St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Lead with Love

Holy Eucharist
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 24, 2023

2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO 80205
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 by emailing her at 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

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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: _____

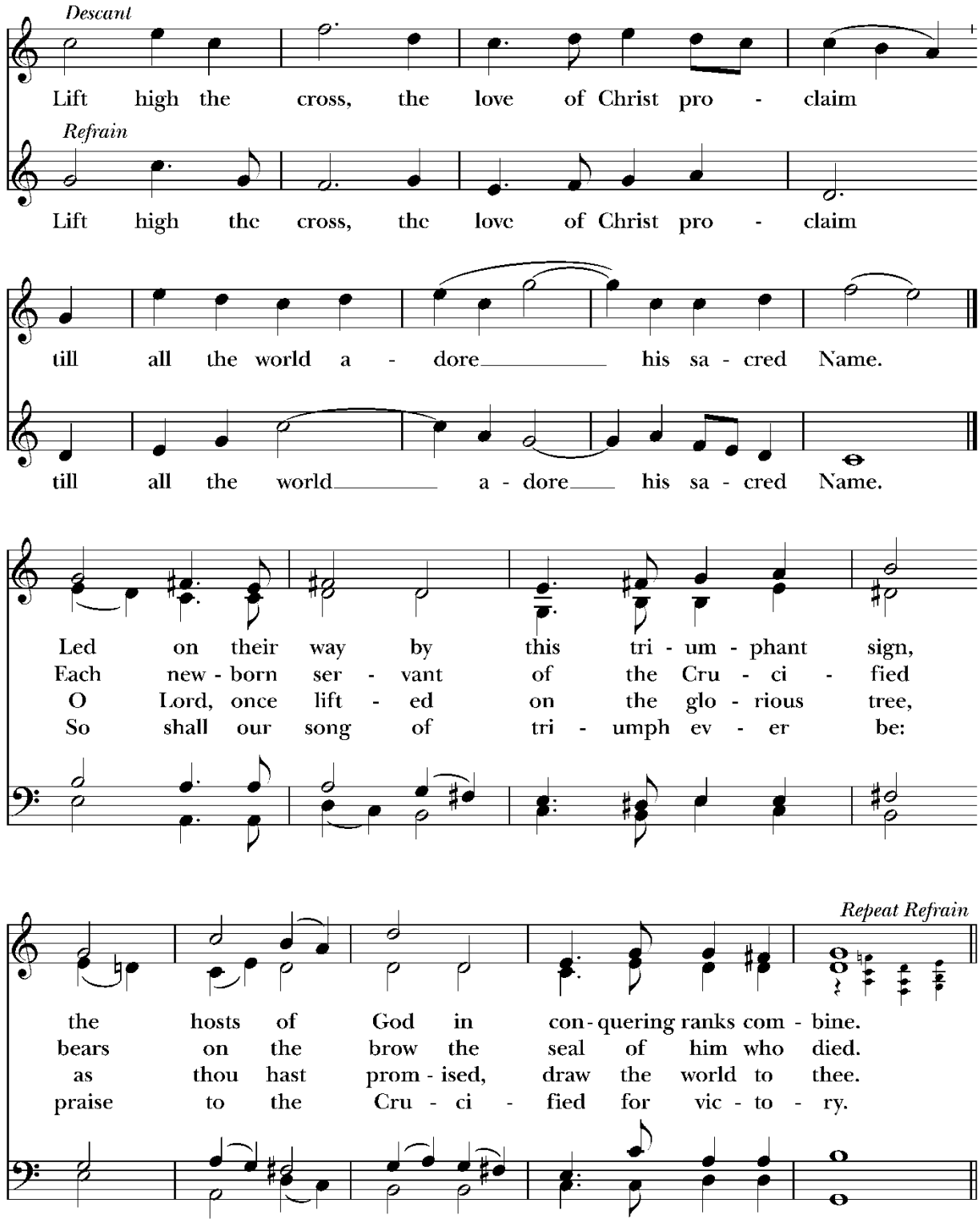
This commitment card is for you. Keep it somewhere that you will see it each day.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Lift High the Cross Hymnal 1982 #473



Words: George William Kitchin (1827-1912) and Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956). Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Crucifer*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1974 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 deep compassion, who welcomes the weak, frees us from bondage and breaks the cycle of judgement and violence. through Christ we pray. **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 community 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 16:2-15**

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the

complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

We give you thanks, O God, and call upon your Name; *
we make known your deeds among the peoples.
We sing to you; we sing your praise *
and speak of all your marvelous works.
We glory in your holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.
We search for you and your strength; *
we continually seek your face.
We remember the marvels you have done, *
the wonders and the judgments of your mouth.
O offspring of Abraham, your servant, *
O children of Jacob, the chosen ones.
You led out your people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
You spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
They asked, and quails appeared, *
and you satisfied them with bread from heaven.
You opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

For you remembered your holy word *
and Abraham your servant.
So you led forth your people with gladness, *
your chosen with shouts of joy.
You gave your people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
That they might keep your statutes *
and observe your laws. Alleluia!

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

After the Reading:

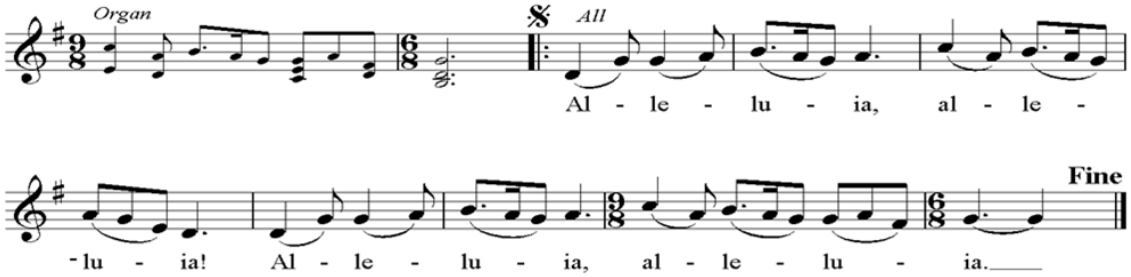
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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 20:1-16

