



# PRELUDE

Pastor:

Jonathan Lamb

*Second Sunday  
of Easter,  
Bright Sunday*

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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1829



WELCOME,  
ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
and  
CELEBRATIONS



## Give Thanks

Let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we bring the *Light of Christ* into our midst.





**Bringing In The Light of Christ**

**“He Is Lord”**



# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:* We believe in God, who made us in His image.

*People:* **We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.**

*Leader:* We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

*People:* **He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.**

# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:* We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
coequal and coeternal with the  
Father and the Son.

*People:* **Our counselor, our guide, our  
motivator - He is our joy!**



# CALL to WORSHIP

*Leader:*

Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

*People:*

**Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



# “The Day of Resurrection” UMH 303

WORDS: John of Damascus; translated by John Mason Neale, 1862

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “The Day of Resurrection” UMH 303

WORDS: John of Damascus; translated by John Mason Neale, 1862

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover gladness,  
the passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.



# “The Day of Resurrection” UMH 303

WORDS: John of Damascus; translated by John Mason Neale, 1862

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own “All hail!” and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.



# “The Day of Resurrection” UMH 303

WORDS: John of Damascus; translated by John Mason Neale, 1862

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Now let the heavens joyful!

Let earth the song begin!

Let the round world keep triumph,  
and all that is therein!

Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

# OPENING PRAYER

**O Lord, for Whom nothing is impossible. Help us to laugh in the face of all that threatens us, to laugh in the face of the Devil himself, that we may live into the joy You've prepared for us in Christ our Lord, through whom we pray (and snicker) even now.  
Amen.**







Young Disciples' Message  
"Jesus Laughing"



# “Deck the Halls with Easter Lillies”

Pastor Jonathan

Deck the halls with Easter lilies,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Dance a jig and sing the sillies,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

At the devil, mean, old bloke,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

On whom God has played a joke,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

# “Deck the Halls with Easter Lillies”

Pastor Jonathan

Devil thought he'd won the battle,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Pranced around high in the saddle,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Did not know God's special plan,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

To resurrect the Son of Man,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

# “Deck the Halls with Easter Lillies”

Pastor Jonathan

Merry Christians rejoice and sing,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Now's the triumph of our King,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Lord of Life is ris'n this day,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Let the world rejoice and say,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!



# “Deck the Halls with Easter Lillies”

Pastor Jonathan

Songs of joy to Christ our head,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Lives again who once was dead,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Life was purchased by his loss,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Died our death upon the cross,

Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

# Prayer for Illumination

**Send  
me  
some  
light—  
I need  
it.**



# PSALM READING

Psalm 27 UMH 758





# PSALM READING

Psalm 27 UMH 758

*Leader:* <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

*People:* The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?



# PSALM READING

Psalm 27 UMH 758

*Leader:* <sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me,  
to devour my flesh, my adversaries  
and foes shall stumble and fall.

*People:* <sup>3</sup>Though a host encamp against  
me, my heart shall not fear; though war  
arise against me, yet I will be confident.

# PSALM READING

Psalm 27 UMH 758

*Leader:* <sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after...

*People:* that I may dwell in the house  
of the Lord all the days of my life, to  
behold the beauty of the Lord, and to  
inquire in the Lord's temple.



# PSALM READING

Psalm 27 UMH 758

*Leader:* <sup>5</sup>The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, will conceal me under the cover of his tent, and will set me high upon a rock.

*People:* <sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.



Luke 15: 23-24

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

# Glory Be to the Father

70

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;**



**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

# TODAY'S MESSAGE

“Prodigal Son Wanted a Party”





# “We Walk by Faith” TFWS 2196

Words: Henry Alford; Music: Attr. to Hugh Wilson

*Please stand as you are able and  
comfortable.*





# “We Walk by Faith” TFWS 2196

Words: Henry Alford; Music: Attr. to Hugh Wilson  
[Click to edit Master title style](#)

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

We walk by faith, and not by sight,  
no gracious words we hear  
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side,  
nor follow where he trod;  
yet in his promise we rejoice  
and cry, “My Lord and God!”



# “We Walk by Faith” TFWS 2196

Words: Henry Alford; Music: Attr. to Hugh Wilson  
Click to edit Master title style

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound  
to call on you when you are near,  
and seek where you are found.

That when our life of faith is done in realms  
of clearer light we may behold you as you are  
in full and endless sight.



# “We Walk by Faith” TFWS 2196

Words: Henry Alford; Music: Attr. to Hugh Wilson

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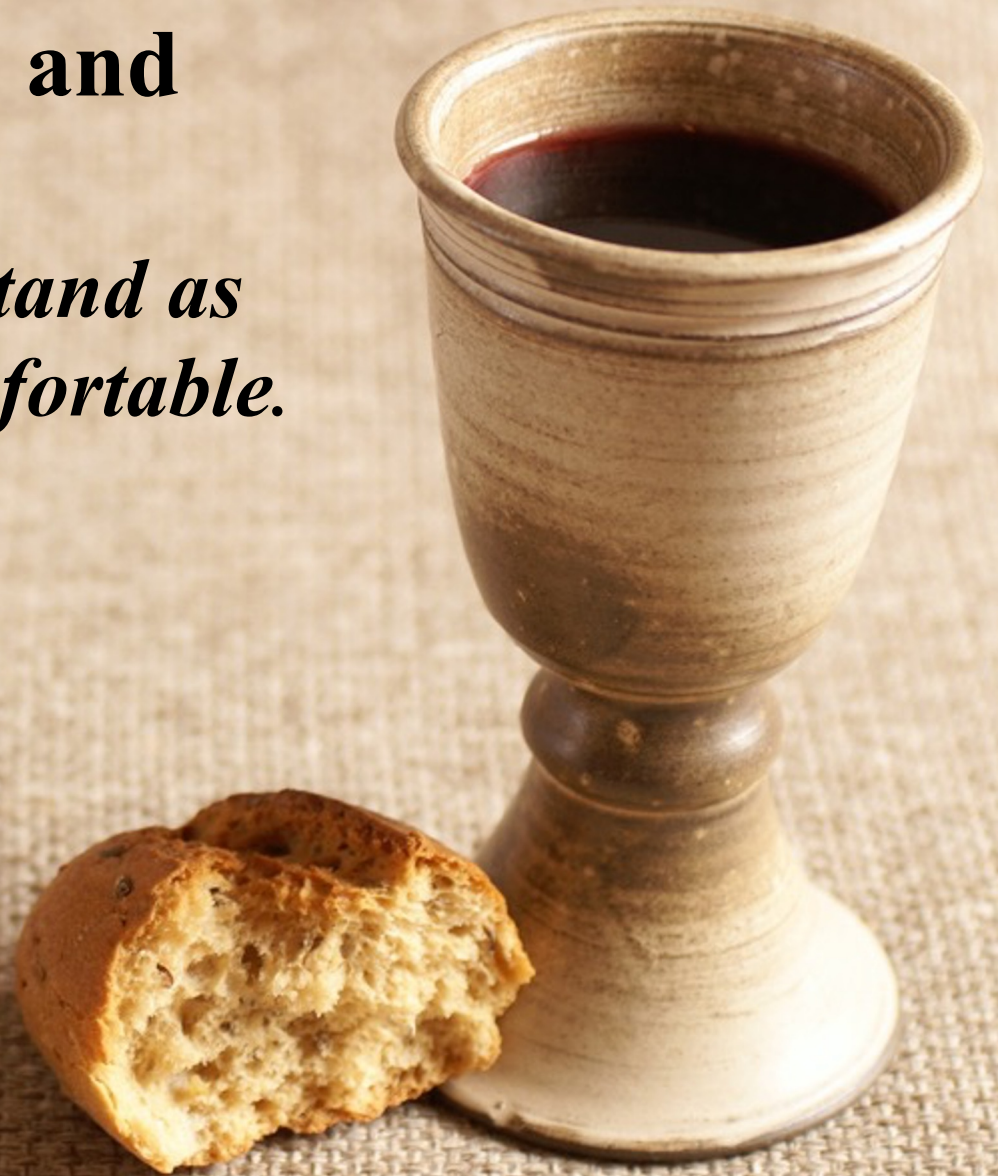
*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

We walk by faith, and not by sight,  
no gracious words we hear  
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
but we believe him near.



