Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Christ the King Sunday



We go with Good News, teaching, serving, and sharing Christ with our neighbors.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
-Colossians 1:13-14

This Sunday

8:30am Isaiah Study
(Fellowship Hall)

9am Sunday Discussion Group
(Bethlehem Res. Center)

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

11:30am Servant Appreciation Reception
(Fellowship Hall)

5:30pm Duke Lutherans Prayer Service & Dinner

Connect With Us

www.gracedurham.org

Copies of the week's announcements are located in the Narthex.

If you'd like to receive our eNews via email, please contact office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!
We encourage you to review our Statement of Communion on page 15.
If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with Pastor Brooks or one of our ushers.

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself.
If you have any questions, please ask an usher or any friendly face you see.

We welcome children in worship services.
Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.

INSIGHT INTO THE READINGS

Jesus Christ Reigns, Enduring the Cross — Its Scorn and Shame

The Lord Jesus reigns in love among those who are baptized in His name. "They shall be Mine," He says, "and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him" (Mal. 3:17). Jesus' service through crucifixion for sinful men anchors us in new life. In the proclamation of His Son, God makes His justice clear, defining "the distinction between the righteous and the wicked" (Mal. 3:18). He truly is "the King of the Jews" (Luke 23:38), Who governs His Church with all authority in heaven and on earth. He has come into His kingdom by His cross, and He graciously remembers us in paradise. Therefore, do not weep for Him, but with repentant faith "weep for yourselves and for your children" (Luke 23:28). Then the mountains and hills of Jerusalem, His holy Church, shall cover you with His righteousness and peace. For He "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation" (Col. 1:15). "All things were created through Him and for Him" (Col. 1:16), and "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" bodily in Him, reconciling all things to Himself "by the blood of His cross" (Col. 1:19–20).

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text.

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Confession and Absolution

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8)*

Silence is provided for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. In this time, you may present to God any particular issue that is weighing on your heart or stealing your peace. If you are particularly troubled, you are welcome to seek private confession with the Pastor.
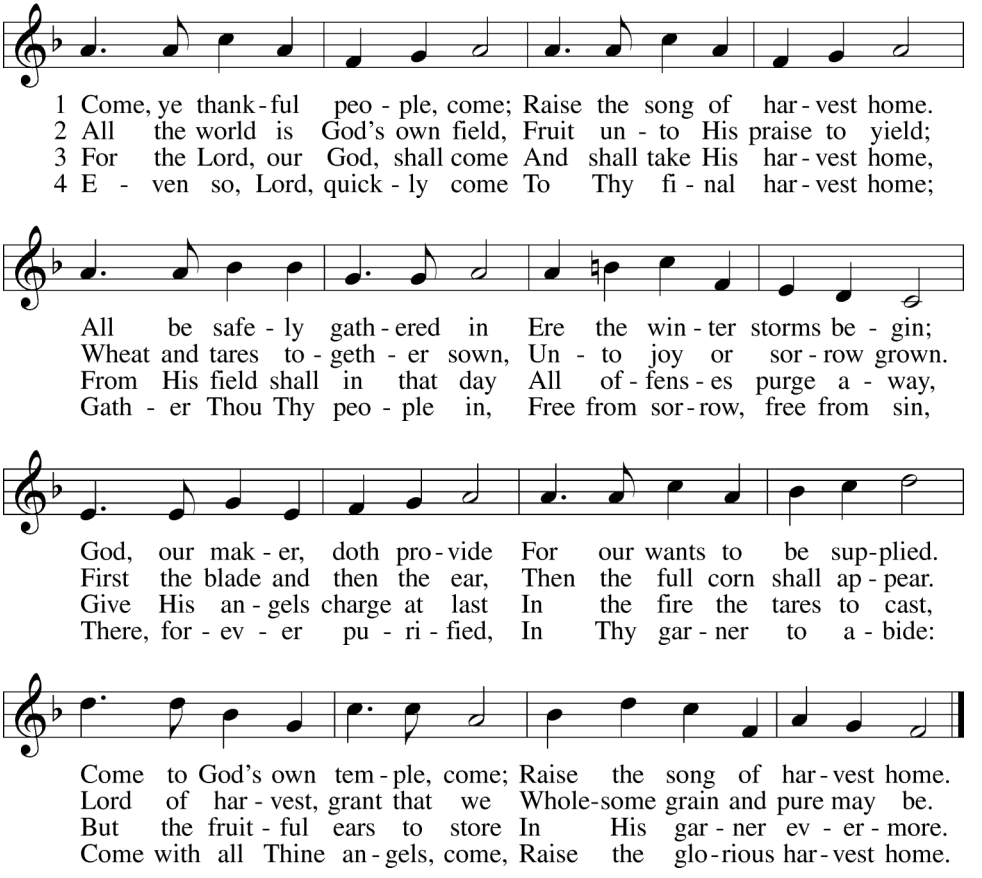
P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*

