ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all.

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335
www.stjohn-elca.org; om@stjohn-elca.org
248-474-0584

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

October 11, 2026
10:00 am

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Director of Music: Sean Michael Jackman DMA, Ed.D
Director of Mission Advancement: Ashleigh Altemann
Office Manager
Marie Cook

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

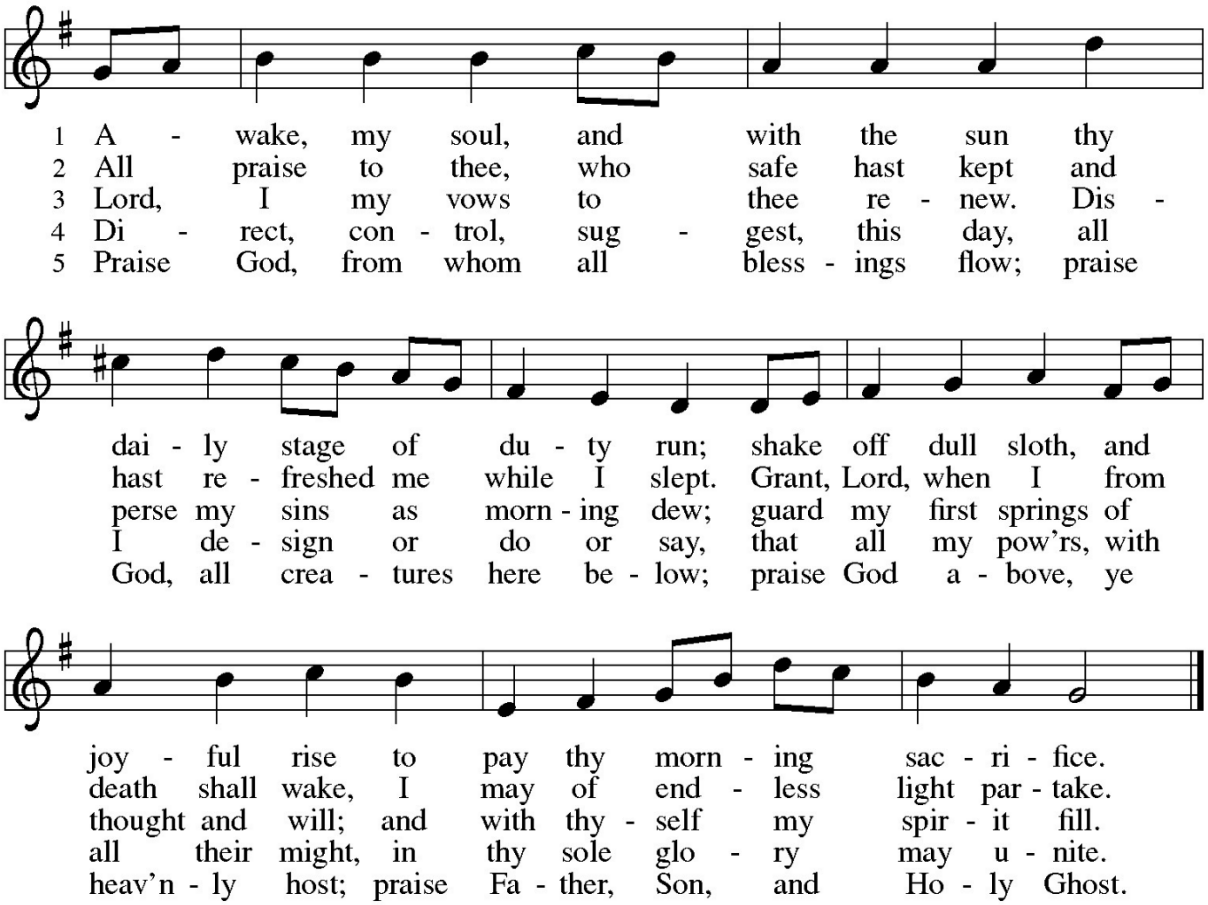
Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship

PRELUDE: My Lord, What a Mornin'! Spiritual, arr. By William Arms Fisher Charlie Dentel

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN: Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun ELW 557



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who pours love into our hearts

and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness

in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love

to others.

