Saint Nicholas
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

The 25th Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Today we welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ from Christian Valley Church, Cataula.

All are welcome to join us in a fellowship luncheon after the service.

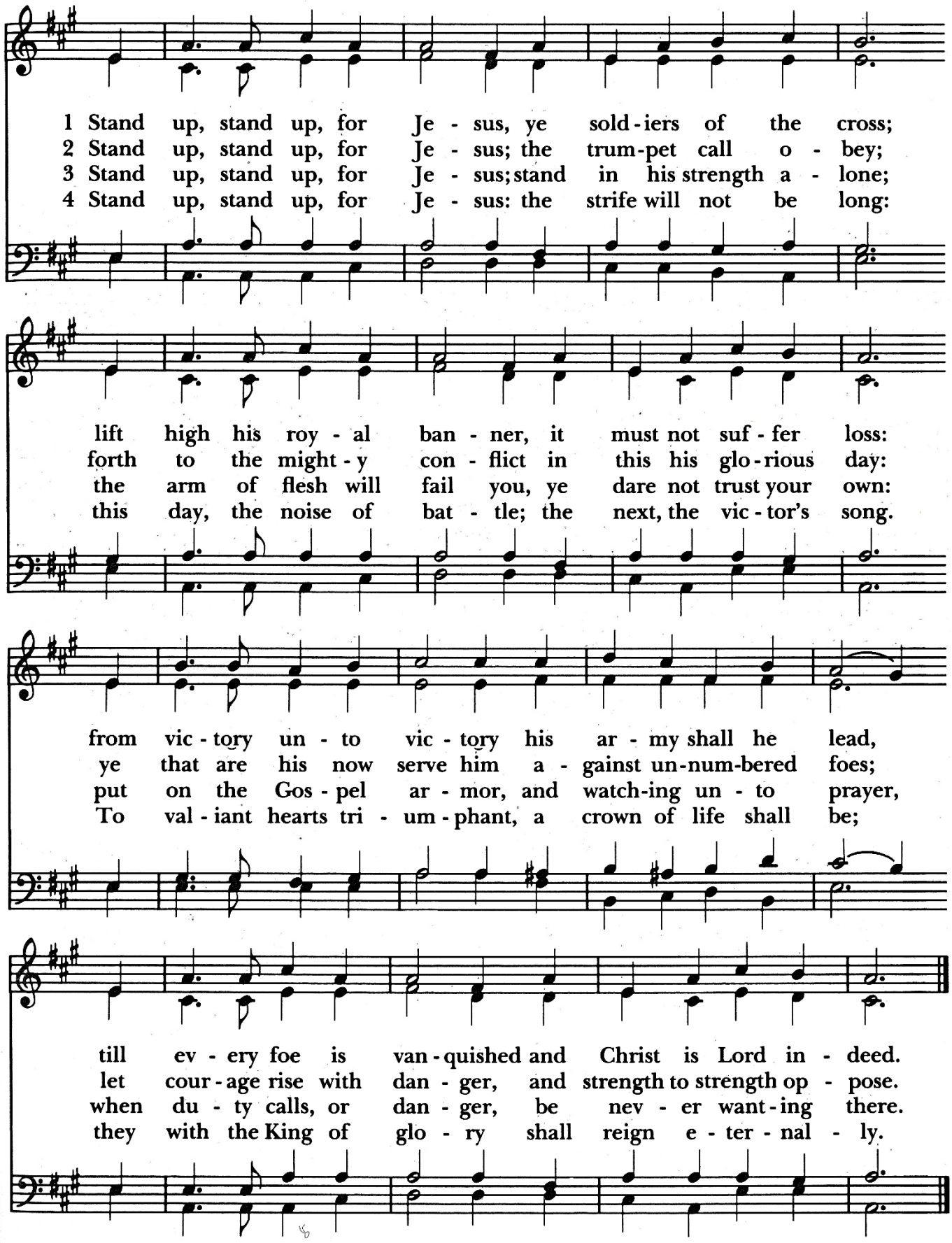
Please be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is a house of prayer for all people.