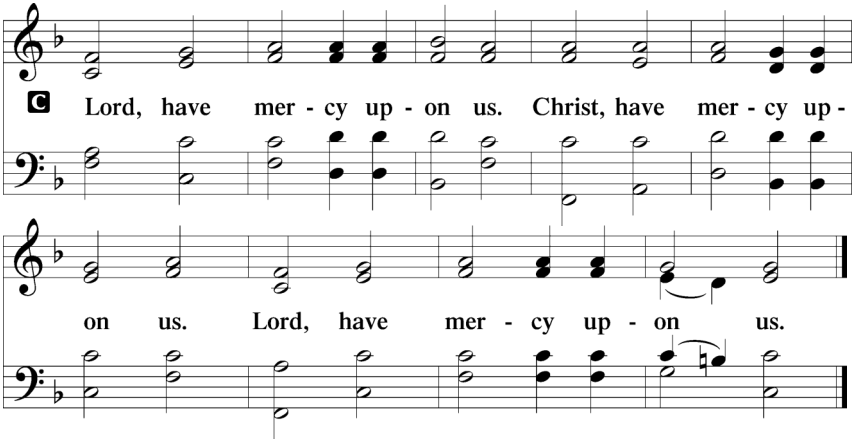
C **Amen.**

Opening Hymn — *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (LSB 892)
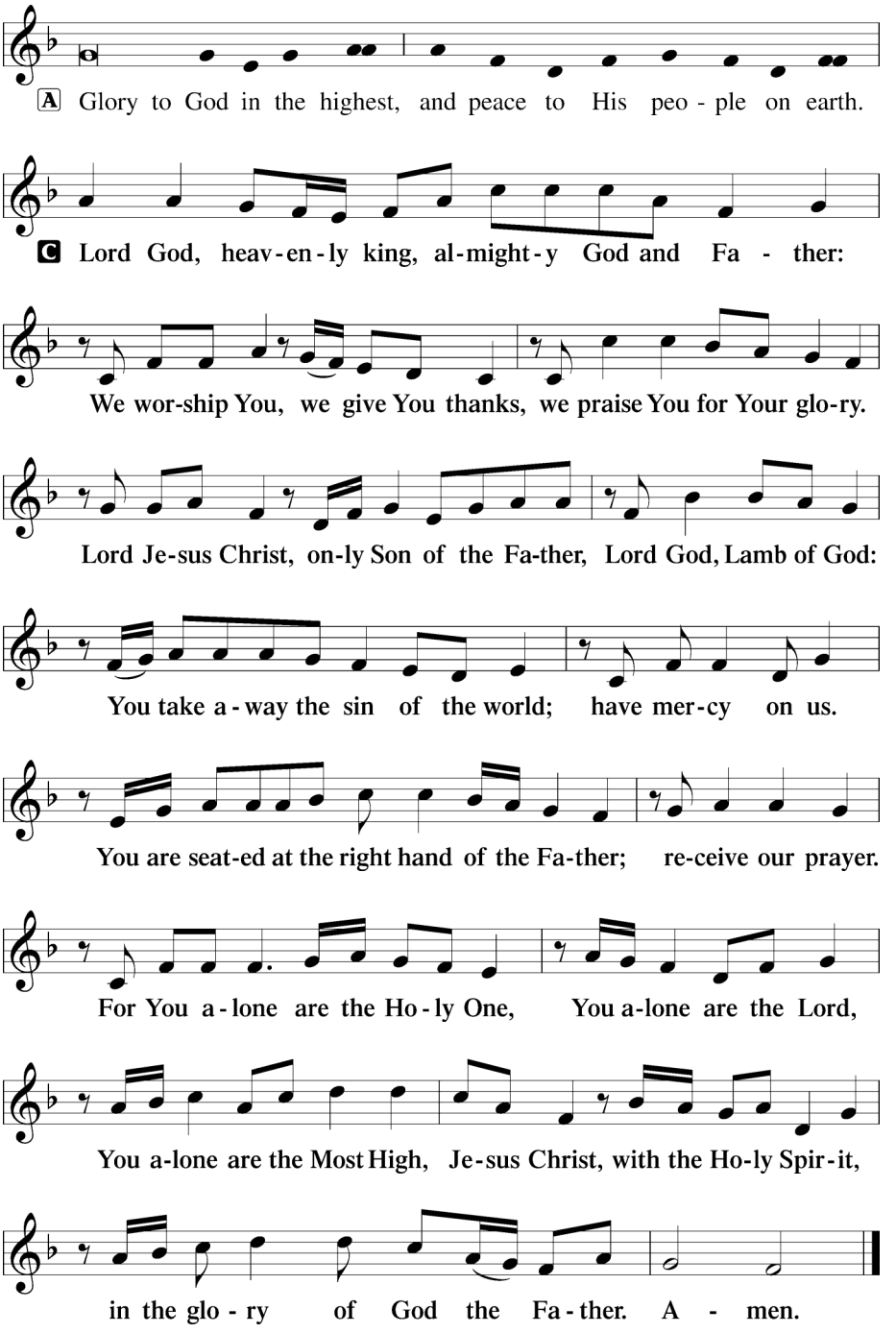


Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt., Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93, Text and tune: Public domain

