St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Lead with Love

Holy Eucharist
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 17, 2023

2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO
saintthomasdenver.org

Welcoming Statement

At St Thomas' Episcopal Church, we affirm God's love for all of God's people. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, and whatever your age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious background or social or economic circumstance or political affiliations, you are welcome here. We share a love of God and each other, a sense of meaning and belonging, a yearning to learn and grow in faith, and a desire to serve others. We are a vibrant, thriving community with opportunities for people of all ages for spiritual growth, fellowship, and making a transformative difference in our community. As an Episcopal Church, we are a worshipping community that is both rich with ancient tradition and relevant to life in the 21st century. We are glad you are here!

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, terri@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 (she/her)

Music Leaders

Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell

Contact Us:

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The Rev. Terri Hobart	**terri@saintthomasdenver.org**

The Altar Flowers were graciously donated by Pat Horoschak in loving memory of here mother, Marie Hoy.

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Lead With Love: Community Challenge
Commitment Card
September 2023 – May 2024

Goal:
Building loving community by showing up, investing in our relationships with God and each other, and becoming a community where we learn how to love and be loved.

What practices will you commit to over the next nine months to grow in your faith, deepen your relationships with God and each other and help build a community committed to Leading With Love? Each person is encouraged to prayerfully discern one new concrete action from each category to incorporate into their daily life.

Build Community

- Get to know more about three to five parishioners.
- Connect with each other at coffee hour, community nights or socially.
- Attend St. Thomas in the World Forums to learn how to support each other's work in the world.
- Give St. Thomas 2-3 hours of your time and gifts each month by participating in a ministry.

Nurture Our Individual and Common Spiritual Life

- Attend Worship regularly.
- Become a prayer partner.
- Participate in a community book or bible study.
- Commit to a regular spiritual practice (choose one)
    - Spend at least 5 minutes a day in the presence of the Holy though a contemplative practice: walking or sitting meditation or contemplative prayer.
    - Incorporate a Gratitude Practice
    - Use the Re-Imagining the Daily Examen App
    - Reflect on the Center for Contemplation and Action Daily Meditation (https://cac.org/daily-meditations/)

Make a Difference in the World

- Share your passion around justice or mercy by inviting others to volunteer or lobby with you.
- The Micah Newsletter provides opportunities to engage or learn more about justice issues. Choose one issue a month to engage or understand better.
- Support and encourage others to support The Housing 1000 Initiative.
- Learn about what others do at our St. Thomas in the World Forums.

I commit to incorporating the practices I selected above into my life through May 2024.

Signature: _____

This commitment card is for you. Keep it somewhere that you will see it each day.
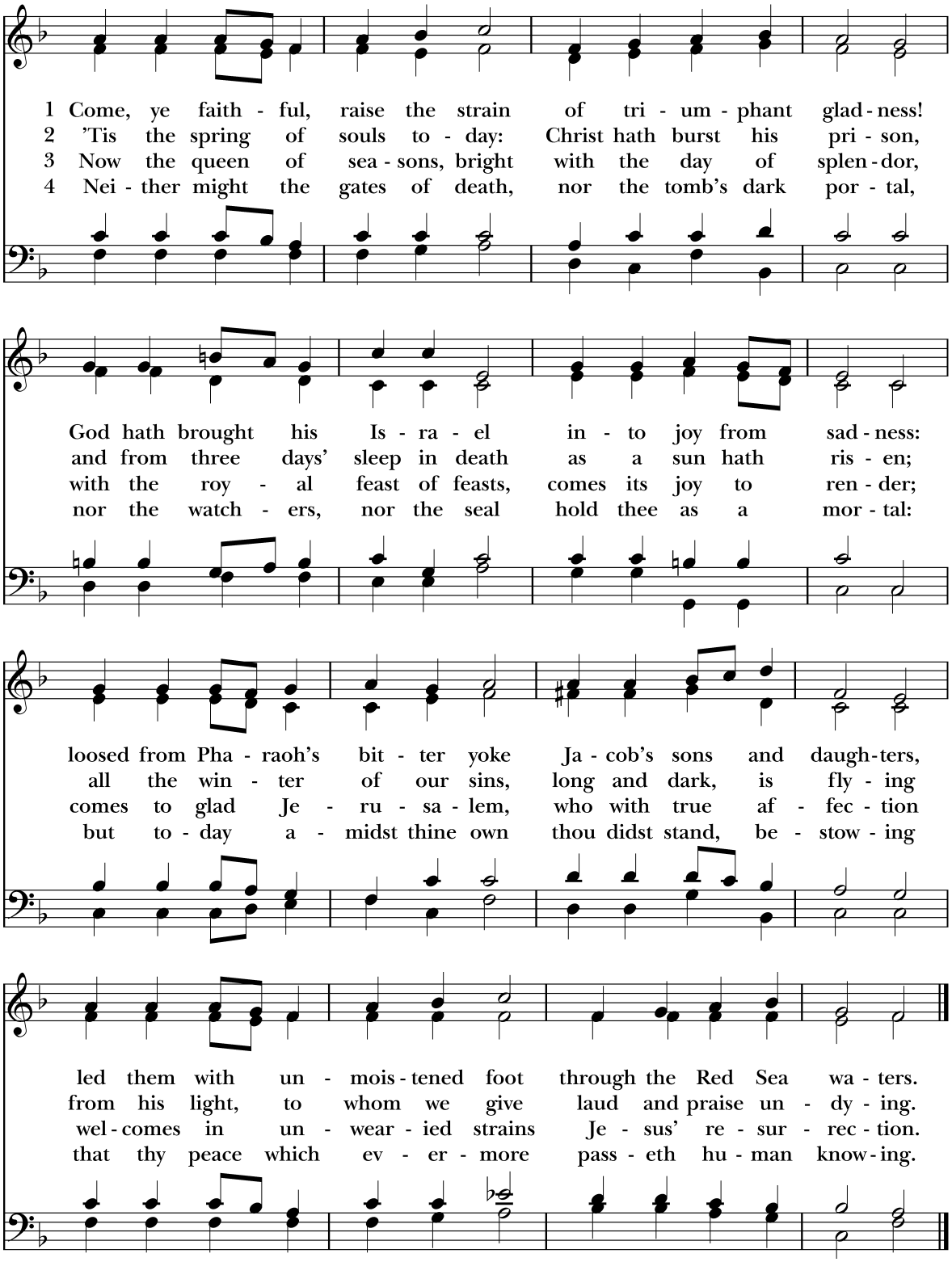
THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 1982 #199

