ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Third Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist

May 4, 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

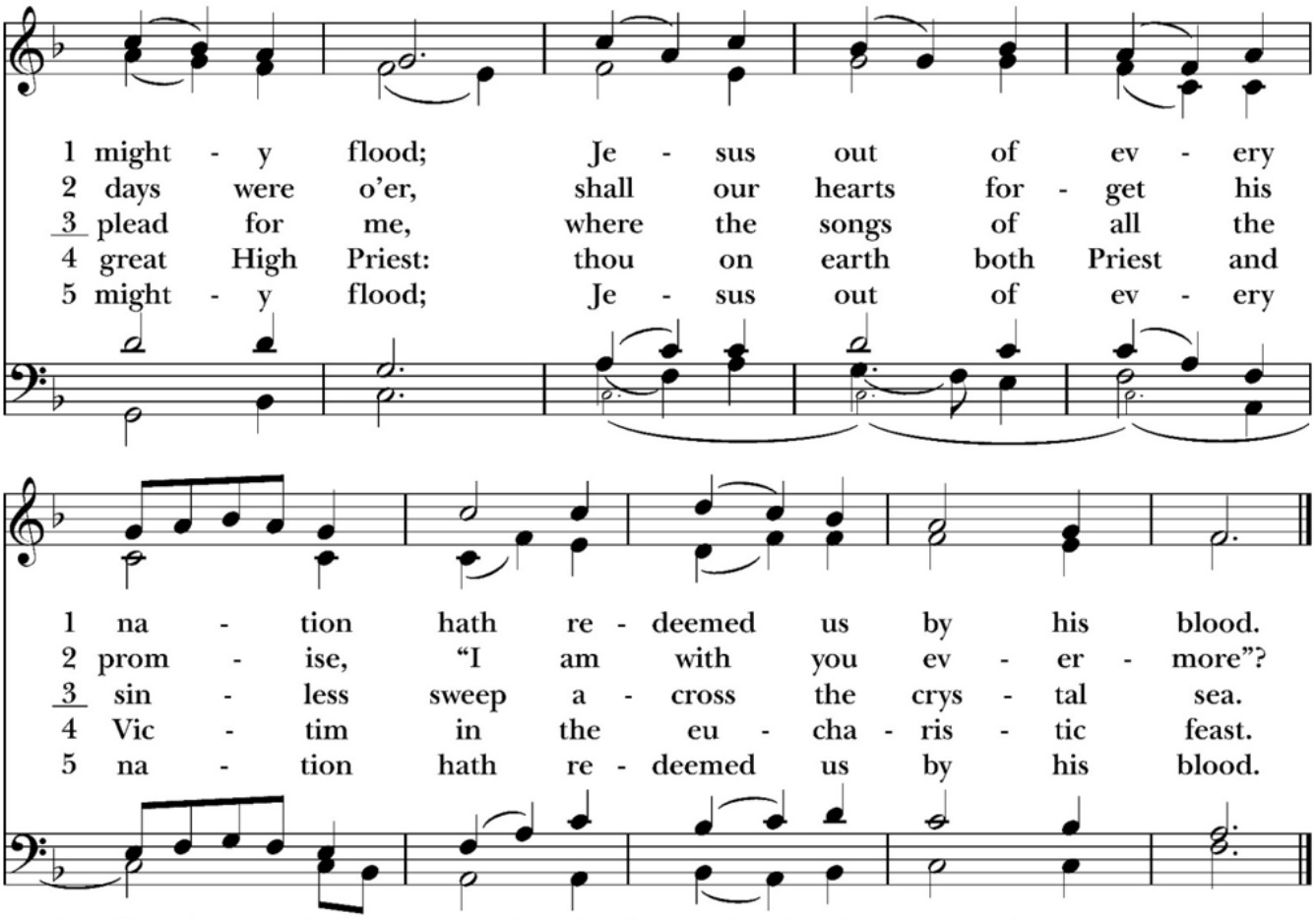
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Samantha Church, Children's Program	samantha@saintthomasdenver.org

Processional *Alleluia Sing to Jesus* Hymnal 1982 #460

Please stand in body or spirit.





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

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, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God, who raises the dead to life. **Amen.** *Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Acts Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

The Response

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 30

I will exalt you, O God,
because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

O my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.

You brought me up, O God, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

May all your servants sing to you, O God, *
and give thanks for the remembrance of your holiness.

For your wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
your favor for a lifetime.

Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.

While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed. *
You, O God, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.

I cried to you, O God; *
I pleaded with you, saying,

"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? *
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

Hear and have mercy upon me; *
O God, be my helper."