Kyrie



Gloria in Excelsis



Salutation and Collect for the Day

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

P Let us pray . . .
Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US
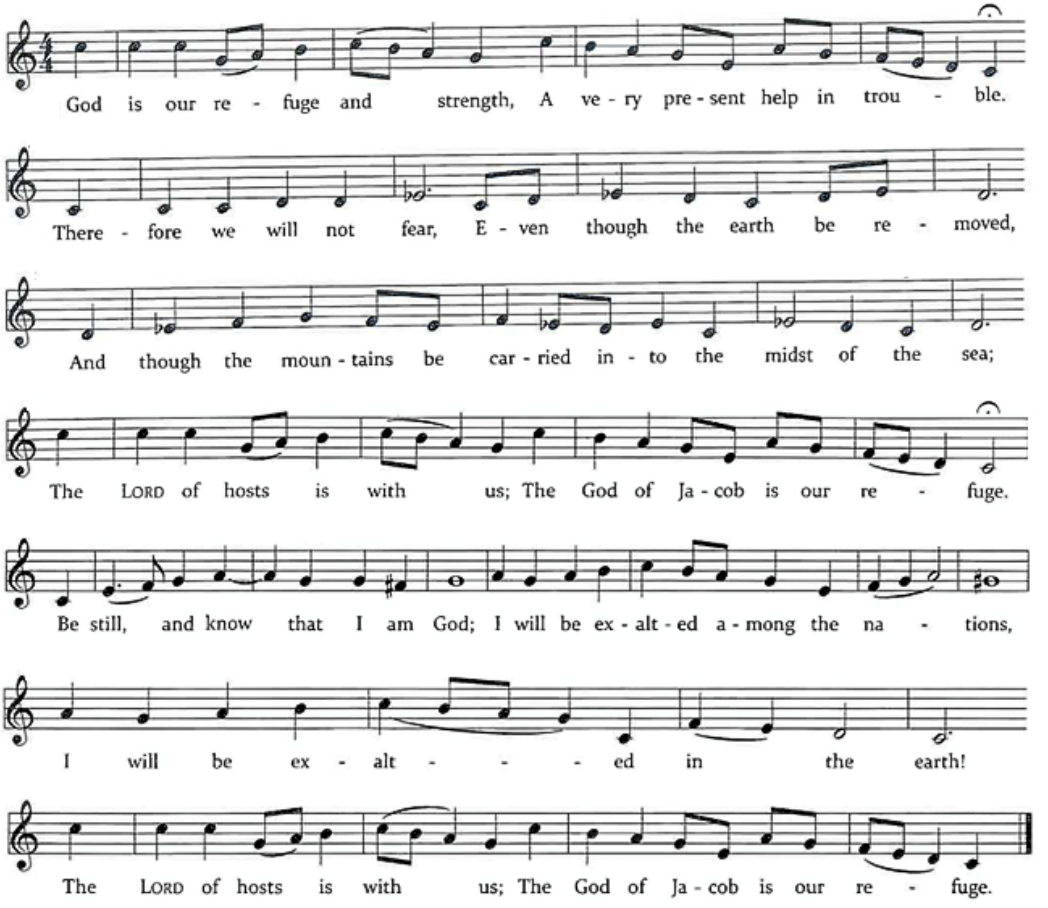
THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 3:13–18 (pg. 802)

The Old Testament Lesson is from the 3rd Chapter of Malachi.

13 "Your words have been hard against
Me, says the LORD. But you say,
'How have we spoken against You?'
14 You have said, 'It is vain to serve God.
What is the profit of our keeping His
charge or of walking as in mourning
before the LORD of hosts?
15 And now we call the arrogant blessed.
Evildoers not only prosper but they put
God to the test and they escape.'"
16 Then those who feared the LORD
spoke with one another. The LORD paid
attention and heard them, and a book of
remembrance was written before Him of
those who feared the LORD and esteemed
His name. 17 "They shall be Mine, says
the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make
up My treasured possession, and I will
spare them as a man spares his son who
serves him. 18 Then once more you shall
see the distinction between the righteous
and the wicked, between one who serves
God and one who does not serve Him."

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46 *(Sung by the choir and congregation)*



Text: Psalm 46, NKJV. Text and Music: Martin Luther, David R. Erb. Reprinted / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-701734. All Rights Reserved.

THE EPISTLE LESSON Colossians 1:13–20 (Pew Bible, pg. 983)

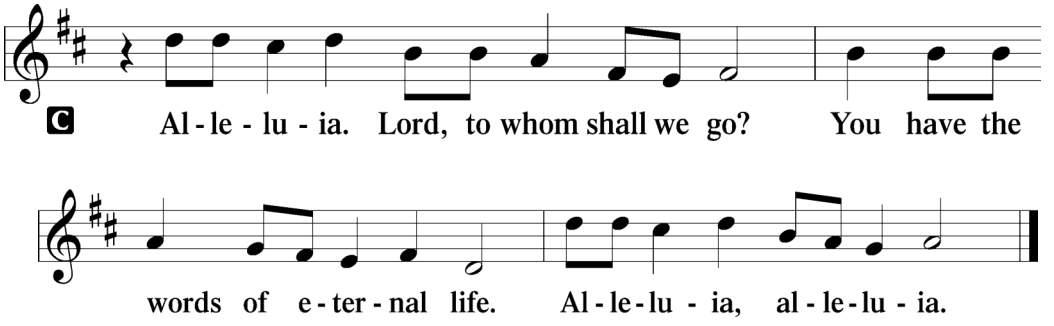
The Epistle Lesson is from the 1st Chapter of Colossians.

13 He has delivered us from the domain
of darkness and transferred us to the
kingdom of His beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.
15 He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
16 For by Him all things were created, in
heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers
or authorities—all things were created
through Him and for Him.
17 And He is before all things, and in Him
all things hold together. 18 And He is the
head of the body, the church. He is the
beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything He might be preeminent. 19 For in Him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell, 20 and through Him
to reconcile to Himself all things, whether
on earth or in heaven, making peace by
the blood of His cross.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:27–43 (Pew Bible, pg. 882)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd Chapter.

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

[27]And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for Him. [28]But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. [29]For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' [30]Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' [31]For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

[32]Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. [33]And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. [34]And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments. [35]And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" [36]The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine [37]and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

[38]There was also an inscription over Him, "This is the King of the Jews."

