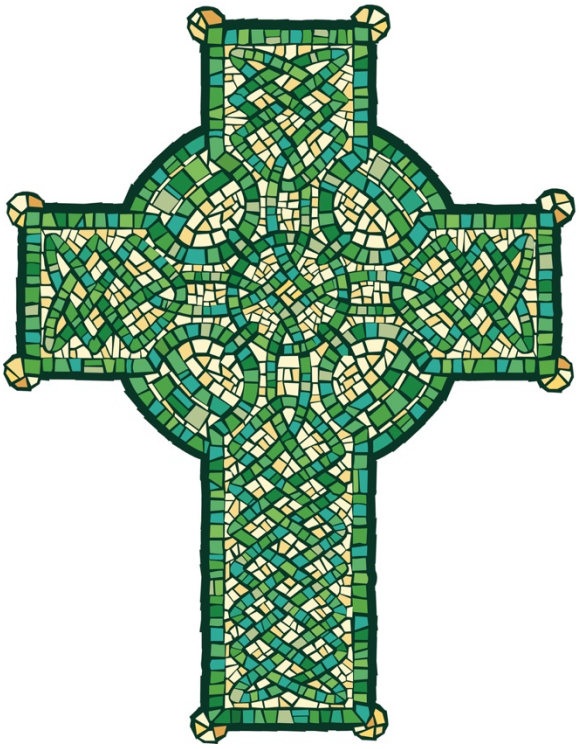


# *St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church*

## *The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*September 13, 2026*
*8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist*

*We are a welcoming Christian community*
*practicing hospitality, spirituality, & service!*

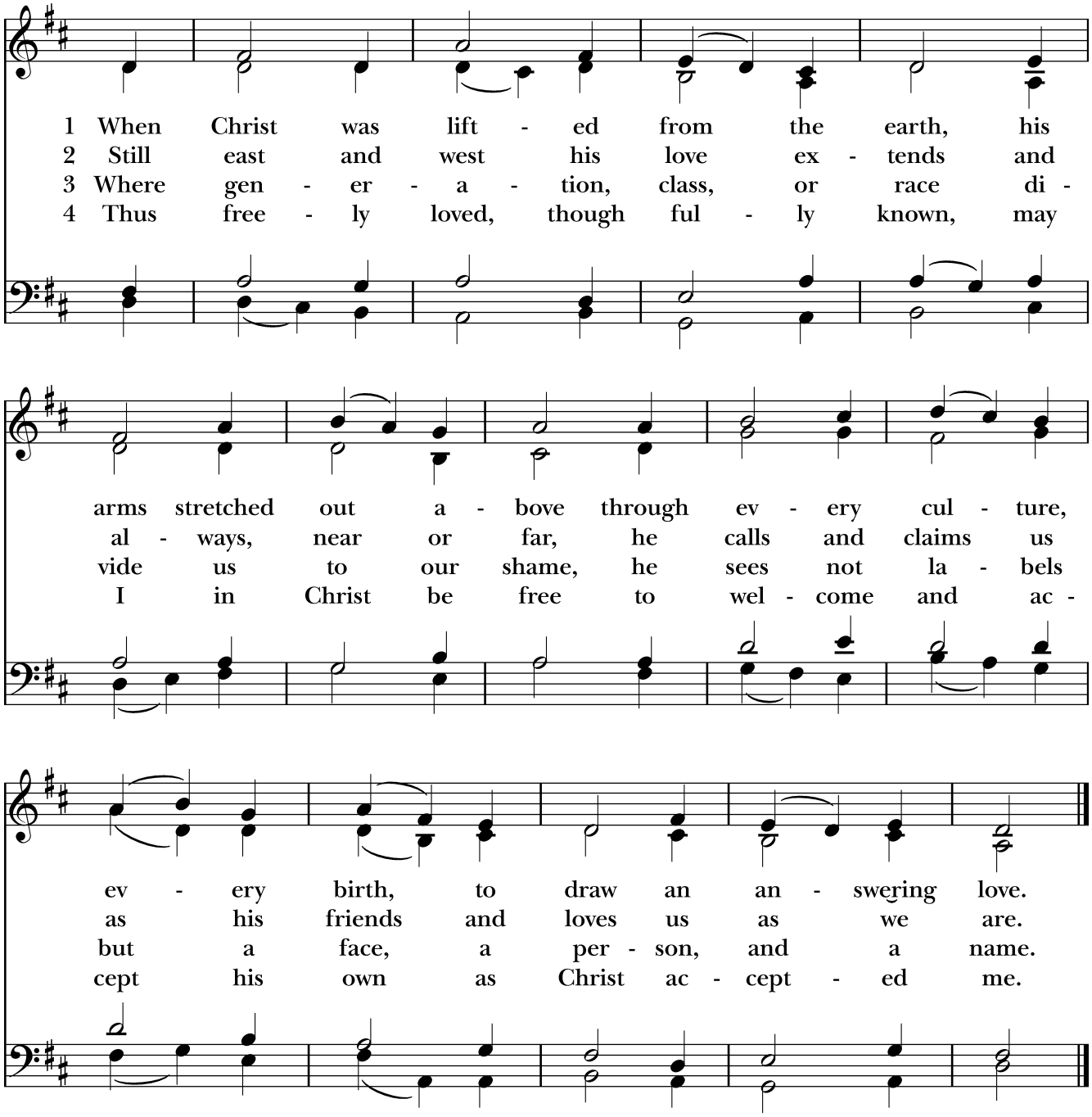
*The joyful noise of children and families is always invited and celebrated.*

PO Box 2166, Breckenridge, Colorado 80424
100 South French Street
Office Phone: (970) 453-4264
Website: www.stjohnsbreck.org
Email: administration@stjohnsbreck.org

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn – When Christ was lifted from the earth H#603




