



## GATHERING

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

**PRELUDE**

*THIS CROSS*

-MARK MUMMERT

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. 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 looks upon us in compassion,  
forgives our sin,  
and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone,  
we have sinned.**  
**In your compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin  
and take away our guilt.**  
**Create in us a new heart  
and give us a steadfast spirit.**  
**Do not cast us away,  
but fill us with your Holy Spirit  
and restore your joy within us.**  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

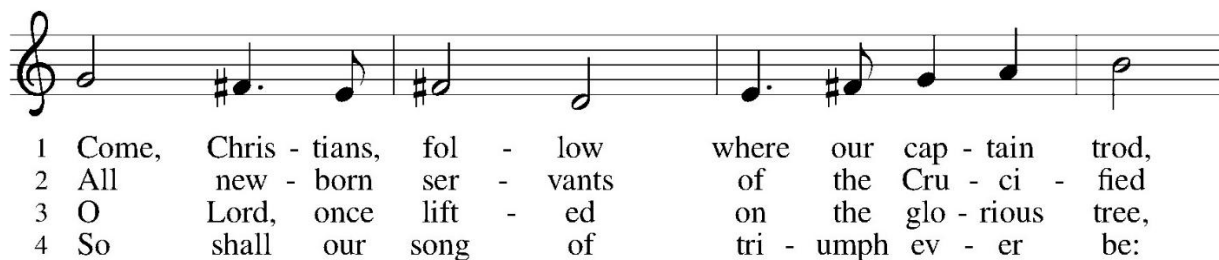
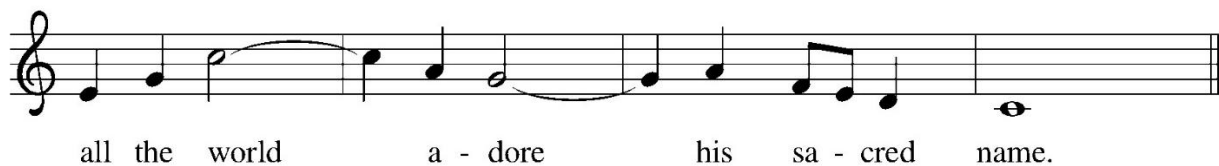
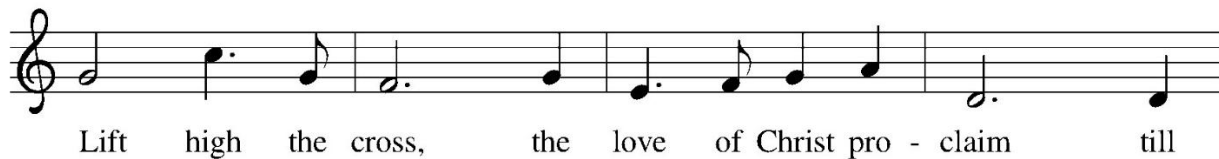
**As tender as parent to child,  
so deep is God's compassion for you.**  
**As high as heaven is above earth,  
so vast is God's love for you.**  
**As far as east is from west,  
so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.**  
**Blessed be God who crowns us  
with mercy and love.**  
Blessed be God forever.

