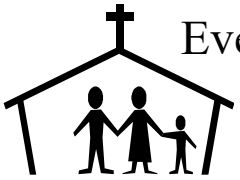
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Saturday, September 12, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)
Online Worship posted to website Saturday evening
Sunday, September 13, 2026
8:00 am and 11:00 am Services in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)

AS WE GATHER



Every good story has a shape — a beginning, a turn, a resolution. The Bible is no different, except its Author is God Himself, its center is His Son, and its ending is guaranteed. Today we begin a new season of catechesis, walking back through the whole story of Scripture in one sitting: Creation, Sin, Covenant, Law, History, Wisdom, Prophecy, and on through Christ's birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and return. You'll find a fill-in sheet in your bulletin — bring a pen, and expect to use it.

This is not merely an exercise in Bible trivia. As Paul reminds Timothy, the Scriptures "are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). And as the risen Jesus told two grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, every page of the Old Testament was written concerning Him (Luke 24:27). Come ready to see the whole shape of the story — and to find, once again, that it was always headed toward the God-Man who meets us at this altar.

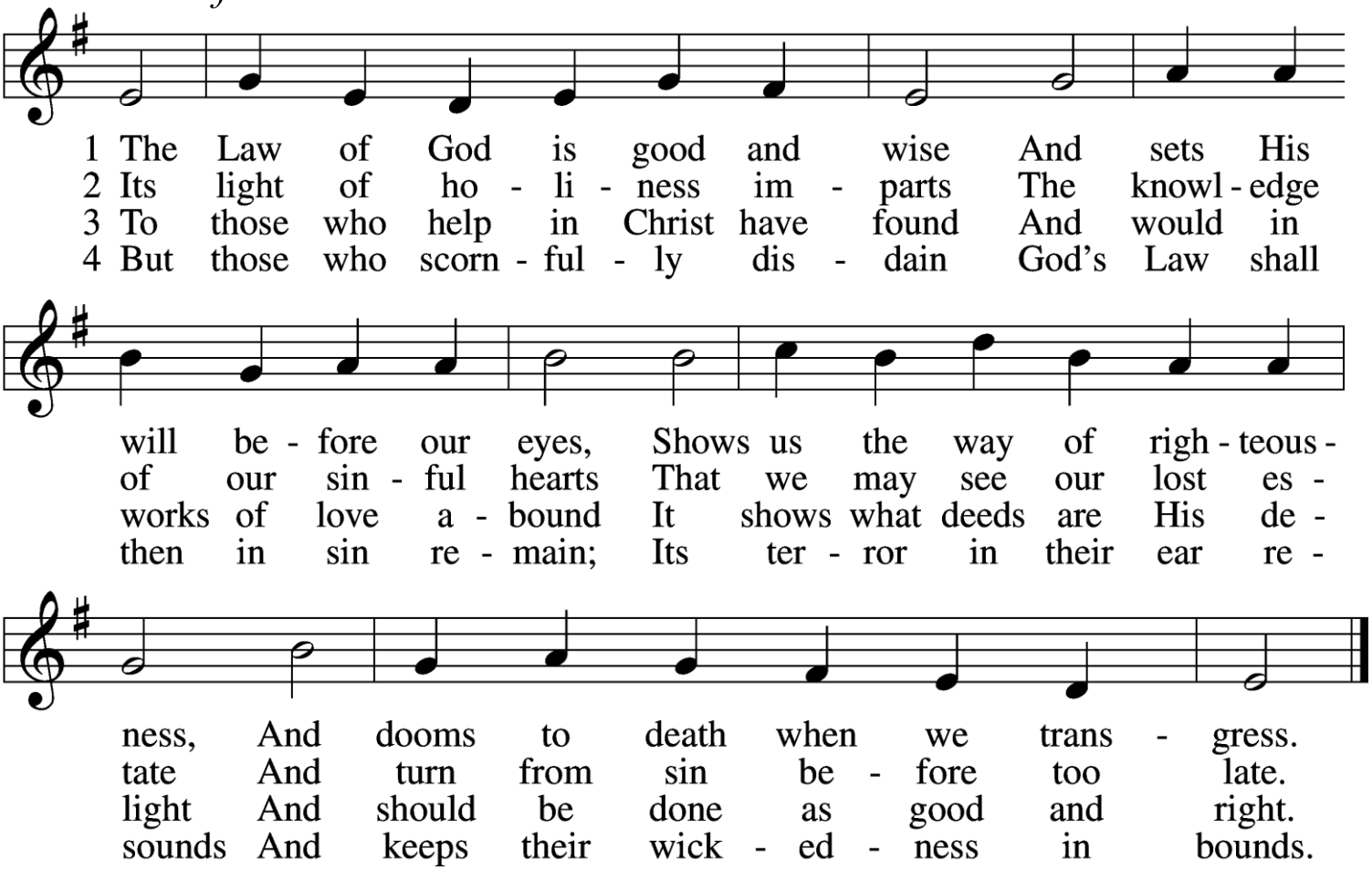
PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (p. 26-27)

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

OPENING / PROCESSIONAL HYMN #579 (vs. 1-6)

"*The Law of God Is Good and Wise*"



5 The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

+ 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 78)

Pastor: [1]Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
People: [2]I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, [3] things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

Pastor: [4]We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

People: [5]He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

Pastor: [6]that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,[7]so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

People: [8]and that they should not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Pastor: [9]The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.

People: [10]They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law.

Pastor: [11]They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.

