ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LEAD WITH LOVE

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist

May 18, 2025
2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO
saintthomasdenver.org

Welcoming Statement

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.

The Meaning of the Conch Shell

The resonant sound of the conch shell is considered a sacred call, symbolizing the start of a ritual and invoking divine presence. Our parishioner, Tana Knopf, gifted St, Thomas with a conch shell and introduced this practice as a call to worship. This is one of the ways that we incorporate a diversity of cultures and traditions into our liturgy and, of course, the children love it.

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. Tory Moir (they/them)

Music Leaders
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell
Brandon Bennett

Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez
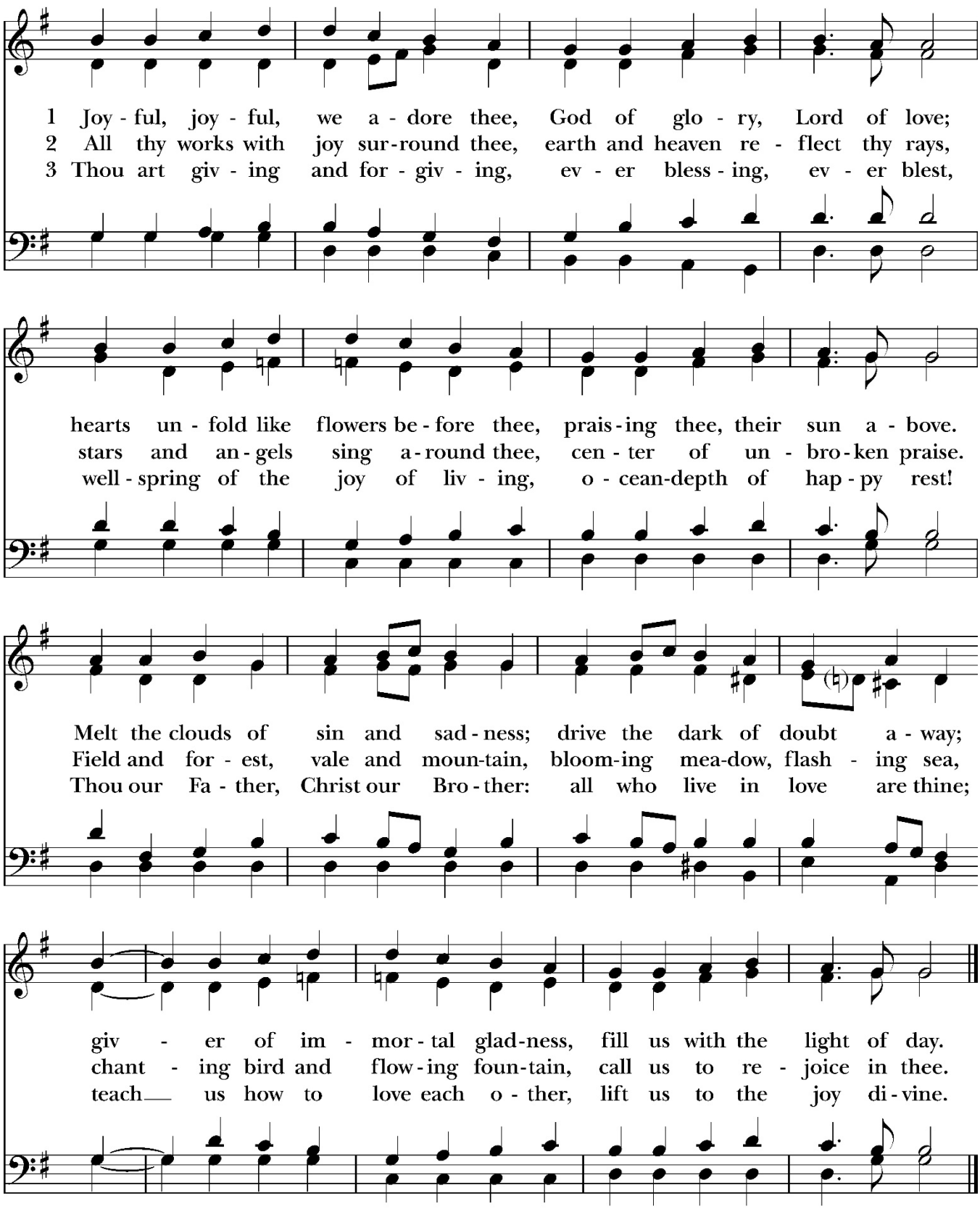
Seminarian: Cate Colburn-Smith