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

Renew us to live as your holy people,

following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,

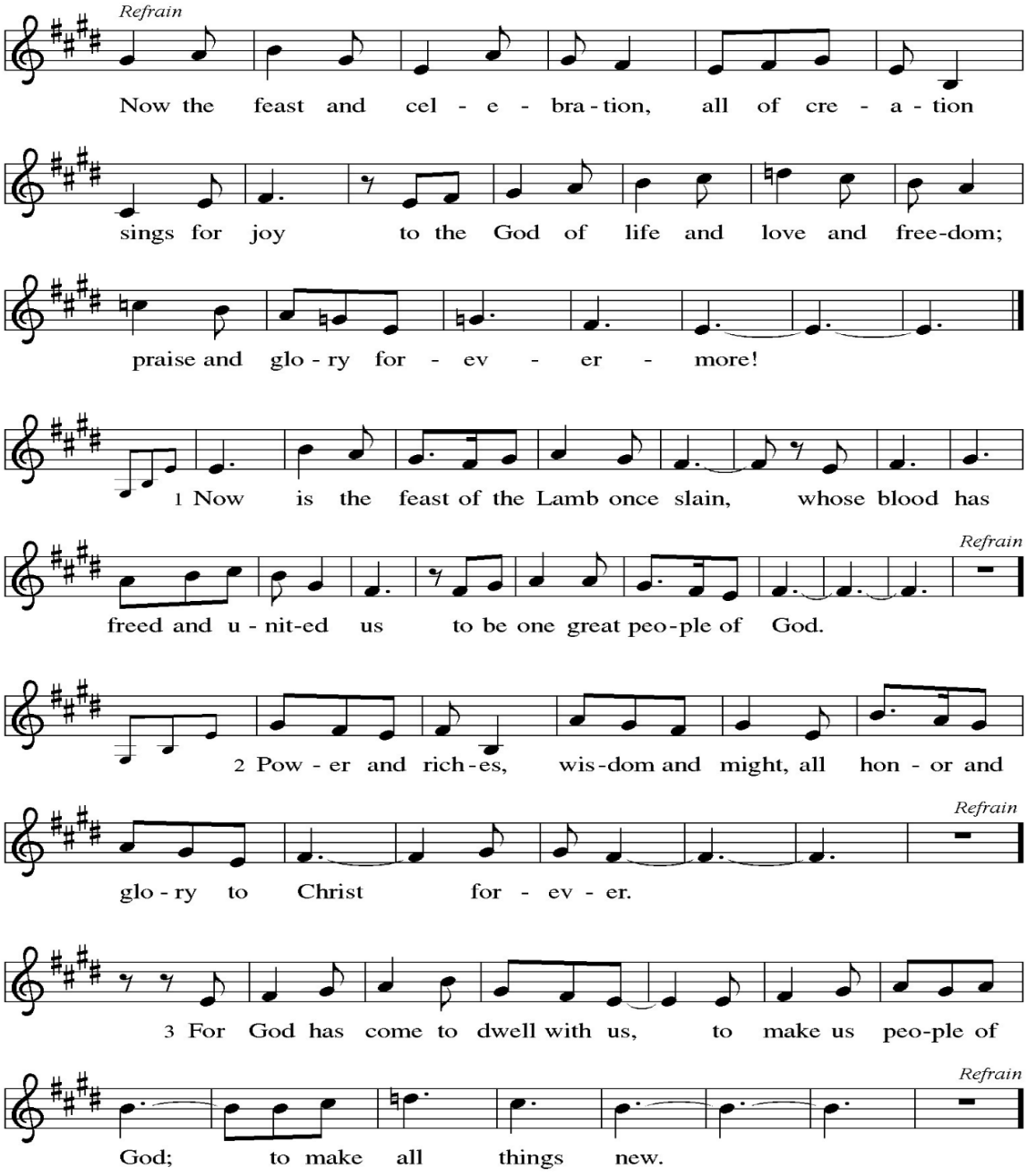
in whom there is no condemnation,

but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray…. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

A:[1] O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
[2] For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
[3] Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
[4] For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
[5] the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

[6] On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
[7] And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
[8] he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
[9] It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

PSALM: Psalm 23

A: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.

