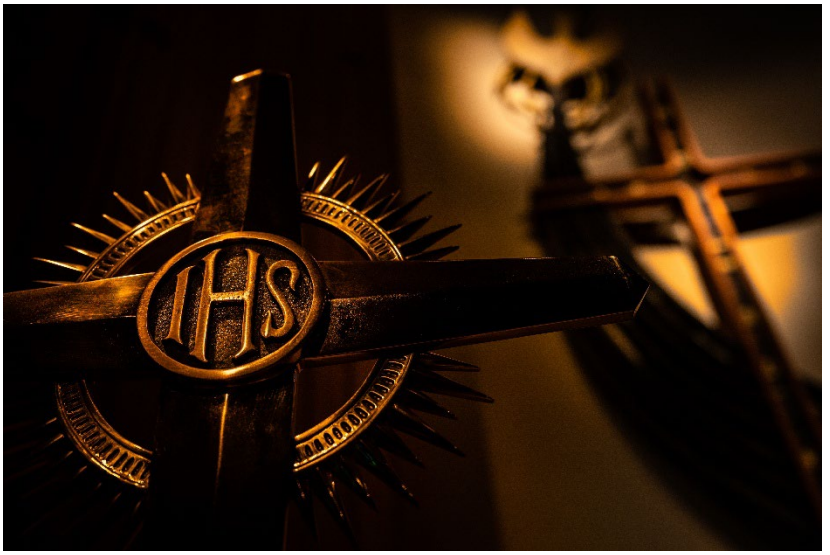
Last Sunday of the Church Year

Divine Service—Setting Four—LSB 203

By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, "he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:32). "To those on his right," who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But "those on his left," who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart "into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep "as a shepherd seeks out his flock" (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, "the fat and the strong," but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds "the lean sheep" (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that "in Christ shall all be made alive" by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).



