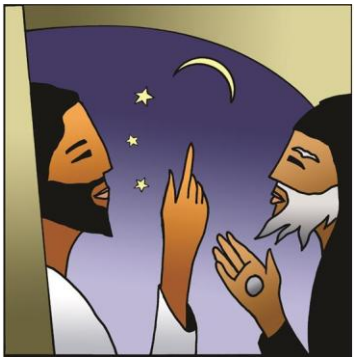
SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 at 10:30 am

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

The Day: *How do we faithfully respond when someone is acting maliciously with ill intent, especially if they are trying to conceal it? Jesus is confronted with this very situation in the gospel today, and we have the gift of receiving and remembering his assertive and faithful response.*

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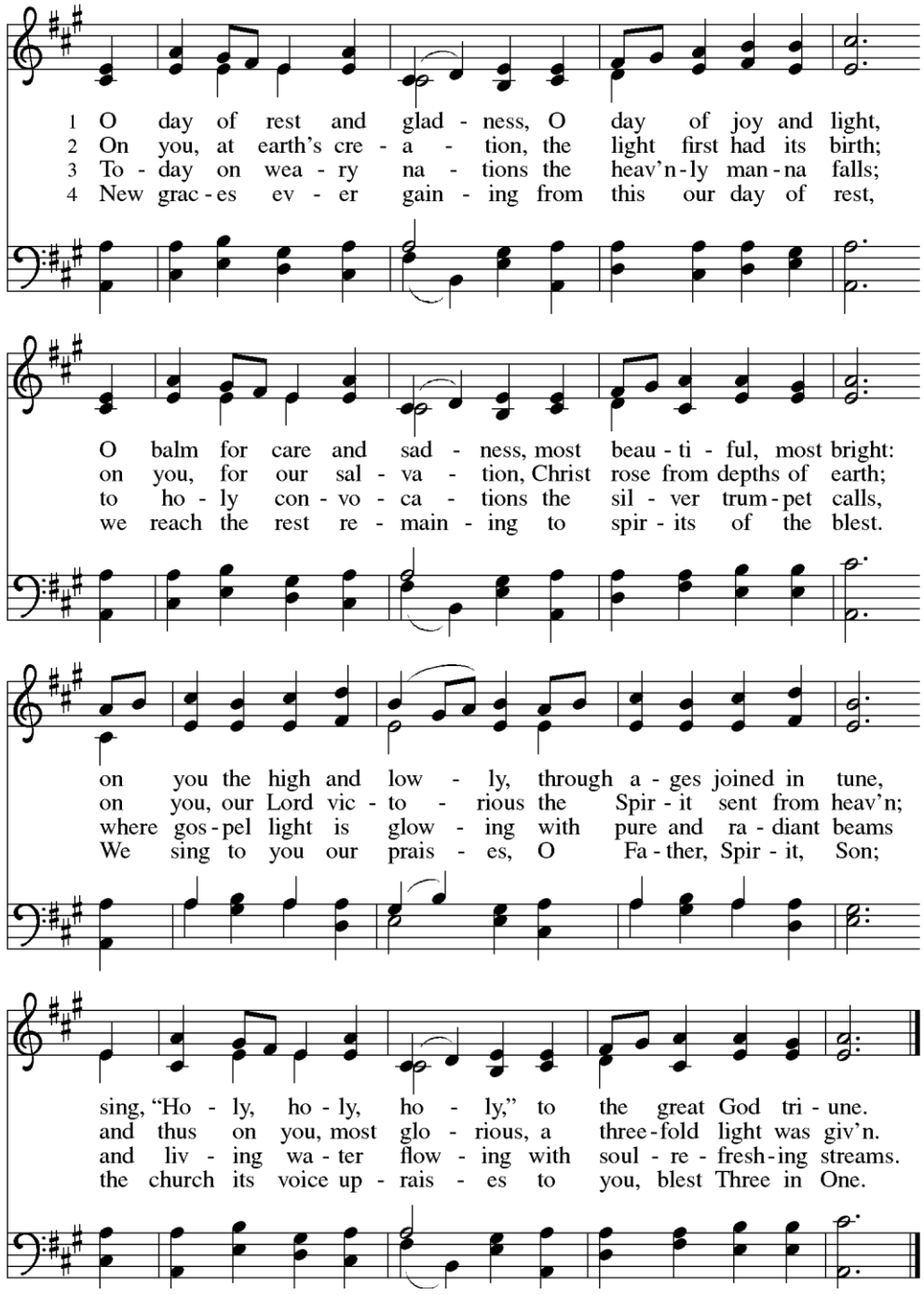
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,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