C: **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures**
and leads me beside still waters.

A: You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

A: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

A: [1] My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

[2] I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. [3] Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

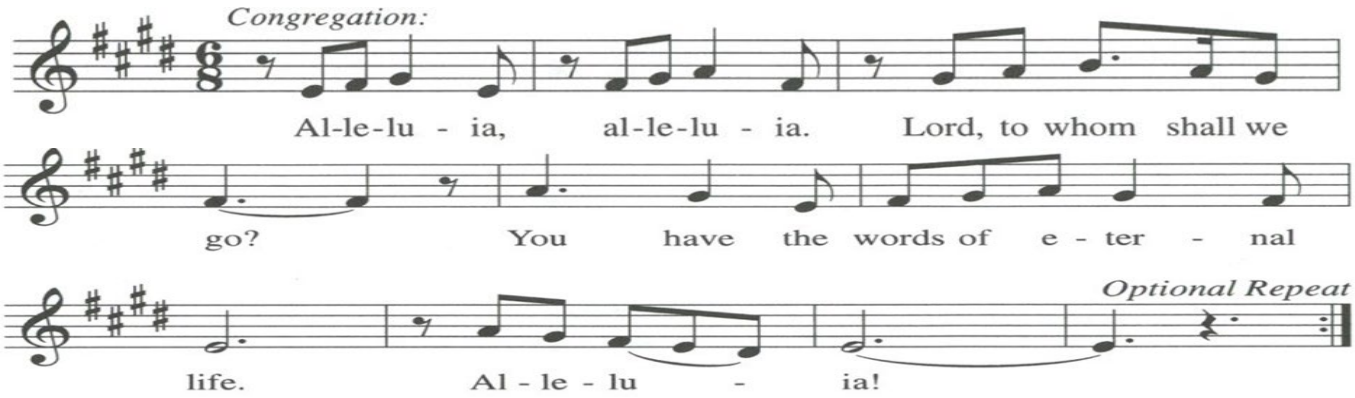
[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8] Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9] As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

A: The word of the Lord**. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

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

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

P: [1] Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2] "The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3] He sent his slaves to call those
who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. [4] Again he sent other
slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen
and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding
banquet.' [5] But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,
[6] while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. [7] The king was enraged. He
sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. [8] Then he said to his slaves,
'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9] Go therefore into the main streets,
and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' [10] Those slaves went out into the
streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled
with guests.

