ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LEAD WITH LOVE

The First Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist

December 1, 2024
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 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

Music Leaders
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell

Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez
Akilah Walton

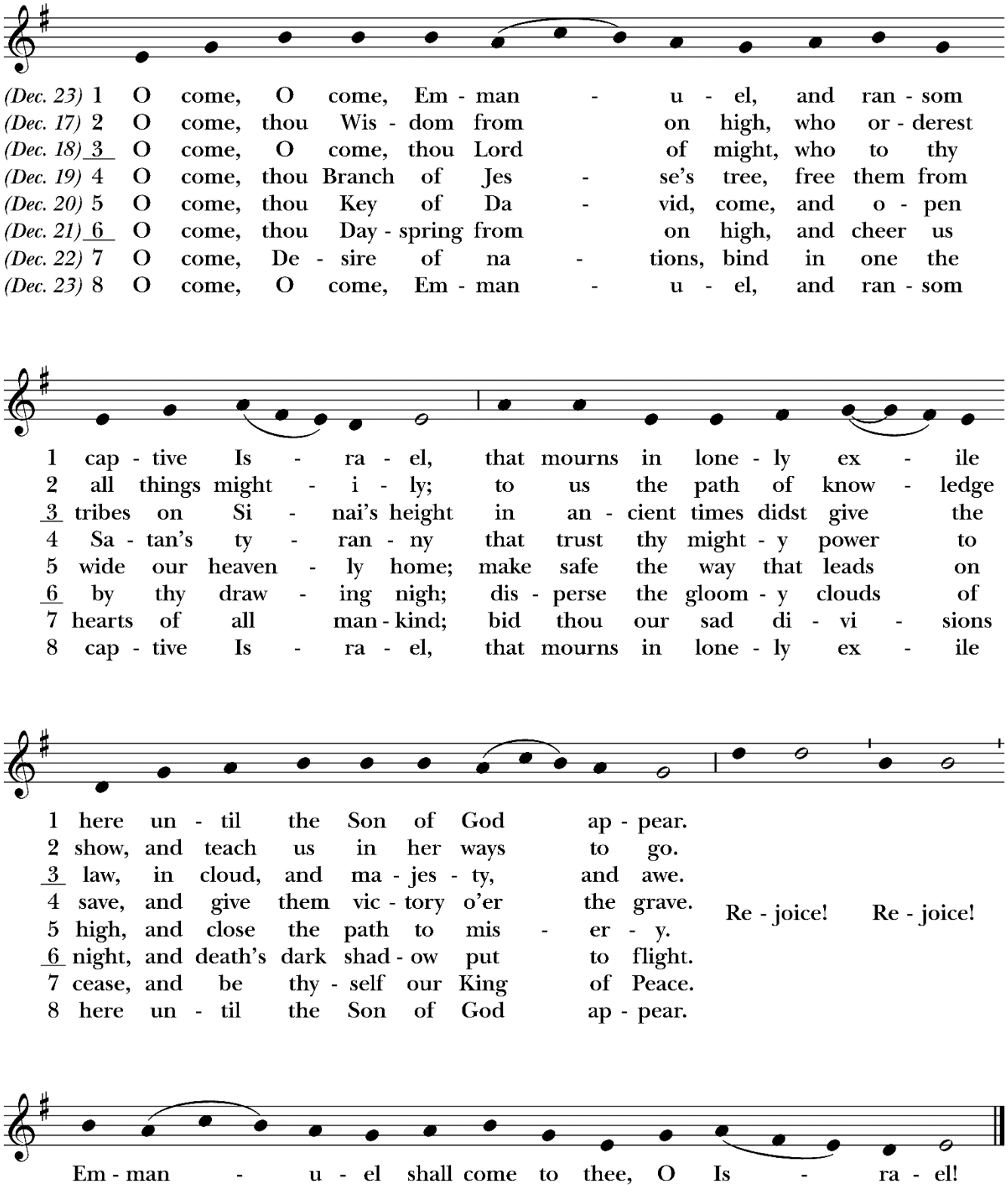
Seminarian: Cate Colburn-Smith

Contact Us:

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Samantha Church, Children's Program	samantha@saintthomasdenver.org
The Rev. Terri Hobart	terri@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.**