People: [12]In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

Pastor: [13]He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

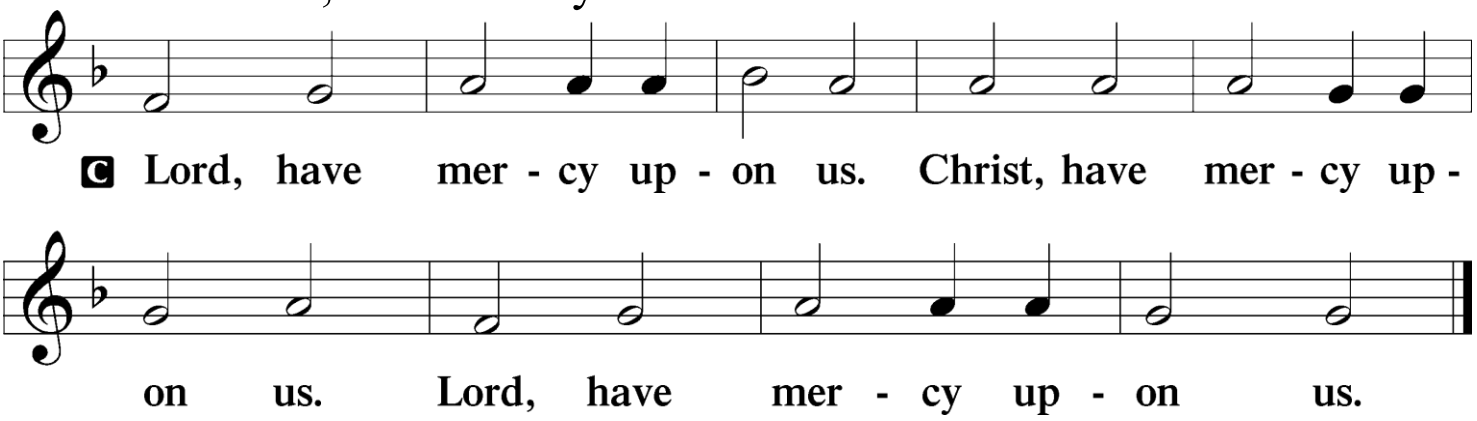
People: [14]In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.

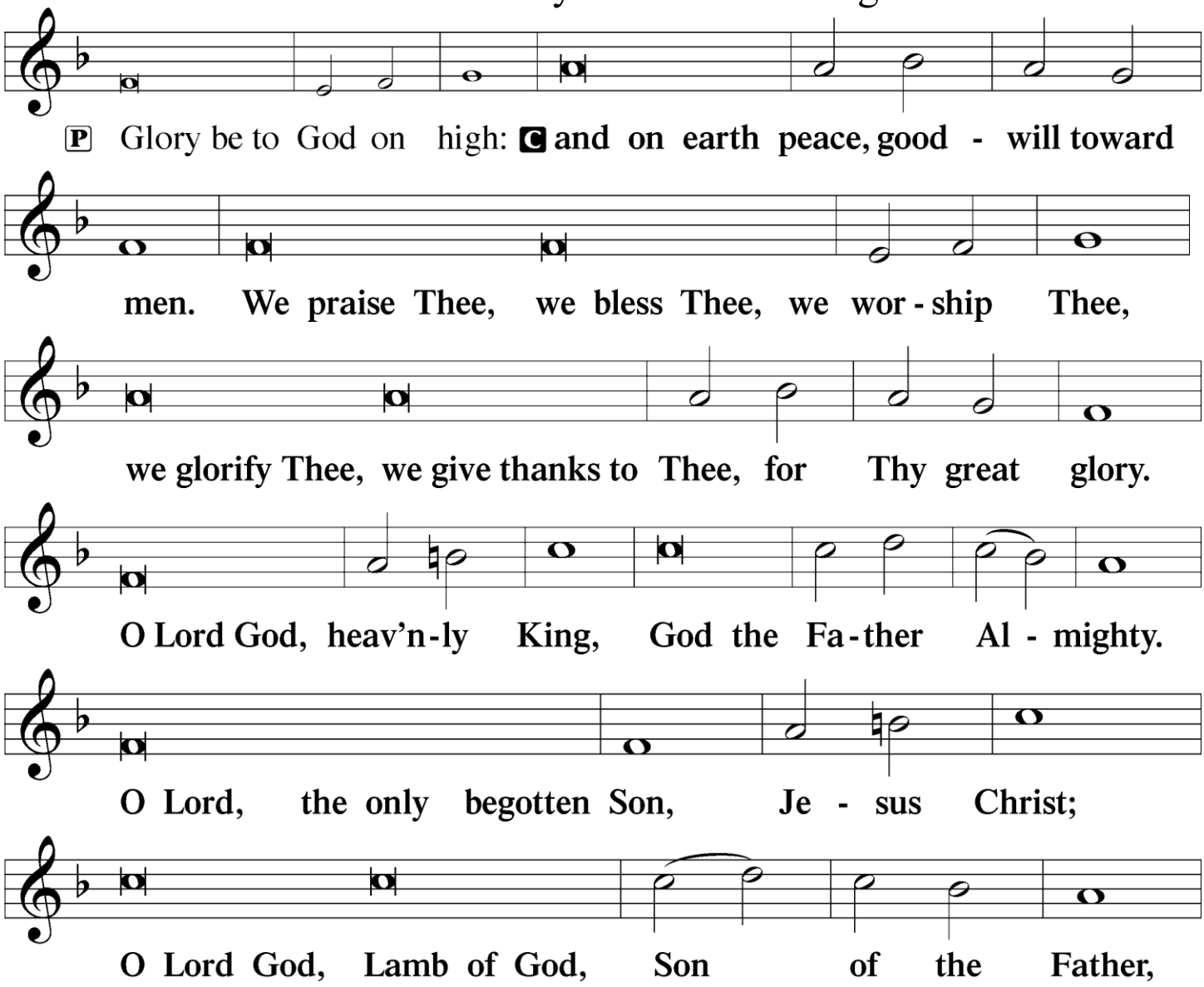
Pastor: [15]He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