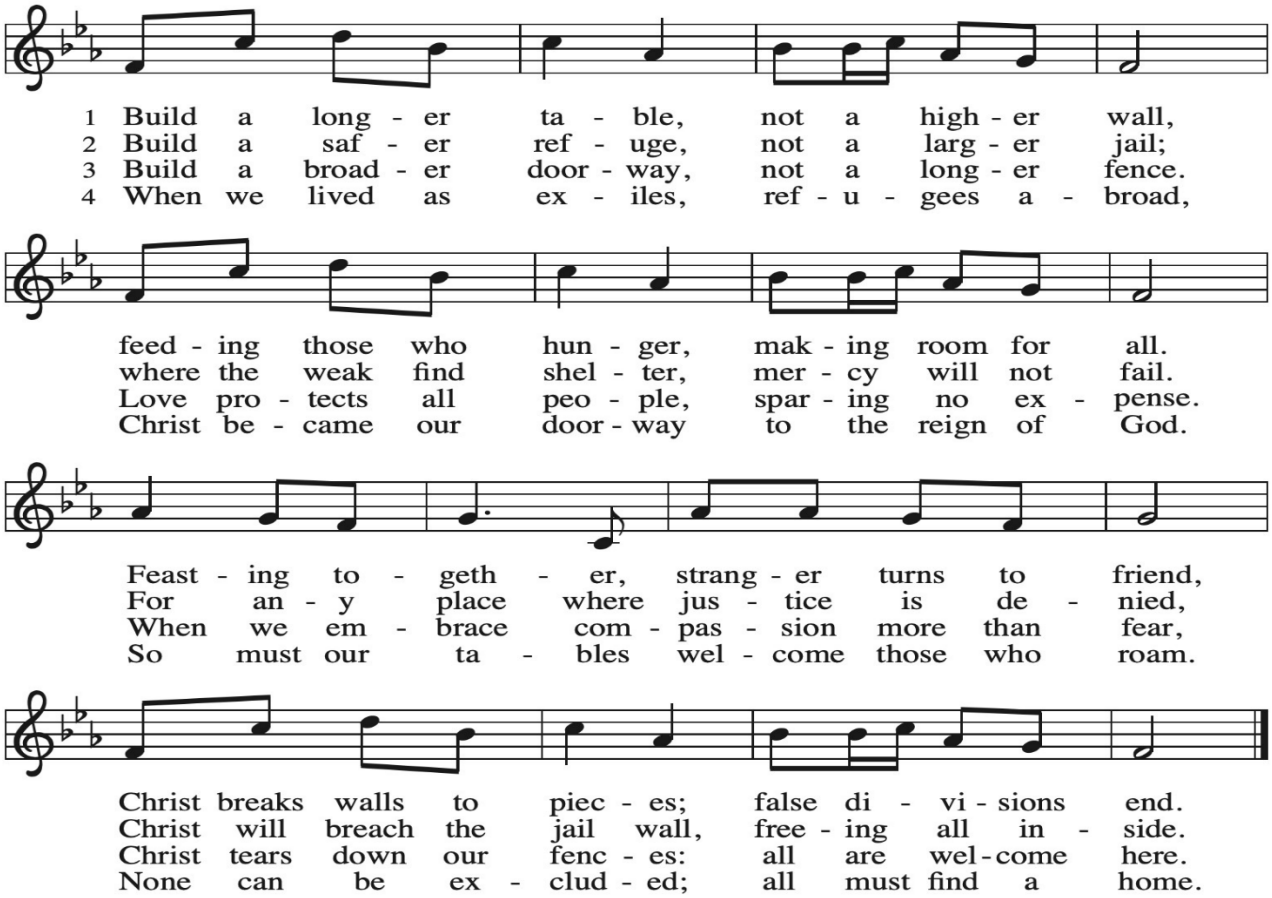
[11] "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not
wearing a wedding robe, [12] and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a
wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13] Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand
and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.' [14] For many are called, but few are chosen."

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON: "What did I Learn?" Pastor Mark Fisher

HYMN OF THE DAY: Build a Longer Table ACS 1062



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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CONFESSION OF FAITH: A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified
and risen,our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ST JOHN CHOIR ANTHEM: Be Still, K. Marrolli

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.

A: Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A: We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters (regions in crisis may be named) and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

