CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Concordia is the Church where the love of Christ is shared through our hearts, our hands, and our voices."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Saturday, September 5, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)
Online Worship posted to website Saturday evening
Sunday, September 6, 2026
8:00 am and 11:00 am Services in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)

AS WE GATHER

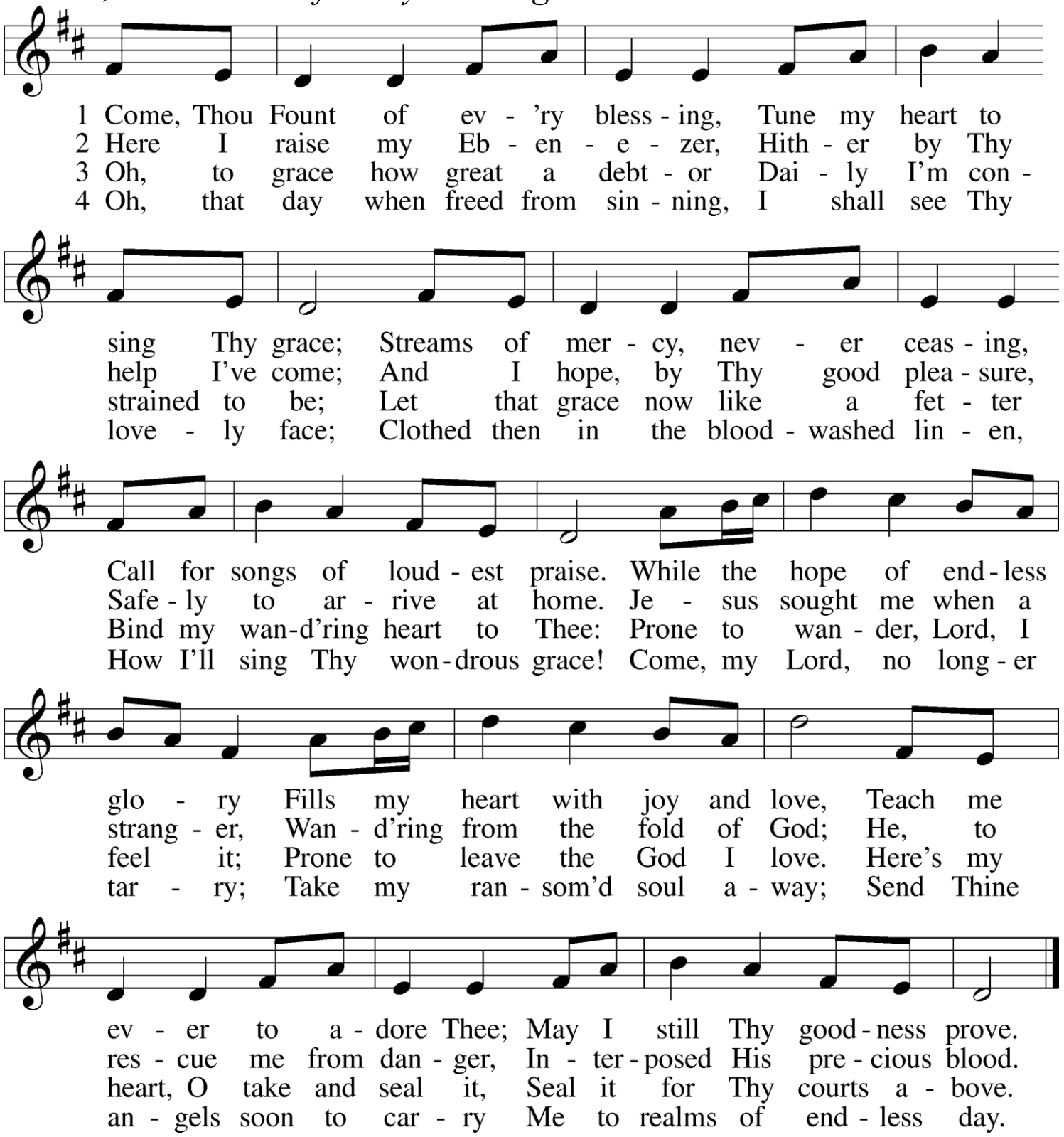
Every watchman on the wall knows the temptation to stay quiet. It would be easier — for him and for everyone else. But God did not set watchmen on the wall to keep the peace; He set them there to sound the alarm. Today's readings put two of God's realms side by side: the Left Hand, where He governs through sword and civil order for the good of every neighbor, believer or not (Romans 13); and the Right Hand, where He governs through Word alone, calling sinners to repentance so they might live (Ezekiel 33; Matthew 18). Both hands belong to the same God, and both are gifts. When a fellow believer, or your pastor, comes to you plainly about sin, it is not condemnation — it is a rescue. David found that out the hard way in Psalm 32: the silence was killing him; the confession set him free. Christ our Good Shepherd has already gone looking for you. Today He sends His church to do the same for one another.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (p. 26-27)

(*Please stand as able and face the Cross*)

OPENING / PROCESSIONAL HYMN #686 (vs. 1-4)

"*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*"

+ DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE +

(Hymnal, p. 184)

INVOCATION (Matthew 28:19b)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. **(Hebrews 10:22)**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

(*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

People: Most merciful God, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.
We have done things that we should not have done, and we have failed to do the things we should have done.
We have been impatient. We have grumbled. We have gossiped. We have been critical of others and we have been difficult. We have used coarse language and have taken Your name in vain.
We have sought and received Your forgiveness and, then, we have refused to forgive our neighbor.
Father, forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may be freed from the guilt and burdens that we carry and daily strive to live under Your order and design for us. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **(John 20:22-23**)
People: Amen.

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS EXPLANATION

What is the Office of the Keys?
The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth and Pastors to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?
This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?
I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.
(1965, Luther's Small Catechism, pg. 18; "The Office of the Keys and Confession")

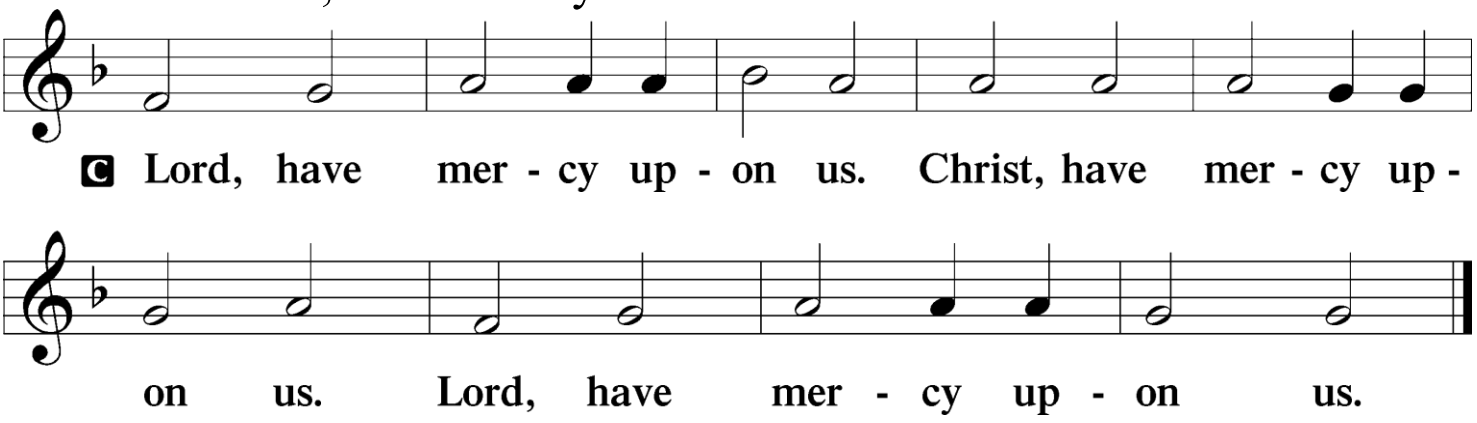
(*Please remain standing as able*)

