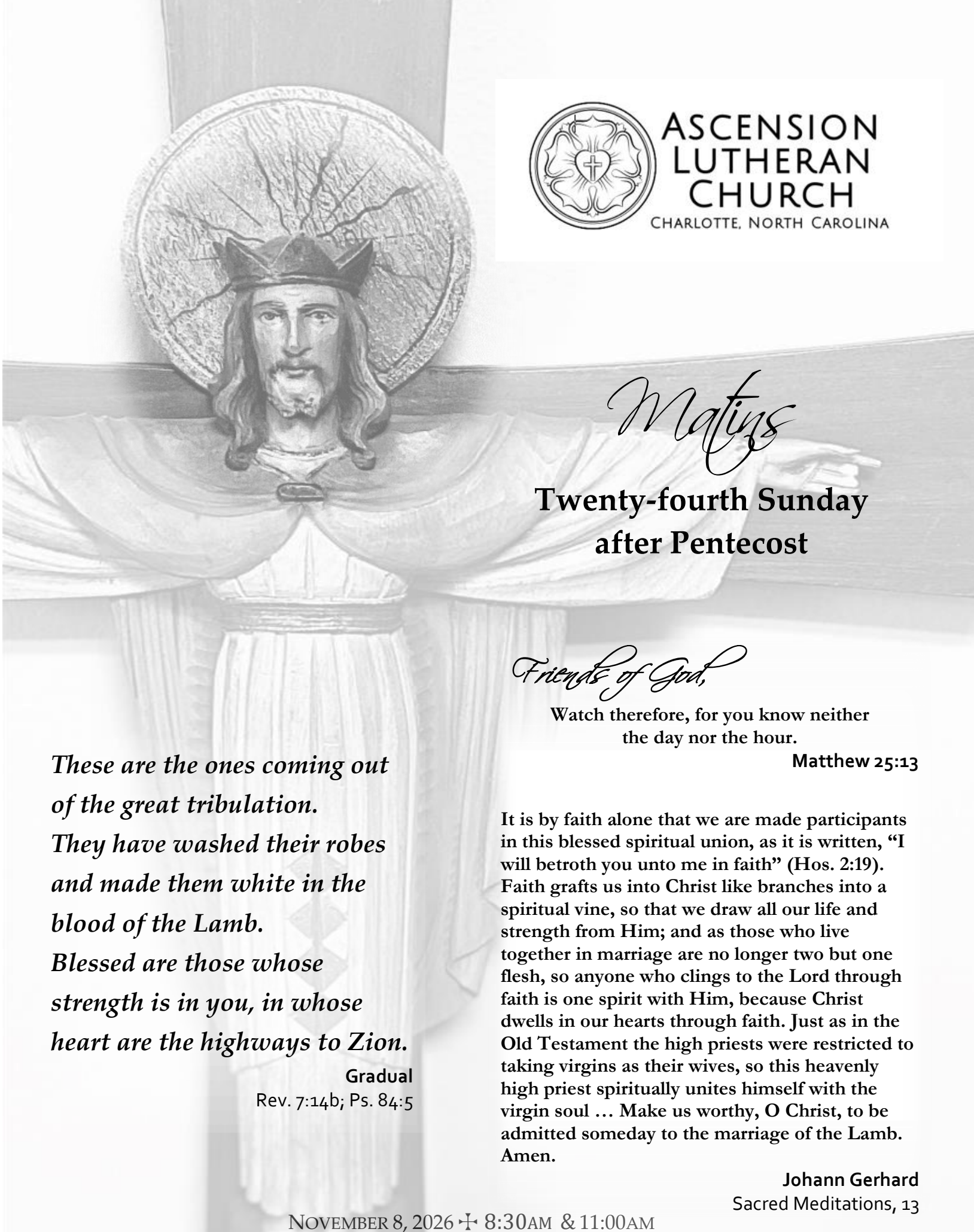


ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Matins

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Friends of God,

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:13

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Gradual
Rev. 7:14b; Ps. 84:5

It is by faith alone that we are made participants in this blessed spiritual union, as it is written, "I will betroth you unto me in faith" (Hos. 2:19). Faith grafts us into Christ like branches into a spiritual vine, so that we draw all our life and strength from Him; and as those who live together in marriage are no longer two but one flesh, so anyone who clings to the Lord through faith is one spirit with Him, because Christ dwells in our hearts through faith. Just as in the Old Testament the high priests were restricted to taking virgins as their wives, so this heavenly high priest spiritually unites himself with the virgin soul … Make us worthy, O Christ, to be admitted someday to the marriage of the Lamb. Amen.

Johann Gerhard
Sacred Meditations, 13

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 ✝ 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Special Welcome To Those with Young Children



We are so glad that you are here! This is God's House and He put the wiggle in children, so please feel completely at home and try these tips from parents who've gone before you:

Sit towards the front: That's where children can easily see.

Help your child look and listen: Tell them key word and point out crosses and other reminders of Jesus' good news.

Participate joyfully! Sing, fold your hands for prayer, stand and kneel. Your child will model your actions. He or she watches everything that you do.

Involve your child: Encourage them to say and pray: "*Amen. Lord have mercy! I believe… Our Father...*" so that children recognize them as their own parts.

If You and Your Child Must Leave: There is a nursery for emergencies, but please come back. What we do here promises to engage your children little-by-little and shape them powerfully and forever.

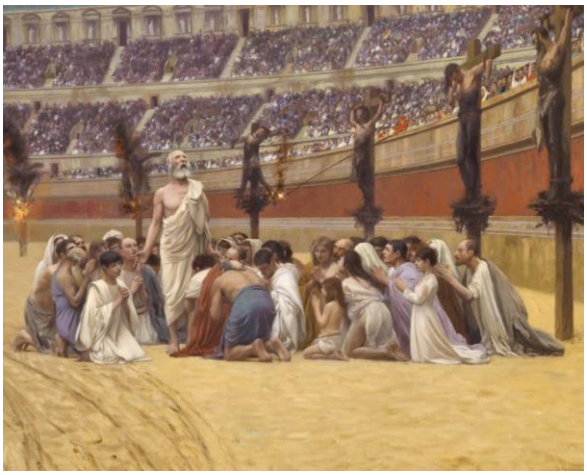
If you need help, just ask! We are here to serve Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

Activity Bags are available at the Usher Table for children five and under.