[39]One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

[40]But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? [41]And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

[42]And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

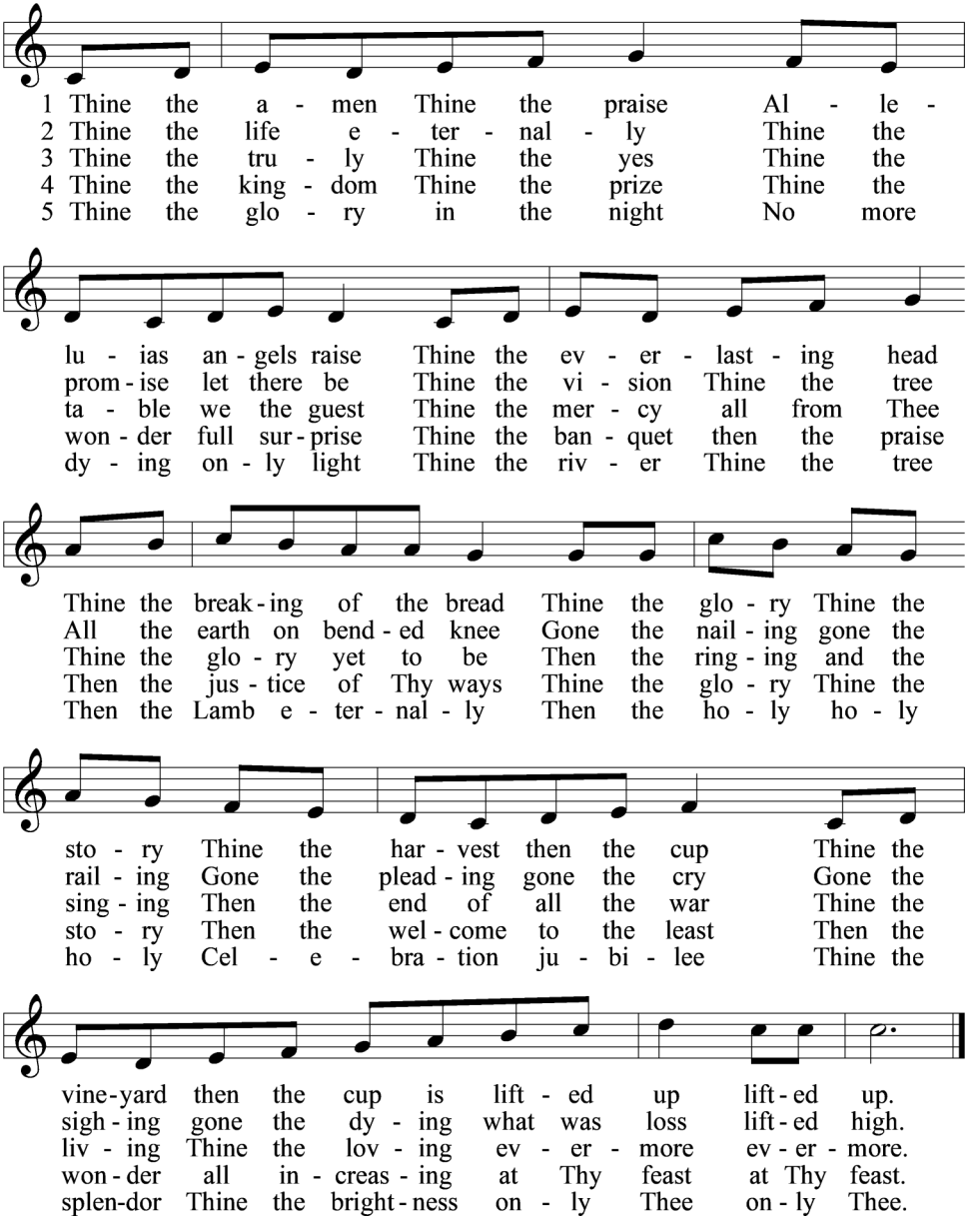
[43]And He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON—*The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks*

Hymn of the Day — *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise* (LSB 680)



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009
Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021
Text and tune: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227

Welcome of New Members

Adam Casteel, Rosemary Edberg, Hunter Garrison, Harrison Iles, Cynthia Lange, David Lange, Emma Pollard, Daniel Smith, Stephanie Smith, Anna Voelker, Noah Voelker, Matt Whittaker, Joan Williams, Mark Williams

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father Who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

-Matthew 10:32-33 NKJV alt.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R **Yes, I do.**

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R **Yes, I renounce them.**

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R **I do, by the grace of God.**

P Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

R **I do, by the calling of the Lord.**

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R **I do, by the grace of God.**

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R **I will, with the help of God.**

P With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God?

