The Reign of Christ

Sunday, November 22, 2026

10:30am

ELW setting 3

Grace Lutheran Church
Wenatchee, WA



Welcome to Grace!

The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers, and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown, and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.

You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.

As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.

Holy Communion: *We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!*

If you are worshipping with children: *Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options especially for our young worshipers.* ***Children's bulletins*** *are available from the ushers. We have a* ***Cozy Corner****, with books and quiet activities, in the back part of the sanctuary. We also have a staffed* ***nursery*** *available during our worship gathering. You will find it down the administrative wing, on the left. We also encourage parents and guardians to point out* ***Kids' Cues*** *during the service, as a way to help younger worshipers be more fully engaged.*

Our Mission Statement: *"To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."*

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

Introduction to the day
On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

+ + + GATHERING + + +

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

A note to children and families: watch for "kids' cues" throughout today's service. These are opportunities to engage in worship and stay connected as all generations of Grace worship together. Parents and other helpers - we encourage you to help your children notice these cues and participate at whatever level is appropriate for them.



WELCOME & KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE *Oh, Jesus, Lord Jesus* Lowell Mason, arr. Michael Burkhardt
Voices of Grace, Bells of Grace, trumpet

Oh, Jesus, Lord Jesus, your praises we will sing. We will tell of your glory, the gladness that you bring.
Jesus, Jesus, our Lord God and King.

Please stand as you are able.



Kids' Cue

Join Pastor at the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
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,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

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

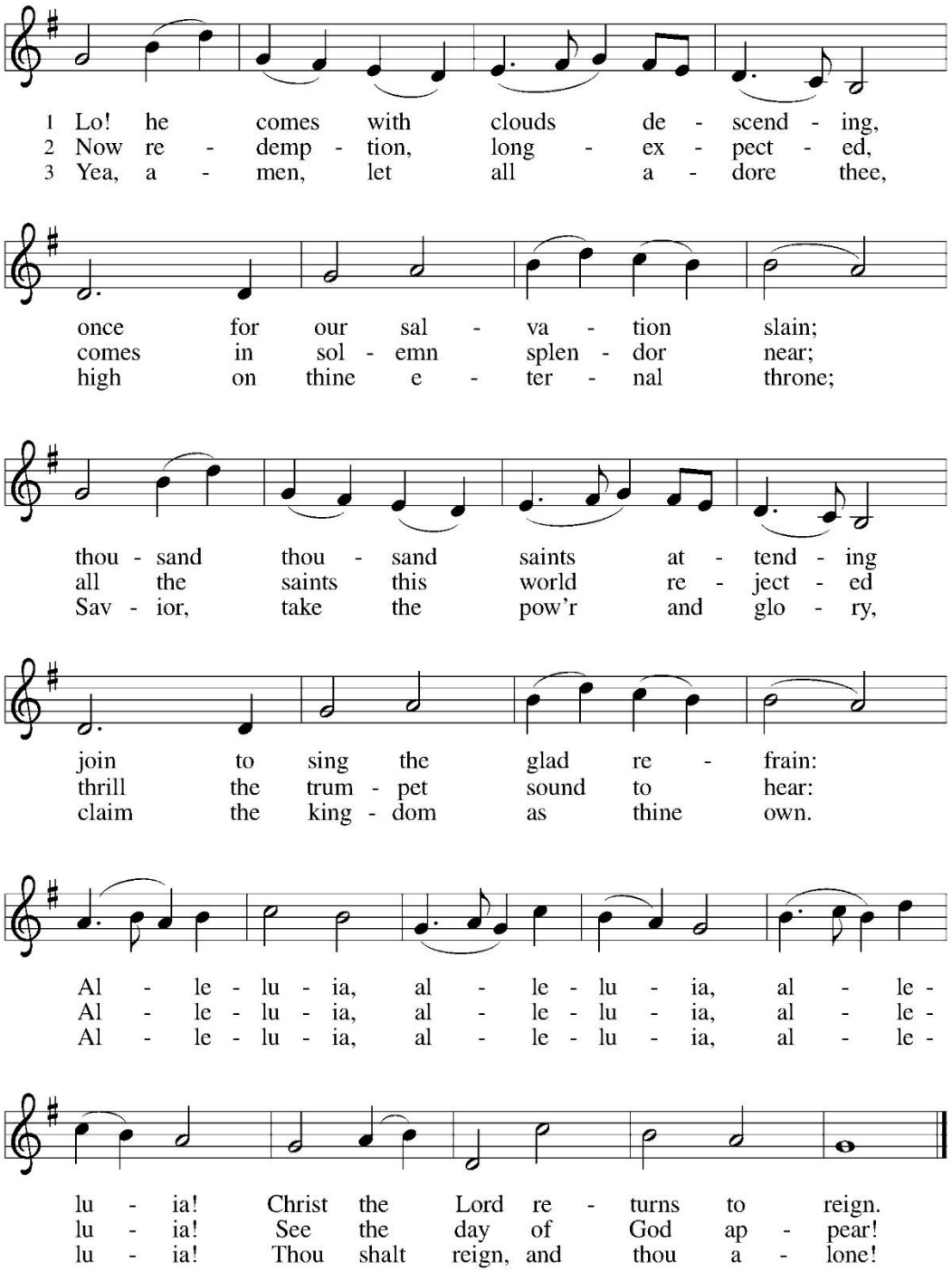
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ELW #435, *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

Kids' Cue

Walk with Pastor to the front, then go back to your family.