**INVITATION,  
CONFESSION, and  
PARDON**

*Please continue to stand as  
you are able and comfortable.*



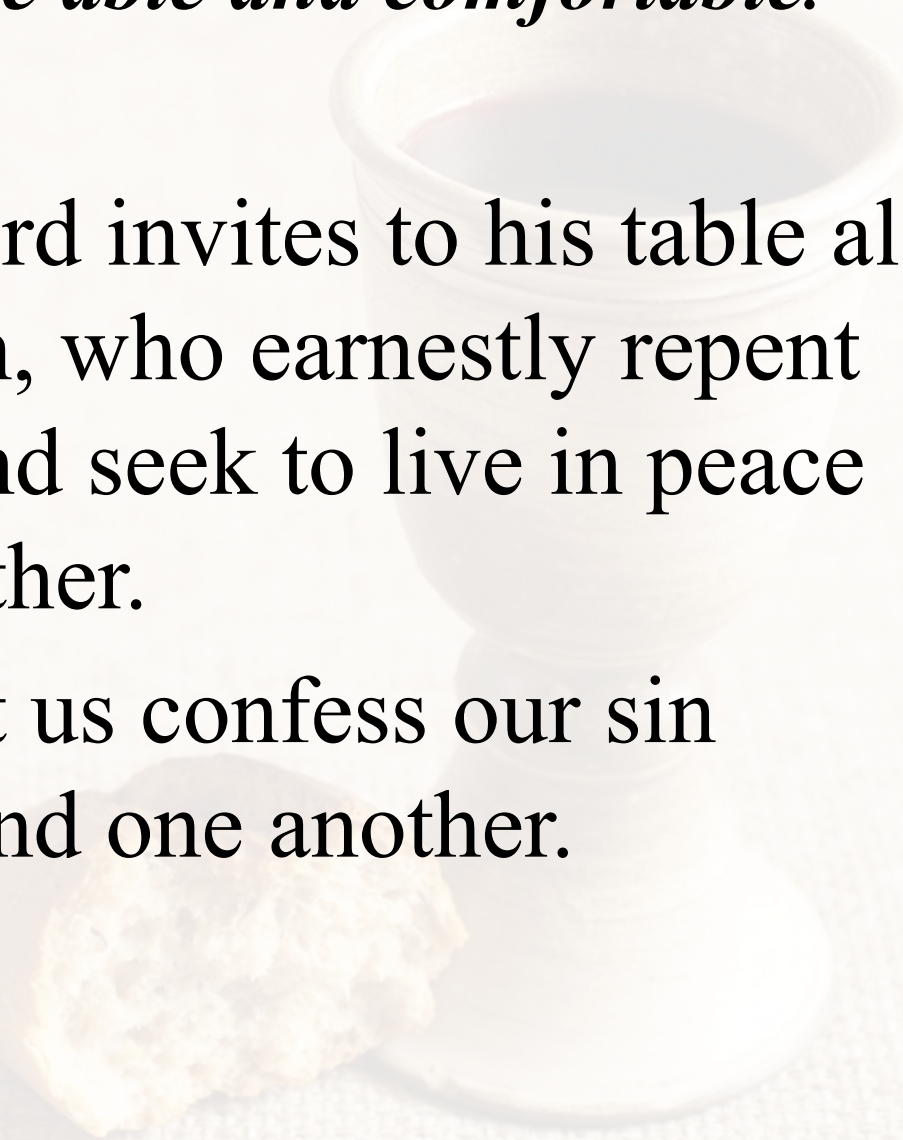


# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

*Leader:* Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.



# **INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON**

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**



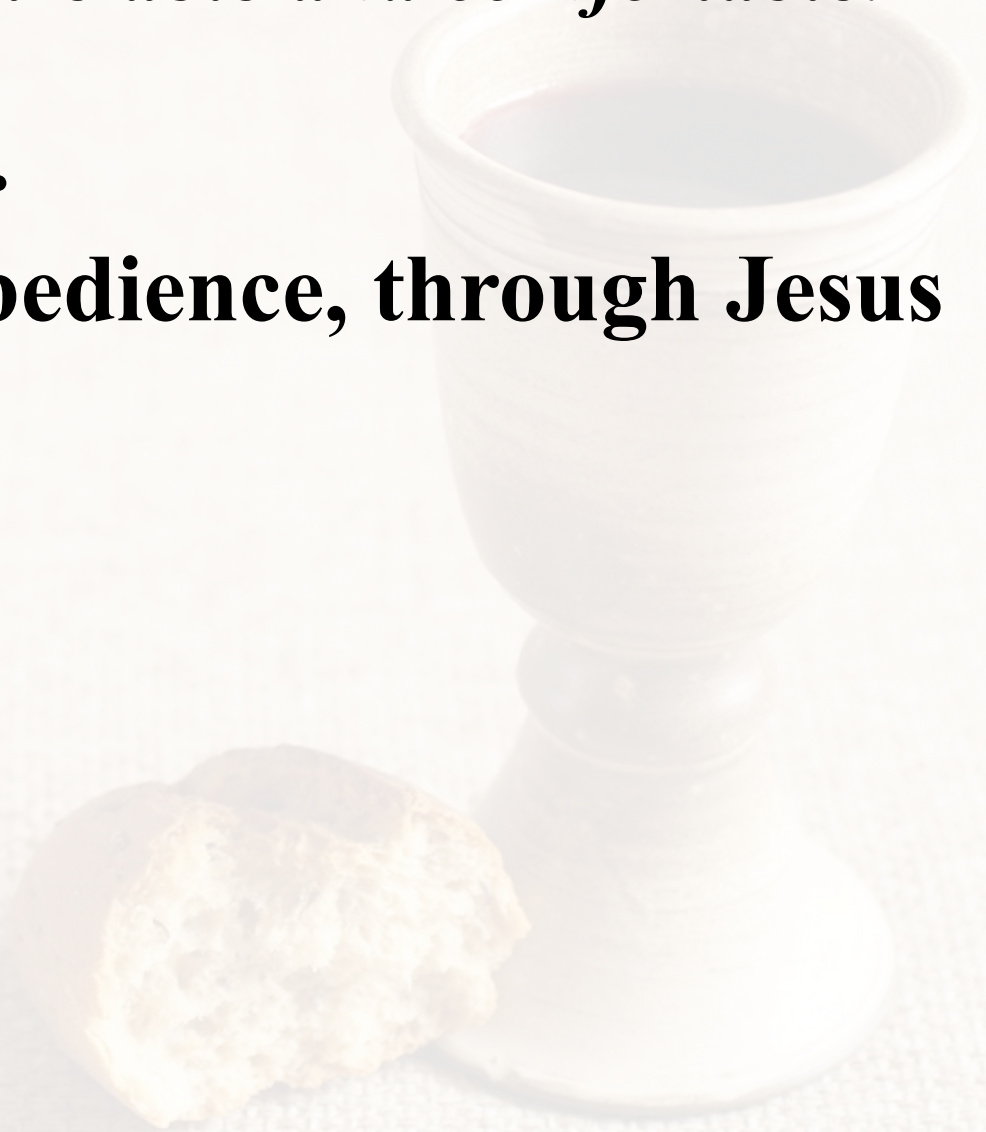
# **INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON**