C **Amen.**

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

GATHERING HYMN ELW #521

O DAY OF REST AND GLADNESS



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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON — Pastor Beatty

FIRST LESSON — Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.
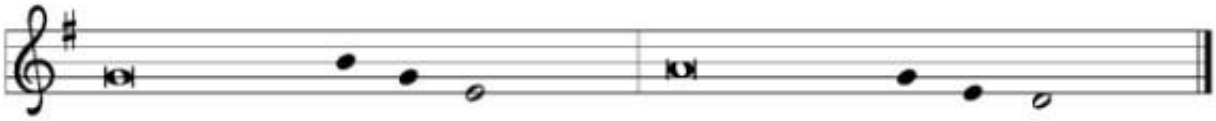
L A reading from the book of Isaiah, the 45th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

[1]Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have
grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: [2]"I will go before
you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron, [3]I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name. [4]For the sake of my servant
Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though
you do not know me. [5]I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me
there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, [6]that people
may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none
besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. [7]I form light and create
darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does
all these things.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY **Psalm 96:1-13**



1 Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
3 Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
4 For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.
5 As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.
6 Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord.
9 Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.
10 Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- | ples with equity."
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.
13 You will judge the | world with righteousness

and the peoples | with your truth.

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 **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

L A reading from the book of 1st Thessalonians, the 1st chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

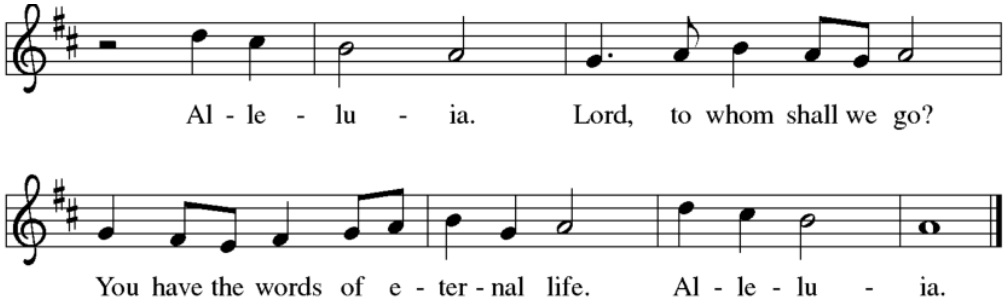
[1]Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. [2]We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3]remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4]For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5]because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6]And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7]so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8]For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. [9]For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10]and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter, beginning at the 15th verse.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words.
16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully,
and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by
appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to
Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me
to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they
brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and
inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them,
"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the
things that are God's." 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they
left him and went away.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

