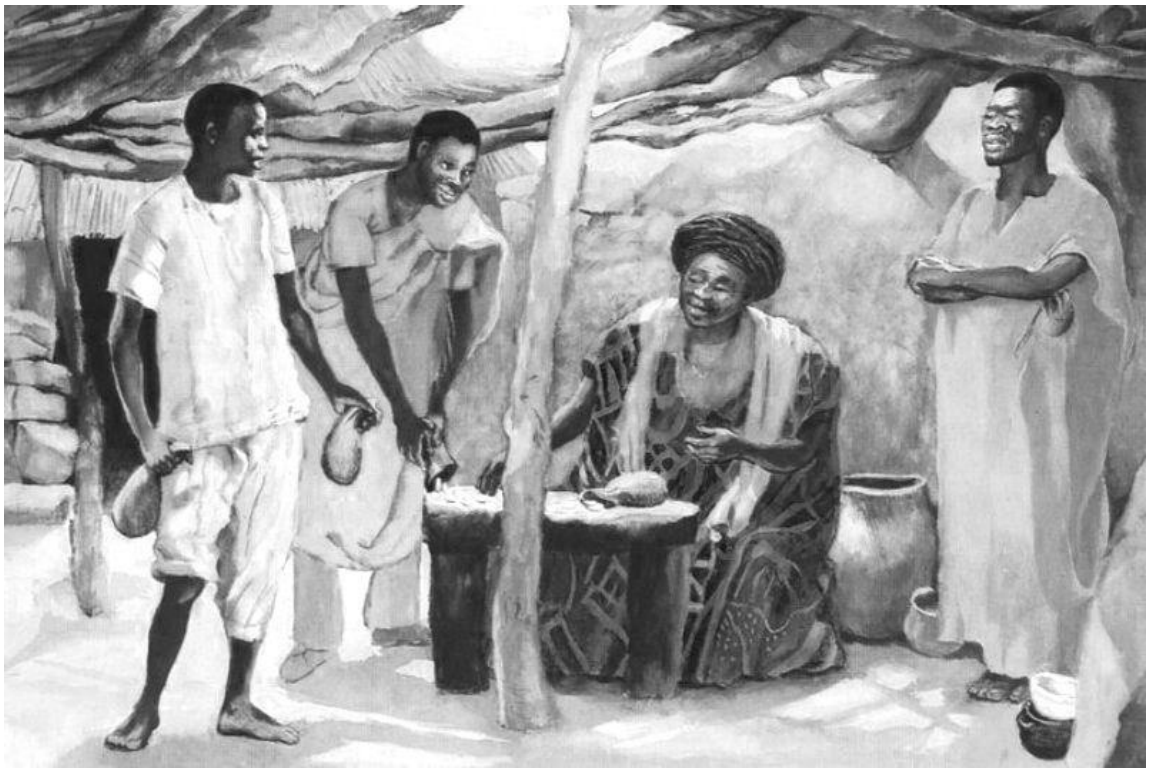
Church of the Holy Cross

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Parable of the Three Servants, or, The Talents