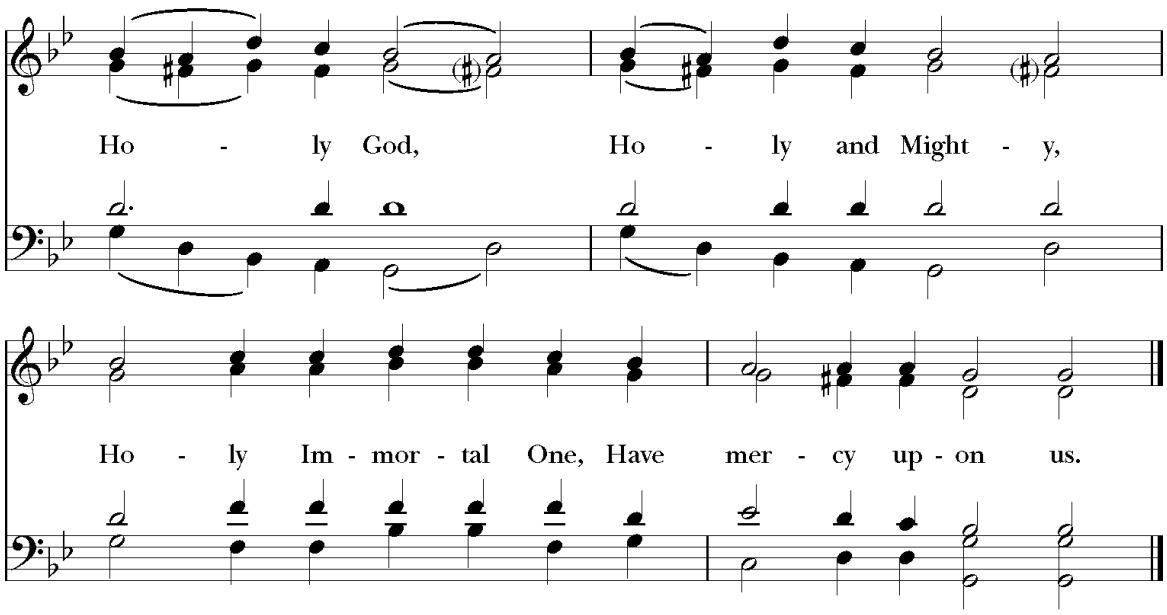
Opening Acclamation

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.

God of justice, as your kingdom dawns, raise our heads in expectation 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 Jeremiah **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Response

After the Reading:

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O God, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O God, *
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O God, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O God.

Gracious and upright are you; *
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You guide the humble in doing right *
and teach your way to the lowly.

All your paths are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

A Reading from First Thessalonians **I Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

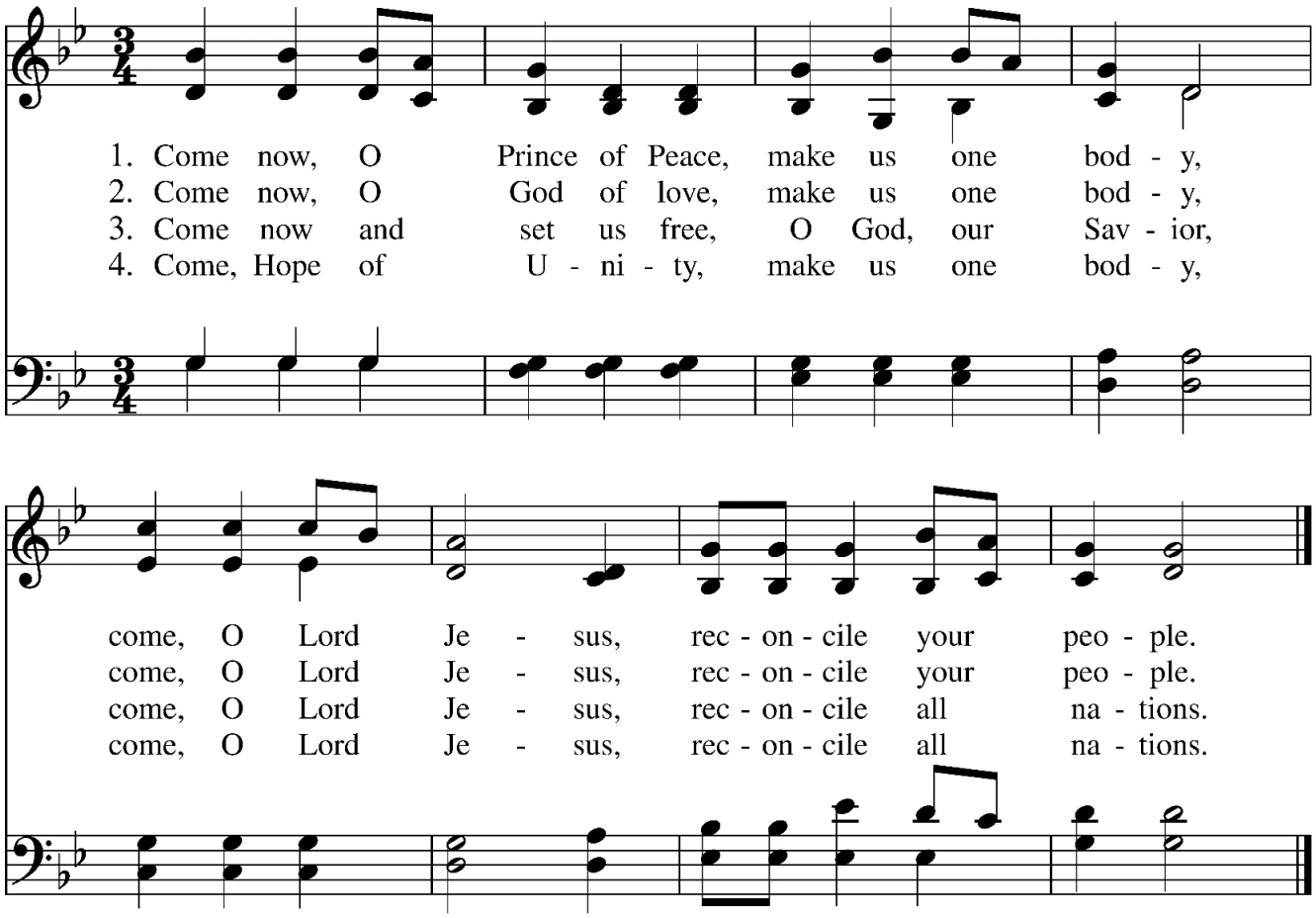
The Response

After the Reading:

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Come Now O Prince of Peace* WLP #795



Words: Geonyong Lee; para. Marion Pope, alt. Music: *O-so-so*, Geonyong Lee.