GREETING

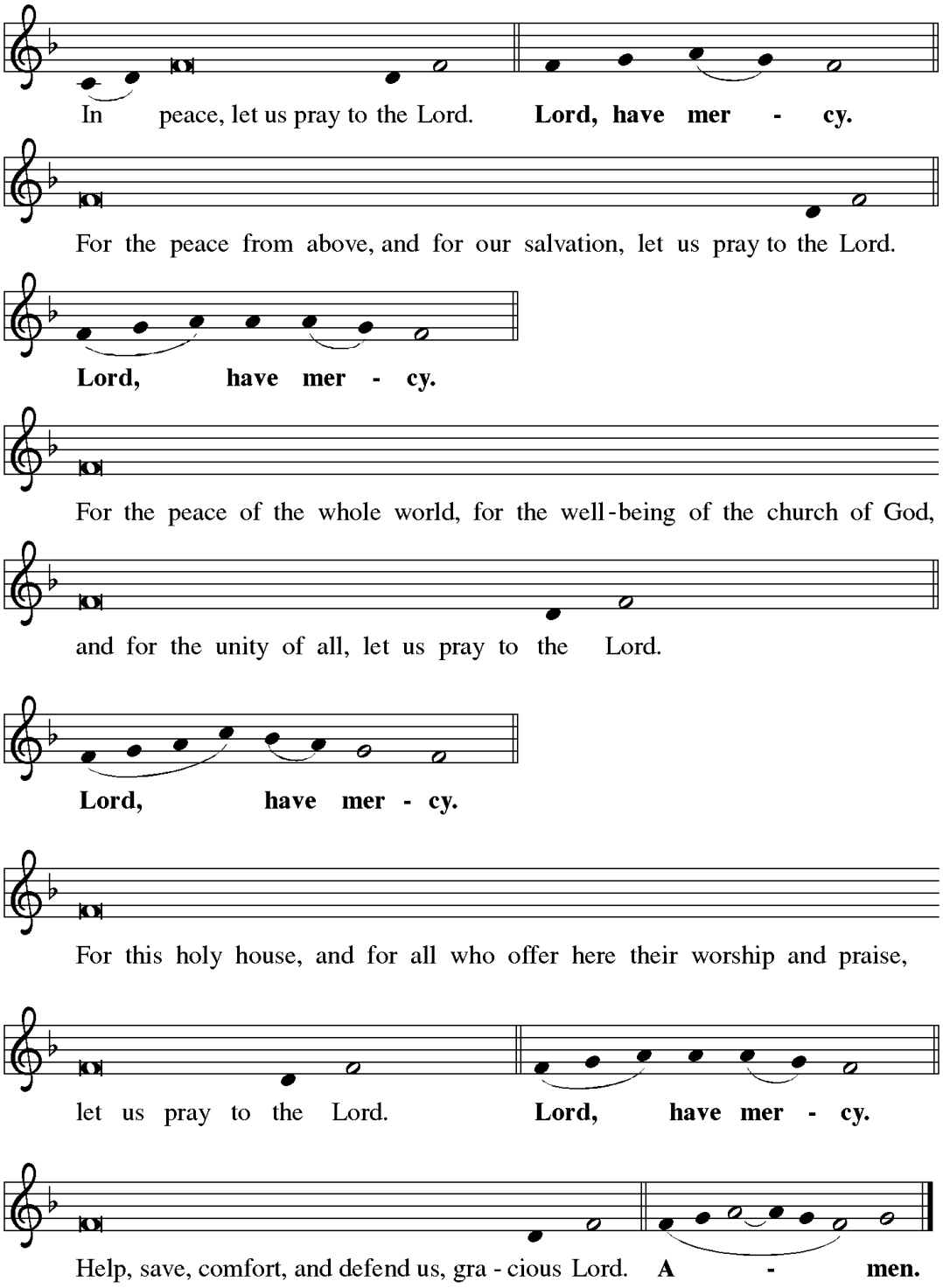
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



