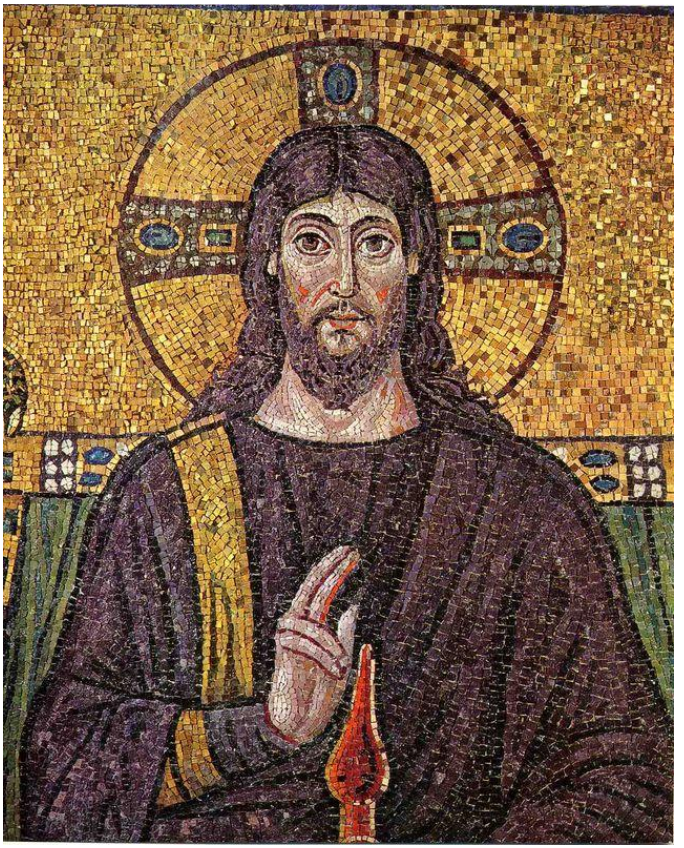
St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2026

Welcome to St. Simon's

Celebrating God's love for all. Embodying Christ in the world.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. Welcome.

St Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites all who seek God into community, questions and doubts included. Please feel free to participate as fully in the worship of God as you wish. Lift your voice in praise, respond to the prayers and readings, and come to the altar for communion or a blessing. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God's Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable.

Welcome, Children. You are invited as full participants in our worship just as you are. God delights in you.

Welcome, Elders. Your wisdom and experience are valued in our community. God has shaped you and you are beautiful.

Welcome, you.

Welcome, everyone, to God's table. This is the table of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and all who seek God are invited to share in communion. If you wish to participate, but prefer not to receive communion, please join everyone coming forward. Cross your arms over your chest and we will be glad to give you a blessing instead. If you wish to have communion brought to you at your seat, or if you desire a gluten-free wafer, please notify an usher.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, there is a place for you here.
May you encounter God in this community.
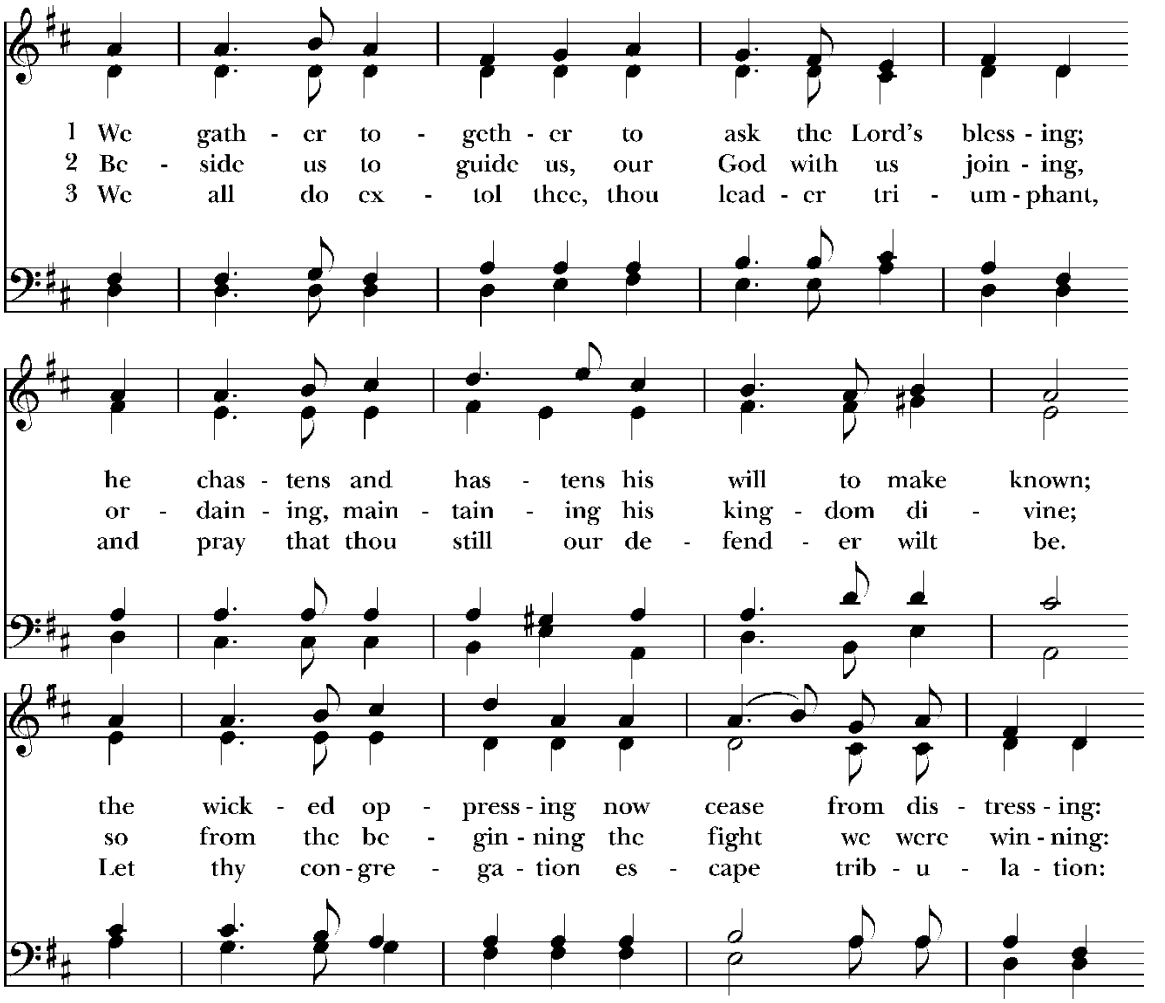
The Holy Eucharist