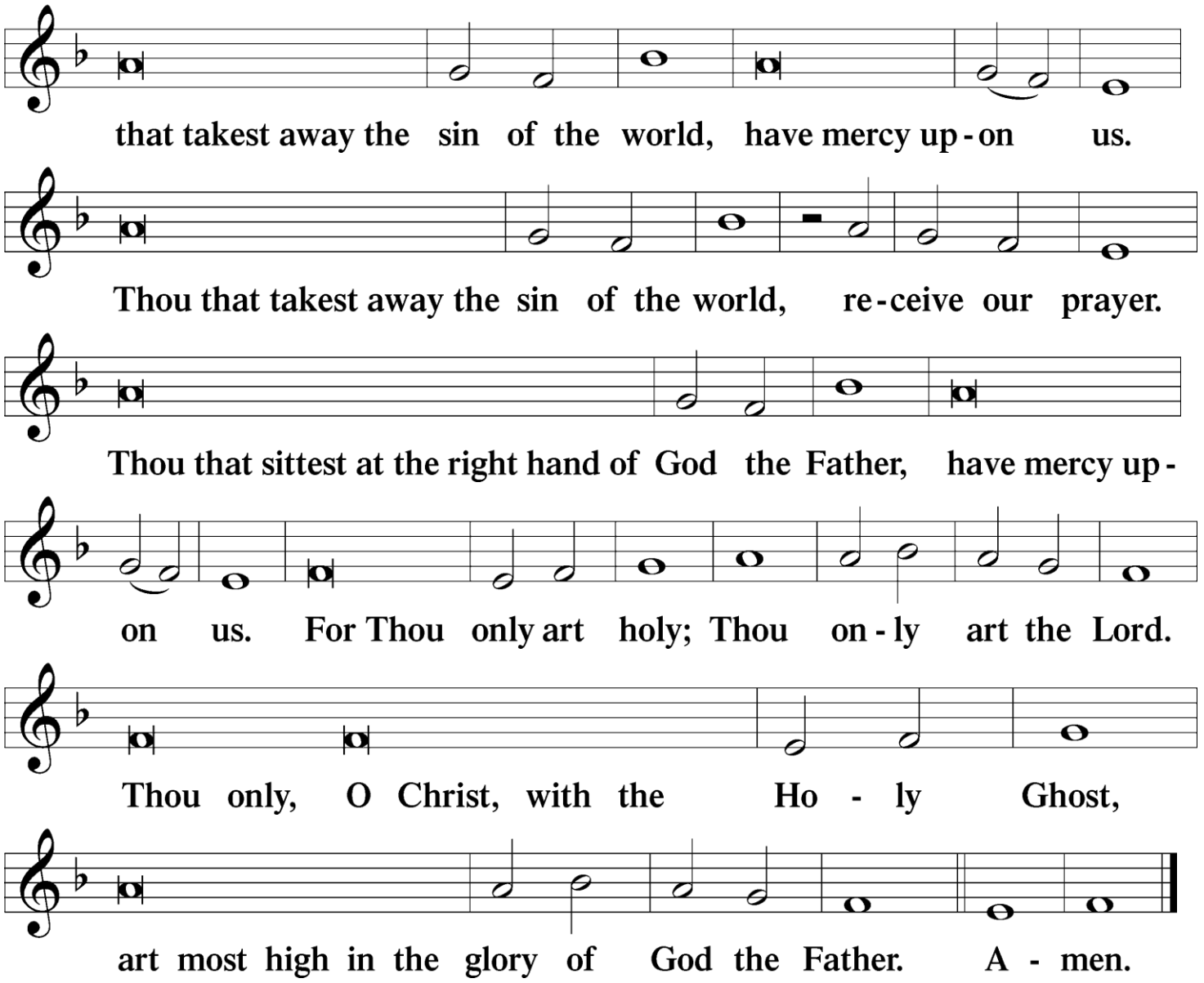
People: [16]He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(*Please remain standing as able*)

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest





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: Almighty and most Merciful God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who 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

Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:1-3; 3:1-7
(*Creation and Fall*)

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, Chapters One, Two, and Three.

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

[1]Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. **2** And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. **3** So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

[1]Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” **2** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

(*After the reading…*)

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

EPISTLE READING Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-7
(*The Law and the Promise; Sons and Heirs*)

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from Galatians, Chapters Three and Four.

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the
law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. **24** So
then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we
might be justified by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no
longer under a guardian, **26** for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God,
through faith. **27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ
have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither
slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in
Christ Jesus. **29** And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's
offspring, heirs according to promise.

[1]I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a
slave, though he is the owner of everything, **2** but he is under guardians
and managers until the date set by his father. **3** In the same way we
also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary
principles of the world. **4** But when the fullness of time had come, God
sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem
those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as
sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son
into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7** So you are no longer a slave,
but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

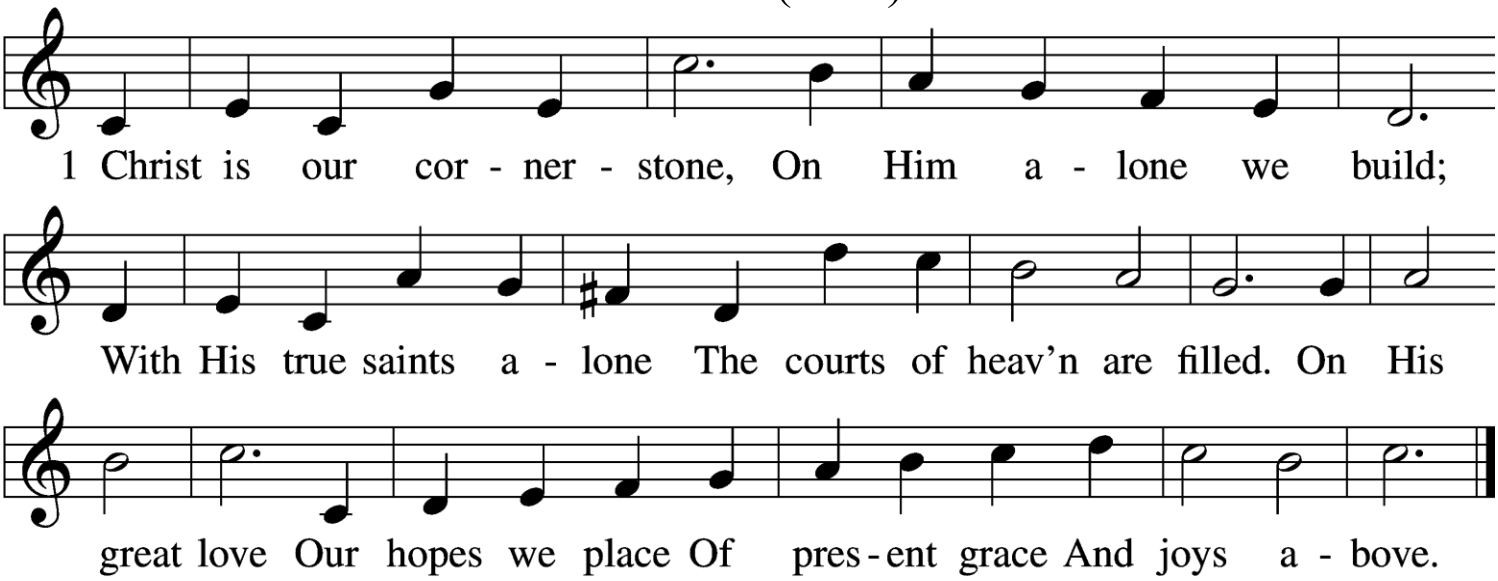
(*After the reading…*)

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 Luke 2:1-14

(*The Birth of Jesus Christ*)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Second Chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(*The Gospel is read*)

[1]In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the
world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration
when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered,
each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from
the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is
called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of
David, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with
child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give
birth. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in

swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. **10** And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

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.