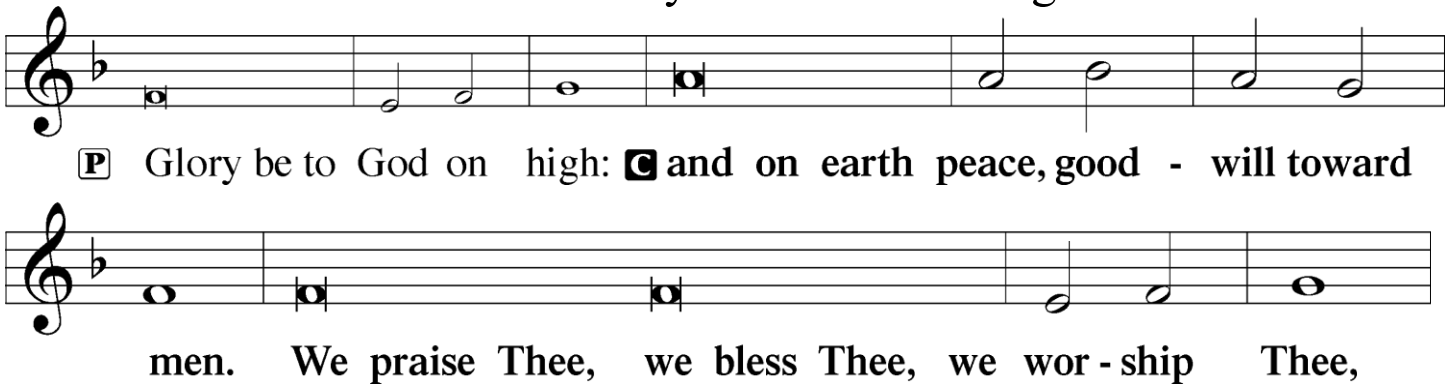
PSALMODY (Psalm 32)

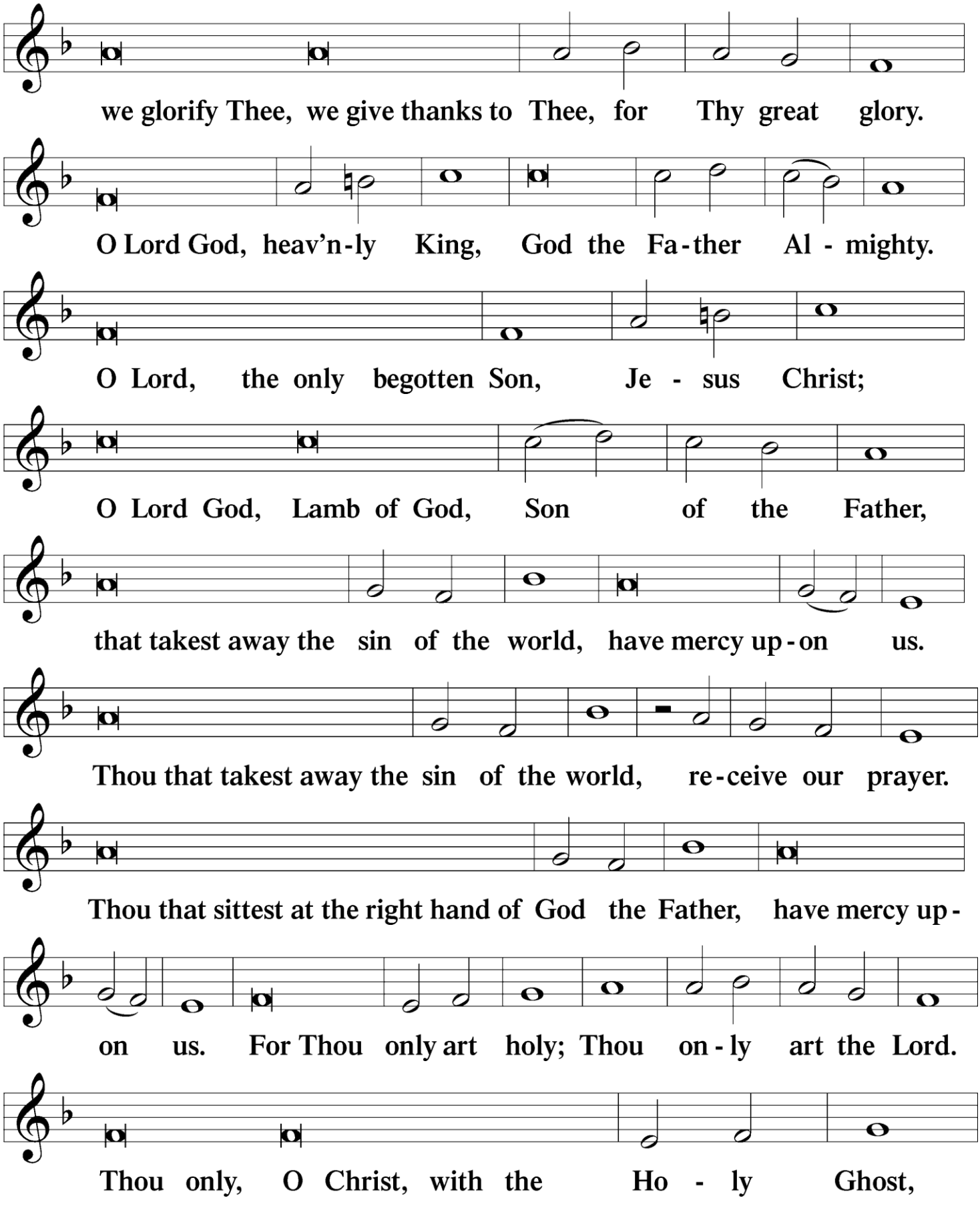
Pastor: [1]Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
People: [2]Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

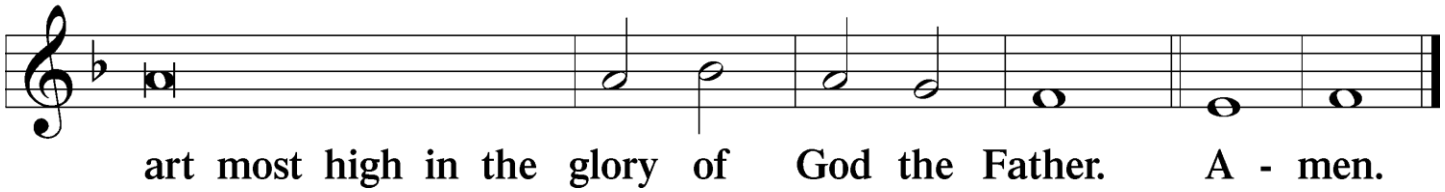
Pastor: [3]For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
People: [4]For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
Pastor: [5]I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
People: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
Pastor: [6]Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
People: [7]You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

(*Please remain standing as able*)

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest




we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



Salutation Explanation

The Service of the Word continues with a traditional greeting among Christians. This responsive dialogue unites the people and the pastor in corporate worship. The Hebrew greeting Shalom alechum! Alechum shalom! ("Peace be with you") is still heard in Israeli streets. Christians replaced the Hebrew wish for peace, shalom, with the Peacegiver Himself. "The Lord be [or is] with you" may be said prior to the Collect of the Day.

