ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist

December 7, 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

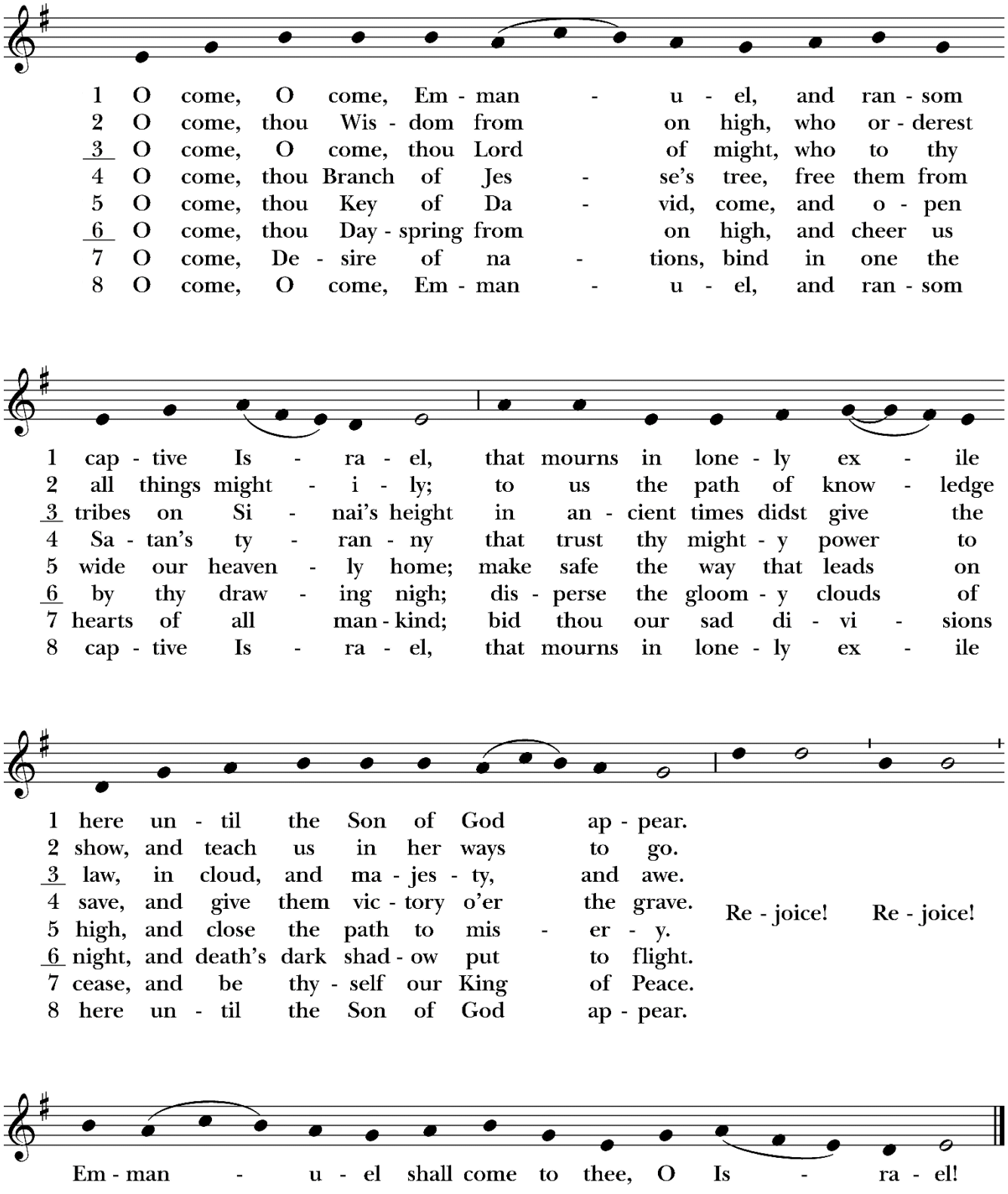
Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez

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 3-4*



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 *The Candle of Love*

Presider The second candle is the light of Love and reminds us that Christ is the pure expression of God's love in the world.