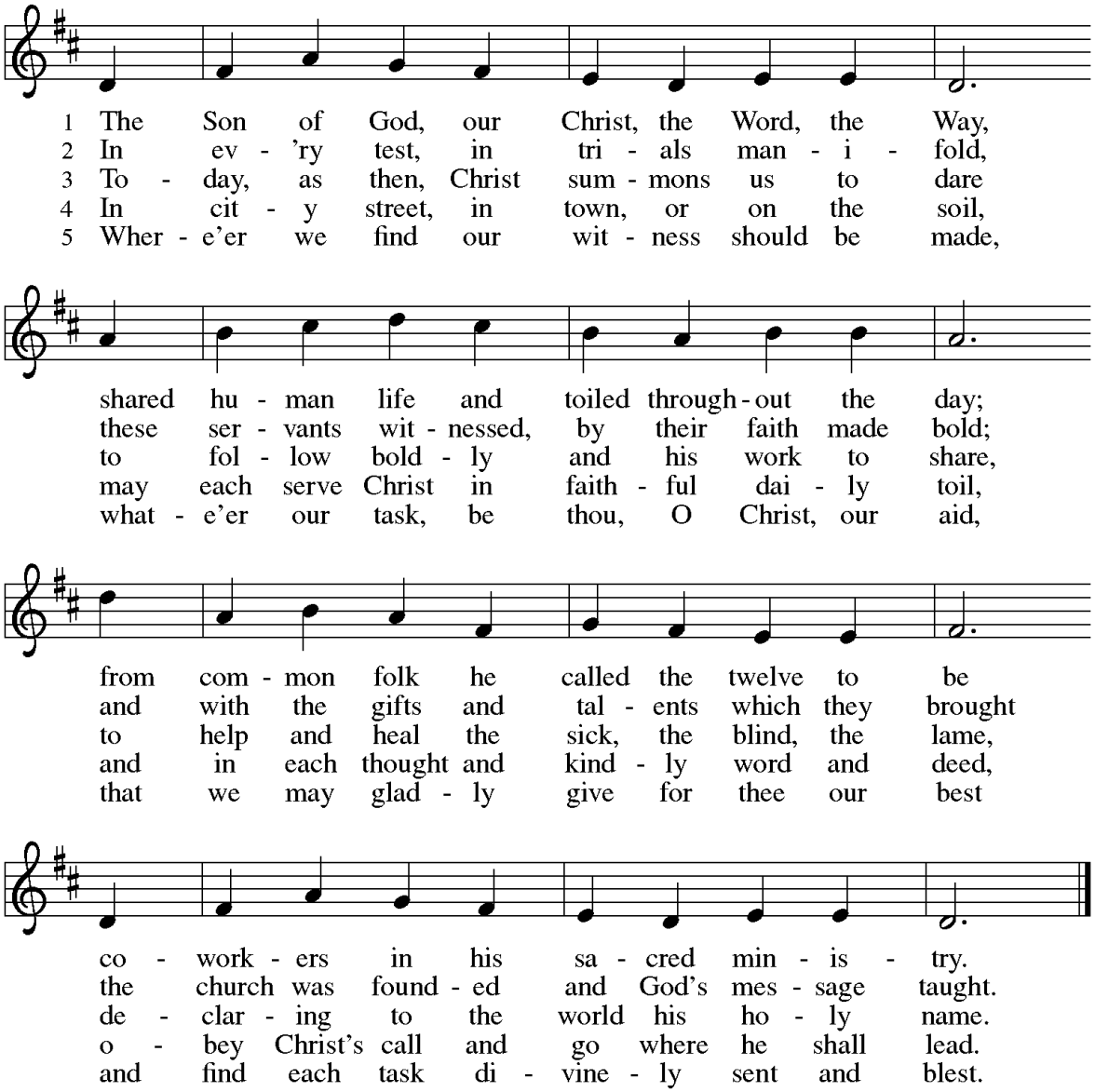
SERMON — Pastor Beatty

"Confronting Malice"

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY — ELW #584

THE SON OF GOD, OUR CHRIST



℗ 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 crucfied, 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 **Pastor Beatty**

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, C hear our prayer.

A Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of your one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, purchased with the cross and resurrection of your Son. Grant us grace amid the scoffing and unbelief of the world to await Jesus' return, in all his glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of our salvation, you deliver your Son's work through your Word and Sacraments by the Holy Spirit. Strengthen the Church's bishops, pastors, deacons, and church workers, especially our own pastor, Mark, that they may proclaim your truth. Increase the faith of all who hear, that they may respond in love, steadfast in hope. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of all truth, from the rising of the sun to its setting, you make known your salvation in Christ. Bless fathers and mothers as they teach their children your Word and your ways. Let them know that

there is no God besides you and rejoice in your faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer**.

A Heavenly Father, as we render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto you what is yours, help us to acknowledge that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given by you. Grant wisdom to our president, Donald, and our governor, Brian, vigilance to our protectors, and compassion to those who care for us. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer**.

A O Lord, our help comes from you, in preserving our life. Have mercy upon all those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now. (After silence, count to 10.) Grant to all who are afflicted in body, mind, or spirit, the gift of a healing and comforting word. Keep them from all evil, and shade them from all harm. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer**.