Welcome To Our Visitors

If you are a visitor, we are delighted to have you join us in worshiping God and hearing His Word!

Please take a moment after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor. You are cordially invited to join in our congregation's fellowship and study of God's Word between services and all week long.



Our worship follows the order of **Matins.**

Matins, which means "of the morning," is the name of the ancient Christian order of prayer anticipating the break of day. Prayed at various times from midnight to morning, Matins trains us to receive each new day with watchfulness for Christ and with intercession, praise and thanksgiving.

An early observance of Matins, about AD 200, is described by Hippolytus of Rome: "*about midnight, get out of your bed, wash with clean water and pray. If you have a wife, pray the psalms alternating verses with her…so you will learn to keep watch. Our Lord in His parable put it so: About midnight, He said, there came a call. 'Look! Here comes the bridegroom! Go out to meet him!' Keep watch then, he told them, for you do not know either the day or the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*'"

More recently Matins has been used in the church whenever God's people gather for worship without Holy Communion. It is wonderful to use as a guide for your prayer at home.

Today our prayers are for entrusting to the Lord our well being, society and life together during these holy days that end the year and make us new in Christ.

Matins places us for a while alongside the Old Testament saints who "only saw from a distance the things promised and welcomed…and admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth." (Heb. 11:13) The chief parts of service are the Venite (Psalm 95) and the Te Deum, an ancient hymn derived from the scriptures read at Easter Vigil. This way of singing and praying marks Christians as people who emerge from darkness and death to praise God in the light of new life, every day and then forevermore. It is a powerful and gospel-shaped way to pray "from God's Word." May it bless you this morning!

Prelude

Kenda Laughey

Blessed Are They

Announcements and Welcome
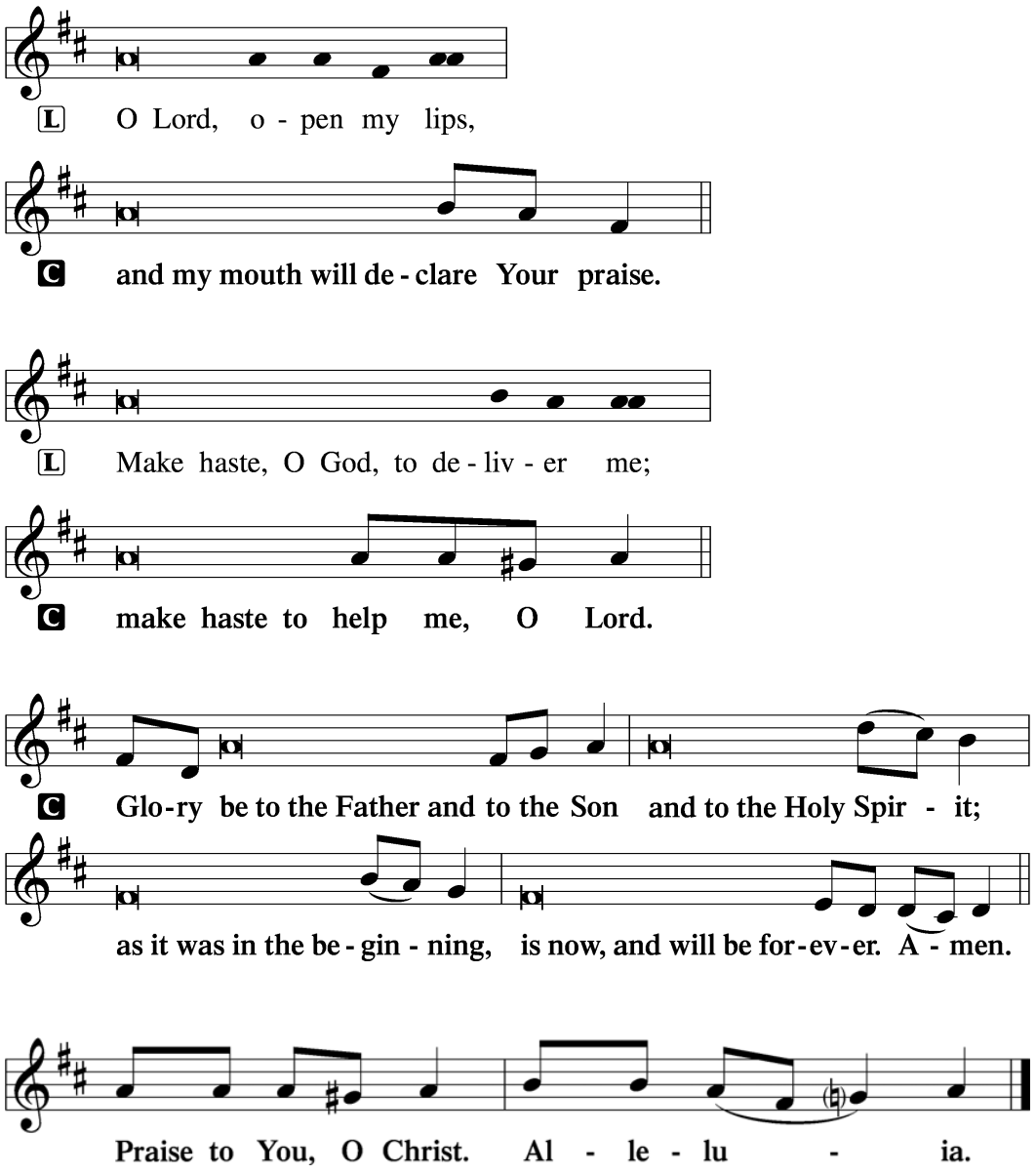
Please stand.