Contact Us:

Office	office@sainthomasdenver.org
Angela Pleasants, Senior Warden	srwarden@saintthomasdenver.org
Karmen Carter, Senior Warden	srwarden@saintthomasdenver.org
Brian Casey, Treasurer	treasury@saintthomasdenver.org
Samantha Church, Children's Program	samantha@saintthomasdenver.org

Processional *Joyful, Joyful we Adore Thee* Hymnal 1982 #376

Please stand in body or spirit.



Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.
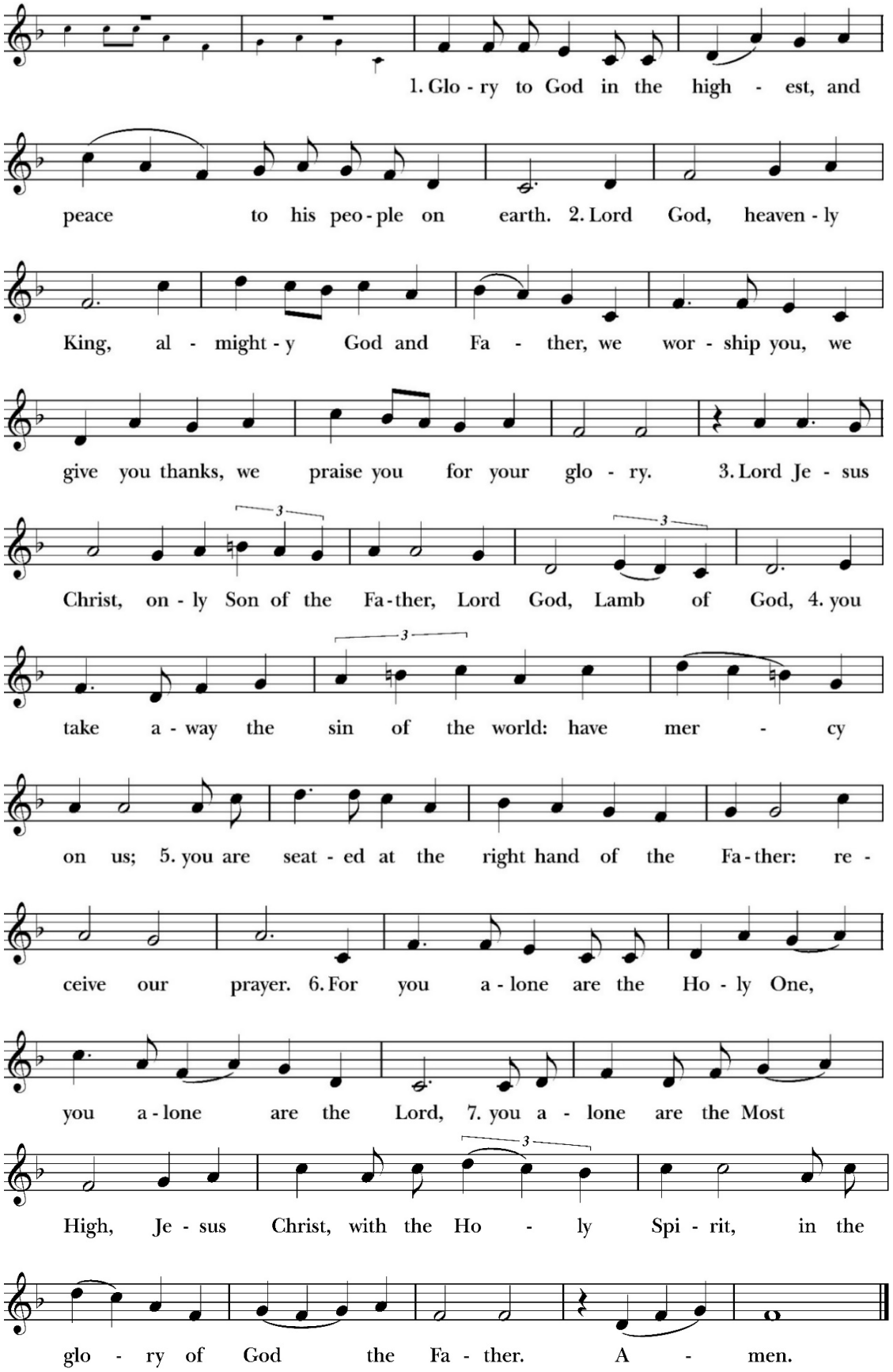
Opening Acclamation