PRELUDE — *The Christian Valley Church Choir*

All stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL — Stand up, stand up, for Jesus

See next page



Words: George Duffield, Jr. (1818-1888), alt.
Music: *Morning Light,* George James Webb (1803-1887)

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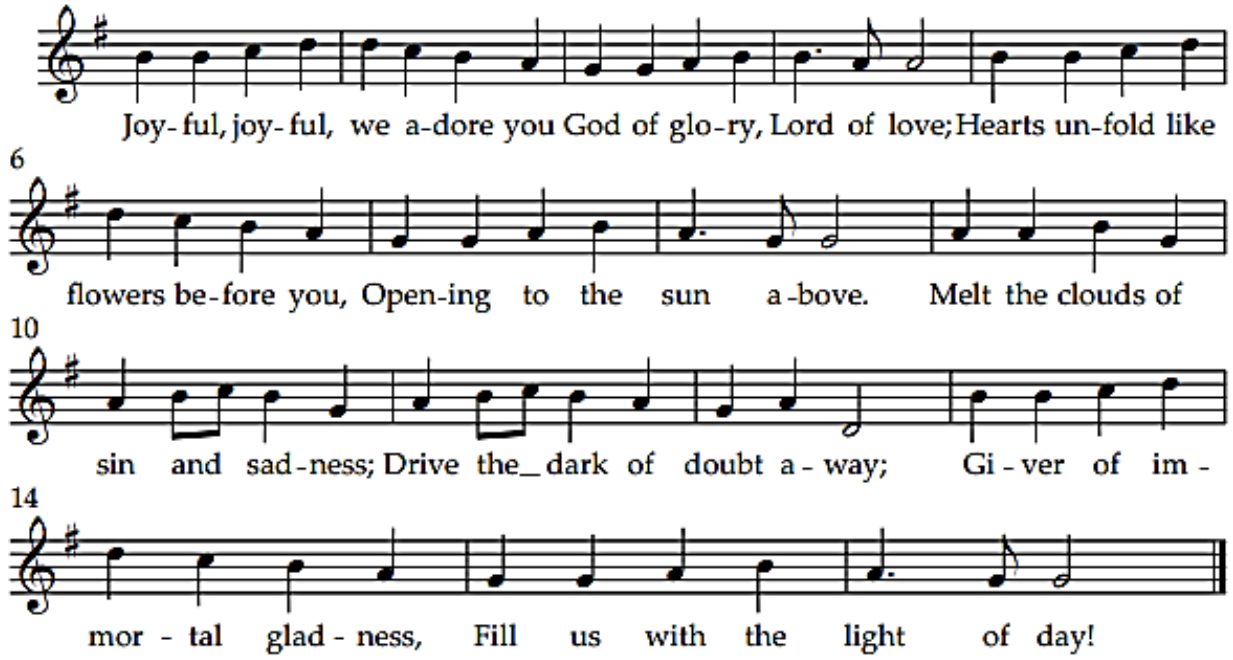
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

GLORIA

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
Comp: Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Edward Hodges
Words: Henry van Dyke



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord 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 reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Lector: A reading from the Prophet 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.

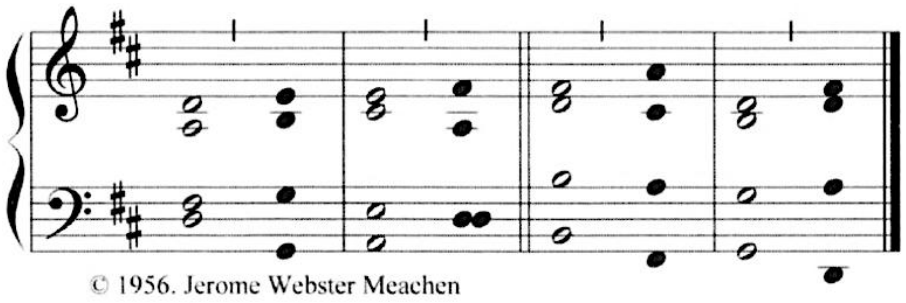
Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;

for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

THE PSALM | Psalm 90:1-8, 12

The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson. You're welcome to join in. If you don't read music, the note changes on the italicized words.



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*.