Sharing the Lord's Peace
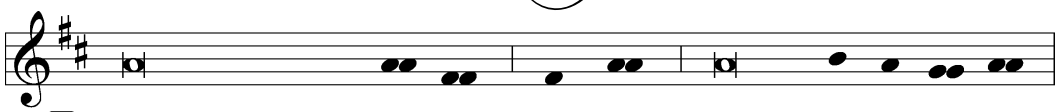
L The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**
L Let us share His peace with one another.

All greet one another in the name of the Lord saying, "Peace be with you."
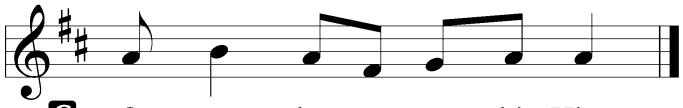
Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1



Psalmody



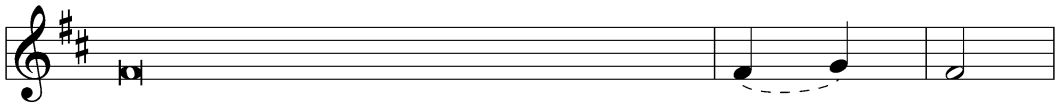
L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

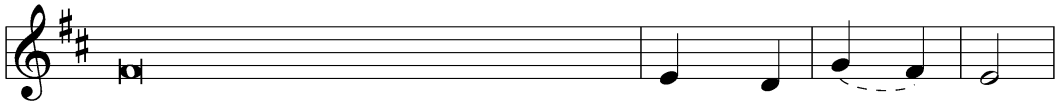
VENITE

Psalm 95:1–7



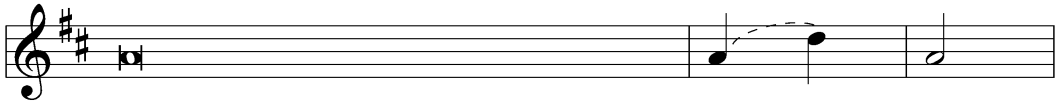
C
1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great God
3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son

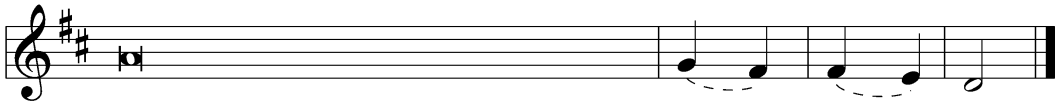


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
2 and a great . . . . . king a - bove all gods.
3 and His hand . . . . . formed the dry land.

5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are . . . . . in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and . . . . . bow down,
4 For He . . . . . is our God,
5 as it was in the be - - gin - ning,
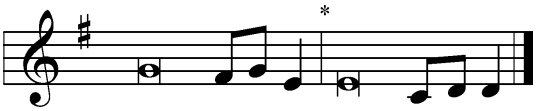


1 let us make a joyful noise to . . . . . Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is . . . . . His al - so.
3 let us kneel before the . . . . . Lord, our mak - er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - - ev - er. A - men.

The antiphon is repeated.

Psalm 70

antiphon: v. 4



Leader sings antiphon. All sing verses and Gloria.

You are my help and my de- | liverer; *
O LORD, do | not delay!

Make haste, O God, to de- | liver me!*
O LORD, make haste to | help me!

Let them be put to shame and confusion
who | seek my life!*
Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor
who de- | sire my hurt!

Let them turn back because | of their shame*
who say, "A- | ha, Aha!"

May all who seek you
rejoice and be | glad in you!*
May those who love your salvation
say evermore, | "God is great!"

But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, | O God!*
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do | not delay!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

You are my help and my de- | liverer; *
O LORD, do | not delay!

Psalm Prayer

P O Everlasting God, whose help is inexhaustible, come quickly to help your servants in our humility. Overcome, for us, the reproaches of the ungodly and, guarding us from despair, grant to us that victory over all the power of the enemy, gained by Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
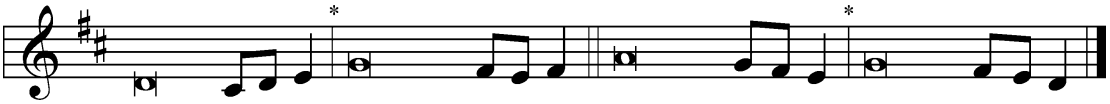
C **Amen.**

Whether in temptation or in calm, whether in fear or reassurance, whether in pain or pleasure, joy or sorrow, there are no circumstances in life when it is not supremely proper to pray: "Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!" This prayer should never be absent from our lips.

Patrick Henry Reardon
Paraphrase of John Cassian's summary of the Desert Fathers' wisdom, in *Christ and the Psalms.*

Psalm 84

v.8-12, 3; antiphon: v. 1-2



Leader and congregation sing responsively. All sing verses and Gloria.

How lovely is your | dwelling place,*
O | LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the Lord; *
My heart and flesh sing for joy to the | living God.

O LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer; *
give ear, O God of | Jacob!
Behold our shield, | O God;*
look on the face of your a- | nointed!

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand | elsewhere.*
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and | honor.*
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk up- | rightly.

O | LORD of hosts,*
blessèd is the one who | trusts in you!
Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may | lay her young,*
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King | and my God.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

How lovely is your | dwelling place,*
O | LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the Lord; *
My heart and flesh sing for joy to the | living God.