Presider Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. *1 John 4:7,8*

Blessed are you, our beloved God.

People **In you is glory and love forever.**

Hymn of Praise Hymnal 1982 #S-280



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Risen Christ, your wounds declare God's love for the world and the wonder of your risen life gives us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.** *Common Worship: Additional Collects* (2004)

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Acts Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, `Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, `By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, `What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, `Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, `John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Response

After the Reading:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens; *
sing praise in the heights.
Sing praise, all you angels; *
sing praise, all the heavenly host.
Sing praise, sun and moon; *
sing praise, all you shining stars.
Sing praise, heaven of heavens *
and you waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the Name of God, *
by whose command they were created.
God made them stand fast for ever and ever, *
and gave them a law which shall not pass away.
Sing praise from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;
Rulers of the earth and all peoples, *
judges and all leaders of the world;
Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.
Let them praise your Name, O God, *
for your Name only is exalted;
your splendor is over earth and heaven.
You have raised up strength for your people
and praise for all your loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!

A Reading from Revelation Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Response

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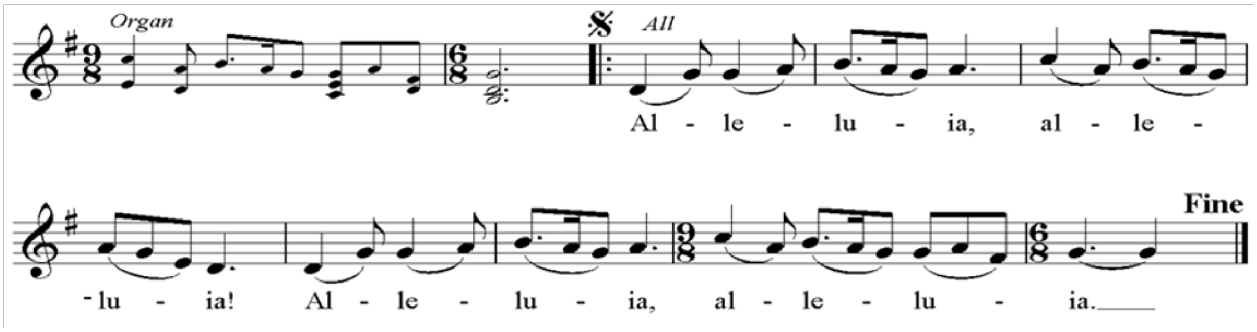
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Celtic Alleluia*

Please stand.

Verses 1-2 before gospel; Verse 3 after gospel



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

2. *The Word of the Lord lasts forever.*
   What is the word that is living? It is brought to us through God's Son: Jesus Christ.

3. *Now he is living, the Christ. Out of the tomb he is risen; he has conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.*

The Gospel John 13:31-35

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

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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 in body or spirit.

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

Please stand or kneel in body or spirit.

Leader Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflicts suffering upon people and other creatures.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help especially …
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.
God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

The Collect

Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession

Please kneel as you are able.

All Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of Christ. Please remain at your seat and greet the people adjacent to you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

Each week we gather to proclaim God's love for all and to offer strength and courage for the journey.We are convinced that the hope, love and good news that we offer are exactly what people need to navigate these challenging times in which we live. If you share our conviction and values, we invite you to generously support St. Thomas and help us to continue to make a difference in our community and the lives of people that we serve.

If you give electronically, please place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate in lieu of your gift. Scan to donate:

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@StThomasDenver

Credit Card

Offertory Anthem *This Little Light of Mine* LEVAS #221

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Presentation Hymn *Doxology* Hymn #380 v3

Please stand as you are able.

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

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

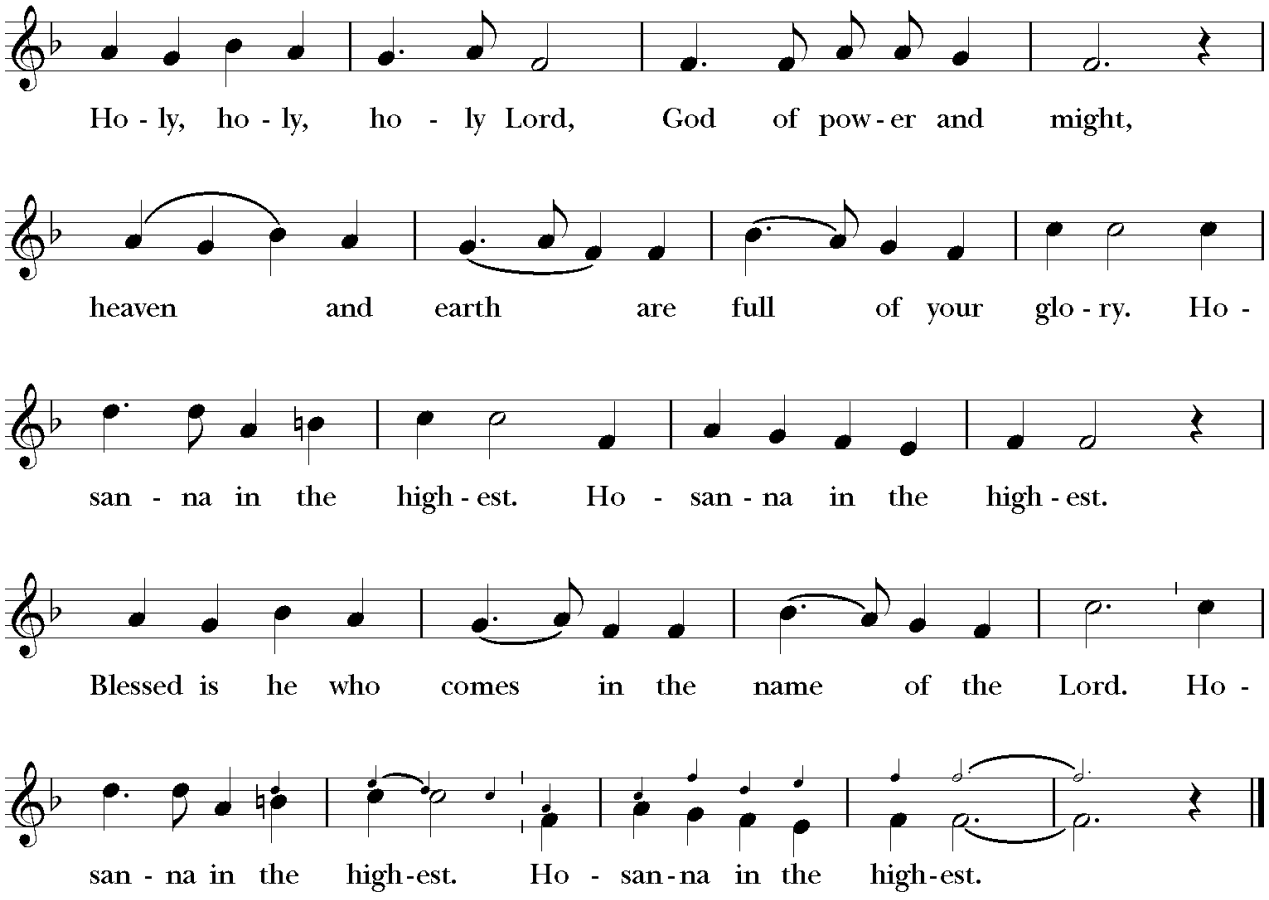
Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always, one of us, yet from your very heart. O Holy One, you make all things new. Righteous and strong to save, you came among us in Jesus, our crucified and living Lord, in his suffering and cross you reveal your glory. You pour out your Spirit on all. You empower us to know your truth and to proclaim your gospel in this sorrowing world that longs to hear good news. Your love fires our hearts; and in your Spirit we hunger and thirst for justice in the world.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all who have gone before us, joyfully we praise you as we sing:

