Christ the King

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 22, 2026



United in Christ
Lutheran Church
MORRISONVILLE, WI

Sharing the Hope of Jesus in a Troubled World

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar have been given by John and Kim Eighmy in celebration of our church family here at United In Christ.

Prayer Concerns

Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA
Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA
The **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**
For the **people of United in Christ Lutheran Church**

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe - continued health concerns
Geno Lainberger - at Madison Health & Rehab Center
Linda Peterson - at Waunakee Manor
Ron and Nola Nordeng - at Heritage House of Portage
Darlene Guetschow - health concerns
Sharon Gust - continued health concerns
Kathy Olsen - sister-in-law of Ann Olsen - continued health concerns
Trey Tollefson - grand nephew of Chet Gabris - continued health concerns

Announcements

- HAPPY BIRTHDAYS - Norm Harris on Saturday the 28th.
- DANN TREE - The DANN (De Forest Area Needs Network) annual giving tree has been set up in the Narthex so you can donate gift cards in the amounts of $10, $15, and $20. Suggested places are Target, Walmart, Walgreens, or Family Dollar Store. The deadline is December 10th. Your support goes to help those in our community less fortunate. Thank you so much.

Next Sunday – November 29th

- Ushers - Hank Lipke and Marie Rasmussen-Hall
- Reader - Julie Molnar
- Communion Assistant - Paul Anderson
- Altar Guild - Bev Harris
- Head Usher - Norm Harris

Acknowledgements

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Now the Feast and Celebration text and music by Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-742073.

Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, *Hold Fast to What Is Good*. Used with permission.

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Welcome to Worship!

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

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

(Please stand as you are able.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.

C: Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

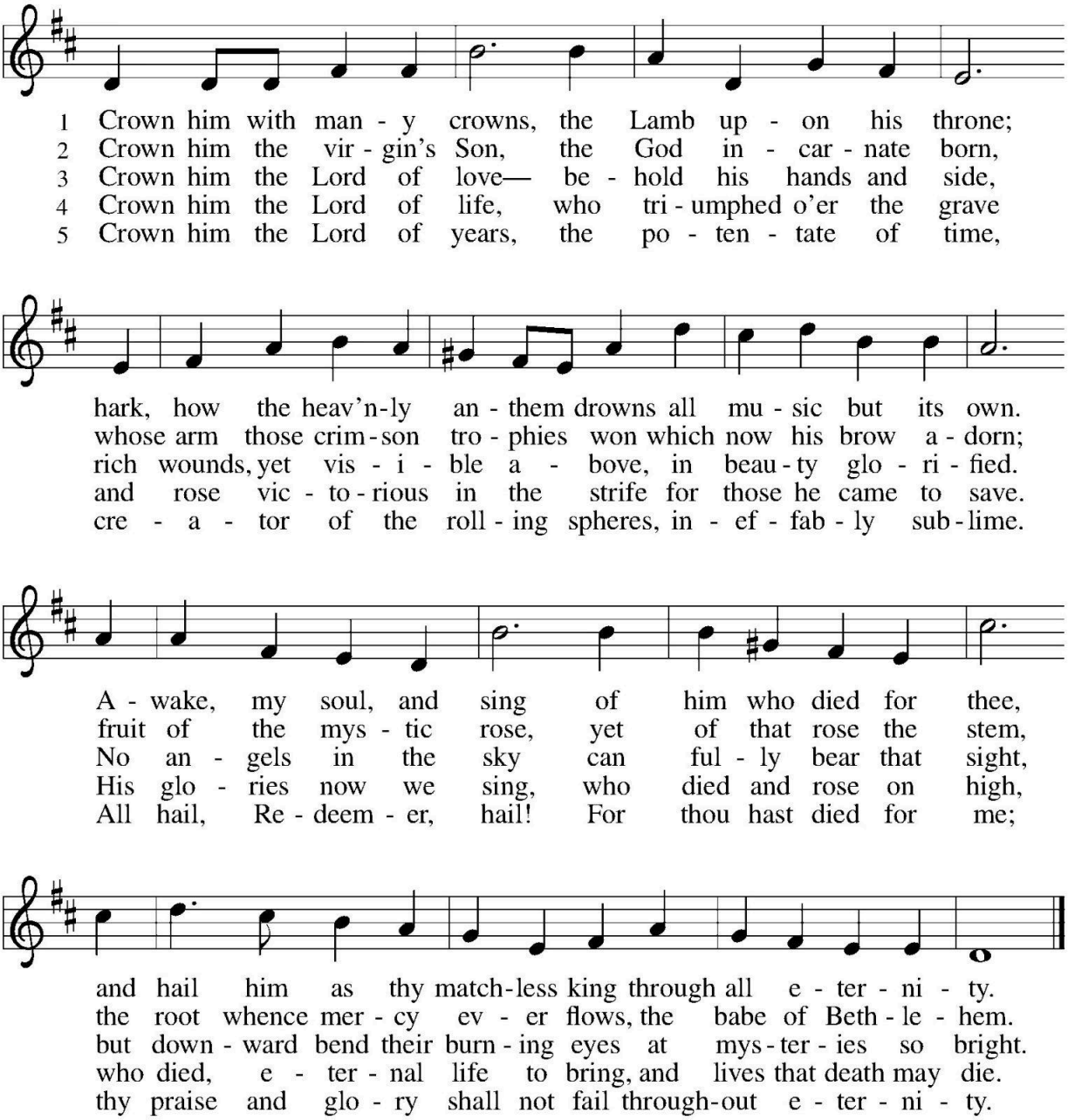
**C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse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