The holy Church of God is a mother, a virgin, and a bride. She is a mother because she gives birth to spiritual sons daily. She is a virgin because she keeps herself pure from connections with the Devil and the world. She is a bride because Christ promised to bind himself to her eternally and gave her the pledge of the Spirit.
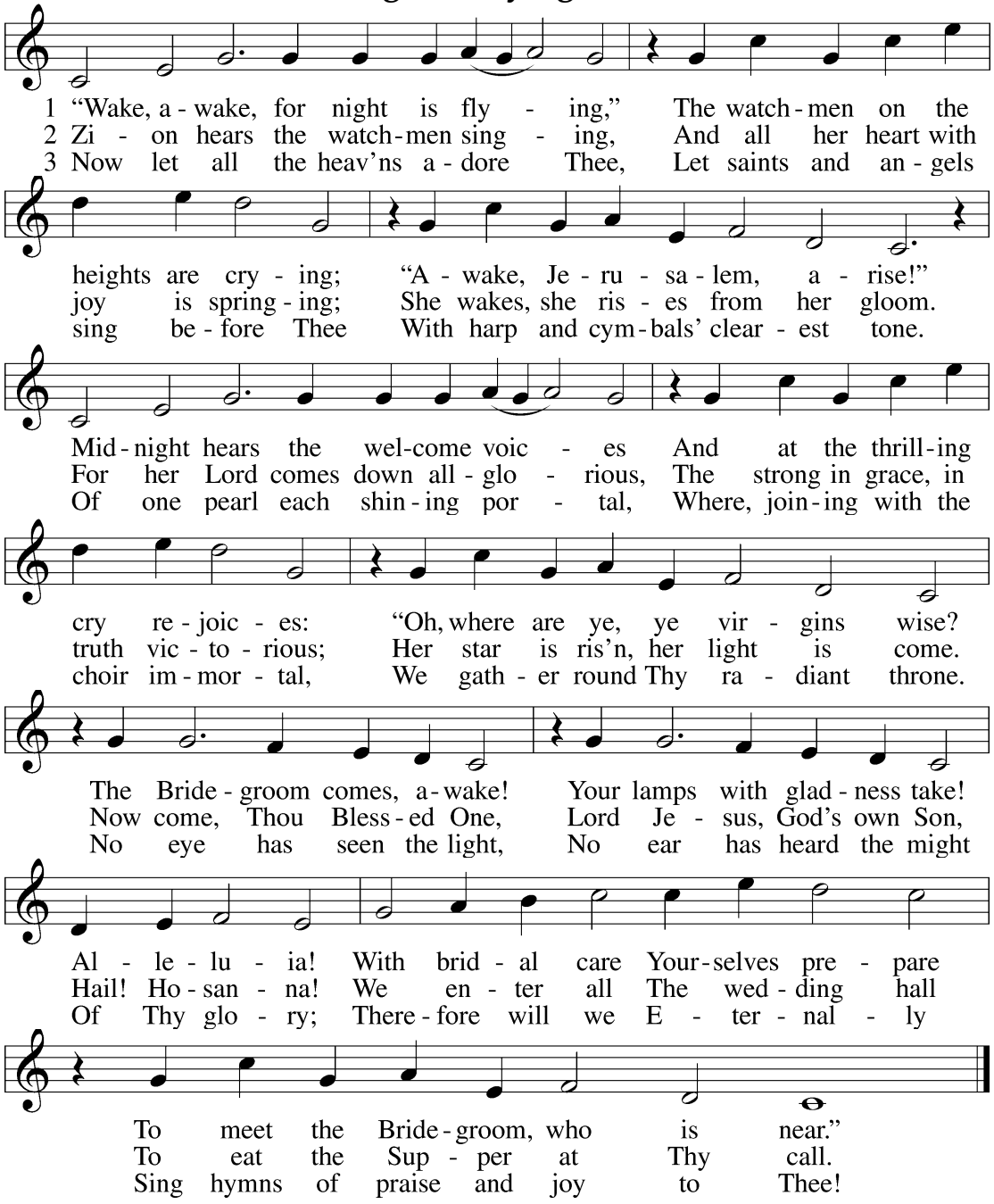
Ibid. *Sacred Meditations*, 23

Psalm Prayer

P O God, separate us from dwelling in the tents of the unthankful so that, abiding in Your service, we may be fit to dwell in Your holy house, through Him Who is our dwelling place, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



Readings

Old Testament Reading — *Amos 5:18-24*

A The Old Testament Reading is from Amos, the fifth chapter.

Woe to you who desire the day of
the LORD!
Why would you have the day
of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned
his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
Is not the day of the LORD
darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness
in it?
"I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your
solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your
burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your
fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
Take away from me the noise of
your songs;
to the melody of your harps I
will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream."

A O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle — *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

A The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, the fourth chapter.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend
from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**
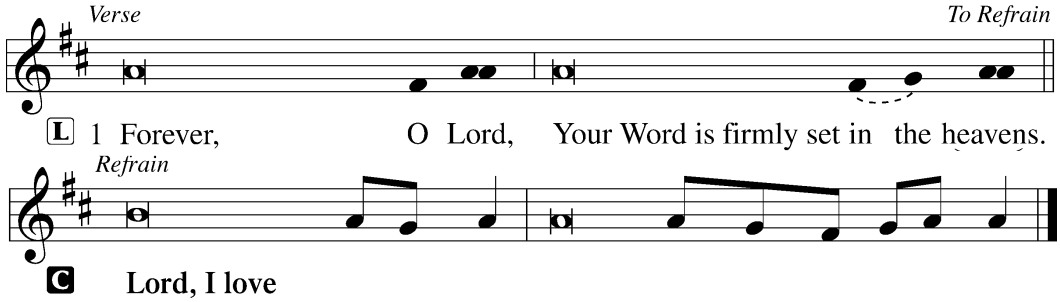
Stand.

Our resurrection too will take place by the power of the Holy Spirit who is within us. Because the Holy Spirit is in faithful persons when they die, their death cannot be called death, but only sleep.