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**



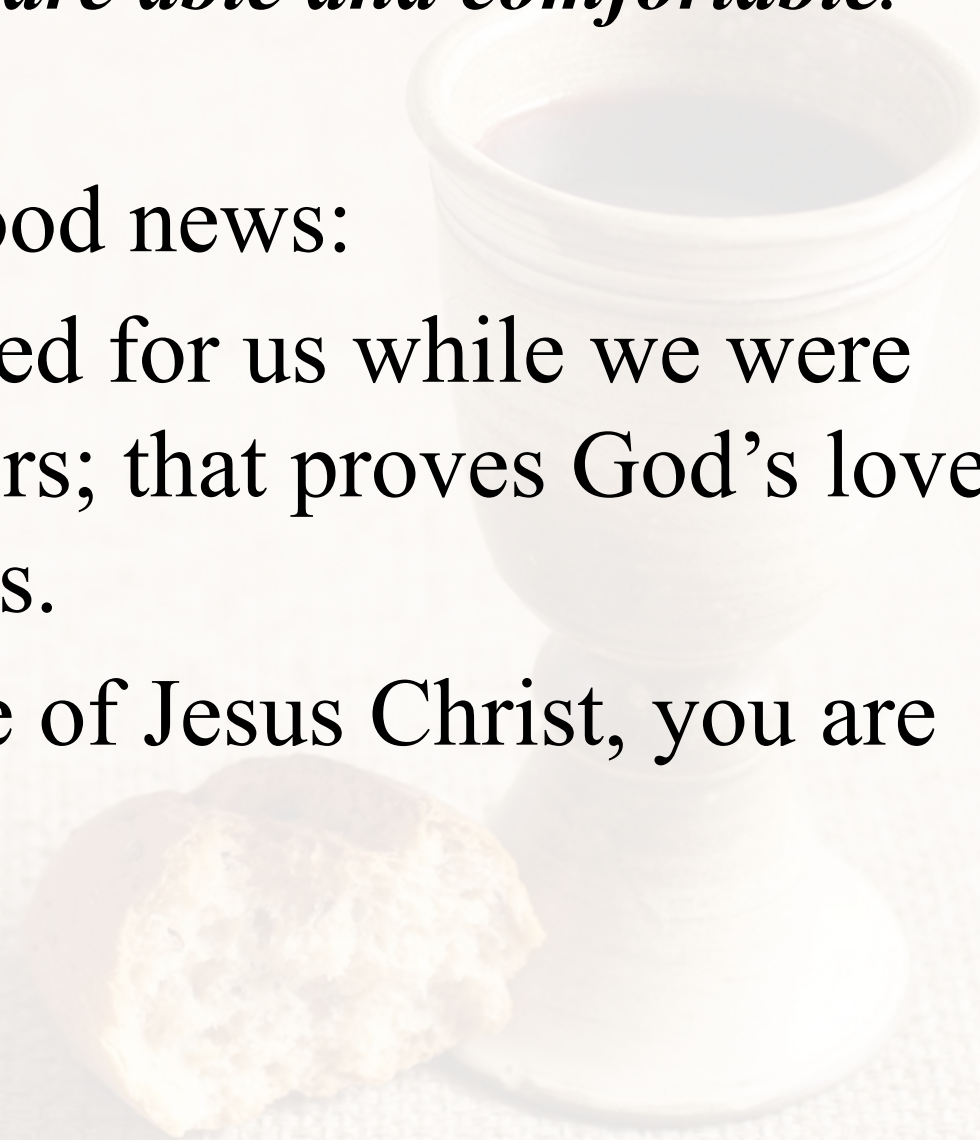
# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

*Leader:* Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!



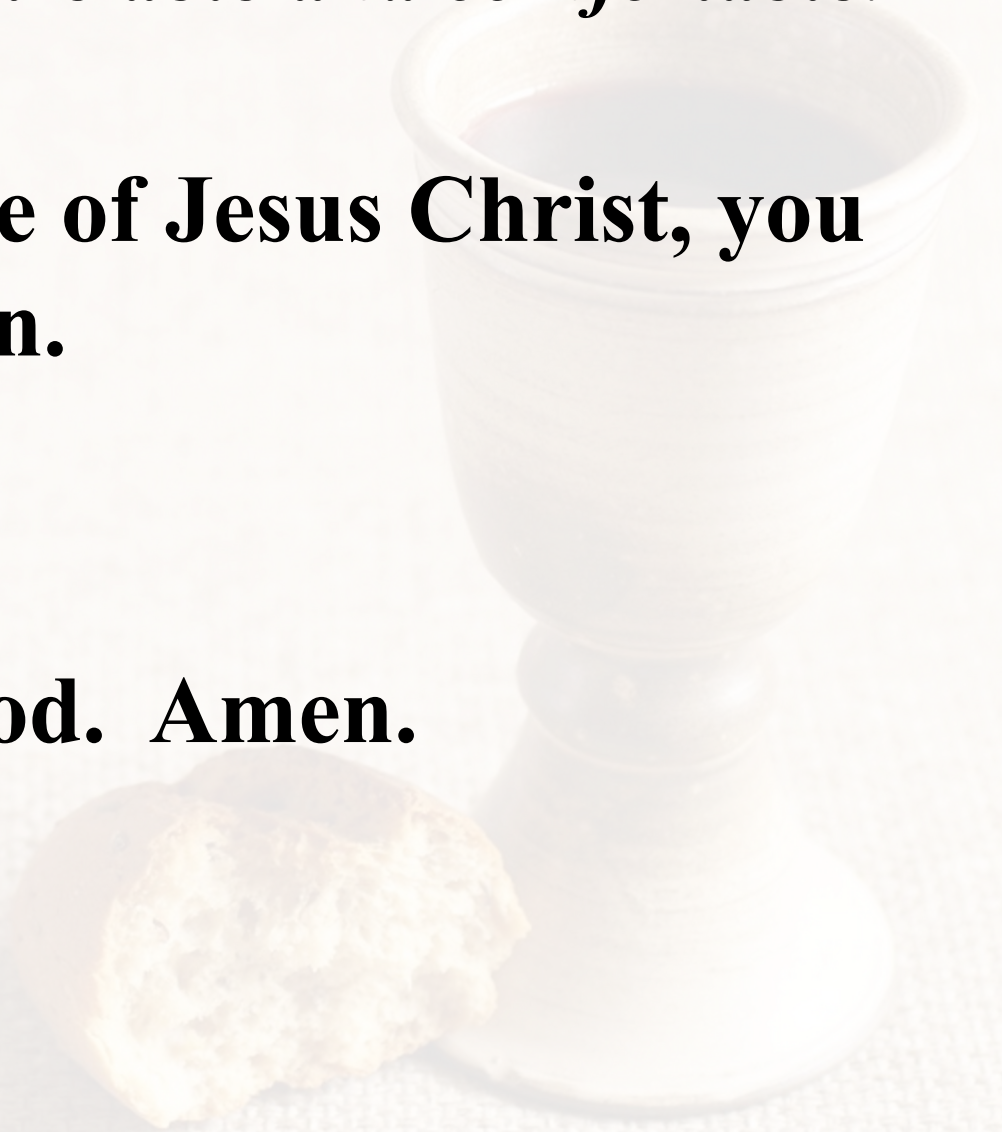


# INVITATION, CONFESSION, and PARDON

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

*People:* **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

*All:* **Glory to God. Amen.**





A hand is shown from the bottom, holding a globe of the Earth. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a bright sun in the upper center, creating a warm, golden glow. A faint rainbow is visible in the sky behind the globe. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

# PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

LORD hear our  
prayers



*as we lift up to you our  
joys and our concerns.*



## Pastoral Prayer

...	301
...	308
... blung bey	310
... Seele	323
... en	323
... die Abgestorbenen	327
... Gebete zum Lebenden	330
... Seelende f. d. Abgestorbenen	330
... e	331
... Magnificat	344
... Die Antiphonen von bey aller	346
... letzten Jungfrau	

ten 284  
sten 284  
In- 286



The background of the slide is a light blue wooden surface with a vertical grain. Scattered across this surface are numerous white cherry blossoms in various stages of bloom. Some are fully open, showing five petals and prominent yellow stamens with pinkish-red centers. Others are partially open or just buds. Some petals have fallen and are lying flat on the wood. The overall composition is soft and aesthetically pleasing, with the white flowers contrasting against the blue background.

# Tithes and Offerings

Worship through giving

# “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted by Gilbert H. Viera, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

***Please stand as you are able and comfortable.***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



The background of the entire image is a light blue wooden surface with a visible grain. Scattered across this surface are numerous white cherry blossoms in various stages of bloom. Some are fully open, showing five petals and prominent yellow stamens with pinkish-red centers. Others are buds or partially open. Some petals have fallen and are lying flat on the wood. The overall composition is a soft, naturalistic floral arrangement.