Messiah Lutheran Church
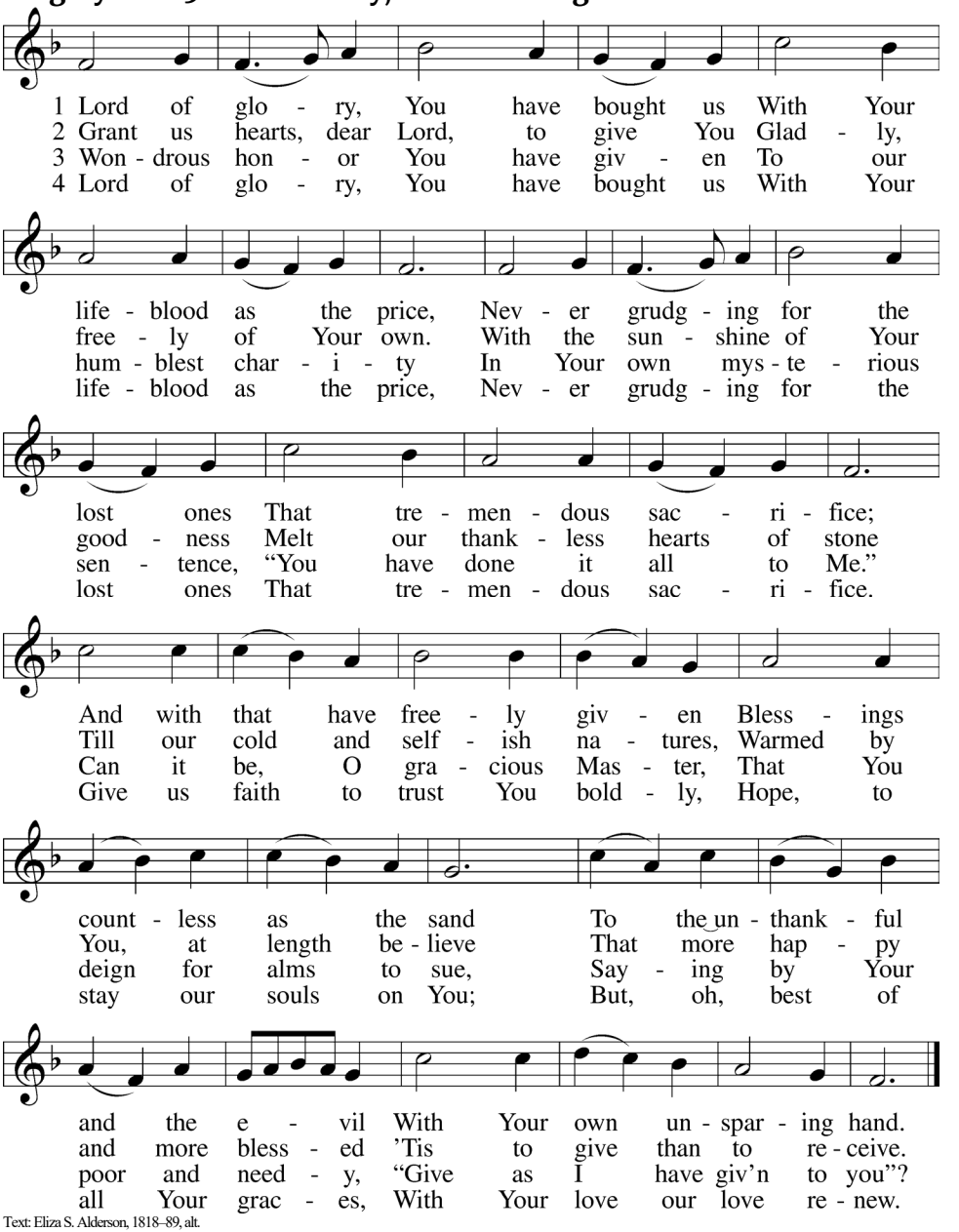
Keller, Texas

November 22, 2026

Prelude

Stand

Opening Hymn: 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross ✢ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b;[18:20]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalm 130;3-4*
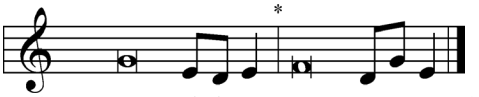
P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *Luke 8:13*

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.** *John 20:19-23*



Service of the Word

Introit *Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*
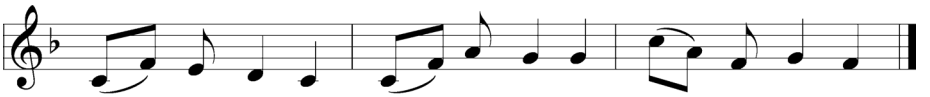


In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.

O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;*
let me know how fleeting | I am!
Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,*
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.
And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*
My hope | is in you.
Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace | at my tears!*
For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my | fathers.

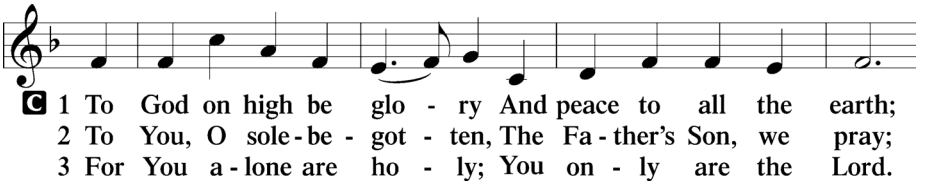
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

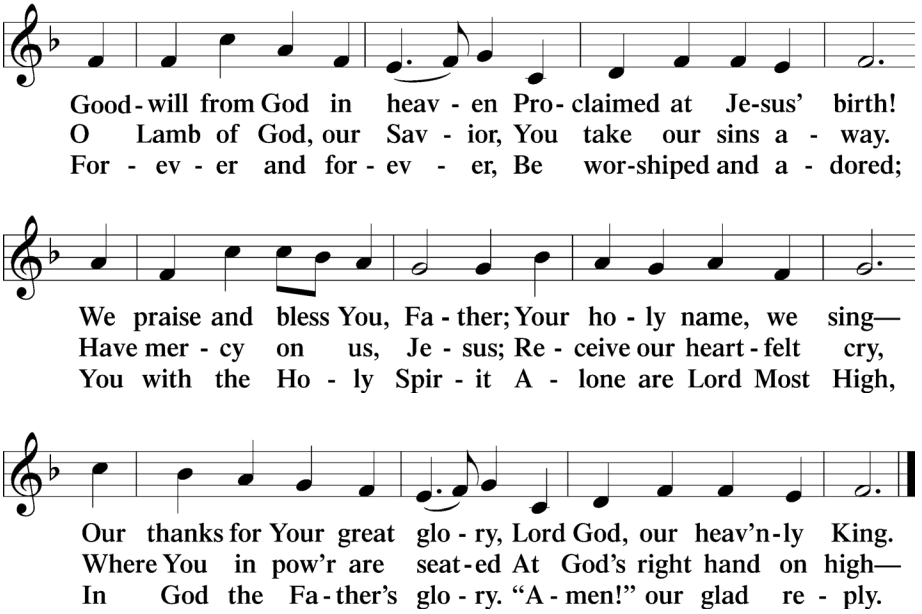
In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.

