

SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026 at 10:30 am**

Welcome to the worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The Day: *In the gospel today Jesus uses a number of parables to paint a picture of what the kingdom of heaven is like. But rather than describing the kingdom itself, these parables serve to paint a picture of just how important the kingdom is, and how much weight is ascribed to the kingdom for those who would cherish it. What value do we place on God's kingdom?*

PRELUDE

*Please silence devices during this quiet time of preparing our hearts for worship.
Stand*

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

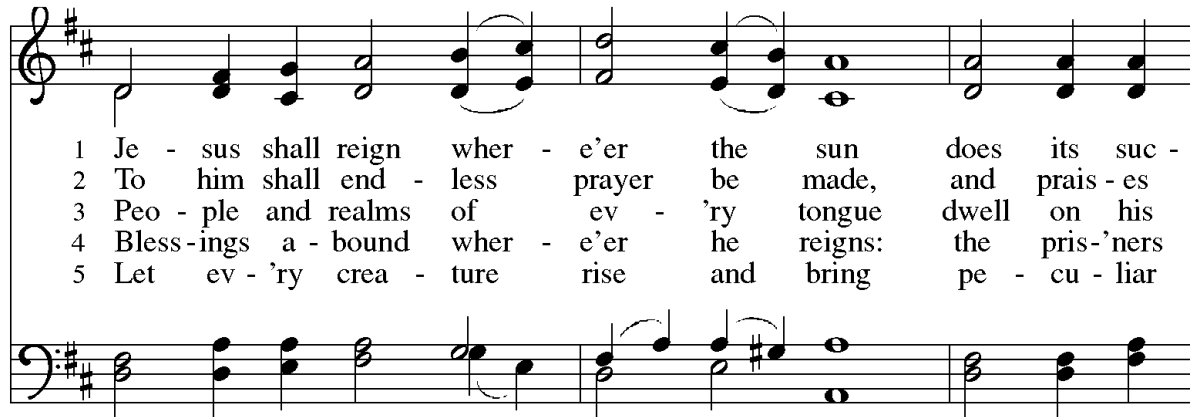
C Amen.

The assembly follows the ministers into the church. The Procession begins.

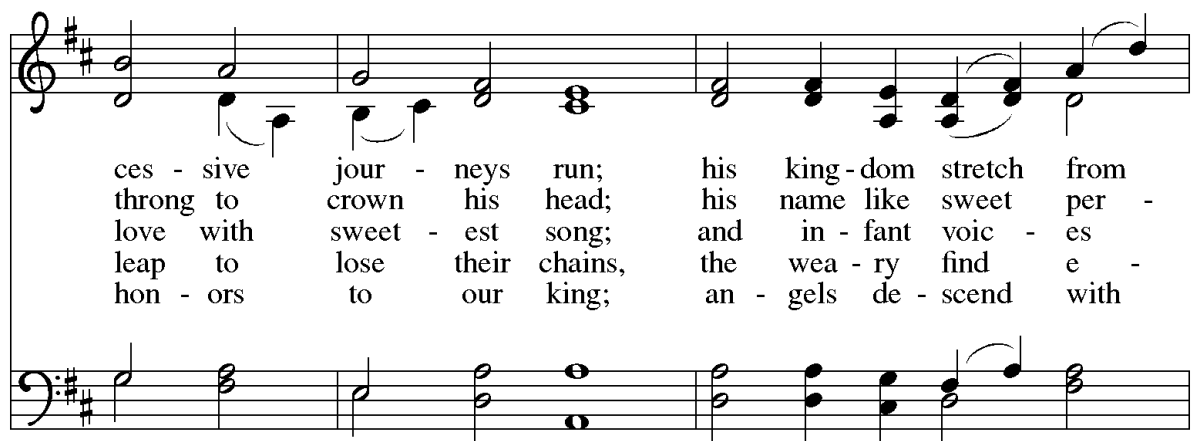
GATHERING HYMN

ELW #434

JESUS SHALL REIGN



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

THE APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Mark Beatty

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 3:5-12

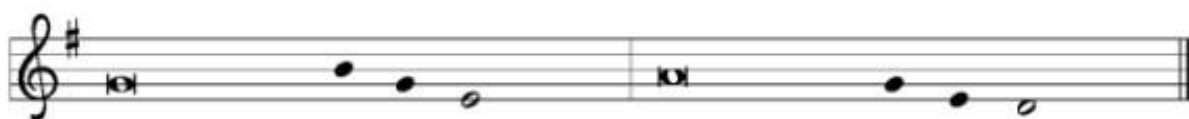
Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