# Offertory Prayer



# **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**UMH p. 13**



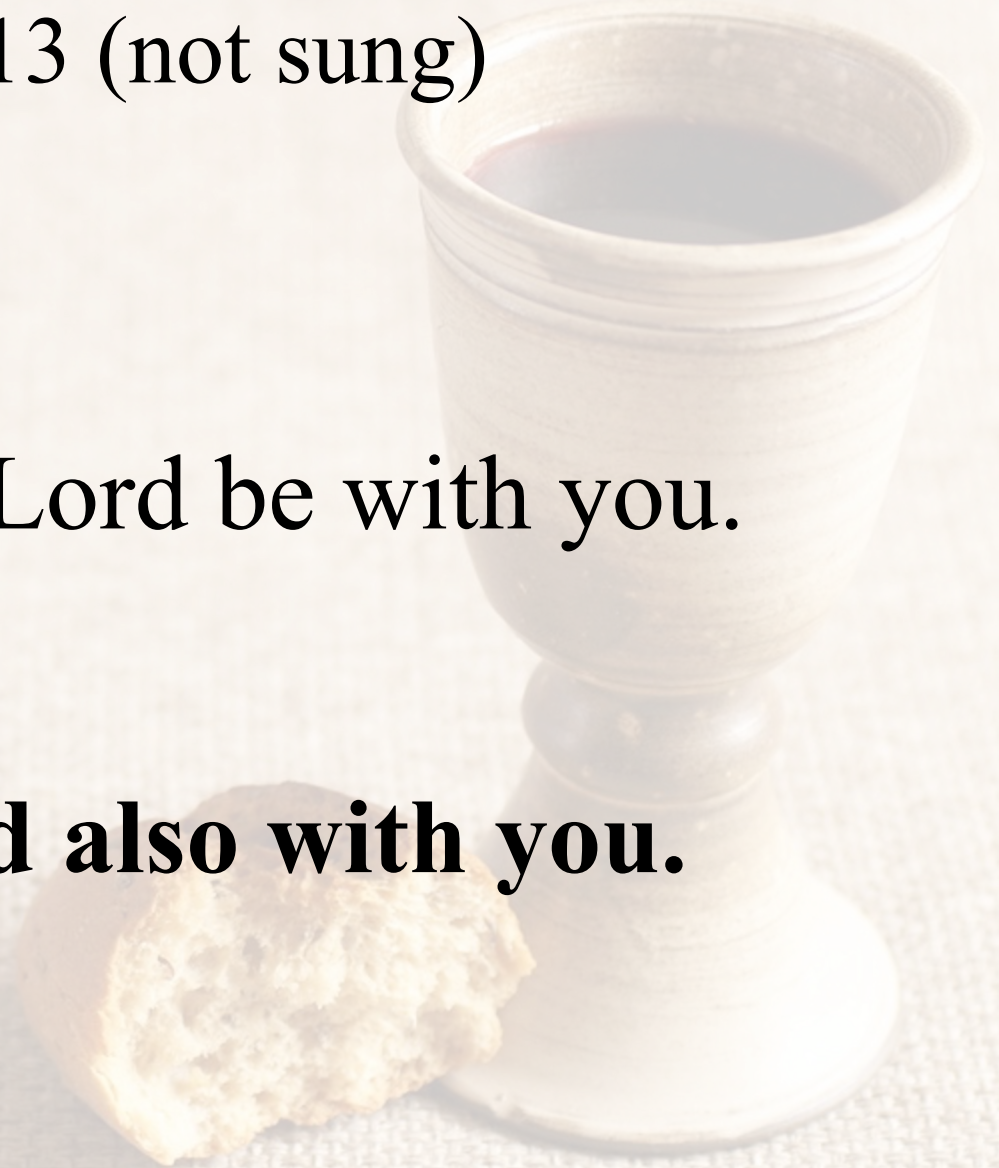


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

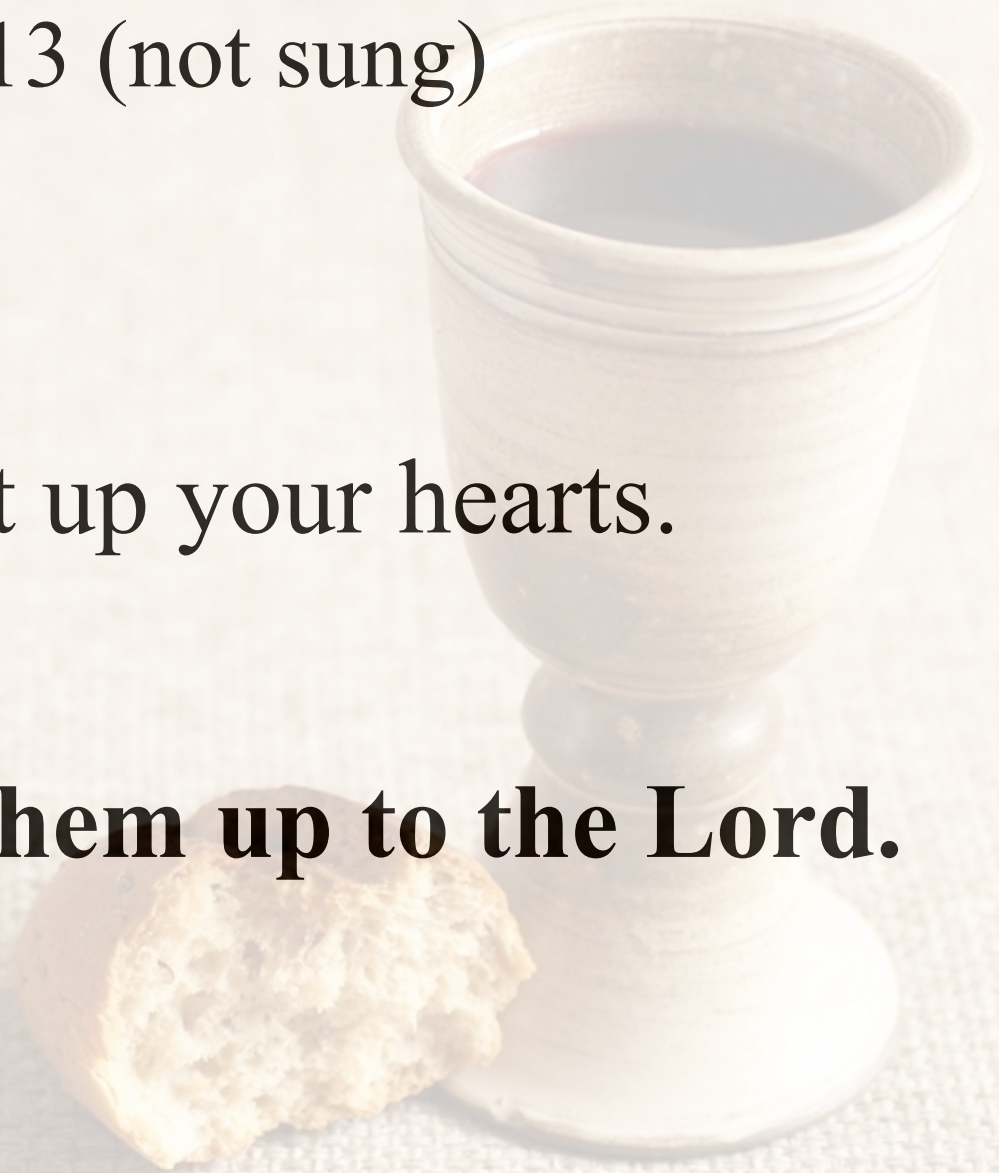


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them up to the Lord.