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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.**

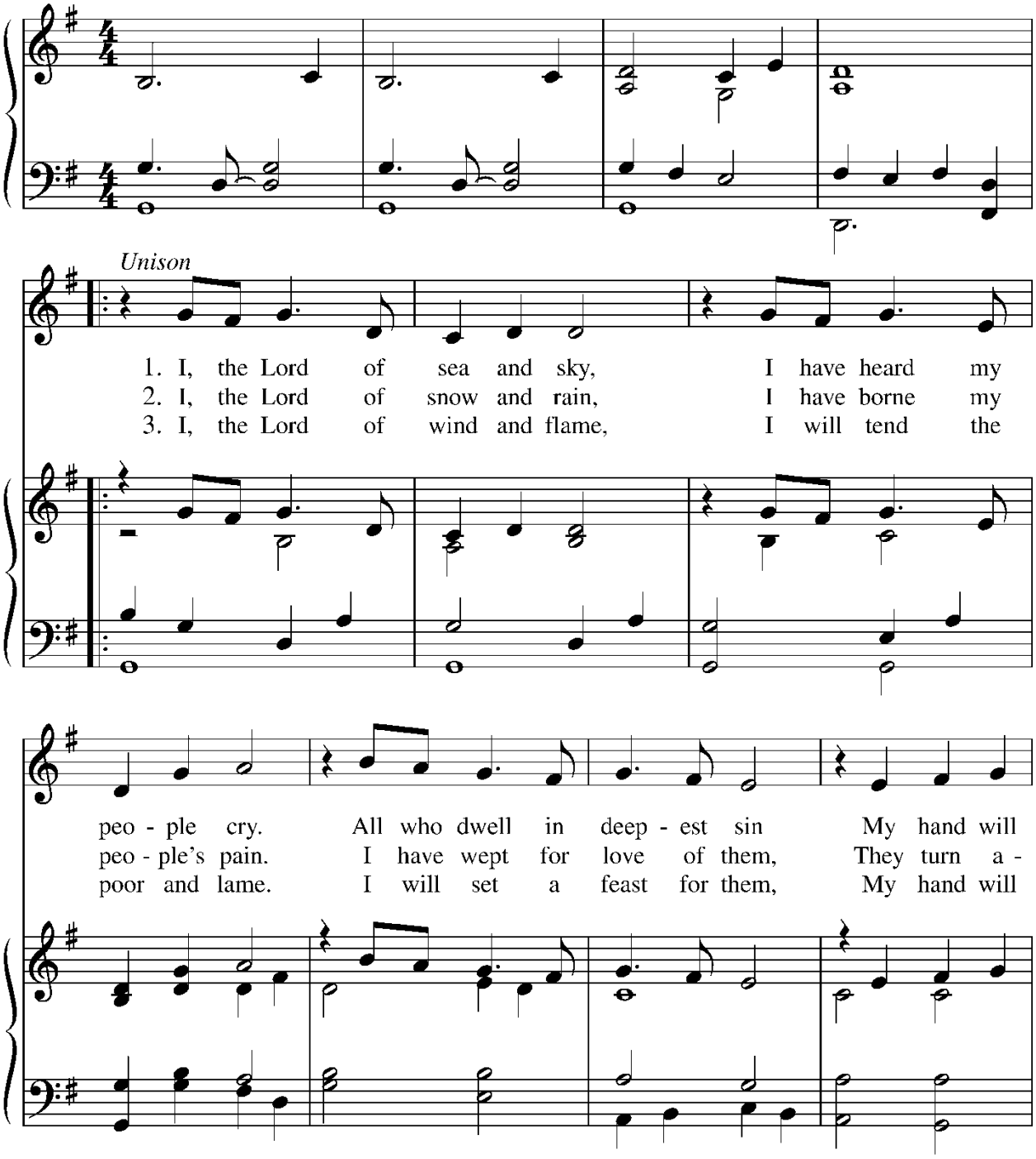
We greet one another in the name of Christ.