The Salutation has been interpreted in several ways, but its underlying emphasis is the existence of a special relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The response "And also with you," or "And with your spirit," confirms this caring relationship. This is not a prayer but an exchange of mutual love and respect. The Salutation is a much stronger greeting than the "Good Morning!" often expressed from the chancel prior to a Sunday liturgy.

The salutation signifies a spiritual tie between pastor and the people that the Lord alone brings.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **(2 Timothy 4:22)**

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

ALL: O almighty God, You sent forth Your Son to gather the lost and restore them to You by His blood shed once for all. Grant us the same love and mercy that we may seek out the sinner, recall them to You through repentance, and celebrate with joy their restoration to the Body of Christ, the church; through Him who died that we might live and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(*Please be seated*)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 33:7–9
(*I Have Made You a Watchman*)

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, Chapter 33.

7 "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. **8** If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. **9** But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

(*After the reading…*)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:1–10
(*Submitting to Those in Authority*)

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from Romans, Chapter 13.

1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. **3** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, **4** for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is

the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. **5** Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **6** For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. **7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

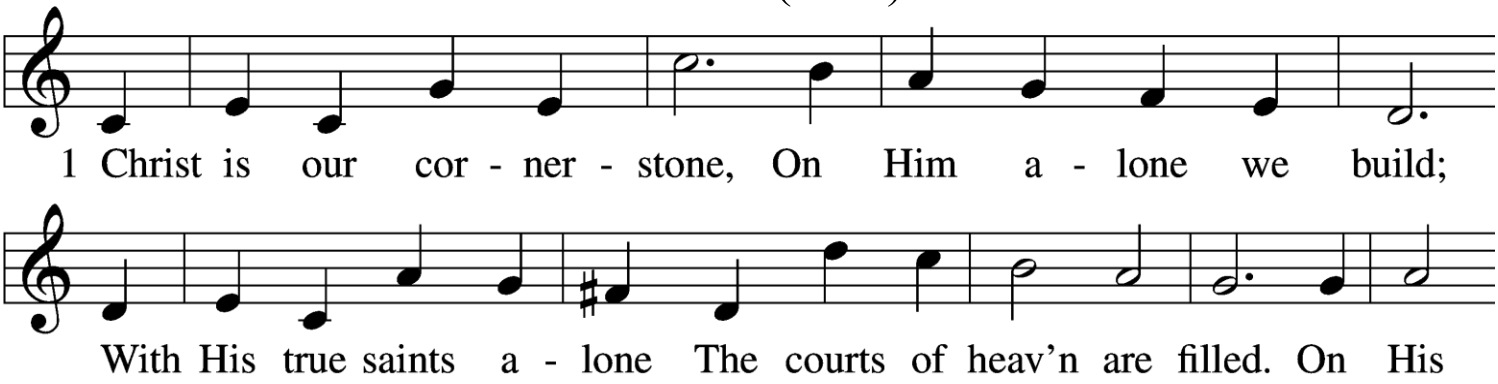
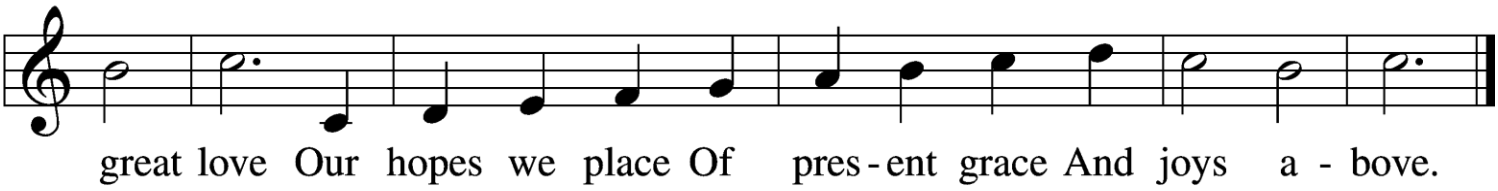
(*After the reading*…)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

(*Please stand as able for the Verse and the reading of the Gospel Lesson*)

HYMN VERSE

#912 "*Christ Is Our Cornerstone*" (vs. 1)



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:1–20
(*The Matthew 18 Teachings of Jesus*)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(*The Gospel is read*)

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest
in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** And calling to him a child, he put him in
the midst of them **3** and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn
and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of
heaven. **4** Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the
kingdom of heaven.
5 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives
me, **6** but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to
sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened
around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.
7 "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that
temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation
comes! **8** And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and
throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than
with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. **9** And if
your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for
you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into
the hell of fire.
10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you
that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in
heaven. **12** What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one

of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? **13** And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. **14** So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.
15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. **16** But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **19** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Explanation of the Creed
The word "Creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe." Creeds in the Church are a confession of faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the Triune God. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
The Church has had the long tradition that goes back to the first centuries after Jesus' death and resurrection. That tradition is confessing the Church's faith in a way that shows unity with the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps us from falling into false beliefs.

L: Now, having heard God's Word, let us join together in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

(*Please be seated*)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

We invite the children to come forward as we sing:
LSB 588, "Jesus Loves Me" vs. 1&2