*The assembly stands. The service continues with the gathering song.*

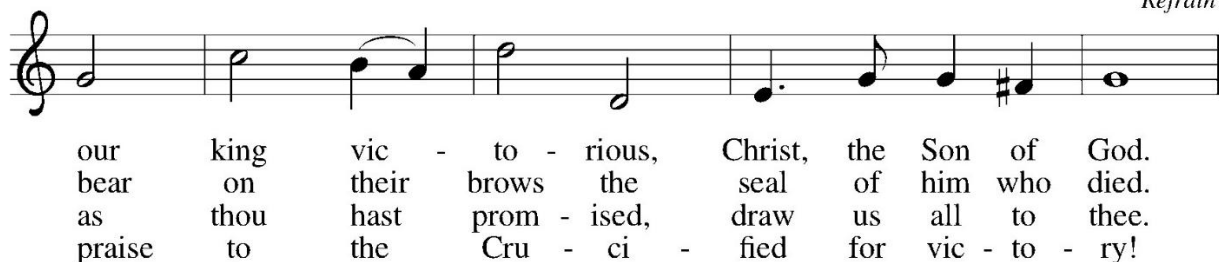
**\*GATHERING SONG**

ELW #660

# Lift High the Cross



*Refrain*



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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**\*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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Let us pray.**

*Hold a brief silence.*

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

**NUMBERS 21:4B-9**

A Reading from Numbers:

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98:1-4

Tone



Refrain



<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations. R**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

A Reading from Corinthians:

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The alleluias are introduced by the choir, and then repeated by ALL. The choir sings the proper verse, and then ALL sing alleluias again.*



*Proper Verse:* "May I never boast of | anything\* except the cross of our Lord | Jesus Christ. (Gal. 6:14)

**\*GOSPEL**

**John 3:13-17**

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

**Jesus said, "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son-of-Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son-of-Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that God gave the Son, the only begotten one, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."**

After the reading:

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

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life - blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

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

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

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

## **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.**

**Prayers for the Chara-Bonansco Family as they  
begin to settle here.**

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the  
church, the world, and all in need.**

*A brief silence.*

**Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give  
us patience in our journey, and protect us from  
division and doubt. May we look to the cross and  
live.**

**Merciful God,  
hear our prayer.**

**Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live.**

**Merciful God,**  
hear our prayer.

**God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live.**

**Merciful God,**  
hear our prayer.

**God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving (*especially*).**

**Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live.**

**Merciful God,**  
hear our prayer.

**Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth.**

**Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live.**

**Merciful God,**  
hear our prayer.

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



**Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection.**

**Merciful God,**  
hear our prayer.

**We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of peace. Please be mindful of touch.*

**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 as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and 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](http://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**

ACS #1084

**God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me**  
*O Christ, Surround Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967  
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Let us pray.**

*A brief silence is held.*

**Lord of the harvest,  
we return to you a portion of what you have given  
to us.**

**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of  
riches,**

**but on you, who richly provides for us.**

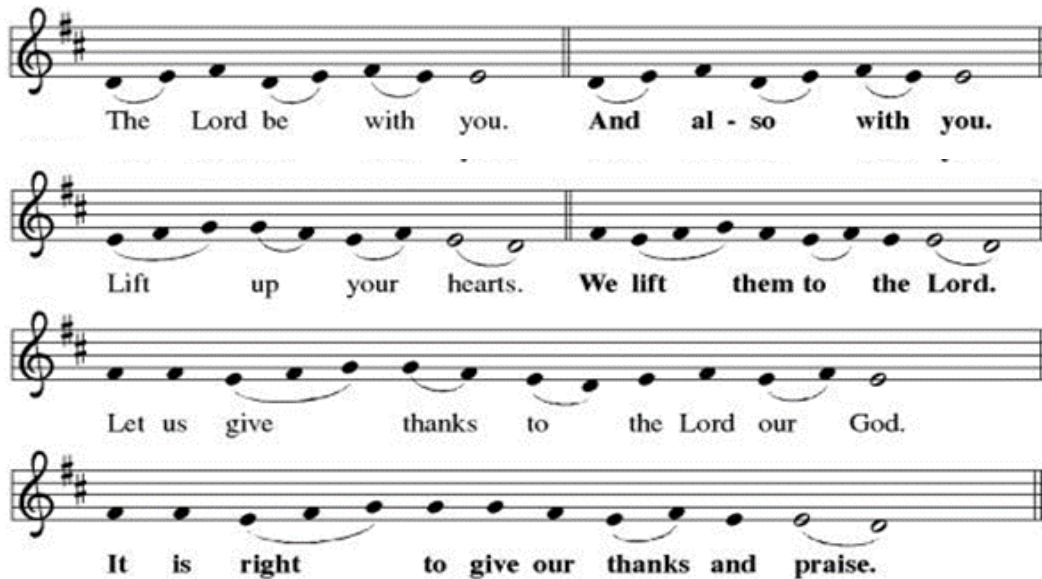
**Multiply what we have gathered**

**to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our 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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of  
everlasting life.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