The Gospel **Luke 21:25-36**

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

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

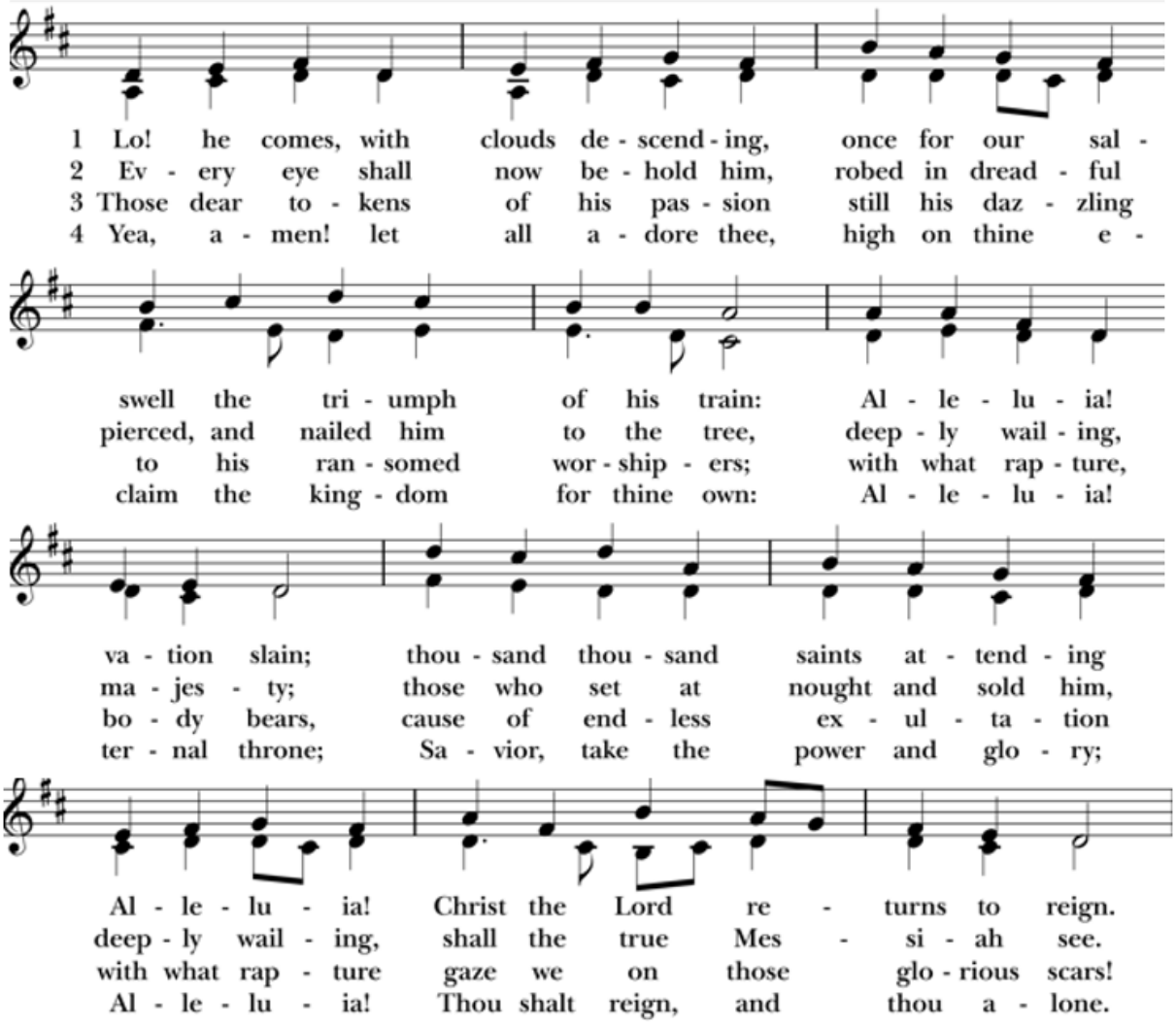
Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

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:

venmo
@StThomasDenver

Credit Card

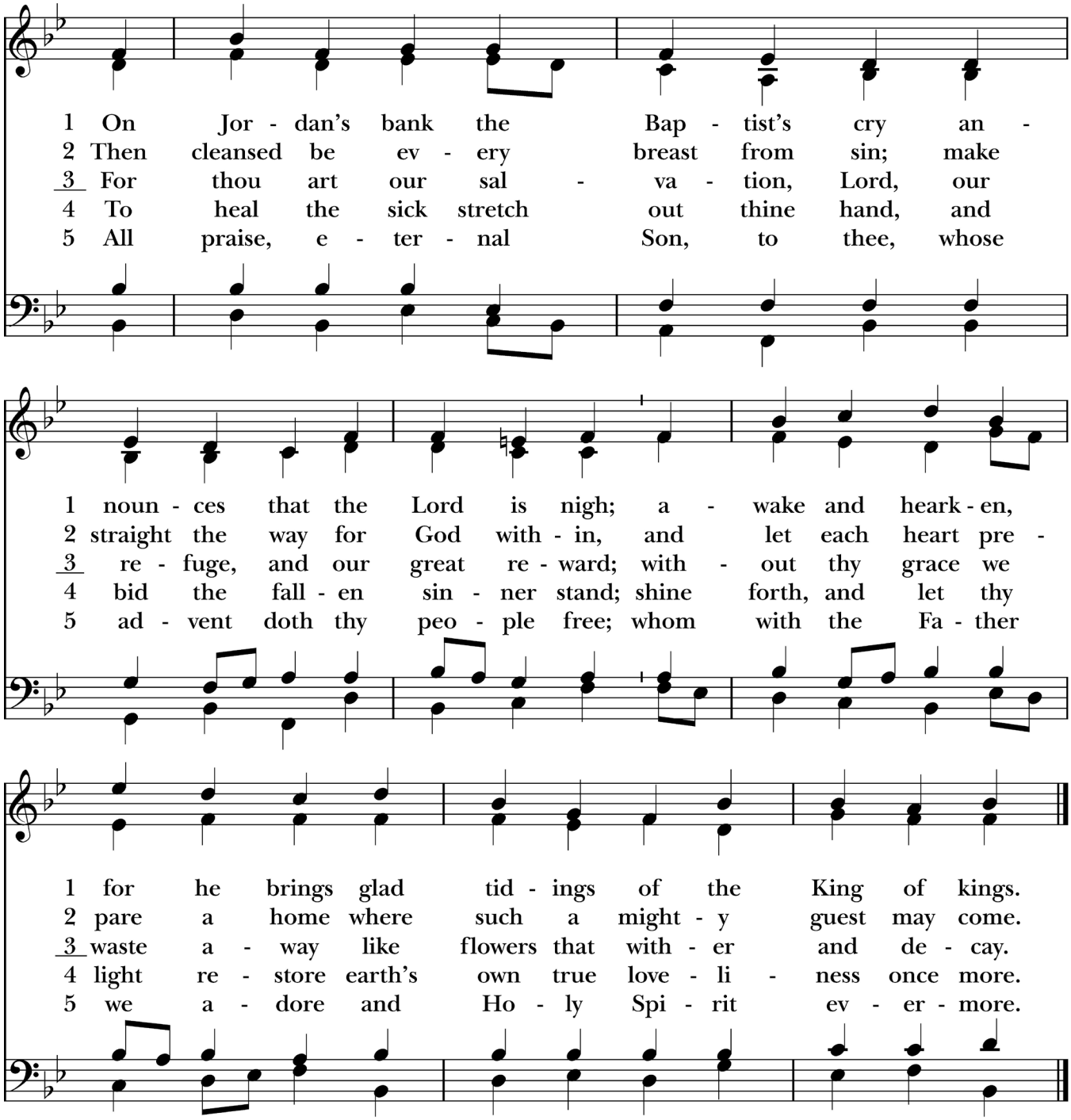
Offertory Anthem *Lo! he Comes with Clouds Descending* Hymnal 1982 #58



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *St. Thomas*, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861).

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.

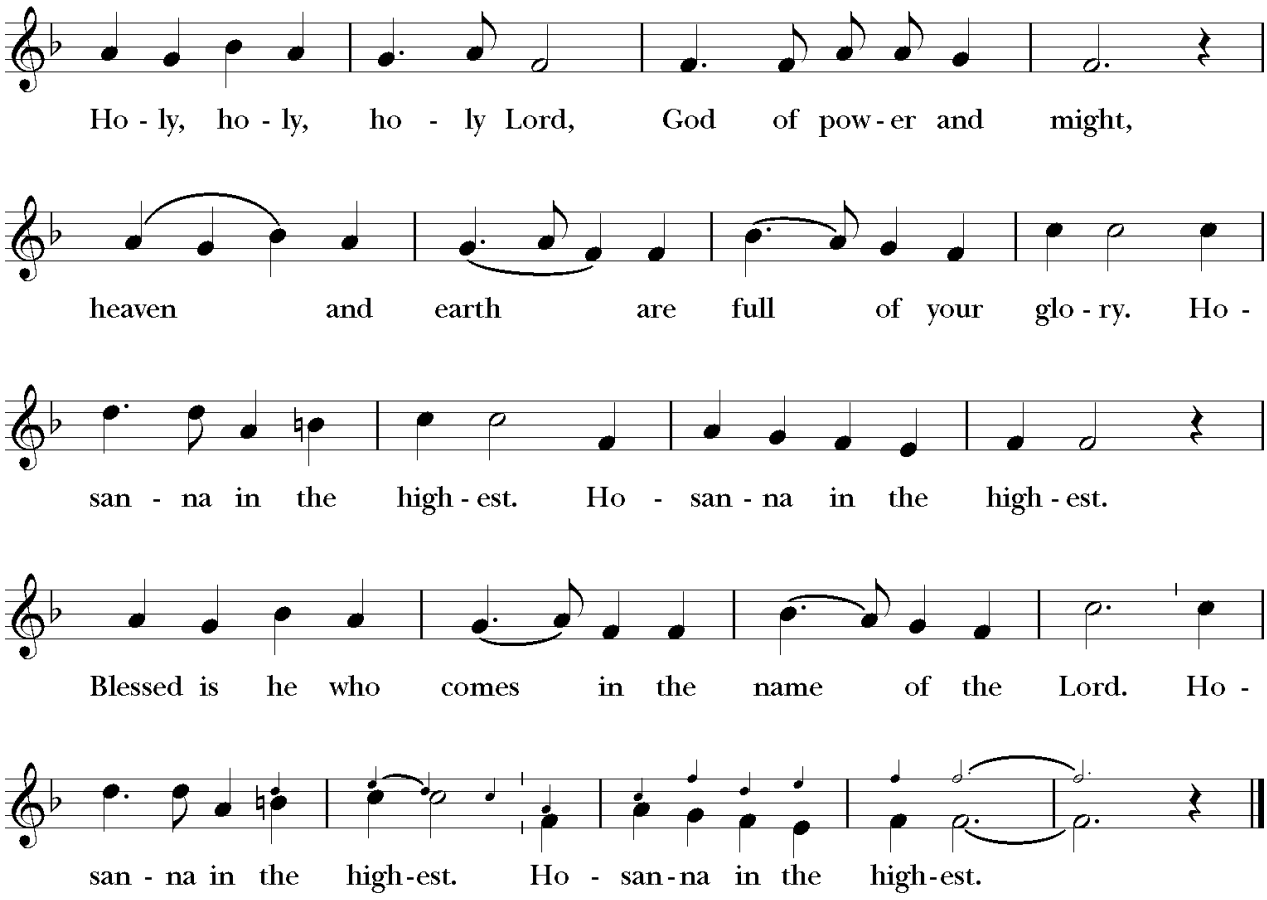
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