Verses 1-2



Words: John of Damascus (8th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *St. Kevin*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the One Holy and Living God

People **Glory to God forever and ever.**

Presider Love one another, for love is of God, and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.

The Collect of Day

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Praise be to Adonai Praise be to the God of love, who brought the people of God out of slavery. Praise be to God, the liberator who delivers us from our captivity to self-interest and our indifference to the gifts of others, so that we may be ready to love as Christ loves us. **Amen.**

Prayer for the City-wide Initiative to Reduce Homelessness

All Holy and Gracious God of love, keep our unhoused neighbors close in our hearts. May they receive compassion, mercy, and justice. For those leading and supporting the initiative to address our homeless crisis, we ask for wisdom, courage, strength, humbleness, creativity, and perseverance. Let our city come together in unity and open our hearts and minds to address this urgent human rights crisis. Provide us with the resources we need to create sufficient housing units for all. Give us eyes to see new opportunities and resources and to boldly invite each other into sharing them together. Fill us with love and compassion for our unhoused siblings. Let us dare to believe that the power of love can unite us across faith traditions and diverse demographics to provide much needed, long-term, viable solutions to our homeless crisis. May these efforts reconcile us and unite us in peace, common love, and shared hope. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Book of Exodus — Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.
The LORD is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.
The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

"Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.
The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power--
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.
At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.
The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'
You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"
Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.
And Miriam sang to them:
"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans **Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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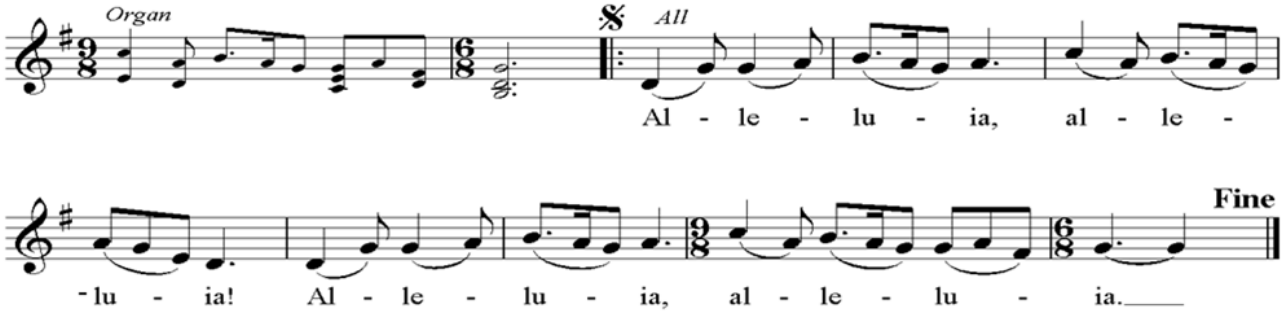
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Celtic Alleluia*

Please stand.

Verses 1,2 before Gospel
Verses 3 after Gospel



1. Speak, Lord, your servant is list'ning.
Speak your words of wisdom,
for the words you speak
are everlasting life. *Refrain*

2. Come, Holy Spirit.
Fill the hearts of your faithful
and enlighten them
with the fire of your love. *Refrain*

3. All those who live in love
with God are united.
for they live with God
and God lives in them. *Refrain*

The Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

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

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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.