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 and second candle are 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.**

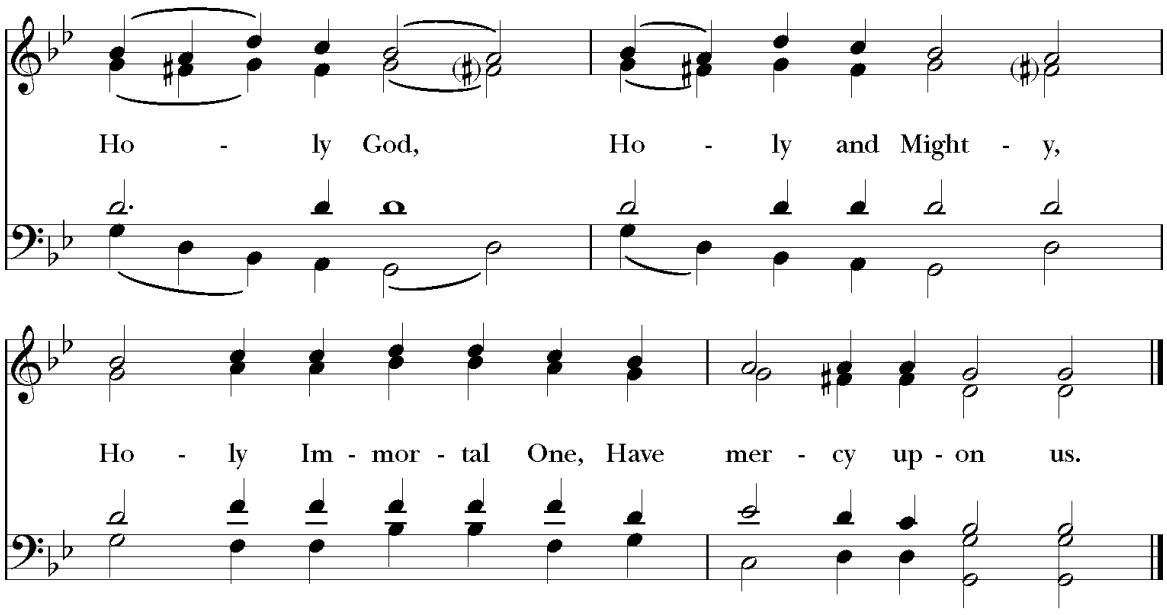
Opening Acclamation

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.

God of justice, clear our lives of hatred and despair and sow in us seeds of joy and peace; so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us as we await the coming of the Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *FWM Proposed Collects (2004) alt.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Isaiah Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the king's son,

That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Blest are you, O God of Israel; *
you alone do wondrous deeds!

And blest is your glorious Name for ever! *
May all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen. Amen.