## *The Word of God*

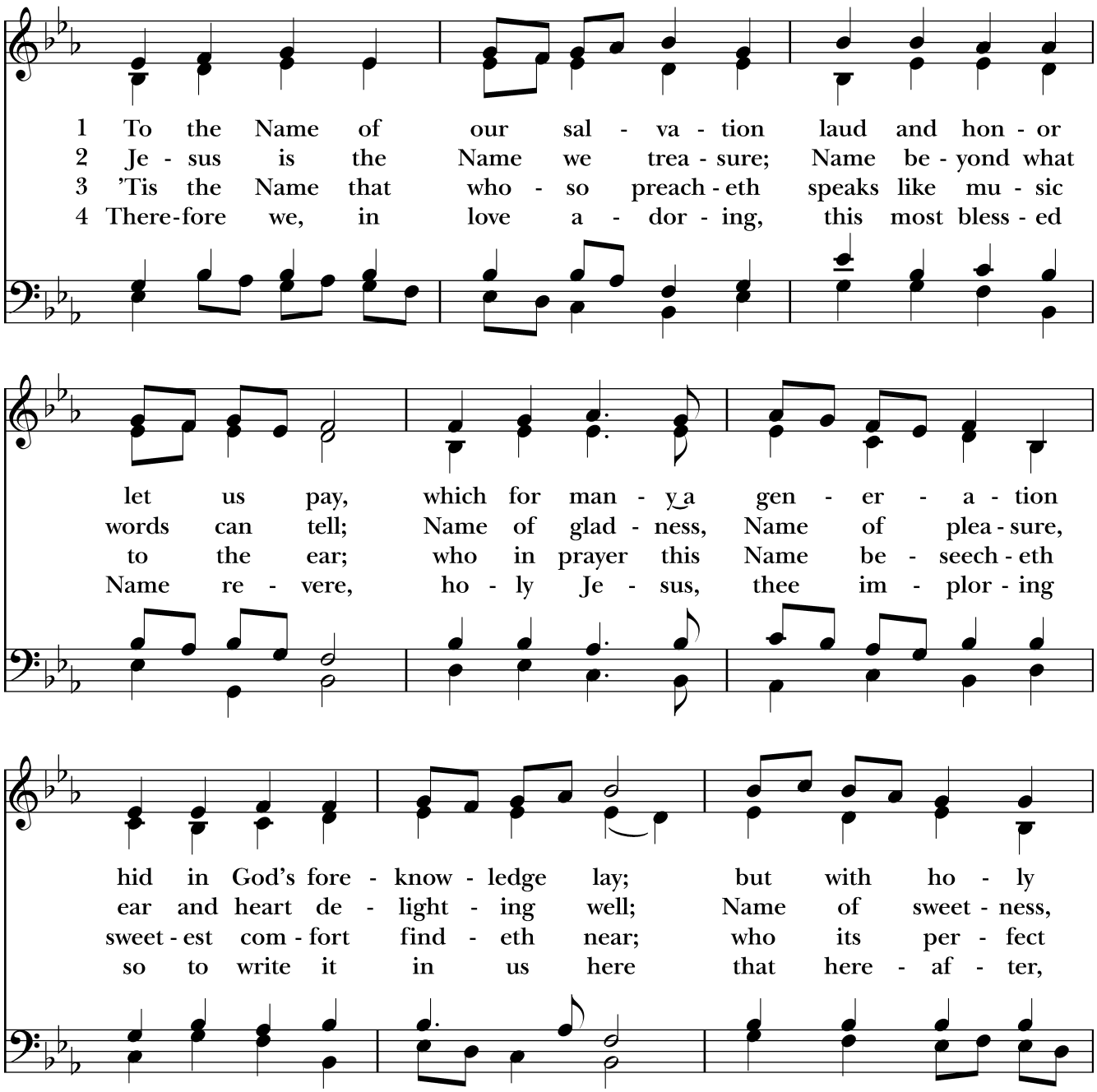
Opening Acclamation

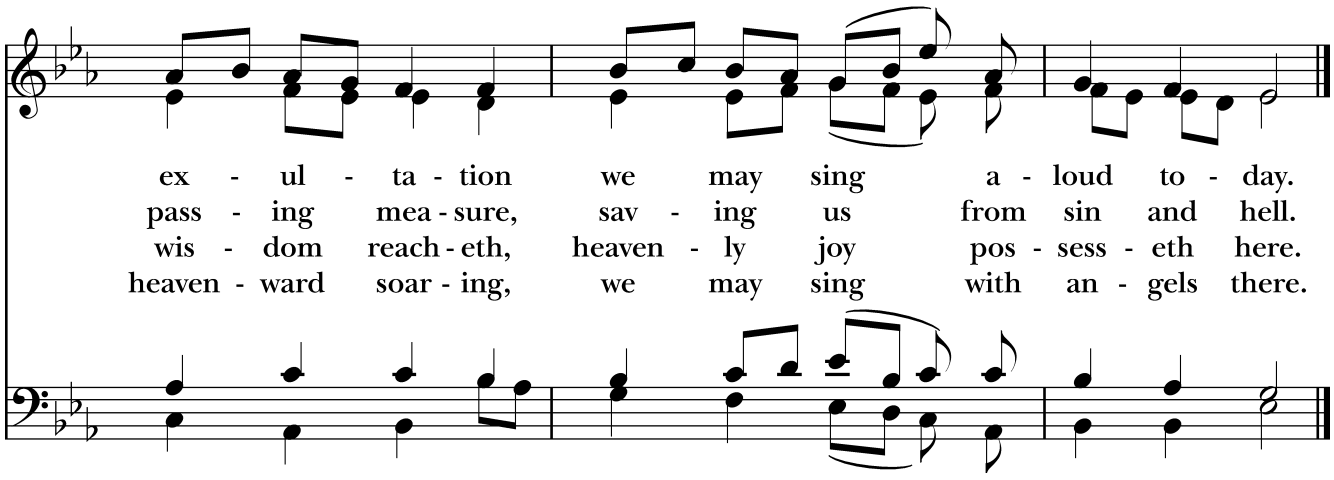
Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
**People: Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Praise – To the name of our salvation (verses 1 and 4) H#249






Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
**People: And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson – Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the

entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114

1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Second Lesson – Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