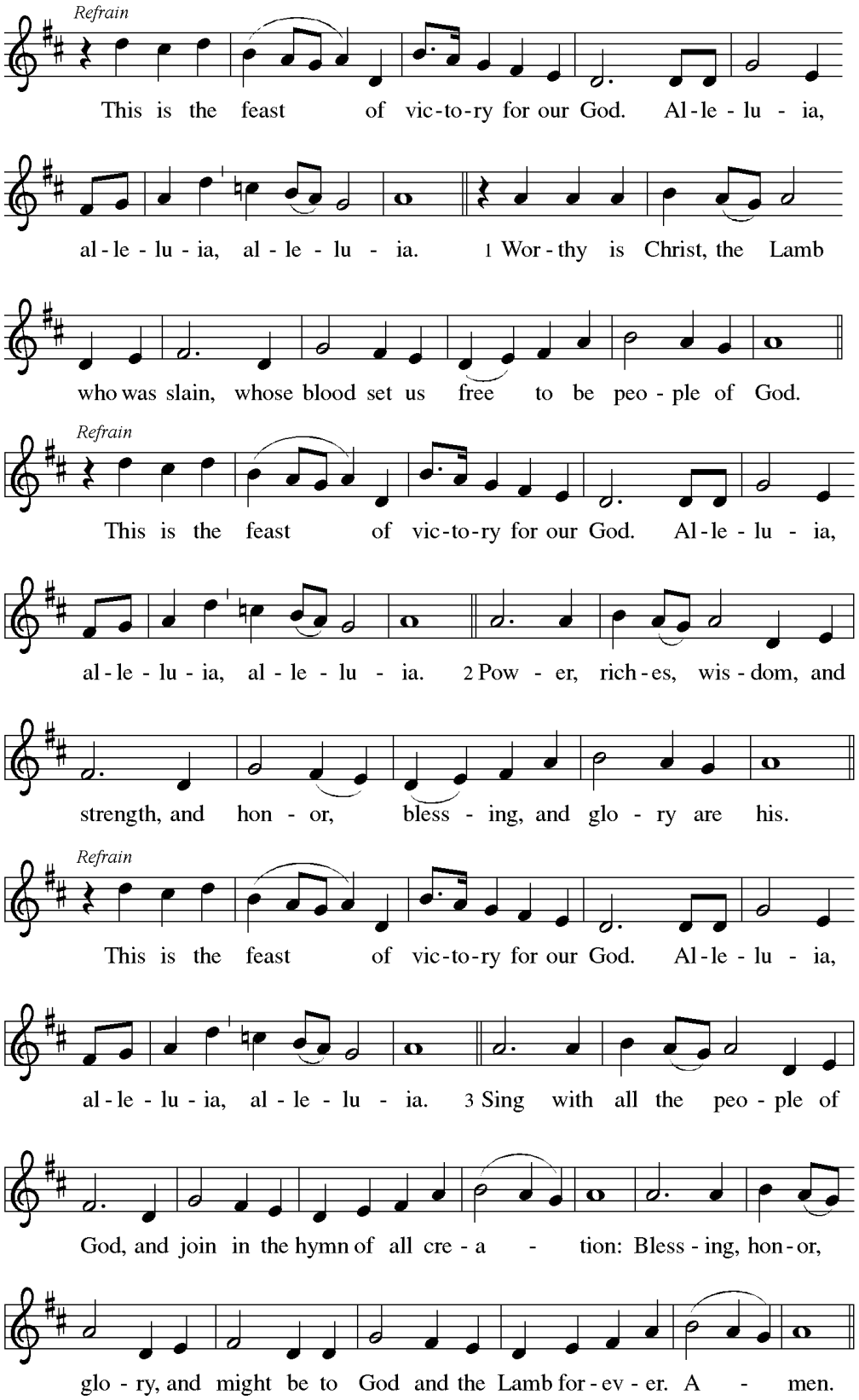
Kids' Cue

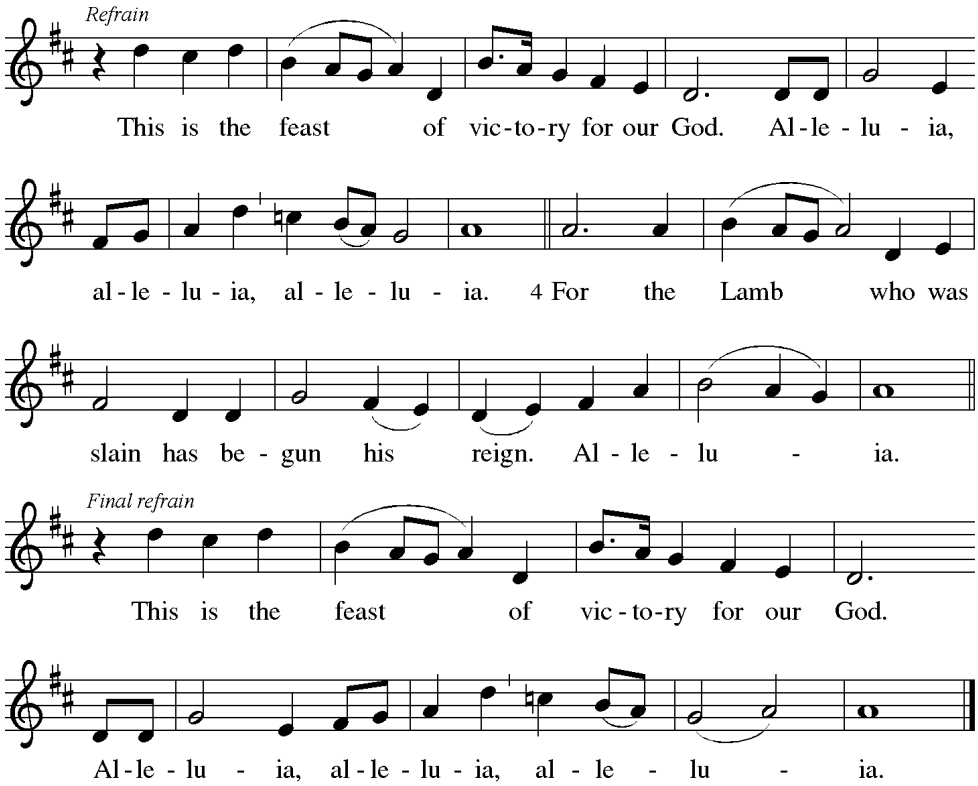
Extend your hands to also share your blessing with Pastor.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This Is the Feast*





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

+ + + WORD + + +

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

A reading from Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out
their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from
the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on
the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with
good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good
grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of
my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the
strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I
will feed them with justice.