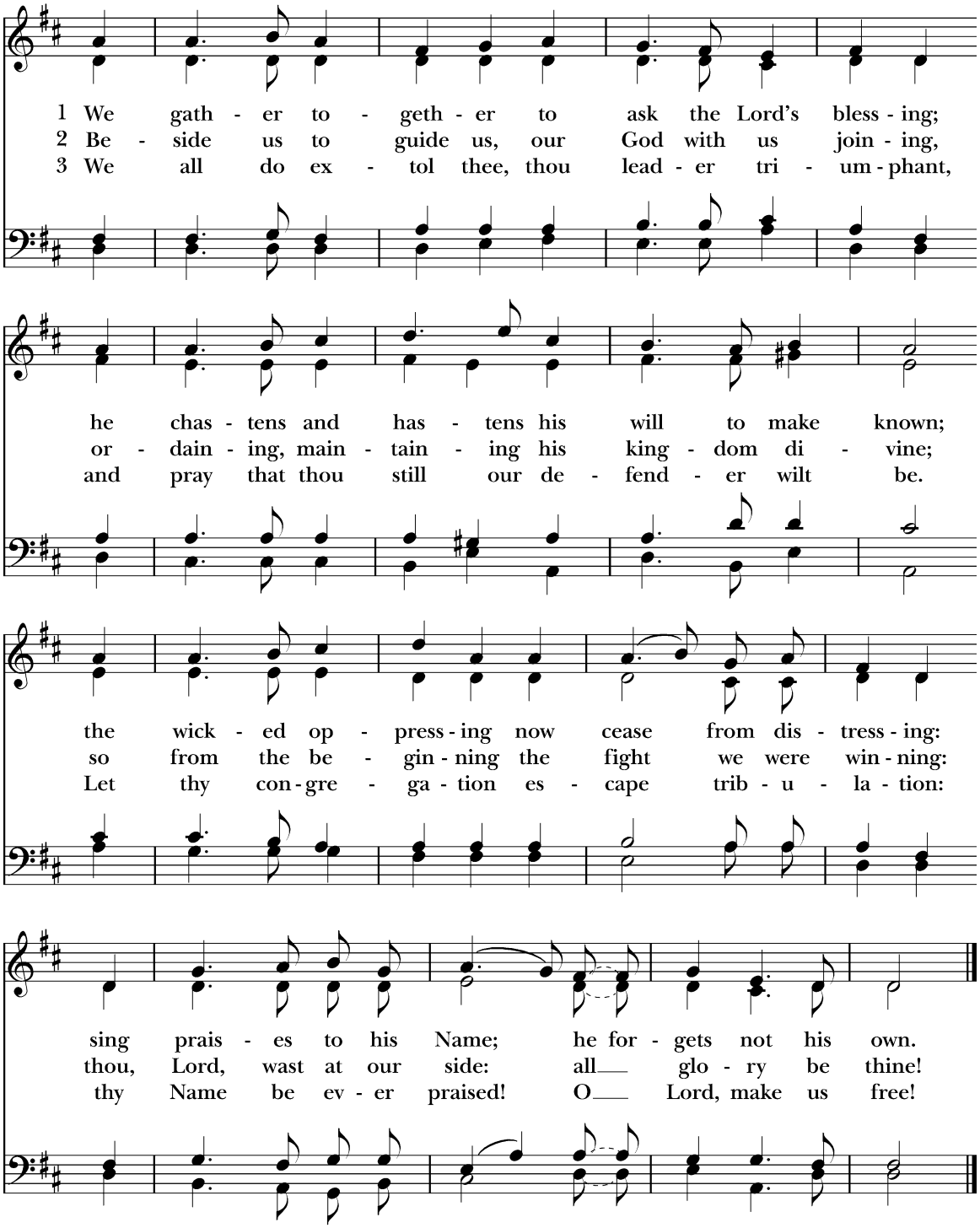
November 15, 2026
10 a.m.
Holy Communion

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375
248-427-1175
www.holycrossnovi.org
holycrossnovi@gmail.com