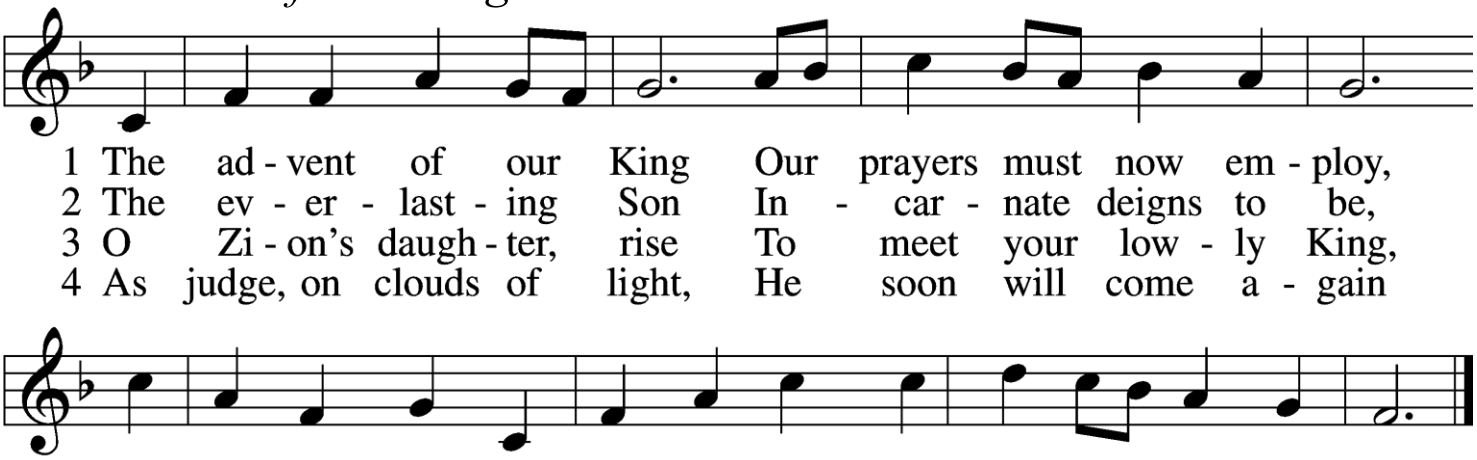
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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 #331 (vs. 1-6)

"*The Advent of Our King*"

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

↑ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

SERMON Rev. Mark Moretz

"CREATION, FALL, AND RESTORATION"

TITHES, PLEDGES, AND OFFERINGS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(*Please stand as able for the Prayers*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Pastor: Visit, O Lord, the homes in which Your people dwell, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: O father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon Your servants. Assure them of your mercy and give them patience and comfort in their time of illness. We especially pray for…….. If it please You, restore them to health or give them grace to accept this time of illness with courage and hope. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those who mourn. Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us to look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering the faithful cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. We especially remember……We also pray for all police officers and first responders. Support them in times of conflict, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general

welfare, be a nation of justice, and serve You faithfully in our generation. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church, for the Means of Grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to You service. Lord, in Your mercy….

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, 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.

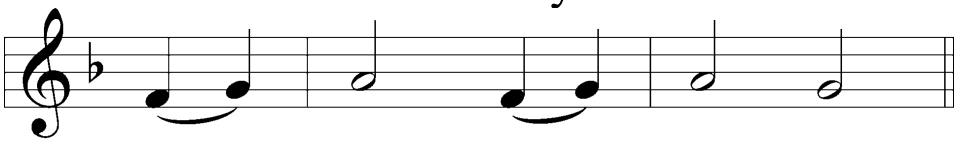
We encourage you to find a time to speak with your Adult Leader or pastor so we might be able to commune together with you sometime in the future.
During the celebration of the Lord's Supper, you may stay in your seat or walk forward together with your group. If you choose to come forward, cross your 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)

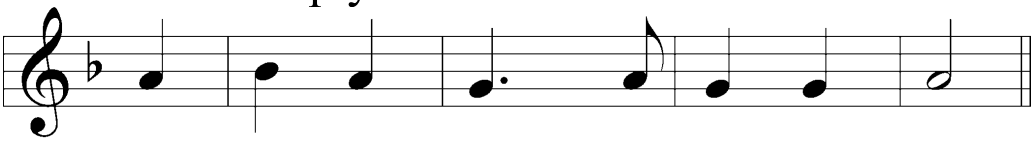
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.



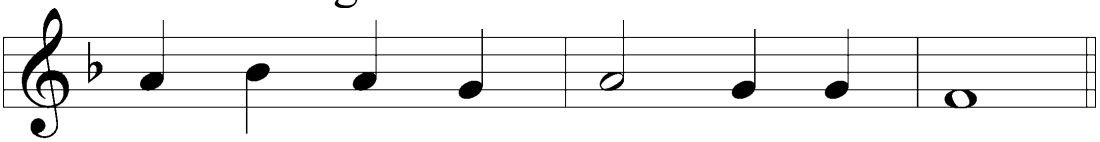
C **And with thy spir - it.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.