C **I believe in 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.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C **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.**

******meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please stand

P Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD

Prayers of the Church

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

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

℗ Lord in Your mercy,
℃ **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.
℃ **Amen.**

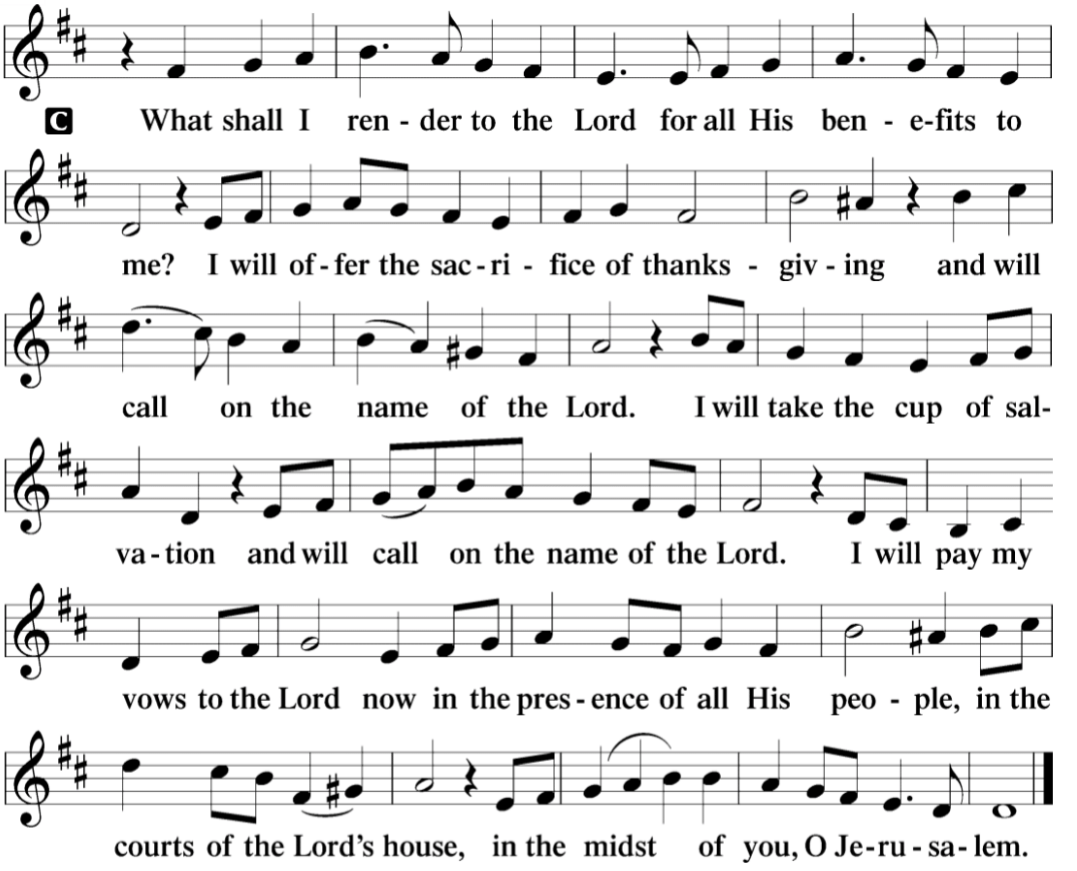
Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Offertory Music

Offertory *(see next page)*
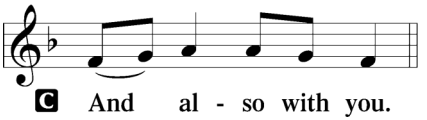
Offertory


C
What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.
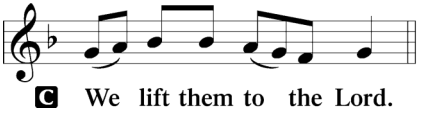
Service of the Sacrament

Preface
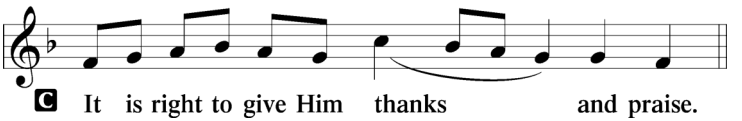
P The Lord be with you.



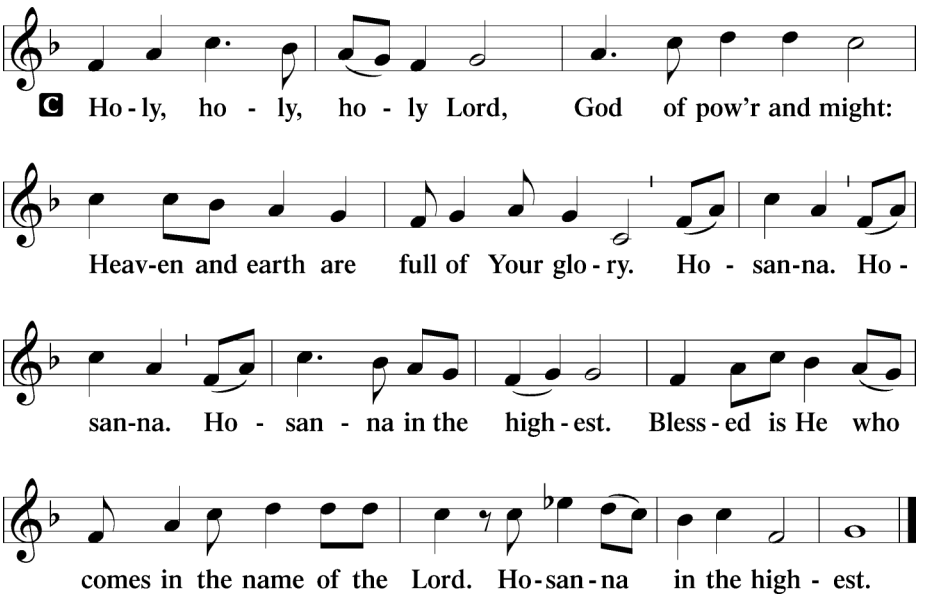
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary … and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to You for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C **Amen**. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Words of Institution