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

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn – *ELW 855*

Crown Him with Many Crowns
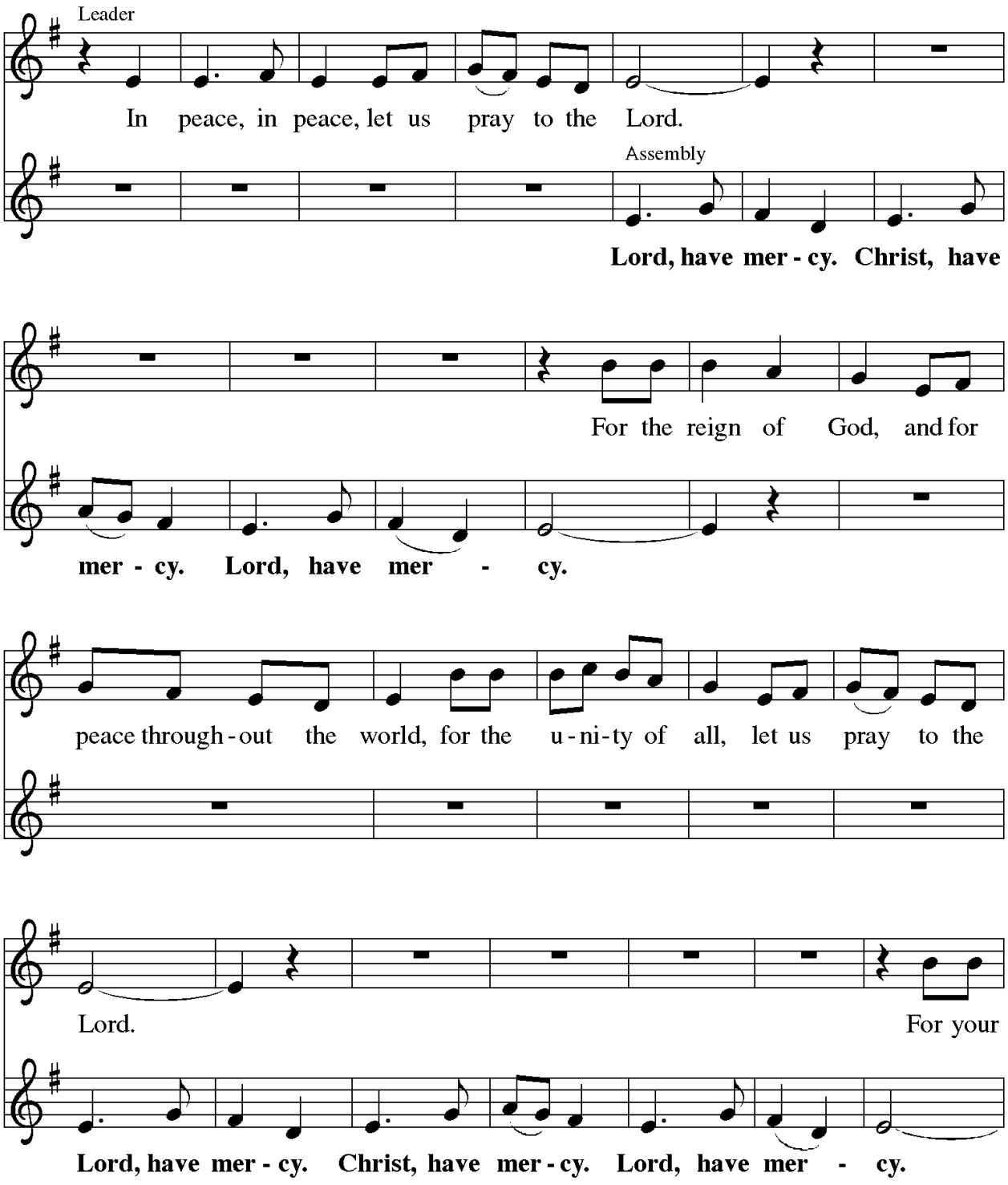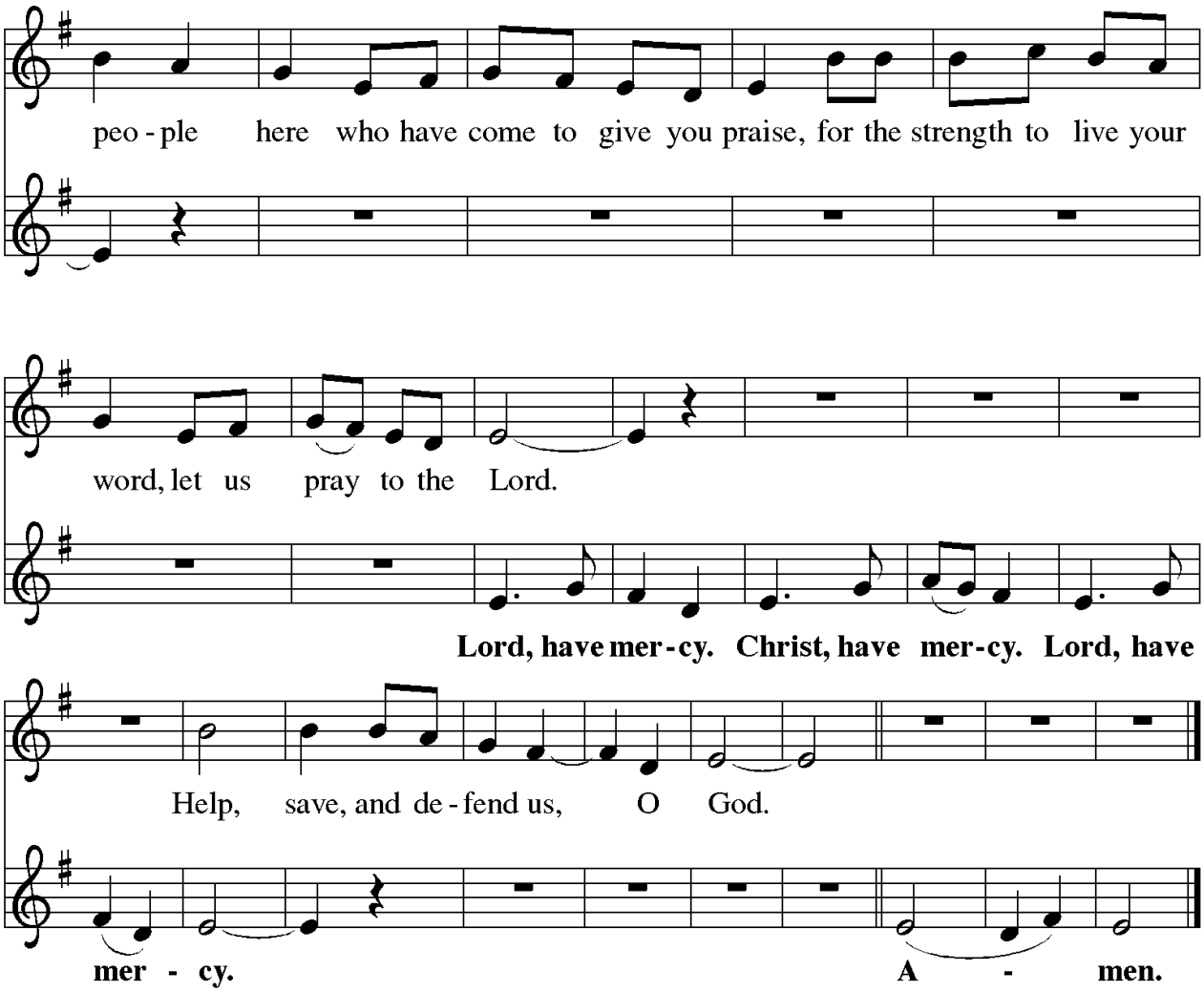


Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.
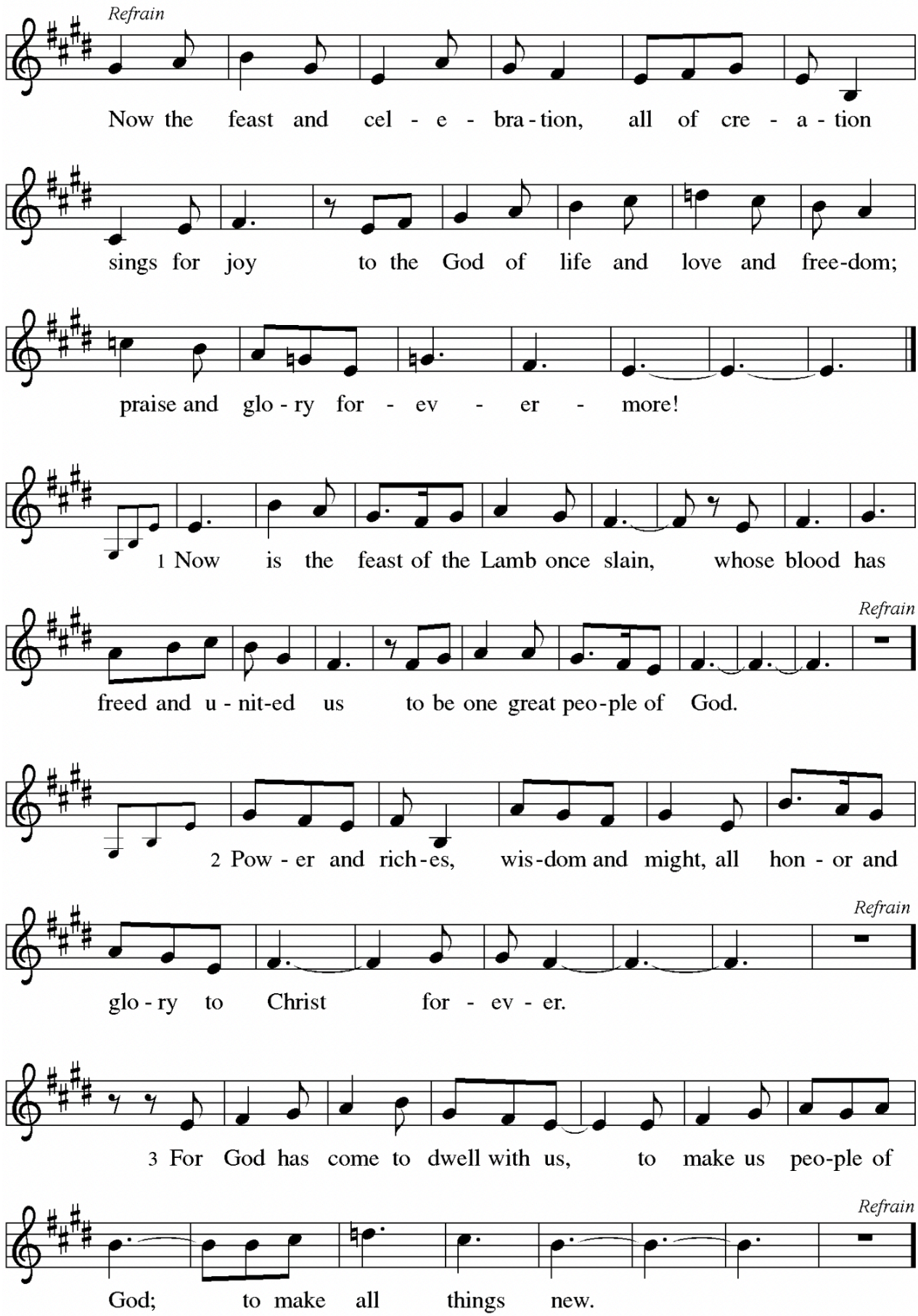