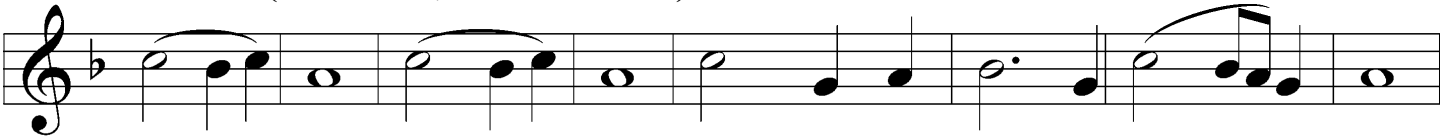
C **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

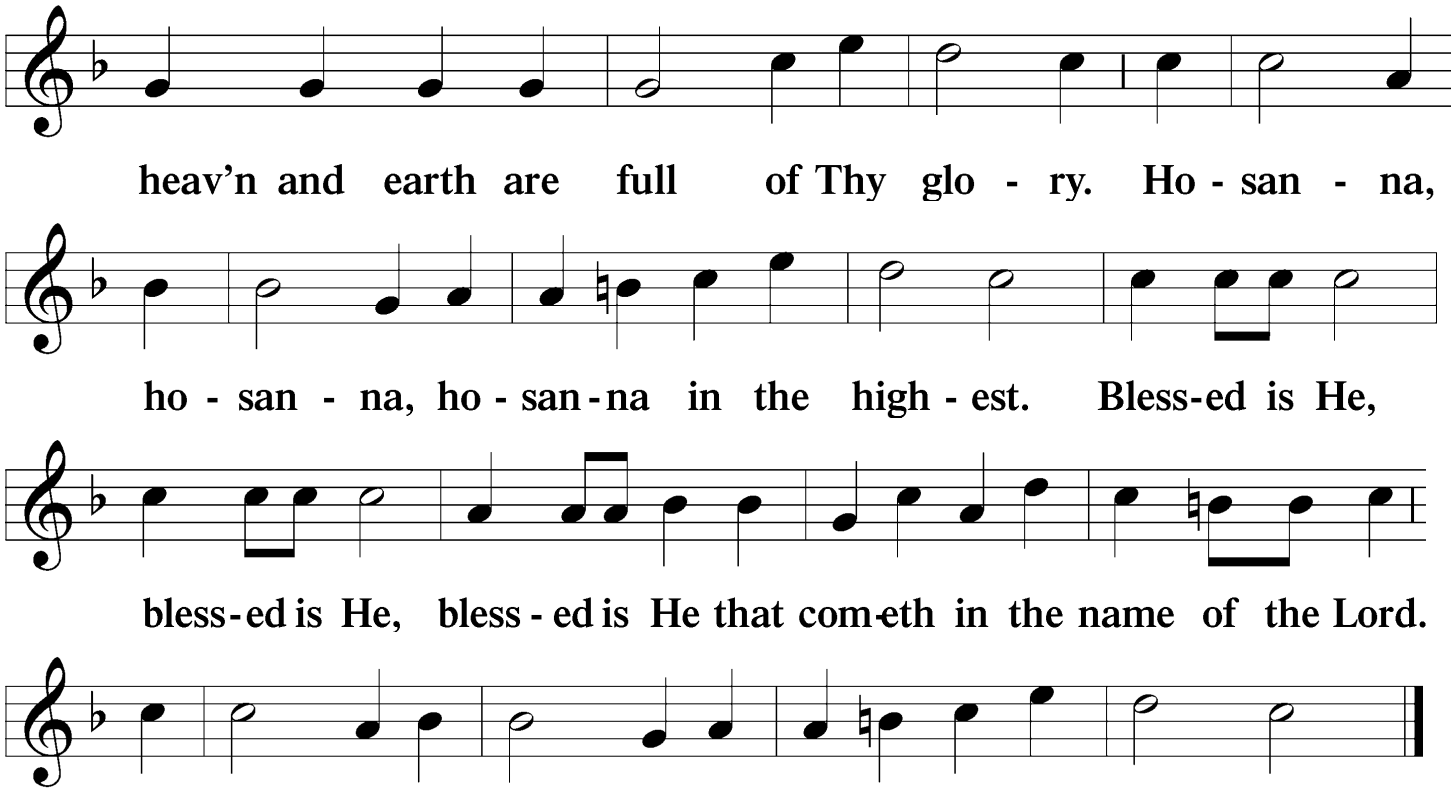
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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;**



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.

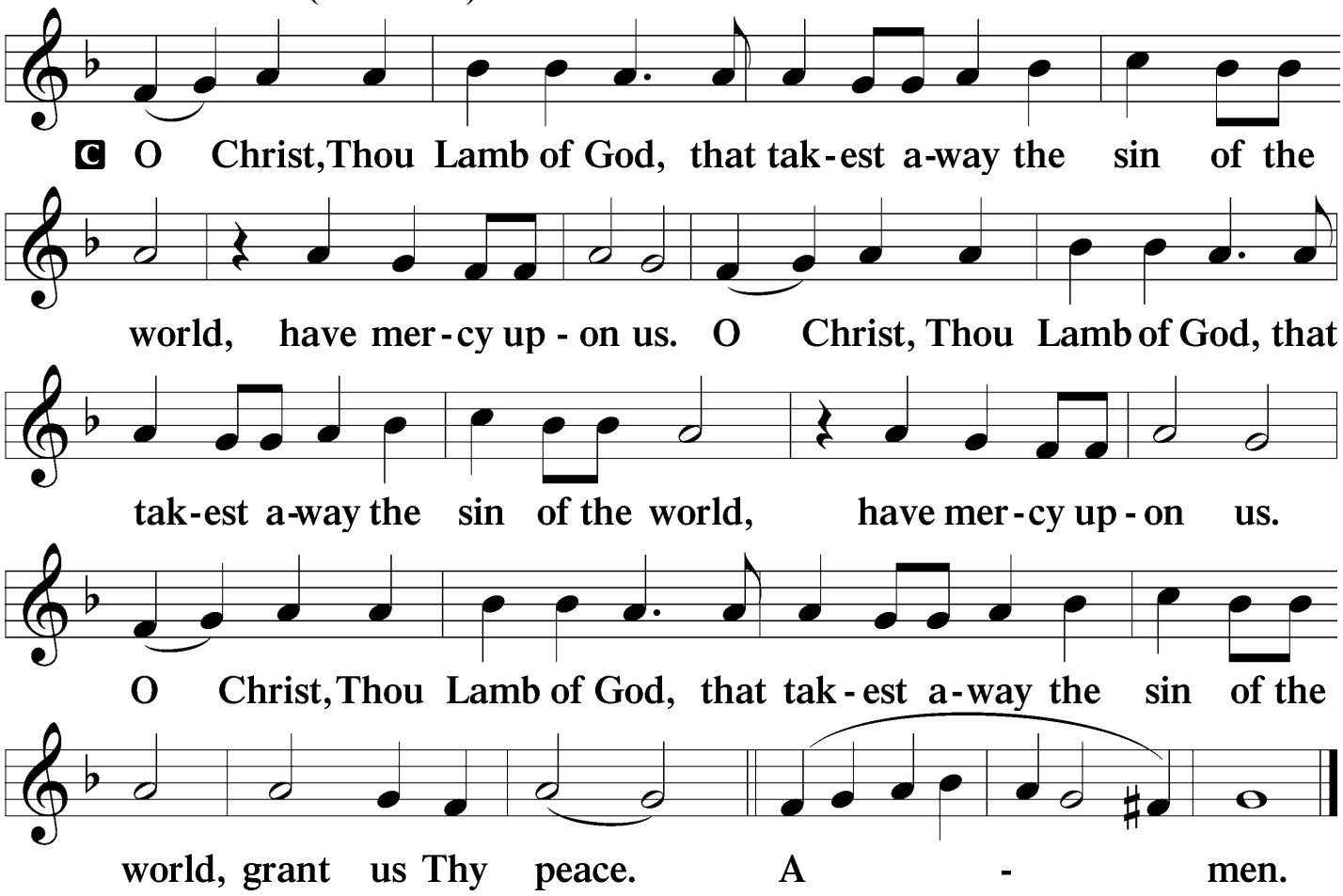
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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*)

