St. Thomas Episcopal Church



First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

November 30, 2025
2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO
saintthomasdenver.org

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.

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. Terri Hobart

Music Leaders
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell
Brandon Bennett

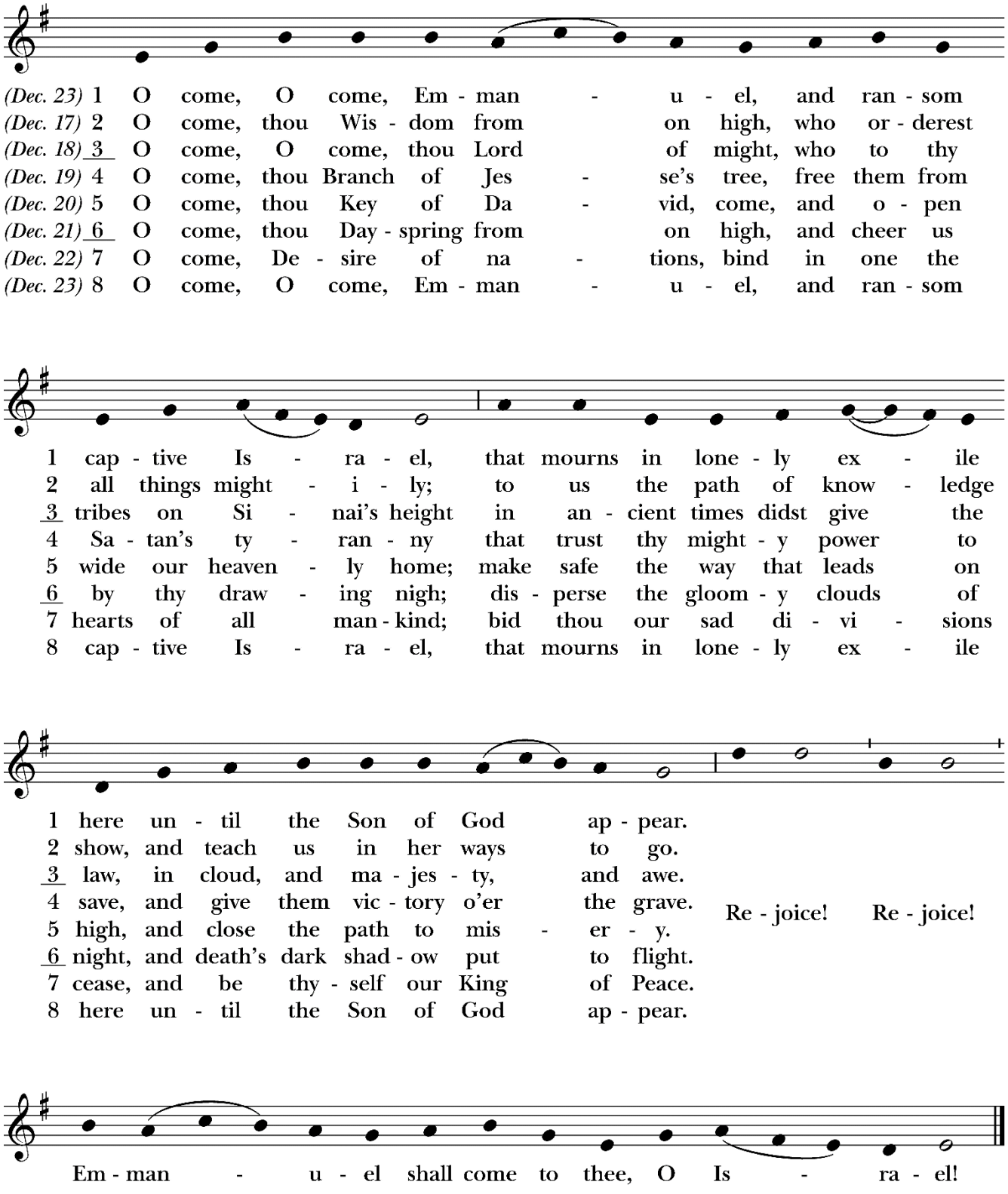
Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez