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:

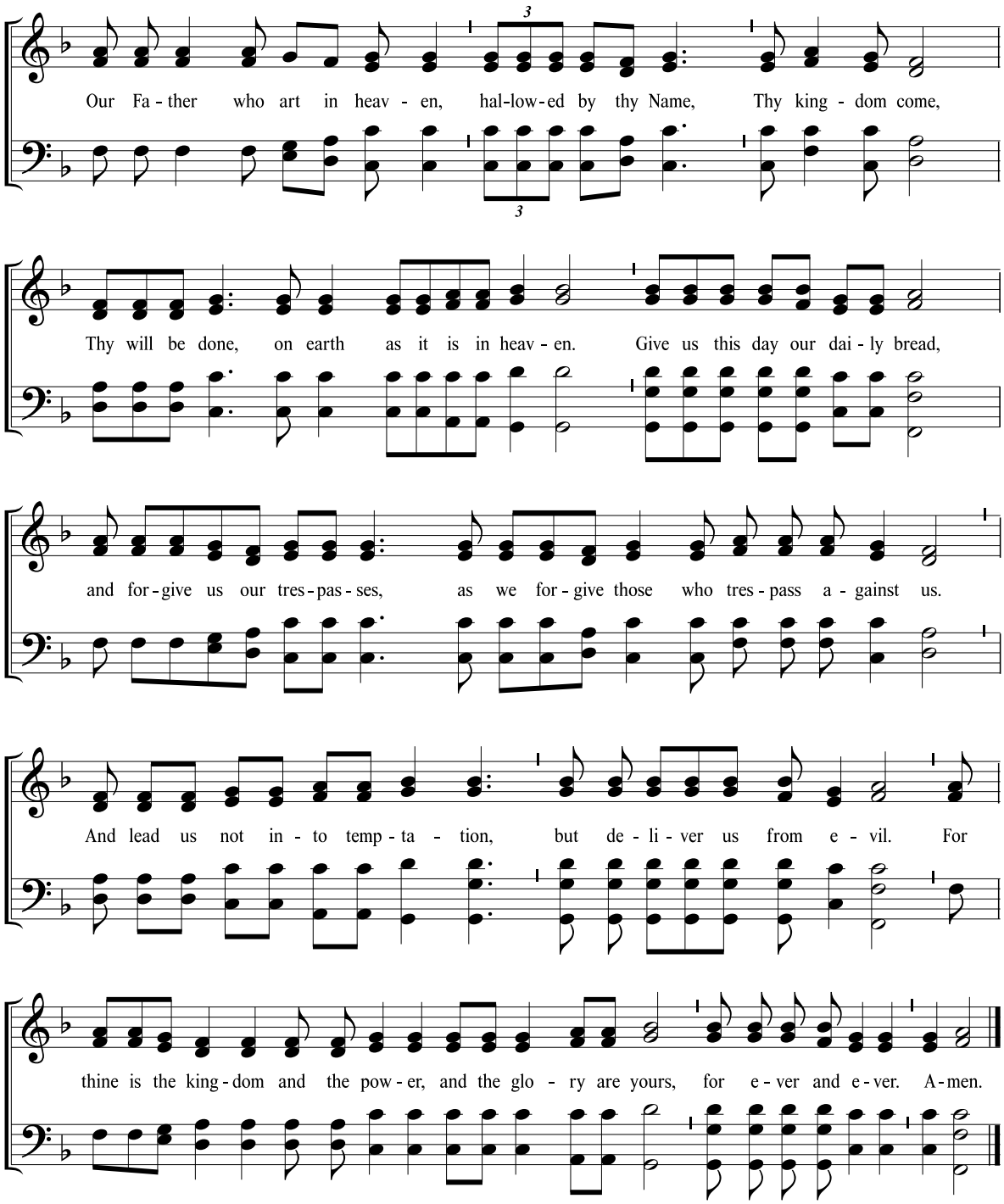
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