L A reading from the book of 1st Kings, the 3rd chapter, beginning at the 5th verse.

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:129-136



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit: as it was
in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

L A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter, beginning at the 26th verse.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height

nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter, beginning at the 31st verse.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field.

³²It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable.

“The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

“All In”

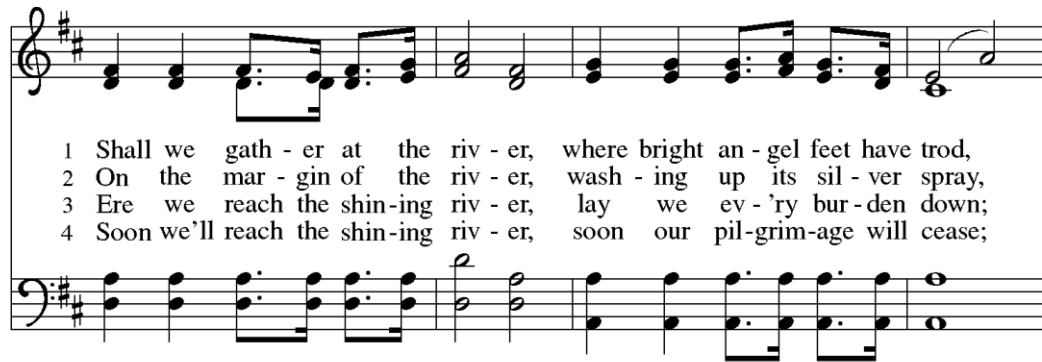
Pastor Mark Beatty

Stand

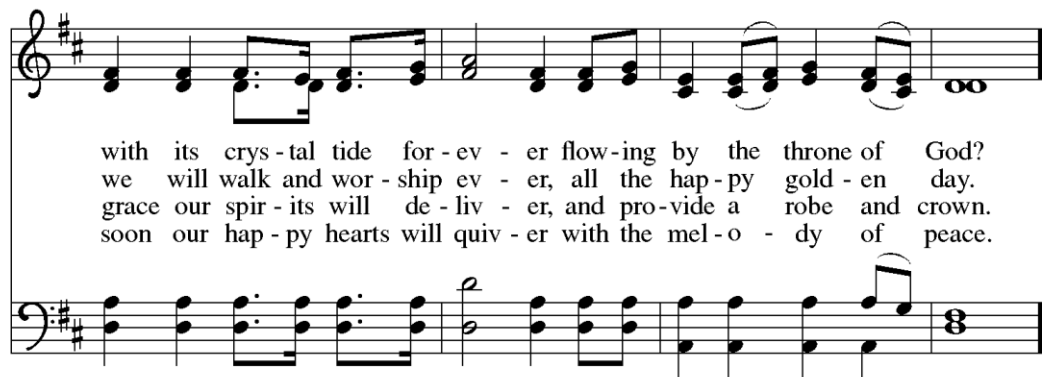
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #423