Contact Us:

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Samantha Church, Children's Program	samantha@saintthomasdenver.org

Opening Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Hymnal 1982 #56

Please stand in body or spirit. *Verses 1-2*



The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Presider In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. The first candle is the Light of Hope. Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, to enlighten our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(*The first candle is lit.)*

Presider As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

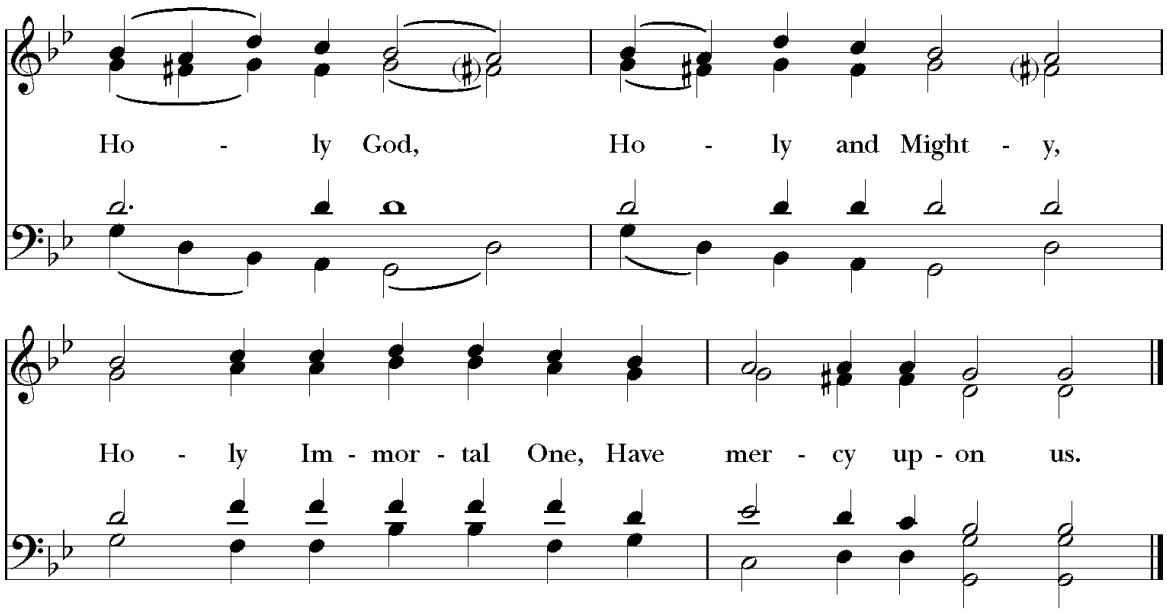
Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Trisagion

Sung 3x



The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness to the light, so that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.** *Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Isaiah Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of God."
Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Holy One, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of God.

For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.

For my kindred and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Holy One our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

