



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

**Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.**

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

**Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.**

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit
moved over the waters and by your Word you created the
world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and
his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from
slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized
by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and
your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus
Christ. Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

Amen.

The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.

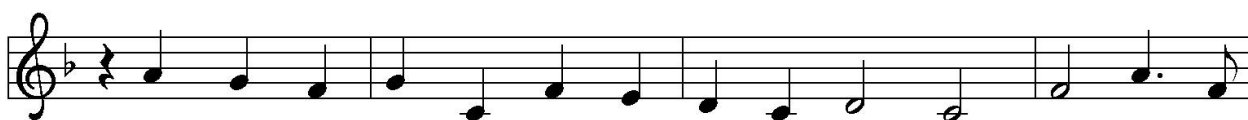
***GATHERING SONG**

ELW #665

Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***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.**

*GLORIA



Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

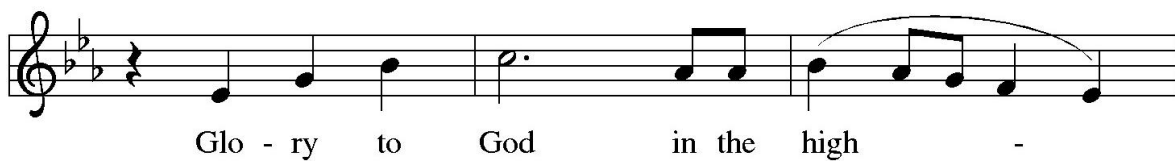
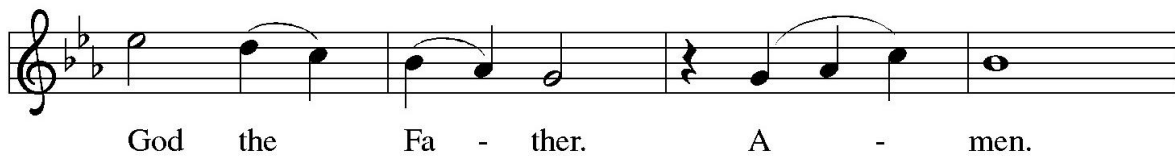
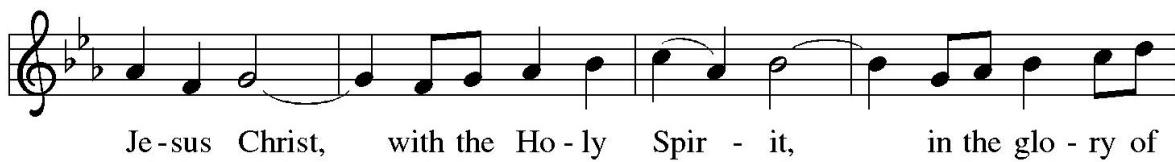
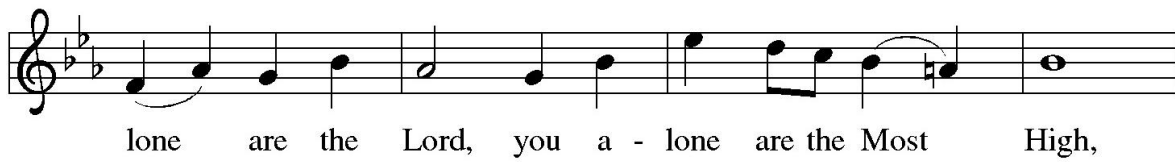
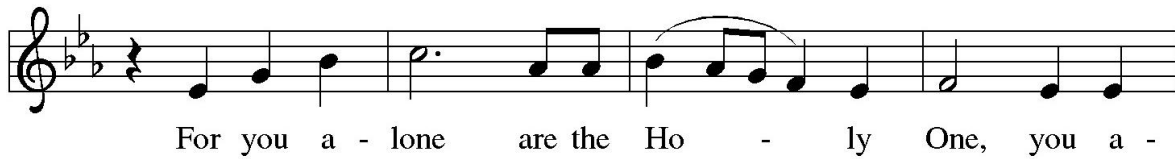
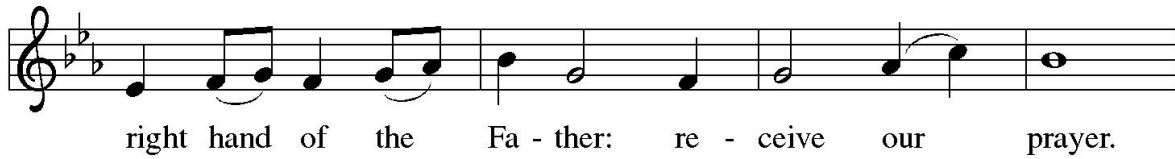
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

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



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from Isaiah:

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. aThen you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