[20] Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
[21] Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, [22] I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken. [11] And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14] I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[15] For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
[16] They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
[17] for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."



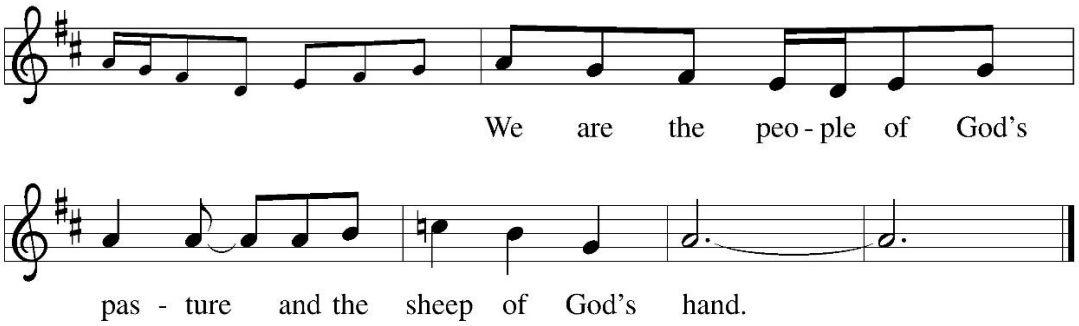
Kids' Cue

Draw lots of sheep on this page!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95:1-7a

The cantor introduces the refrain; all repeat it.
The cantor sings verses. All sing the refrain as indicated.



Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms. ***Refrain***

For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours. The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land. ***Refrain***

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. ***Refrain***

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

A reading from Ephesians.

Kids' Cue

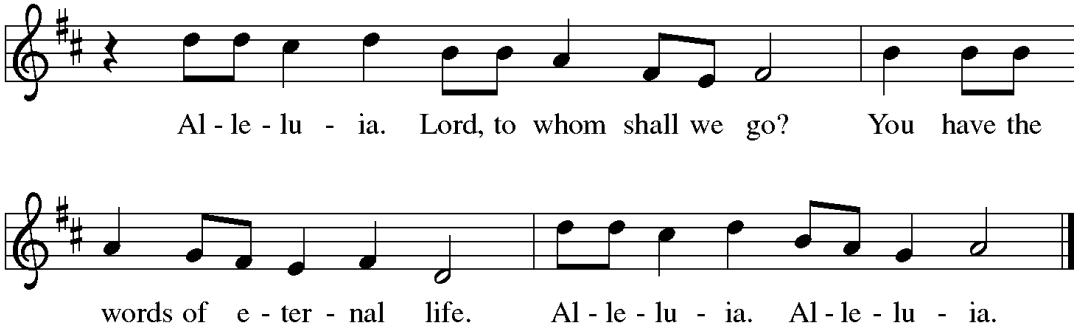
What do you see with the "eyes of your heart"?

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and
for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my
prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a
spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of
your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the
immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of
his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the
dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and
dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has
put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the
fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

Kids' Cue

What does Jesus see with the eyes of his heart?

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the
angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be
gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.
34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the

kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, [35] for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38] And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? [39] And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