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed…

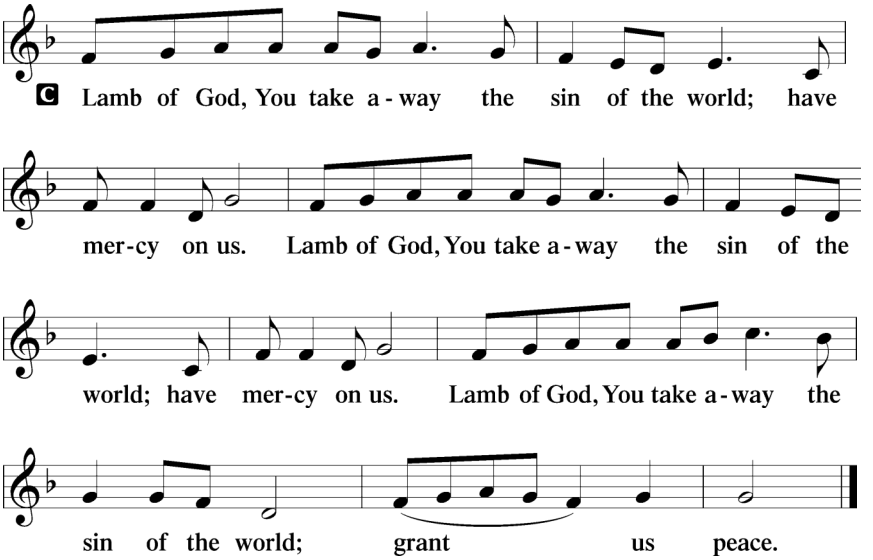
P Remembering, therefore, His death, resurrection, and ascension, we await His coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of Your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to Whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Agnus Dei



Holy Communion

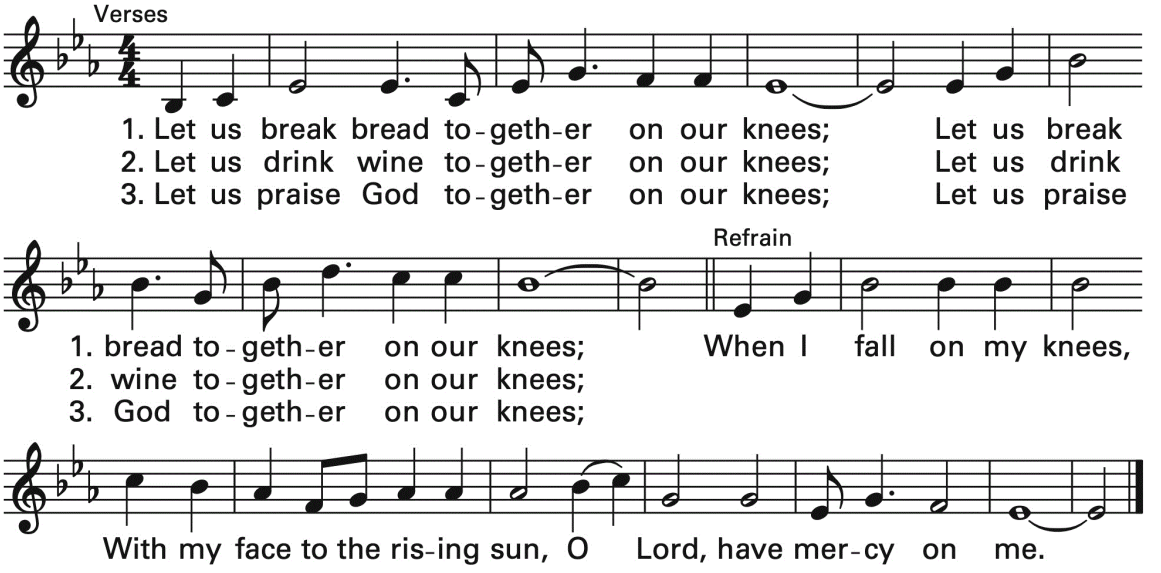
Receiving Holy Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16).
We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Baptized Christians who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive. *First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion.* Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