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

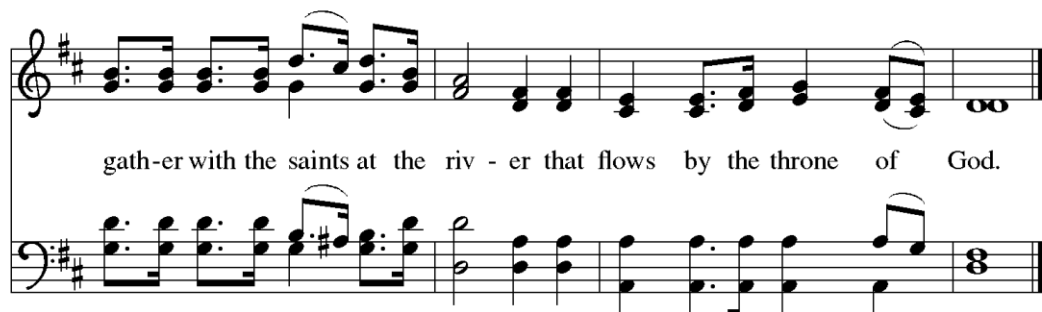


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

P With one voice let us confess our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

BLESSING OF PRAYER SQUARES

INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

***P/A** Lord in your Mercy, **G** hear our prayer.*

A We pray for your one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, preserve it from error and deliver it from temptation. Grant that it may abide in Christ and his word of truth, remaining steadfast and immovable until the end. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A O God, You send out bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and church workers to preach and teach the whole counsel of your Word. Grant that they may serve you faithfully, and that we may receive their words with joy and thanksgiving. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Heavenly Father, You have called us to various vocations in our lives. Grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve You and our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Holy Lord, grant wisdom to Donald, our president; Brian, our governor; and all who make, administer, and judge our laws, that they may seek what is best for all in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, bestow your comfort on all who are burdened by sickness and affliction, especially those named in our bulletin, and those names before you now. *(After silence count to 10.)* Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Merciful Lord, grant that all who commune today might receive the Sacramental gift of faith and life, and depart refreshed, knowing that they are your forgiven people. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Gracious God, we know that neither life nor death can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We thank you for all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and we ask You to grant us also our inheritance with the saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*Peace be with you **R** **Peace be with you***

Sit

OFFERING

The ushers collect our gifts of tithes and offerings. The ministers make ready the bread and wine.

Stand as gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

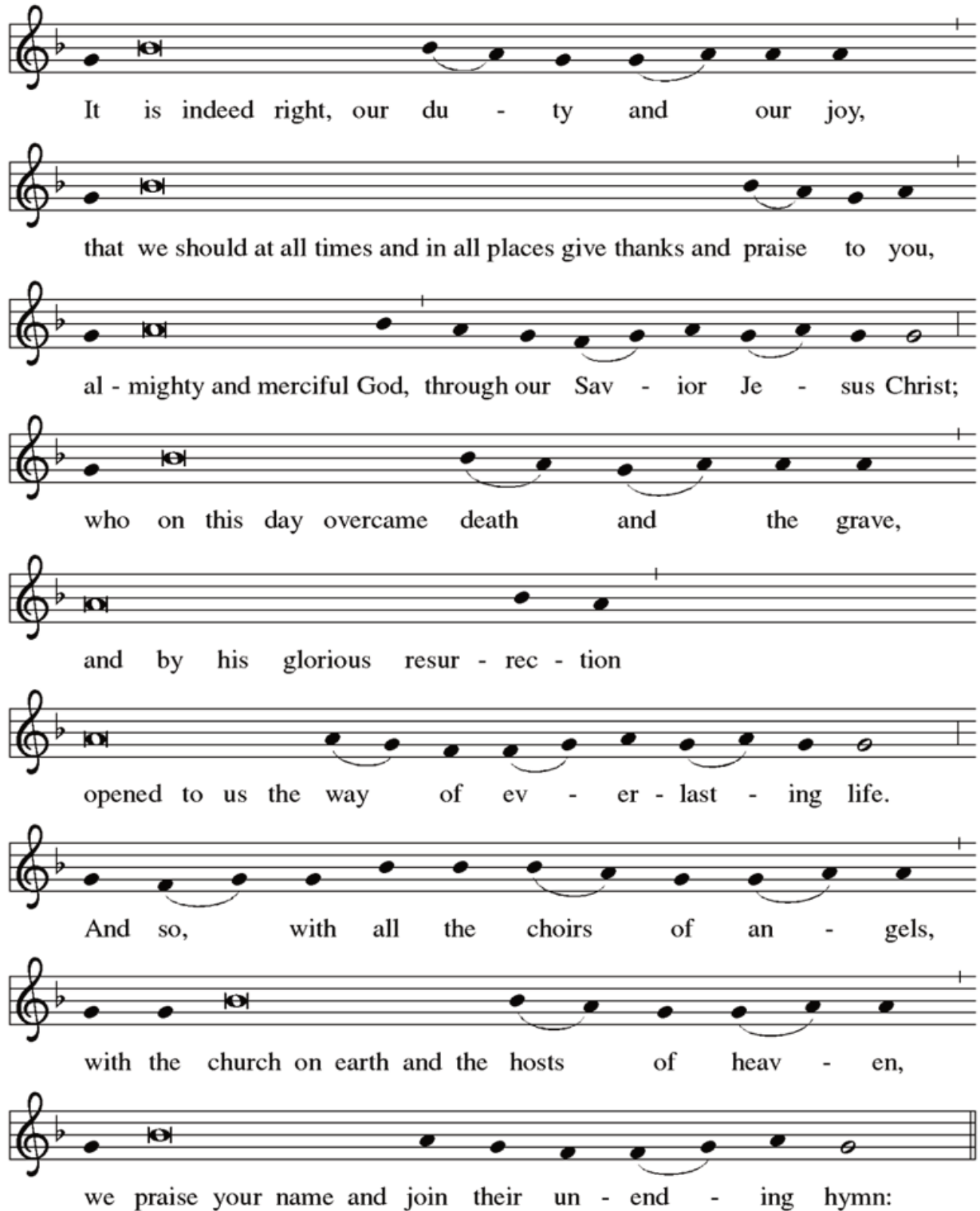
OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
- C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resur - rec - tion

opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

SANCTUS



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us together 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.

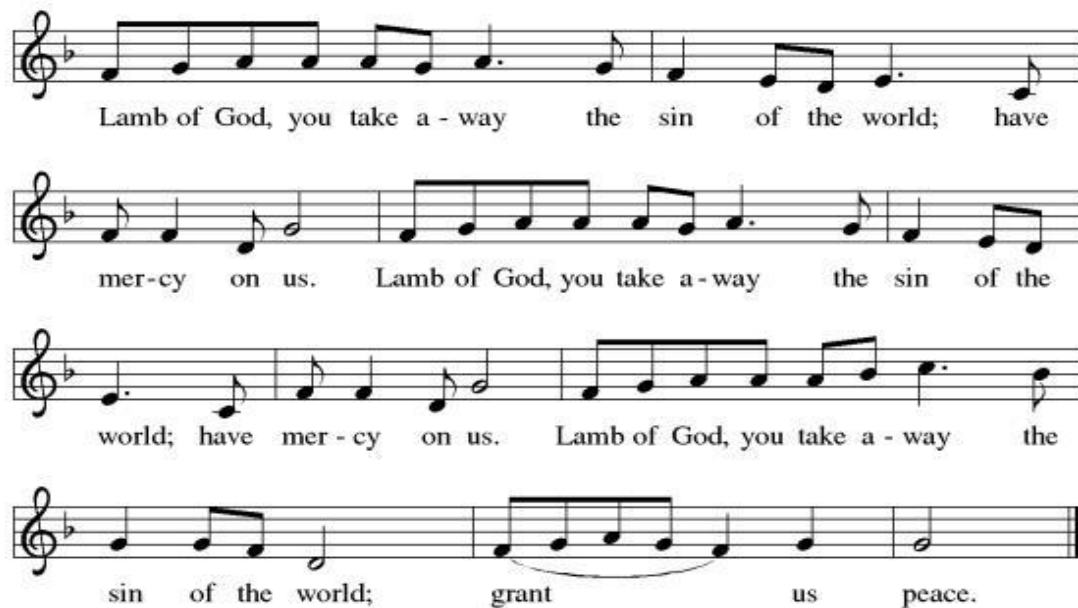
Sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN
ABIDE WITH ME

sung by Wayne Burdette

AGNUS DEI



Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen ✝ you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

