozden.....Media Manager
Ben Kerswell.....Cantor
Martin Jones .....Associate Organist
Robert Walp.....Director of the Brass Choir
Amy Kerswell.....Director of Children's Music
Vicki Gorman, Calvin Harris, Fernando Grimaldo.....Staff Singers
Herlinda Torres, Lena Zahlan.....Nursery Attendants
Michael Sheffield .....Property Management Supervisor
Santiago Callejas, Arturo Ortega .....Custodians
The Rev. Rick Erickson ..... Cantor Emeritus

For Pastoral Care needs, please contact Pastor Derr.

Rice Village Campus: 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005-2696
Memorial Drive Lutheran Center: 12211 Memorial Drive,
Houston, TX 77024
Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org Telephone: 713-523-2864

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All scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) of the Bible.

CHRIST THE KING LVTHERAN CHVRCH