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

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Kym, our Rector, Terri; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.
Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.
Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. [especially _____] Pray for those in any need or trouble.
Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.
Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____]. Pray for those who have died.
Silence

I ask your prayers for those on your heart today: _____.
Silence

I ask your prayers of thanksgiving: _____.
Silence

The Collect

Presider 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

Loving God, hear our prayer: our hearts are heavy .
We have trusted too much in our own strength.
We have hidden our faces from those who suffer.
We have turned away from neighbors in need.
We have given up hope instead of seeking your help.
O God, be gracious to us. Forgive our sin.
Heal our brokenness, and fill our hearts with songs of joy. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**
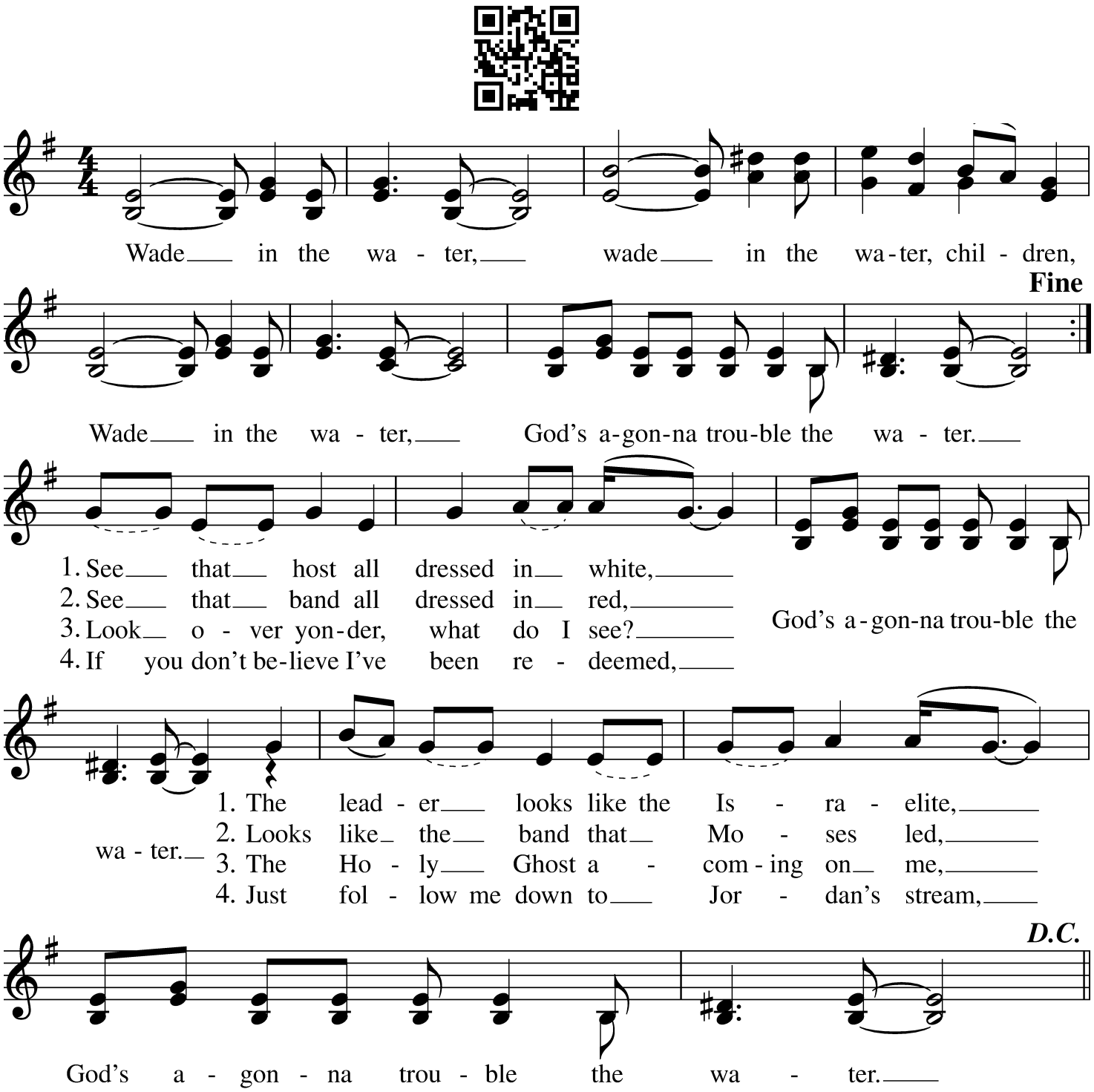
We greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord

Offertory Hymn *Wade in the Water* LEVAS #143

During this hymn the offering is collected. We invite you to generously support the ministries of St. Thomas. If you give electronically, please place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate in lieu of your gift. Scan to donate:



Presentation Hymn *Doxology* Hymn #380 v3

Please stand as you are able.