A Reading from Romans Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says,

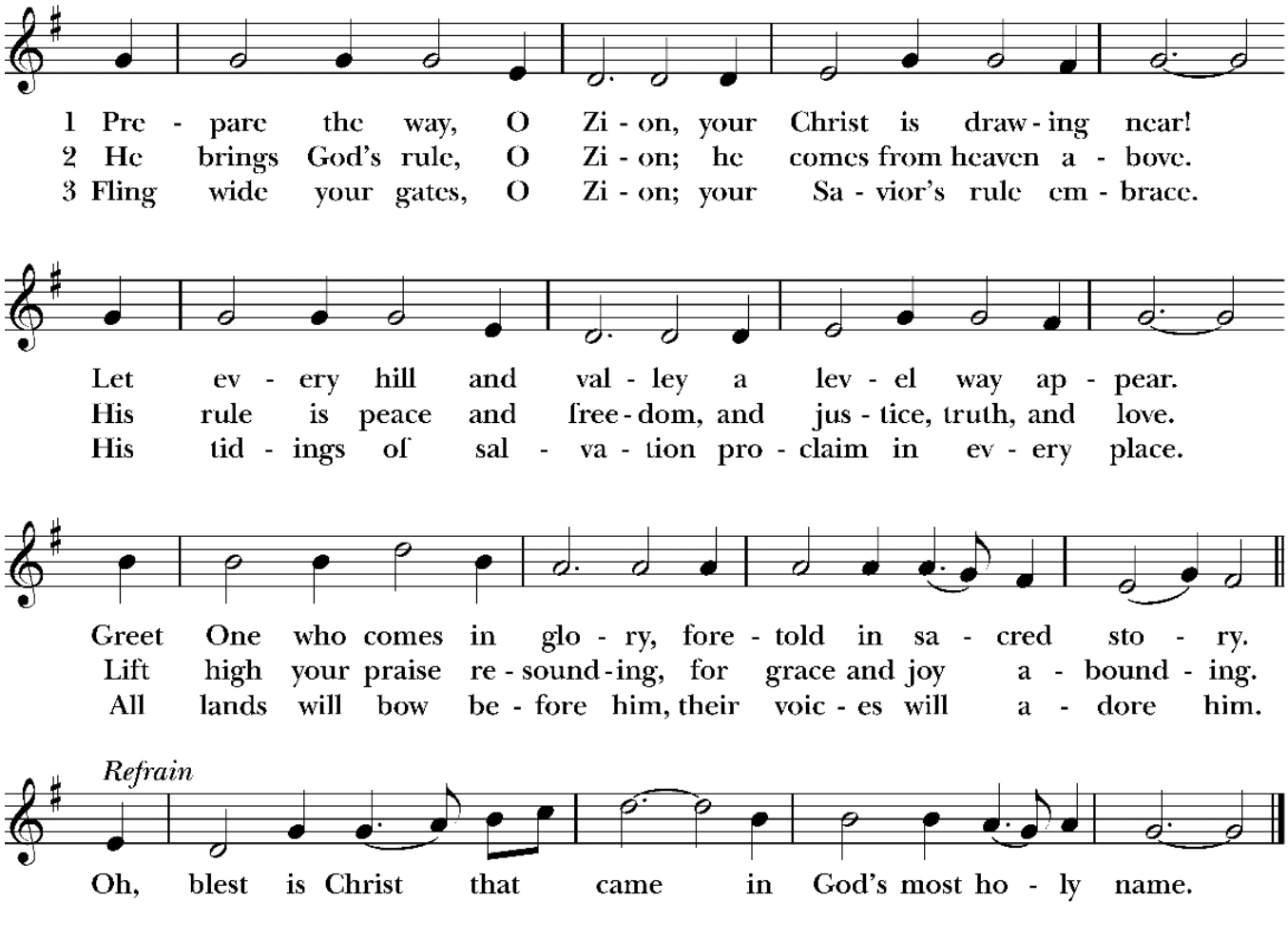
"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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



The Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

> "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
> 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
> make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.

A Litany of Healing

Presider Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People name those for whom they are interceding, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord grand your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

The Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins to God. (Silence)

People **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider 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**.

Laying on of Hands and Anointing

Presider The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing we proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be healthy and one in the Body of Christ. You are invited to come forward and offer yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and ask for healing and wholeness in the Name of the holy and undivided Trinity.

All who wish to receive the laying on of hands and anointing are invited to come forward at this time, kneeling or standing at the altar rail.