Gathering of the People

Prelude *Silence is appreciated as we prepare to worship*

Opening Hymn H 433 *We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing*
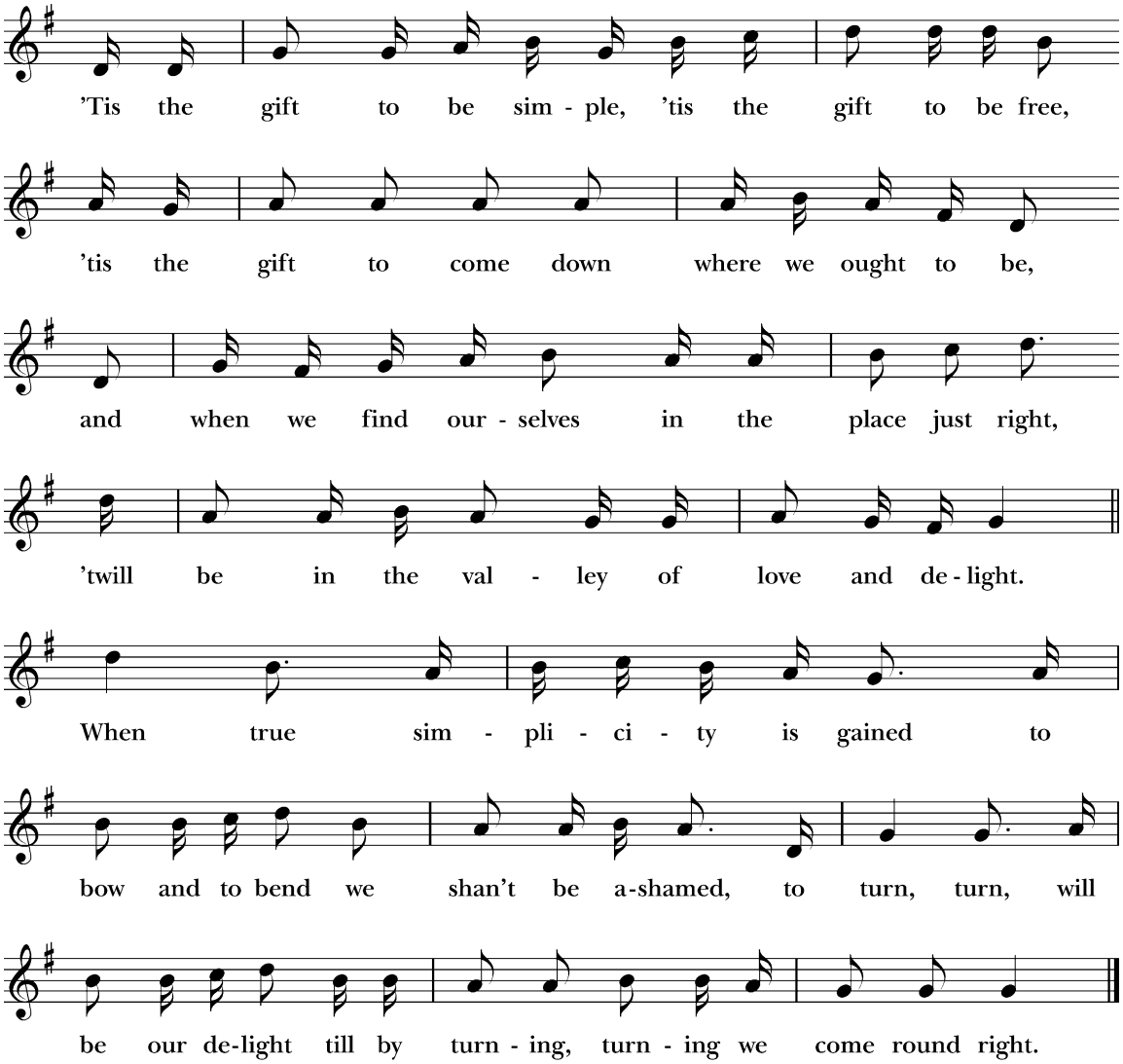


Words: Anon. 1625; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). Music: *Kremser*, from *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Eduard Kremser (1838-1914).

Opening Acclamation

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

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.**

Hymn of Praise H 554 *'Tis a gift to be simple*



Words: Shaker song, 18th cent. Music: *Simple Gifts*, Joseph Brackett (1797-1822); acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

First Lesson

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Reader A reading from the Book of Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

The reader leads off, and congregation responds with the bold verses.

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.**
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.**
5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 **In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
9 [When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?]
12 **So teach us to number our days ***
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