Kyrie *Mark 10:47*



Gloria in Excelsis *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*





Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

℗ The Lord be with you.

℃ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

℃ **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
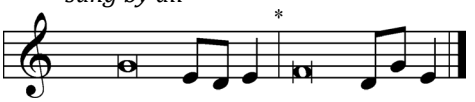
11 "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and
will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep
that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from
all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries,
and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of
Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed
them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their
grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture

they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. [15]I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. [16]I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . .

[20]"Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21]Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, [22]I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. [23]And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24]And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken."

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

Gradual *sung by all* *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
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.

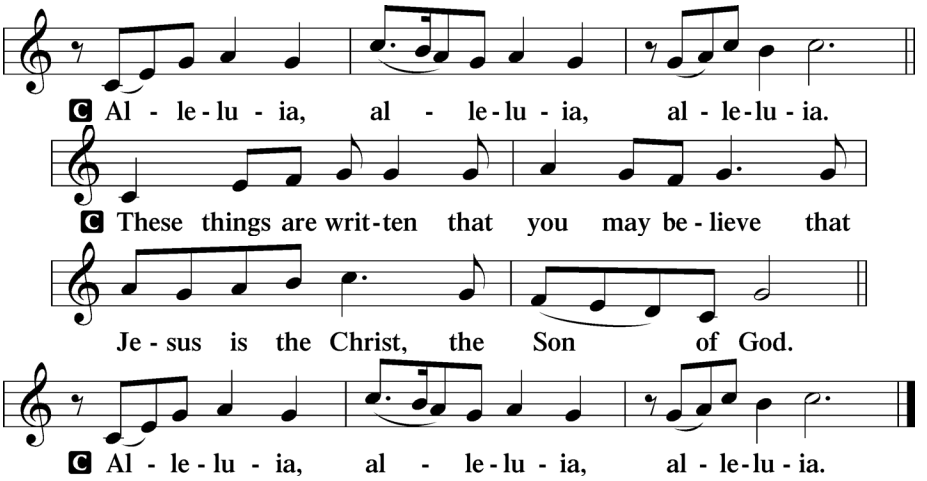
Epistle *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

[20]But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21]For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22]For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23]But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24]Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25]For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26]The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27]For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. [28]When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

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

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

31[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with
him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32Before him will be gathered all the
nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the
sheep from the goats. 33And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the
left. 34Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my
Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35For
I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a
stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you
visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37Then the righteous will answer him,
saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?
38And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39And
when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40And the King will answer them,
'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to
me.'

41"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me
no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not
welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit
me.' 44Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45Then he will
answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of
these, you did not do it to me.' 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but
the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

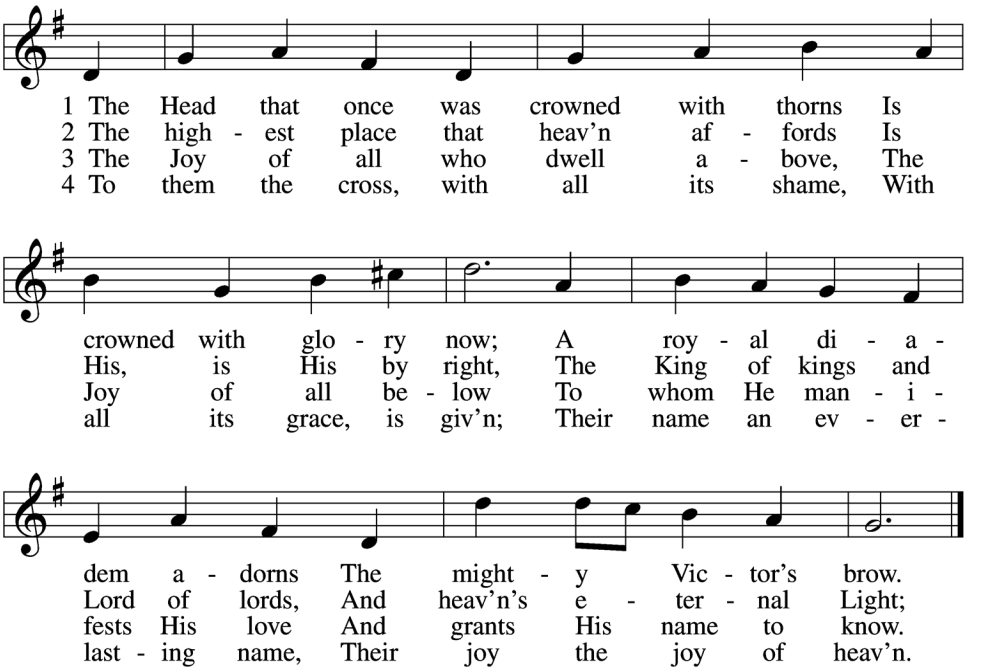
C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns



5 They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The myst'ry of His love.

6 The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855
Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Reception of the Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

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

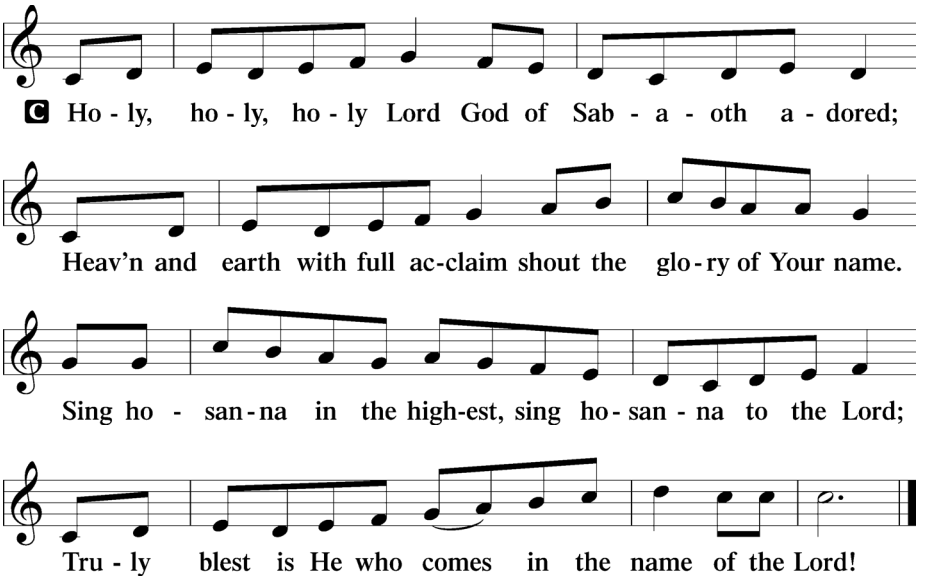
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

℗ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

℗ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

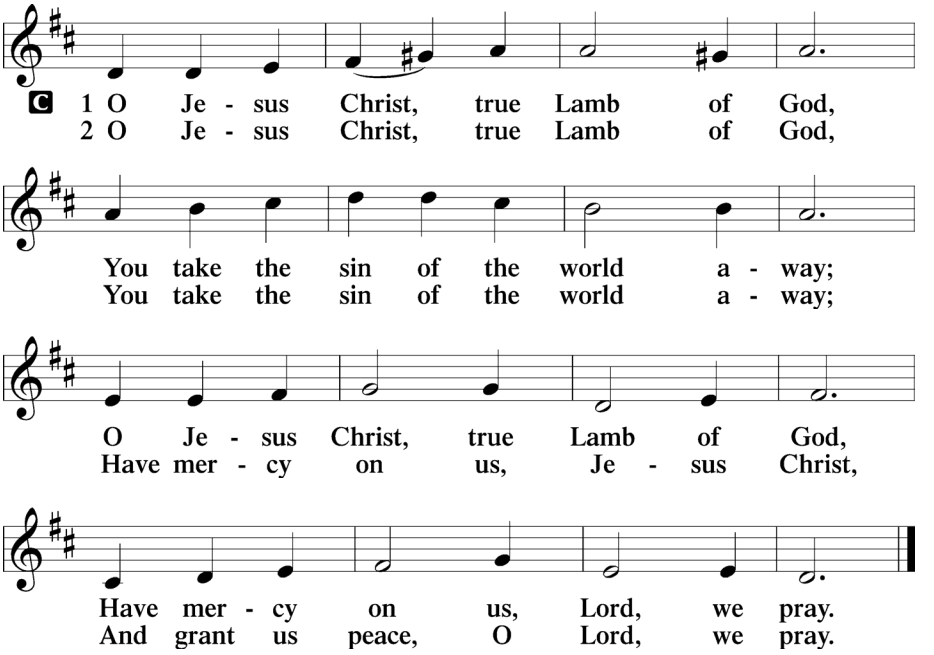
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