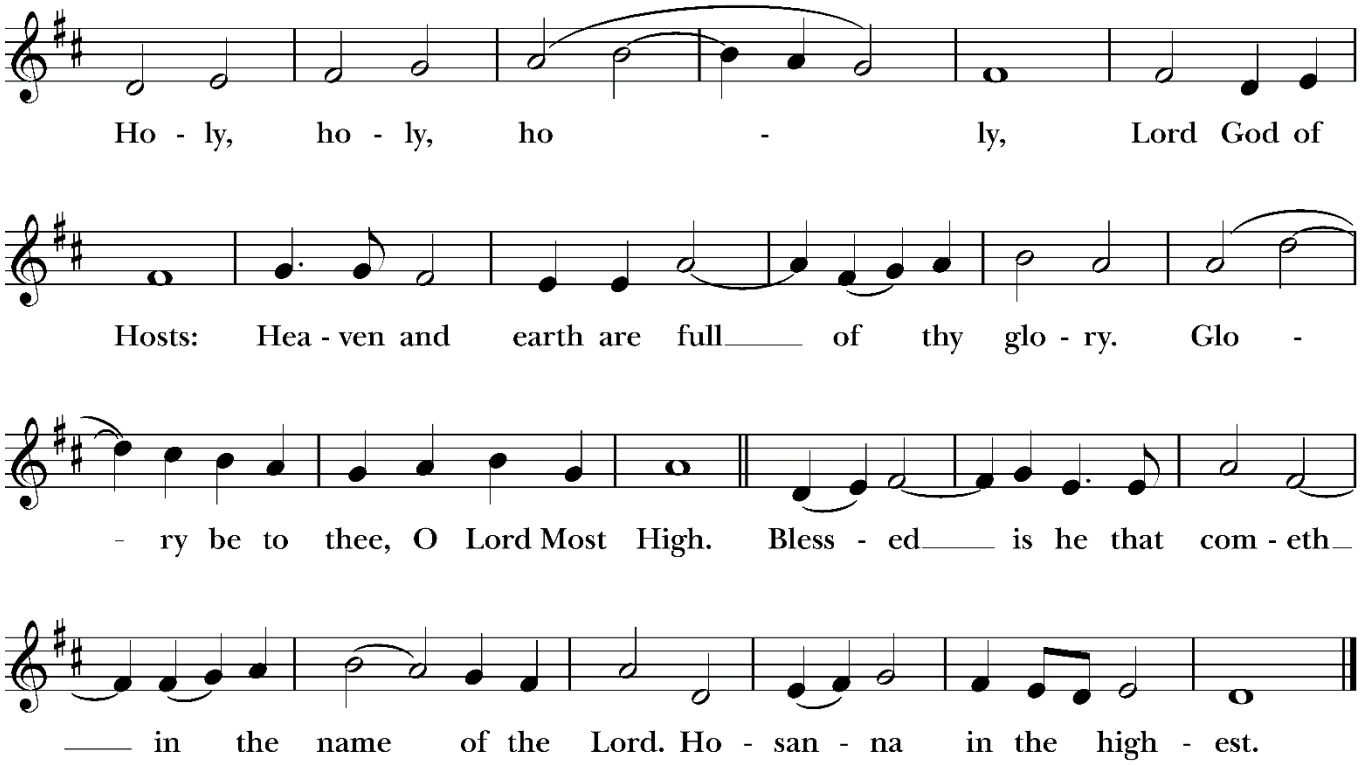
Music by: Rimsky-Korsakov
Arranged by: D. Mora