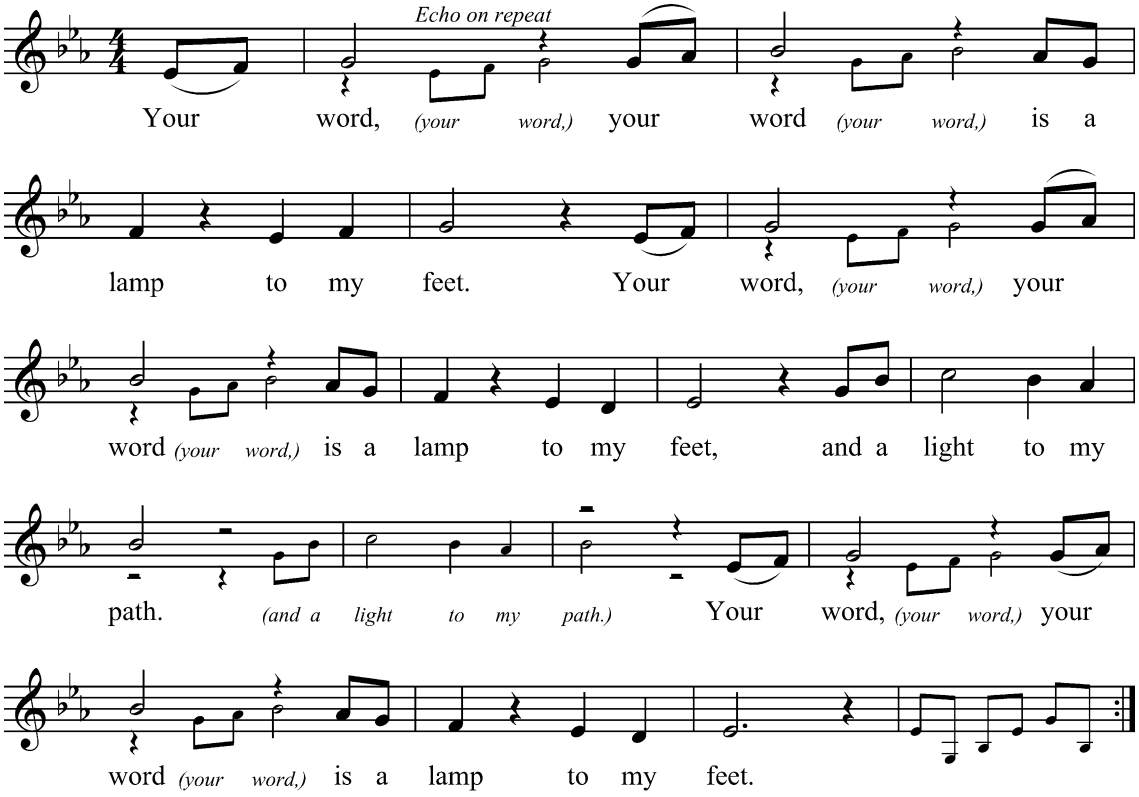
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn MHSO 81 *Your word*

Sing 1x before the gospel & 1x after.



Words:*Psalm 119:105.*
Music: Frank Hernandez © 1990, Birdwing Music (ASCAP) (admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing, PO Box 5085, Brentwood, TN 37024-5085). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Jonathan Sams

Affirmation of Faith *from the New Zealand Prayerbook*

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us. You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now. You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

The Prayers of the People *from the Baptist Union of Great Britain*

Leader Ever living and ever-loving God,
We praise you for your loving presence with us.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader take and transform our societies—
that broken people find healing; that lonely people find love;
that bitter people find peace; that fearful people find hope.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal—
that communication can be open; that relationships between
hostile people and hostile nations will begin to calm and hostilities dissolve,
that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader fill your church—that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you; that prayers will change our minds instead of trying to get you to change yours; that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world. We especially keep in our prayers our supply clergy and the ministry of the lay people of Holy Cross.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader for our search committee and vestry. Grant them wisdom, discernment and patience as they move through this search process.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader for the pastor who will be joining us. Lead the right priest to our Church and guide us as we move forward together.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader fill our lives with your presence—so that more and more every day, all that we do and say and hope will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others, to the glory of your name.

People **Come, Holy Spirit,**
Leader As we pray for those in our cycle of prayer _____.

Please add your own intercessions and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

Celebrant Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Confession and Absolution (Episcopal Book of Common Prayer)