Sanctus Hymnal 1982 #S-125



Presider continues

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, your beloved child, who in the night before he was crucified, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat. "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them and said: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.
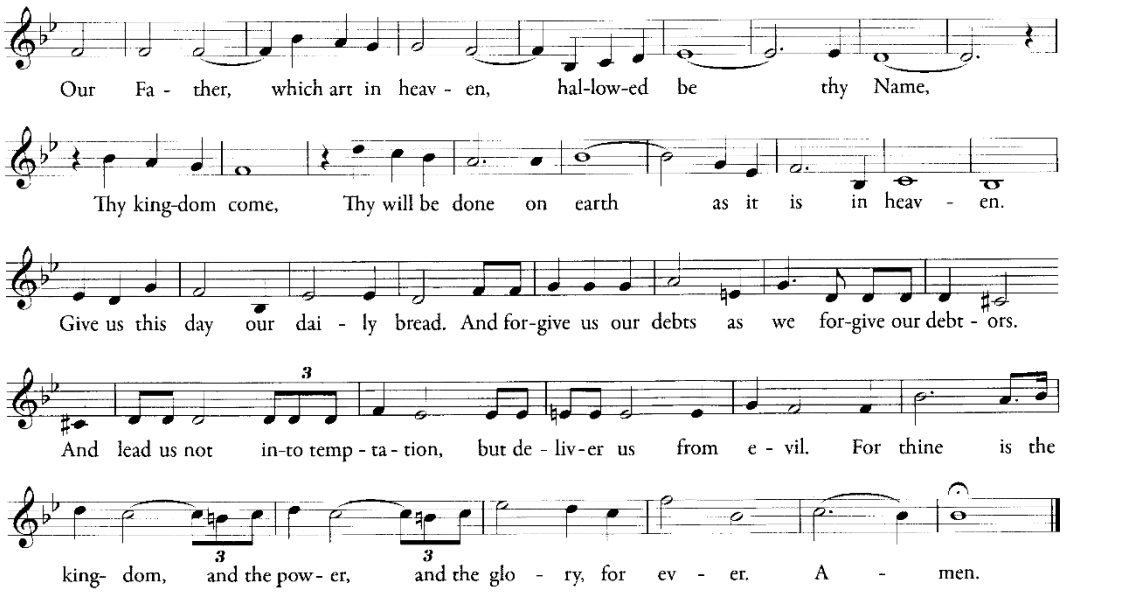
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. **Amen.**
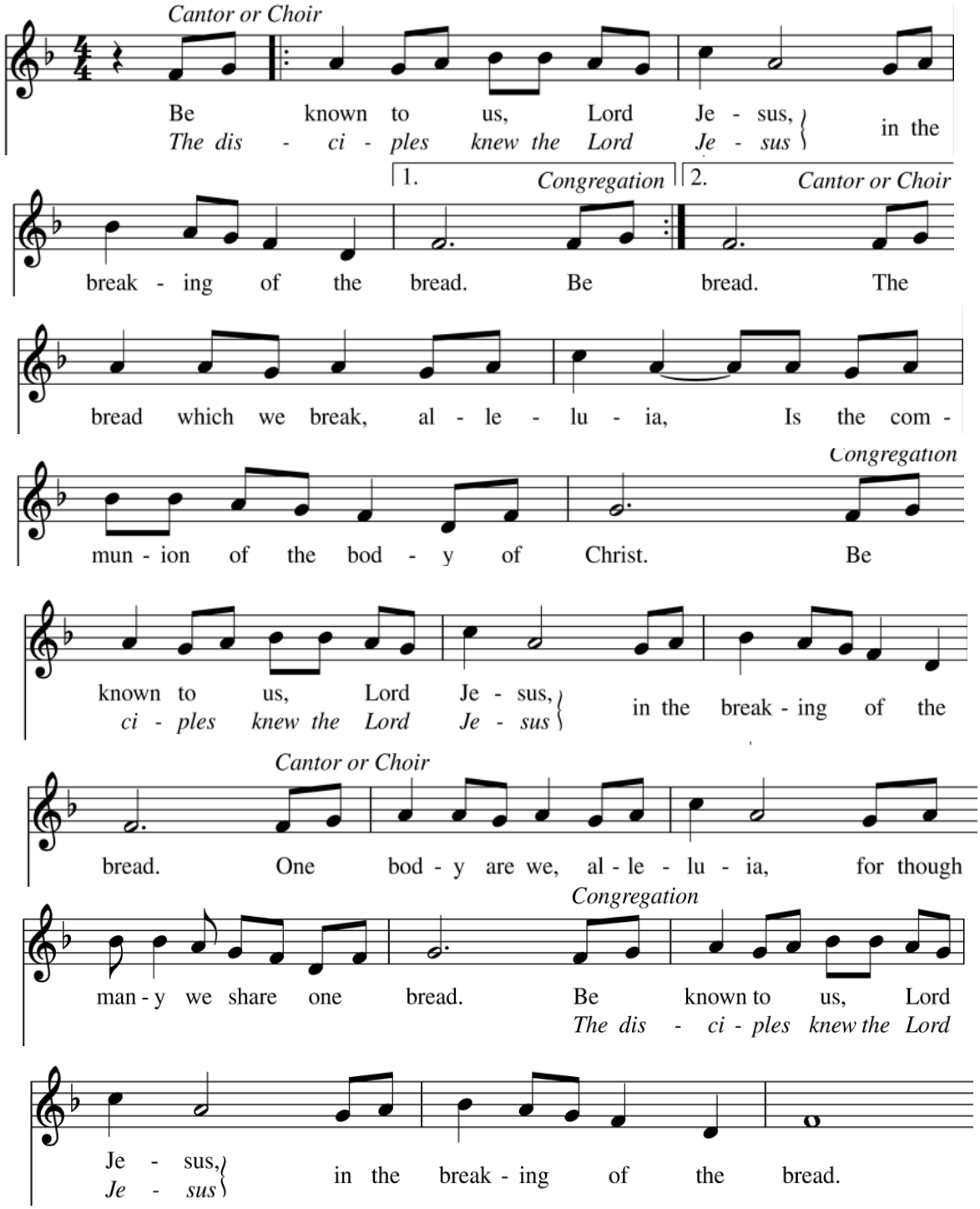
Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we, are bold to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER — Albert Hay Malotte