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord.
For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Call to Worship

P: Welcome this day to the house of our God.
C: We are greeted in peace and in love.
P: Welcome this day to the worship of our Creator.
C: We worship in hope and with grace.
P: Welcome this day to our community of faith,
C: Where we are sisters and brothers in Christ.
P: Friends, let us worship God.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: 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.
C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

WORD

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.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

(Please read the bold text responsively)

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD;
  let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
  and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, are a great God,
  and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
  the heights of the hills are also yours.
5 The sea is yours, for you made it,
  and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down,**
  let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
7a For the LORD is our God,
  and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING — Ephesians 1:15-23

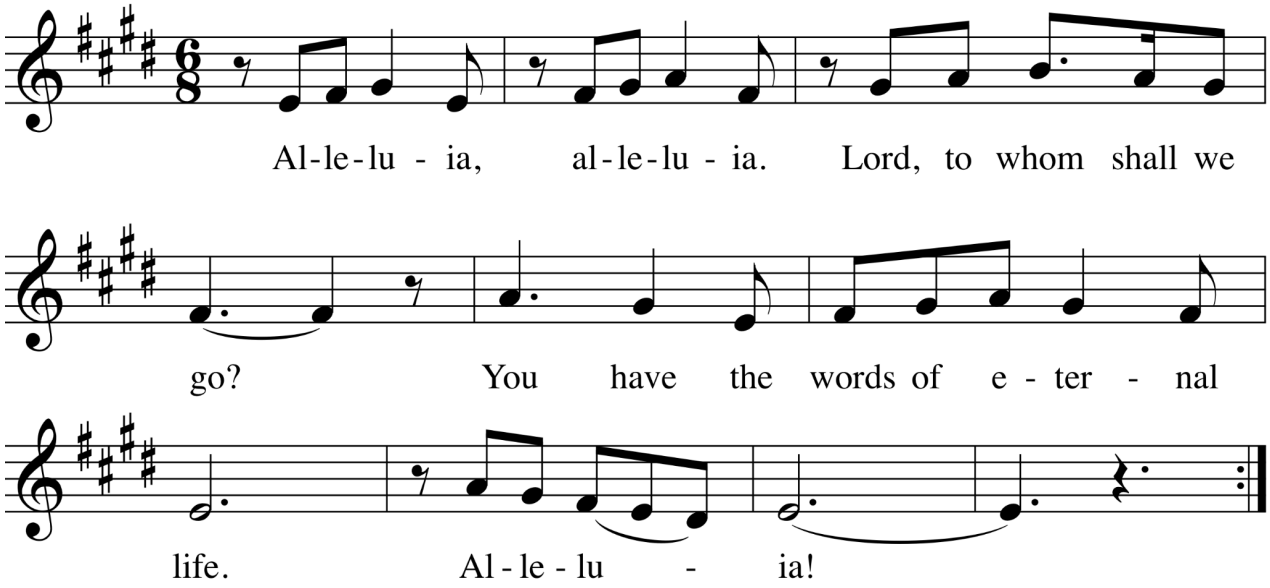
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