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

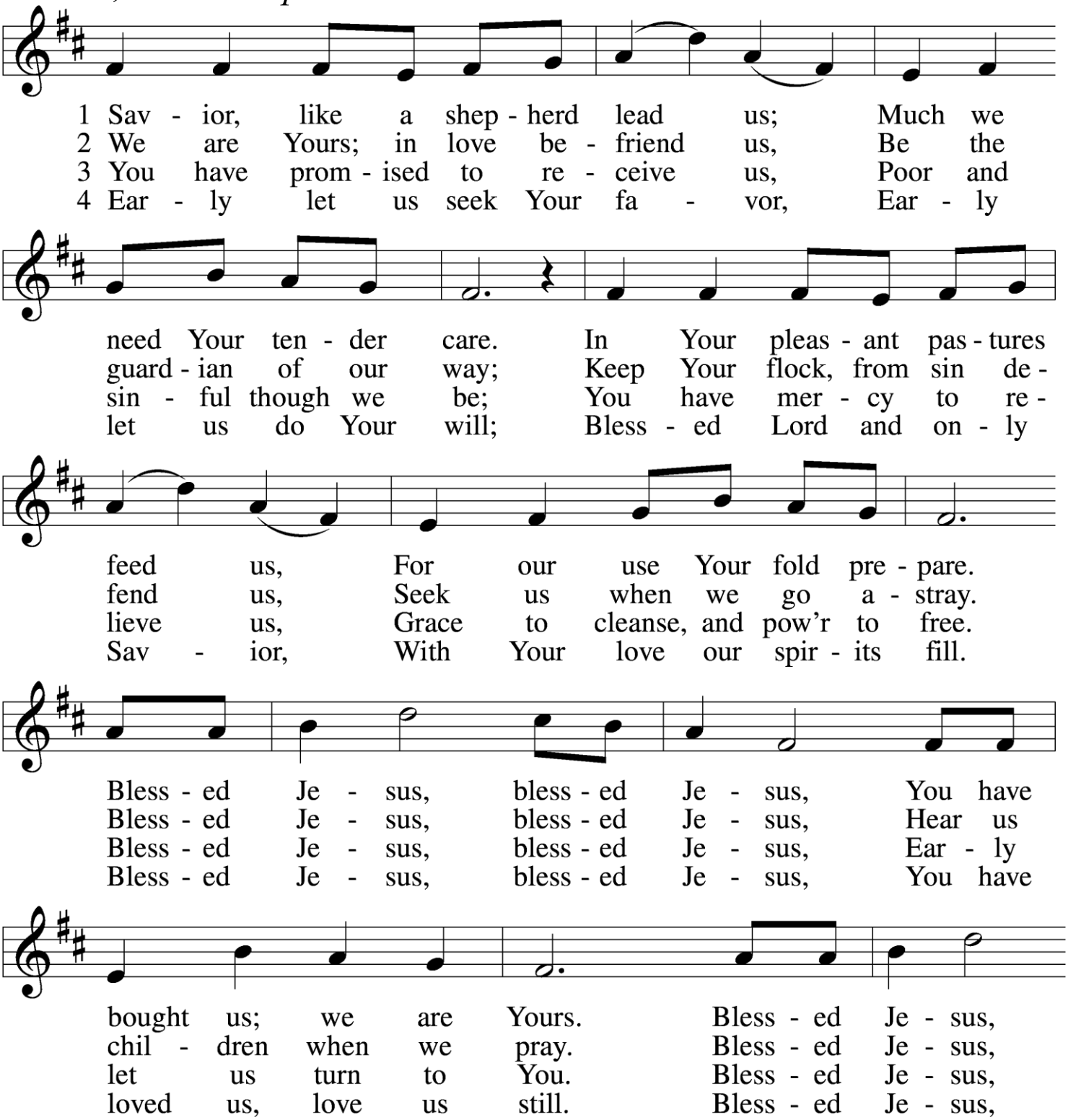
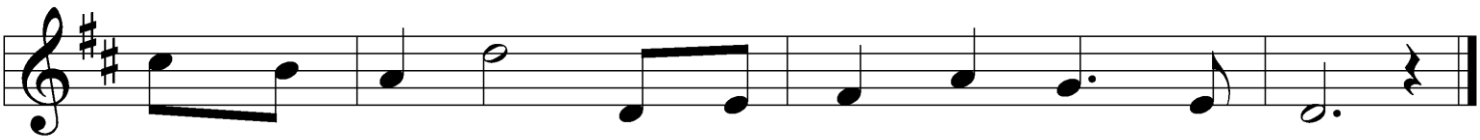
Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – DCE, Mr. Tim Buss

SERMON HYMN #711 (vs. 1-4)

"*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*"



bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to You.
bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

SERMON Rev. Mark Moretz

"GOD'S RIGHT HAND AND LEFT HAND RULE"

TITHES, PLEDGES, AND OFFERINGS

(*Please stand as able for the Prayers*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: That the Lord would move us to seek out the lost, address them with the voice of God's Word, and restore them who receive this warning with penitence, that the hearts of all once forgiven be moved to forgive one another in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the church burn with zeal for the lost and for those caught up in heresy, error, and immorality and learn to rejoice with the angels over every sinner who repents and is saved, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord of the church well supply His people with faithful pastors and church workers and that He impart His rich blessing upon those newly ordained and consecrated and those training up for church work vocations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord raise up for us good and faithful leaders on every level of government, bless those who serve with gifts of wisdom and prudence, and protect and defend all who protect and defend us, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: That the Lord continue to show mercy to those afflicted in body, mind, or soul; grant them comfort and aid; and sustain them in this mercy to everlasting life, [*and especially do we pray for . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: That the Lord would bless the homes where His people dwell, giving courage and strength to husbands and wives in the fulfillment of their promises and blessing all parents with wisdom and grace to attend to the children in their care, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: That we learn gratitude for the manifold and rich gifts that God supplies every day and that we learn generosity to share with those in need, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: That we use our skills and abilities in honest labor and that the work of our hands be blessed, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: That the Lord would grant to all who approach this altar with repentant hearts and faith to receive here the gifts bestowed in this communion of Christ's flesh and blood, and that the Lord bless us with unity of doctrine and life together, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: That the Lord grant us a blameless life and a blessed death, that at the last we be received into the arms of His mercy, and that the Lord grant His comfort and peace to the dying and all who grieve, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

AS WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as He promises, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our faith. All baptized Christians, who trust this promise, repent of their sins, and set aside any refusal to love and forgive others, are invited to the Lord's Supper.

It is also important to understand two additional things the Scriptures teach about the Lord's Supper. First, participation in this meal is a bold confession of what we believe as Lutheran Christians. The Apostle Paul writes to the church of God in Corinth and to us:

"For as often as you eat and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV)

Second, those who eat and drink the Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. The Apostle continues in his writing,

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgement on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29 ESV)

For these reasons, if you have not been instructed in the teachings of the Lutheran faith, have not confessed agreement with the Lutheran faith, or are in doubt about or holds beliefs differing from The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we request that you do not receive this Sacrament today.

We encourage you to find a time to speak with your Adult Leader or pastor so we might be able to commune together with you sometime in the future.

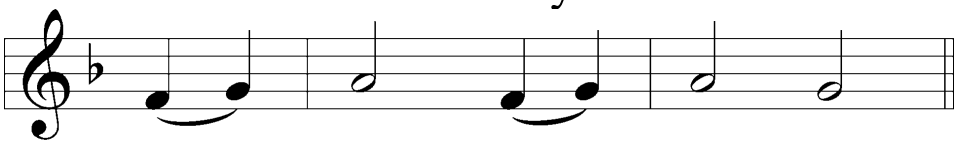
During the celebration of the Lord's Supper, you may stay in your seat or walk forward together with your group. If you choose to come forward, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you will not be receiving the body and blood of Jesus. The pastor distributing the Lord's Supper will speak a blessing for you.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Hymnal, p. 194)

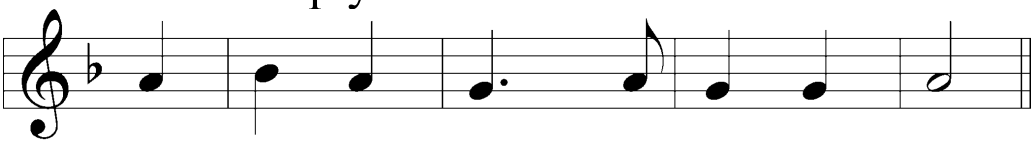
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