[For silent prayer before communing]
Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
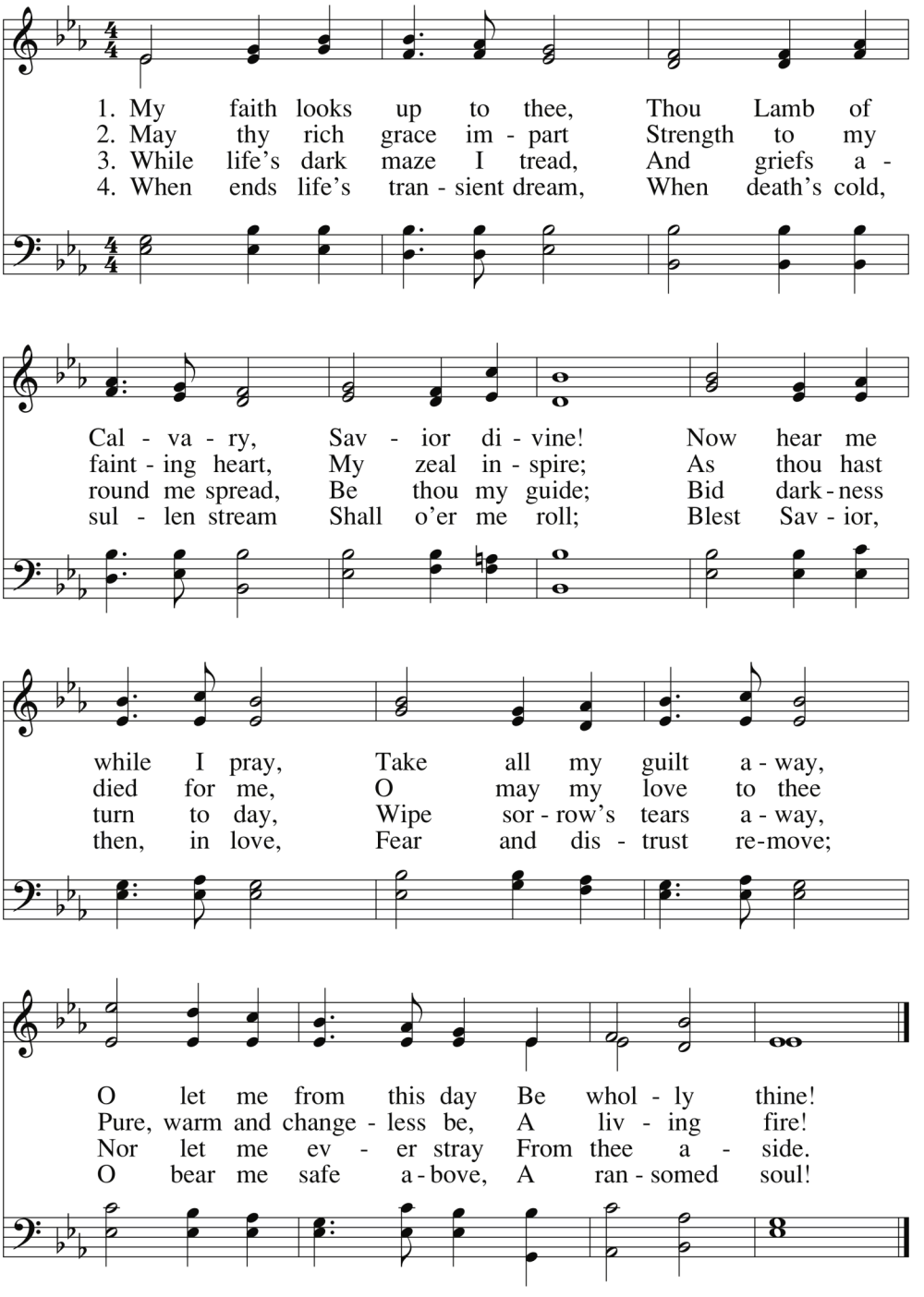
[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having With my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Distribution Hymn — *Let Us Break Bread Together* (LBW 212)



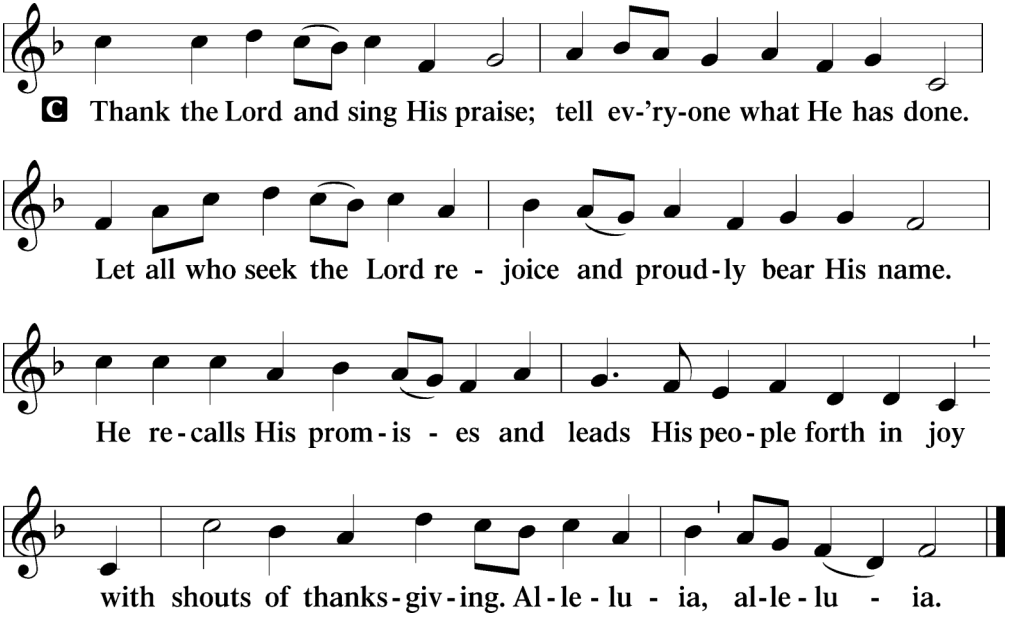
Text: Spiritual, Tune: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER. OneLicense #A-701734

Distribution Hymn — *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (LBW 479)



Text: Ray Palmer, Tune: Lowell Mason, OLIVET. OneLicense #A-701734.