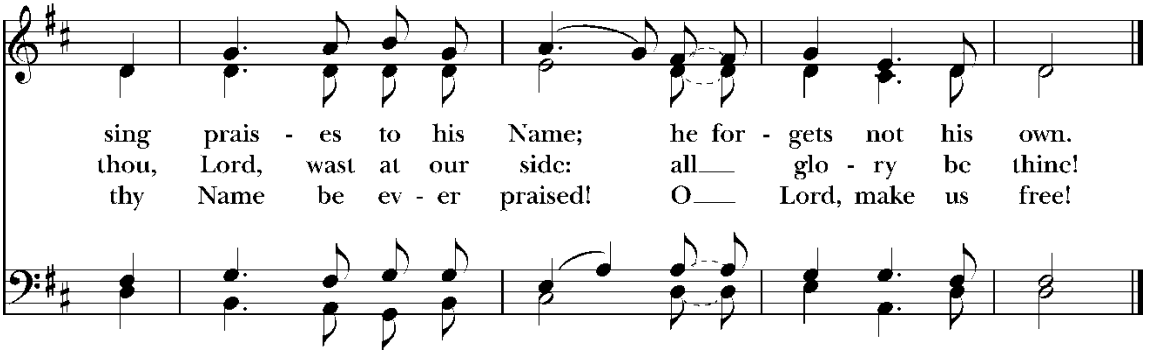
** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*
*All portions of the service in **Bold** are spoken by the assembly.*
Please silence your cell phone.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