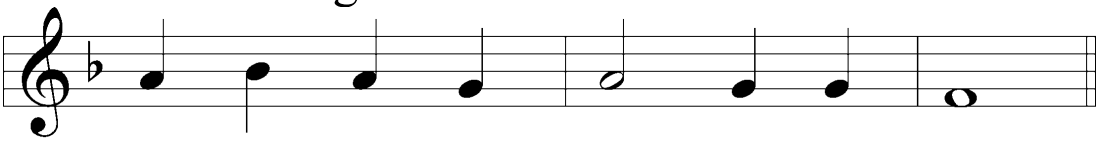


C **And with thy spir - it.**

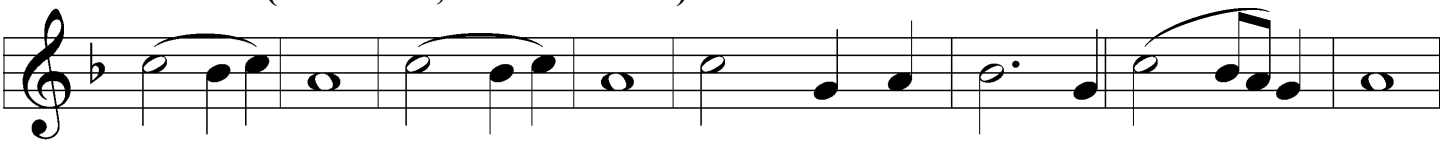
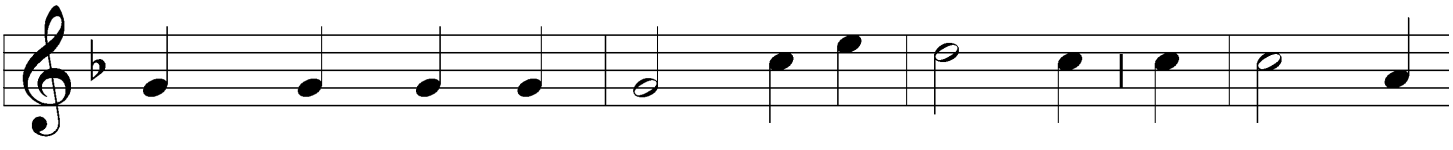
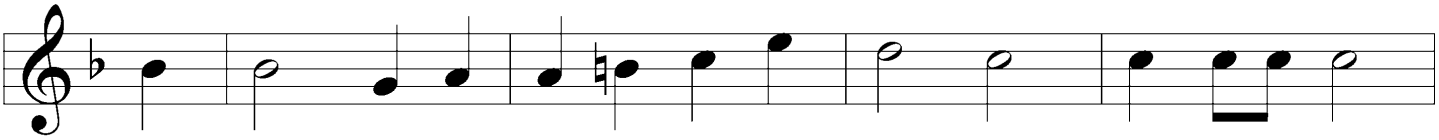
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

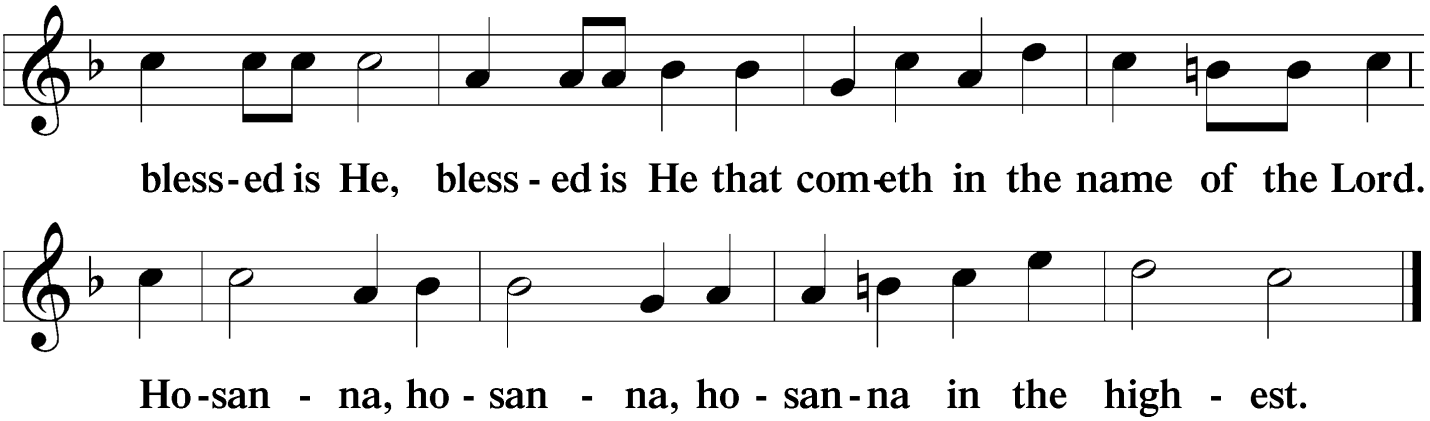


C **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)

C **Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;**

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,

ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



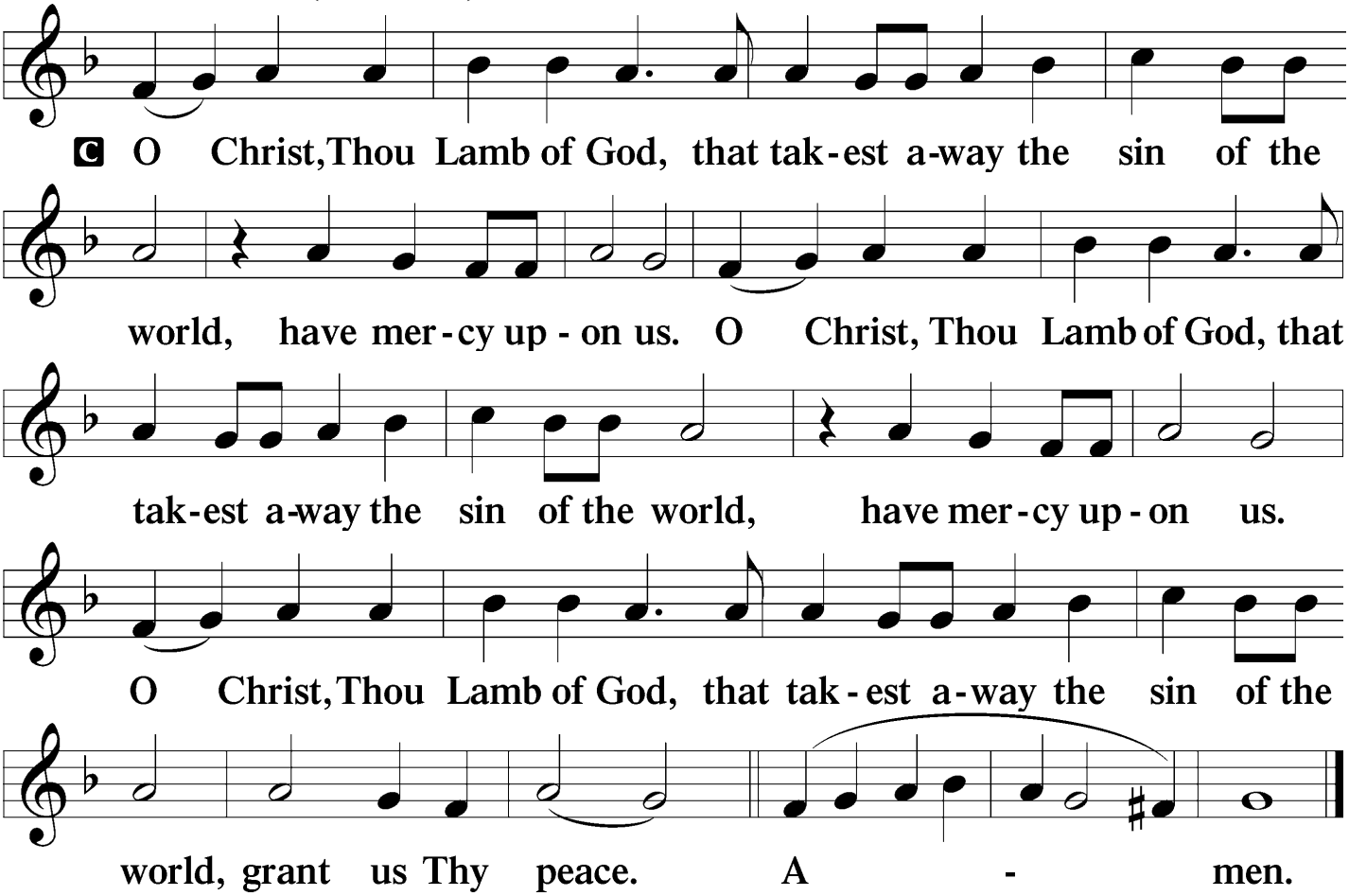
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
(Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST
Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:26)*
People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (*Revelation 22:20)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

All: 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.

