St. Thomas Episcopal Church



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist

July 12, 2026
2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO
saintthomasdenver.org

Welcome

St Thomas Episcopal Church offers sanctuary and spiritual renewal to everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background, social or economic circumstance, political affiliation or where you are on your spiritual journey. We welcome all who desire deep relationships and value our relationships with others over the differences that separate us.

Our Commitment

We believe all people are beloved of God and we strive to live and proclaim God's love through all our actions and words. As a community and as individuals, we Lead with Love, shine light in the darkness, create safe spaces and offer hope, courage, peace and strength for the journey. We are here for each other and for those in need of any kind. St. Thomas is a place of refuge for those who are wearied by the world and desire nourishment for the spirit and the soul. We welcome you to come as you are and to join us in the sacred task of loving a new world into being.

The Meaning of the Conch Shell and Shofar

The resonant sound of the conch shell is considered a sacred call, symbolizing the start of a ritual and invoking divine presence. Our parishioner, Tana Knopf, gifted St, Thomas with a conch shell and introduced this practice as a call to worship. In addition to blowing the conch we have added another call to prayer. Geoff Wodell blows the shofar, a ram's horn trumpet used by ancient Jews in religious ceremonies and as a battle signal. These are some of the ways that we incorporate a diversity of cultures and traditions into our liturgy and, of course, the children love it.

Learn More About St. Thomas

If you would like to learn more about St. Thomas, we invite you to visit our website (www.saintthomasdenver.org), subscribe to our weekly newsletter (link is on website), or schedule a conversation with our priest by emailing office@saintthomasdenver.org.

Inclusive Language:

At St. Thomas, we support and encourage the use of inclusive language. Towards that end we often choose more contemporary prayers and hymns for our worship service. However, we recognize that many parishioners also appreciate and love our traditional prayers and hymns that employ more patriarchal language. When such prayers or hymns are included in our worship, we encourage you to substitute the word or pronoun that most resonates with you when you pray or sing.

Preaching and Presiding this Week: The Rev. Karen LeJoy Smith

Music Leaders

Brandon Bennett
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell
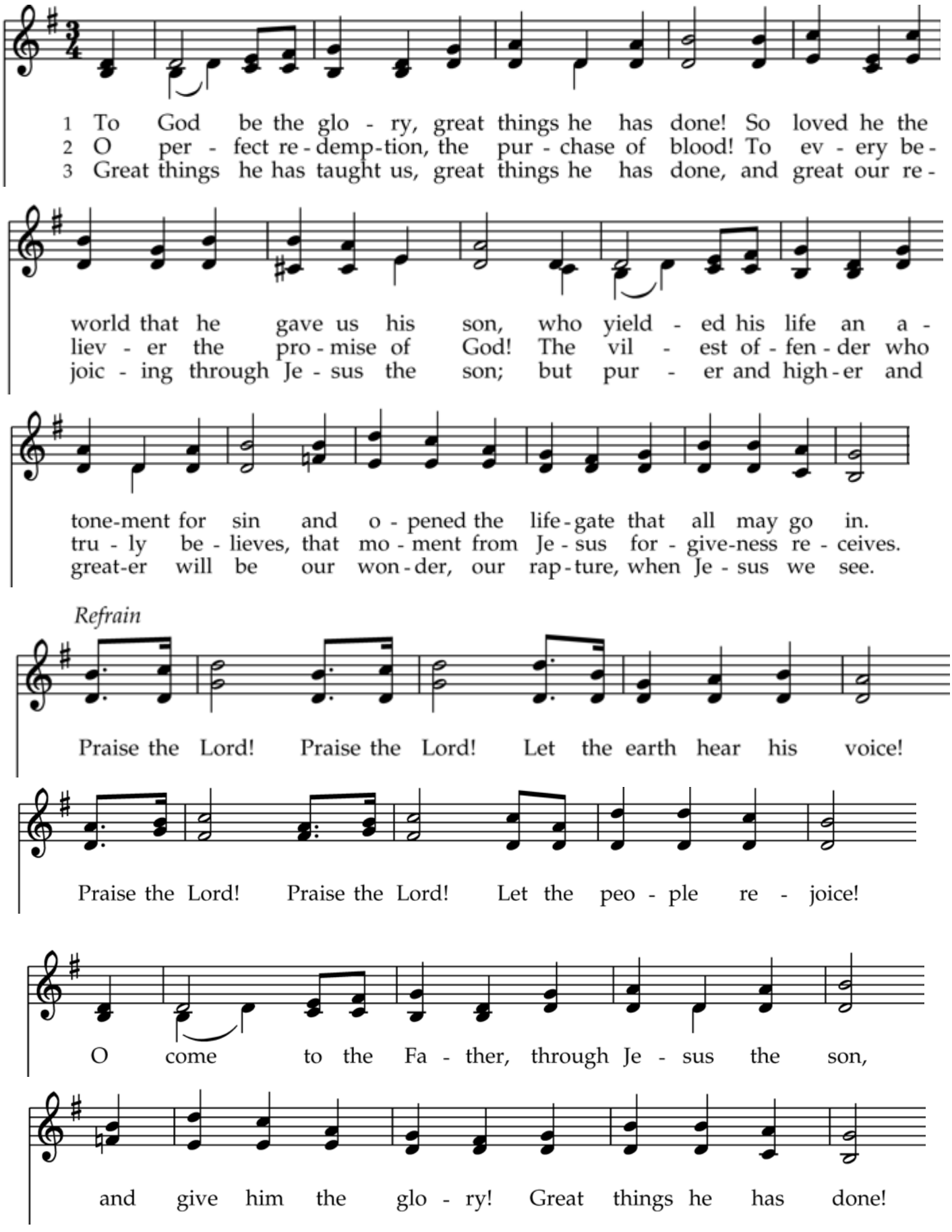
Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez

Contact Us:

Office office@saintthomasdenver.org
Angela Pleasants, Senior Warden srwarden@saintthomasdenver.org
Karmen Carter, Senior Warden srwarden@saintthomasdenver.org
Leslie Stewart, Treasurer treasury@saintthomasdenver.org
Samantha Church, Children's Program samantha@saintthomasdenver.org

Processional *To God be the Glory* VF #108

Please stand in body or spirit.
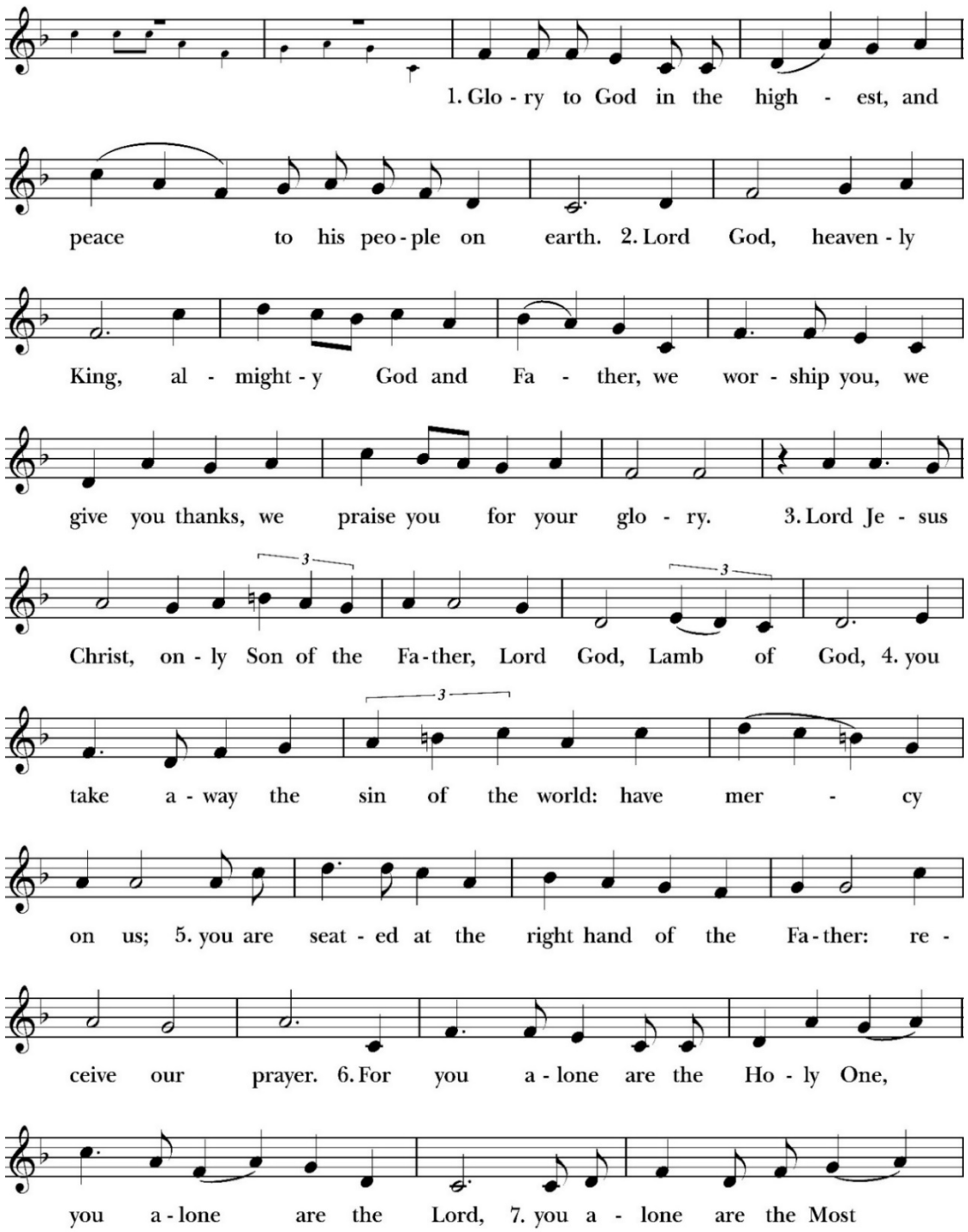


Opening Acclamation
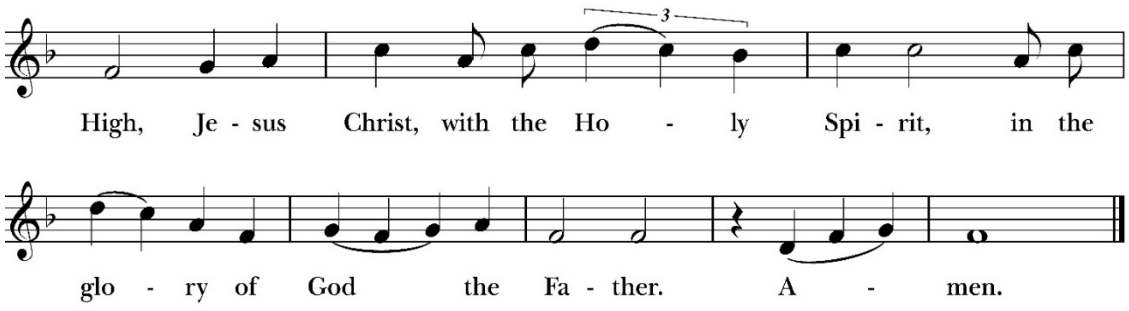
Presider Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. *1 John 4:7,8*

Blessed are you, our beloved God.

People **In you is glory and love forever.**

Gloria Hymnal 1982 S-280





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

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

Divine Sower, you scatter your seed generously: may we be rich soil and receive your gift so freely given, so that we may revel in love's abundant, reckless growth; through Jesus Christ, the grain of life. **Amen**. *Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from Genesis **Genesis 25:19-34**

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

After the Reading:

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

Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.