*Opening Hymn H 433 "We gather together" *Kemser*

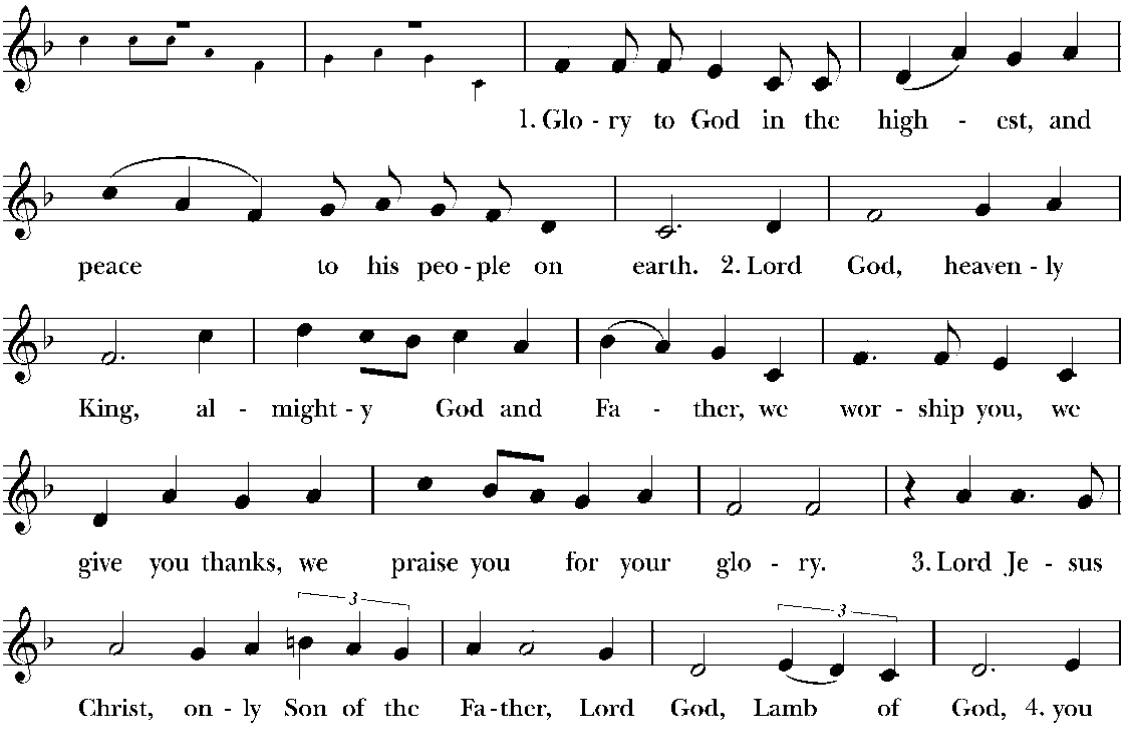


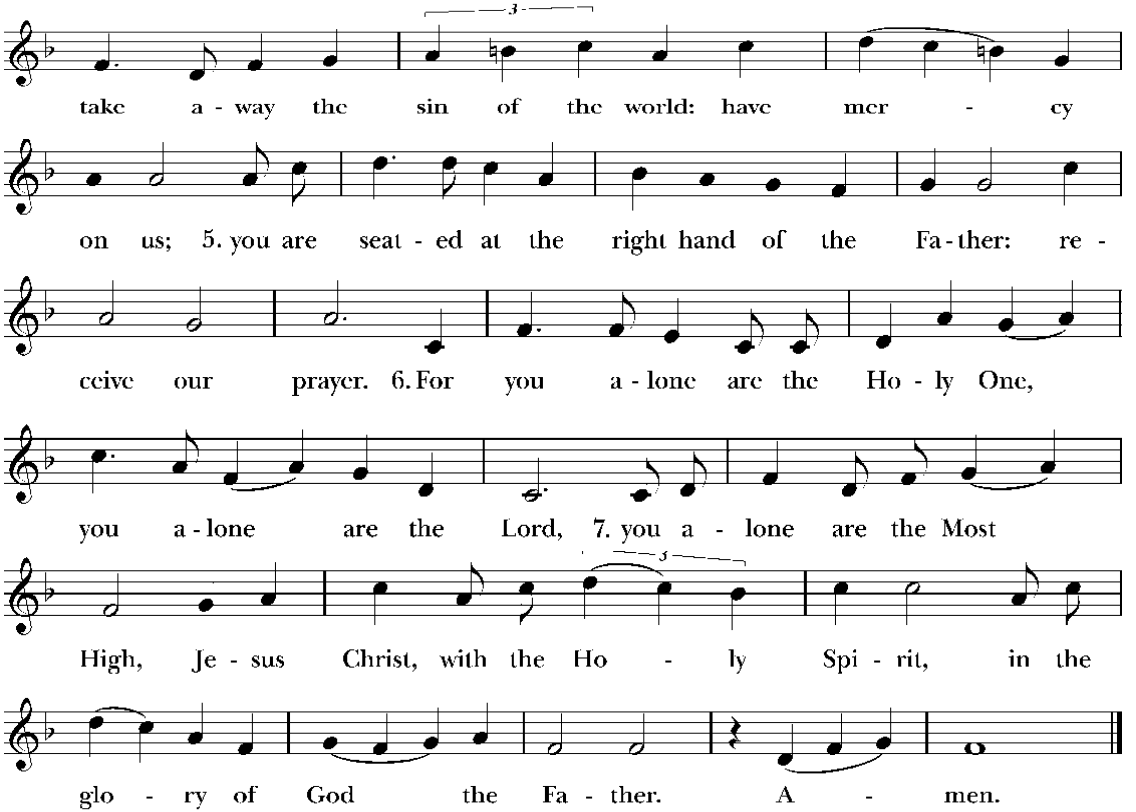


Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Gloria

S-280





The Word of God

*The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The Assembly is seated*

The First Lesson Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from the book of Zephaniah.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 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 watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 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, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
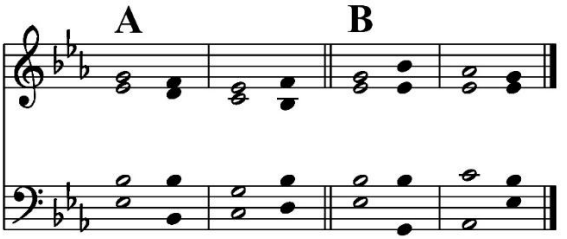
Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

The Psalter

Psalm 95:1-7a



A Come, sing with joy to God,
shout to our savior, our rock.
A Enter God's presence with praise,
enter with shouting and song.
B A great God is the Lord,
over the gods like a king.

A God cradles the depths of the earth,
holds fast the mountain peaks.
B God shaped the ocean and owns it,
formed the earth by hand.