The Breaking of The Bread

Fraction Hymn

Hymnal 1982 #S-114



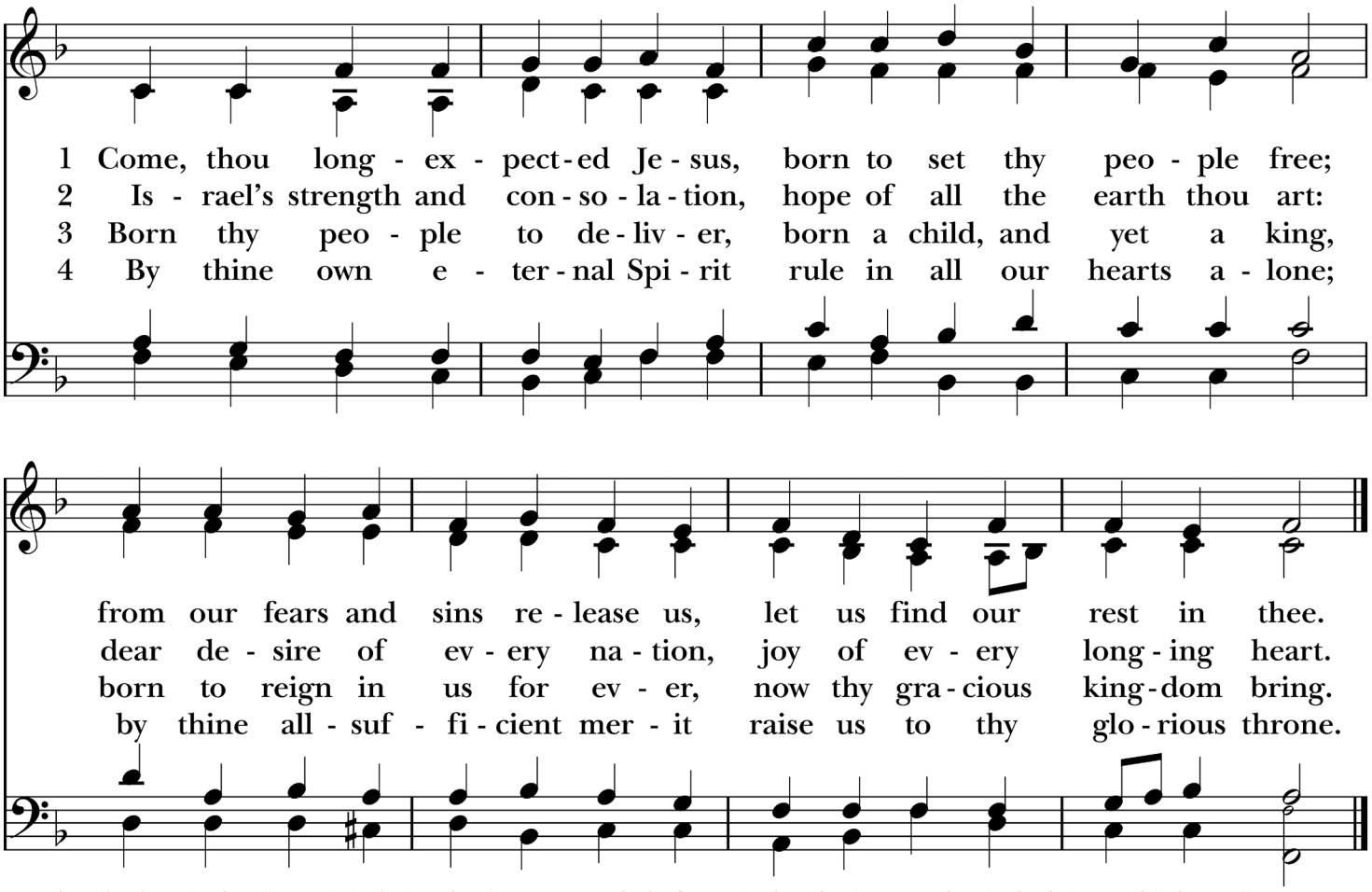
Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

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 *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.

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.

All 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

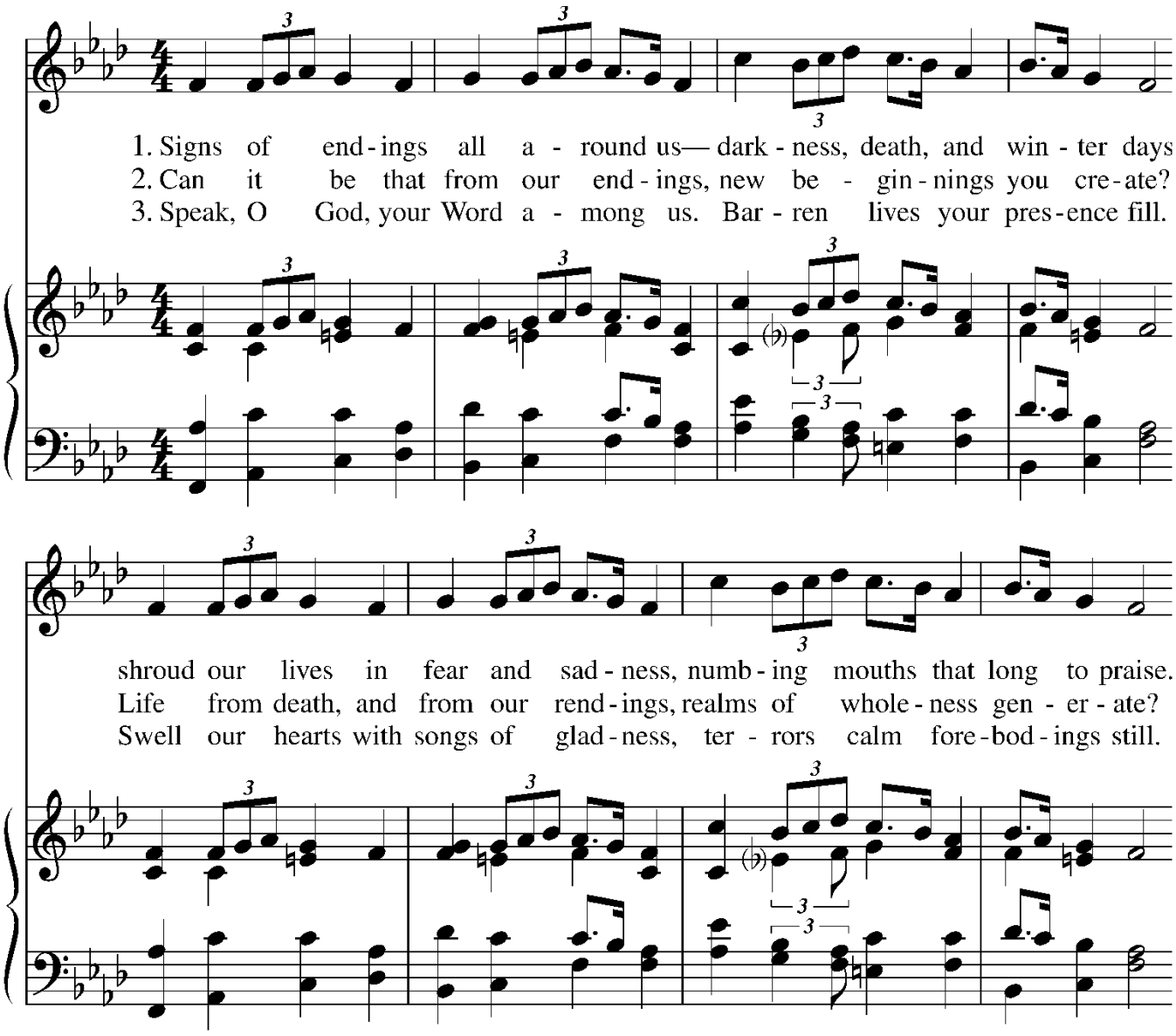
Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