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

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.**

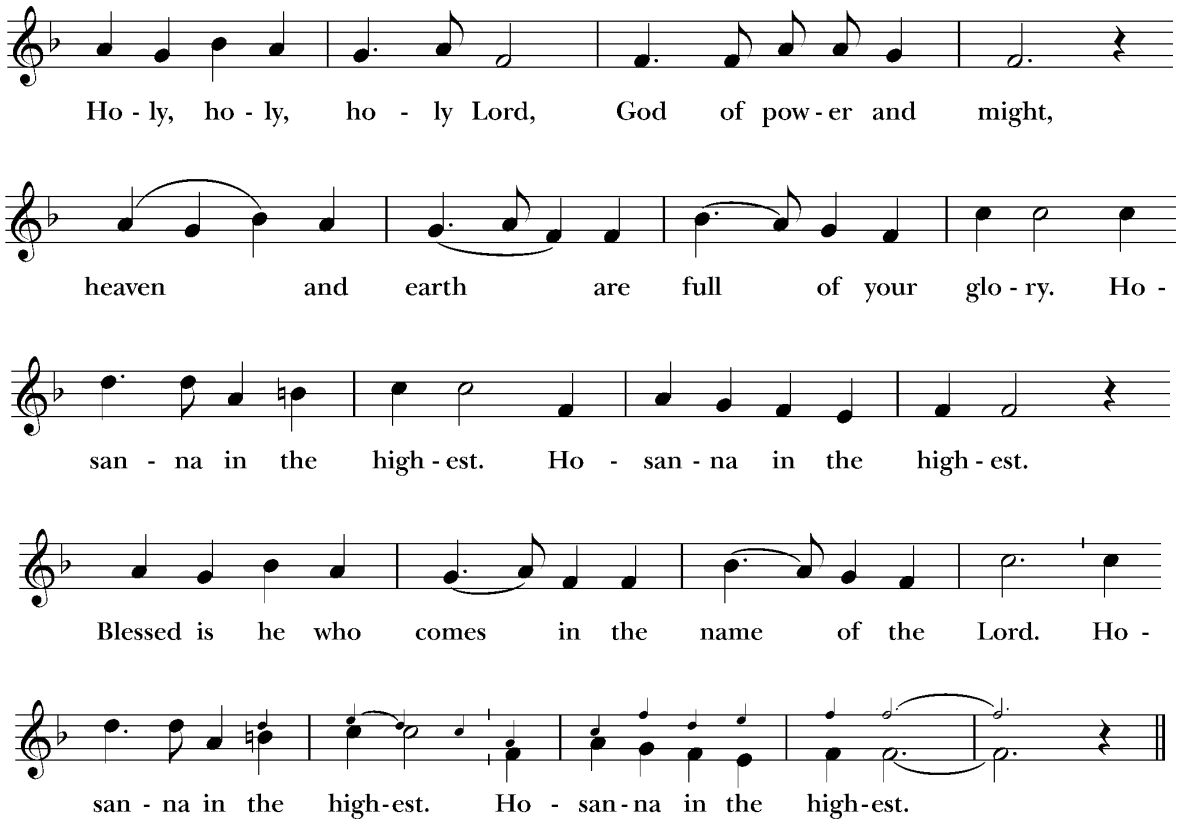
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider It is right indeed - that we should praise you, our God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky. When the times had at last grown full and the earth had ripened in abundance, you made us in your image for yourself. And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to lead them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister. Jesus revealed your care for all you have made and showed us your way of reconciliation. Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family. You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us your church. Your Spirit nurtures and to guides us.Now with all creation we sing your praise for your unending love, as we sing,

Sanctus Hymnal 1982 S125



The people stand or kneel.

Presider (continues)

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.
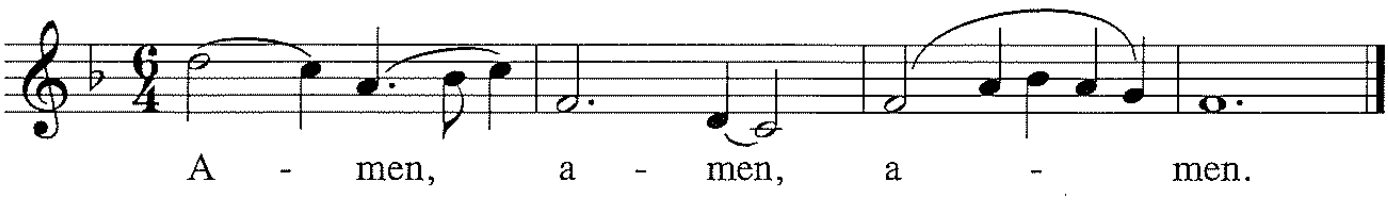
And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness.
Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.
Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who receive these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer, and be a voice for those who are not heard. In union with your whole church we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, by him, with him, and in him, In the unity of Your Holy Spirit, we give ourselves to back to You, our Infinite God of Compassion, Mercy, and outpouring Love.