A Come, bow down and worship,
kneel to the Lord our maker.
B This is our God, our shepherd,
we are the flock led with care.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the first letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to

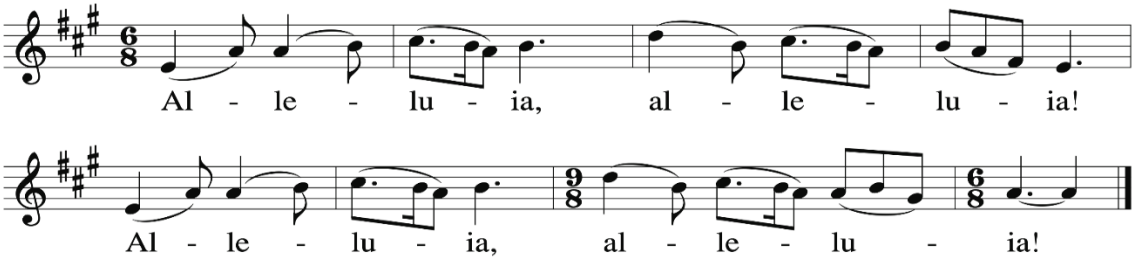
which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

The Assembly stands as they are able to face the Gospeler.

*The Gospel Procession

All join in singing twice both before and after the gospel.



*The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand

and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.
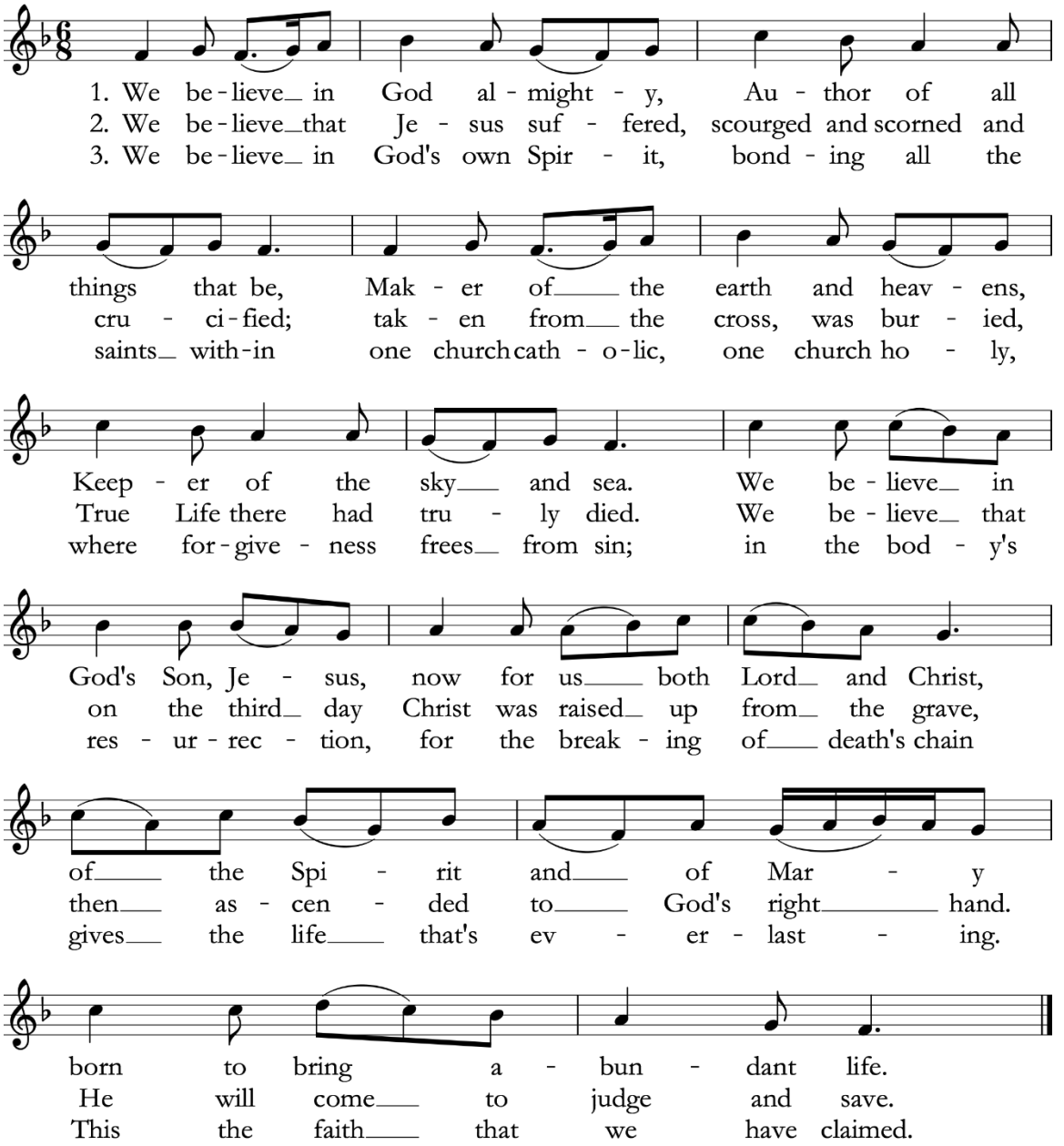
The Sermon

T.J. Houlihan

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

*The Creed

Hyfrydol



*The Prayers of the People

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying: "Hear our prayer".