12 So teach us to number our *days* * that we may apply our hearts to *wisdom*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Lector: 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 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.
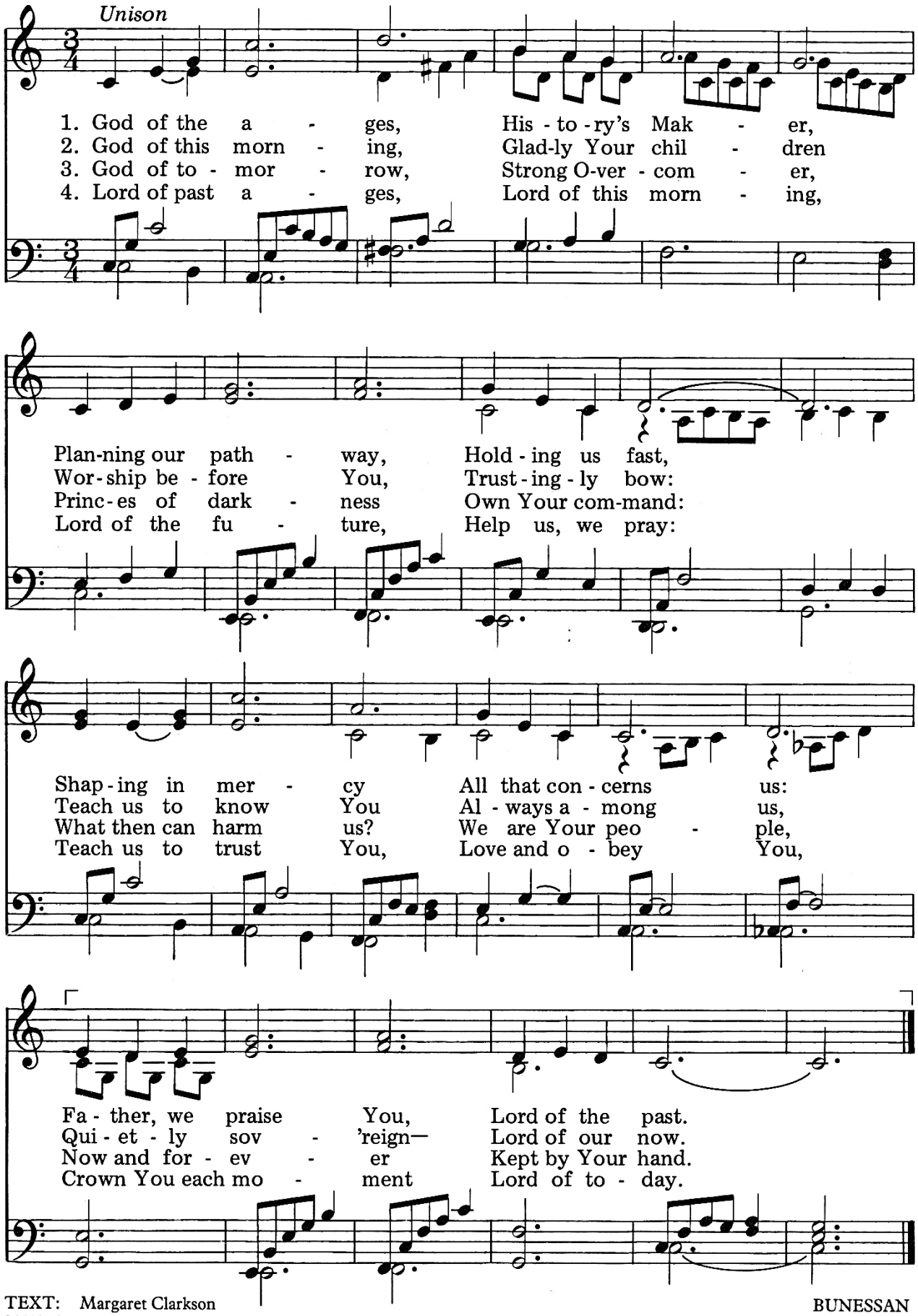
Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | God of the Ages

See next page



TEXT: Margaret Clarkson
MUSIC: Traditional Gaelic melody; arranged by Tom Fettke

BUNESSAN
5.5.5.4.D.

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THE GOSPEL | Matthew 25:14-30

Celebrant: 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.’”

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

Please be seated for the sermon.

THE SERMON

Rev. Eric Seldon, Sr.
Christian Valley Church

All stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

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.

Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Intercessor and People pray responsively.

Let us offer our prayers for the Church and the world.

Dear Lord, in a world full of hate, let us remember that your greatest commandment is to love. Make these words more than words for your faithful.

Christ, have mercy.

Help us remember that your kingdom is on earth as well as in heaven. Give us strength to embrace this as our mission.

Christ, have mercy.