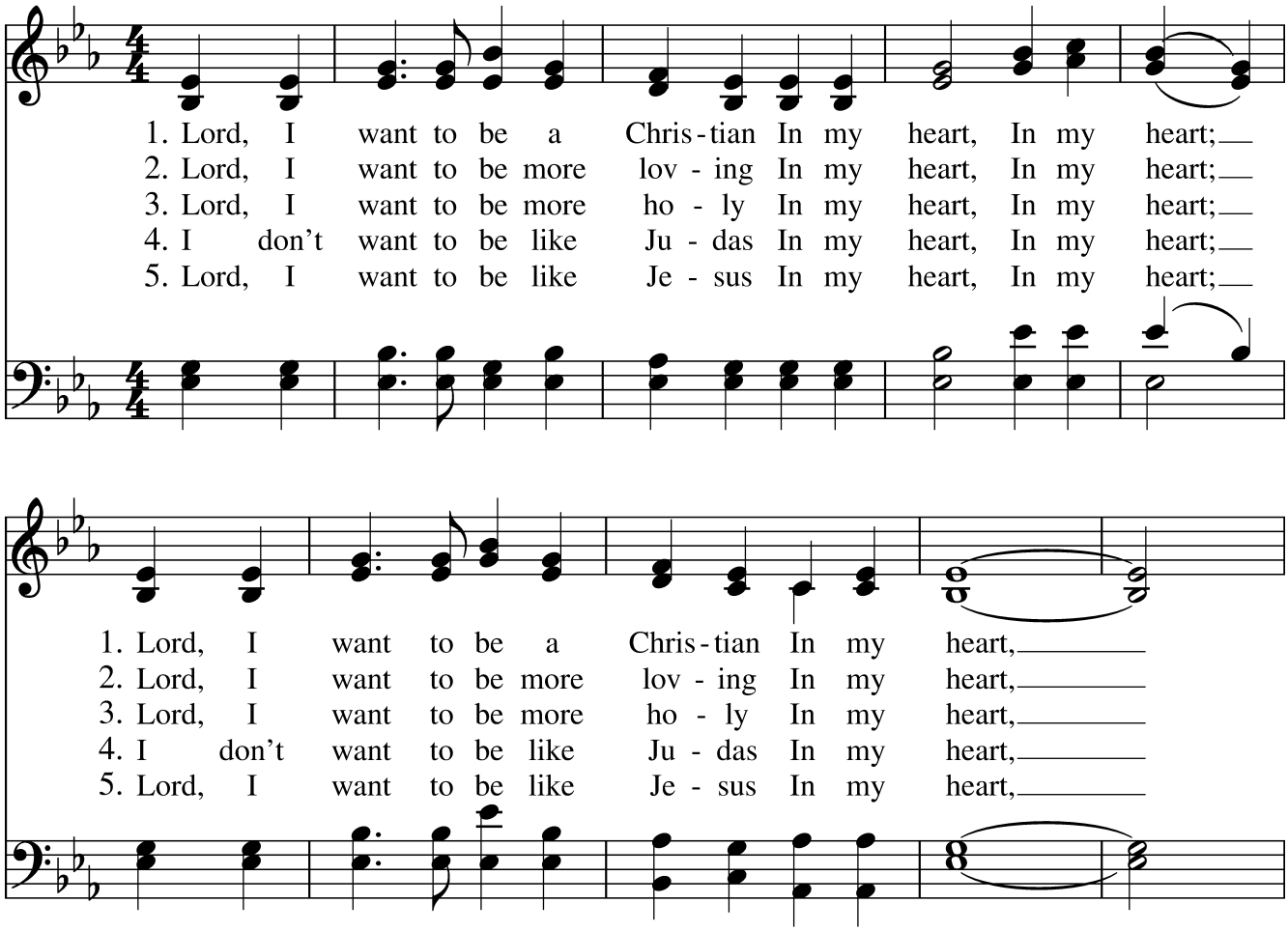
Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.
We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

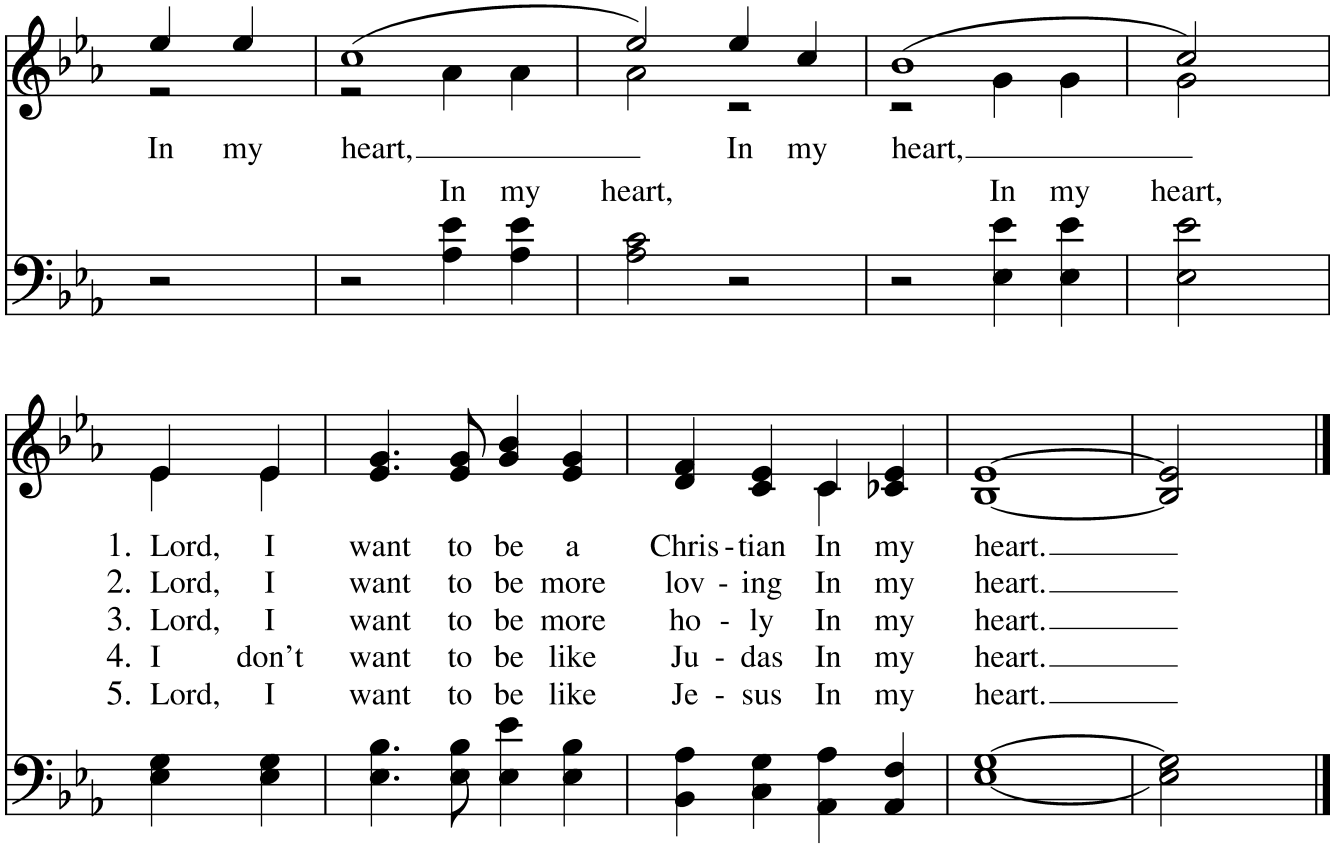
Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Sequence – Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart LV#138