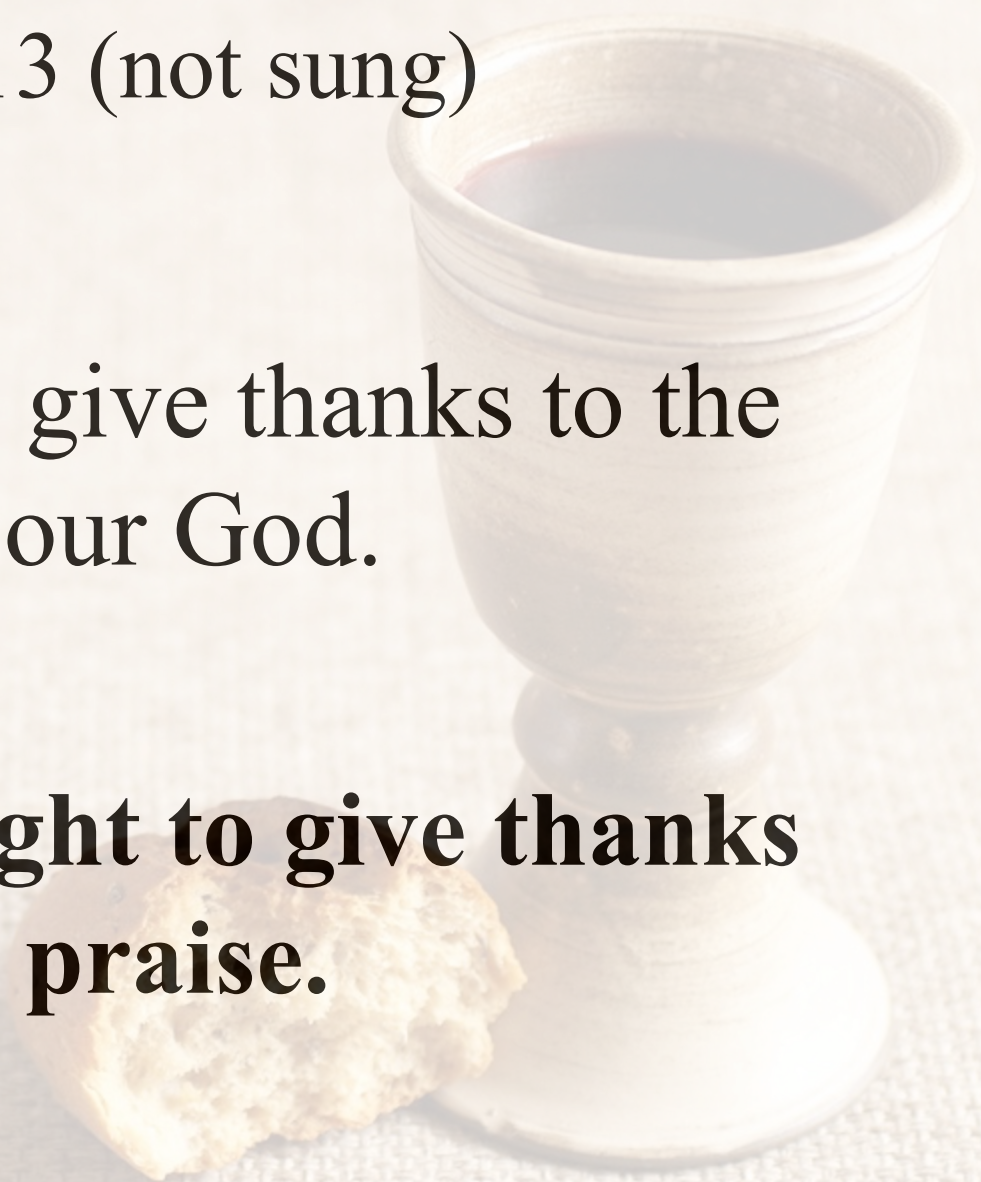


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13 (not sung)

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the  
Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give thanks  
and praise.

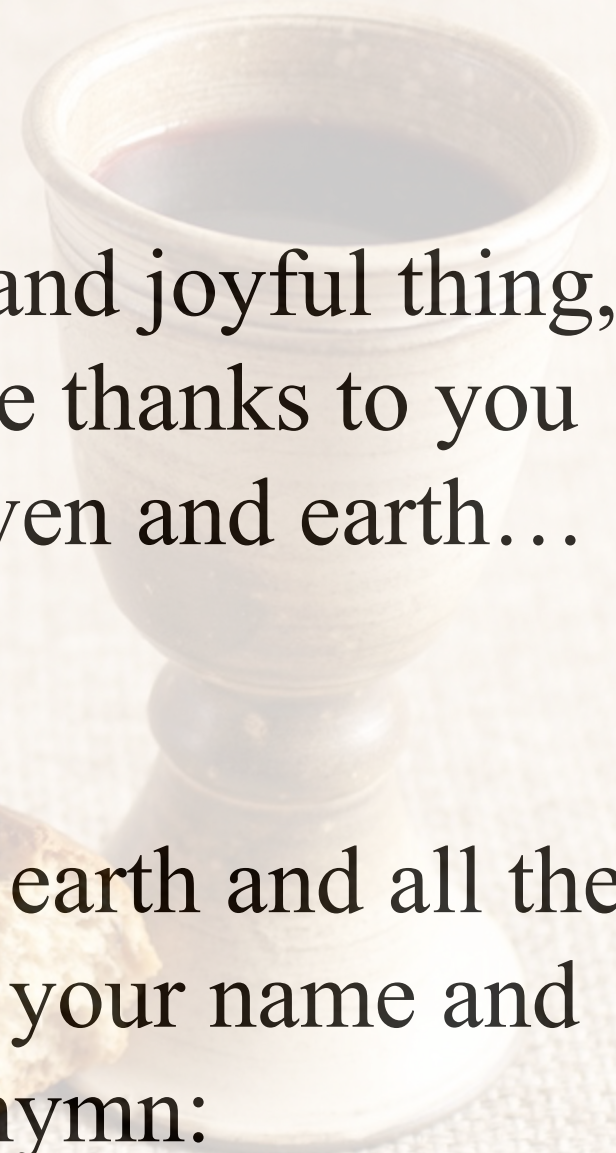


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you  
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth...

... and so, with your people on earth and all the  
company of heaven we praise your name and  
join their unending hymn:

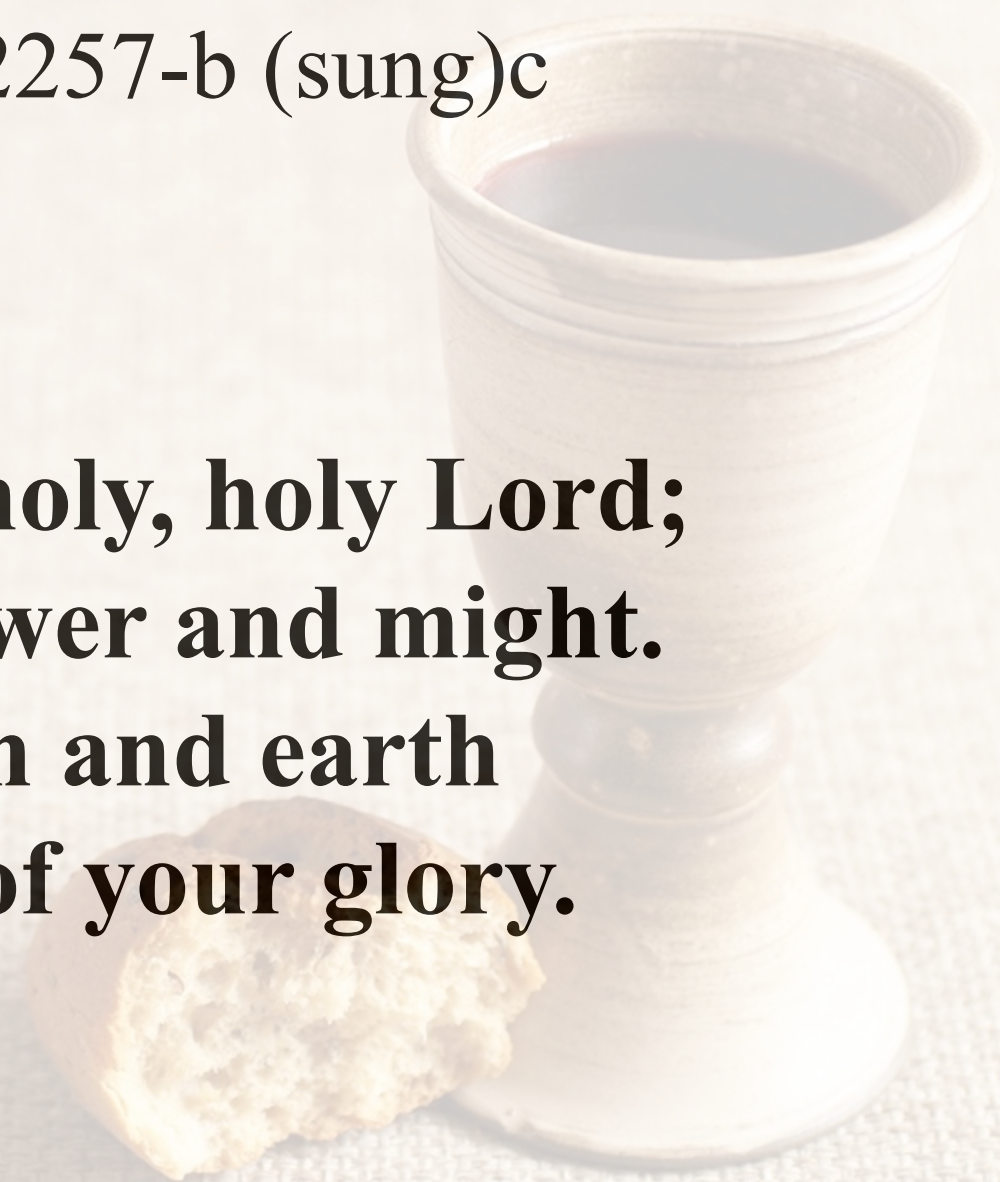




# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)c

*All:* Holy, holy, holy Lord;  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.