℗ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
℄ **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

John 1:29
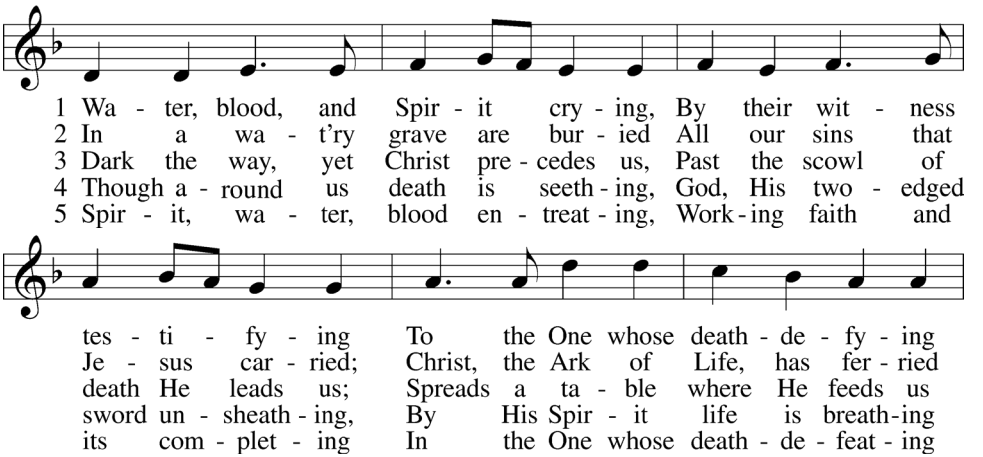


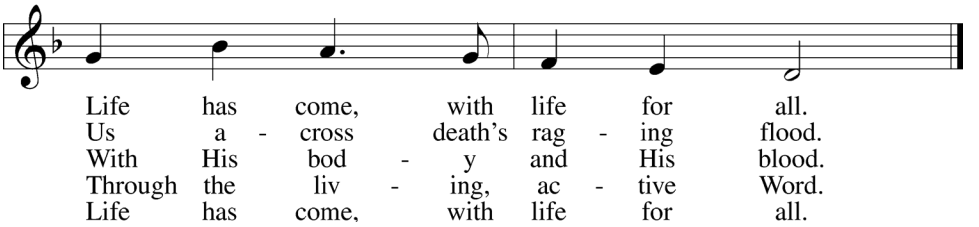
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

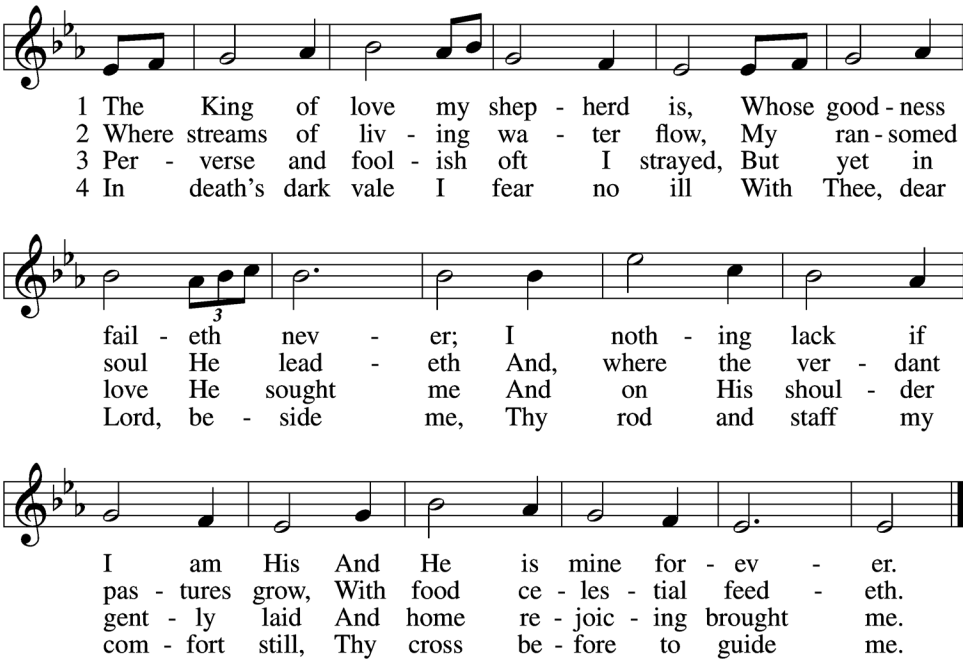
597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying





Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Jeffrey N. Blersch, 1967
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709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
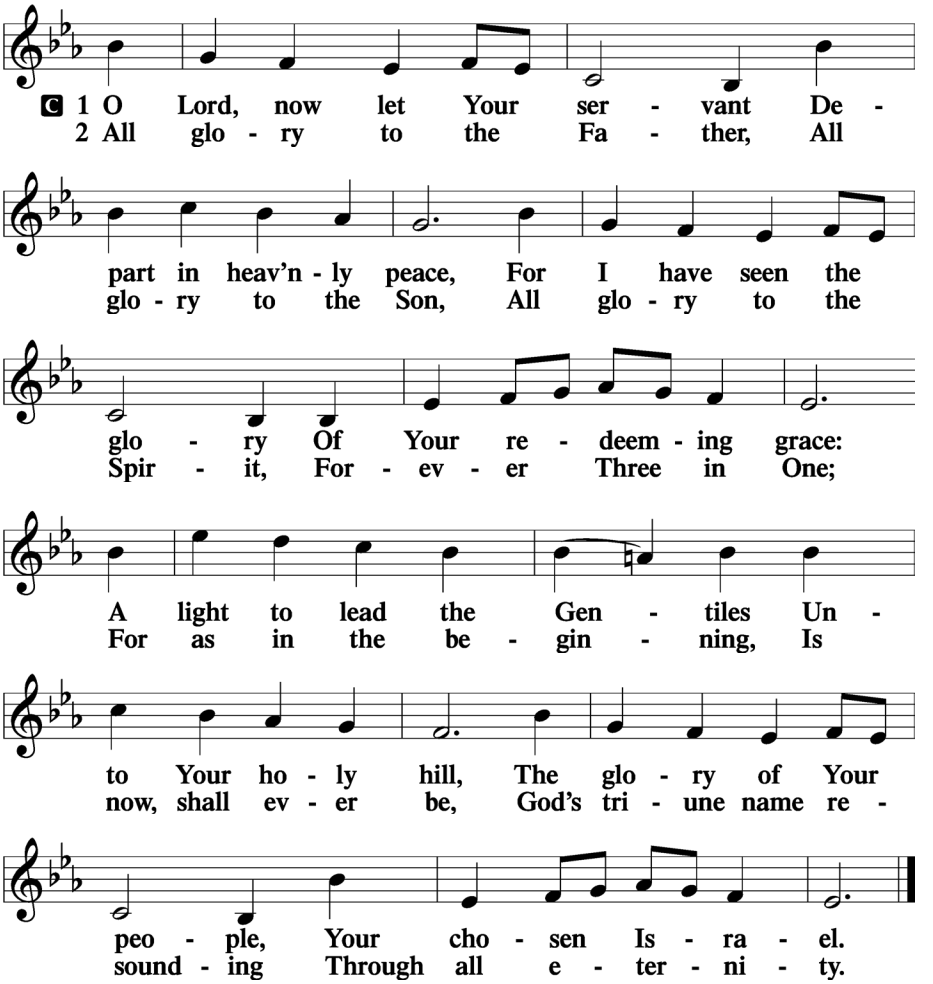
6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus
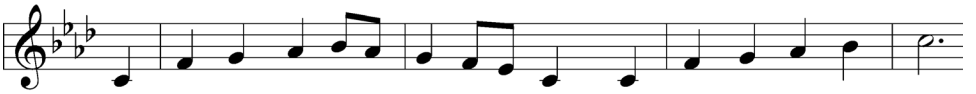
Psalm 103:1

℣ Let us bless the Lord.
℟ **Thanks be to God.**
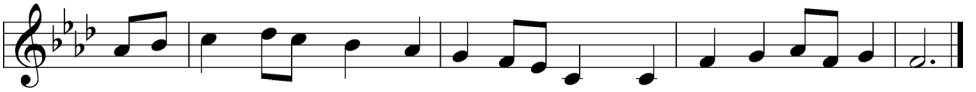
Benediction

℣ 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.
℟ **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen - dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

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

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