The Breaking of The Bread

Fraction Hymn *Be Known to Us* WLP #875
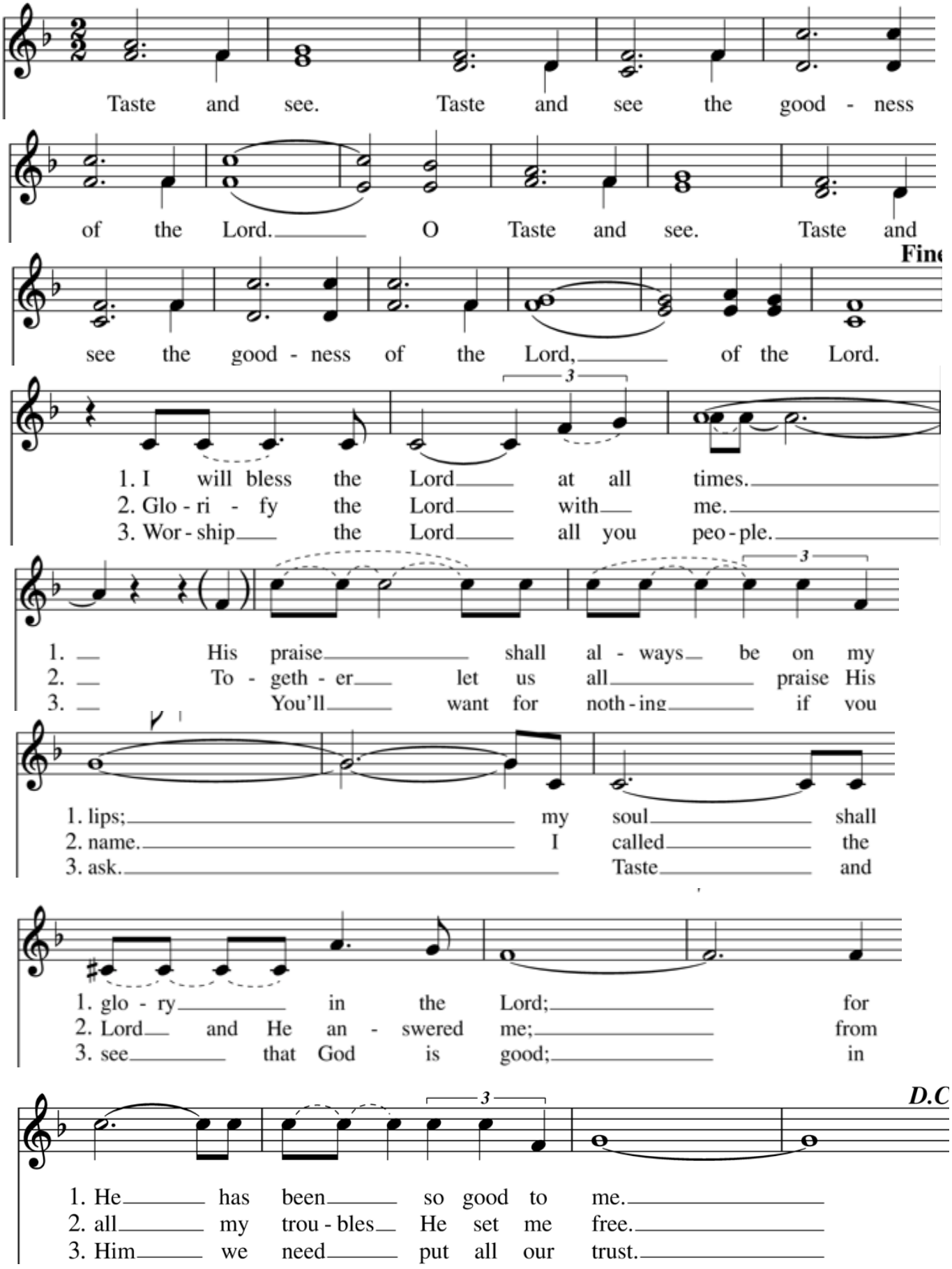


The Invitation to The Table

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.***

Communion Hymn *Taste and See* LEVAS #154



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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, Blessings

Welcoming Visitors

Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Final Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *Lead With Love* By Melanie DeMore

You gotta put one foot in front of the other
And lead with love
Put one foot in front of the other
And lead with love

Verses (call & response)

Don't give up hope
You're not alone
Don't you give up
Keep movin on

Lift up your eyes
Don't you despair
Look up ahead
The path is there

I know you're scared
And I'm scared too
But here I am
Right next to you

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