A O God, you spread before us a foretaste of the feast to come. Let us rejoice in the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of faith that is here bestowed and proclaim Jesus' death until he comes again. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Lord of eternal life, we give you thanks for all who have gone before us in the faith, especially your servant, Luke. Help us to follow their example and to live each day so that we may face our final hour in confidence and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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 ℟ ***Peace be with you***

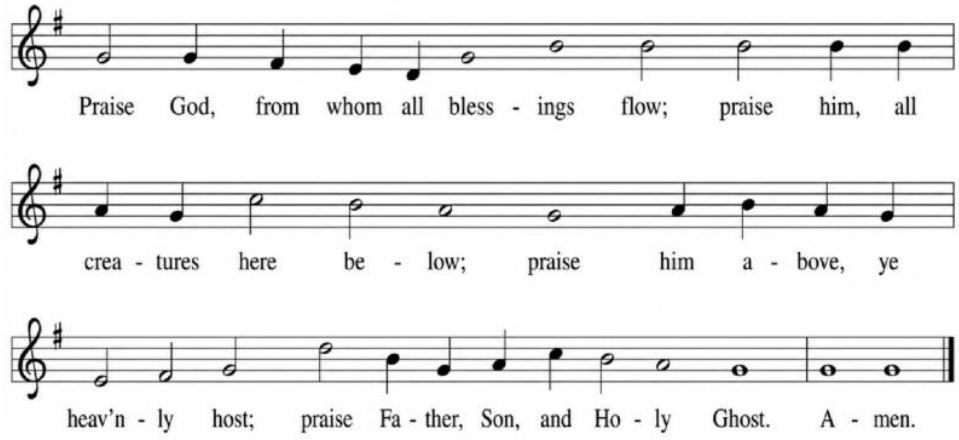
Sit

OFFERING

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

Stand as gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY



OFFERTORY PRAYER

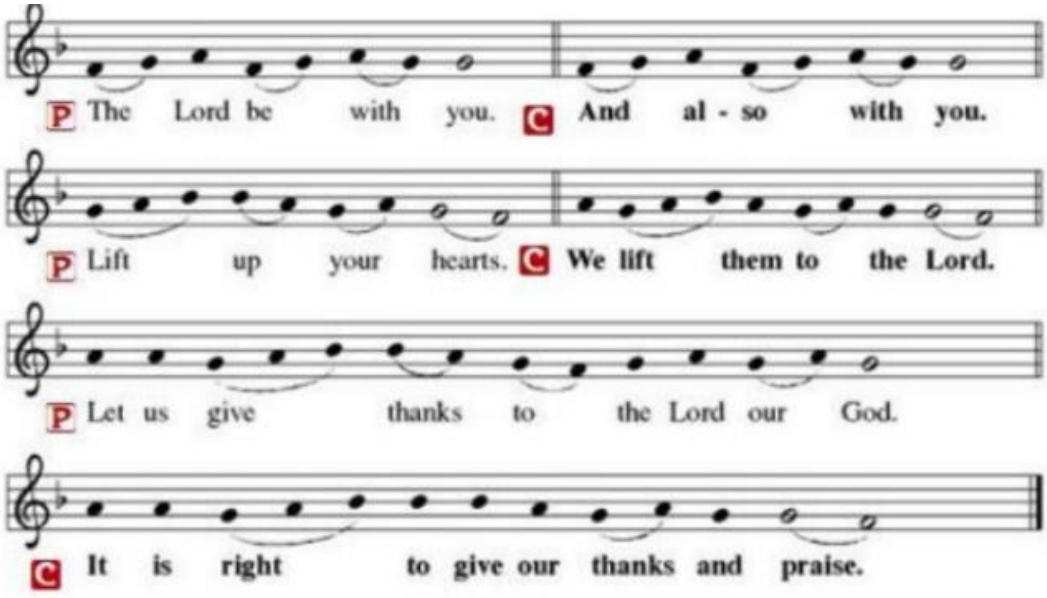
A The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