Turns us from ourselves toward those whose needs are so much greater. Teach us compassion.

Christ, have mercy.

Let us not be complacent facing the unacceptable - hunger, poverty, loneliness, injustice, or fear - in our very midst.

Christ, have mercy.

Deliver the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families, and for the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement.

Christ, have mercy.

Bless with your greatest blessings the nurses, doctors, teachers, clergy, and all those whose special gifts are turned toward the suffering. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Especially we lift up Bailey, Dick, Ken, Tommy, Christine, Katherine, David, Hollis, Jamie, Peggy, Jimmy, Larry, and Deborah.

Christ, have mercy.

Shed your light and hope on all who mourn and help us give thanks for all

those gone to your heavenly kingdom.

Christ, have mercy.

Please offer up any other prayers and intercessions you may have at this time.

Silence.

Christ, have mercy.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Bless, O Lord, the words with which we try to say what we see, think, or feel. Fill us with gratitude for the grace of the earth, both the expected and the exceptional, and for all the hours we have been given to be in this world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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.

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 the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

STEWARDSHIP STORIES — Jim Gilliam

OFFERTORY HYMN | *The Christian Valley Church Choir*

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING — Eucharistic Prayer A

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 him thanks and praise.**

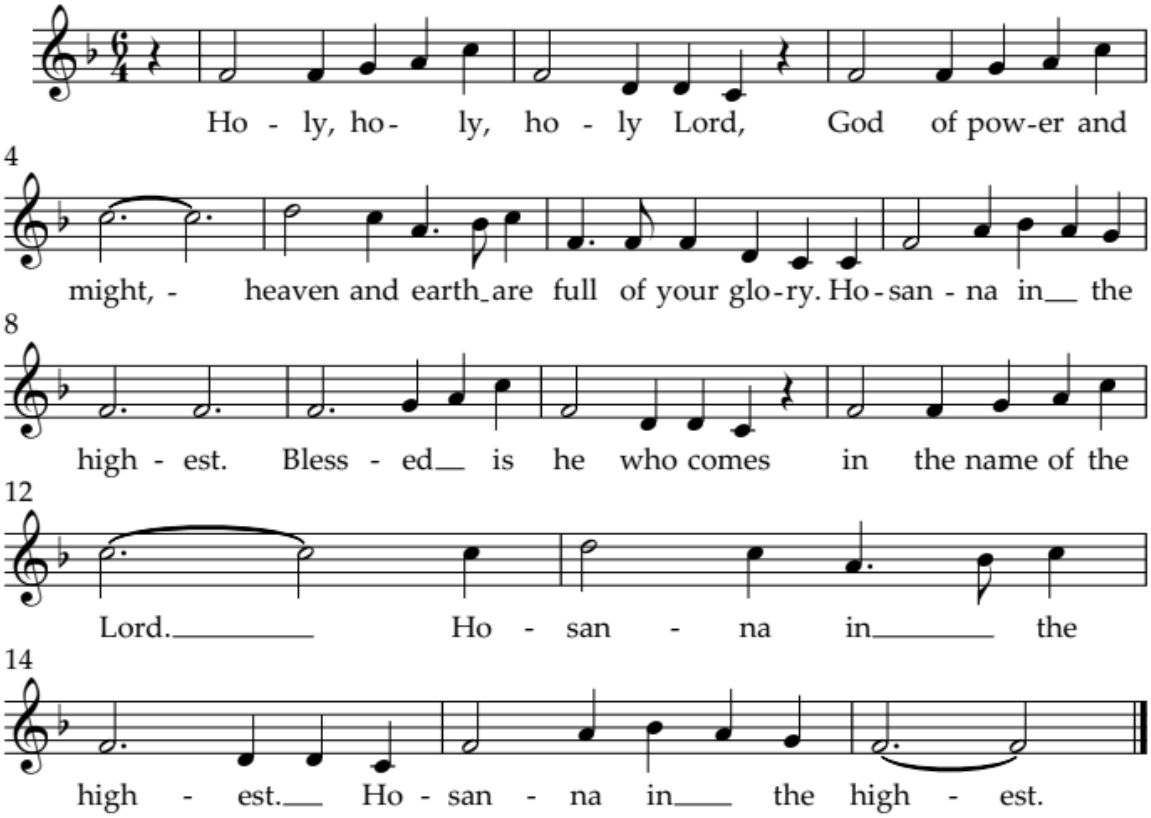
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Annabel Morris