*Sing verses 1 and 2 before the Gospel, verse 5 after*






*All stand*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<u>The Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35</u>

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that

debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
**People: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

*All stand.*

**We believe in one God,**
**the Father, the Almighty,**
**maker of heaven and earth,**
**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**
**the only Son of God,**
**eternally begotten of the Father,**
**God from God, Light from Light,**
**true God from true God,**
**begotten, not made,**
**of one Being with the Father.**
**Through him all things were made.**
**For us and for our salvation**
**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**
**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,**
**and was made man.**
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**
**he suffered death and was buried.**
**On the third day he rose again**
**in accordance with the Scriptures;**
**he ascended into heaven**
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**
**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**
**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**
**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People *Inspired by the Irish BCP*

Leader: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith.

Lord of your people: strengthen your Church in all the world; renew the life of this diocese of Colorado; bless our bishop, Kym, and build us up in faith and love. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord of creation: look with favor on the world you have made; instruct the nations in the ways of justice and peace, and guide Donald our President and all in authority. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord of our relationships: comfort and sustain the communities in which we live and work; help us to love our neighbors as ourselves, enable us to serve our families and friends and to love one another as you love us. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord of all healing: relieve and protect those who are sick or suffering, be with those who have any special need (…), and deliver all who know danger, violence or oppression.

*The People add their own petitions, silently or aloud*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord of eternity: bind us together by your Holy Spirit, in communion with and all who have died in the peace of Christ, that we may entrust ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to you, Lord God, and come with all your saints to the joys of your eternal kingdom. Amen.

Confession and Absolution *From the Scottish Liturgy, 1982*

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**God our Father, we confess to you**
**and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ**
**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,**
**and in what we have failed to do.**
**We are truly sorry.**
**Forgive us our sins,**
**and deliver us from the power of evil.**
**For the sake of your Son who died for us,**
**Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