A Reading from Romans Romans 13:11-14

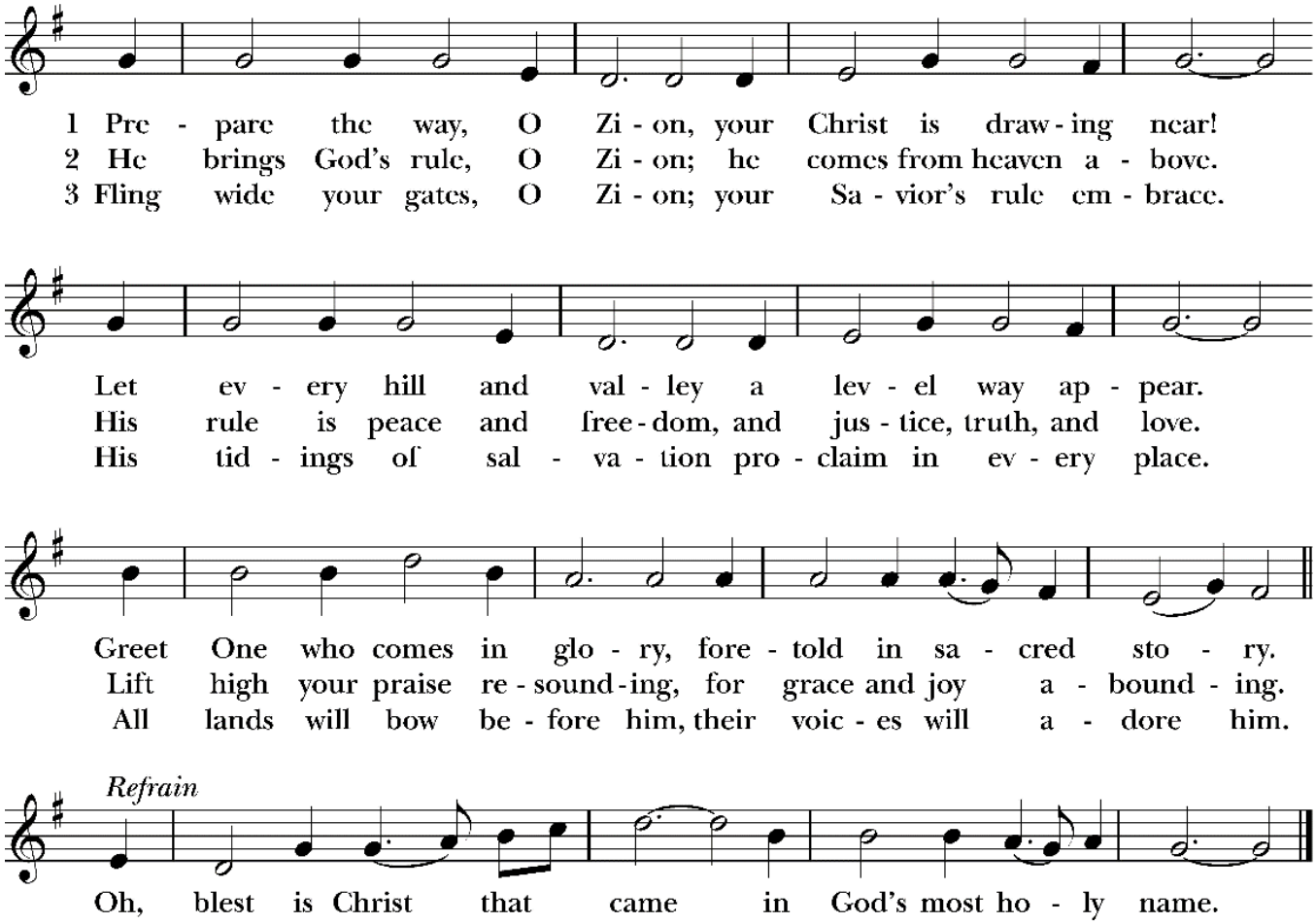
You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Hymnal 1982 #65



Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Swenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

The Gospel Matthew 24:36-44

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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 now in peace
Go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Homily

Please sit.

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand in body or spirit.

We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us
in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death,
he rose again
and is leading the way
to the land of promise
where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth
as the body of Christ,
and empowers us
to confront and transform
all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.
Announced by the Baptist,
it has drawn near to us in Jesus,
and will be consummated

in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven.

For the coming of that day,
we hope, we wait, we prepare, we pray:
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

The Prayers of The People

Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.
During the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader For the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths, we pray

People **Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.**

For our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth we pray
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

For the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind and those we now name(…);we pray
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

For those who rejoice this week that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away we pray,
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

For all those who mourn and for those whom we love but see no longer including(…) we pray,.
Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