The Great Amen



Music: *Land of Rest,* arr. Richard Proulx,
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The Lord's Prayer
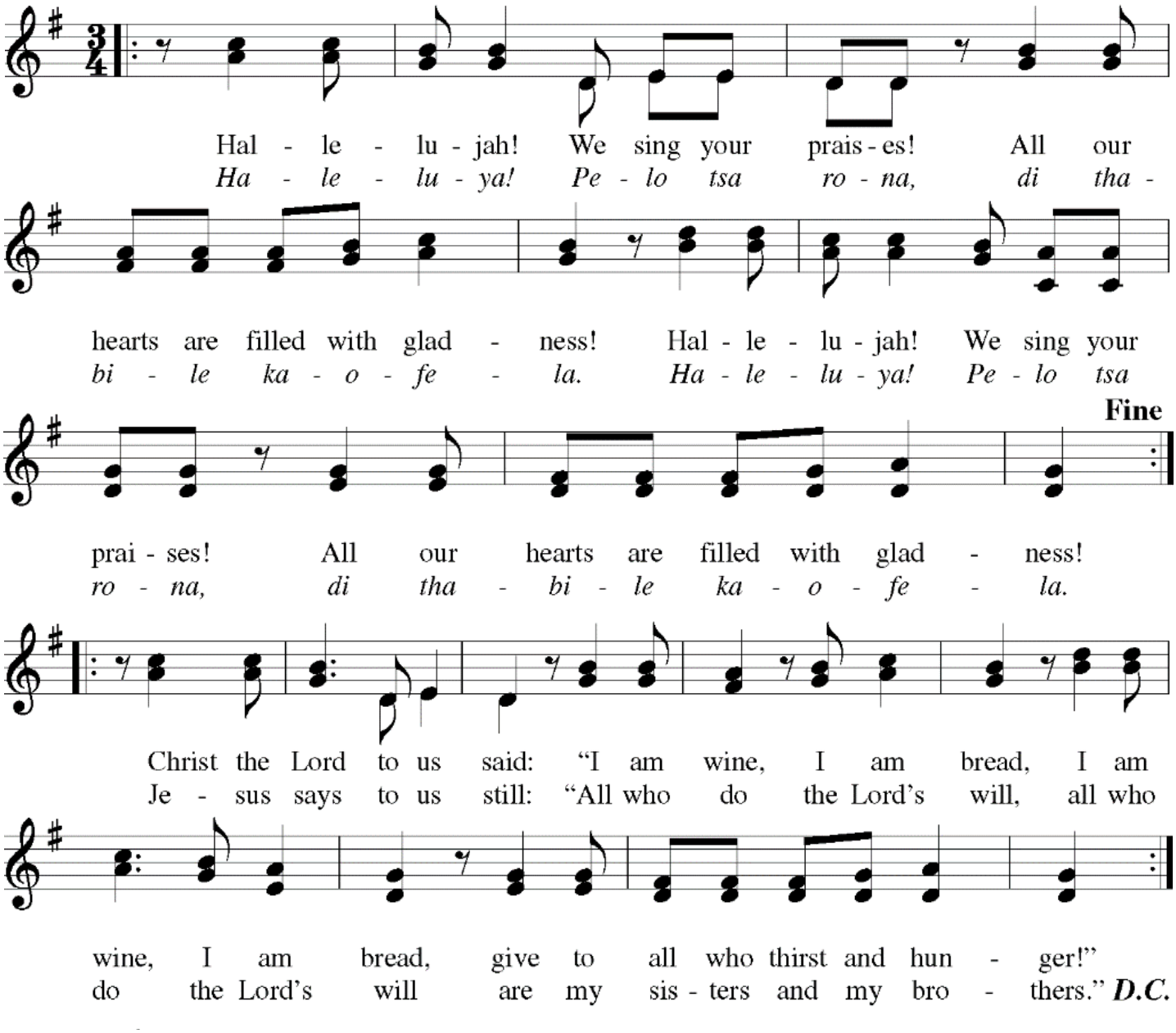
Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray.