I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.

I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O God, according to your word.

Accept, O God, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.

My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.

The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

A Reading from Romans **Romans 8:1-11**

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.
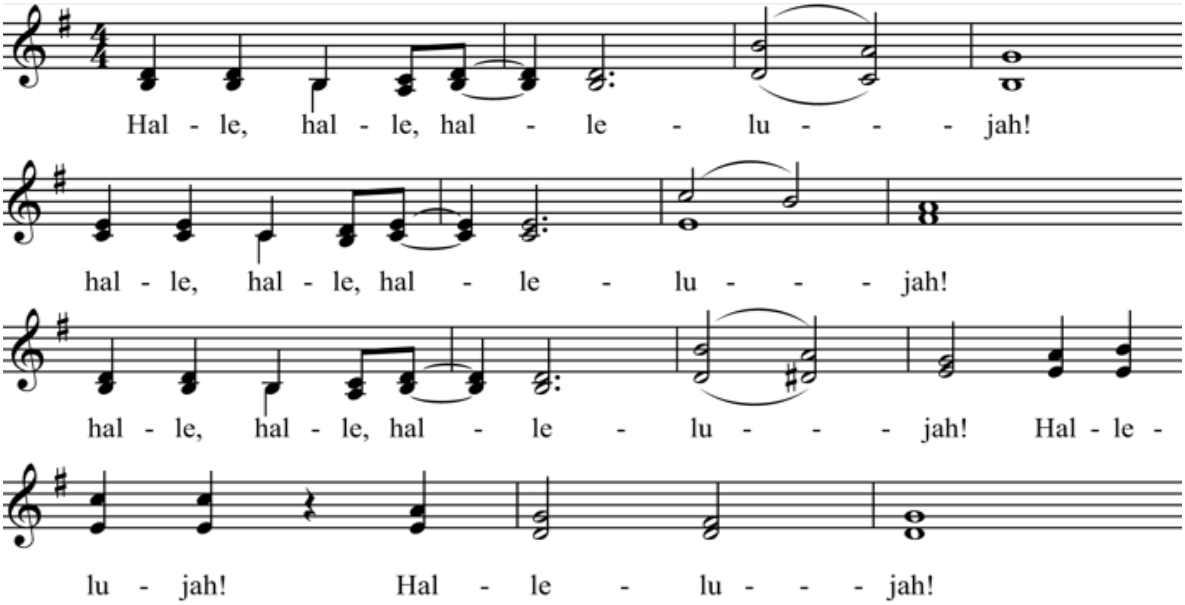
After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Please stand.



The Gospel **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

After the Gospel:

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Dismissal Of Children for Godly Play Story

Sung after final gradual verse as children leave the church.

Go on your way in joy, my friends!
Go on your way in joy, my friends!
Go on your way in joy, my friends!
Let your left foot say 'Glory!'
and your right say, 'Amen!

Homily

Please sit.

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand in body or spirit.

We believe in the God of Life,
who creates and loves people,
who acts in history
and who promises never to leave us alone.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who is our brother,
who wants not to be idolized but to be followed.

We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit;
without her we are nothing;
filled with her we are able to become creative,
lively, and free.

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ,
a community where we find companions and
courage for the struggles of life,

where we grow in our understanding of the faith,
through worship, prayer, nurture, and service.

We believe that God has a use for us in this time and
place, that though we walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, we are called to be
instruments of God's peace.

We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying
the good of the earth;
We believe that people can change, and God keeps
pulling us to life and to a new world of joy
and peace. ~ *Women's Uncommon Prayers*

The Prayers of The People

Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.

Leader Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflicts suffering upon people and other creatures.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help especially …
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

The Collect

Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession

Please kneel as you are able.

All 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.