*The Celebrant says*

God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

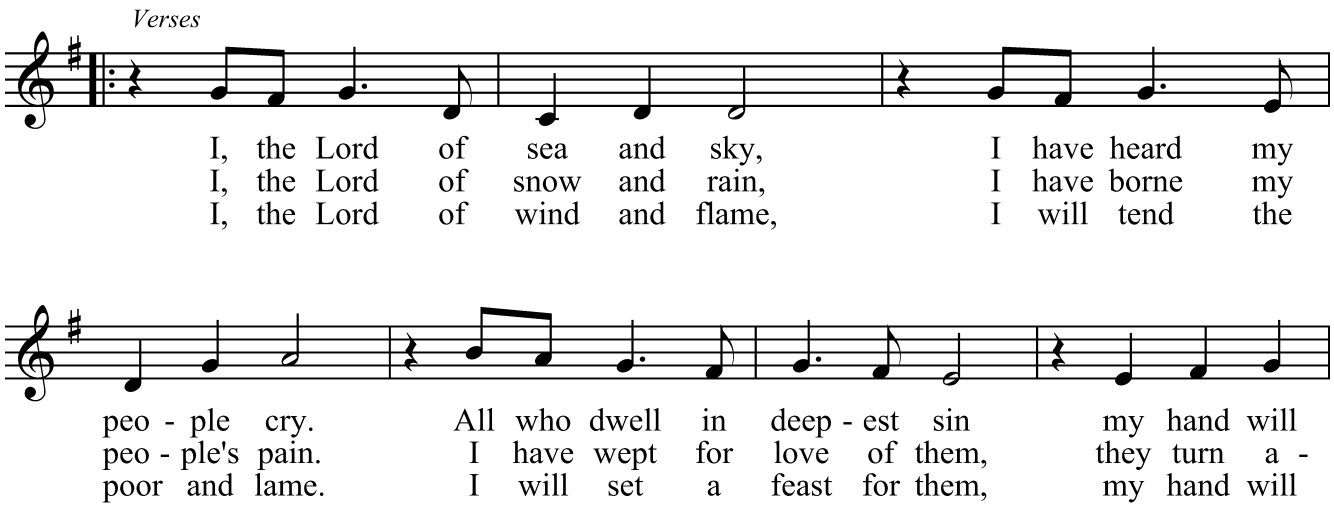
The Peace

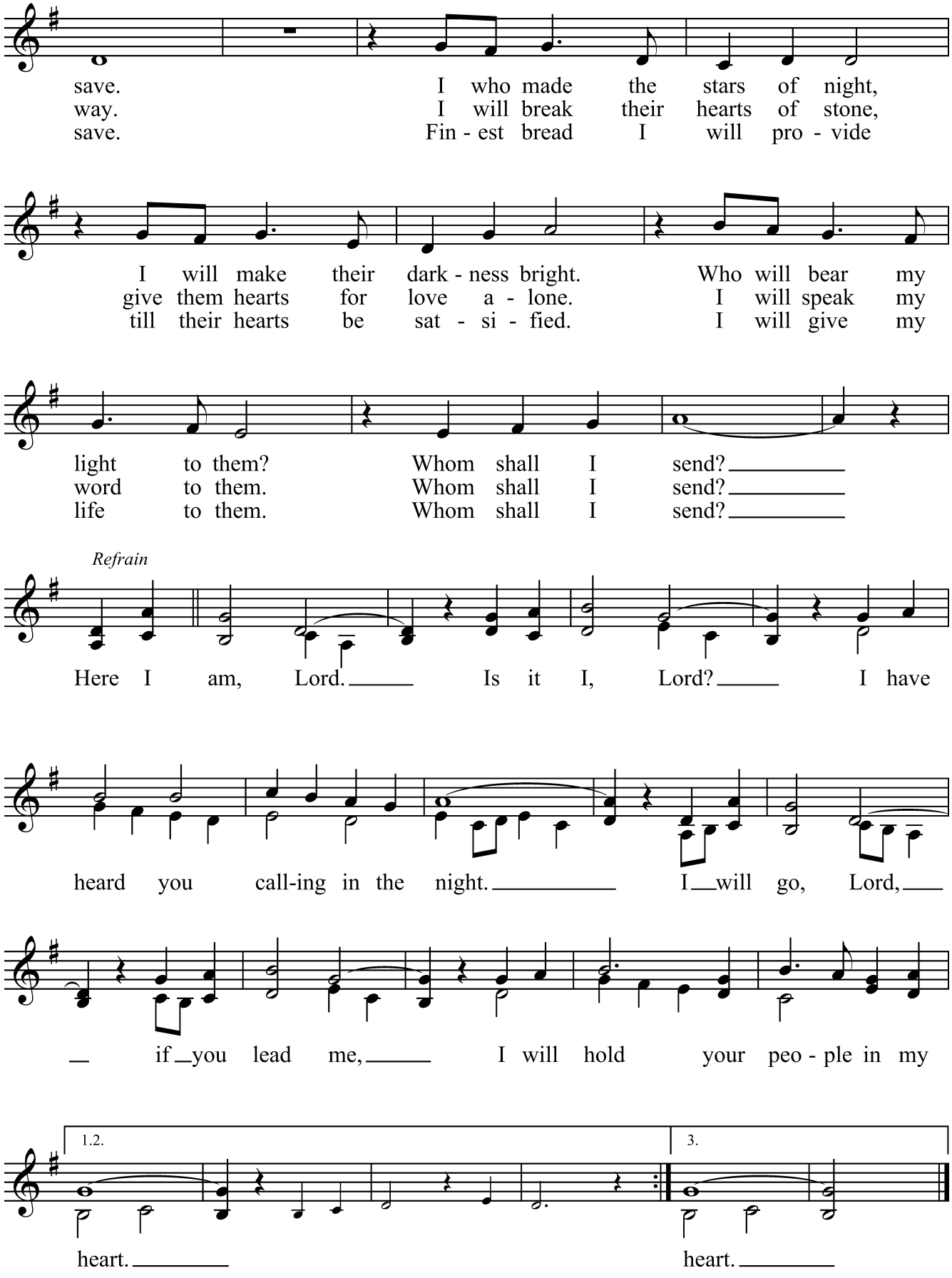
*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
**And also with you.**

## *The Holy Communion*

Offertory – Here I am, Lord R#149




save. I who made the stars of night,
way. I will break their hearts of stone,
save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide
I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
till their hearts be sat - si - fied. I will give my
light to them? Whom shall I send?
word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I send?
Refrain
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have
heard you call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord,
if you lead me, I will hold your peo - ple in my
1.2.
3.
heart.
heart.

The Doxology (all sing)
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer *Scottish Liturgy, 1982*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant says*

Celebrant: The God of love is with us.
**People: The Spirit of love is in us.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

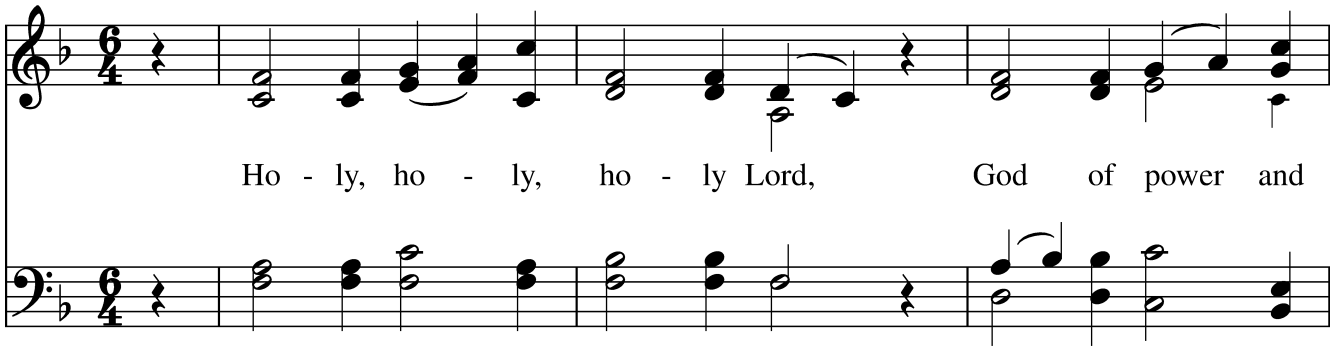
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