The people stand or kneel as able.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

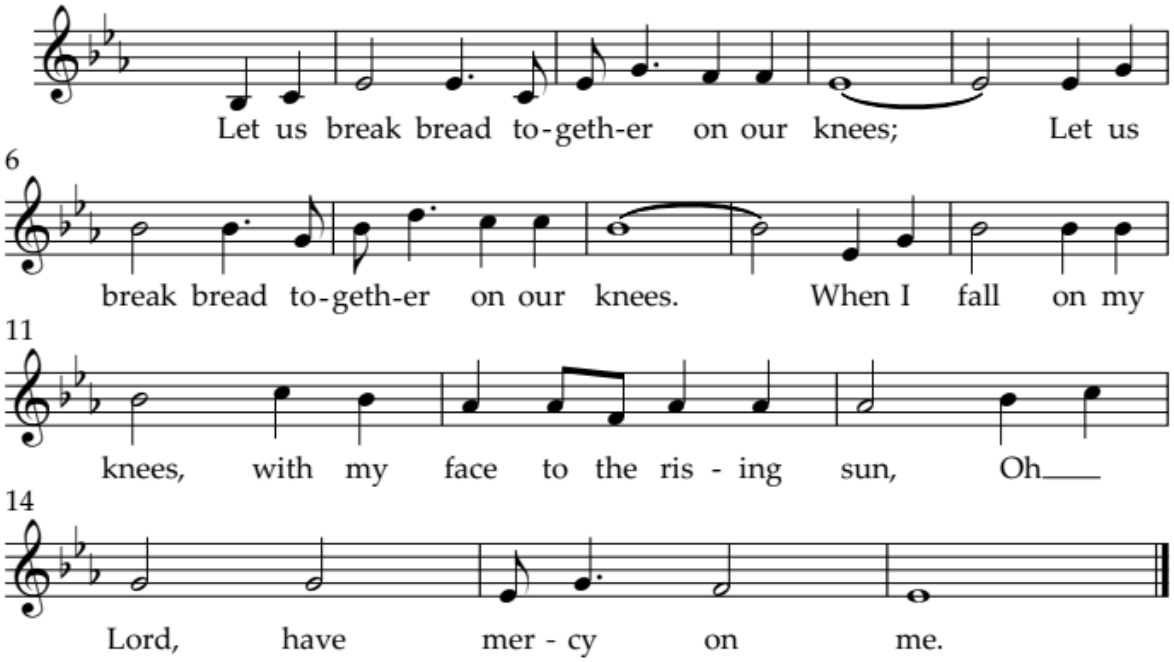
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