The Absolution

The Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ. Please remain at your seat and greet the people adjacent to you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.
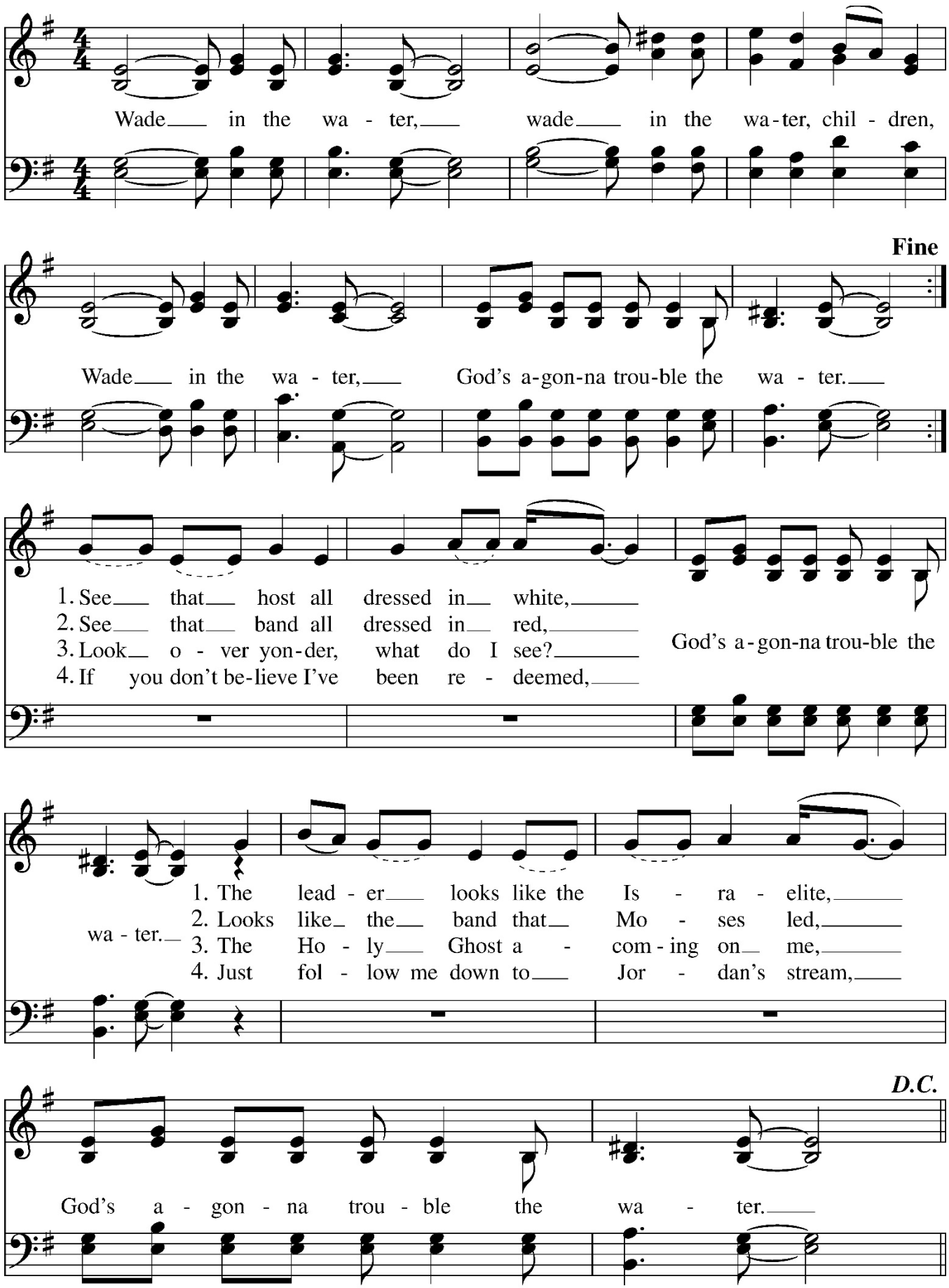
Each week we gather to proclaim God's love for all and to offer strength and courage for the journey. We are convinced that the hope, love and good news that we offer are exactly what people need to navigate these challenging times in which we live. If you share our conviction and values, we invite you to generously support St. Thomas and help us to continue to make a difference in our community and the lives of people that we serve.

If you give electronically, please place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate in lieu of your gift. Scan to donate:

venmo
@StThomasDenver

Credit Card

Offertory *Wade in the Water* LEVAS #143



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spirutual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*.
Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

Presentation Hymn *Doxology* Hymn #380 v3

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

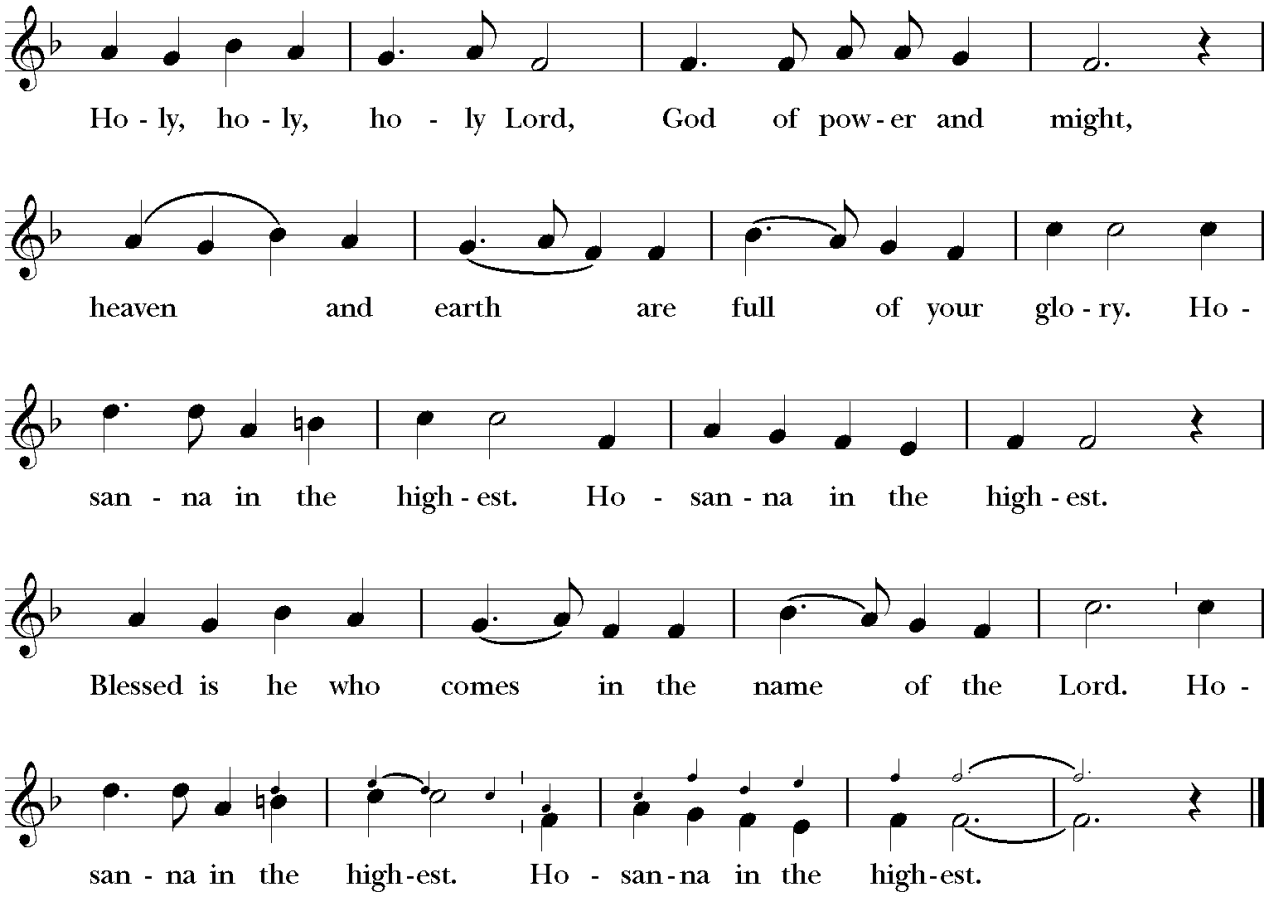
Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always, one of us, yet from your very heart. O Holy One, you make all things new. Righteous and strong to save, you came among us in Jesus, our crucified and living Lord, in his suffering and cross you reveal your glory. You pour out your Spirit on all. You empower us to know your truth and to proclaim your gospel in this sorrowing world that longs to hear good news. Your love fires our hearts; and in your Spirit we hunger and thirst for justice in the world.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all who have gone before us, joyfully we praise you as we sing:

Sanctus Hymnal 1982 #S-125



Presider continues

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, your beloved child, who in the night before he was crucified, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat. "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them and said: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

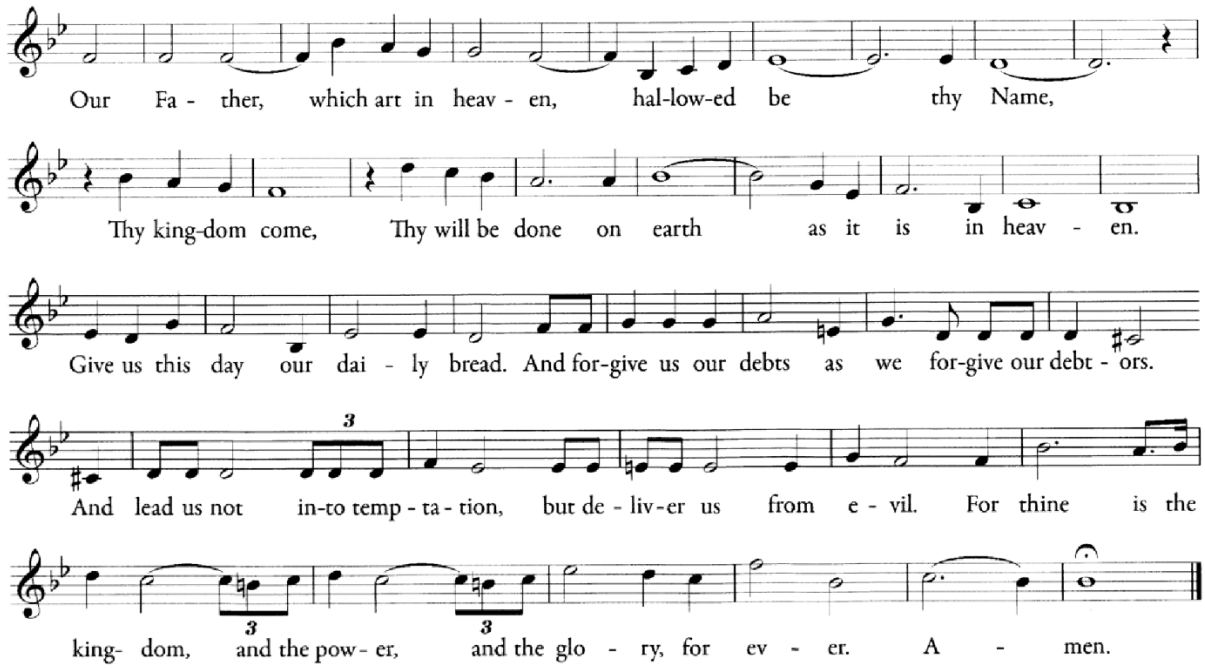
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, 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; Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. **Amen.**
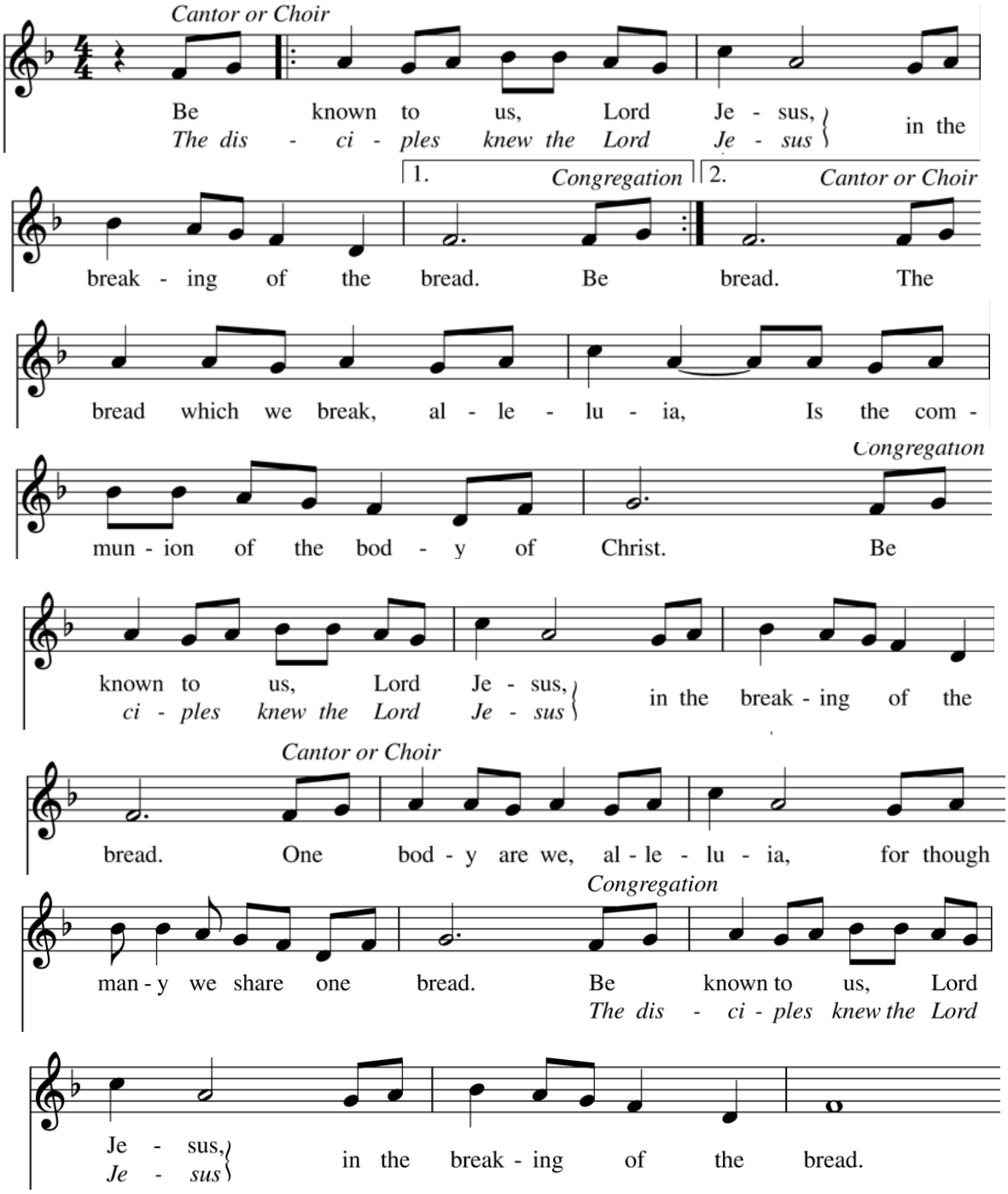
Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we, are bold to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER Albert Hay Malotte