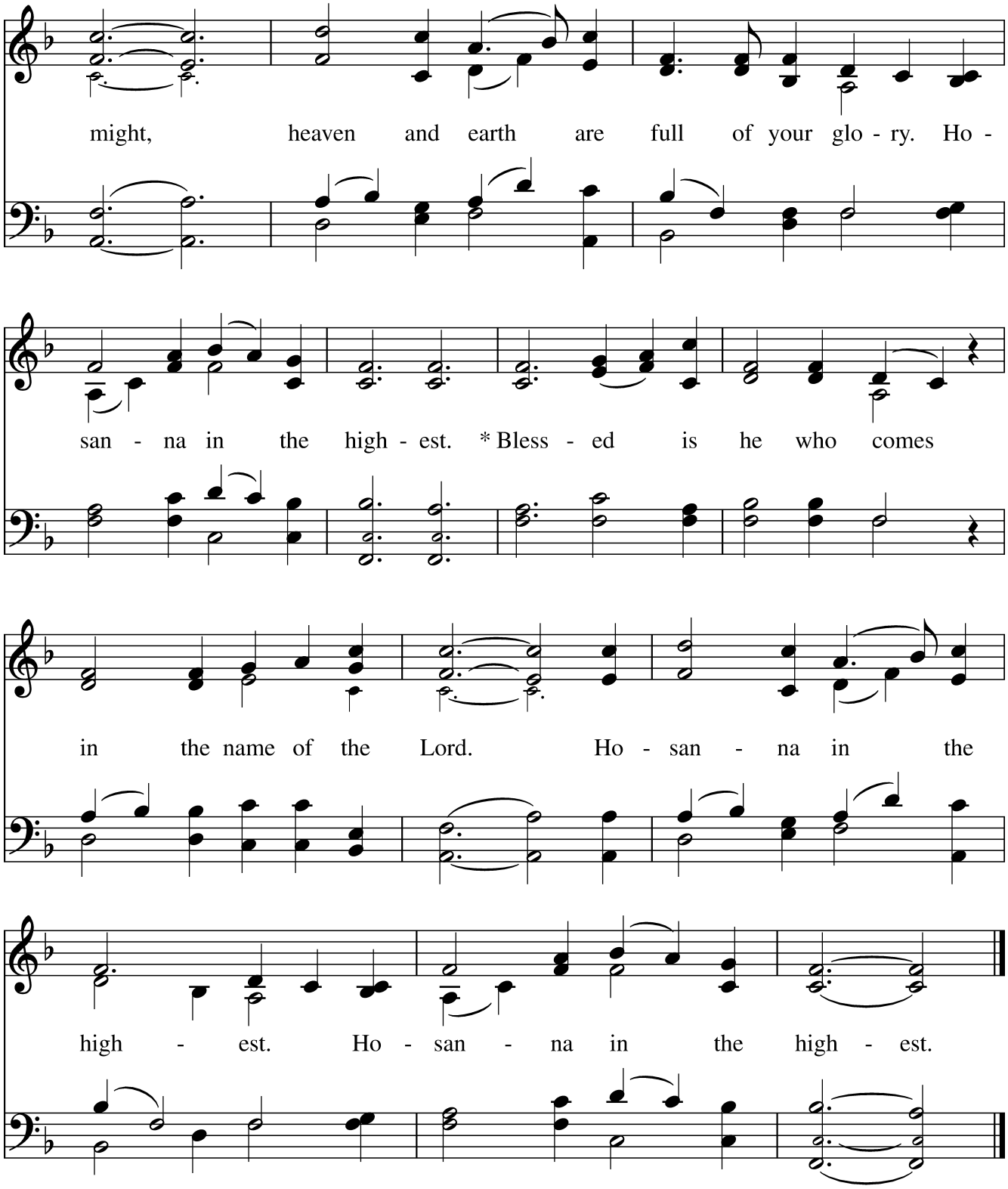
*The Celebrant continues*

Worship and praise belong to you, Father, in every place and at all times. All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is. In Christ your Son our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange.

He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you. Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth in a creation restored by love. As children of your redeeming purpose, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Sanctus –** WLP858






*The people stand or kneel.*
*Then the Celebrant continues*

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. He is the Word existing beyond time, both source and final purpose, bringing to wholeness all that is made. Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross. By

your power you raised him from the dead. He broke the bonds of evil and set your people free to be his Body in the world.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, he loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Ever-Blessed Mary, the apostles and prophets, and all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

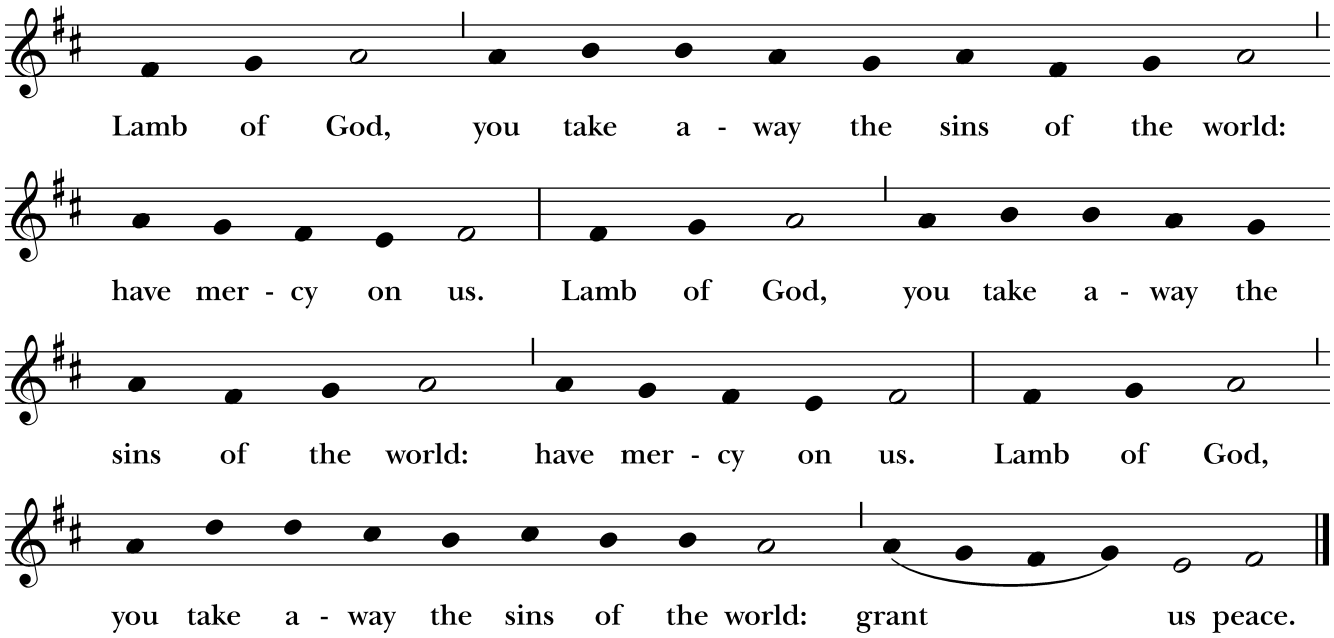
<u>The Lord's Prayer – Book of Common Prayer p. 364</u>