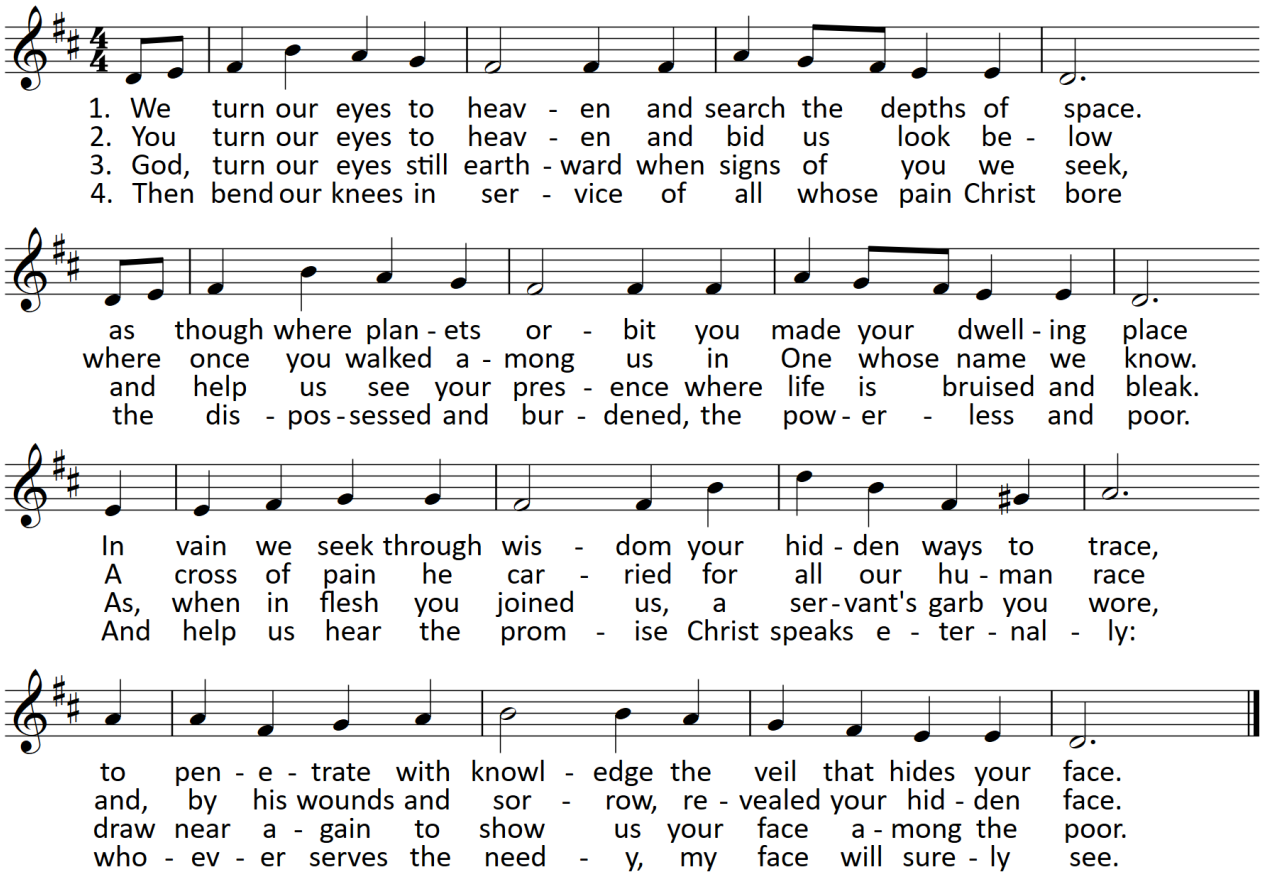
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Turn our Eyes to Heaven*



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Kids' Cue



What does it mean that Jesus is "Light from Light"?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses,
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray,
in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

+ + + MEAL + + +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

To donate electronically, use this QR code.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Crown Him with Many Crowns* arr. Lloyd Larson
Bells of Grace

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

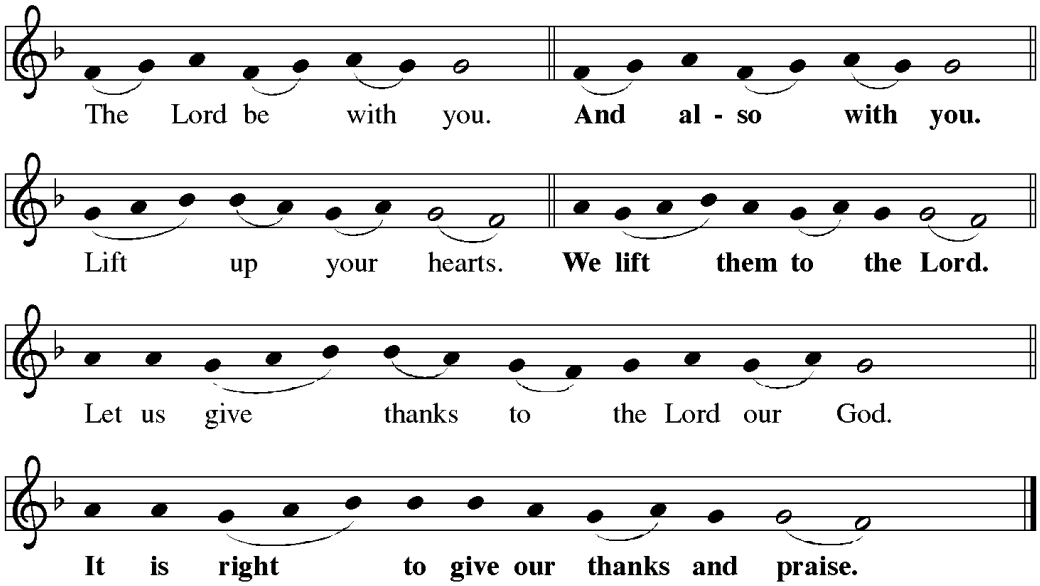
Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Kids' Cue

Which of your abilities can you offer for God's service?