All

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 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*
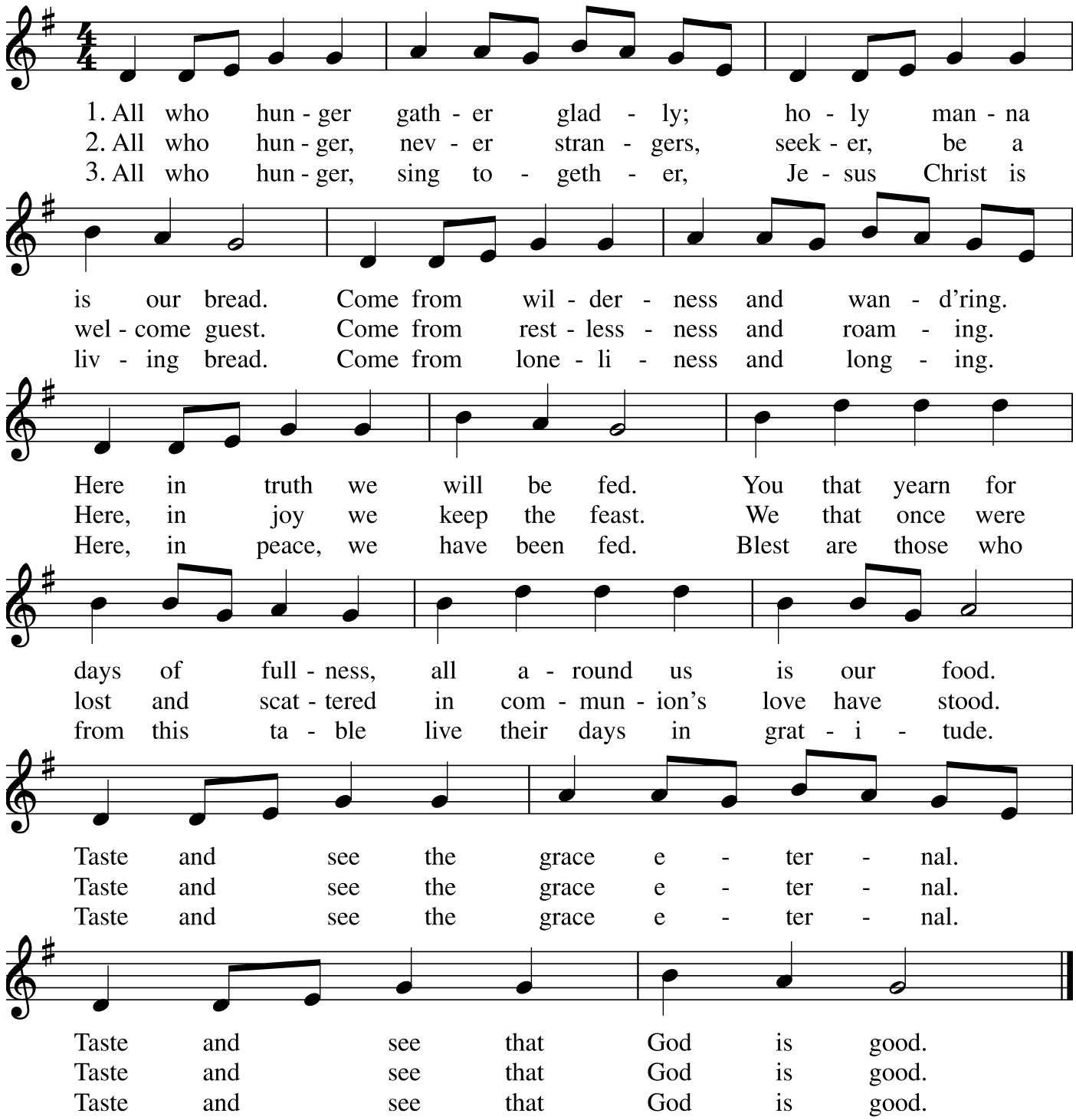


The Invitation to The Table

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.

Communion Hymn *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* WLP #761



Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel.

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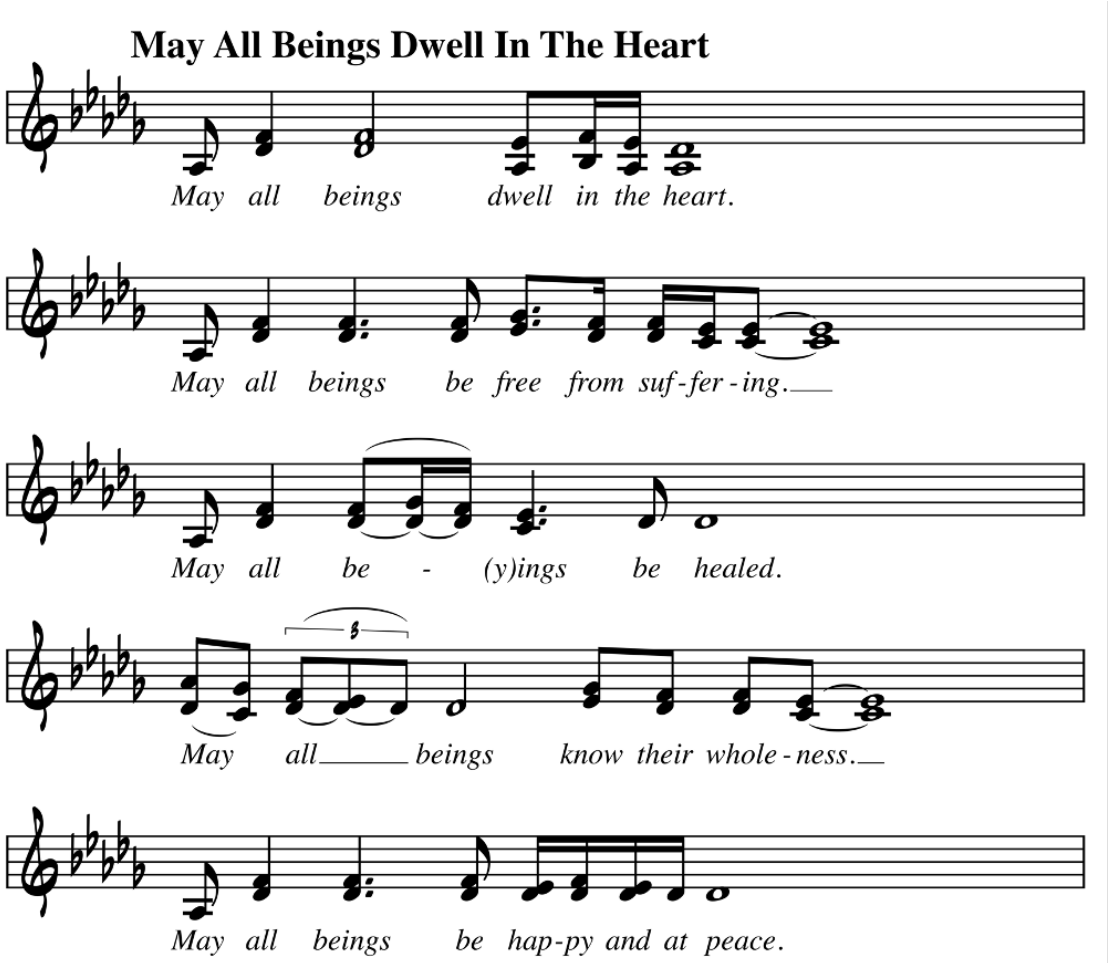
GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Blessings