The Collect

God of love, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, now and forever. **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.
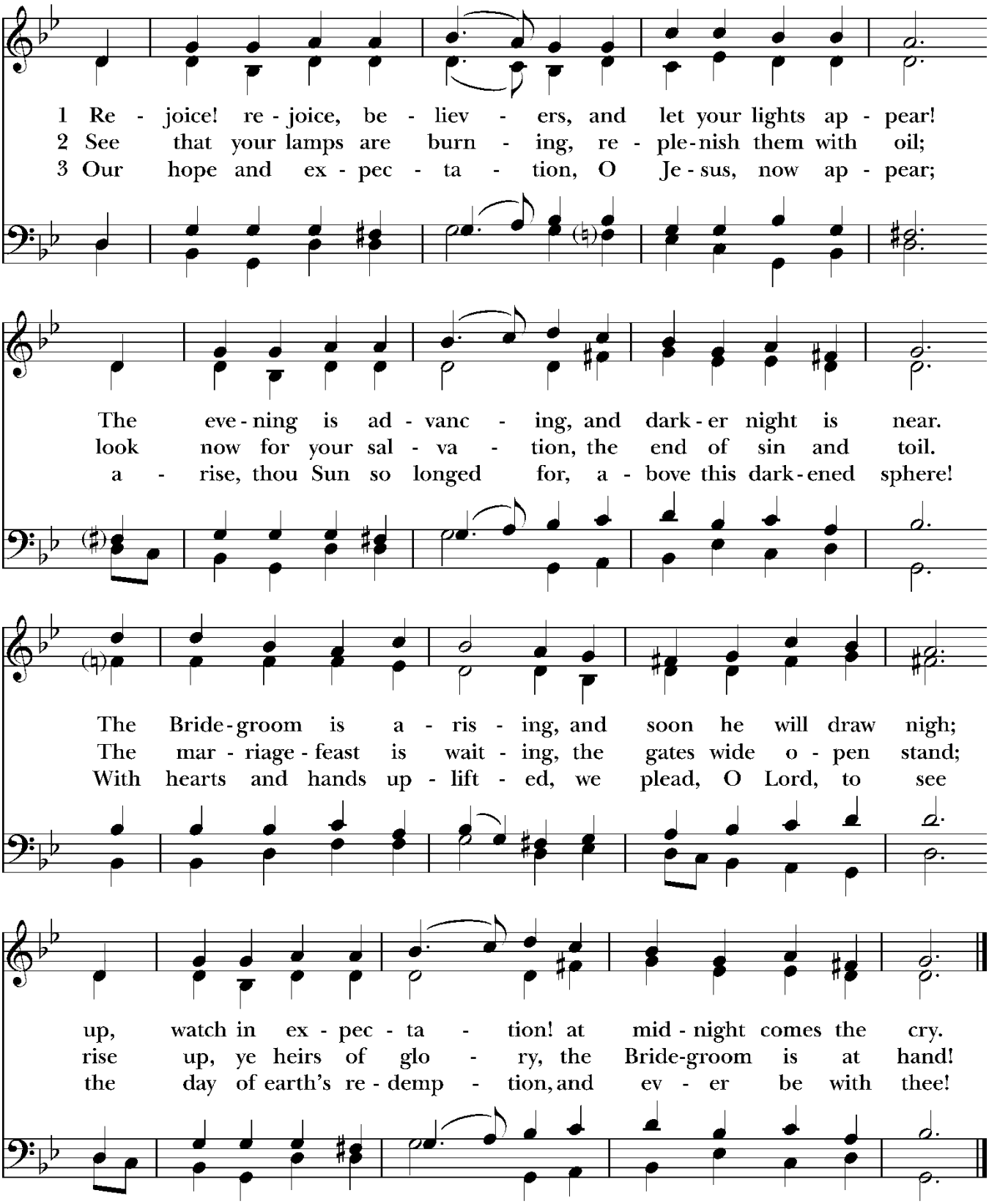
Each week we gather to proclaim God's love for all and to offer strength and courage for the journey.We are convinced that the hope, love and good