The Breaking of The Bread

Fraction Hymn *Be Known to Us* WLP #875
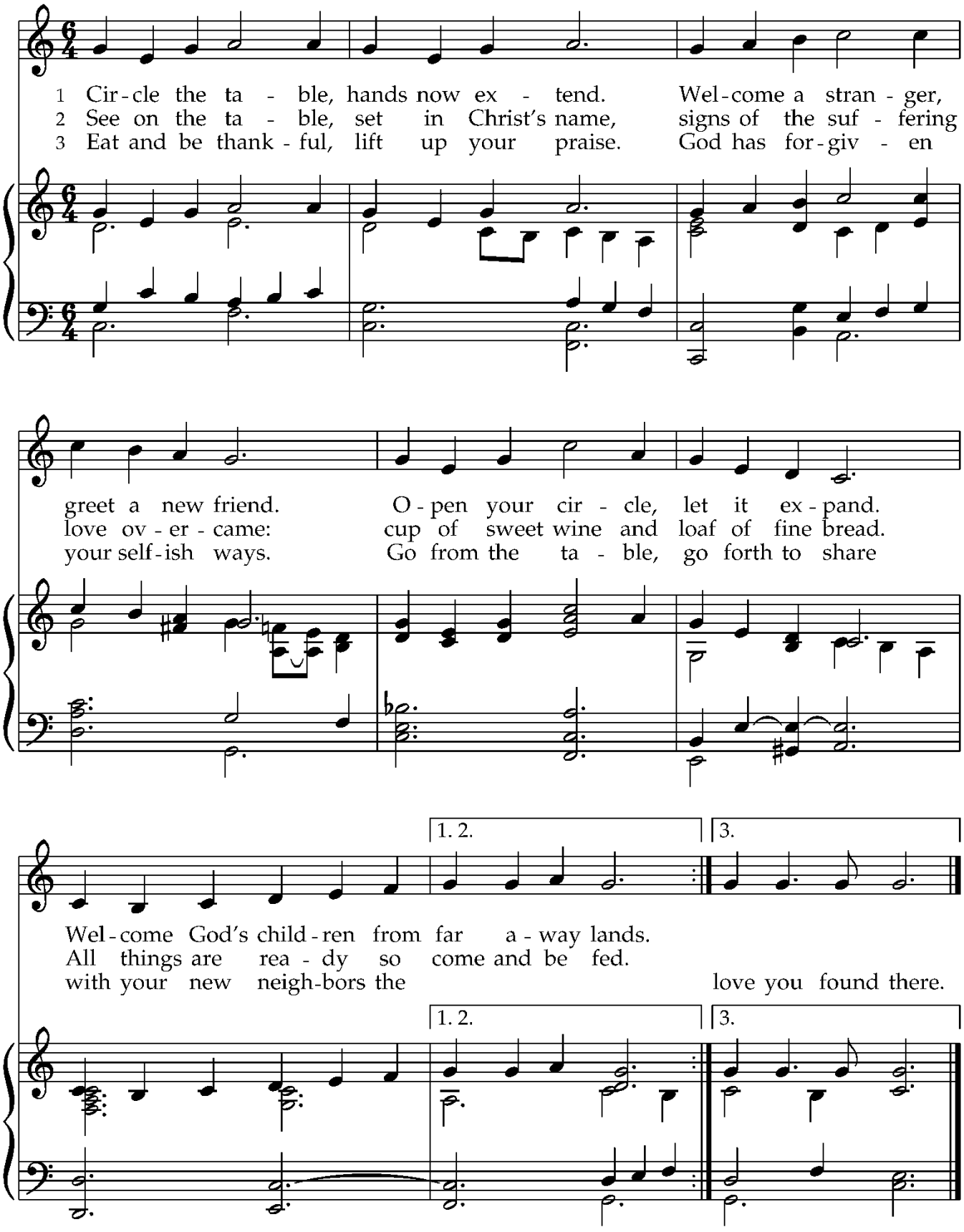


The Invitation to The Table

The Communion of the People

All who love God and seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. Our bread is gluten free. To receive the bread, please place one hand over the other. If you choose not to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicating your desire by crossing your arms over your chest. Simply, indicate your desire to the clergy. If you need to have communion brought to you, please alert an usher and the clergy will come to you. ***Please note: For reason of sanitation, we do not allow intinction.*** *Healing Prayer is available in the small chapel to the left of the altar.*

Communion Hymn *Circle the Table* VF #85



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Music: *World Wide Communion*, John D. Horman © John D. Horman. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel.