For peace and tranquility in the world,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For all who know you and all who seek to know you more deeply,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Paula our Bishop, and for each of us as we minister to those around us,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For the good earth which you have given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Mary Edith, Deborah, Michael and Jane, Teri-Ellen, Bill, Michael and Sharon and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital

(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for the disappeared, and for all who work against systems of inequity,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For all who no longer have need of faith for they see you face to face,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

For our enemies and those with whom we disagree, for those who wish us harm, and those whom we have harmed,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without
suffering and without reproach,
(silence)
let us pray.
Hear our prayer

In the communion of all your saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

*The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

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.

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

*The Peace

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

The Ministers and Assembly stand to greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Blessing Birthdays and Anniversaries
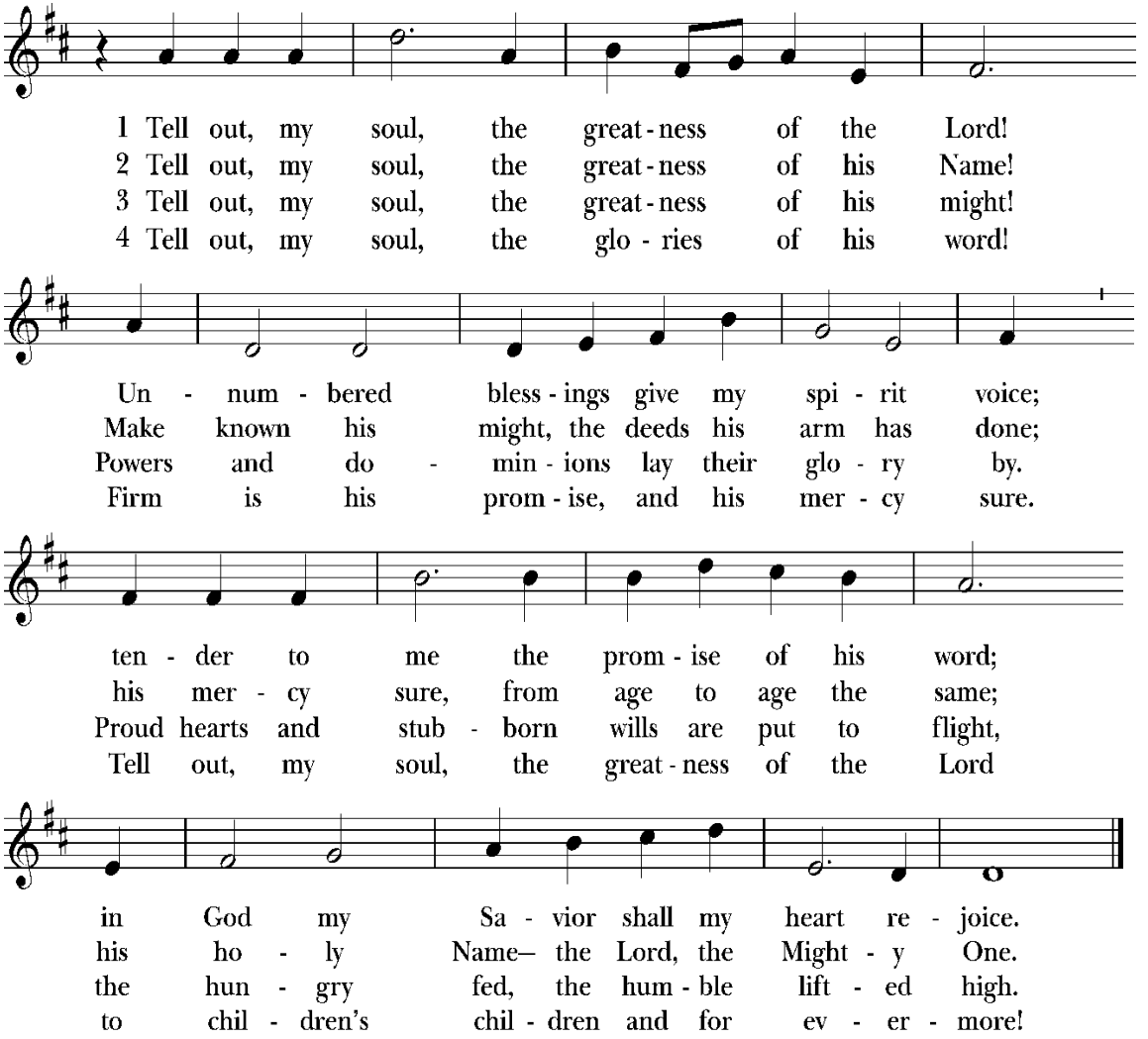
All those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries of any kind are invited to add their name to the chat on Zoom or feed on Facebook