Thank the Lord



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the promised feast in the Holy Supper. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout the days of our pilgrimage that, on the day of the Lord's approach, we may, with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom that has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

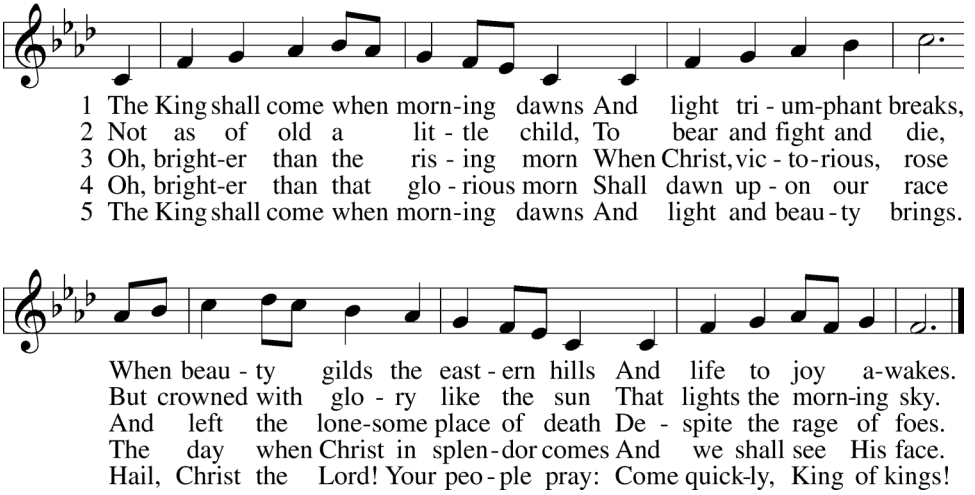
C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn — *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* (LSB 348)



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth, Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

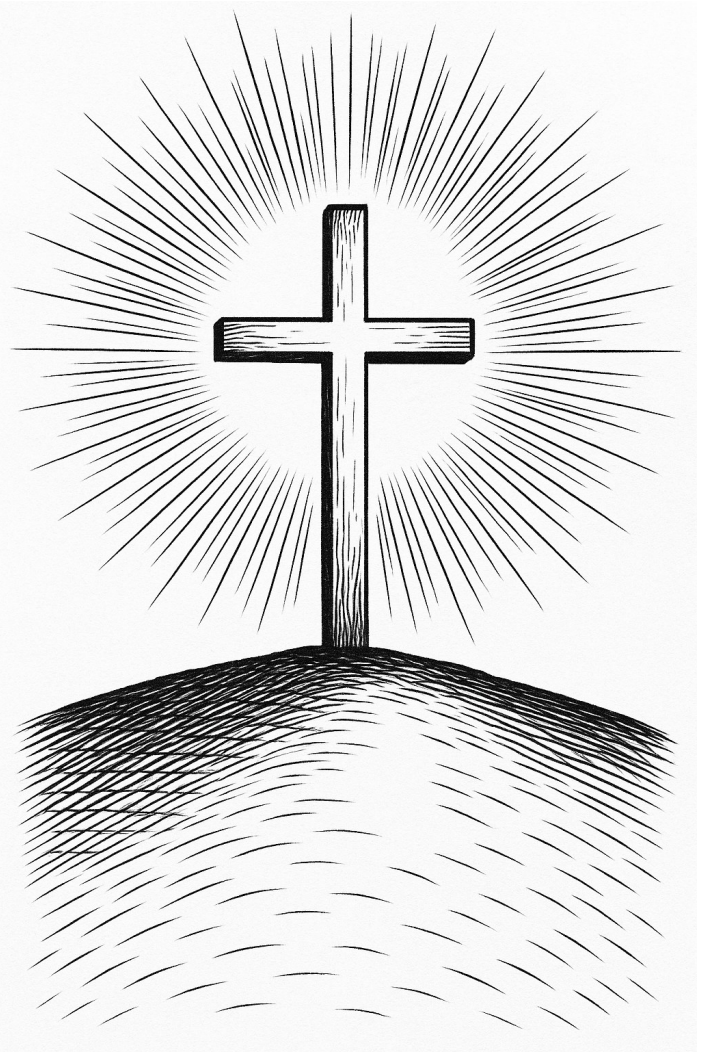
P Where do you go?

C **Into the world! Christ sends us that we may tell the Good News of the Kingdom of God.**

P Then go in peace; rejoice in God; love one another.

C **In the name of Christ! Amen.**

Postlude



UPCOMING AT GRACE

Mondays
11:30am - Pastor's Brown Bag Bible Study

Tuesdays
4pm - Growing Thru Grief (St. Paul's)
7pm - Young Adult PALS

Wednesdays
10am - Lutheran Women in Mission Quilting Group
12pm - Noon Prayer Service
6:30pm - Choir Practice

November 27 & 28 - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Sunday, November 30 - First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, December 3 - Advent Midweek Service with Simple Supper (Supper: 6:15pm, Service: 7pm)
Saturday, December 13 - Hanging of Greens (9am)
Saturday, December 13 - Christmas Farmer's Market (1pm-4pm)
Monday, December 15 - Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, December 20 - Bethlehem Breakfast (9:30am)
Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service (12pm & 5:30pm)

Visit our website at gracedurham.org/news for the full calendar of events and small group (PALS) meetings.

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers
Leonard Hango
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Communion Assistants
Marie Snyder
Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild
Dede Crosmer,
setup & clean up

A/V Operator
Joe Wethman

Reader
Joe Milko

Greeter
Kathy Peterson

GRACE STAFF

Pastor
Rev. David Brooks

Parish Administrator
Kim Romigh

Director of Christian Outreach
Deaconess Anna Voelker

Music Director/Organist
Erin Hodge

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Livestream

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Call In - Audio Only:
309-205-3325, 312-626-6799, 305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving

Grace Generous Giving
Quick Response (QR) Code, provides a simple and secure method of giving.
Hover over the QR code with your phone camera and it will take you to our giving page to make a donation.