A: We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

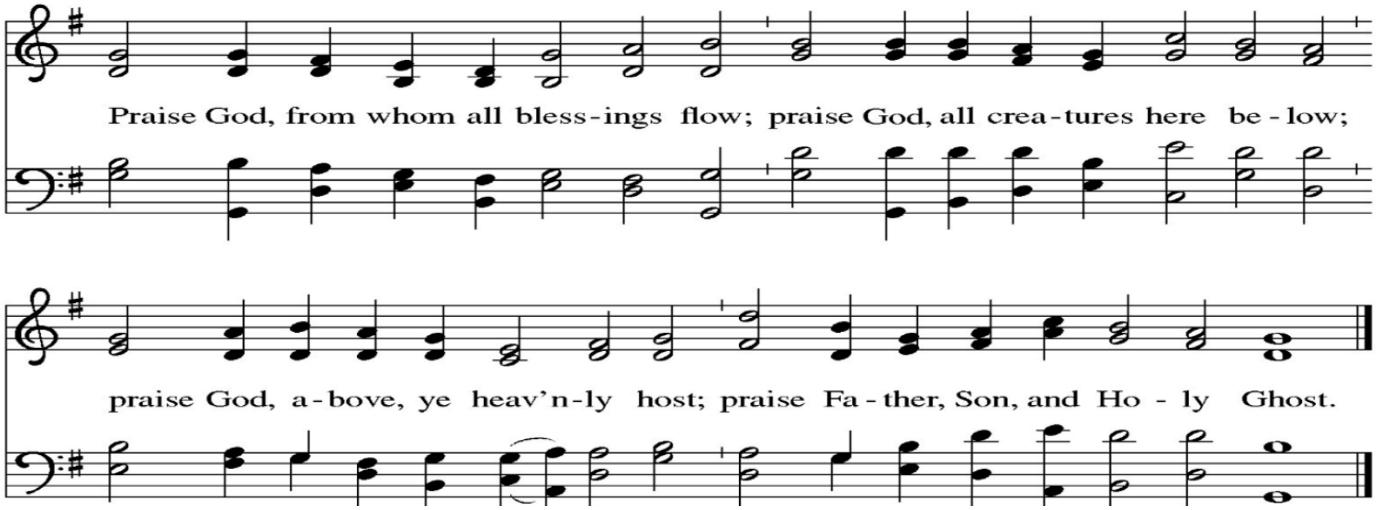
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: Song without Words, Op. 19, no 1 F. Mendelssohn Charlie Dentel

Doxology ELW 885 (please stand as offering is brought forward)



OFFERING PRAYER:

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love
to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

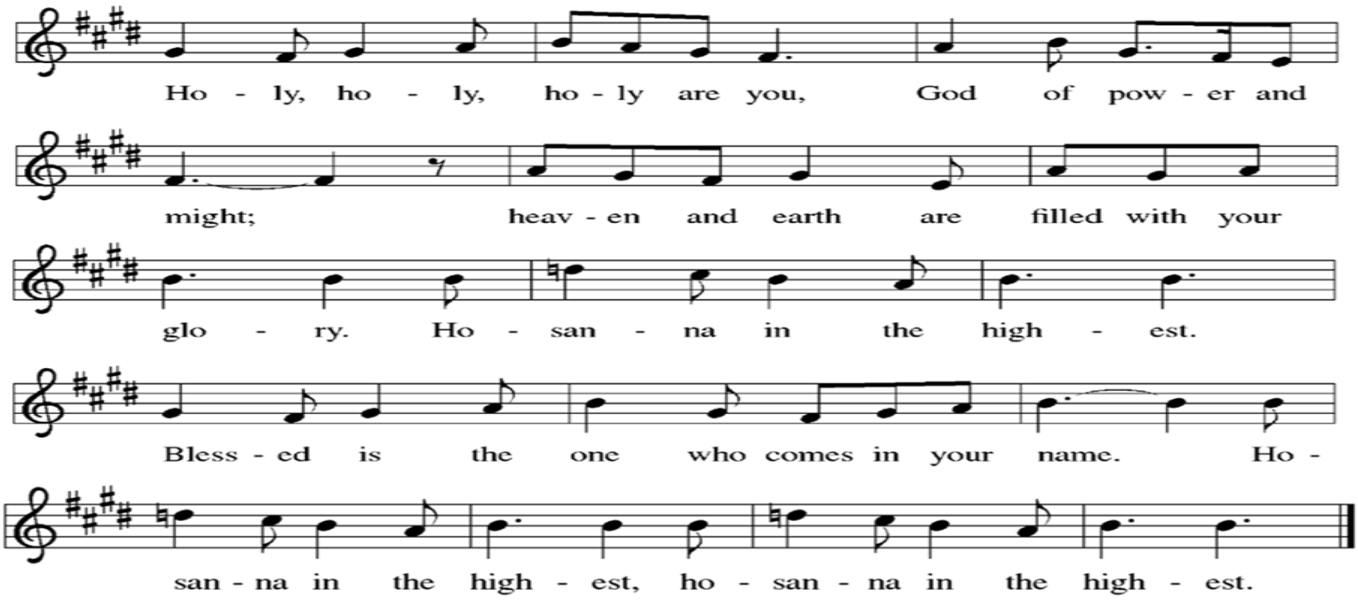
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil.