Gospel Acclamation – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.
C: 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."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.
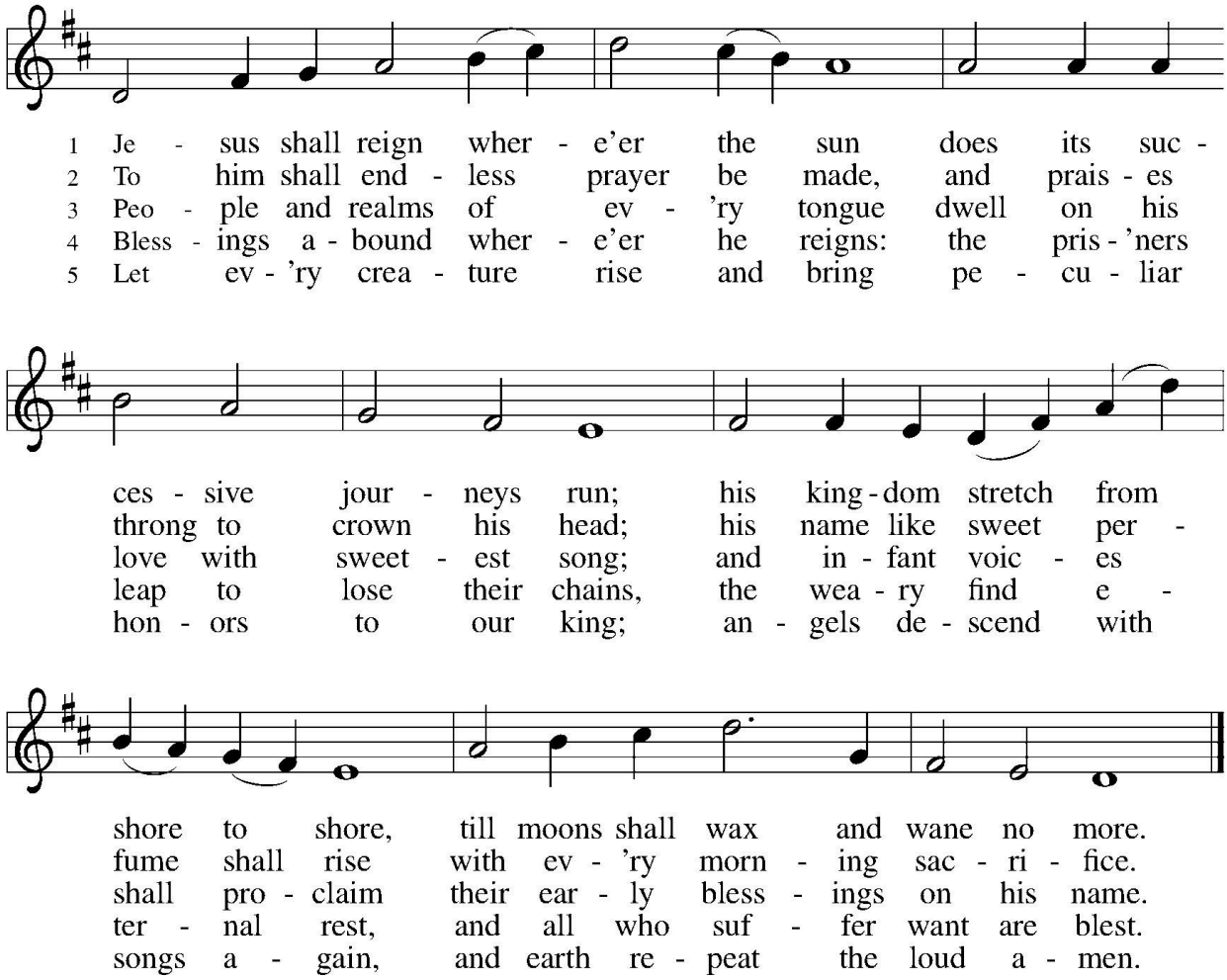
(Please be seated.)

Sermon

(Please stand as you are able.)

Hymn of the Day – *ELW 434*

Jesus Shall Reign



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Apostles Creed

P: Together with the whole body of Christ gathered around the world, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C: 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.

(Please be seated.)