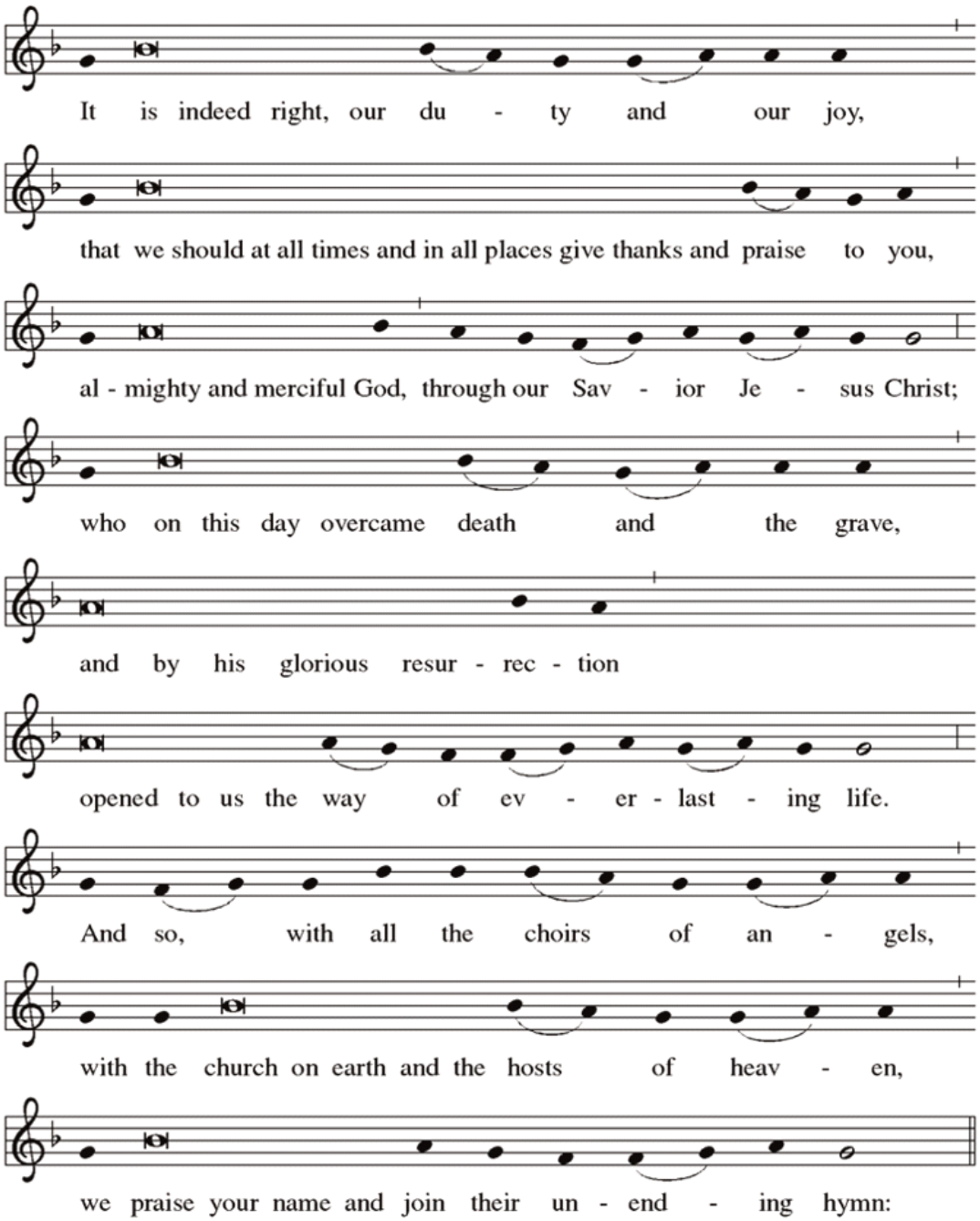
A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

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.**

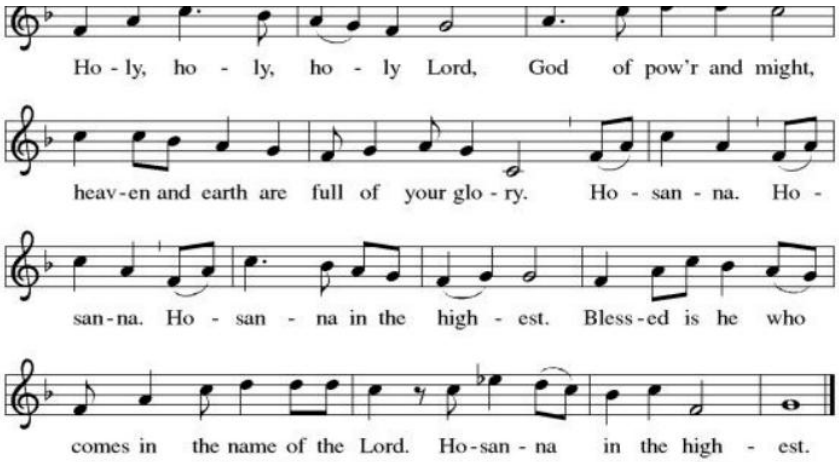
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