PAX DOMINI (John 20:19)
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (John 1:29)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

(8:00 AM Only) *"Change My Heart, oh God"* by Maranatha *(CCLI)*

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. (*Twice*)

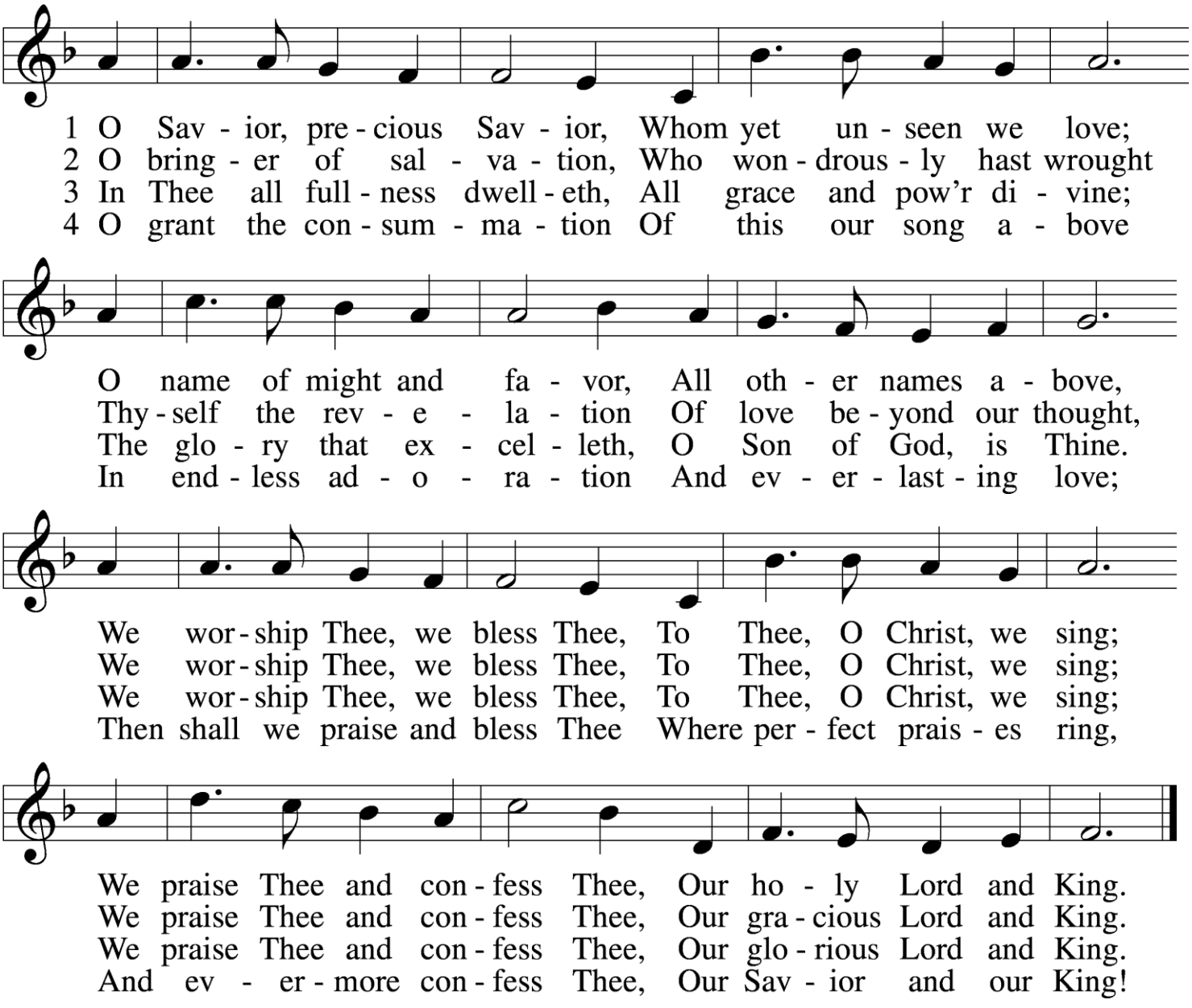
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mould me and make me, this is what I pray. (*once*)

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. (*once*)

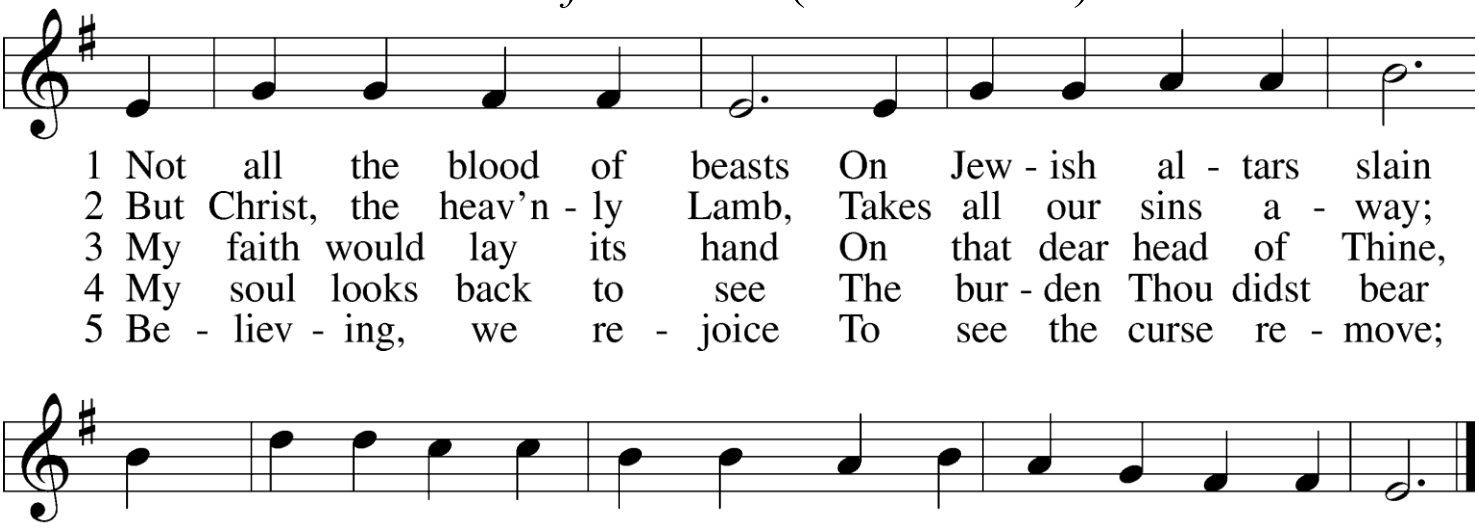
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mould me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. (*once*)