Prayers of Intercession

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

P: God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

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

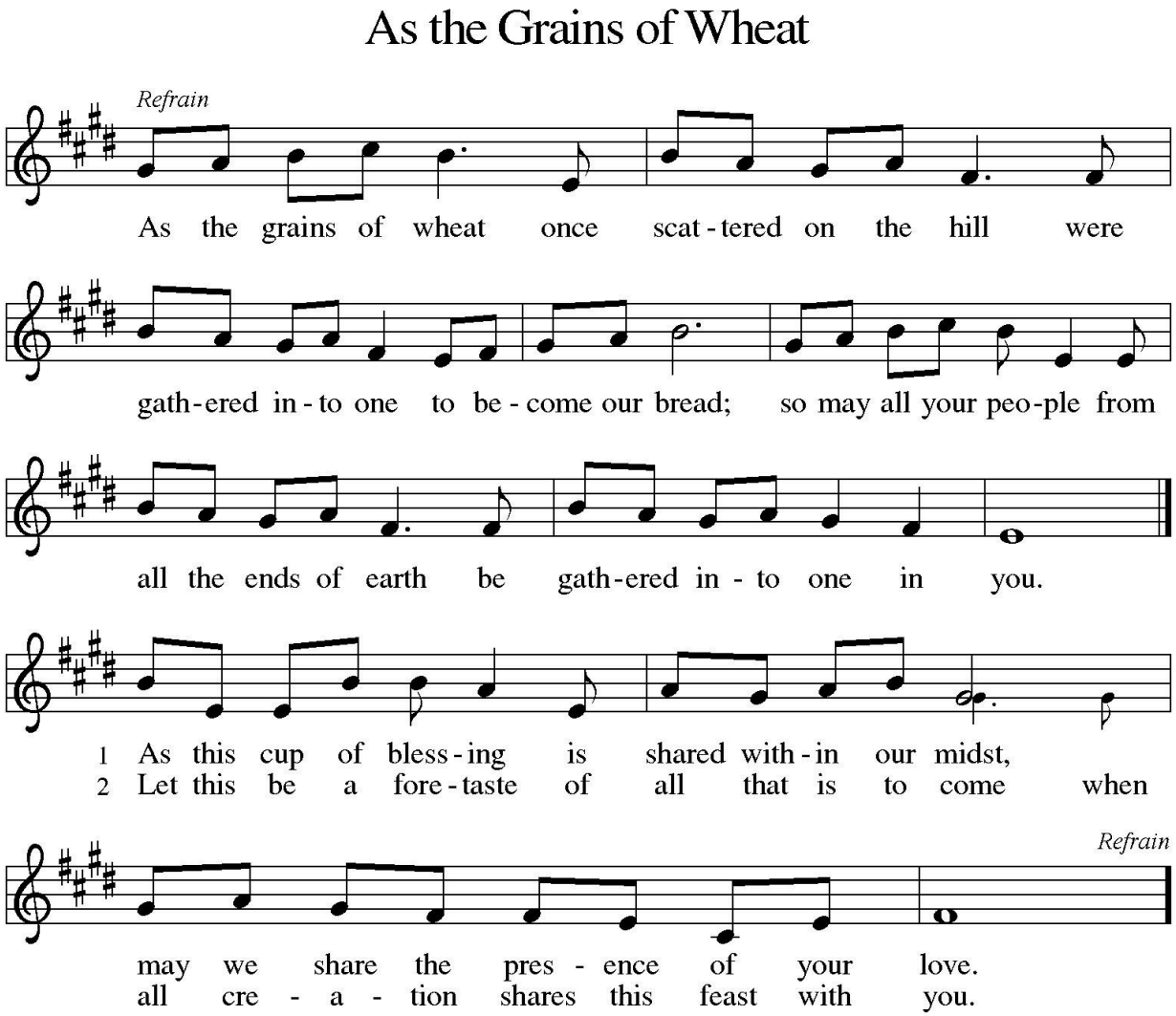
Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

(Please stand as you are able.)