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
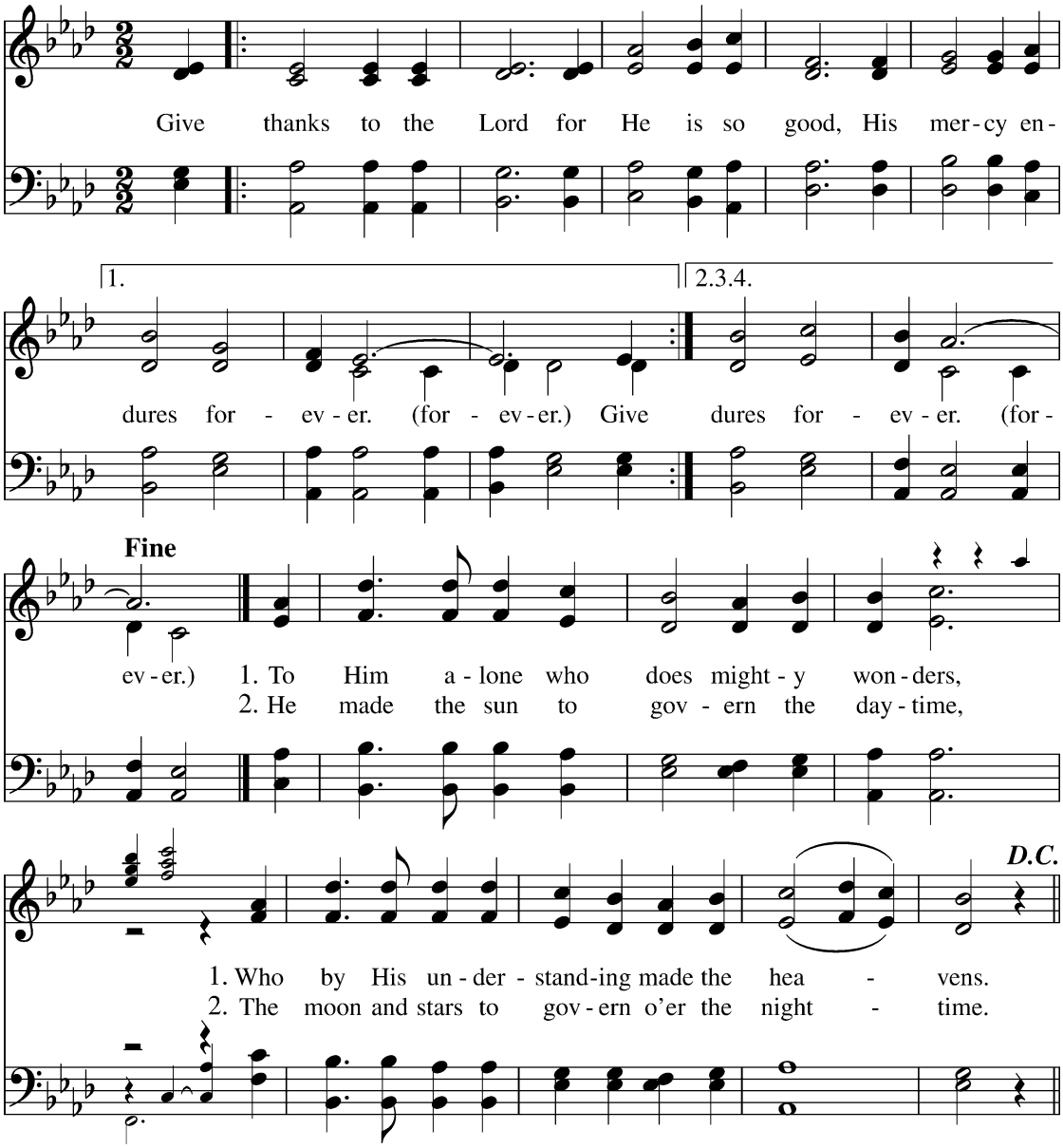
God's Peace is exchanged with one another.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Music LEVAS 93 *Gift thanks to the Lord*

The Offertory is sung while the Celebrant sets the table.



Words: Brenda Barker (b. 1959). Music: Ken Barker (b. 1955) and Devi Parker Ladd (b. 1961). Copyright © 1986 Word Music (a div. of WORD, INC.). All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