Presider The Almighty Lord, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and obey: Be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only Name under heaven given for health and salvation is the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **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.
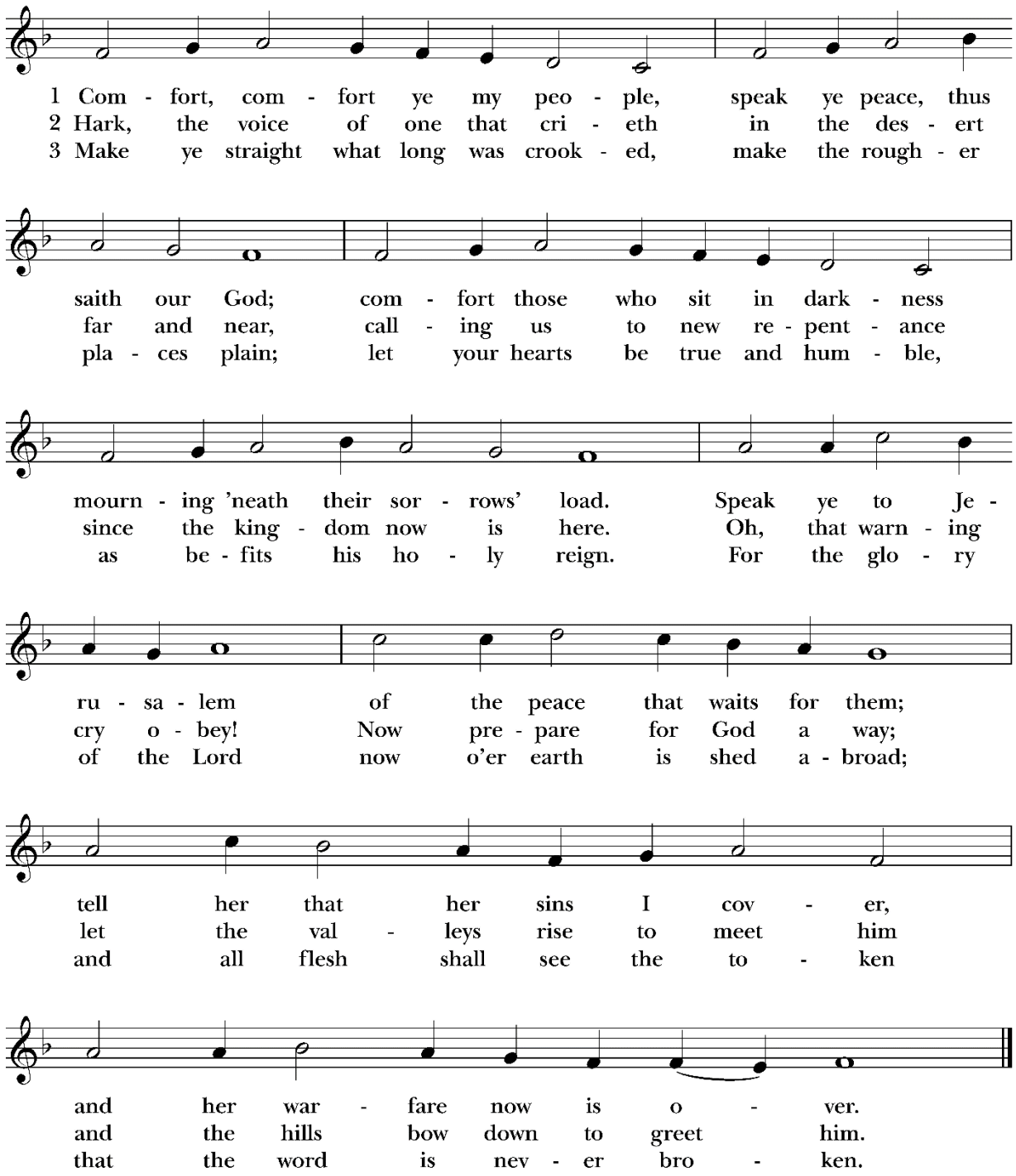
Each week we gather to proclaim God's love for all and to offer strength and courage for the journey.We are convinced that the hope, love and good news that we offer are exactly what people need to navigate these challenging times in which we live. If you share our conviction and values, we invite you 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:

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@StThomasDenver

Credit Card
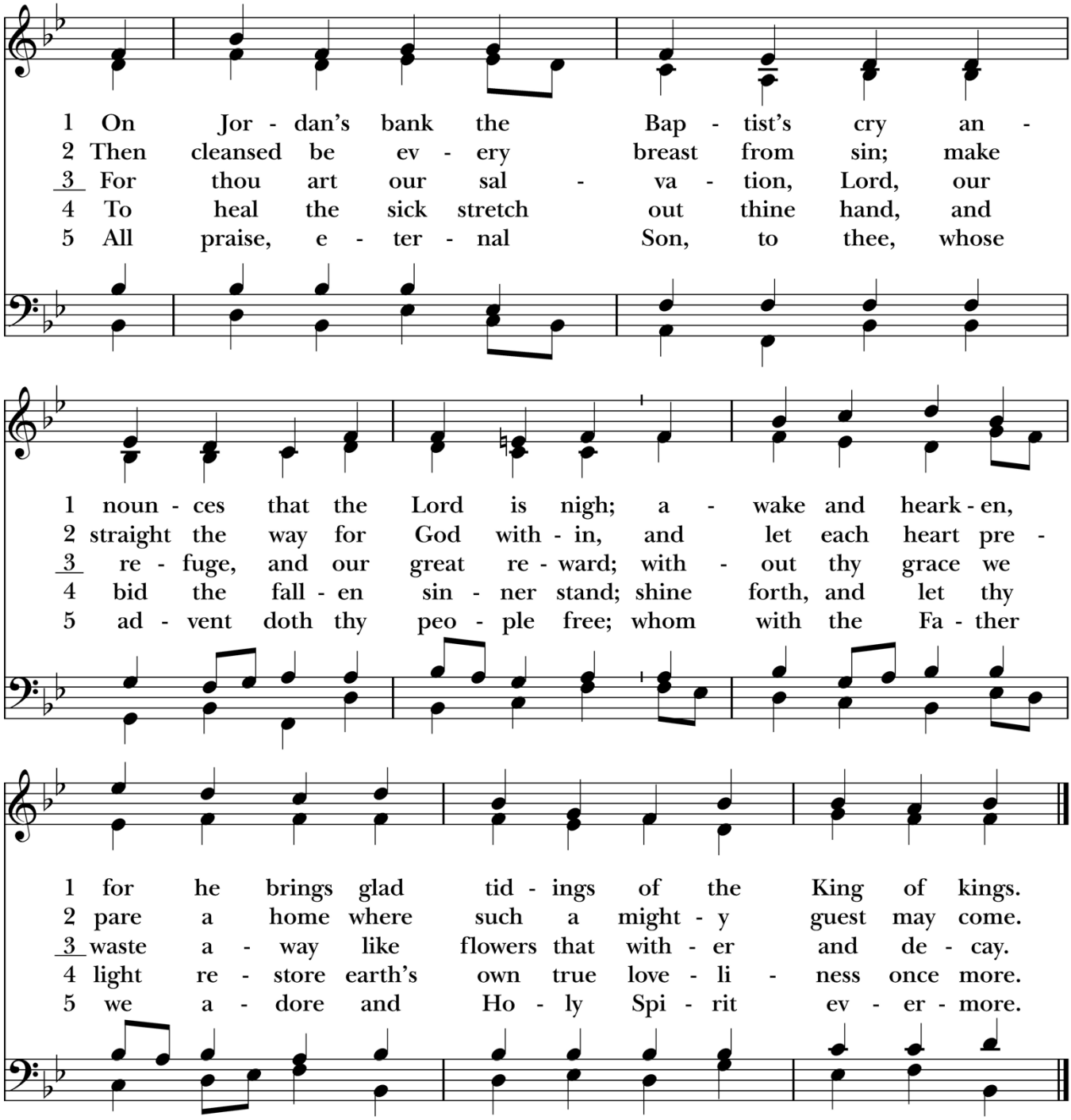
Offertory Anthem *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Hymnal 1982 #67



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

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.