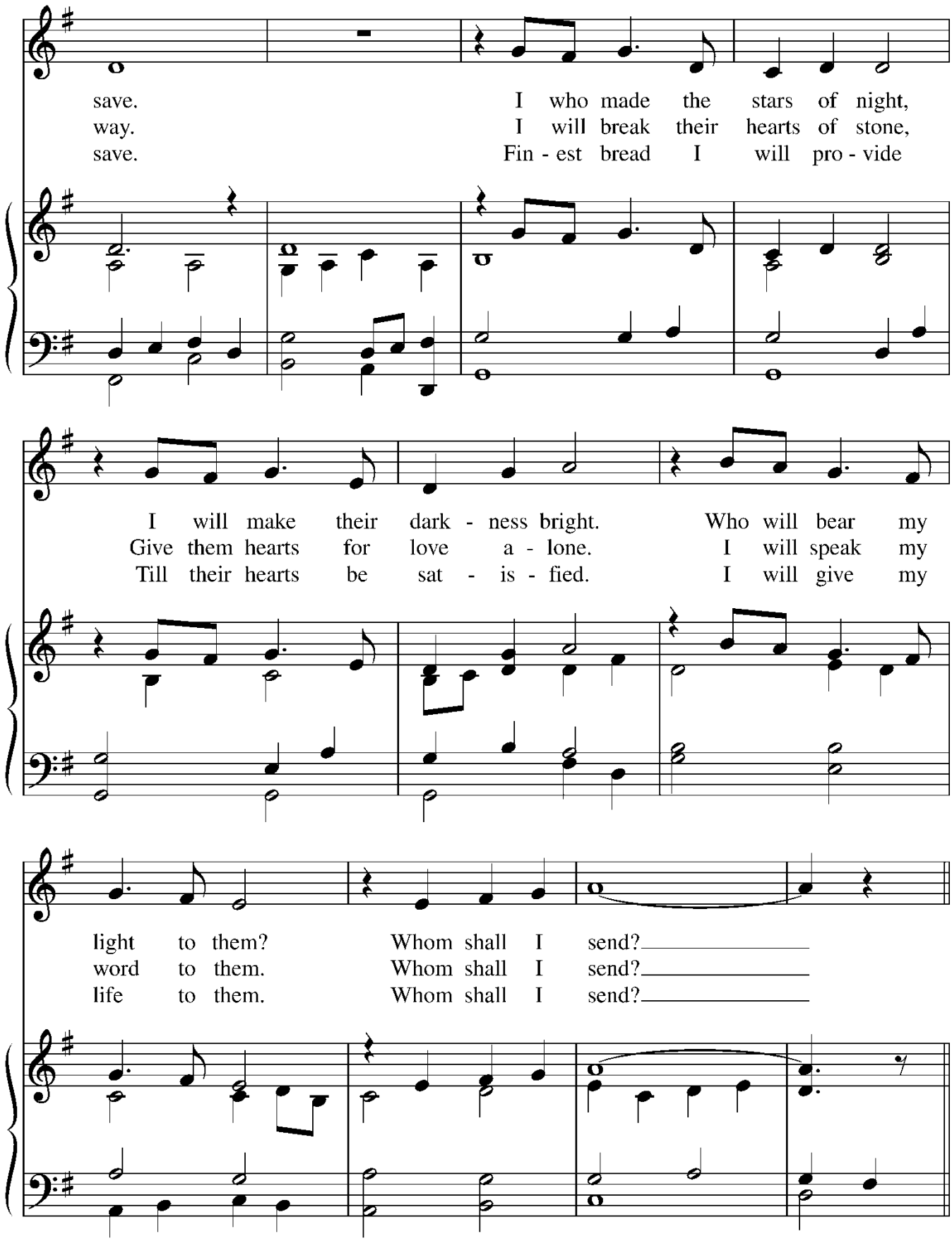
THE HOLY COMMUNION

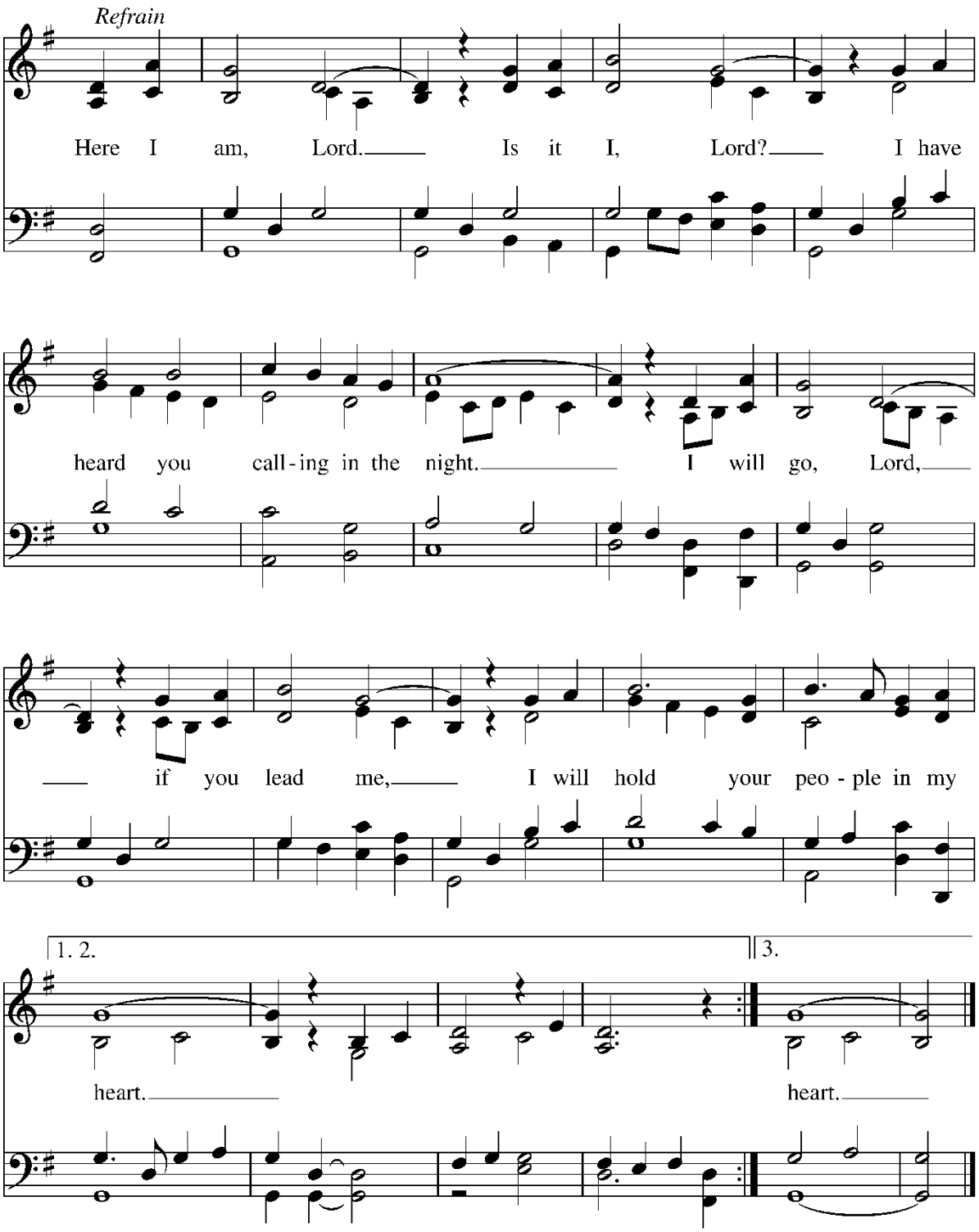
Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord

Offertory Hymn *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky* WLP #812

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:




save. I who made the stars of night,
way. I will break their hearts of stone,
save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide
I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my
light to them? Whom shall I send?
word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I send?