news that we offer are exactly what people need to navigate these challenging times in which we live. If you share our conviction and values, we invite you 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
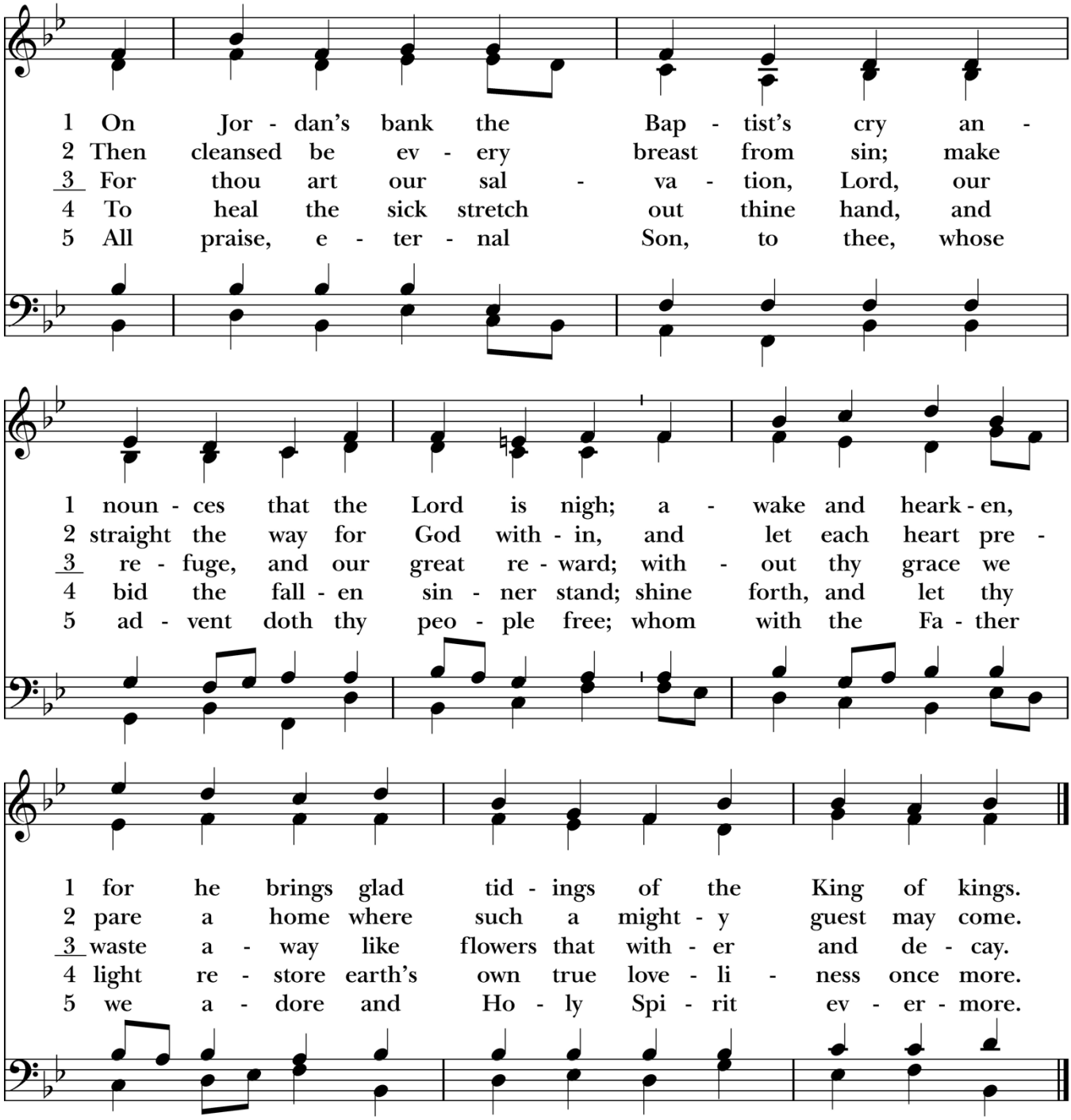
Offertory Anthem *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* Hymnal 1982 #68



Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

Presentation Hymn *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Hymnal 1982 #76 vs 1

Please stand as you are able.



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

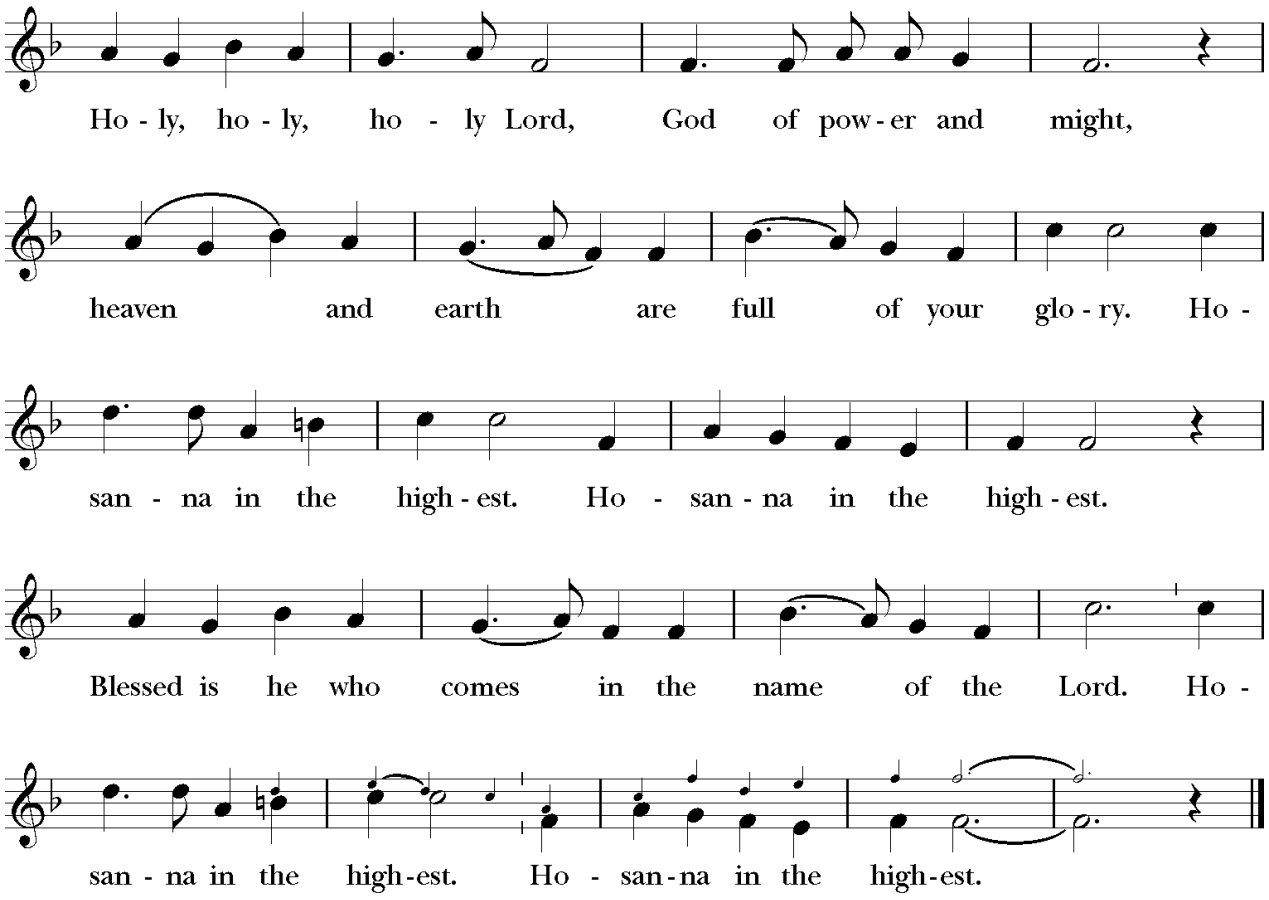
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ your Son. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came. In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise. 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:

Sanctus Hymnal 1982 #S-125



The people stand or kneel in body or spirit.
Presider (continues)