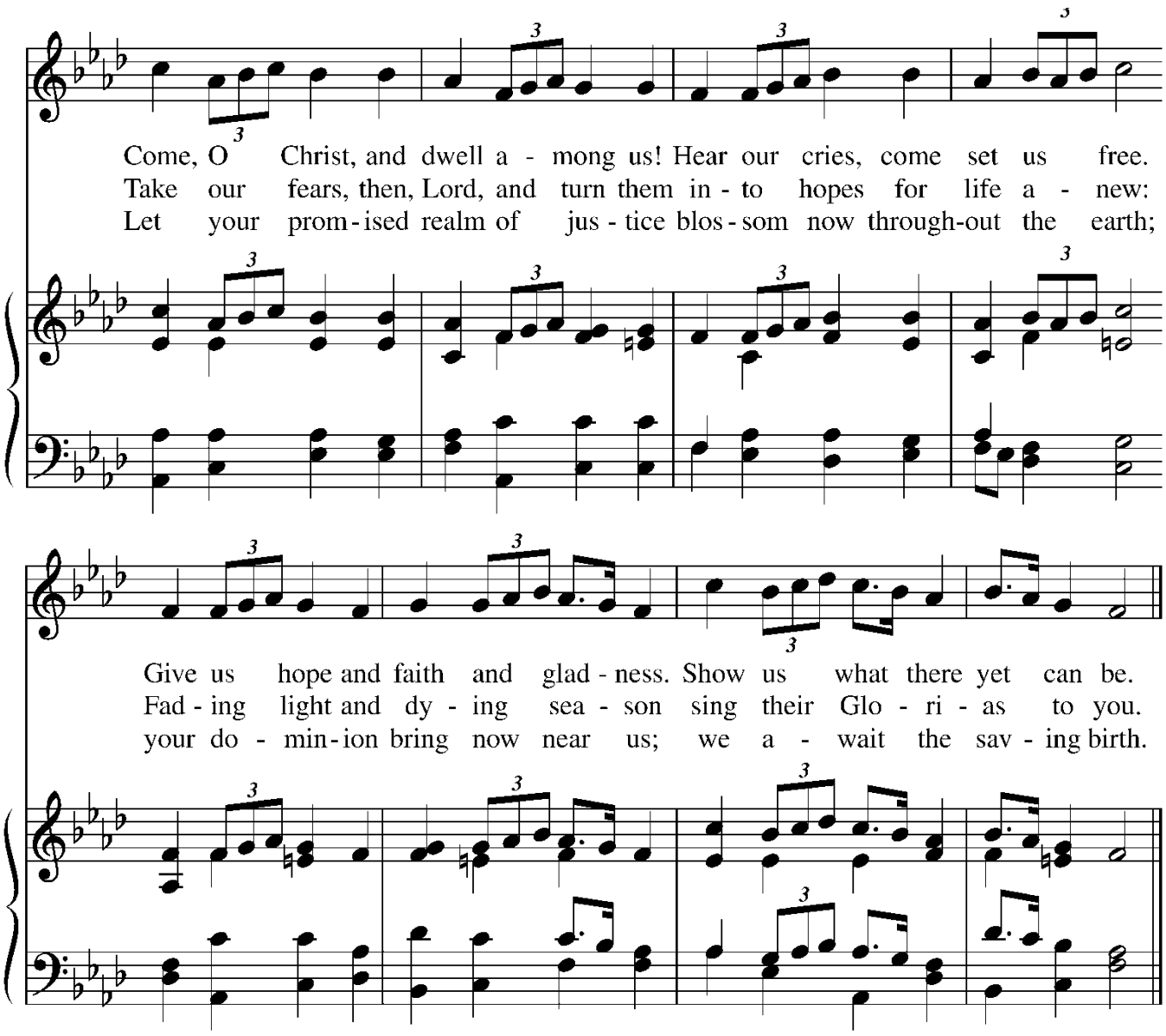
Final Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn

Signs of Endings All Around Us Hymnal 1982 #473





Words: Dean W. Nelson (b. 1944). Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of the risen 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