The Great Thanksgiving
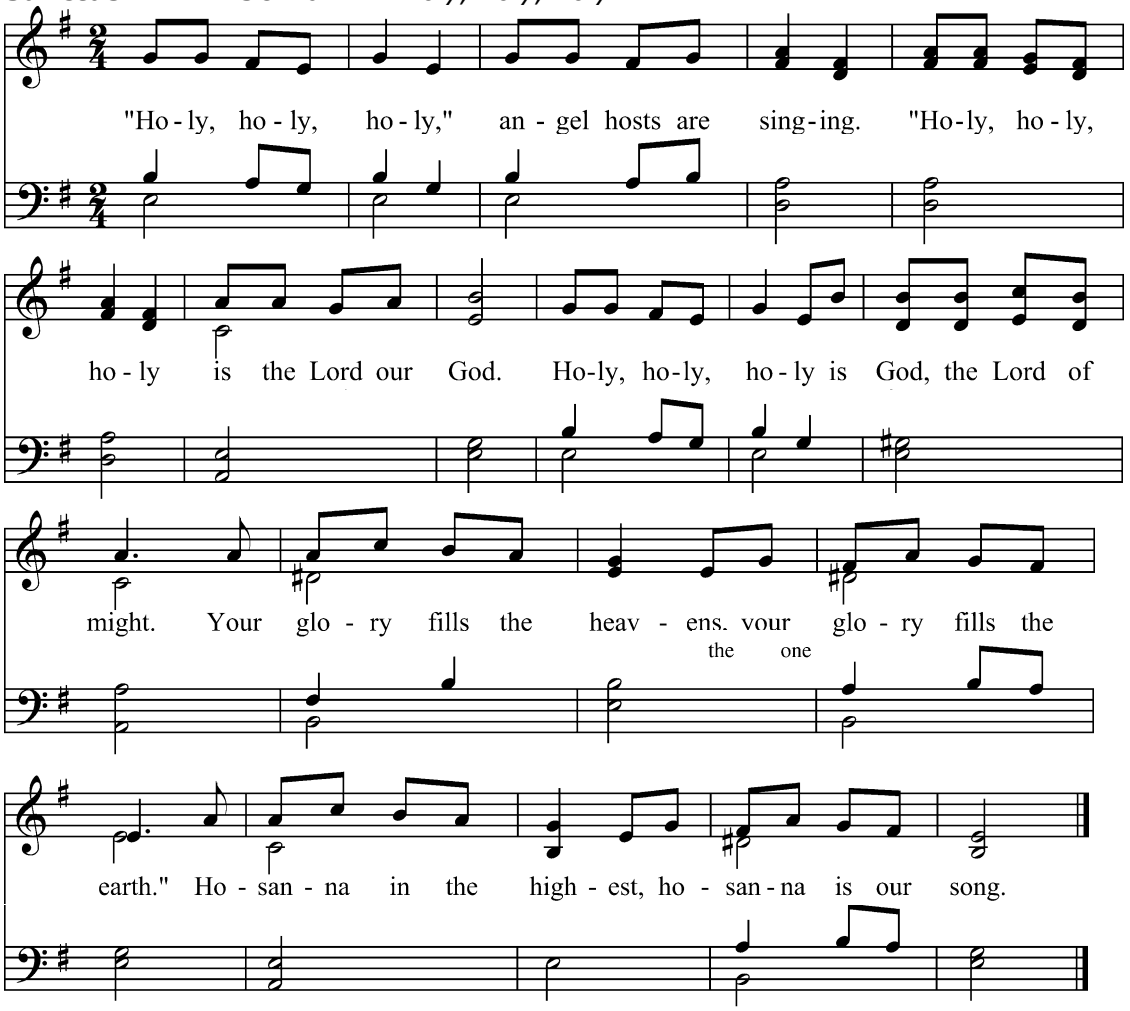
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 rejoicing in communion
with all your saints, we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus MHSO 26 *Holy, holy, holy*



Words: based on *Isaiah 6:3*, English paraphrase Bert Polman, 1985.
Music: *Merengue*, Spanish; harm. AnnaMae Meyer Bush, 1985 © 1987 CRC Publications, 2850 Kalamazoo Avenue Southeast, Grand Rapids, MI 49560 [www.crcpublications. org].
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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. Do this in remembrance of me."
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 Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of 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.

All **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we now pray,

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.

Breaking of the Bread *(Celebrant takes and breaks the bread.)*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy Gifts for Holy People.

The Communion of the People

No one who comes to the bread and wine seeking Christ is turned away. The words of distribution are:
The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. Amen.
The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. Amen.