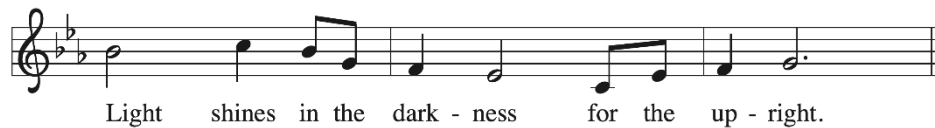
Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

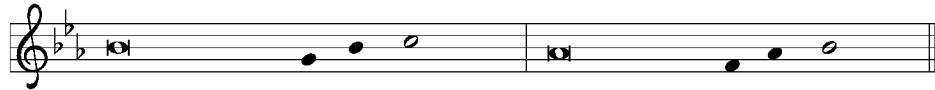
Psalm 112:1-10

The choir introduces the refrain; ALL sing the refrain; the congregation sings the verses in BOLD print.

Refrain



Tone



- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion. R
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,**
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast
forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish. R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A reading from Corinthians:

When I came to you, my dear family, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *All sing the alleluias. Proper verse sung by the choir.*



"Jesus says, I am the light of the world;* whoever follows me will have the light of life."

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the dominion of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the dominion of heaven. "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the dominion of heaven."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #710

Let Streams of Living Justice

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;
give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.
The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,
the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.
Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;
a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us
pray for the church, the whole human community,
and the well-being of the earth, our home.**

A brief silence.

**Your church does ministry in many and various
ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ,
that our works and witness bring hope to a
troubled world.**

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones (*areas of conflict may be named*).

We pray for our enemies.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (*especially*).

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered. For What Else Shall We Pray?

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries in this congregation, in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you want to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is near the entrance on the information table.

***OFFERTORY**

verses 3, 4 & 5

ELW #303

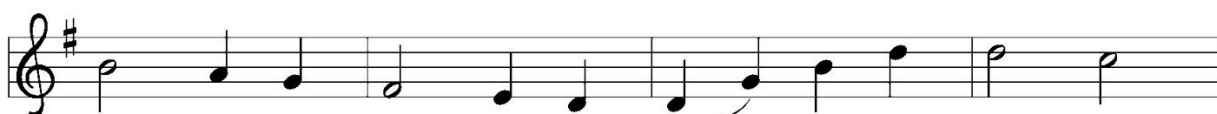
Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

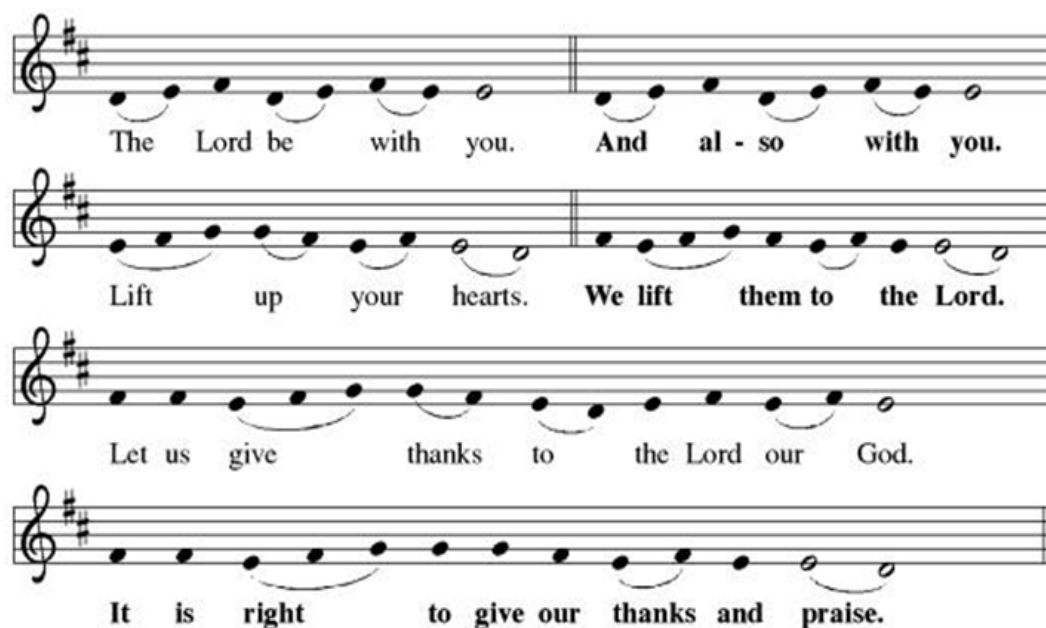
Let us pray.

A brief silence is held.