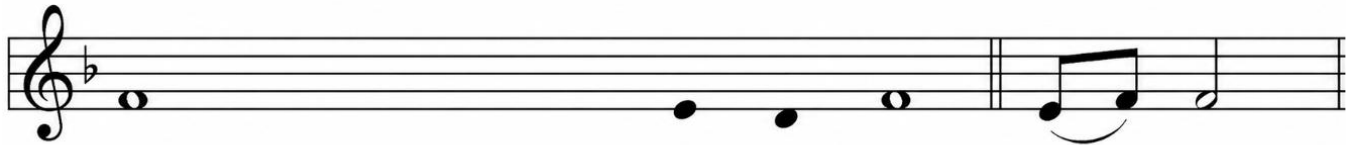
A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

C A - men

The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

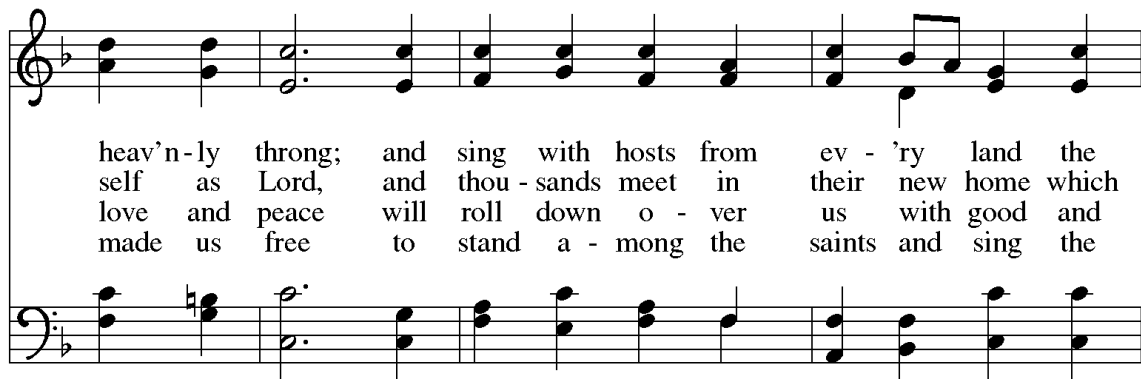
SENDING HYMN

ELW #441

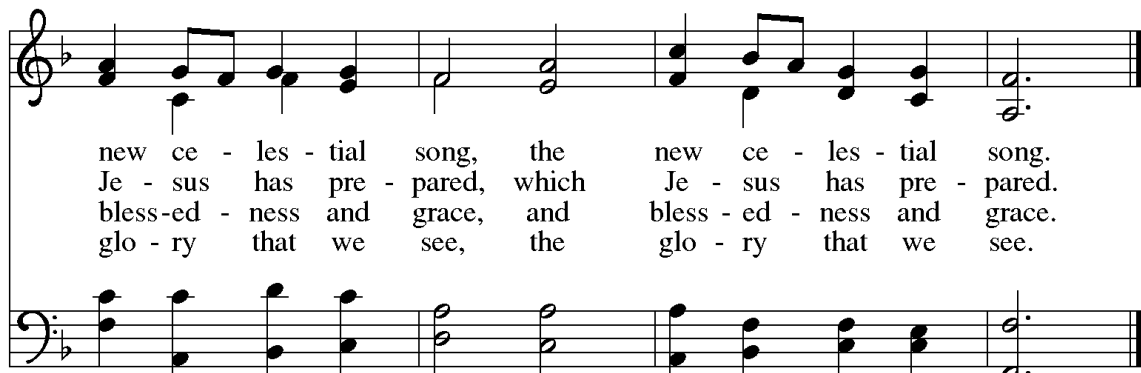
OH, HAPPY DAY WHEN WE SHALL STAND



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C Live The Mission!

Together!

POSTLUDE

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