FRACTION ANTHEM



THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Celebrant:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All people are invited to receive Communion. The ushers will come stand by your pew, at which time you may go kneel or stand at the railing. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have mobility challenges and need communion brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available.
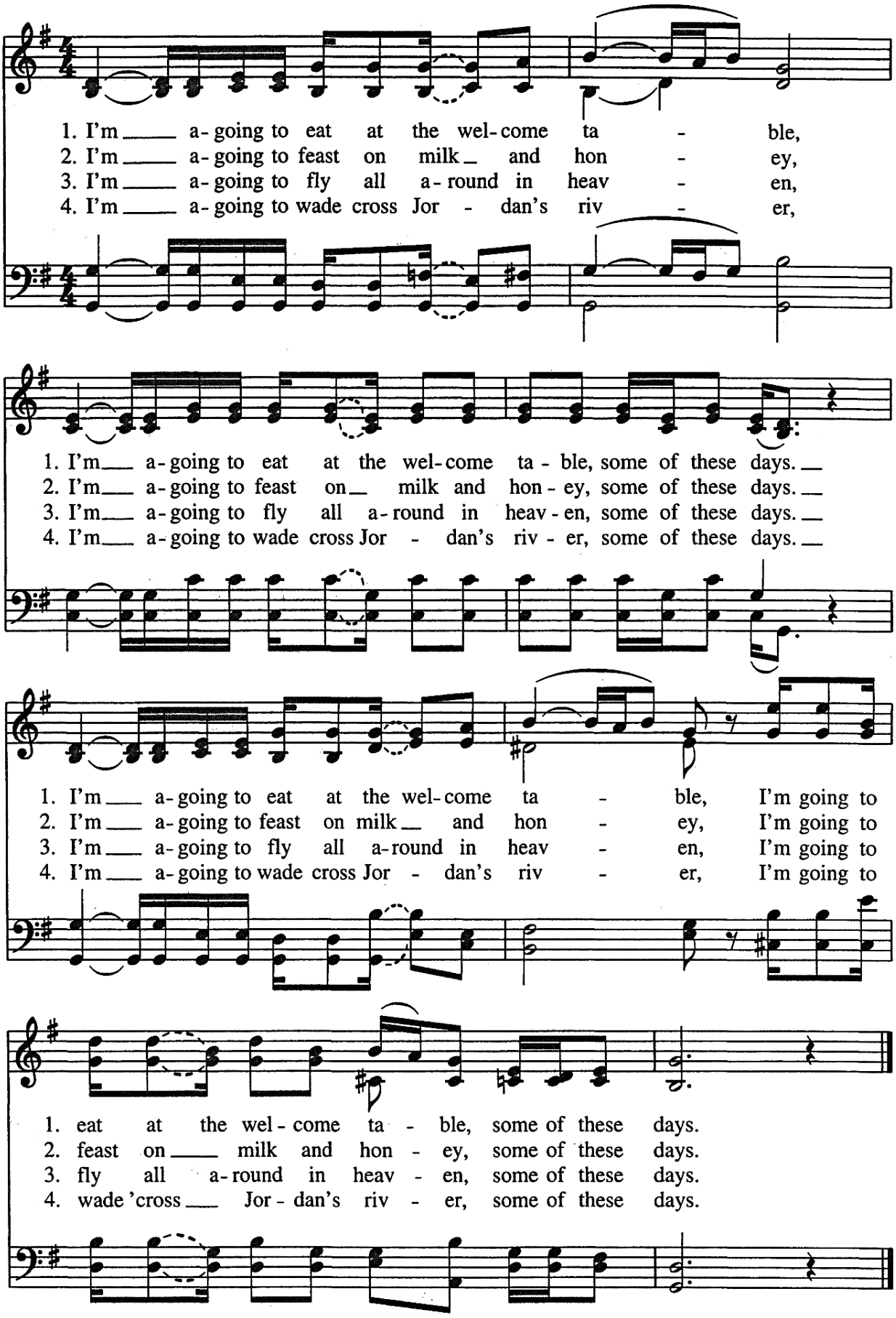
COMMUNION HYMN | Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart

This hymn will be performed by Kevin Anderson.

COMMUNION HYMN | I'm a-Going to Eat at the Welcome Table

See next page.

Please join in singing.



Words: Traditional
Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Diton (1886-1969), from *36 South Carolina Spirituals*