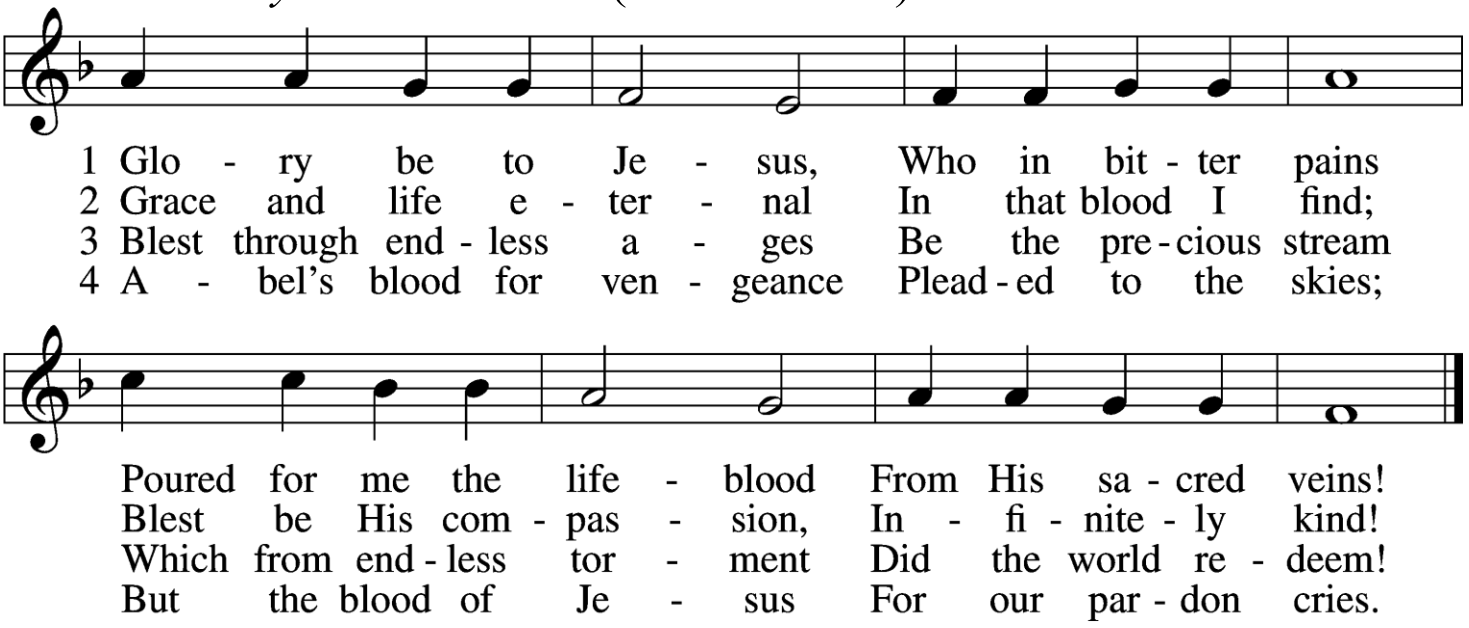
#527 "*O Savior, Precious Savior*" (vs. as needed)



#431 "*Not All the Blood of Beasts*" (vs. as needed)



#433 "*Glory Be to Jesus*" (vs. as needed)



5 Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Benediction Explanation

Using the words of Numbers 6:22-27, the pastor speaks the trinitarian blessing on the people. The last word of the liturgy comes from God, who hosted the service. The Benediction is more than a prayer or a wish. By His most holy name, the Benediction bestows God's blessing on the people for the rest of the week. To rephrase the Benediction as a wish (for example, beginning with "May the Lord bless…" removes the divine significance of our Host's parting declaration to His gathered guests. The Aaronic Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26) is a uniquely Lutheran choice, yet it underscores the continuity of praise with all God's people.. Worshippers also may make the sign of the cross on themselves as the pastor makes it over the whole congregation.

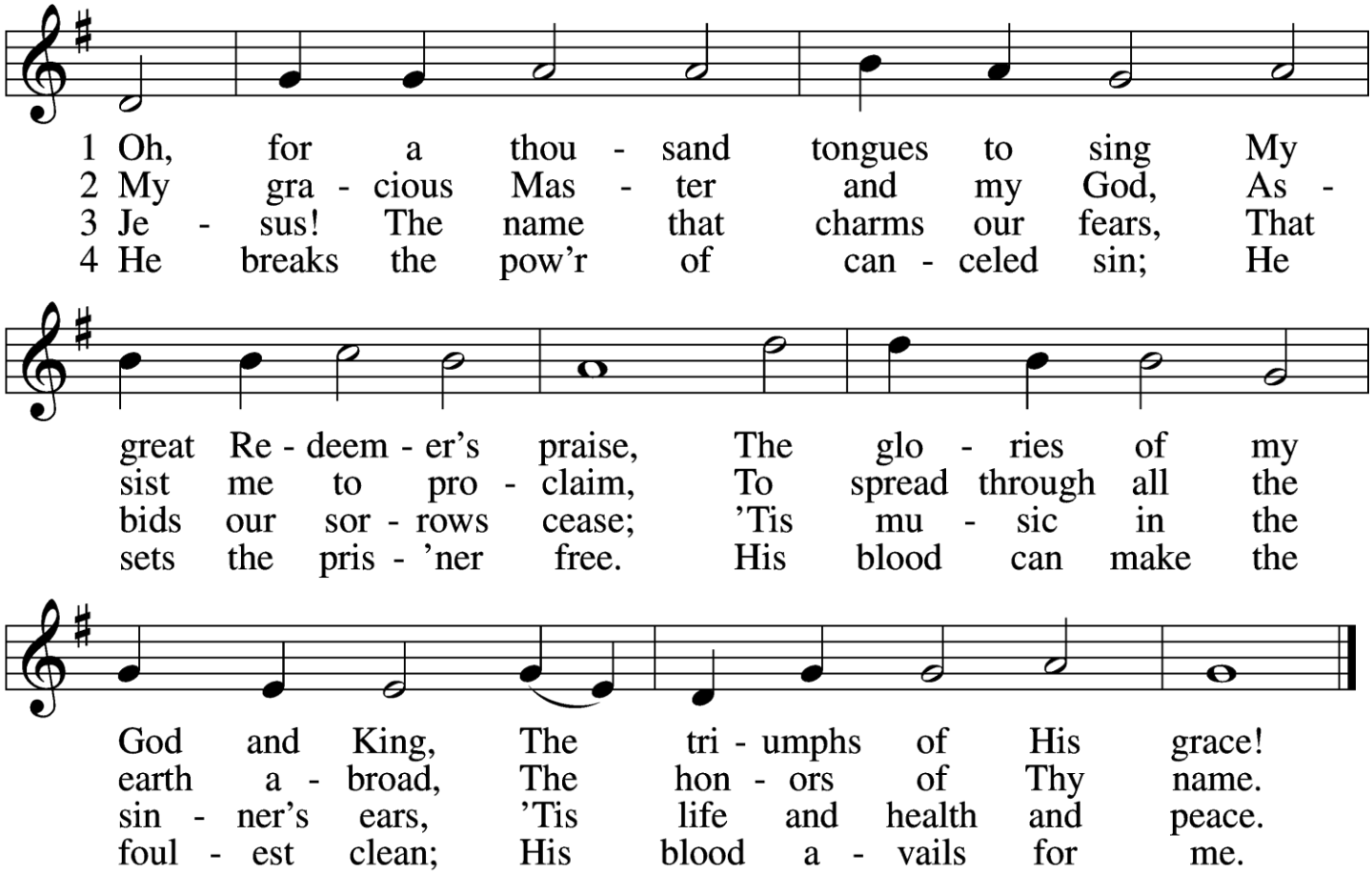
THE BENEDICTION **(Numbers 6:24-26)**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you,
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #528 (vs. 1-7)