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Blessings

Welcoming Visitors

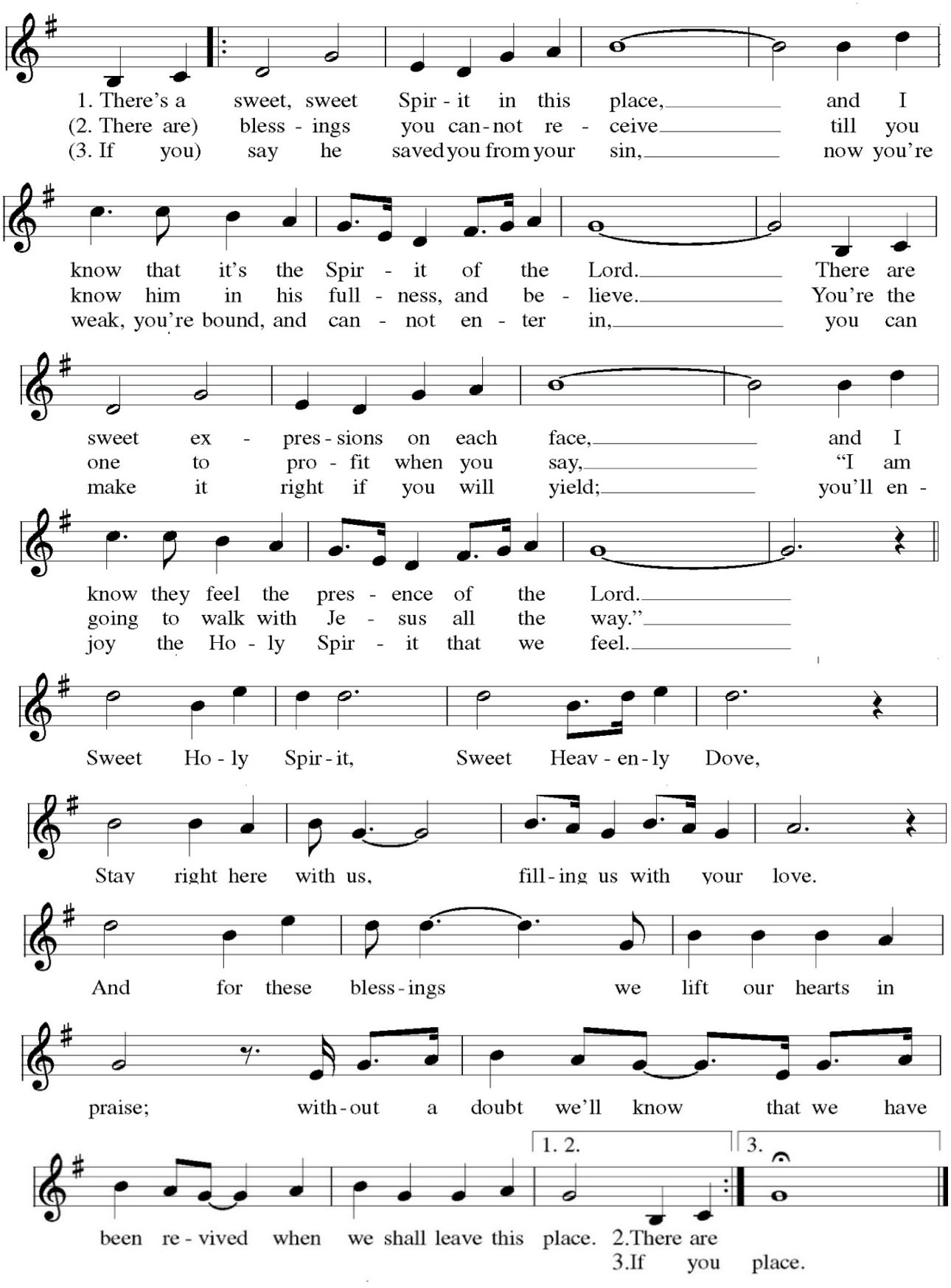
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Final Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place* LEVAS #120



The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Would You Like to Know More About St. Thomas or Become Involved?

All of us have experienced visiting a new church, whether in the denomination we know or exploring a new faith tradition. We sense quickly if this might be a good fit for us because of the welcome we receive as we enter the church, the type of energy we perceive among the congregation, the liturgy, the sermon, and/or the music. But then what? How do we get to know the church a little better?

We hope you are finding St. Thomas to be a warm, welcoming, and inclusive congregation. We love our diversity. We respect where people are in their faith journey, offering a safe space to explore questions at your own pace. Our music can be moving, meditative or lively. Our liturgy follows an Episcopal structure but uses more inclusive and expansive language. Sermons are thoughtful and, depending on current events, they can be comforting or challenging always reinforcing our primary message of "leading with love." Our coffee hours and non-Sunday events provide opportunities for fellowship and community. Participating in various ministries builds wonderful relationships and camaraderie. As a member of our Vestry recently said of our congregational body, "we make church together."