Philoxenus of Mabbug (5th C.)
The Syriac Fathers on Prayer and the Spiritual Life

HOLY GOSPEL

Psalm 119:89; 26:8; Luke 11:28



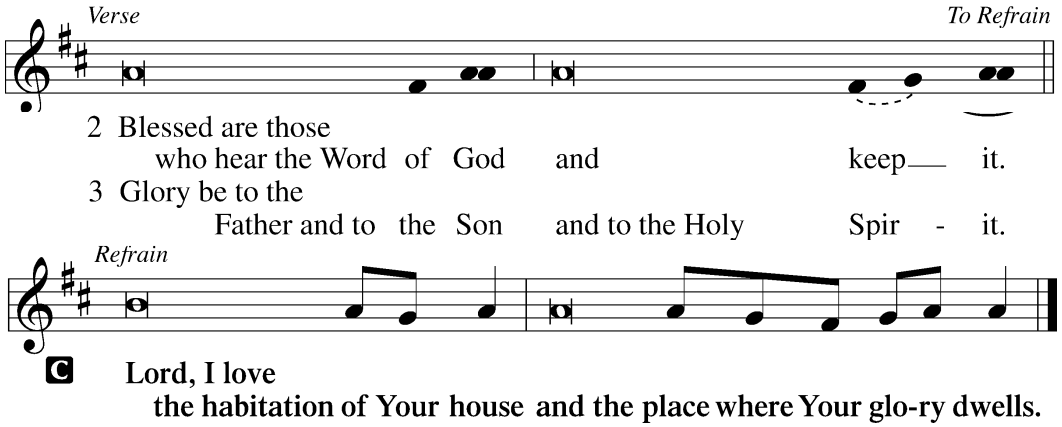
MATTHEW 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

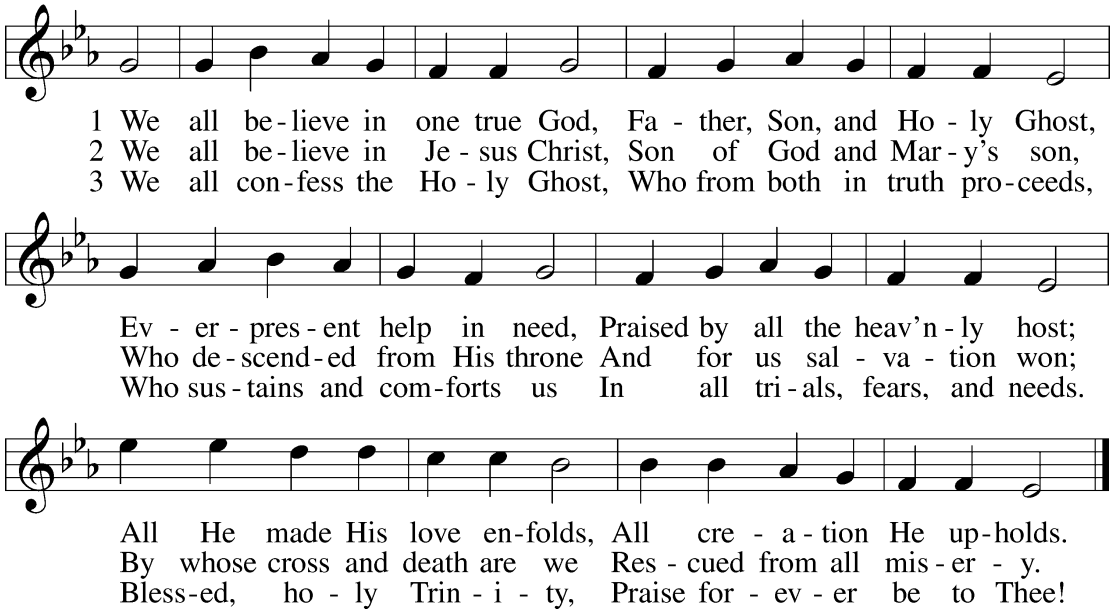
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Sit. At this time, the children may be invited to come forward for a children's message.