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
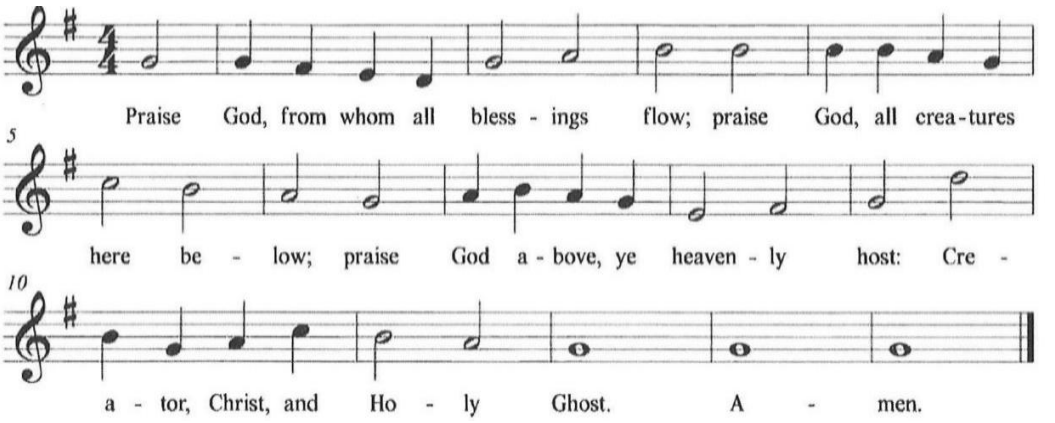
Engagement Opportunities

Offertory *Text 73256 to give. In the body of the text type saintsimons*

Offertory Hymn H 438 "Tell out my soul" *The Song of Mary*



*Presentation of the Gifts



*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP form C

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

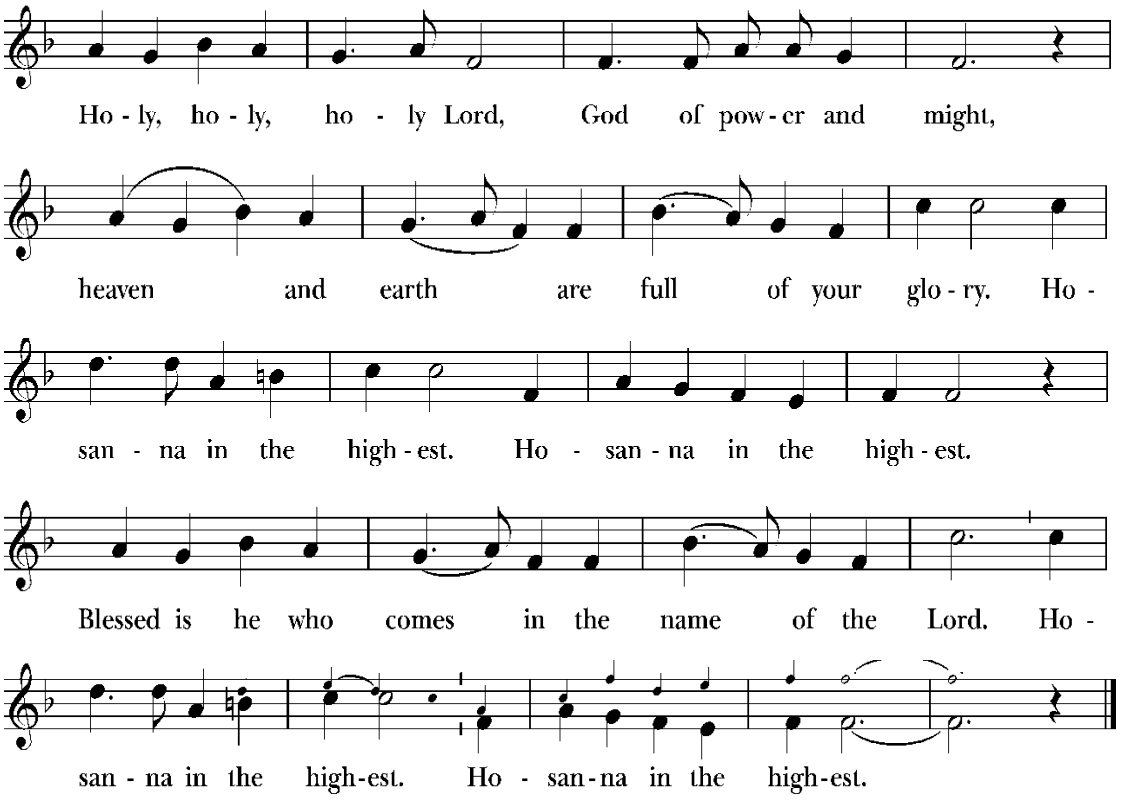
At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



And so, O God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Forbearers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Leah, Rachael, Bilhah and Zilpah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.
Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, O God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

A period of silence is kept.

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.