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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.**

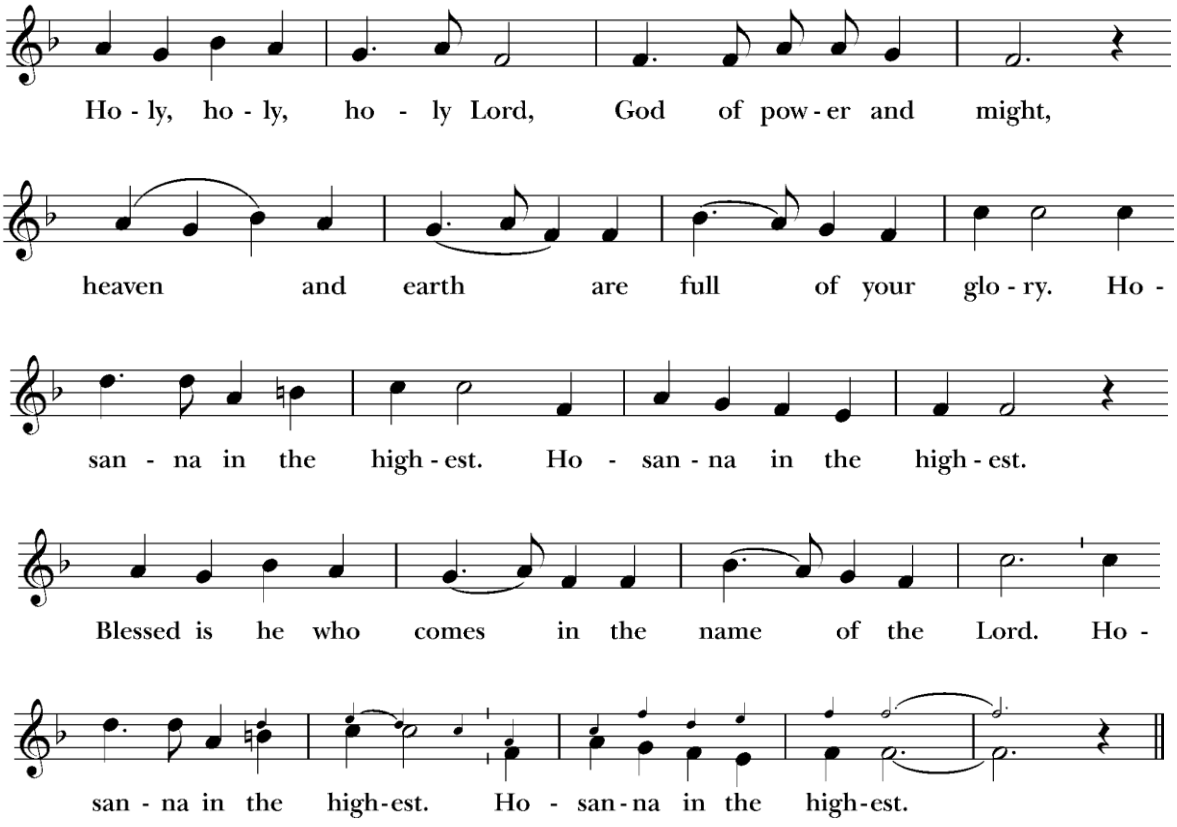
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

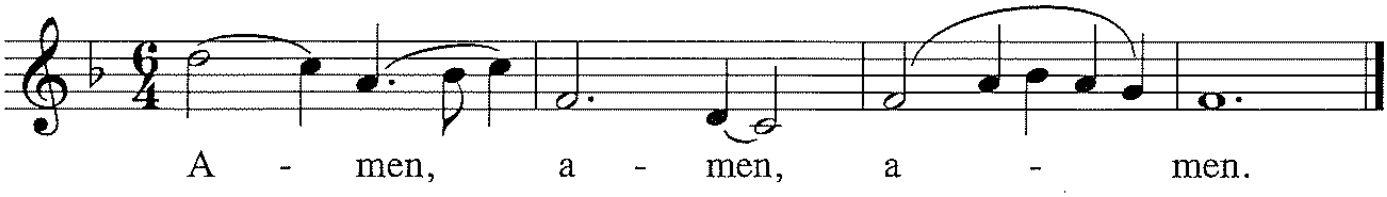
Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

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

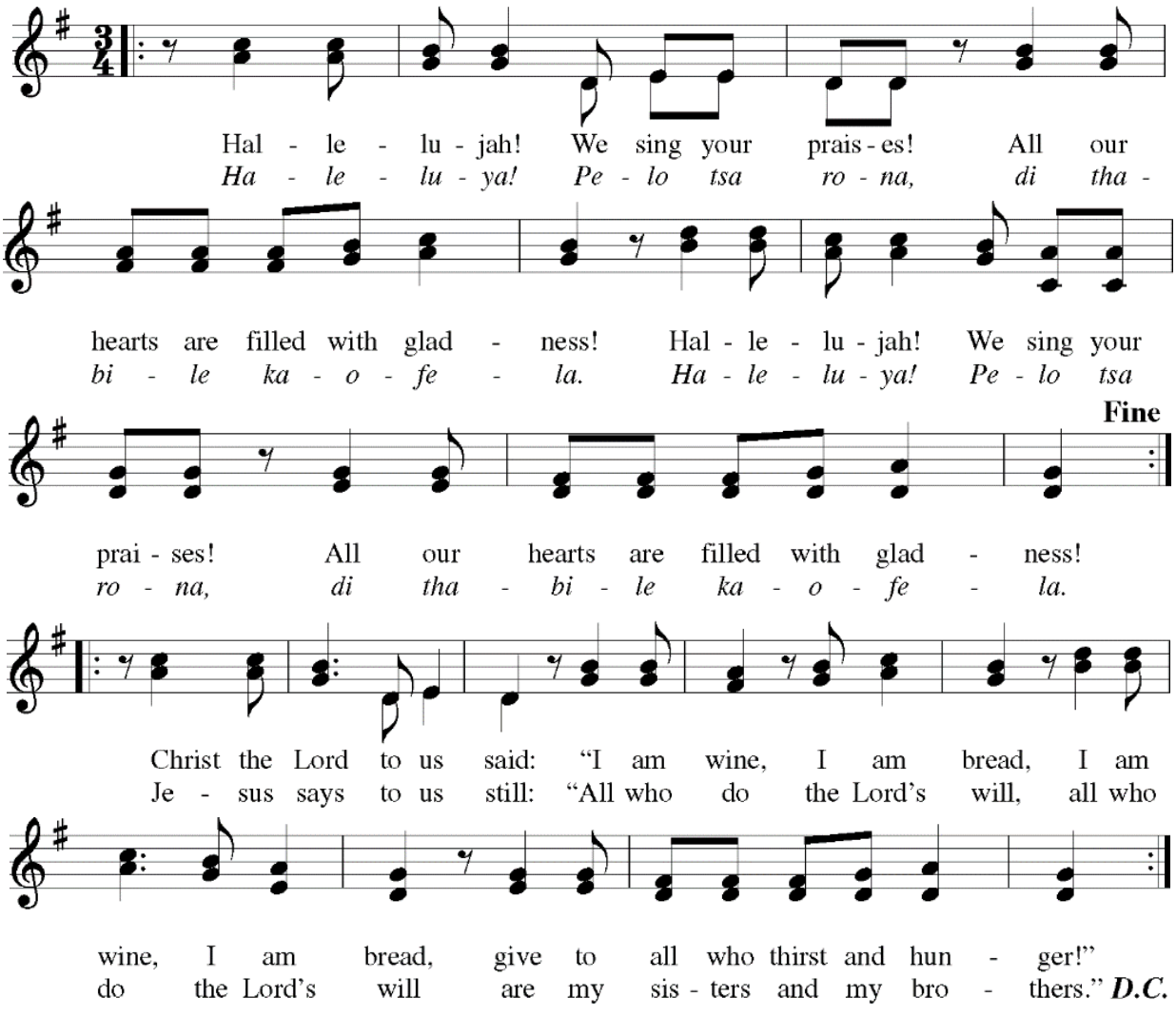
Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray.