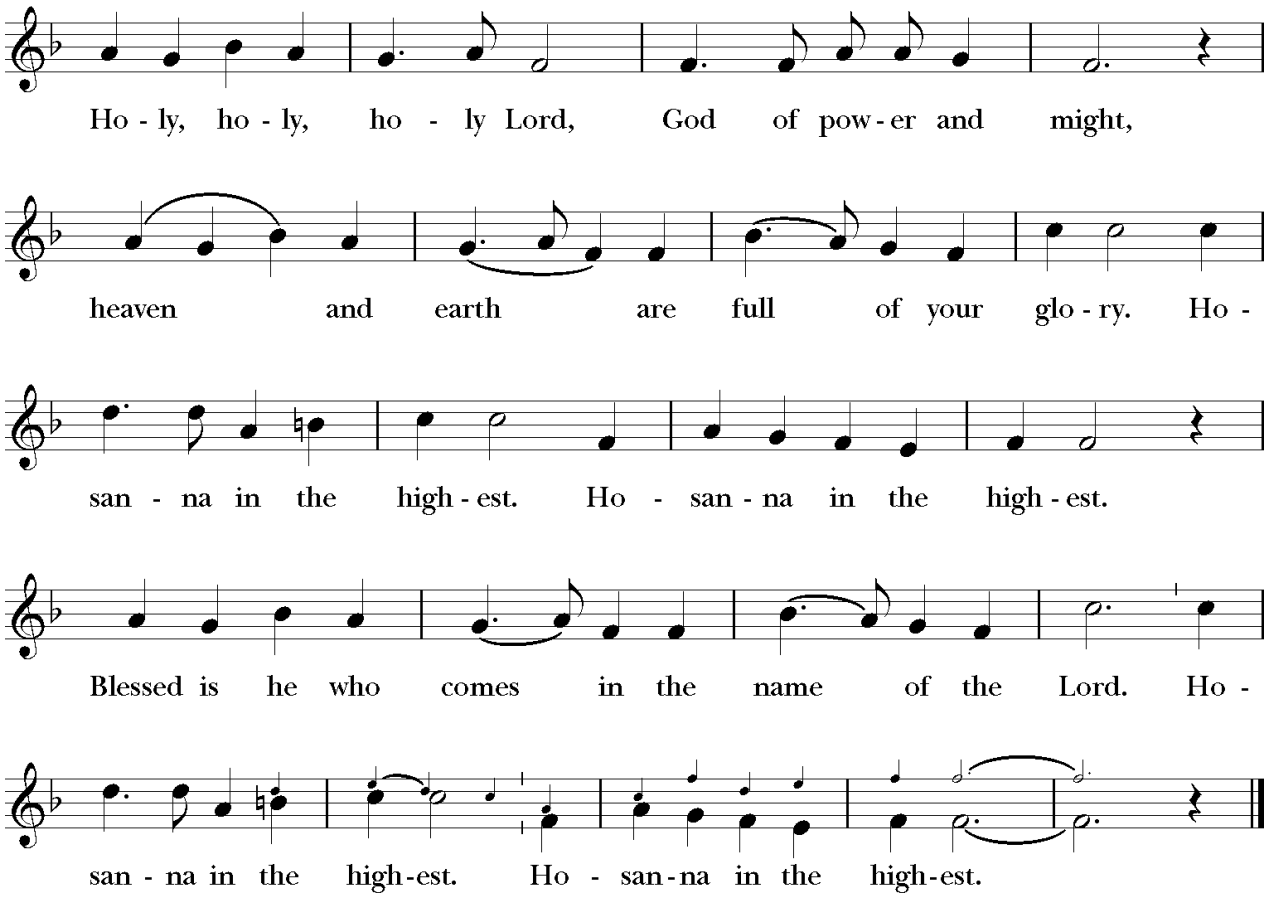
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