The Presider and those worshipping online consume the host together with these words:
The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
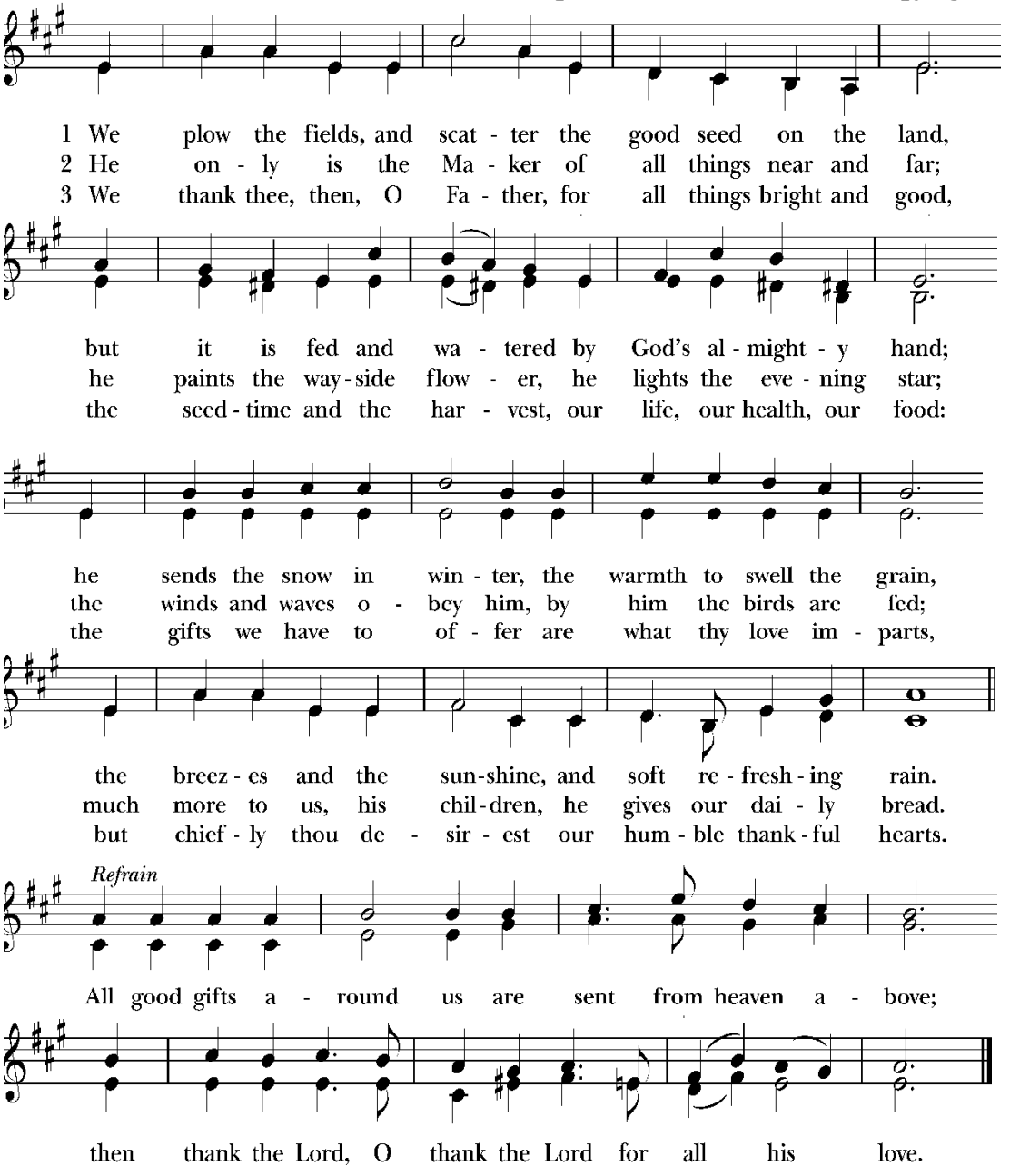
Everyone has a place at God's table and all are invited to share in communion.

You may stand or kneel at the rail. Wine is offered in individual cups around the outside of the tray. Grape juice is offered in the middle. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you would like to participate but do not wish to receive the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

Both the common cup (chalice) and individual cups are offered. Join the line for the chalice on the left (pulpit) side or the line on the right (screen) side to receive the individual cups. Grape juice is available in the individual cups.

Note: Generally, we will begin to sing the communion hymn once the final group of communion recipients has knelt at the rail. This way, more of the congregation can fully participate in singing most of the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn H 291 "We plow the fields" *Weir pflugen*



*Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

In gratitude for this moment,
this place,
those around us,
Christ among us,
we give ourselves to you our God.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have met the risen Christ
and cannot be the same.

Ask much of us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.