MEAL

Offertory – *ELW 465*



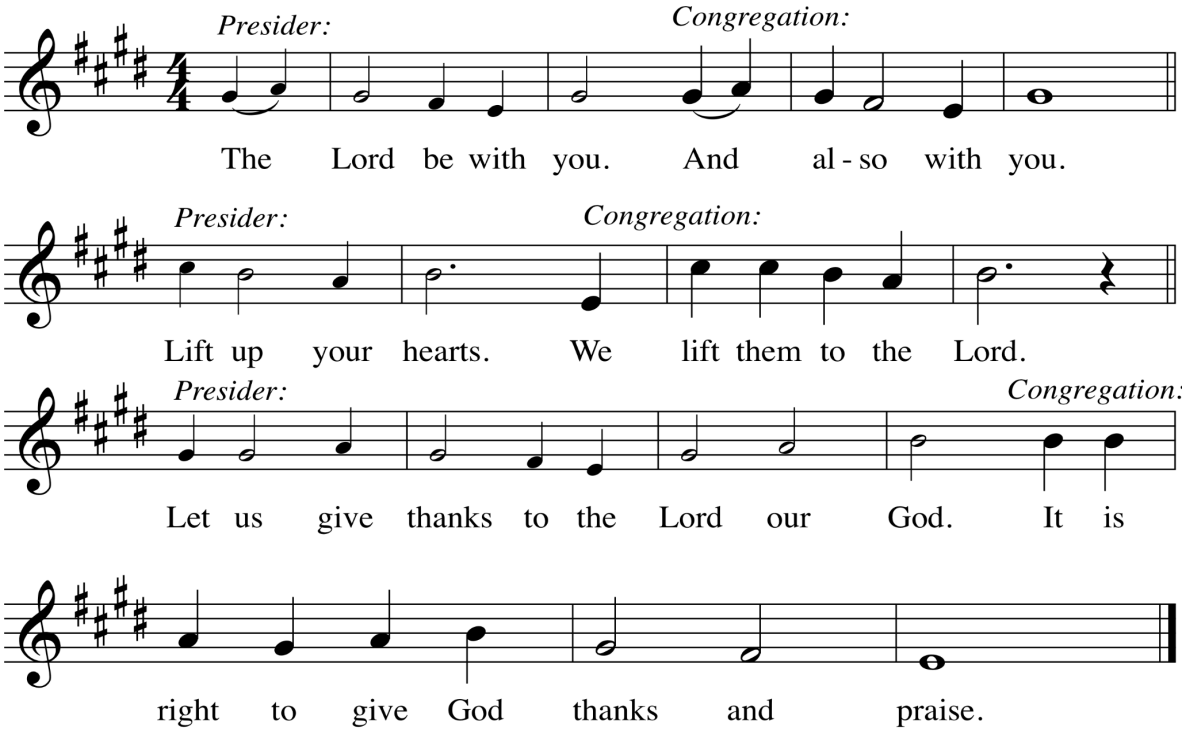
Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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Offertory Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

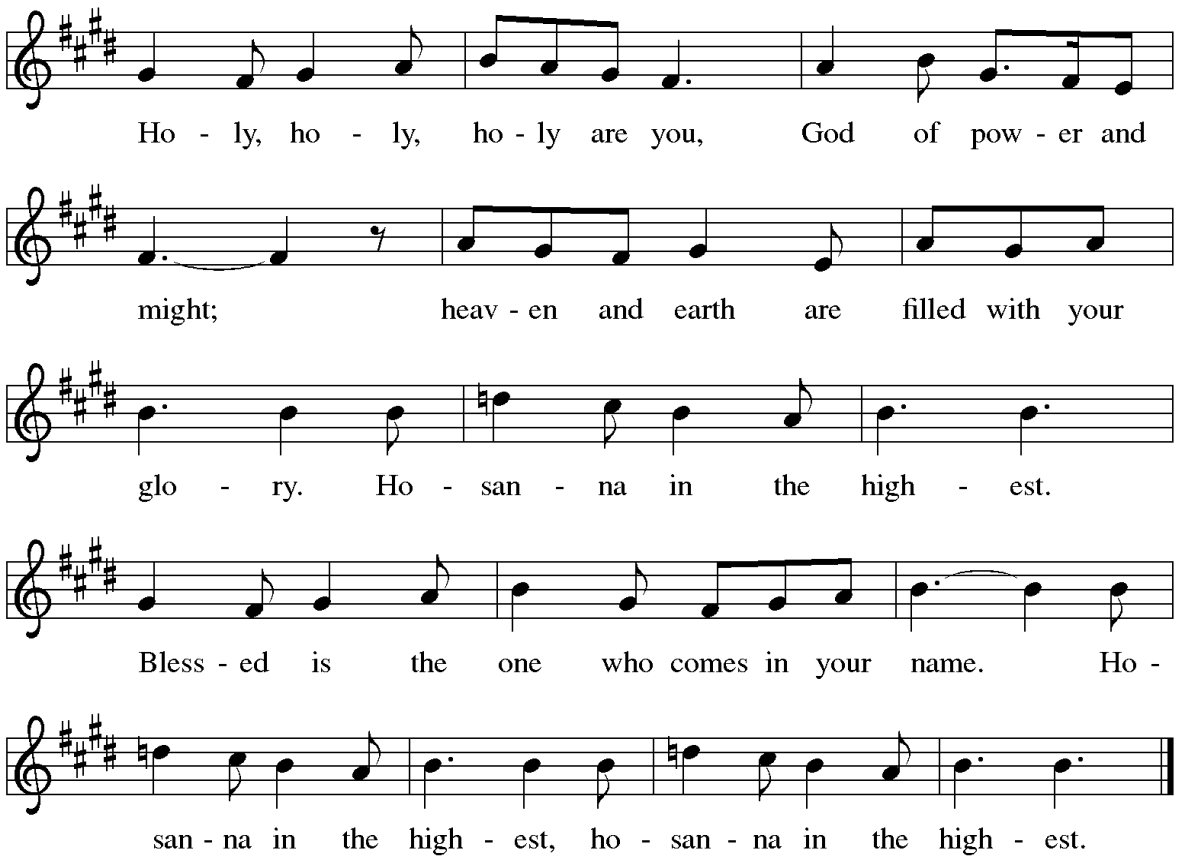
Great Thanksgiving *(May be spoken or sung.)*



Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C:



Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...