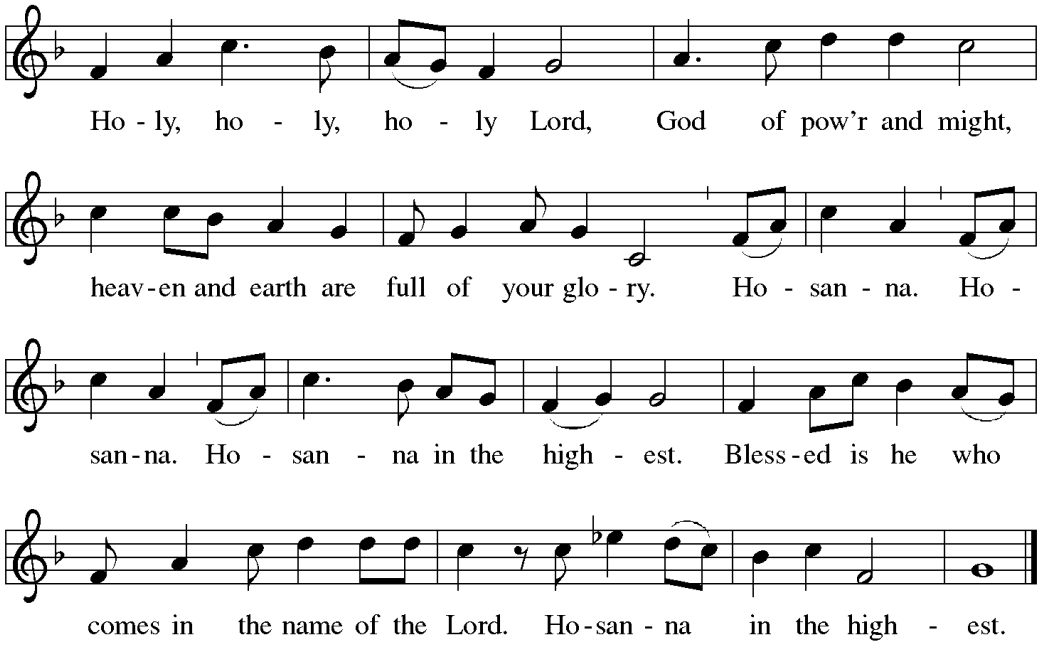
GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE

It is indeed right … join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night … for the remembrance of me.
Amen.

Kids' Cue

Watch for Pastor to lift up the bread and then the wine.

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.

Kids' Cue

What does God's glory look like?

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

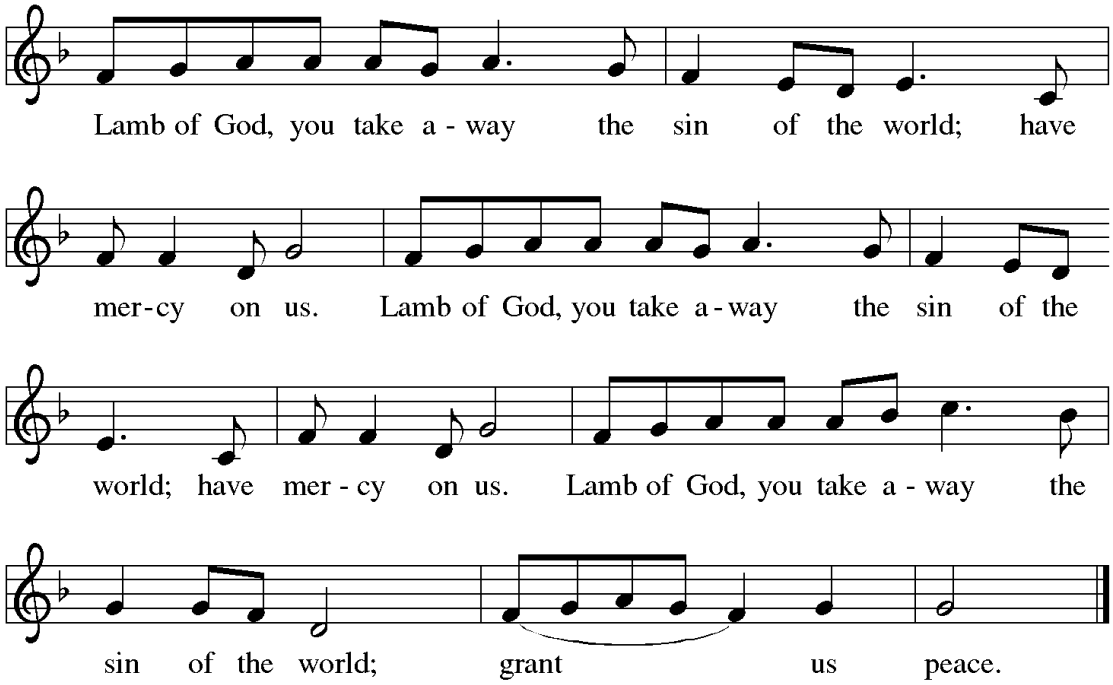
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Please be seated.