So may we live to your glory
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Through Jesus our brother,
with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.[1]
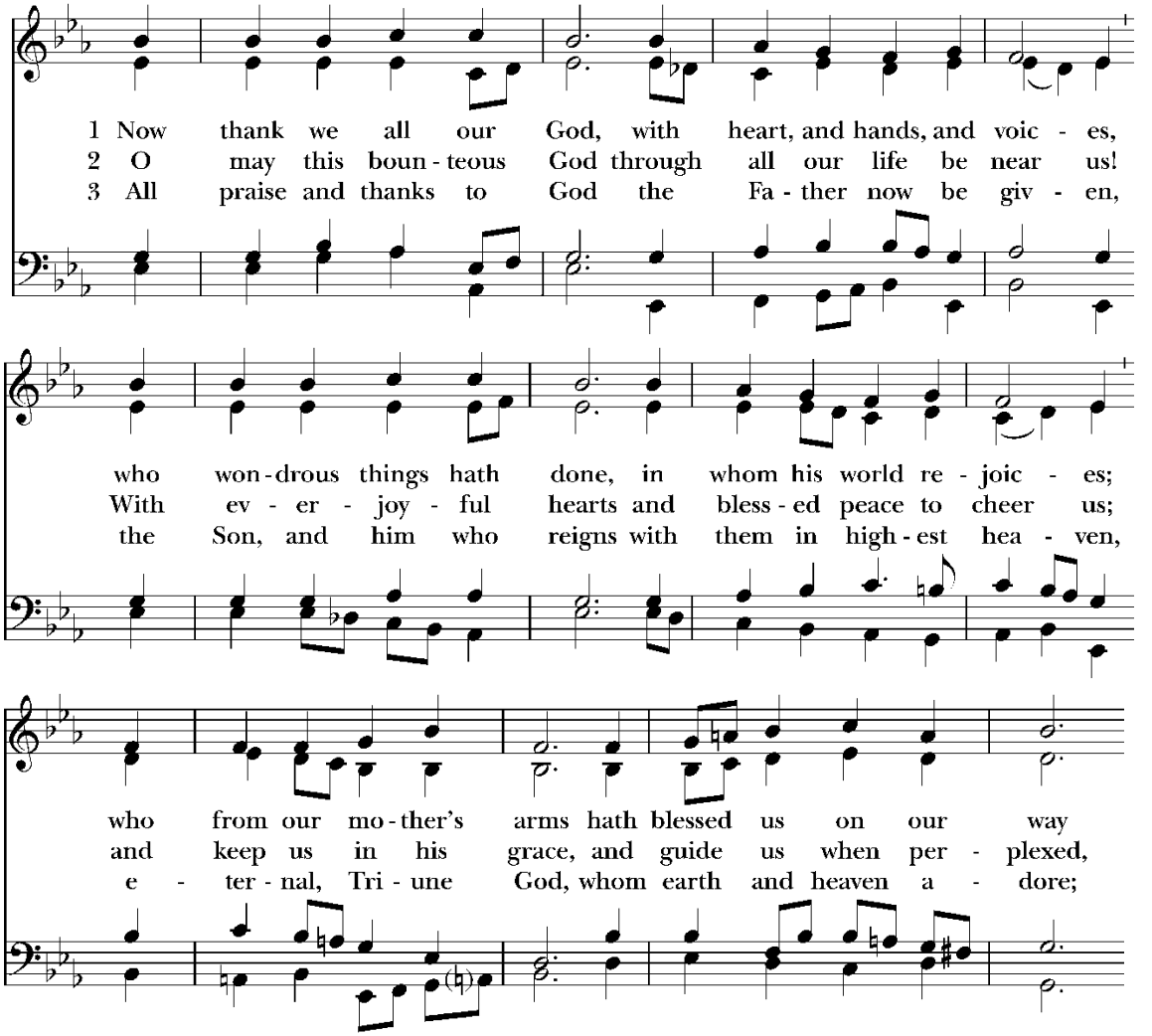
When members of the community are unable to attend the service, representatives of the people are sent with bread and wine to extend our communion with them.

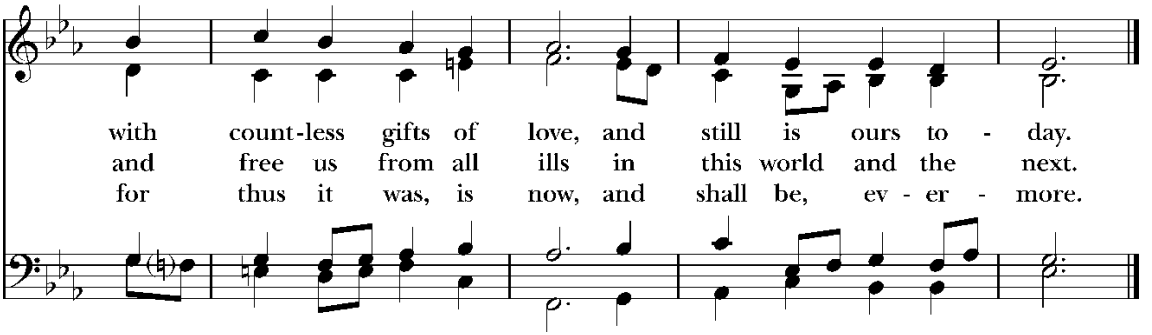
In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

*The Blessing

Now may God, who gives seed to the sower and grain to the reaper, provide all that we need so that we may produce a rich harvest of faith, love, justice and joy for the good of the earth and its people and to the glory of God. **Amen**.[2]

*Closing Hymn H482 "Now thank we all our God" *NunDanket alle Gott*





Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

LIVE-STREAM NOTICE
A reminder, this public service will be live-streamed and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear in the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media.

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St. Simon's Episcopal Church

717 W. Kirchhoff Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
847.259.2930 ~ office@saintsimons.org ~ www.saintsimons.org

Parish Office Hours ~ Monday—Thursday ~ 9:00am—3:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago*

The Rev. Jennifer Hulen, *Rector*
Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*
Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Preacher	Canon T.J. Houlihan
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	René Schreiner
Readers	Pat Engbrecht
	Clara Callahan
Intercessor	Marlene Casiano
Ushers	Barb Drummond
	Kathy Ponce
Altar Guild	Dave Howley
Porter	Cleo Nykol
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	Brian Kuczynski