Communion Music *Instrumental*

Announcements & Blessings of Life Events
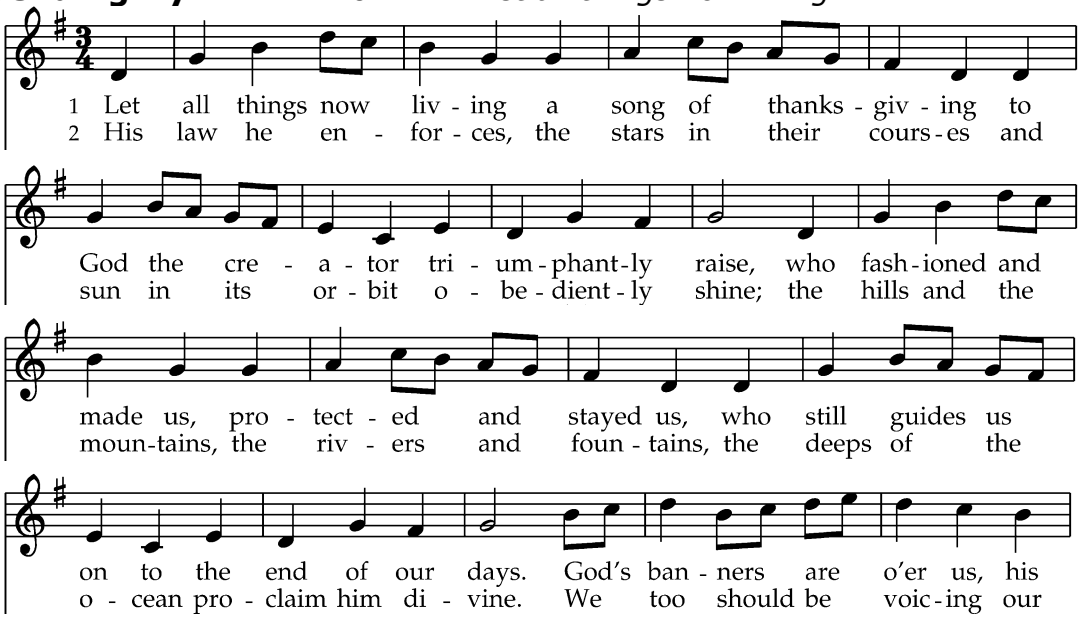
Post Communion Prayer

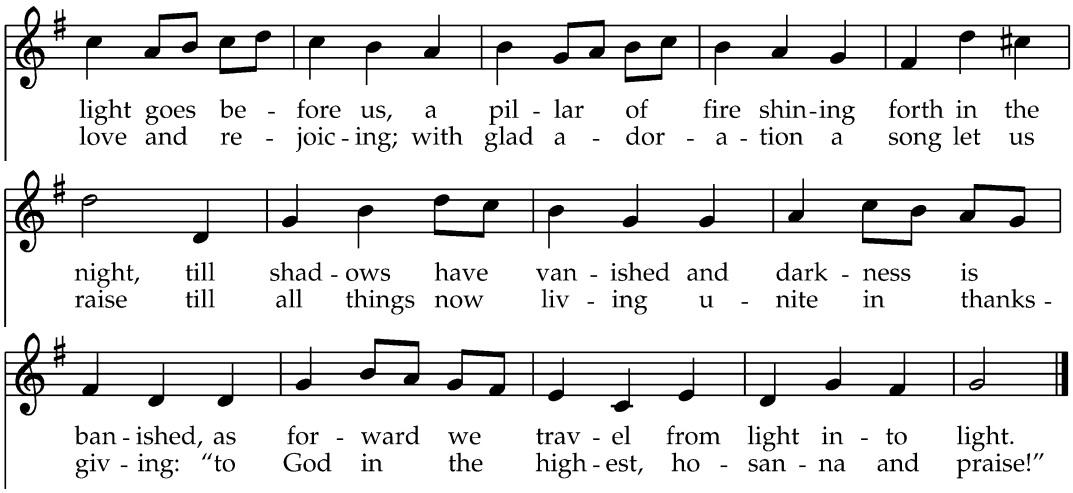
Celebrant Let us pray.
People **Holy and life-giving God, we have broken the bread which is Christ's body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all the world; through him who died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

The Blessing

Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn VF 107 *Let all things now living*





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Music: *The Ash Grove*, Welsh folk tune; harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship* (admin. Augsburg Fortress Publishers). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Going into the World

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, ALLELUIA!**

Postlude

This brings the worship to a close.
All are invited for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

Ministers of Today's Service
1st Reading & Psalm: Larry Jansen
2nd Reading & Prayers: Pam Janson
Greeter/Usher: Bruce Hinkle
Zoom Host: Shirley Chen
Altar Guild: Katherine Housman & Kathy Kirby

Clergy
Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry
Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff
Administrator: Teri Landreth
Music Director: Kate Autry
Sexton: Katie Forbing

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