**Our Father in heaven,**
**hallowed be your Name,**
**your kingdom come,**
**your will be done,**
**on earth as in heaven.**
**Give us today our daily bread.**
**Forgive us our sins**
**as we forgive those**
**who sin against us.**
**Save us from the time of trial,**
**and deliver us from evil.**
**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**
**now and for ever. Amen.**

## *The Breaking of the Bread*

Fraction Anthem – S161



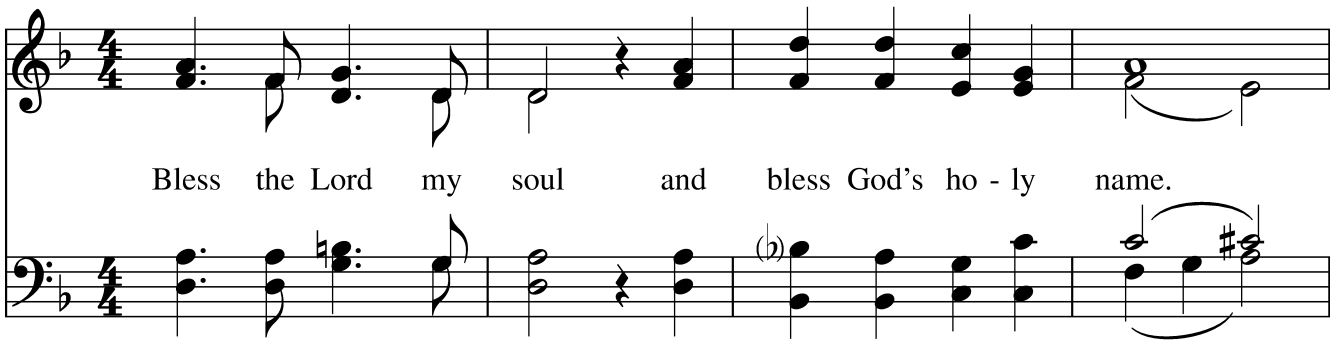

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

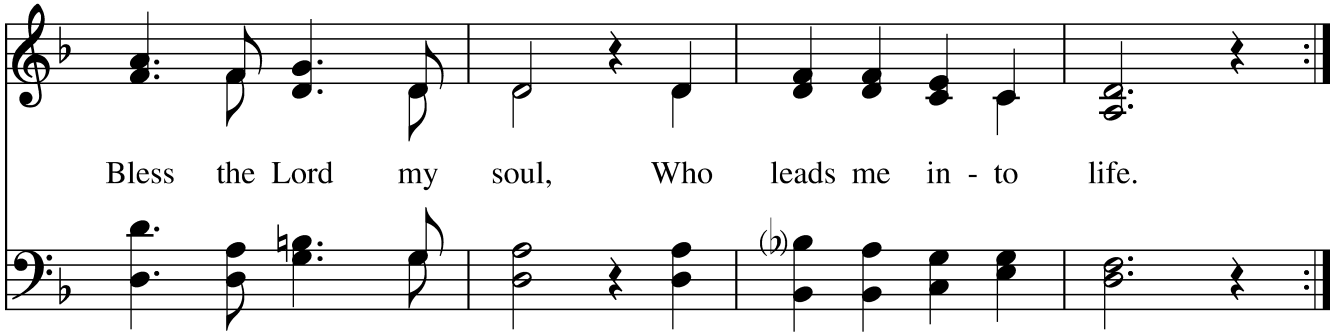
*All are welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Communion. To receive the bread, please hold your hands out in front of you. To receive the wine, help guide the chalice to your lips. If you prefer, you may dip the bread in the wine and then place it in your mouth. If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, you are invited to come forward, cross your hands across your chest, and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please wave to an Usher so that the Sacrament may be brought to you. (Gluten-free wafers available upon request.)*

## *Music at Communion*

Communion Anthem SJB Choir:

Communion (Congregation): Bless the Lord my soul WLP#825






Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

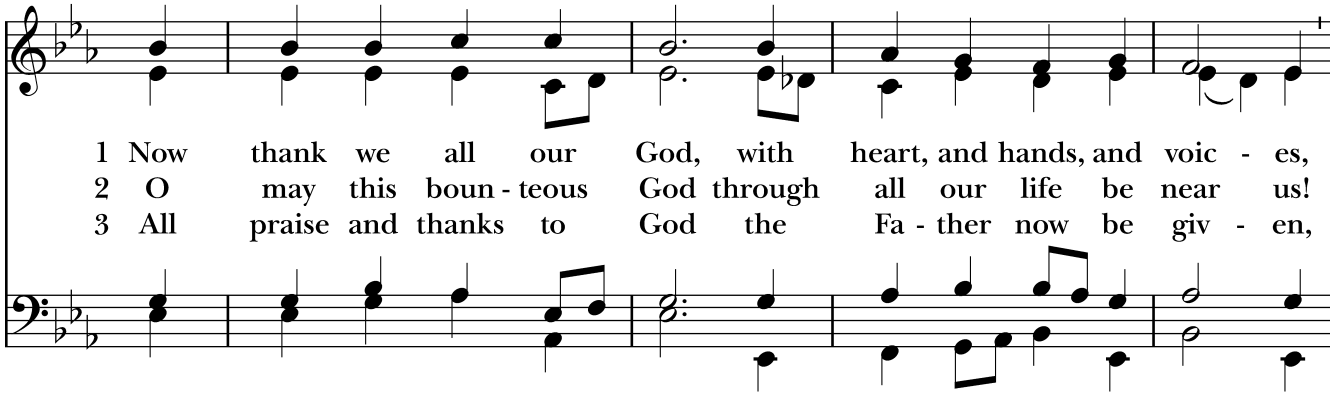
*Celebrant and People*

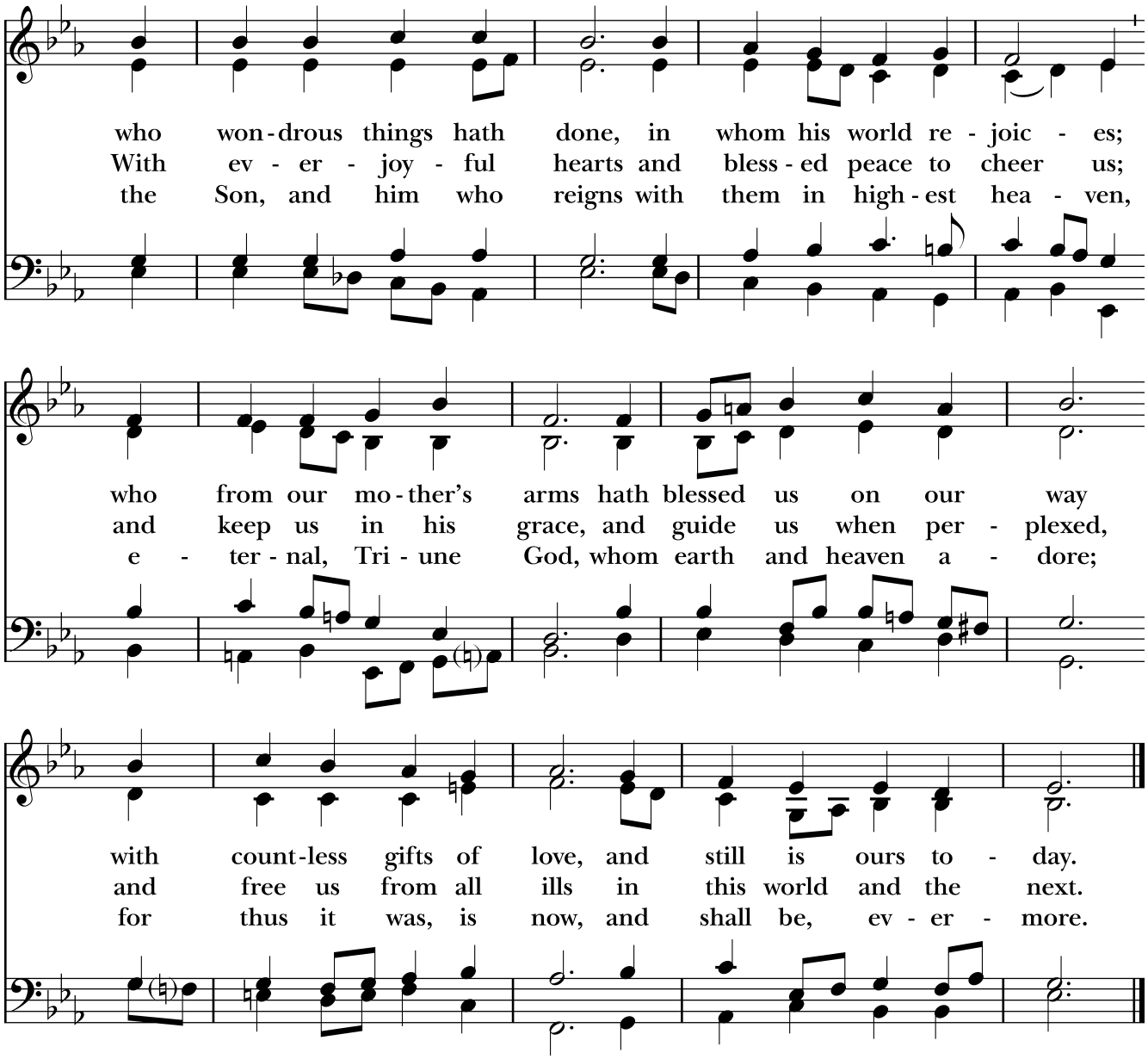
**Holy and life-giving God,**
**we have broken the bread which is Christ's body,**
**we have tasted the wine of his new life.**
**We thank you for these gifts**
**by which we are made one in him**
**and drawn into that new creation**
**which is your will for all the world;**
**through him who died for us and rose again,**
**your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Wisdom of God
the Love of God
and the Grace of God
strengthen you
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: Now thank we all our God H#397






Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Ringing of the Bell*

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**St. John's Staff and Vestry Contact Information**

The Rev. Beth Blunt, Rector: rector@stjohnsbreck.org
Natalie Boyer, Parish Administrator: administration@stjohnsbreck.org
Sheila Brockmeier, Director of Children/Youth and Family: parishlife@stjohnsbreck.org
Thomas Steigerwald, Director of Music: music@stjohnsbreck.org
Vestry Members: vestry@stjohnsbreck.org

## A Note to the Children and their Families

We know it's hard, but thank you for all you do to get here on a Sunday morning to be with us in church. Please know that your family – with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy – is not simply tolerated; you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

## Welcome Cards / eBlast / Name Tags

If you would like to be on St. John's "radar screen" and receive the eBlast newsletter, please fill out a Welcome Card and leave it with an usher, place it in the offering plate, or hand it to the clergy. These cards are available by the bell rope at the back of the church, and by the coffee in the Parish Hall. If you would like a name tag, we'd be delighted to make one for you – please contact Natalie Boyer at administration@stjohnsbreck.org

## The Offertory

At St. John's we count on the generosity of our visitors and guests to help us carry on our vital work within and beyond this church. Please leave a gift in the offering plate as it passes or go to the stjohnsbreck.org website and use the Give tab to donate online. You can use the QR code on the right to go directly to the St. John's Vanco Giving Page.

The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas, Bishop
The Rev. Beth Blunt, Rector
The Rev. John Butin, Priest Associate
Carol Goodwin, Sr. Warden; Chris Bartholomew, Jr. Warden
Vestry Members: Jennifer Bettridge, Jim Brook,
Sue Geiger, David Henderson, Terry Martinez, Kristen Stewart,
Wally Ducayet, Treasurer
Sheila Brockmeier, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries
Thomas Steigerwald, Director of Music
Natalie Boyer, Parish Administrator & Vestry Clerk
*In the Church Office: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays & Thursdays*