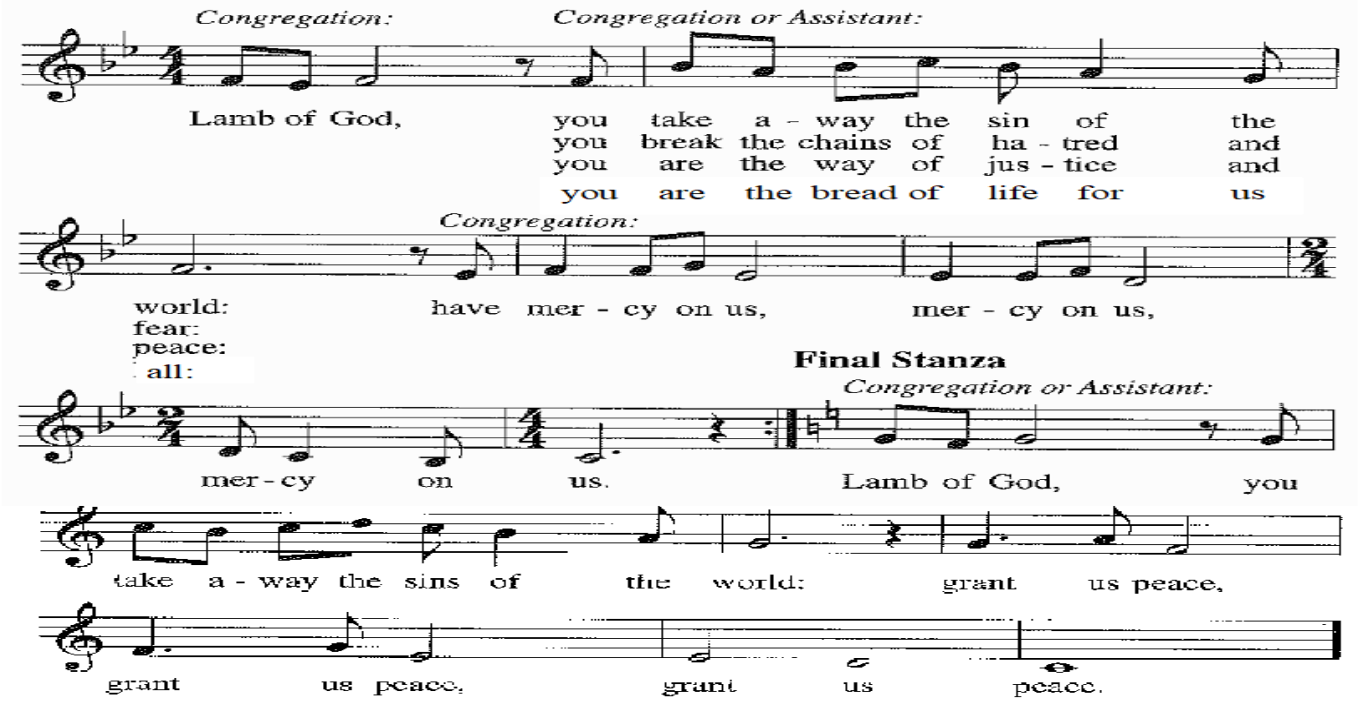
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Pastor/Presider extends invitation to online participants to partake of communion The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC: Lord, make Me an Instrument, Jonathan Willcocks Charlie Dentel
Please stand as you are able

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world***.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