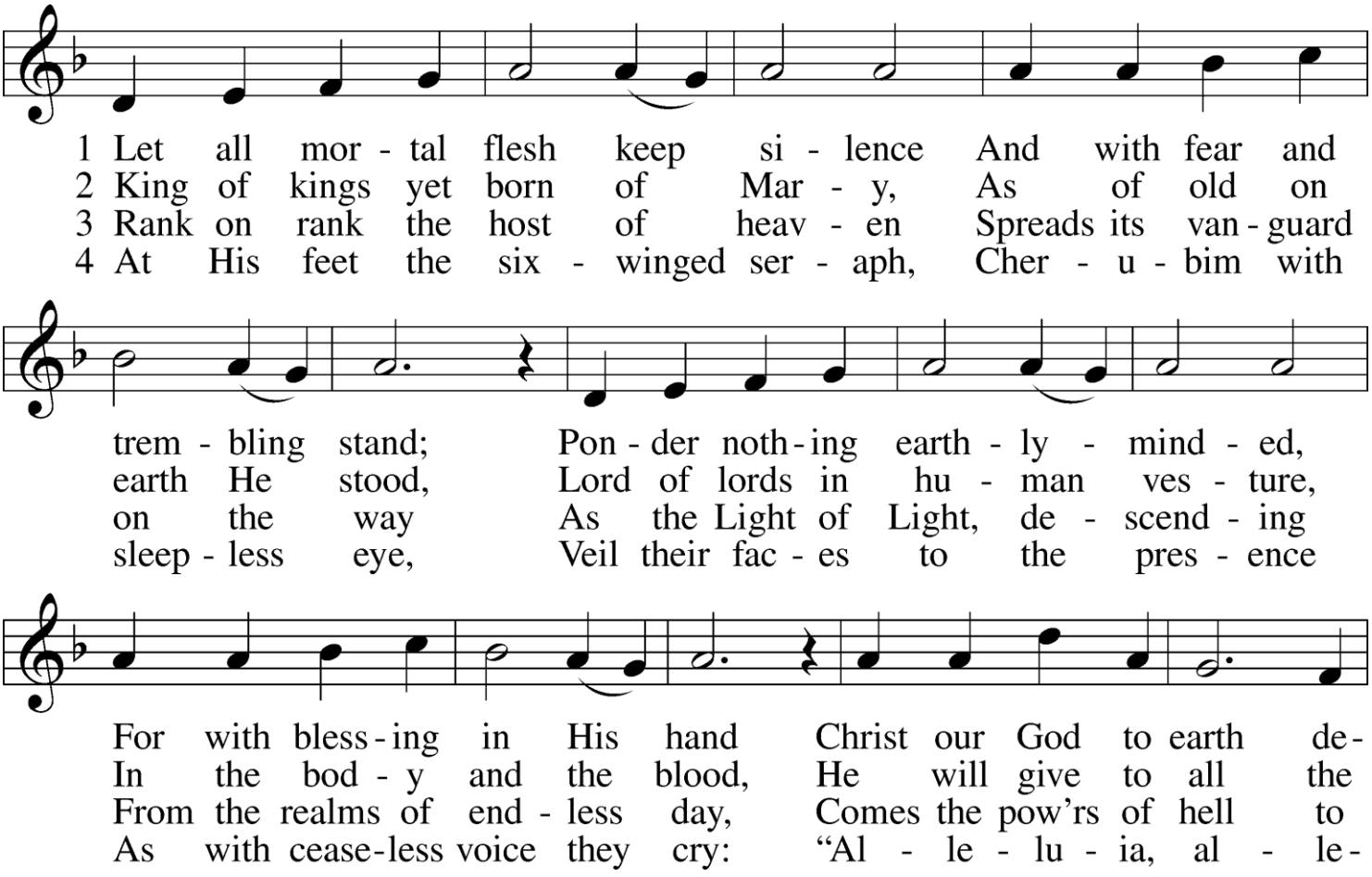
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mould me and make me, this is what I pray. (*once*)

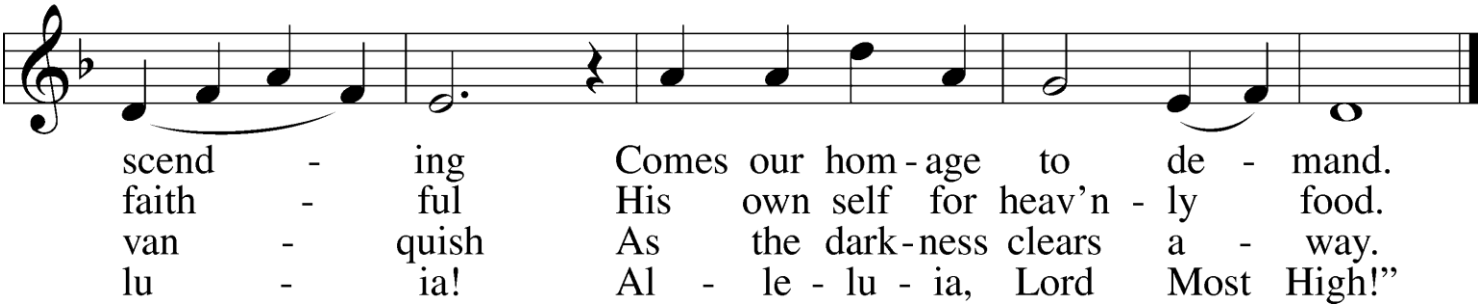
Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. (*once*)