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. 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.
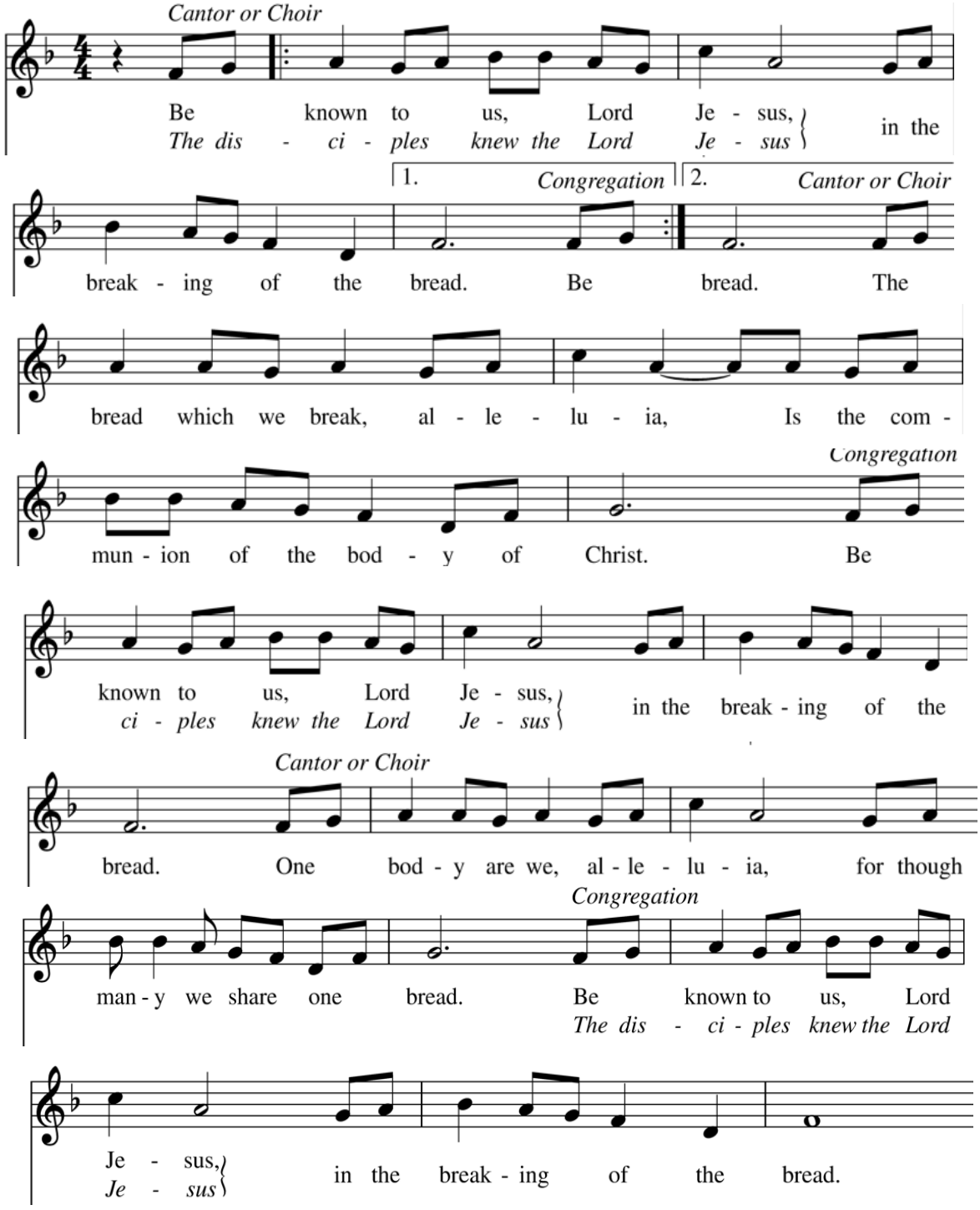
The Presider continues
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Most Holy God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the 