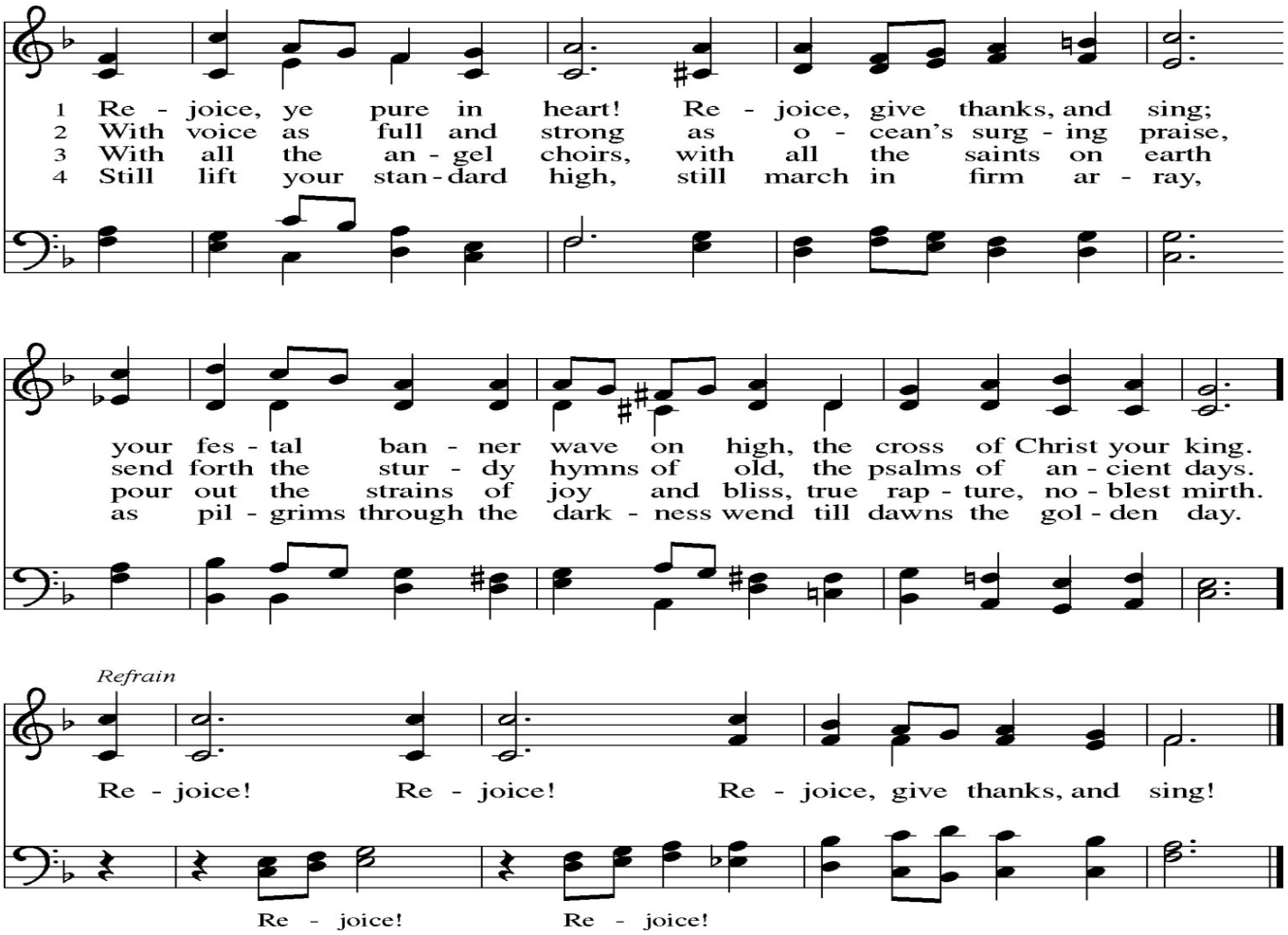
A: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! ELW 873 V1 V2 and V6



5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

A: We are called by Christ

C: **to be a Sanctuary that Welcomes and Serves All.**

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (A Major) Helen Lemmel Charlie Dentel

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Now the Feast and Celebration Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950
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Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–1891, alt.
Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916