Here are some ways you can learn more about St. Thomas or get more involved:

- **St. Thomas Newsletter**: Go to our website **saintthomasdenver.org** and sign-up for our weekly newsletter. You can also email office@saintthomasdenver.org and ask our administrator, Francie, to add you to the email list.
- **Meet our Priest:** Our rector, The Rev. Terri Hobart loves to share coffee or a meal with new members, hear their stories and answer any questions they may have about St. Thomas or The Episcopal Church. You can schedule time with her by emailing terri@saintthomasdenver.org.
- **Family, Children and Youth:** Please ask Samantha Church, our Children's ministry coordinator, to add your email to the Families and Children's email list so you will know when we host events for families and children. You can contact Samantha at samantha@saintthomasdenver.org. We invite all children and youth to serve or participate in worship on the second Sunday of every month. We have roles for children of all ages to meet the abilities and temperaments. Please speak to The Rev. Terri Hobart or Samantha if you would like more information. We also encourage all children and youth 7+ to consider serving as acolytes. If your child is interested, please speak with The Rev. Terri Hobart and she will schedule a time to answer any questions and orient your child to the ministry. **For parents of young children** – Please know that we genuinely love the Holy wanderings and murmurings of the youngest in our midst!
- **Attend Coffee Hour:** Come into a music filled room, brimming with good cheer, conversation, and an array of goodies.
- **Request a Name Tag:** Email Angela Pleasants at pleasantsa@gmail.com and give her your preferred name(s).
- **Directory:** Send your name, address, phone number, and email to our office at office@saintthomasdenver.org. Our administrator will add you to our database and provide you with online access to our REALM Directory.
- **Get Involved:** There are so many ways to support worship, volunteer and serve our community. If you are interested in learning more about a ministry or serving as an usher, acolyte, eucharistic minister, choir member, lector, altar guild, or coffee hour, please email the office at

office@saintthomasdenver.org and the individual overseeing that ministry will contact you. We always need volunteers to help with building and grounds, administrative tasks, and our Feed My People Ministry. We would love for you to share your unique gifts with St. Thomas. Please speak with our clergy or any vestry member if you have gifts you would like to share.

- **Baptism or Confirmation: Holy Baptism** is the sacrament by which we become members of the Body of Christ. inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit. **Confirmation** is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. All baptized members are encouraged to receive the sacrament of confirmation, either when they reach maturity or in connection with baptism if they are baptized as adults. In confirmation we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. If you are interested in baptism or confirmation, please contact our rector at terri@saintthomasdenver.org.

- **Membership:** All who attend regularly, receive communion and pledge are considered to be members of St. Thomas. If you would like to formally join St. Thomas and you have been a baptized or confirmed member of another Episcopal or Christian church, you may request that church office to transfer your letter of membership to St. Thomas.

- **Reception**: If you were confirmed in a different denomination and are interested in joining The Episcopal Church, you may also be received into The Episcopal Church by the bishop after participating in a Newcomers class designed to orient you to the beliefs, traditions and governance of The Episcopal Church. This will make you a confirmed member of The Episcopal Church and thus eligible to participate in church governance. If you are interested in attending a Newcomers class, please contact our rector at terri@saintthomasdenver.org.

- **Pledge:** St. Thomas's primary source of revenue is pledges from the congregation. We depend on the generosity of members and request that all members make an annual monetary pledge that reflects their giving capacity. You can either ask an usher for a pledge booklet and form, or you can contact the office at office@saintthomasdenver.org.

COMMUNICATION COVENANT

1. If we have a concern or issue that involves someone, we will discuss it with that person privately.

2. If someone has a concern or issue with another person and comes to us, we will send them to that person.

3. If someone is reluctant to speak to the person with whom they have a concern, we will offer to accompany him or her to see that person.

4. We will not interpret what others say or mean. (We will ask them if we are unclear of their intentions.)

5. If something is confidential, we will not share it with anyone. Exception: If you are aware that a) someone is going to physically harm someone else; b) someone is going to harm herself/himself; c) a child has been physically or sexually abused, please consult with the clergy.

6. We will not read or react to unsigned letters or notes.

7. We will not act on anonymous complaints brought by others.

8. We will not manipulate; We will not be manipulated. We will not let others try to manipulate others through us.

9. When in doubt, we will just say what is on our minds. The only dumb questions are the ones that are not asked.

10. When in disagreement, we will say it. We cannot resolve issues that are left unspoken. We cannot work together without mutual understanding and trust.

11. Our relationships with each other are the most important asset in our community. So, if we have a concern, we will pray and then, if led, speak up.

ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LEAD WITH LOVE

OUR WHY: To Lead With Love

We lead with love by:

- Being an inclusive, welcoming space for all.
- Seeking the holy in ourselves, each other, and the world
- Making a difference in our community

CORE VALUES

- ATTEND TO OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES
  Through prayer, spiritual practices and formation, we weave our relationship with the Holy into the fabric of our daily lives. Prayer and discernment guide ministries and worship. (Foundational)
- CHOOSE LOVE
  We act from love not fear; build bridges not walls. (Foundational)
- CREATE AND SUSTAIN COMMUNITY
  We gather and care for each other. We cultivate deep relationships. We will prioritize our relationships with each other over the differences that separate us. (Foundational)
- WELCOME ALL
  All means all and all are welcome. We promote an inclusive culture by 1) fostering the skills to shift our cultural perspectives and appropriately adapt our behavior to bridge cultural differences; 2) cultivating the self-awareness and empathy needed to value difference in working toward equity. (Missional)
- HONOR DIVERSITY
  All are welcome. Our leadership, worship, music and ministry initiatives will reflect our diversity. (Missional)
- PROMOTE THE DIGNITY OF ALL
  Through formation, lobbying and other initiatives we prayerfully engage in social justice activities that promote and protect the dignity of all people. (Missional)
- CARE FOR CREATION
  We value our interdependence with creation and recognize our role as stewards. We incorporate practices that protect, sustain, and nourish our fragile earth and her inhabitants.
- ENGAGE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
  We open our hearts and doors to our individual and church neighbors, strive to understand their needs and support them.
  (Missional)
- NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION
  We offer, support and staff worship and formation opportunities for families and children. (Missional)
- CULTIVATE BEAUTY
  We tend to the beauty of our space, worship and music that evokes a sacred sense of awe, stillness and joy. (Missional)

THANK YOU!

None of this would be possible without your financial support.
www.saintthomasdenver.org

Believe OUTLOUD