Welcome Visitors
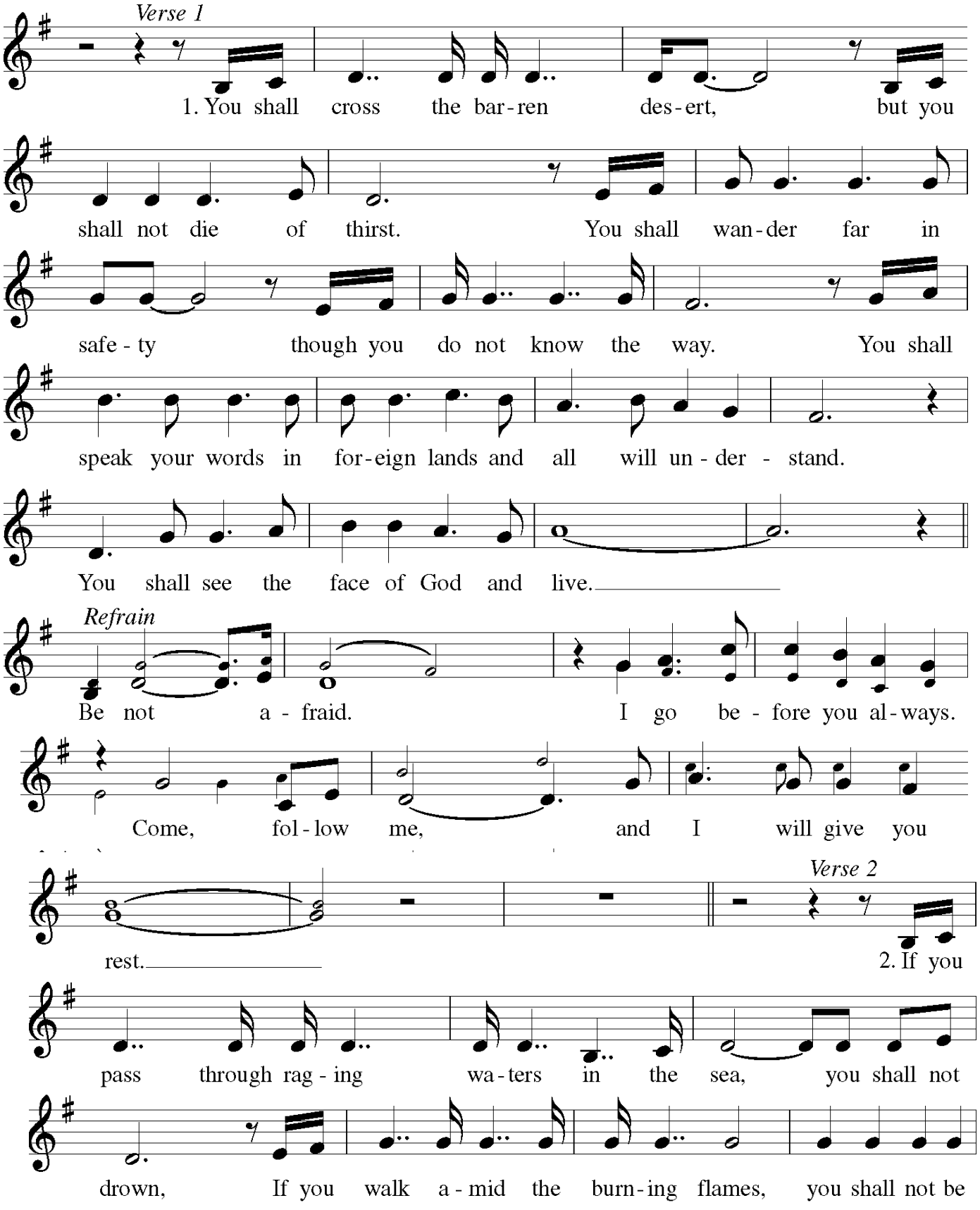
We are happy you are here and would like to welcome you. If you are comfortable doing so, we invite you to stand and introduce yourself. If you prefer to just sit and enjoy the service, we are happy to respect your privacy.
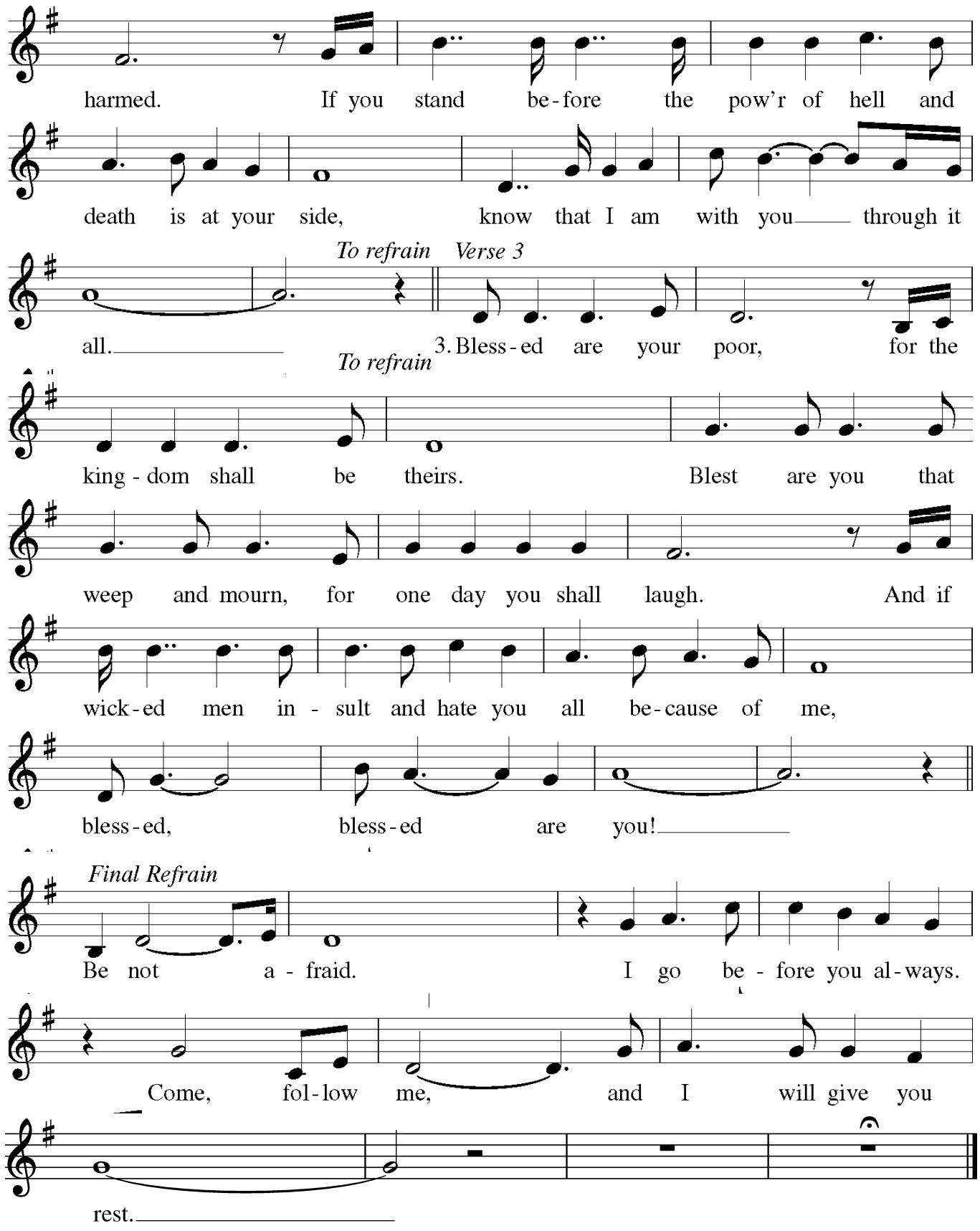
Announcements



Final Blessing

Closing Song *You Shall Cross The Barren Desert*





The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve 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 come 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 to interpret for us 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/ themself; 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 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

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

LEAD WITH LOVE

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)

Support the Ministries of St. Thomas!

Believe OUTLOUD™

THANK YOU! None of this would be possible without your financial support!

www.saintthomasdenver.org