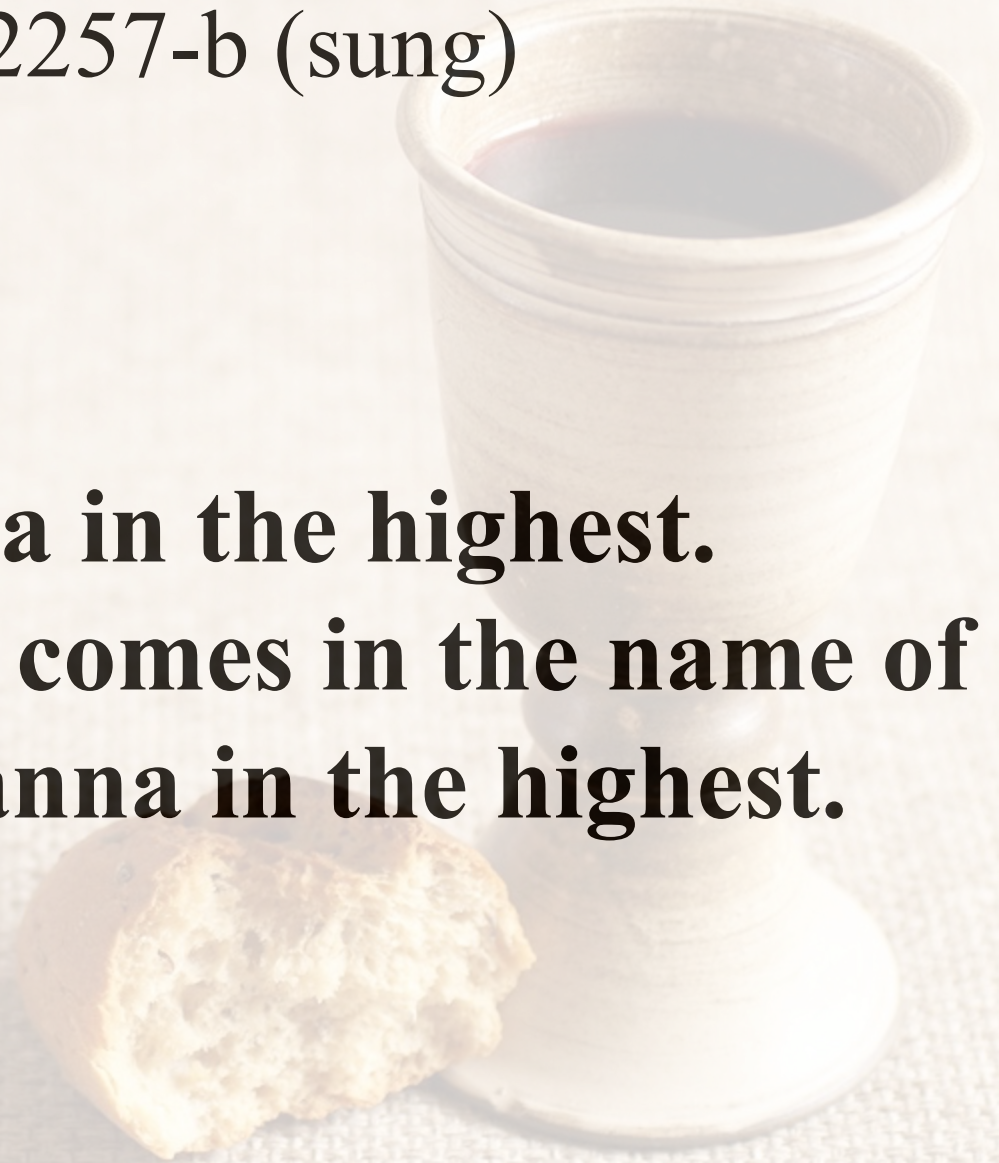


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS #2257-b (sung)

*All:* Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**



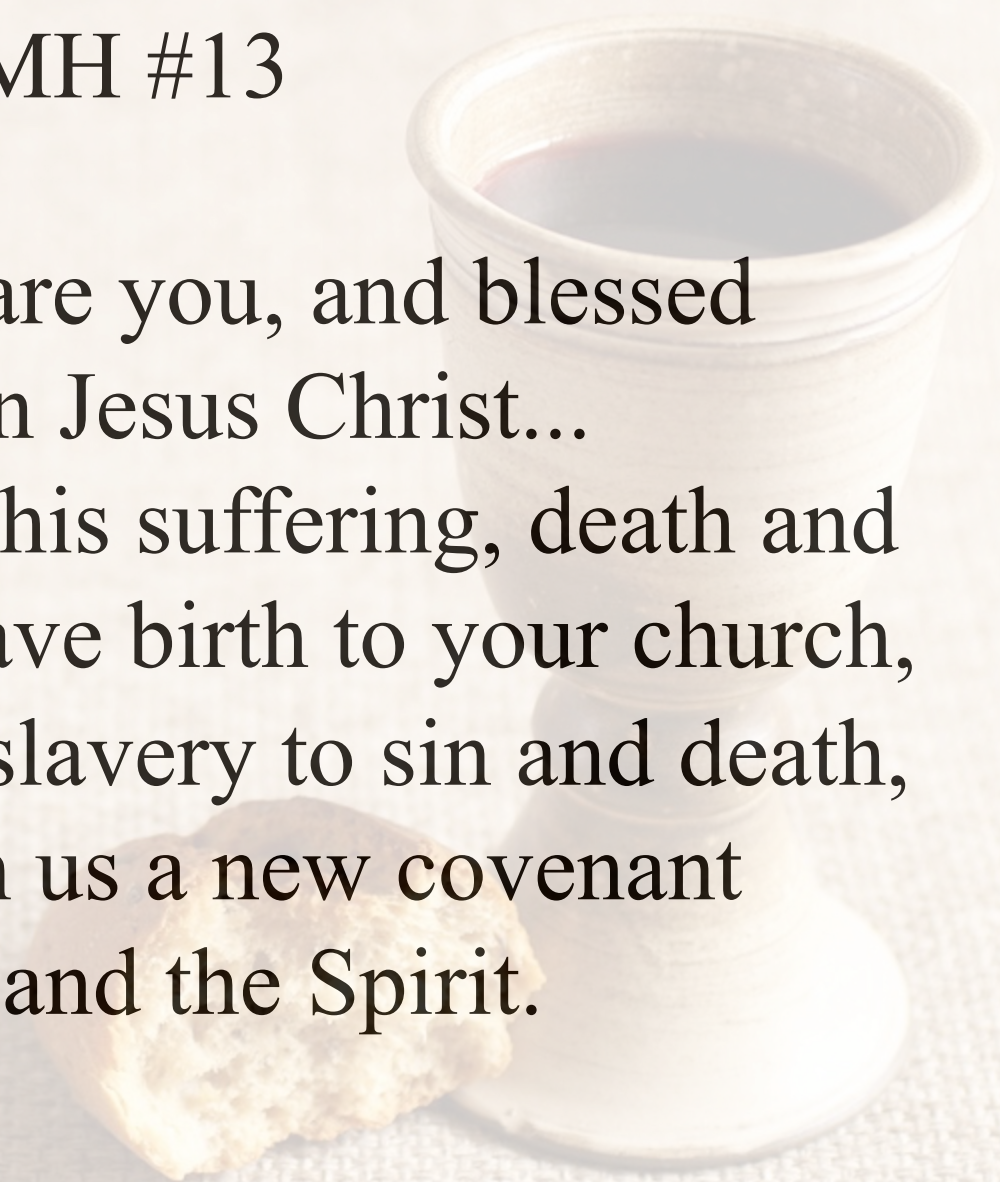


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* Holy are you, and blessed  
is your Son Jesus Christ...