"*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*"



5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

THE SENDING

Pastor: Our worship is now ended.
People: My service now begins.
Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

IN SERVICE OF THE LORD TODAY:

Officiant	Rev. Mark Moretz
Organist	Cindy Golem
Pianist	Shelly Hector, Kathy Schleef
Lectors	Larry Hector (5:30)
	Beverly Walling (8:00)
	Jim Gann (11:00)
Greeters	Volunteer (5:30)
	Kathy Enterline (8:00)
	Sylvia Shives & Rosella Rogers (11:00)
Video	Adam Brown, Sam Moretz and Jaymes Yeakle
Visuals	Cari Lowery, Fred Tichnell and Sam Moretz
Usher	Chip Brown, Dory Brown, Maggie Brown, Adam Brown, Joe Brown, Carrol Gatling, Jody Gann, Jesse Lowery, Bert Brittain, Mark Roeder, and Paul Roeder

Altar Guild	Sylvia Shives, Ron Golem, Mike and Nancy Flicek, Marian Foster, Dory Brown, and Deaconess Beverly Walling
Acolytes	Evan Moretz; Erin, Aubrey, and Tommy Davidson; Sydney and Katie Hector; Joe, Charlotte, Andrew Brown and Sarah Brown; Alexis Lowery, Nethanel Lowery; Grayson and Logan Moreland

Altar flowers age given to the glory of God by Craig & Judy Robinson.

The people of Concordia have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are our guest today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. You can bring your offering to the Lord using the plate as it is passed or online at concordiahagerstown.org under "Give".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please check the newsletter for additional announcements]

Email addresses:
Church: concordia.hagerstown@gmail.com
Open Arms: openarms.hagerstown1@gmail.com

Gluten-free wafers are now available. Please let Pastor Mark know at the Communion Rail if you prefer these.

Sunday – 9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Class, in the Sanctuary, Pastor Mark will lead a study of the Book of Revelation.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: Downstairs in the Outreach Center -Pastor Pekari will lead a study on Matthew.

MONDAY Bible Study – will take a break until September.

CHOIR – Choir will begin rehearsing Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m.

"MISSION OF THE MONTH" for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Disaster Response.

Subscriptions to the Lutheran Witness are due now. The cost is $22.00 per year. Subscription forms have been placed in the worship folders. Additional forms are on the table in the Welcome Center. Place forms (with check, payable to Concordia Lutheran Church) in specially marked basket in the office by October 13.

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotional books for July- September (and large print) are available in the basket in the narthex.

OPEN ARMS PRESCHOOL – Donations from the congregation of cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated. Clorox type wipes, Lysol spray, bleach, paper towels, sanitizers, etc. Thank you, Natalie.

ALTAR FLOWERS –the price for altar flowers is $70.00 per arrangement.
The flower chart for 2026 is on the bulletin board outside pastor's office. Member participation is encouraged and appreciated. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY (or two or three).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
Request forms to have a prayer shawl made for you or a loved one are on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. Please complete the form and put it in Jane O'Farrell's mailbox. If anyone would like to share their talent of knitting or crocheting for this ministry please contact Jane O'Farrell

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CHURCH SIGN MESSAGE – All church events can be advertised on the Electric Sign. Please contact: Mark Eberly at emark353@comcast,.net or Chip Brown, 301- 797-1703. Keep messages short and to the point. No need to call the Pastor or any Board Member for approval.

Mission

We are the Church where love of Christ is shared through our hearts, our hands, and our voices.

Vision

A welcoming community where the grace of Christ transforms lives through Word and Sacrament, equips disciples for faithful service, and shares His love with every neighbor.

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Core Values

1. We believe in one God, our Father, His Son Jesus our savior and shepherd, and His Holy Spirit our helper and comforter. We believe that God comes first in our lives. Therefore, attendance and worship and active, enthusiastic, and persistent involvement in God's mission are vital to our witness.

2. We believe that trusting God's love for us all is at the heart of our relationship to Him, and to our relationships with each other, and should be a part of every aspect of church life (1 Corinthians 13; John 13:34-35).

3. We believe that every person matters to God, and therefore, all people matter to the church. Likewise, we believe that we should be a loving, welcoming, and compassionate place that actively invites our community and neighbors to join us (Luke 15; Luke 5:30-32).

4. We believe, as Christ's followers, that we have been humbled, that we should be authentic (real) about our own need for forgiveness, that we live in God's

amazing grace, and that we yearn for continuous growth (Ephesians 4:25-26; Hebrews 12:1).

5. We believe that God's church is one, and holy as He is Holy, and that His love and forgiveness is universal in scope, and that we should remain faithful to the Biblical truths passed on to us by Christ and Scripture, the apostles, and expressed in Lutheran doctrine while engaging with our surrounding culture through our facility, mission efforts, and communications (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

6. We believe the pursuit of full devotion to Christ is normal for every believer and this includes the teaching or servanthood and putting our faith into action, stewardship and the pursuit of kingdom goals (Philippians 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 8:7).

7. We believe God is uniting His people into one Body with His over-arching ministry of reconciliation, and that every believer is endowed with certain unique spiritual abilities and we should equip them to minister out of their gifts and passion (Ephesians 4).

8. We believe that we are to be patient, kind, gentle, honest, peaceful, loving, and that having self-control is essential to our witness and church effectiveness. This includes speaking the truth in love, communicating honestly with one another, and practicing forgiveness with one another (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:15).

9. We believe excellence honors God and inspires people, and that our giving of thanks for whatever we can do, see, or find that is excellent, brings God honor. We also believe that God has given us First Article gifts with which we work to be innovative, adaptable, and dynamic in the way we minister to our communities (Malachi 1:6-14; Proverbs 27:17; First Article of The Apostles' Creed).

10. We Believe that we are to be a people of prayer as Jesus taught us, calling on God as children ask their dear Father. We pray continually for our

families, for Church, for our communities, for our leaders, for our nation, and for the Holy Spirit to bring all people to faith (Matthew 6:9-15).

Worship with us!

Saturday in the Sanctuary:
Traditional (*Liturgical)* Service, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday in the Sanctuary:
Traditional *(Liturgical)* Service, 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion celebrated at all Services.

- ***Sunday School meets in the Education Wing, 9:30 a.m.***

Preschool (age 3-5) Community Room
Elementary (Grades 1-5) Community
Middle School (Grades 6-8) Luther Room
High School (Grades 9-12) Luther Room

- ***Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.***

Sanctuary (Pastor Mark Moretz)

Outreach Center (Pastor Pekari)

- ***Open Arms Preschool***

Registration required for 2, 3, or 4 day AM program