Hymn Of the Day

953 We All Believe in One True God
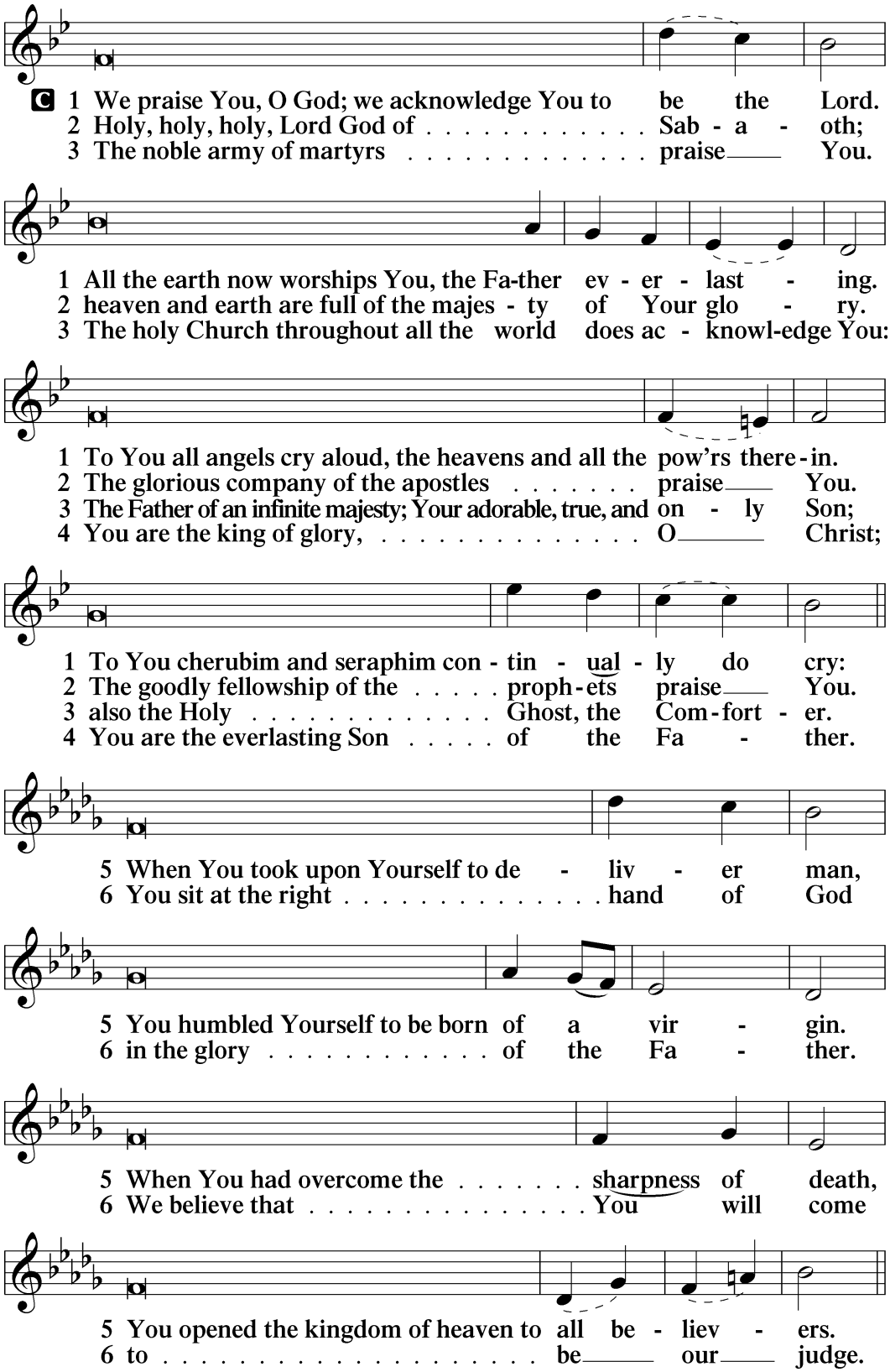


Sermon

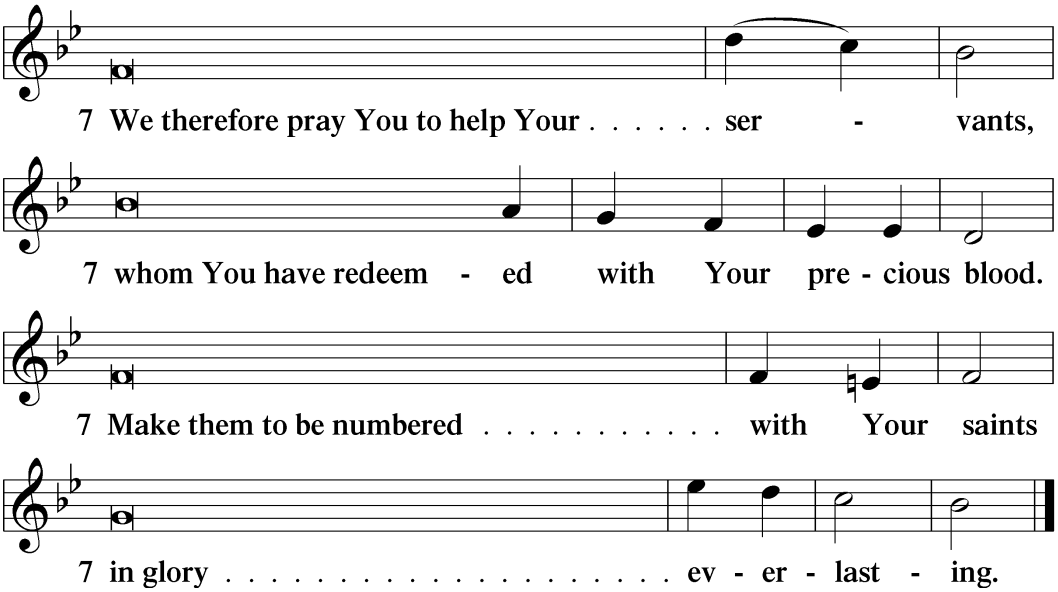
Stand.

Every soul that enlivens a body is denoted by the number five, because it makes use of five senses. For there is nothing of which we have perception by the body except through this five-fold gate, either by sight, or hearing, or smelling, or tasting, or touching. Whoever abstains from unlawful seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching, by reason of blamelessness, is here called by the name of virgin.

St. Augustine of Hippo (5th C.)
Sermons, 93.2

Te Deum


C
1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of . . . . . Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs . . . . . praise You.
1 All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:
1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles . . . . . praise You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, ... O Christ;
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the . . . . . proph-ets praise You.
3 also the Holy . . . . . Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son . . . . . of the Fa - ther.
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right . . . . . hand of God
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory . . . . . of the Fa - ther.
5 When You had overcome the . . . . . sharpness of death,
6 We believe that . . . . . You will come
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to . . . . . be our judge.



Sit.

Offering

Habakkuk 2:20; Zechariah 2:13

Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates as the ushers pass by.
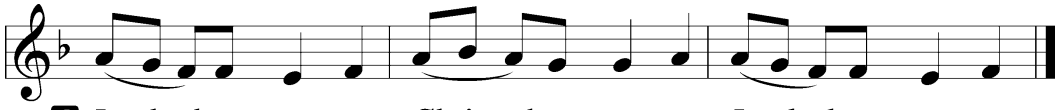
Take a moment to sign and pass along the red books found at the end of each pew.

Prayers

Kneel or sit forward.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



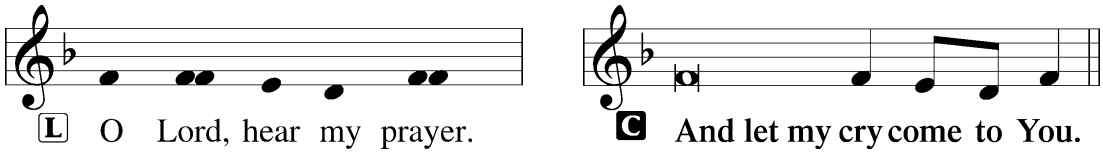
Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