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
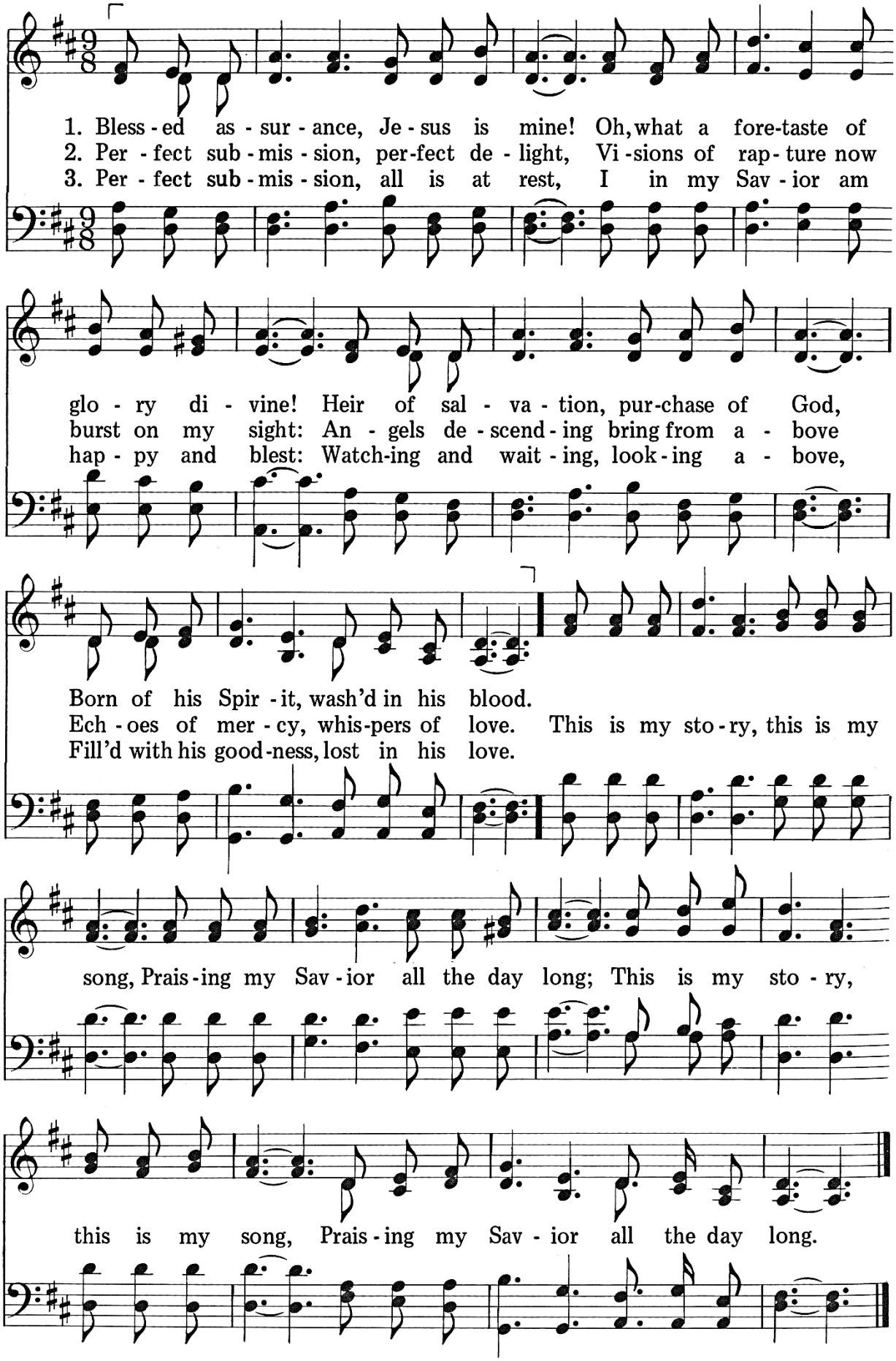
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECESSIONAL | Blessed Assurance

See next page



Words, Fanny J. Crosby, 1873. Tune ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873.

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Response: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Bailey Brown, Dick Wood, Ken Crew, Tommy Goodman, Katherine Johnson, Christine Risdon, David Mullins, Hollis Hale, Jamie Webb, Peggy Sivell, Jimmy Hatchett, Larry Culpepper, and Deborah Culpepper. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, Nonie Bueche, and Mary Butcher.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

Get all the news: Use this QR code to go to the most recent newsletter!

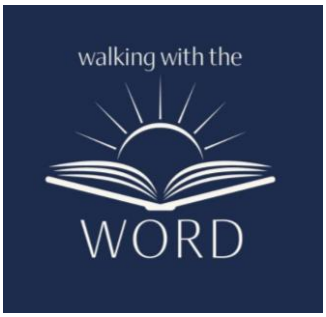
UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

NOV 18: Cookies, Crafts & Conversation group meets at 3:00 p.m.

NOV 22: Vestry meets after the service

NOV 29: Deadline for Harris County Christmas Gift drop-off

This year's **Stewardship campaign** is in full swing. Pledge cards are available on the website or in the narthex, if you haven't received your packet yet. And go ahead and turn those pledge cards in – Erin will tuck them away and bring them back out to be blessed on November 29, so there's no need to wait.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY: Beginning November 29, 2026, the United Methodists, Evangelical Lutherans, and Episcopalians in Georgia will read the Bible together in one year. Father Bob is planning an Adult Forum each month to support our reading. Let Erin know if you'd like to be kept informed.

Advent Readers Needed! The First Sunday in Advent is November 29. We'd love for you and members of your family to read the traditional short verses and light the Advent wreath at the beginning of the services. This is perfect for anyone with kids or grandkids visiting in Advent. Please contact Erin if you're willing and able.

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry, and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: Lynn Norris
Ushers: Charles & Lynn Norris
Virtual Ministers: Katherine Johnson
Eucharistic Minister: Connie Blackmon
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Margaret Zachry