You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

A Reading from Revelation Revelation 5:11-14

I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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 21:1-19

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

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

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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:

venmo
@StThomasDenver

Credit Card

Offertory Anthem Flute Solo Kari Miles

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.**

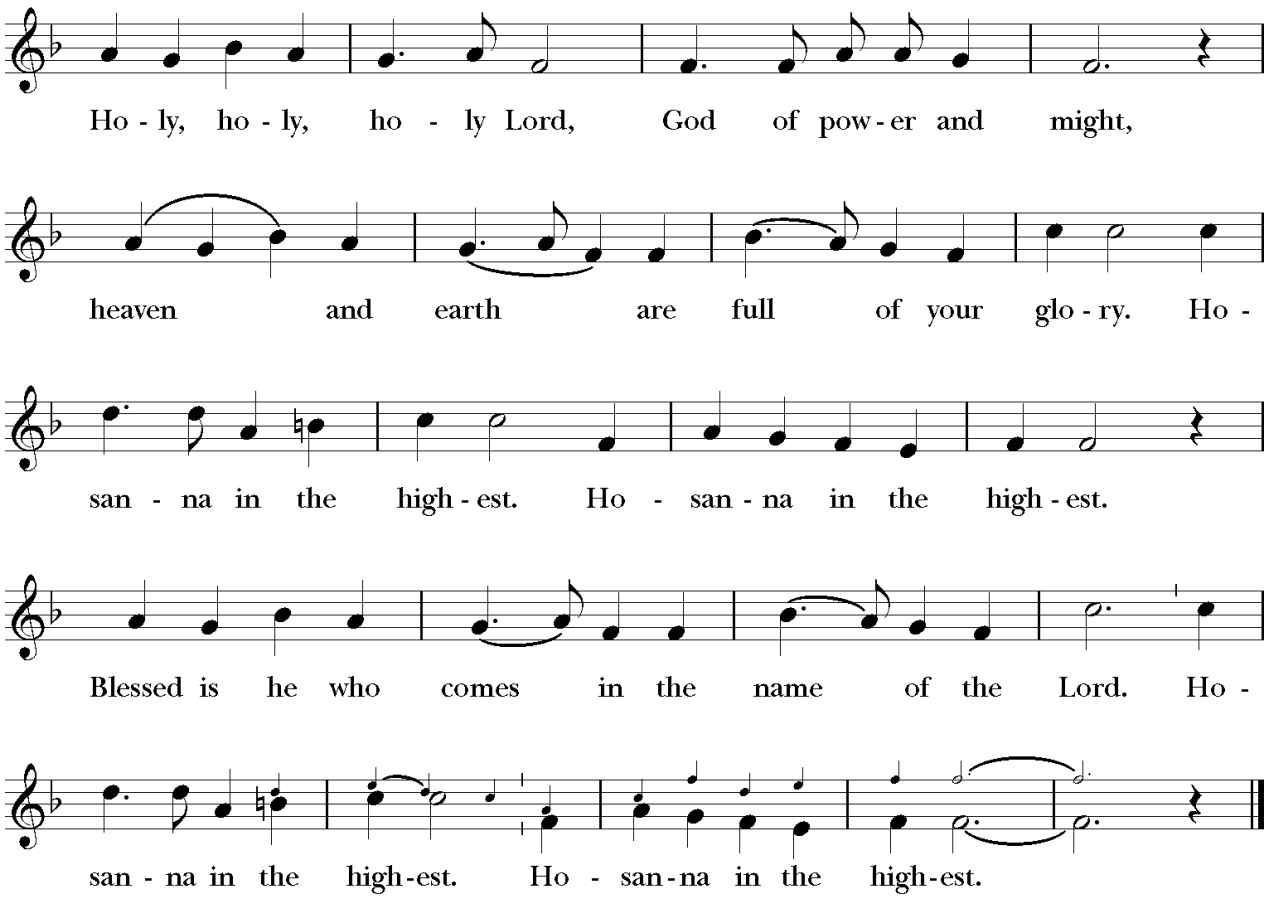
Presider Let us give thanks to God.

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.

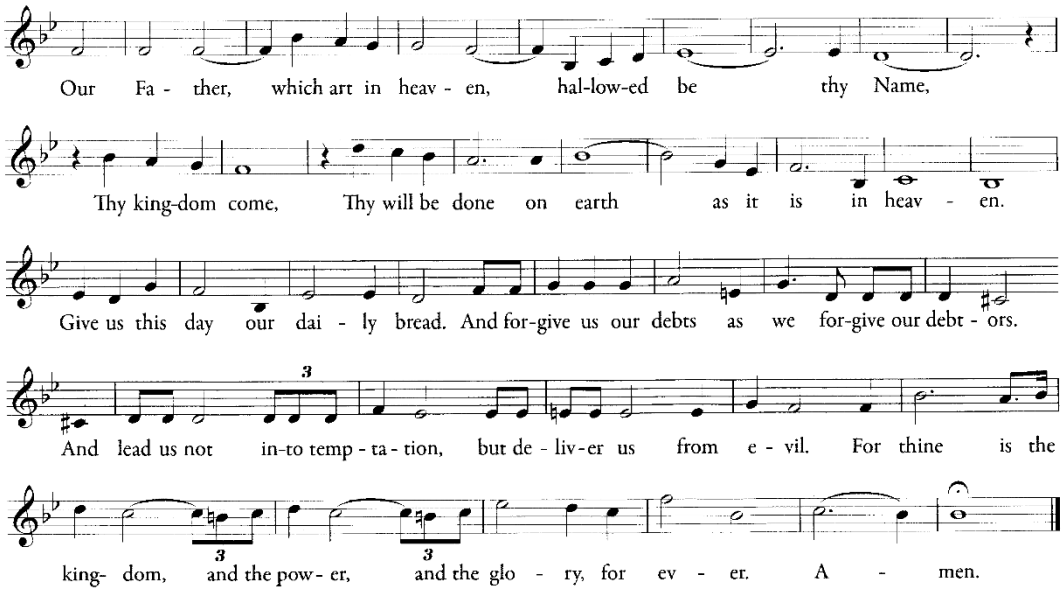
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.