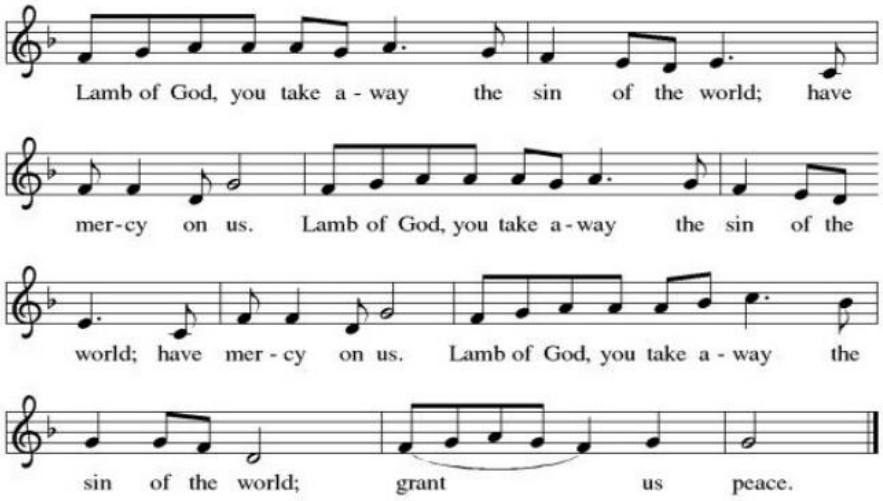
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us together to pray:

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
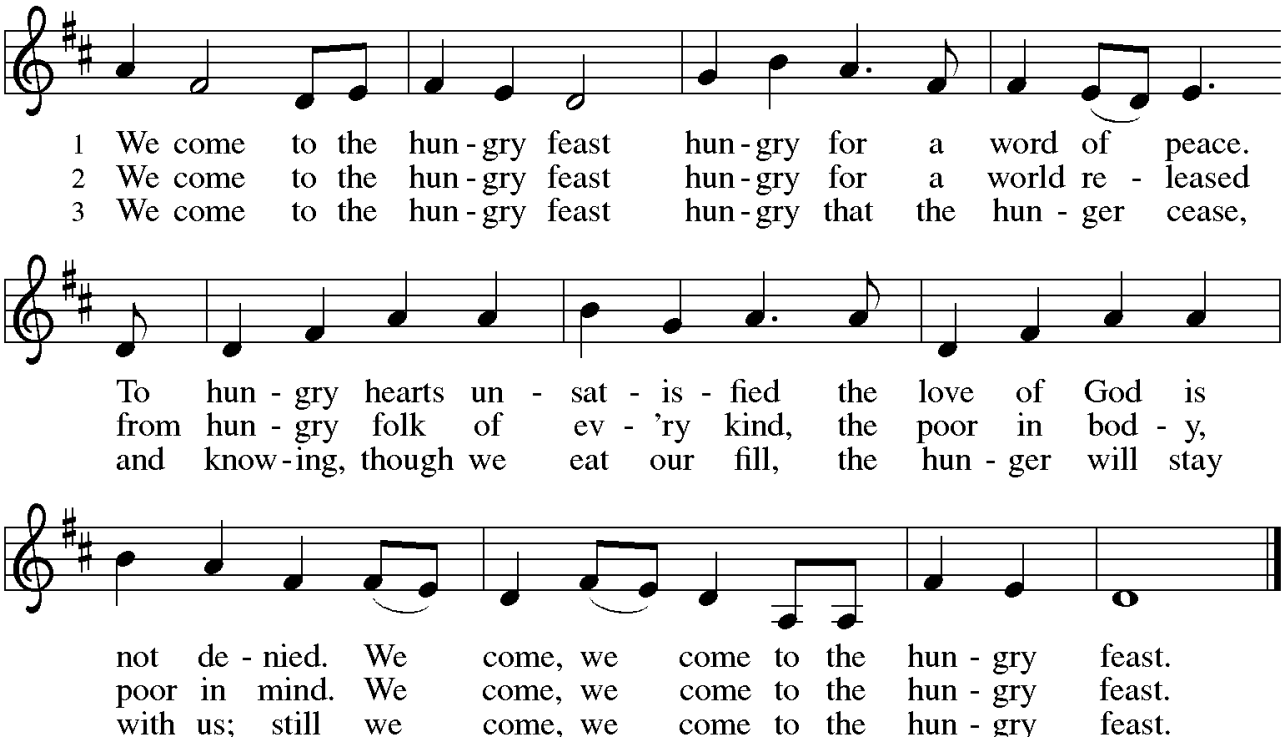
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI

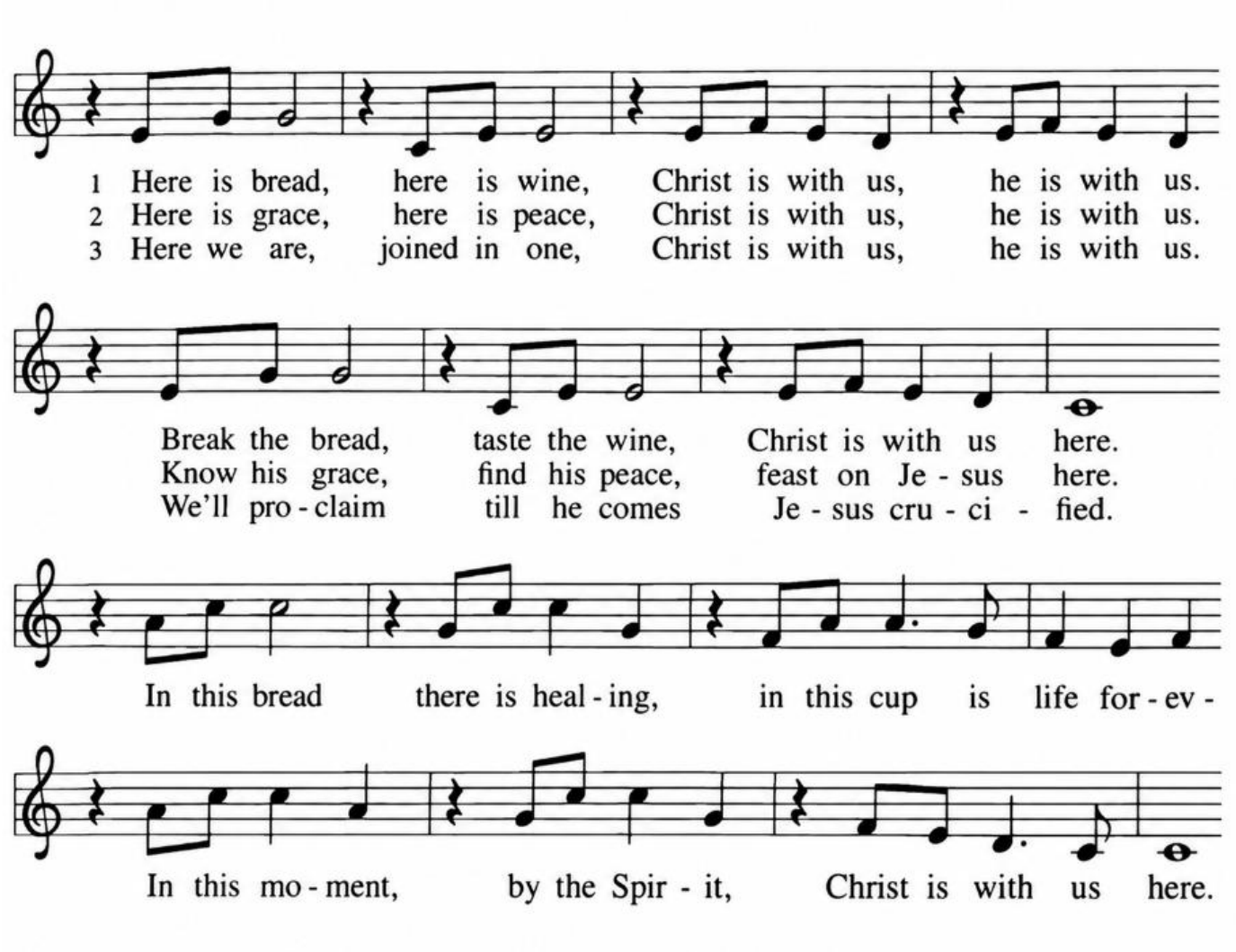


COMMUNION HYMNS

WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST **ELW #479**



HERE IS BREAD **ELW #483**



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.