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*

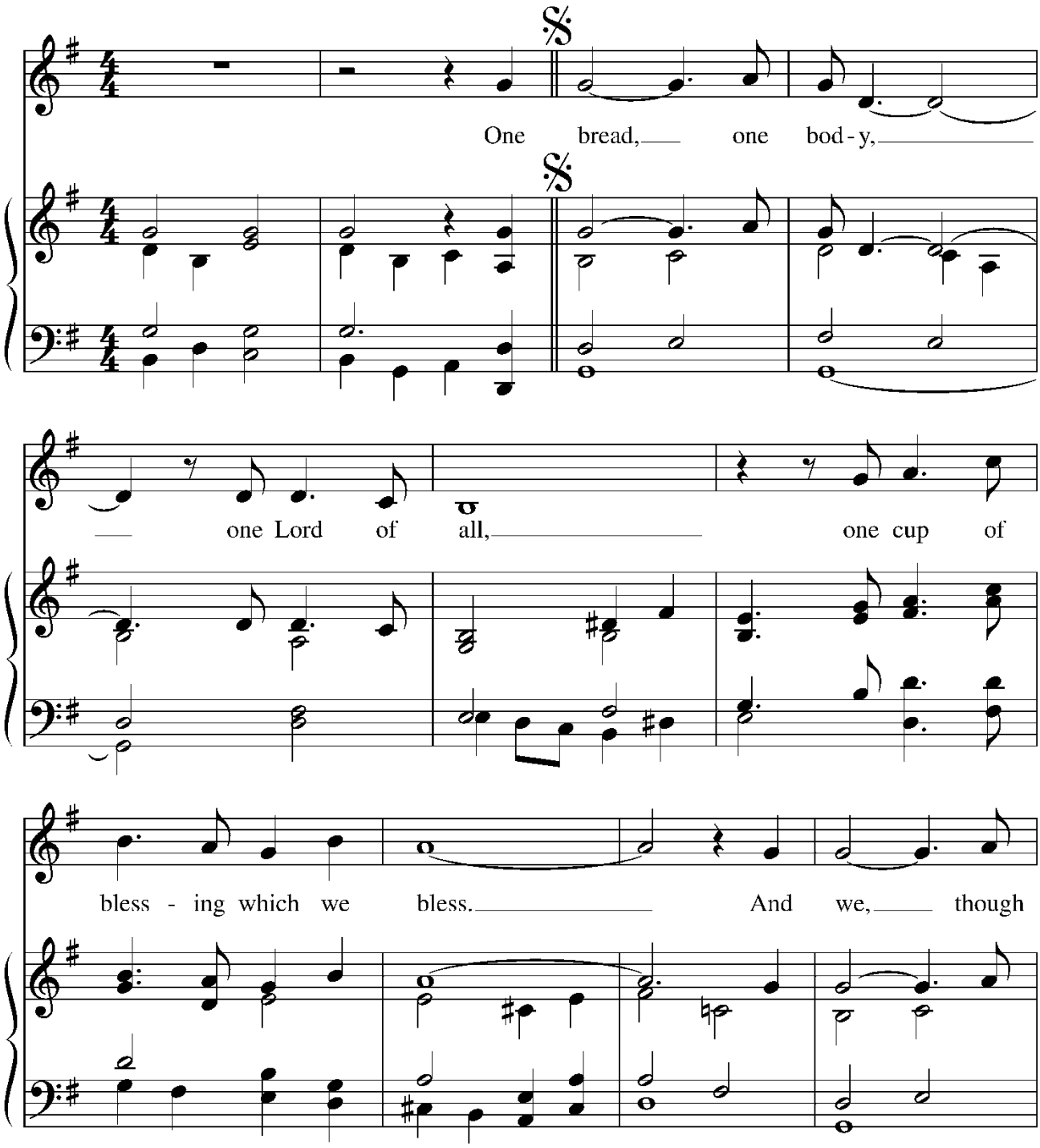


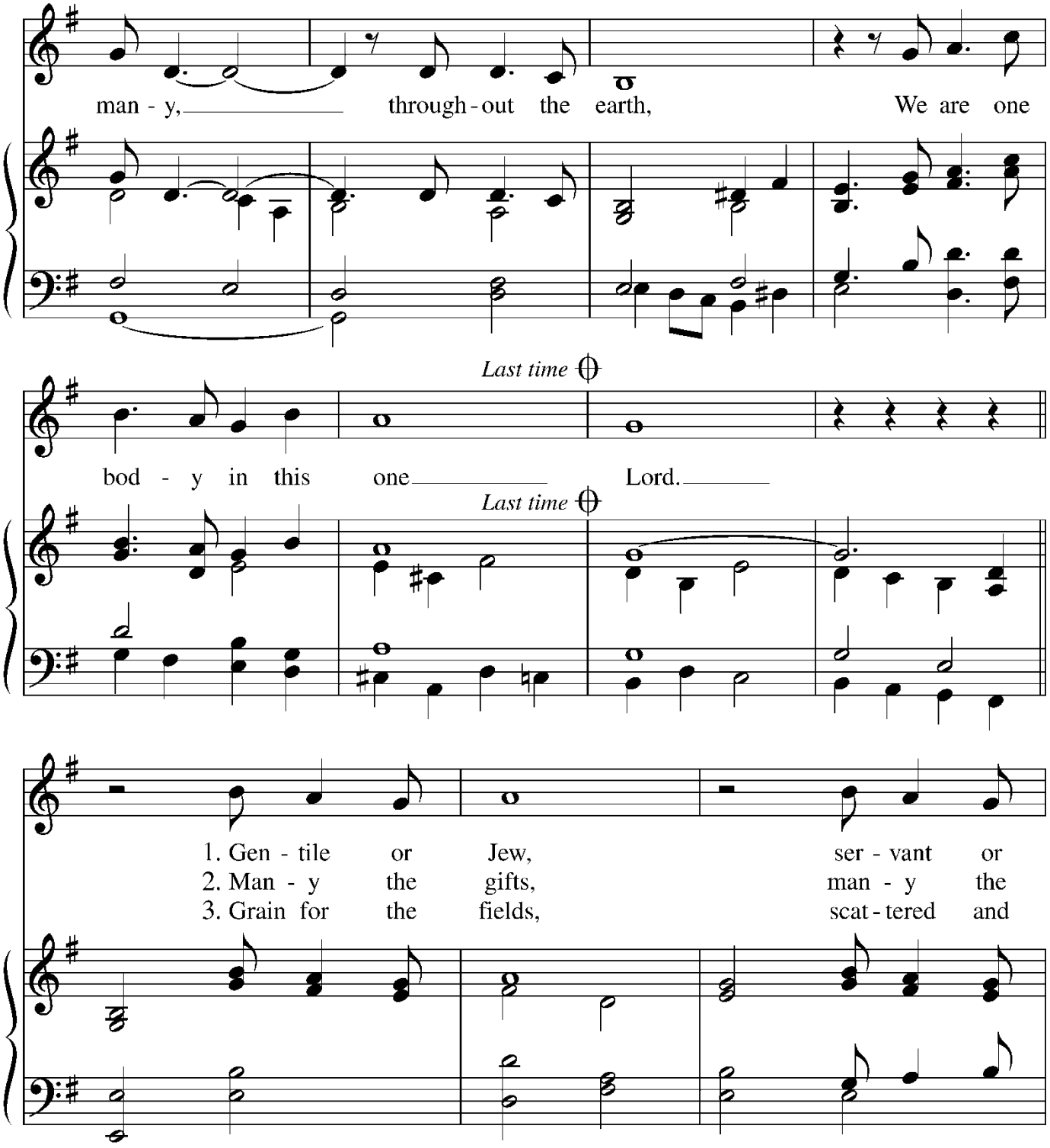
The Invitation to The Table

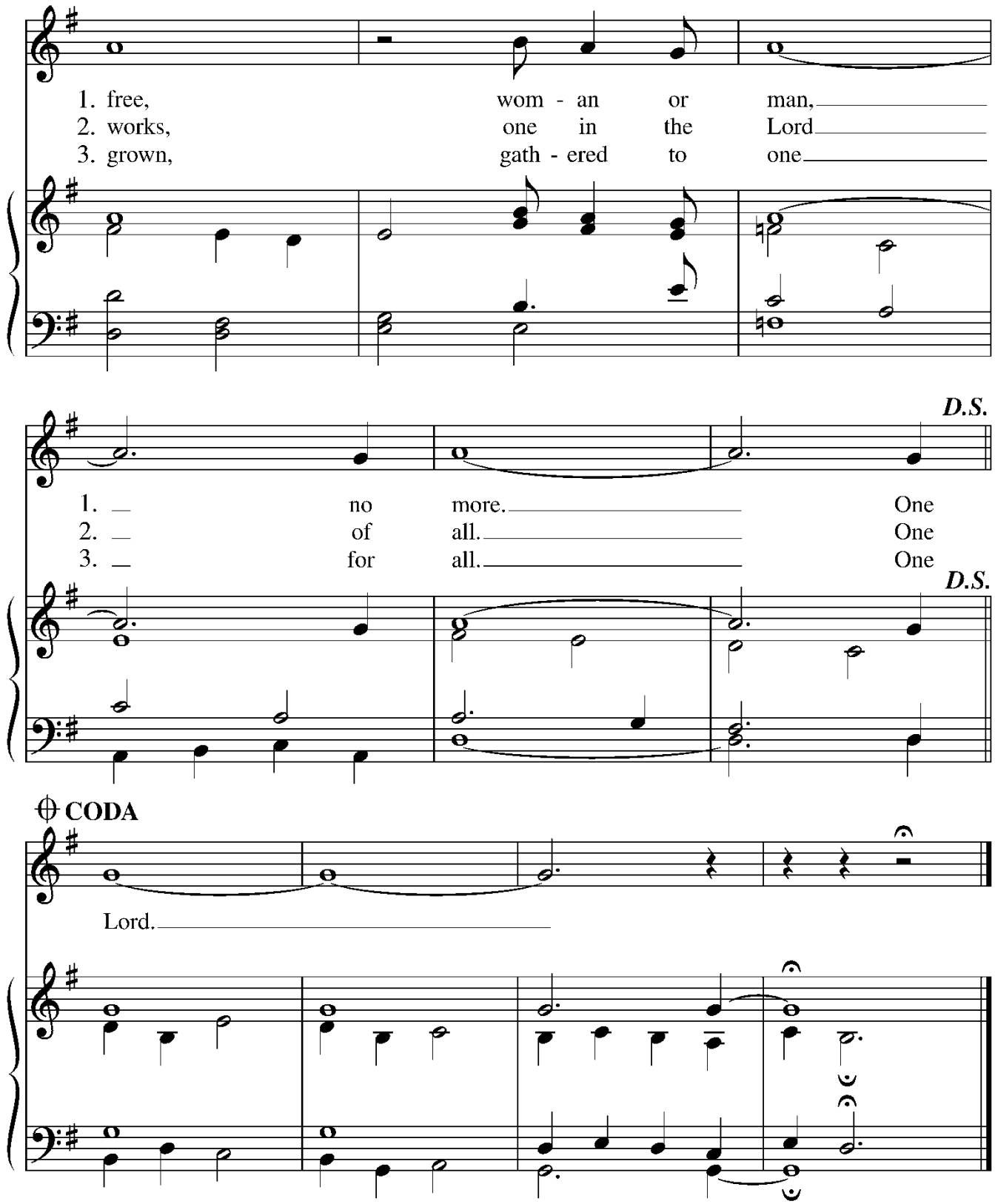
The Communion of the People

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 *One Bread, One Body* LEVAS #151