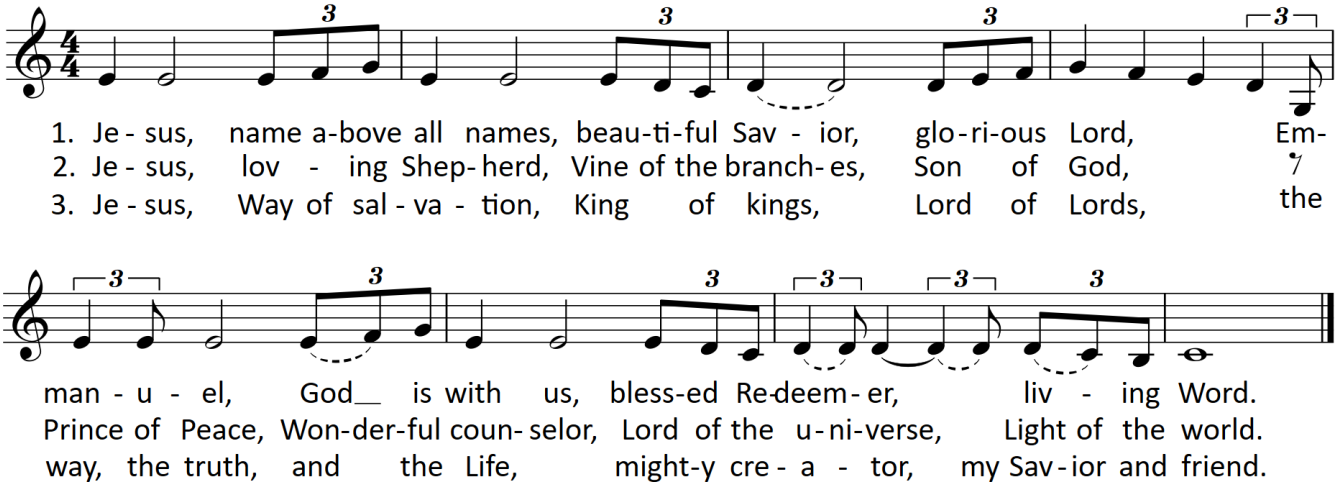
COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

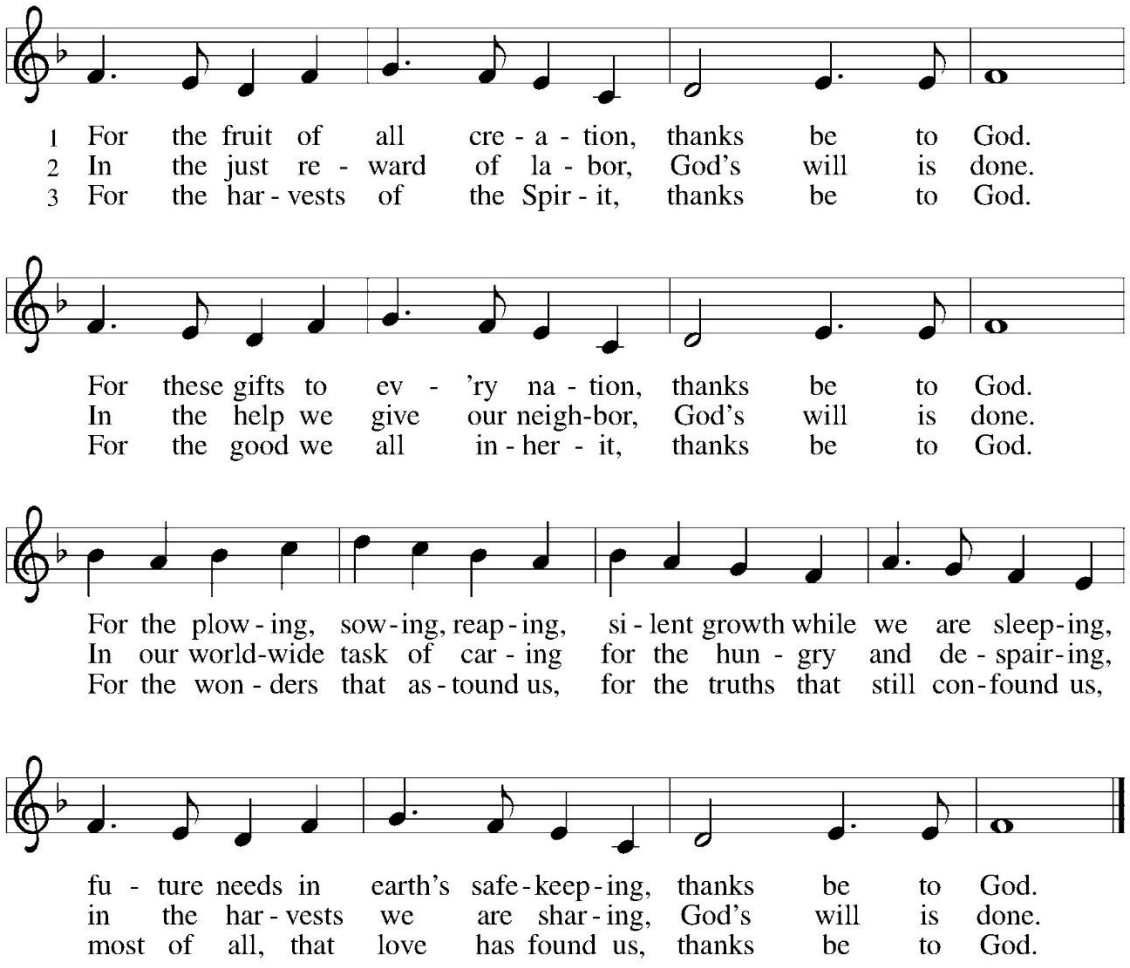


DISTRIBUTION SONG *Jesus, Name Above All Names*



DISTRIBUTION SONG ELW #679, *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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MUSICAL OFFERING *Bransle* Etienne de TERTE, 16th cent.