O God triune, how majestic  
is your name in all the earth.  
Over the eons your merciful might  
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.  
Here by your wisdom  
are both life and death,  
growth and decay,  
the nest and the hunt,  
sunshine and storm,  
darkness and light.  
Sustained by these wonders,  
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.  
In Christ you bring life from death;  
we remember his cross,  
we laud his resurrection.  
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.  
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.  
Receiving this mystery,  
we mortals sing our song:  
The earth is full of your glory.  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,  
so filled with your love for this earth.  
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.

Gathered around this table,  
we your children unite in this song:  
The earth is full of your glory.  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds,  
you uphold the living,  
you embrace the dead.  
Send forth your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.

Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Give us a future that trusts in you  
and cares for your earth.  
Empowered by your promises,  
we rise from our deaths  
to praise you again:  
The earth is full of your glory.  
**The earth is full of your glory.**  
Amen, and amen.  
**Amen, and amen.**

**\*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 Christians 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 in your seat, let the usher know.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**



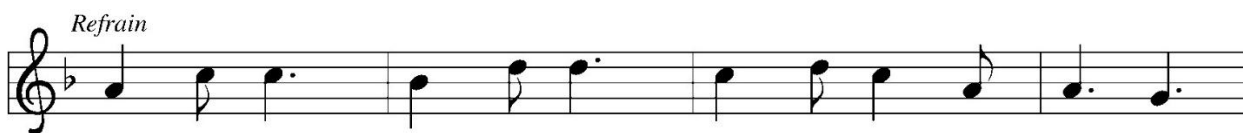
## Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915



## Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community

Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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### TABLE BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Let us pray.**

*Hold a brief silence.*

**O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.**

**We ask this in Jesus' name.**

Amen.

## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

**The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✝ bless you now and forever.**  
Amen.

## Go to the World!



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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## DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. God is at work in you.**

Thanks be to God.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Janet Peterman** is back at work on a limited schedule. While she cannot drive, she is often available for text or conversation. Leave a message about when you are available.

## LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PREACHING & PRESIDING	PASTOR JANET PETERMAN
ASSISTING MINISTER	MERRI BROWN
MUSICIAN	RALPH WELLINGTON
LECTOR	BERLY EVANS
USHER	GORDON GERHART
ALTAR GUILD	GORDON GERHART
HOSPITALITY	

**Liturgical Texts:** *All liturgical texts used from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and/or All Creation Sings administered Augsburg Fortress and under Sundays and Seasons License #SAS000839.*

**Liturgical Setting:** *Liturgical Setting: Holy Communion Setting 12©2020: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960, Kyrie, "My soul proclaims your greatness," Gospel Acclamation, Lenten Acclamation, "Holy, holy, holy," "Lamb of God," "Be known to us, Lord Jesus"; Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953, J. Bert Carlson, 1937-2017, "Glory to you, God." All service music settings © pr administered by Augsburg Fortress.*

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**Hymns:** *Hymns used through One License #A-725060.*

**ELW #660**     *Lift High the Cross*  
Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956  
Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947  
Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

**ELW #342**     *There in God's Garden*  
Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590-c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917-1982  
Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950  
Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

- ACS #1084** *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*  
Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967  
Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress
- ELW #335** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*  
Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915  
Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915
- ELW #616** *Jesus, Remember Me*  
Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
- ACS #991** *Go to the World*  
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993  
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
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Music © Oxford University Press