L O Lord, Who has set before us the great hope that Your kingdom shall come on earth, and has taught us to pray for its coming: give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning and to do the work of the perfect day when Your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L O God, Who is rich in mercy, come to Your world to redeem our children and make them Your own. Deliver us all together from the night of skepticism and disbelief and make new lives for us, richly blessed, where we can see by the light of Your face and rejoice in the gifts of Your Word, counting all to be glory by the knowledge of Your great care for us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Father, as we look ahead to the advent of Christ and to the holidays of His birth and life which are salvation and blessing for the whole world, we pray that you would prepare us to be instruments of His love, bearers of His light and workers of His peace, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Almighty God, the physical and spiritual ills with which Your people struggle are not beyond Your power or grace. Bless the sick with healing according to Your will, bless the suffering with relief, bless the grieving with comfort and bless the dying with peace. Especially do we pray for…

our members:
Romain Bell
Margie Crane
Curt Schmidt
Jackie Elam
John Strohschein
Ted Cash
John Henry
Jasmine Timm
James Dake
Cissi Burtner
Elaine Elston
those at home:
Janet Miller
Lila Thompson
Doris Falconieri
Tom Hagen
Karen Priebe
Roy & Sharon Gugel
Mary Keefauver
Helen Gounis
Louise Nordman
those dear to us:
George Pappas
Lani Fangmeier
Kirstie & Nathan Lorei
Pastor Cary Moorman **& Family**
Moul Family
Esterline-Laws Family
Alayna McLaughlin
Ann Gwinn
Brian Marshall
Susan Depalma-Spivey
Mark Smith
David Schulz
Matt Perrin
Patti Skinner
Melissa Voelker
Molly
Wyatt Dawson
Ruchelle Smith
Jim Melton
King Family
Carby Family
Judi Domeier
Steve Barringer
Mike Chaney
Toby Gowin

We trust in Your good and gracious will to grant us all things needful for this body and life and to keep us amid all these afflictions, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Lord, You set for us continually a table of thanksgiving. Grant that all those who rejoice in all the rich blessings of God, may remember You, the Giver of every gift and so find their joy complete in giving thanks, especially,

our family birthdays:

Braden Hanson	**Carol** Howell	**Charlene** Jenkins
Evan Miller	**Natalie** Baker	**Jeanette** Pollard

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

L Lord of Heaven and Earth, since you have promised to come again in glory, grant us even now to know and share the forgiveness, life and salvation, with which You come to forever raise up all those who have fallen asleep, and so prepare us for that day, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

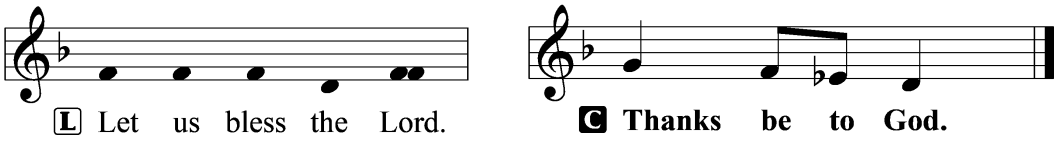
C **Amen.**

L Abide with us Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and depair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

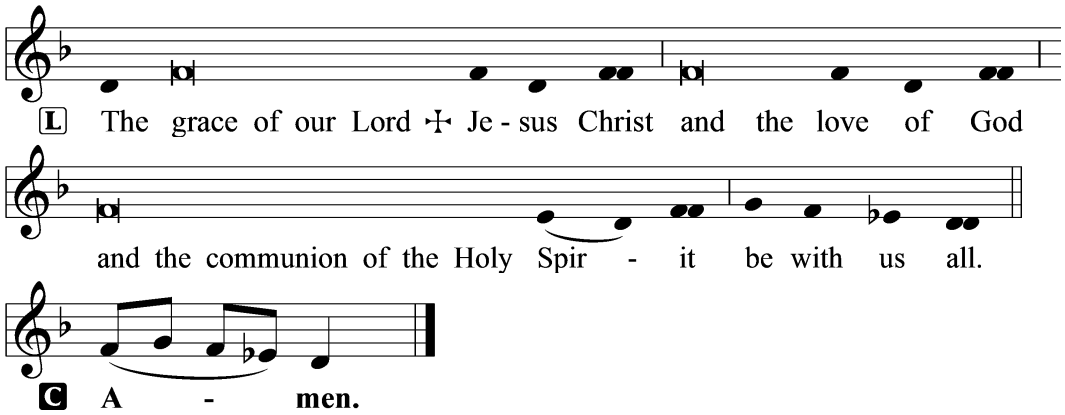
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Stand.
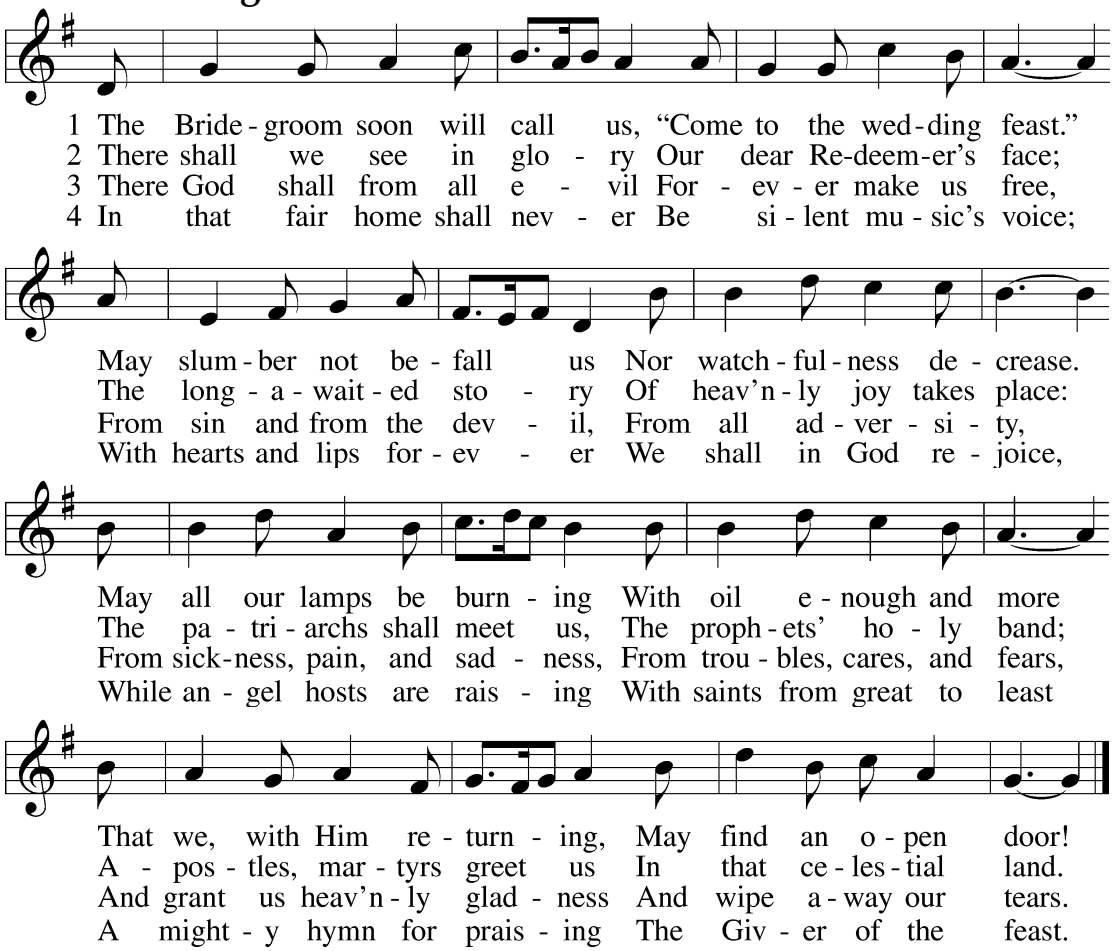


BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14



Hymn of Assurance

514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us



Postlude

Improvisation on He Is Exalted *Twila Paris*

The altar flowers are given today in celebration and thanksgiving of our 49th wedding anniversary. Scott & Debra Eicher

Acknowledgments
Matins from Lutheran Service Book unless otherwise indicated,
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*Quoted in Treasury of Daily Prayer, CPH †Quoted in St. John Wheaton, IL, worship folder
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Serving in Worship

Assistant: Vicar Andrew Cole
Organist: Eric Hauck
Altar Guild: Pam Carico, Jennifer Karnwie-Cook, Debbie Ellison, Laura Jordan, Nancy Kuechler
Greeters: Lisa Wyatt/Luellen Stine
Readers: Austin Lowrey/Curt Kuechler
Ushers: Nate Brinkley, David Ellison, Tim Friemark, Ed Sielsky/Joe Baker, Vince Cook, Dan Nelson
Sound & Video: Wayne Balling/Branden Korzeniowski
Musician: Kenda Laughey

Sunday School & Bible Study Year
9:45-10:45am
Nursery (under 3 yrs) *Church Nursery*
Ages 3-4 *Ed. Bldg. Rm. 111*
Kindergarten-Grade 2 *Ed. Bldg. Rm. 107*
Grades 3-5 *Ed. Bldg. Rm. 105*
Confirmation (Grades 6-8) *Ed. Bldg. Rm. 209*
High School (Grades 9-12) *Ed. Bldg. Rm. 201*
Young Adult Bible Study *Ed. Bldg. Rm. 112*
Parent Bible Study *Adult Library*
Adult Sunday School (Everything New) *Luther Hall*

Ascension Lutheran Church

Charlotte, North Carolina

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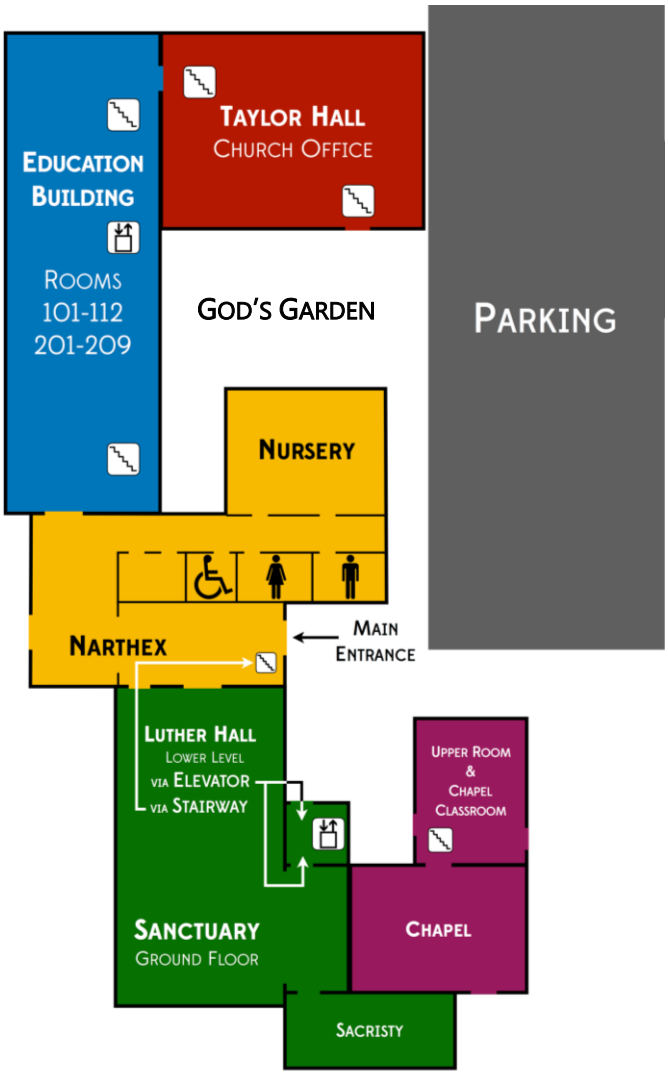
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Vicar Andrew Cole
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Welcome!

Worship Broadcast

Sunday Divine Services are broadcast live on the Internet at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Ascension Lutheran Soup Kitchen

Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. Serving to-go lunches in the parking lot.

What We Believe

Find out the way we receive the Christian Faith in the Lutheran tradition each week.

YouTube

ALCcharlotte

RESTROOMS are located down the hallway at the back of the Narthex.

A NURSERY for children age 3 and under is located across the hallway from the restrooms. The worship service can be seen and heard from the Nursery. A baby-changing table is available in the Nursery and the Family Restroom (accessible).

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES are available for check-out from the sound booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

Those in Critical Need

Members needing financial or physical assistance, please contact pastor for application to the crisis fund or access to folks eager to lend a helping hand.