O God, you are holy and gracious: 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, our Rock and our Foundation. Jesus 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, Jesus 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, Jesus 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:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
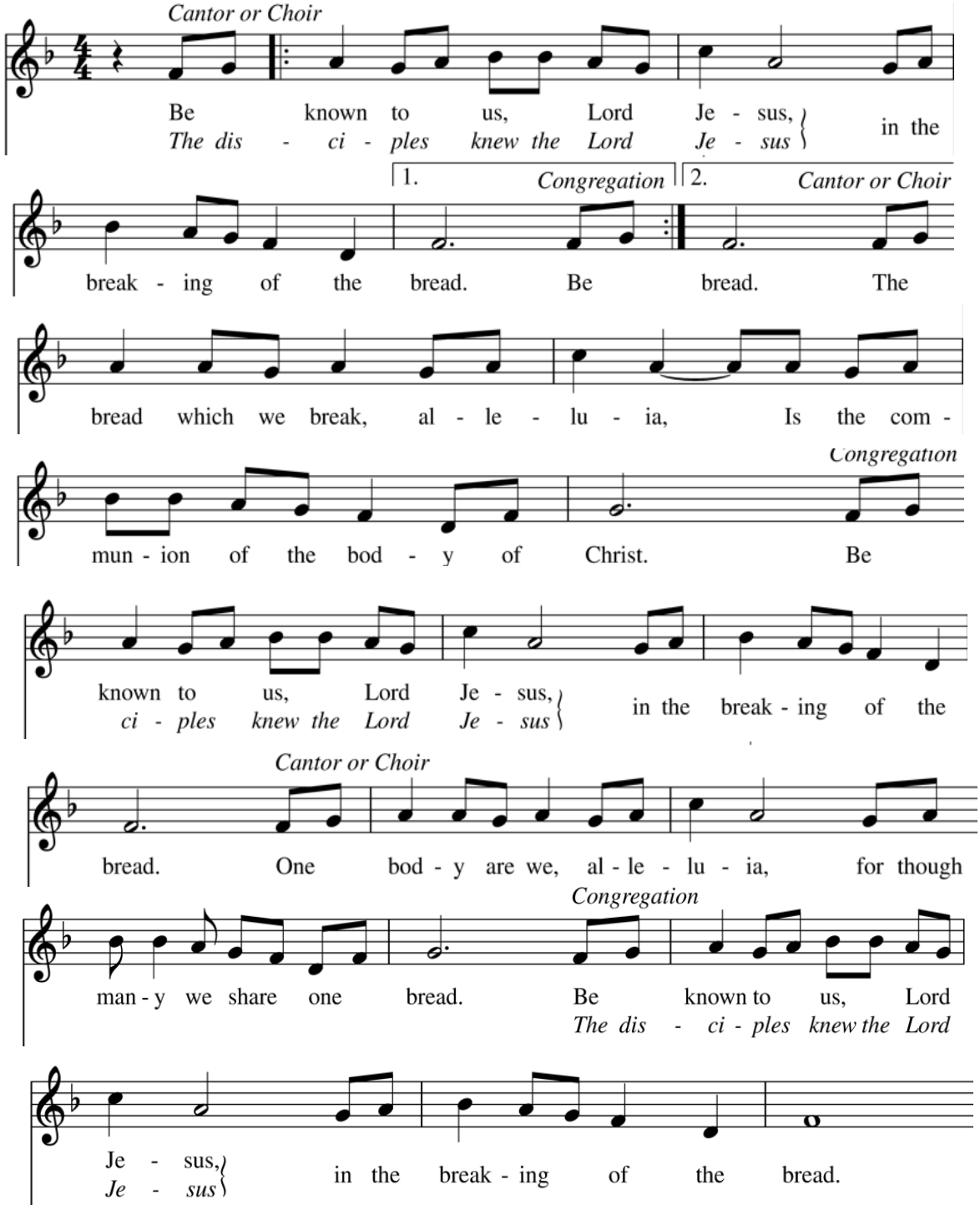
The Presider continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Most Holy God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. 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 Reign. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Most Blessed One, now and forever and ever. **AMEN.**

Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we, are bold to pray.