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

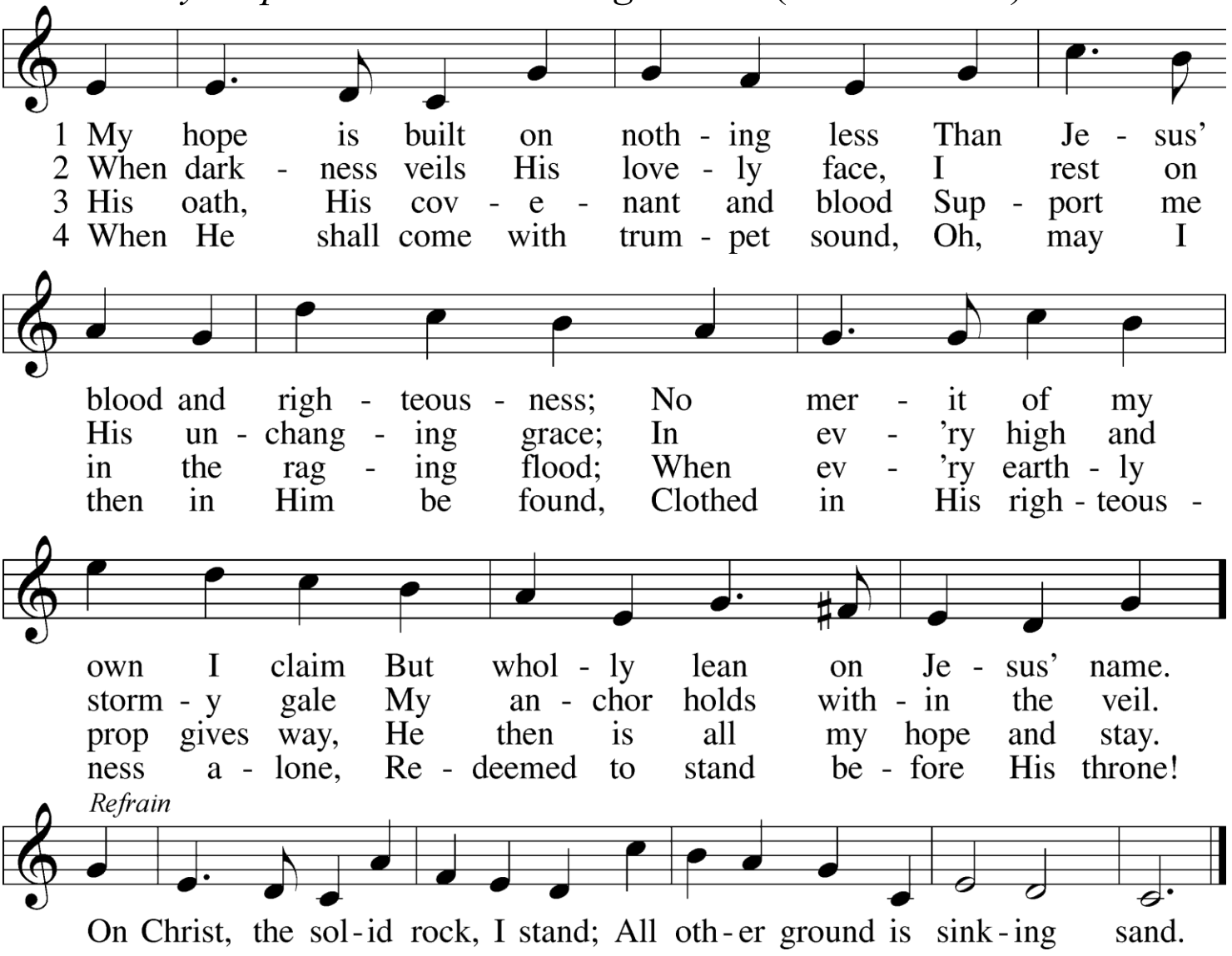
Change my heart, oh God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God, may I be like You. (*once*)

#621 "*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*" (vs. as needed)