man - y, through - out the earth, We are one
Last time
bod - y in this one Lord.
Last time
1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the
3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and



Words: 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:4; Galatians 3:28; The Didache 9. Music: John B. Foley, SJ. Copyright © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music, P.O. Box 13248, Portland, OR 97213. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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.

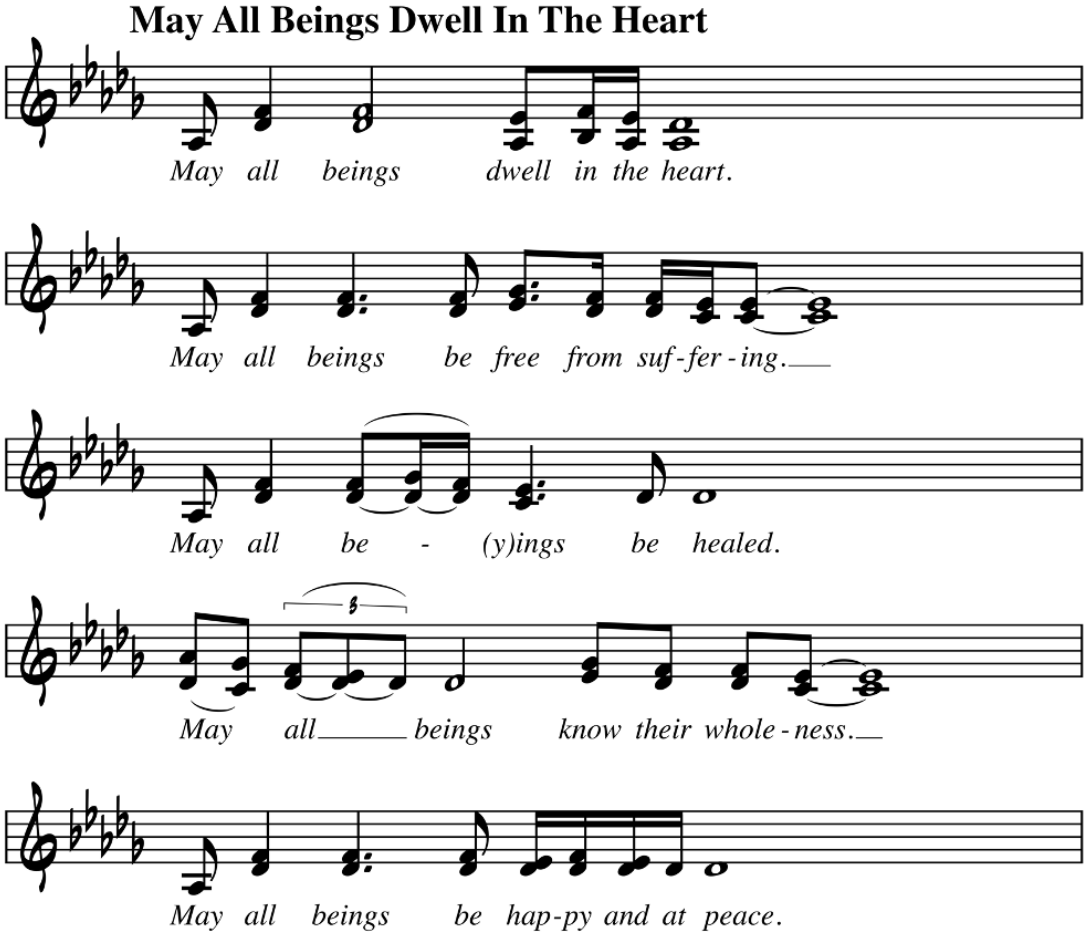
GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Blessings