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

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. 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. Gluten free communion wafers and chalice are available. 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.***

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Blessings

Welcoming Visitors

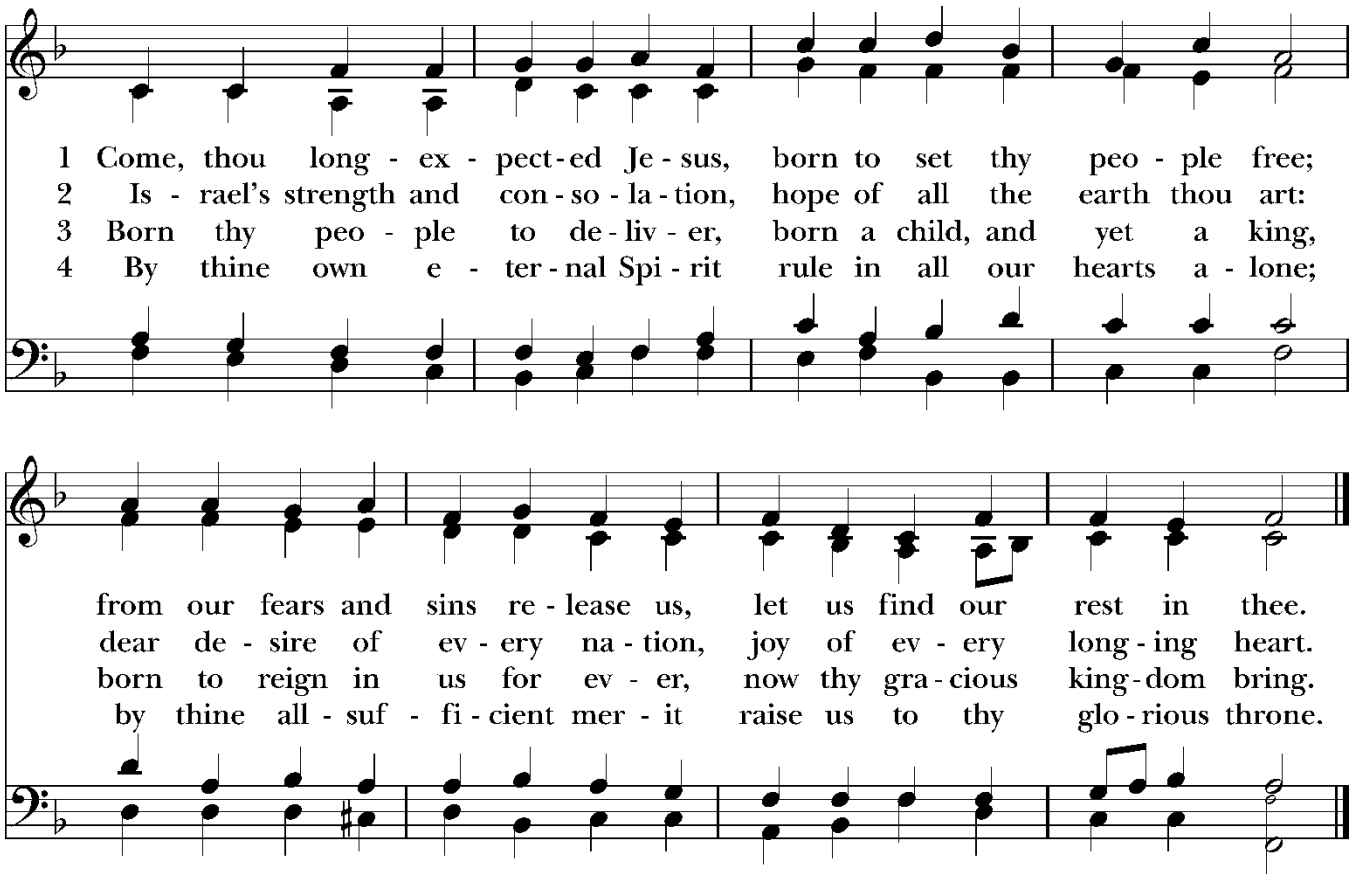
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hymnal 1982 #66



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesange*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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