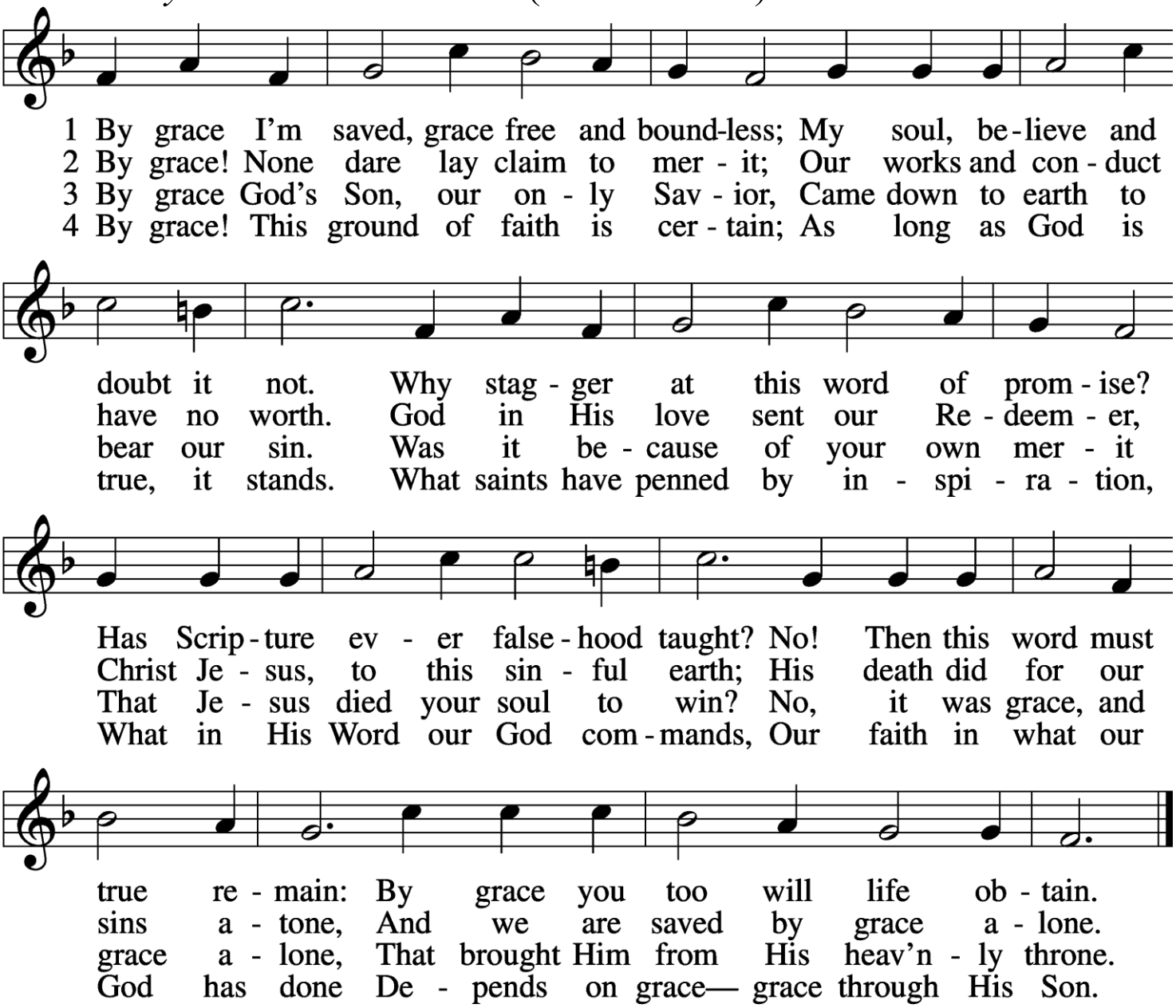




#575 "*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*" (vs. as needed)



#566 "*By Grace I'm Saved*" (vs. as needed)



5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.
Pastor: 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 "<u>May</u> 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,

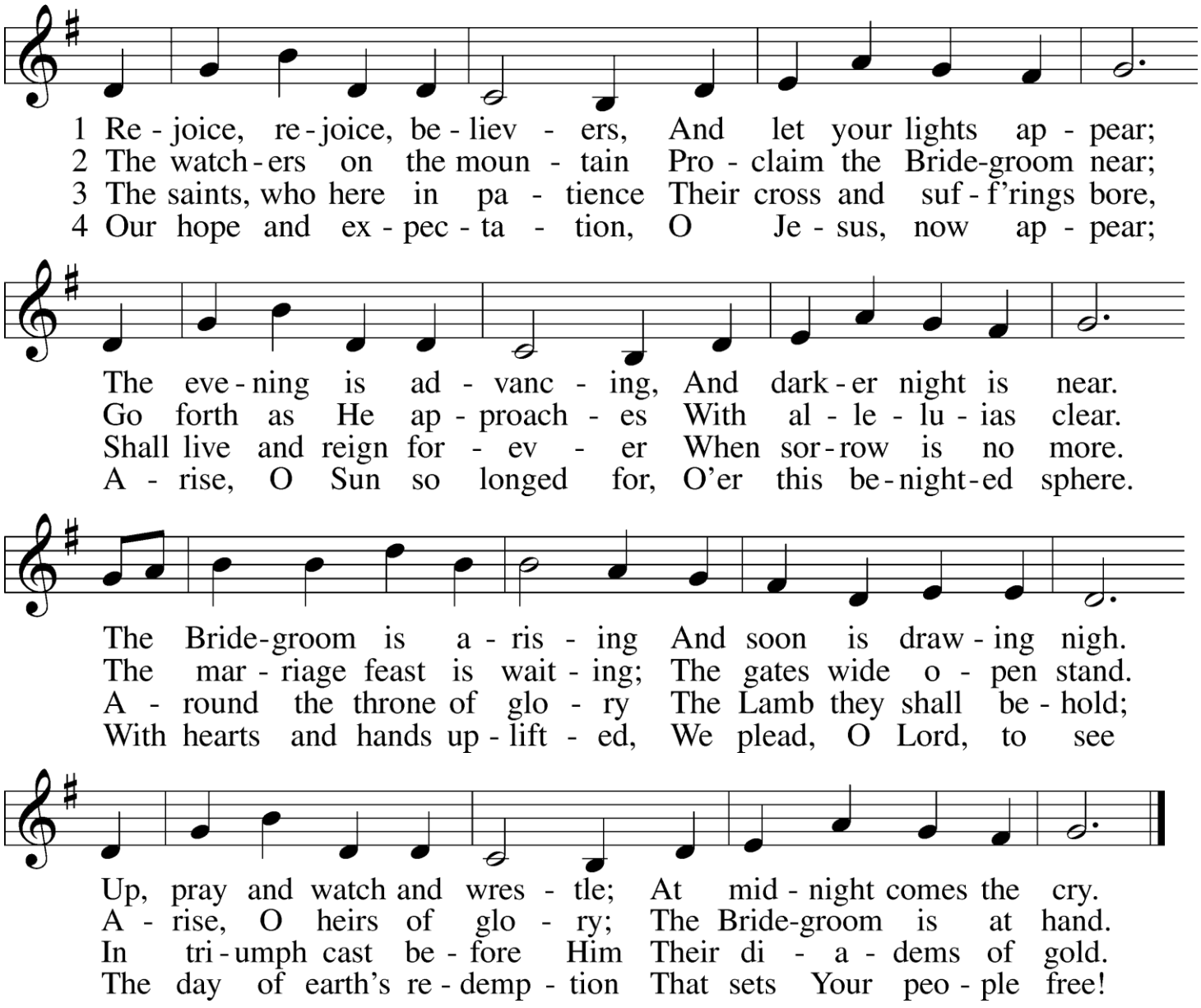
The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #515 (vs. 1-4)

"*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*"



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	Chip Brown (5:30) Tim Buss (8:00) Adam Brown (11:00)
Greeters	Volunteer (5:30) Rosella Rogers (8:00) Ingrid & Paul Cronise (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 Al & Wendy Radek in celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary.

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 begin Monday September14th.

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