Recorder Consort

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 + + +

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

Please be seated.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.



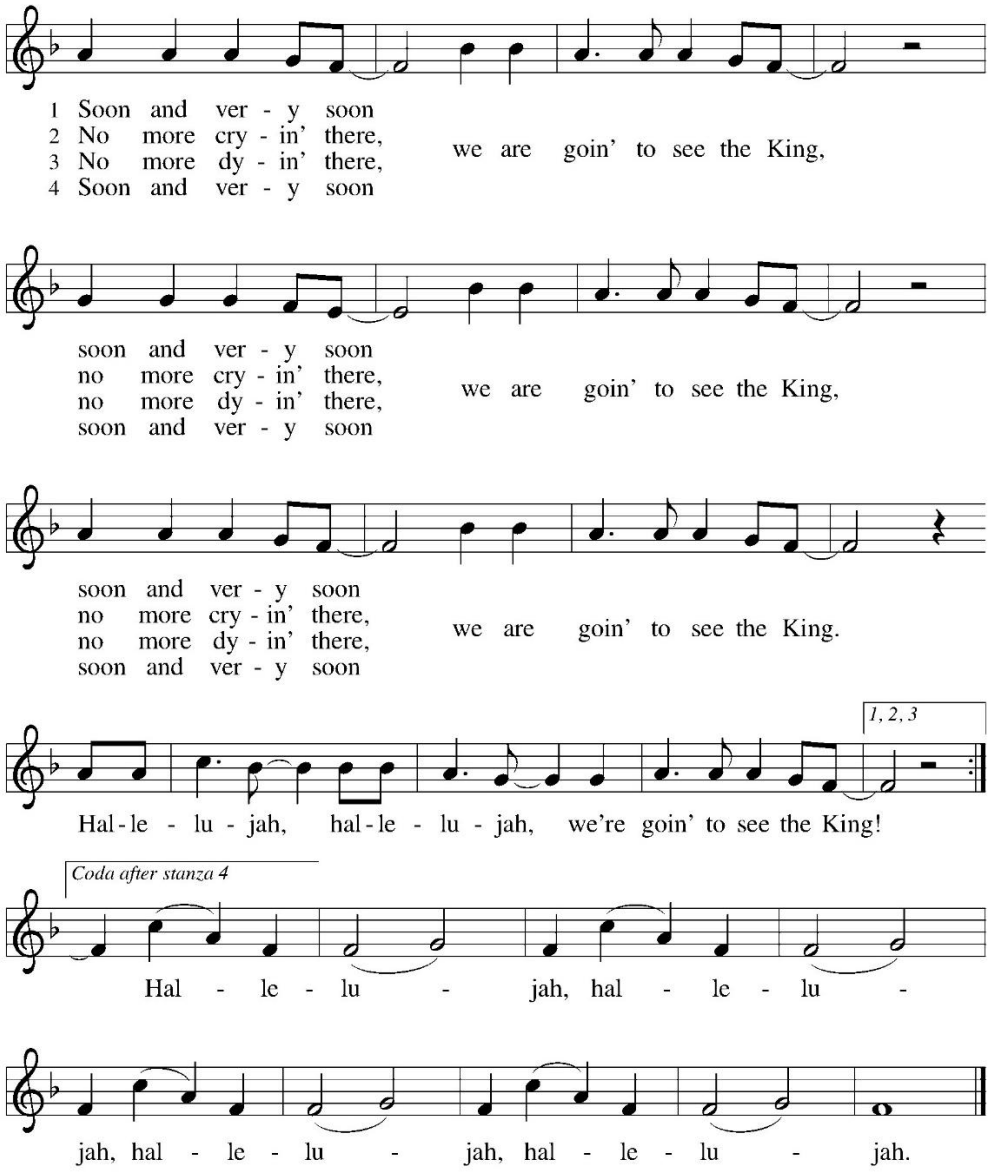
Kids' Cue

Try holding your hands out, like you are receiving a big gift.

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG ELW #439, *Soon and Very Soon*



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

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DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.


Kids' Cue

Respond with loud joy.

POSTLUDE *Soon and Very Soon* Andraé Crouch

+ + +

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Director of Music Ministries:	Deacon Ruth Anderson
Ushers/Greeters:	Gary & Kathy Otheim
Lector:	Suellen Harris
Cantor:	Kathy Gavin
Recorder Consort:	Mark Boersma, Connie Celustka, Candy Koch, Sherry Krebs, Vinny Lee, Karen Zanol
Altar Guild:	Rose Applegate
Tech:	Erik Olson

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A note regarding livestreaming at Grace: With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

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Jesus, Name Above All Names Text: Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:5-11, Naida Hearn, 1944-2024. Music: Naida Hearn © 1974, 1978, Scripture in Song/Maranatha Music/ ASCAP (All rights administered by Music Services.)

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