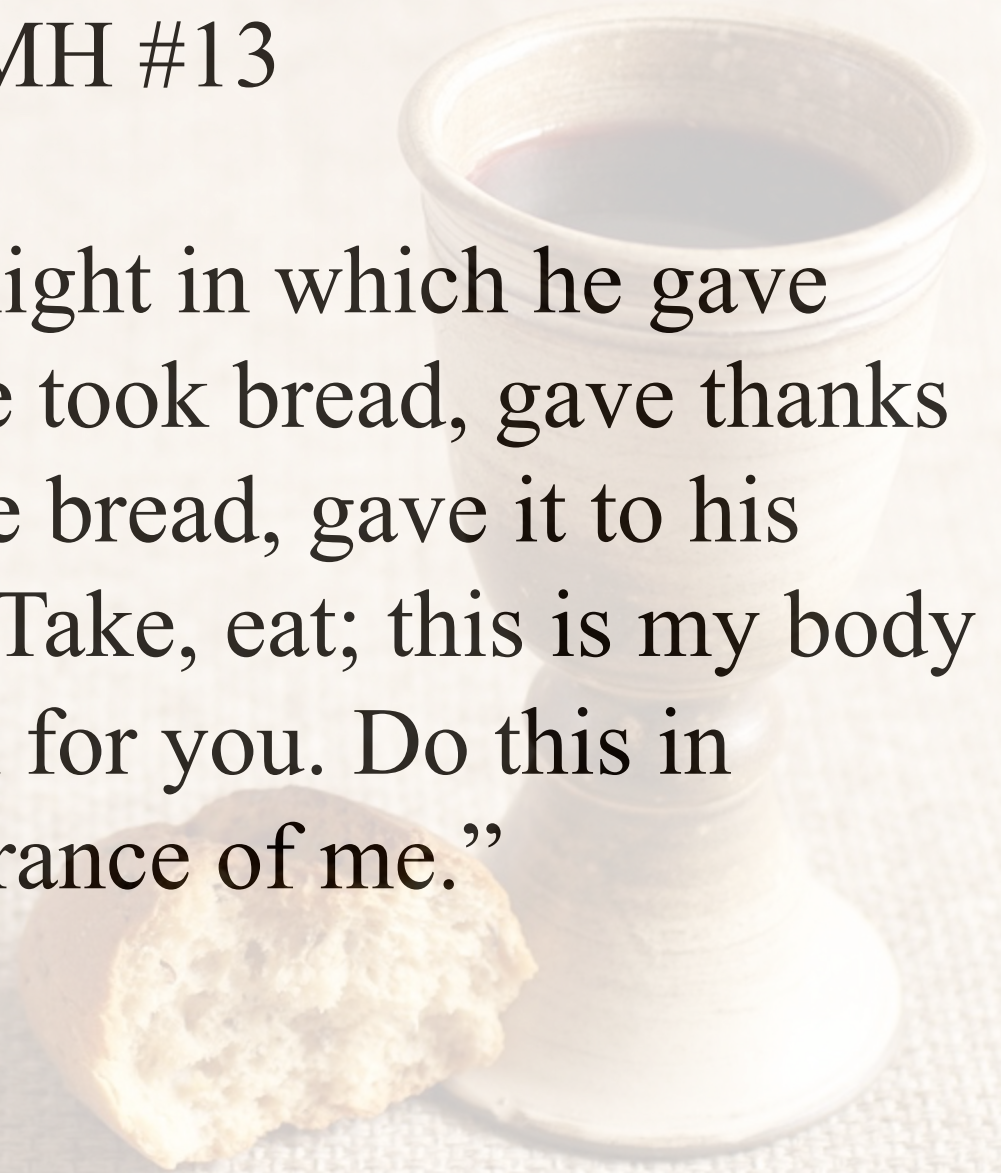
By the baptism of his suffering, death and  
resurrection you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

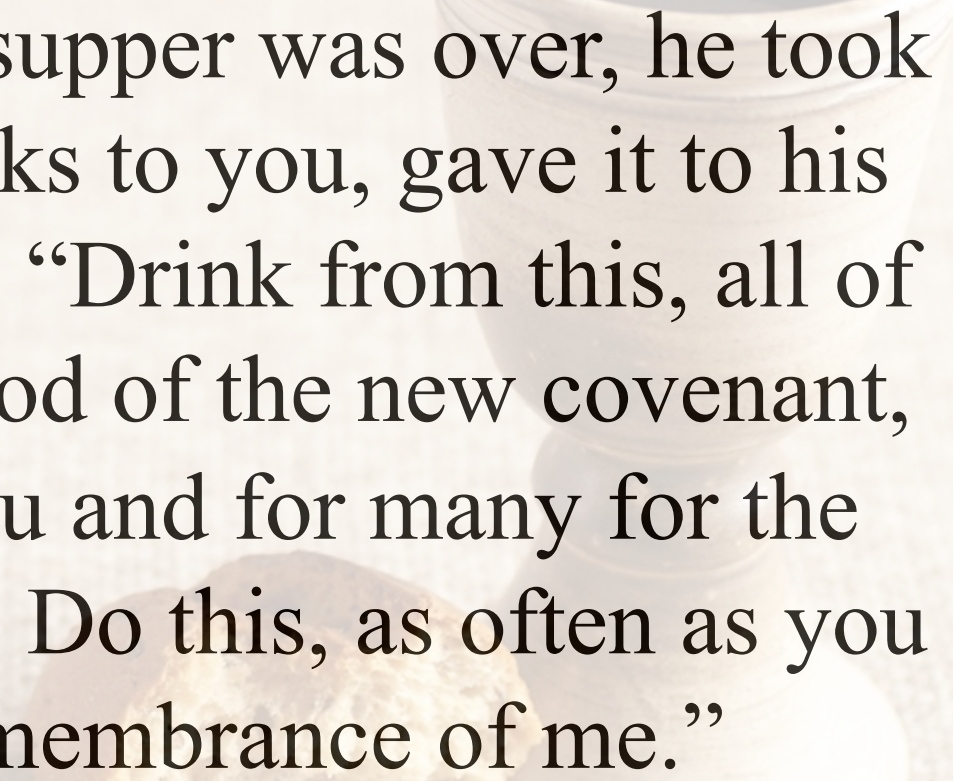




# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

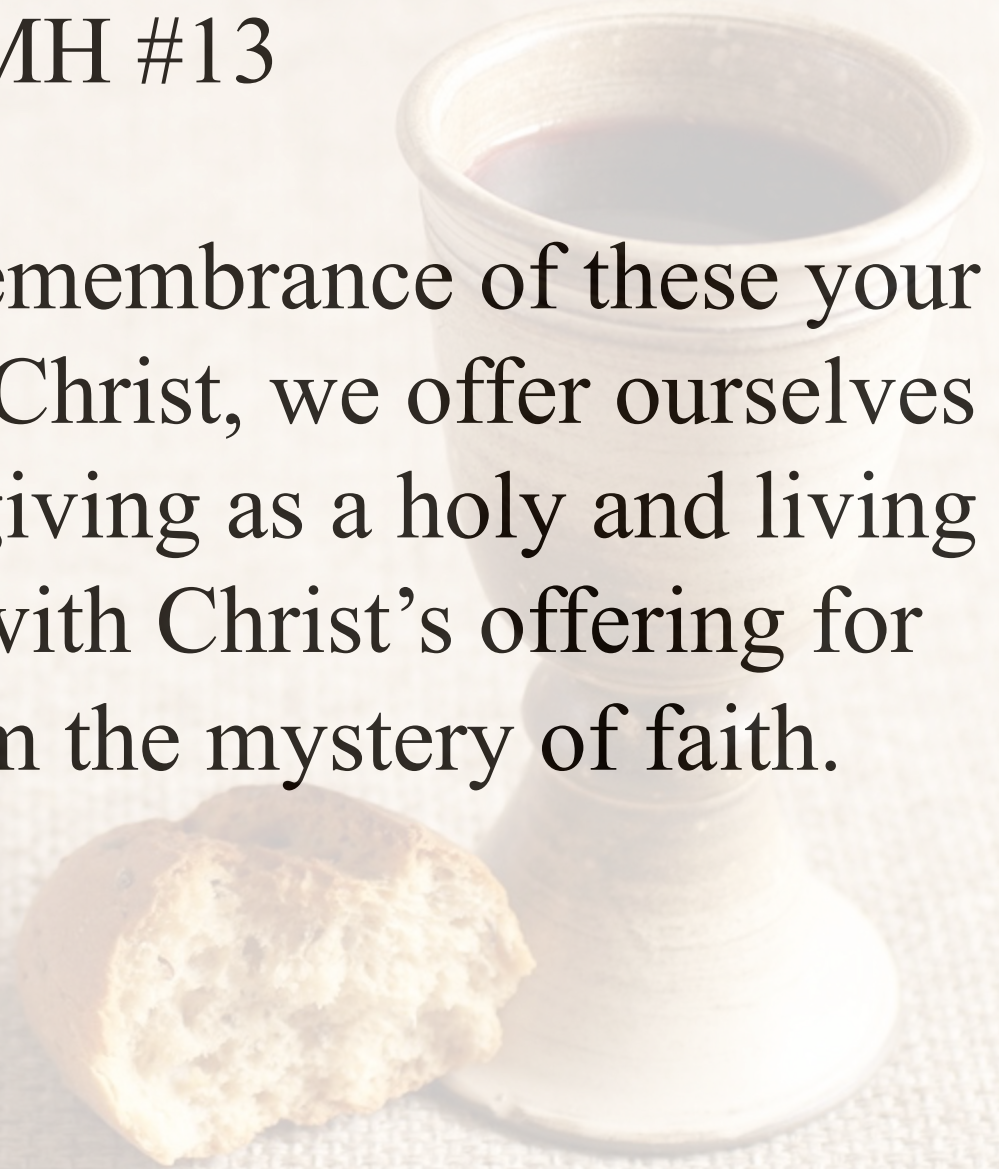
*Leader:* When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”



# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.





# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

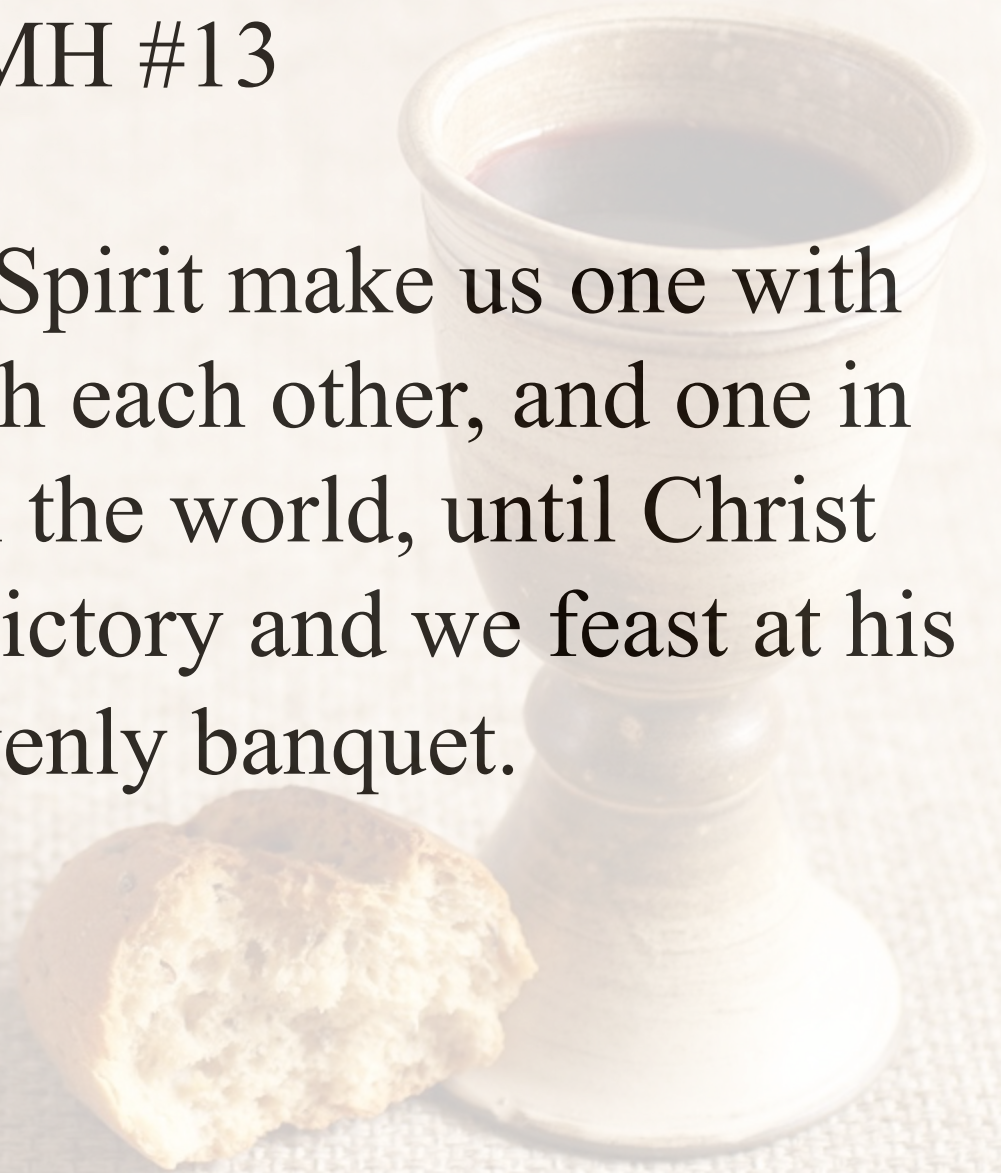
*All:* **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*Leader:* Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.



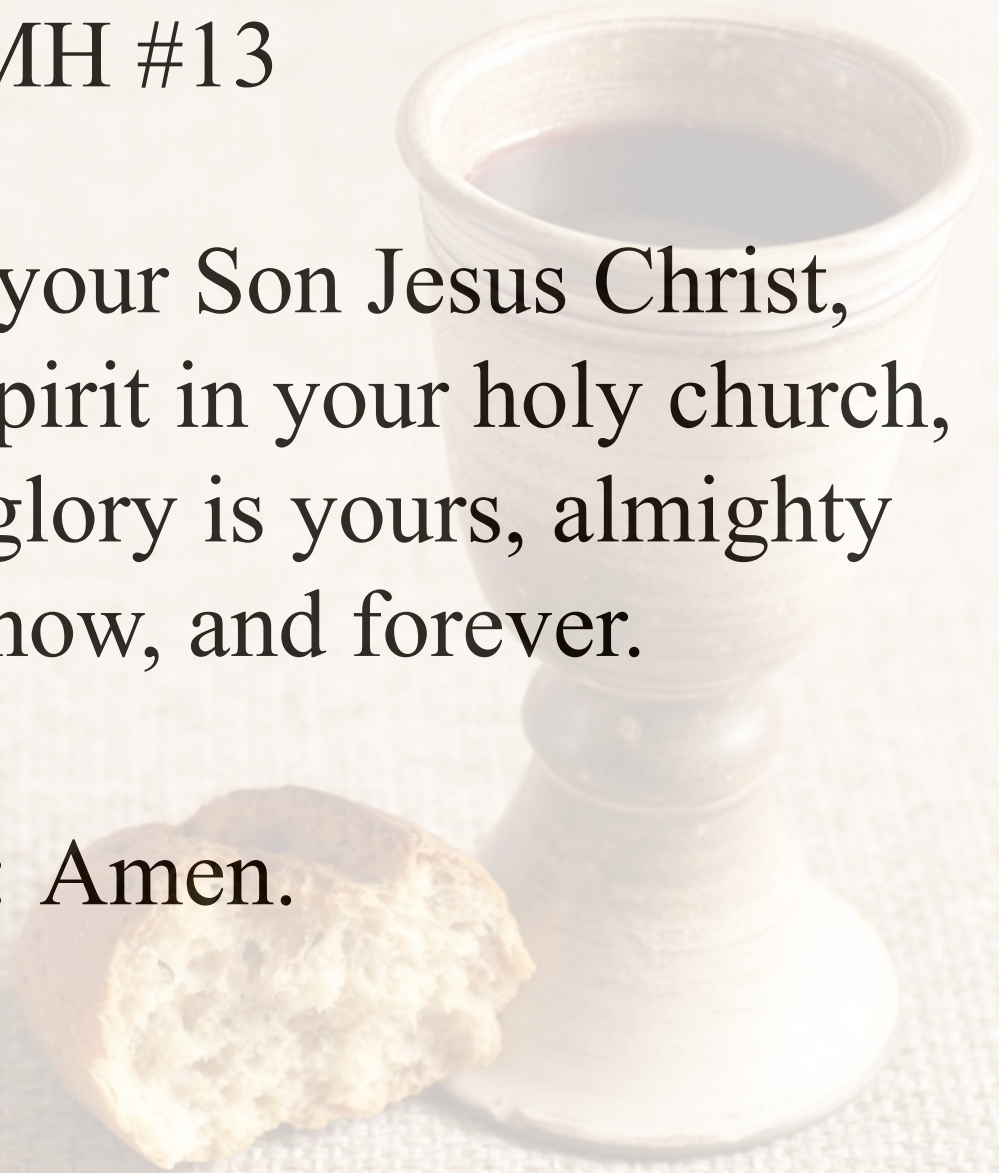


# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH #13

*Leader:* Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty  
Father, now, and forever.

*All:* Amen.





# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*





# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.



# “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH 206

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.





**BENEDICTION**



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*





# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*


God be with you till we meet again;  
by his counsels guide, uphold you,  
with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*


God be with you till we meet again;  
neath his wings securely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you;  
God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*


God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put his arms unfailing round you;  
God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*


God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
smite death's threatening wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again.



# “God Be With You till We Meet Again” UMH 672

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880    MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



Till we meet,  
till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus feet;  
till we meet,  
till we meet,

God be with you till we meet again.

# **Thought of the Day**

**Atheism is a non-profit  
organization.**



# BLESSING AND BENEDICTION



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

This service has ended, and now  
your service in the world begins!

# Rectortown United Methodist Church

serving God with  
**P**rayer, **A**ction, and **L**ove  
through **S**ervice.