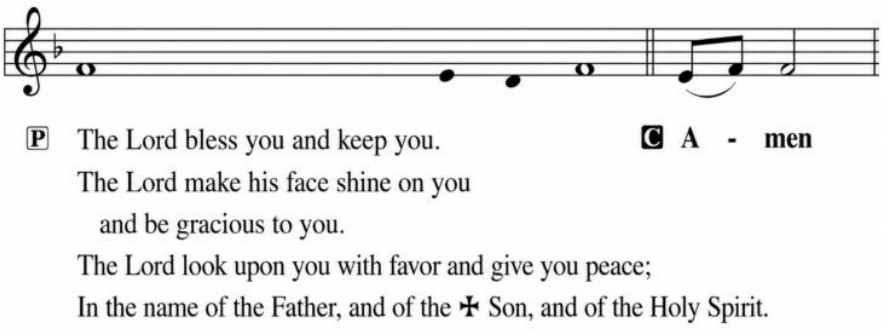
C **And also with you.**

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.
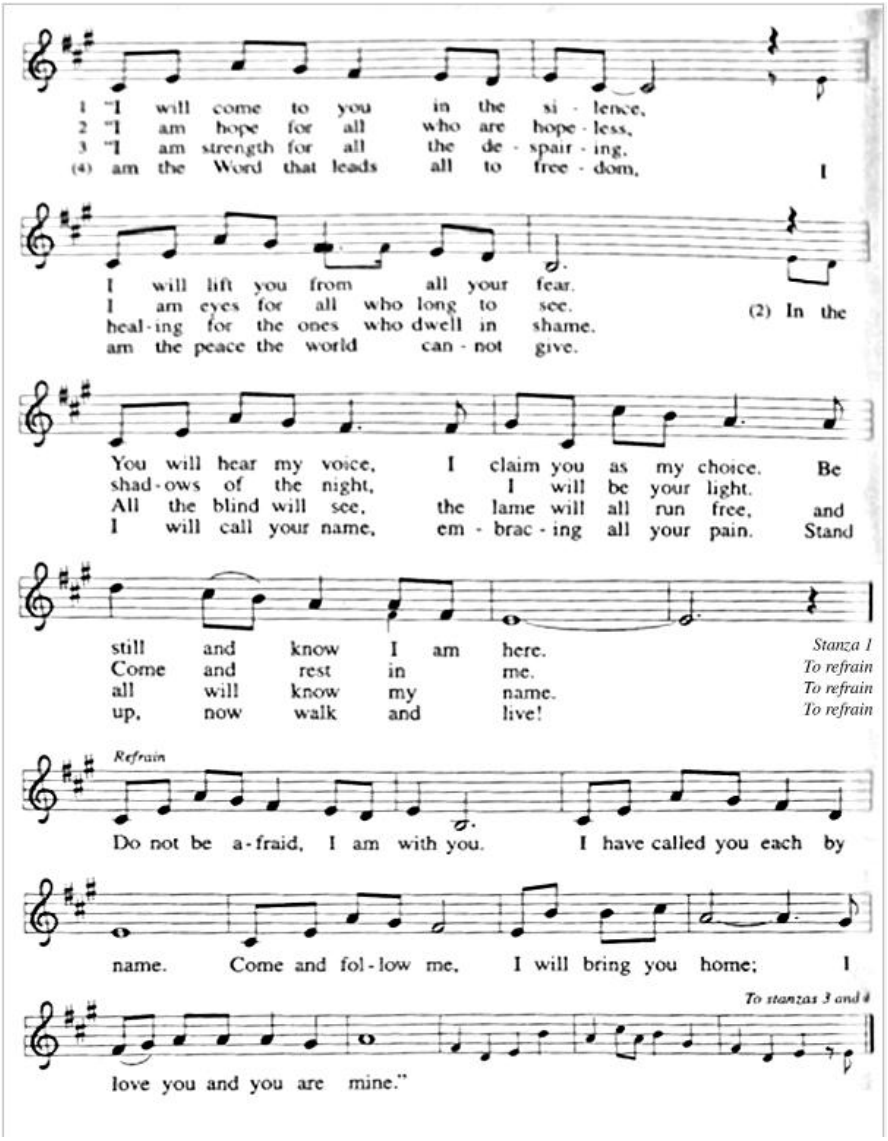
BENEDICTION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN ELW #581

YOU ARE MINE



DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C **Live The Mission!**

Together!

POSTLUDE

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