Welcome Visitors

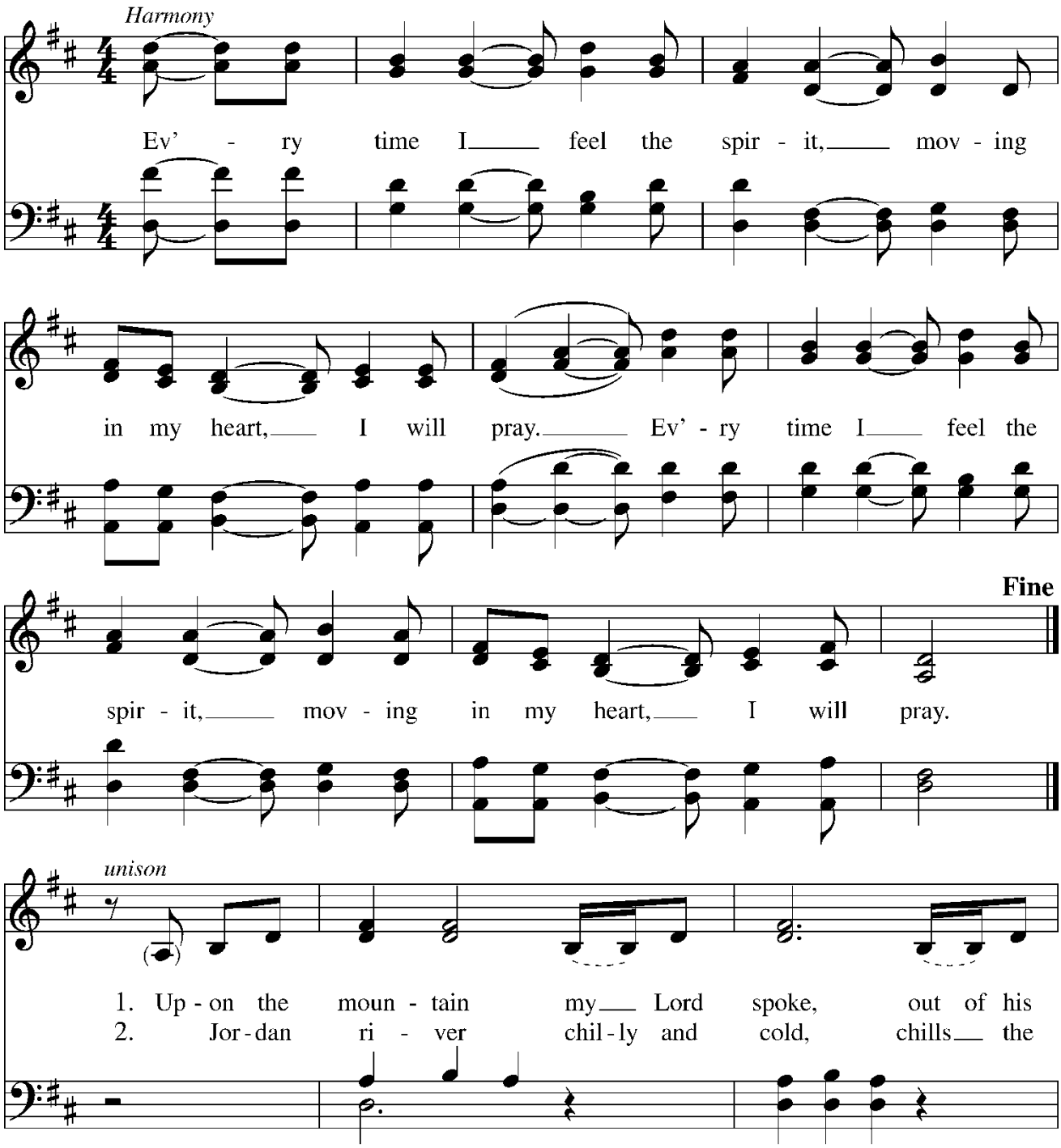
We are happy you are here and would like to welcome you. If you are comfortable doing so, we invite you to stand and introduce yourself. If you prefer to just sit and enjoy the service, we are happy to respect your privacy.

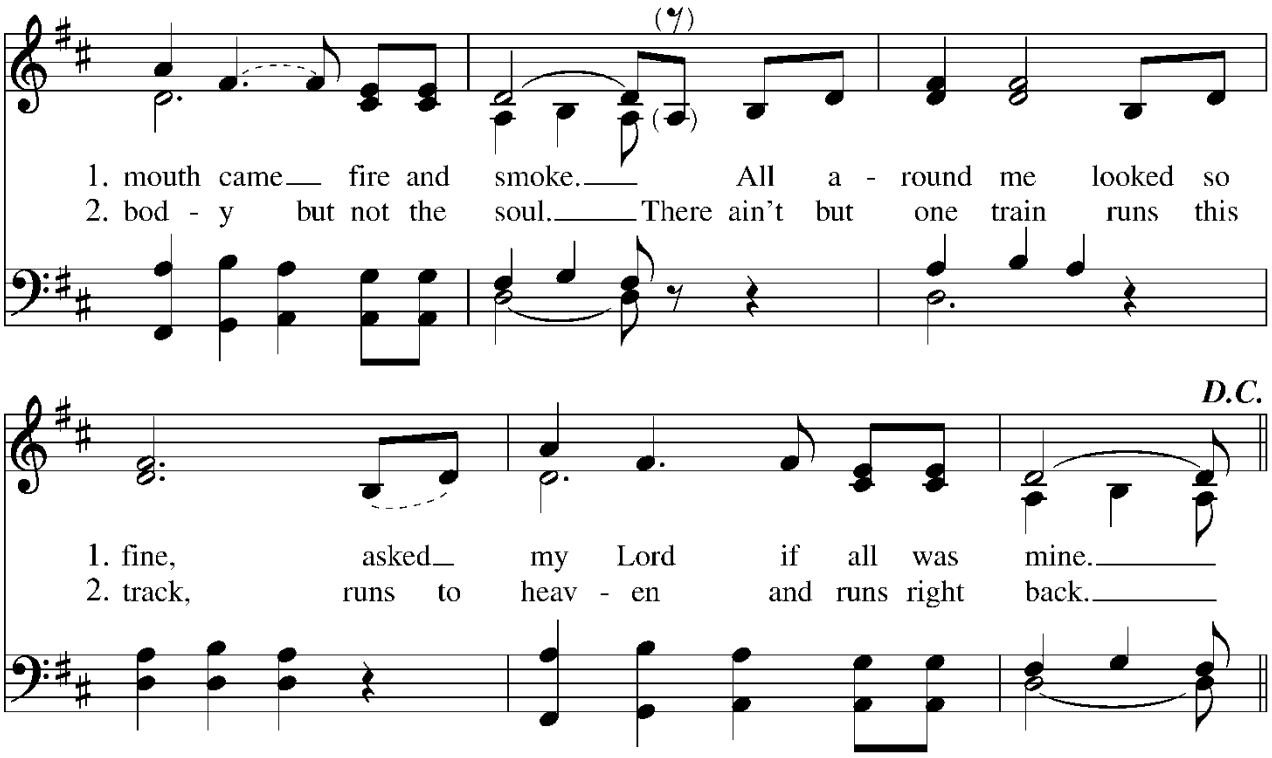
Announcements



Final Blessing

Closing Song *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* LEVAS #114





Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

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!

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