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 *Let Us Break Bread Together* LEVAS #152



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr.
Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

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

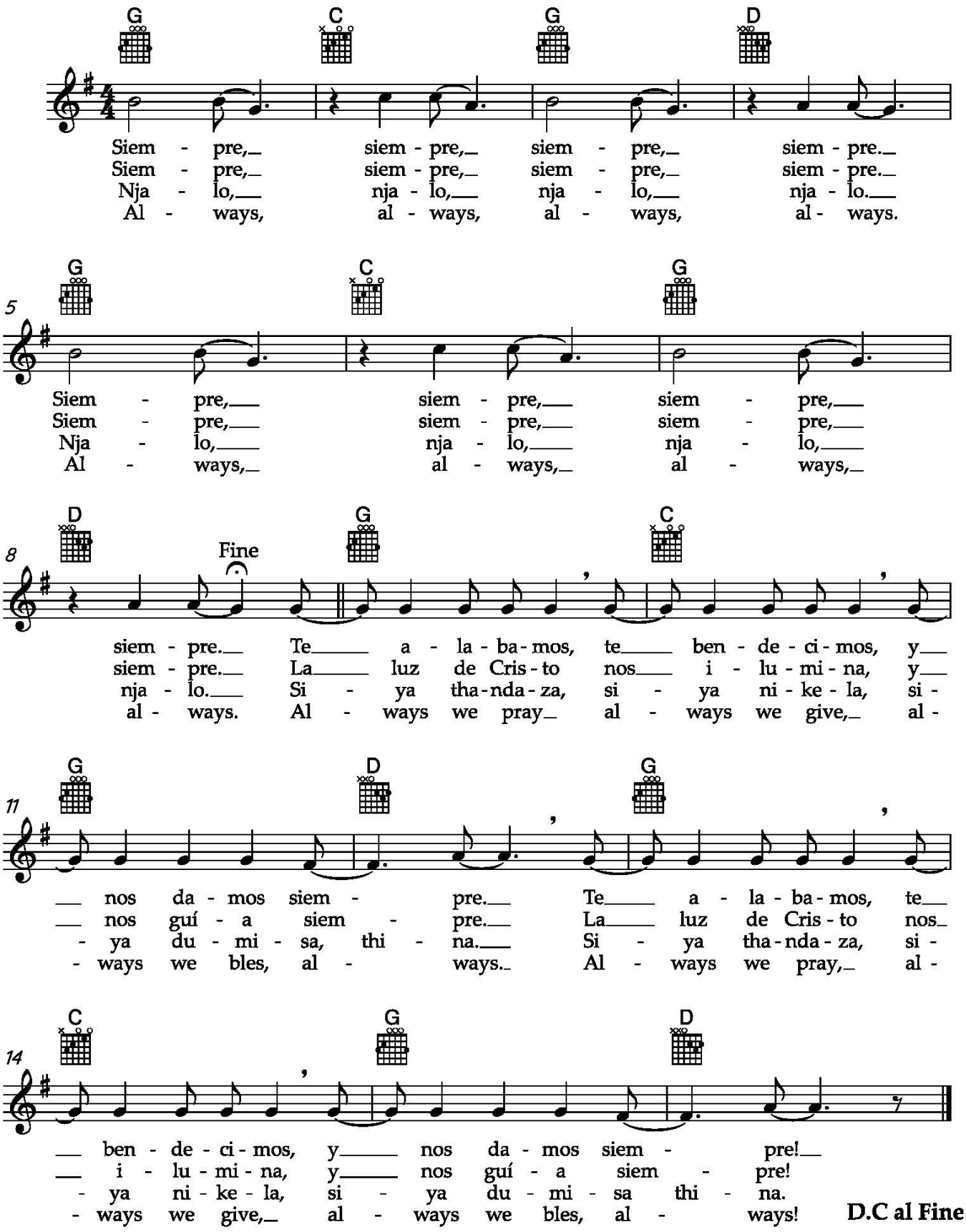
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Final Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *Siempre / Njalo / Always* Ndebele Zimbabwe



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