**God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***DIALOGUE**

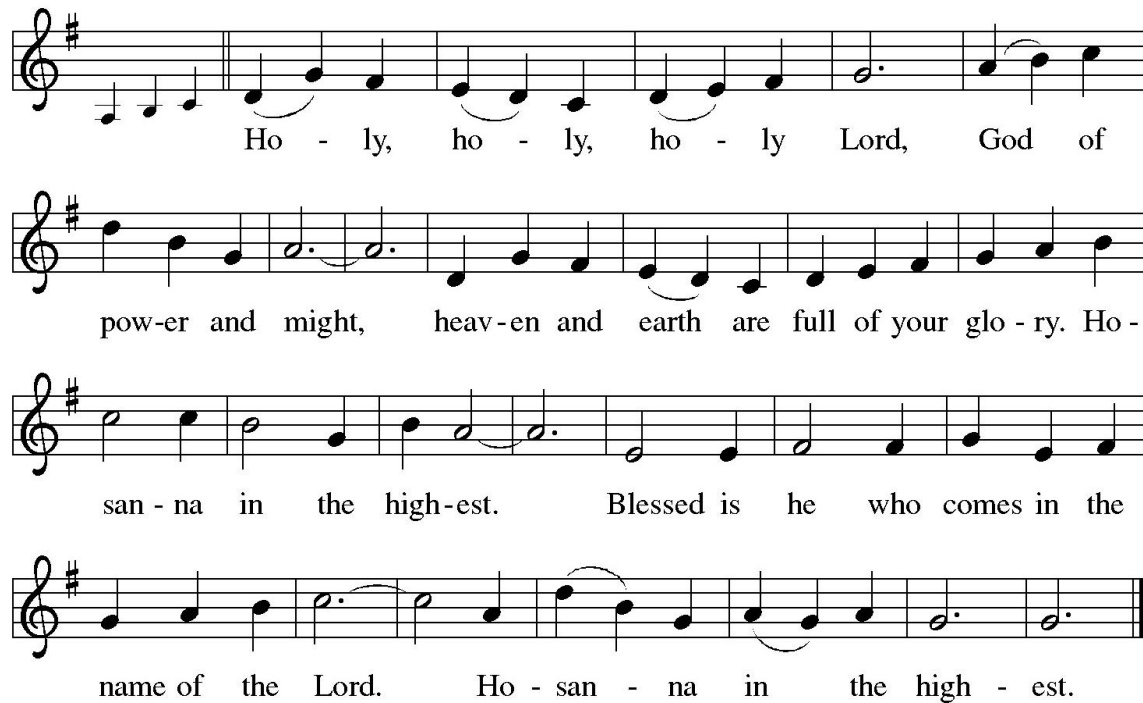


***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new

in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All are welcome to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the bowl provided. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you at your seat, let the usher know.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.**

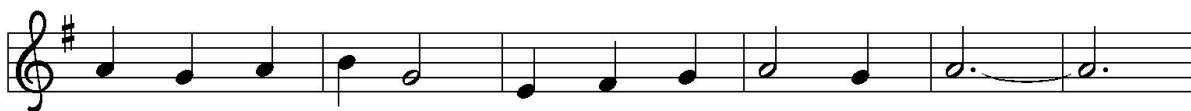
Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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ELW #677

This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION SONG

ELW #201

Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

**May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

ELW #866

We Are Marching in the Light of God



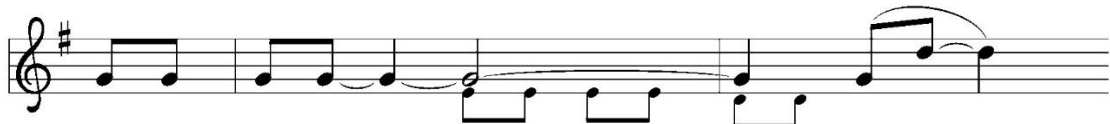
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Pastor Corpus' office hours** are by appointment only: Tues/Thurs/Sat 9-11am;
Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30pm. Email: jmcopus@verizon.net

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PREACHING & PRESIDING	THE REV. DR. JOHN HOFFMEYER
ASSISTING MINISTER	MERRI BROWN
MUSICIAN	LARRY SMITH
LECTOR	LEO BONANSKO
USHER	CAMERON BROWN
ALTAR GUILD	GORDON GERHART
HOSPITALITY	

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- ELW #665** *Rise, Shine, You People!*
Text: Ronald A. Klug, b.1939, alt.
Music: Dale Wood, 1934-2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House
- ELW #710** *Let Streams of Living Justice*
Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla
- ELW #303** *Brightest and Best of the Stars*
Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.
Music: James P. Harding, 1850-1911, adapt.
- ELW #715** *Christ, Be Our Light*
Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications
- ELW #677** *This Little Light of Mine*
Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer
- ELW #201** *Now, Lord*
Music: Plainsong, adapt. Lutheran Book of Worship
Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress
- ELW #866** *We Are Marching in the Light*
Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
Music: South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.