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, now and forever, **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
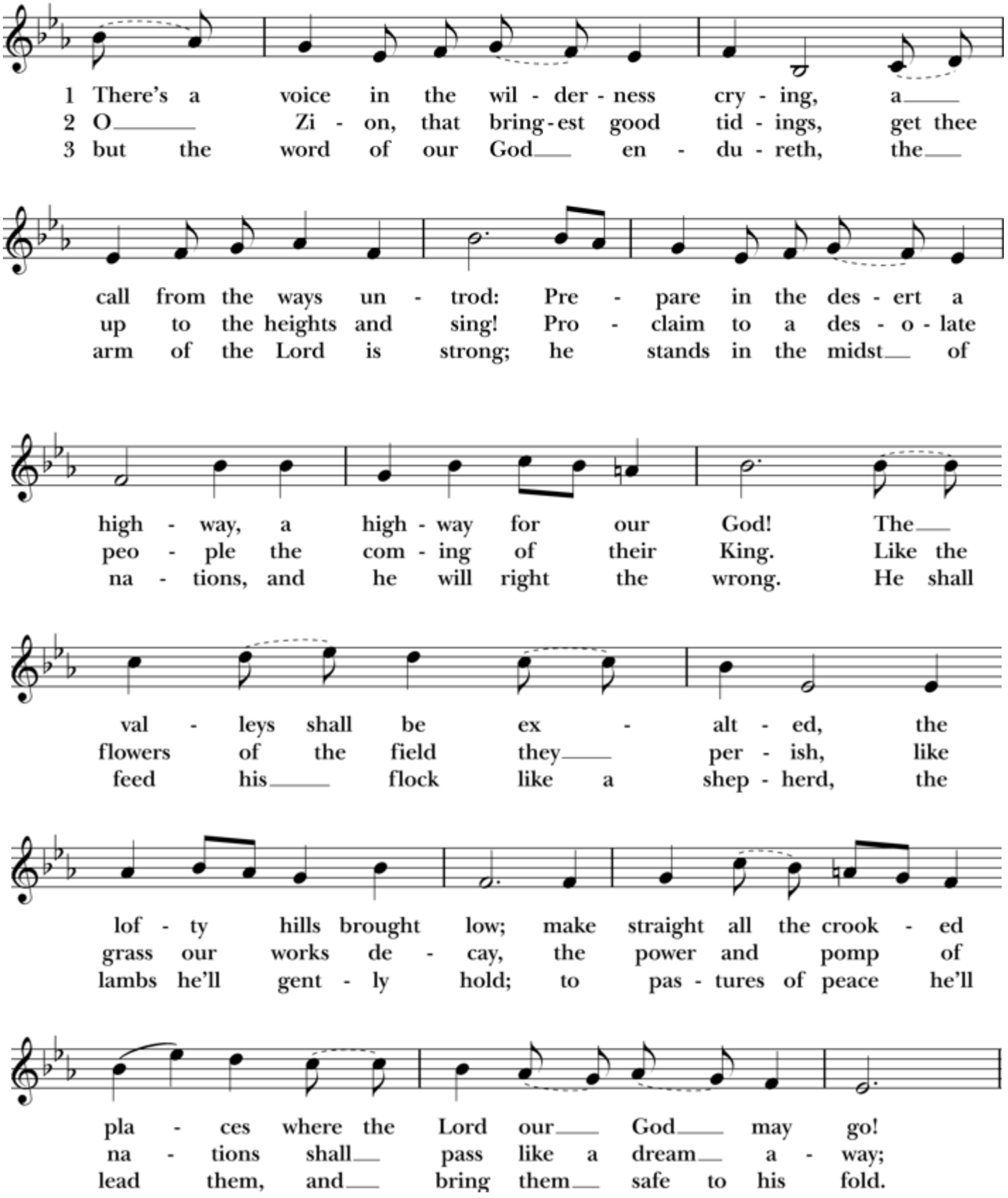
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* Hymnal 1982 #75



Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

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