...be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

C: 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.

Invitation to Communion

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

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. The Presiding Pastor will provide verbal instructions for communion. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring communion to you. Gluten free bread is available. Children or those who wish not to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymn – ELW464 – Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal – Organ

(Hymn is played while congregation takes communion)

(Please stand as you are able.)

Blessing After Communion

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING

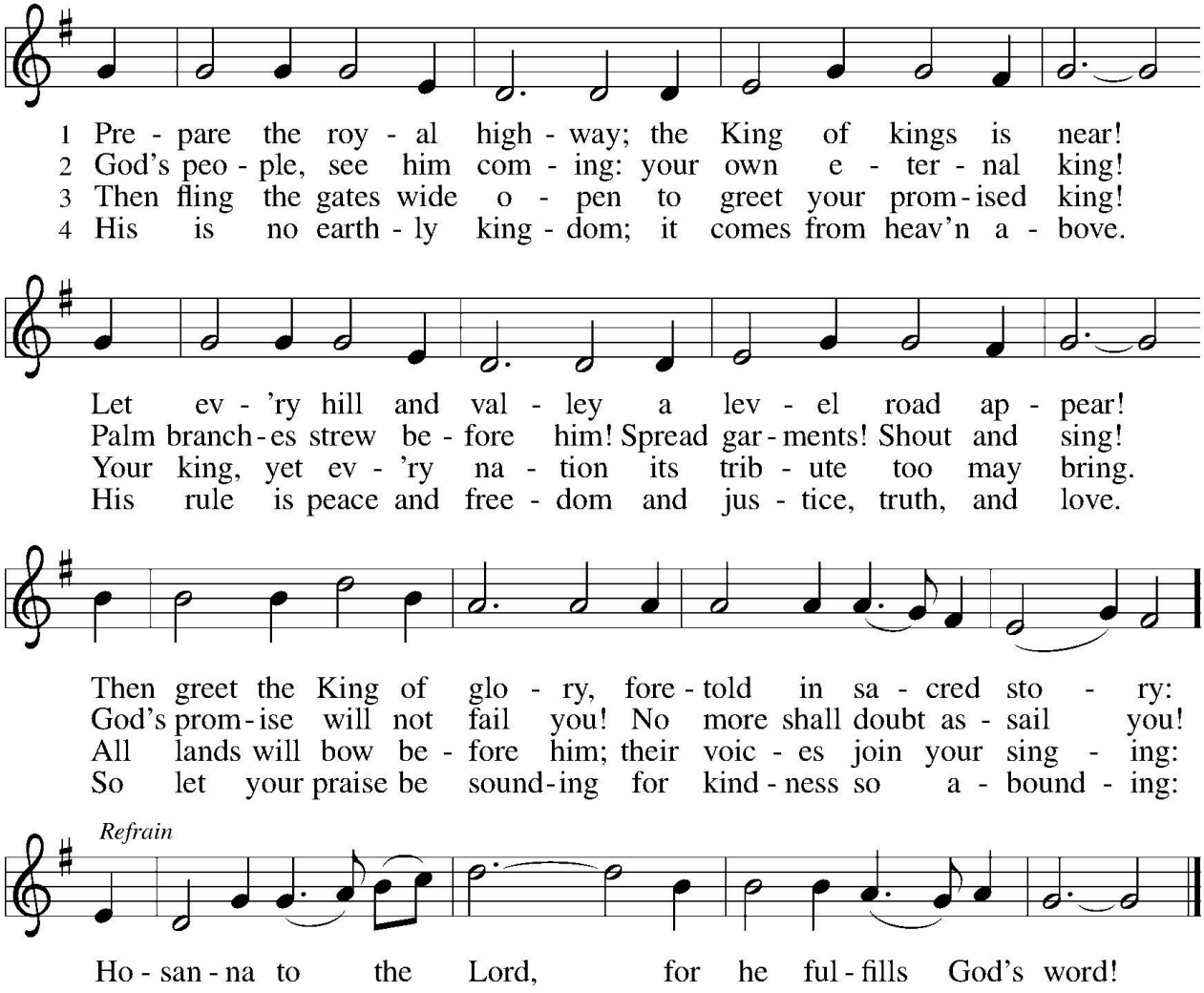
Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – *ELW 264*

Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Ministers – Mr. Zach Smirris, Rev. Gina Sterk
Music – Thomas Smith – Pre-recorded by Ivy McLaughlin
Reader – Rev. Gina Sterk
Communion Assistant – Mr. Zach Smirris
Ushers – Norm Harris and Mark Harris
Altar Guild – Bev Harris
Head Usher – Norm Harris

Offering

Any offerings (financial gifts) may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship space anytime before or after the service. Your contributions to the congregation help us make a difference in our community by enabling us to share the Gospel and serve in areas of need. You may also make a donation online on our website or by scanning the QR code on the right.

United in Christ Lutheran Church

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Regular Office Hours: By Appointment
Weekly Worship: Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.