St. Thomas Episcopal Church



The Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist

December 15, 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

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The Order of the Daughters of the King
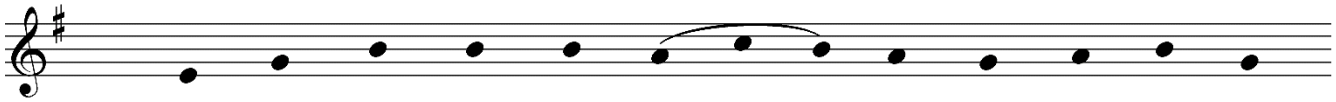
The Order of the Daughters of the King is an Anglican lay religious order for women, founded in 1885. The Order has over 25,000 members from the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches worldwide. When a woman becomes a Daughter of the King, she makes a deeper commitment to the promises made at baptism and confirmation and she receives the silver cross of the order to wear faithfully as a reminder of her vows. Every Daughter of the King commits first of all to a Rule of Prayer, which includes daily prayer for the spread of Christ's kingdom, the unity of the church universal, and for her own church and clergy. Flowing from the Rule of Prayer and connected to it, is the Rule of Service through which a Daughter actively demonstrates Christ's love to others. Prayer and service support the primary purpose of the order, evangelism. Daughters spread the Good News of Christ's love by responding to a hurting world through both word and deed. Prayer, service, and evangelism are all essential, interconnected components of the Christian Life. St. Thomas is reactivating its chapter, which will be known as the St. Hildegard von Bingen chapter.

Who was Saint Hildegard von Bingen?
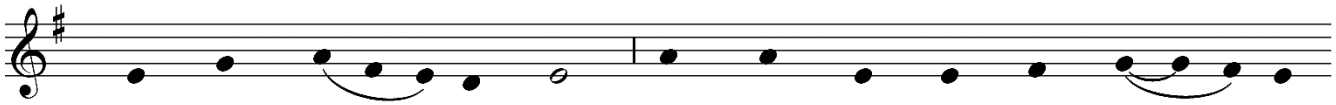
Born in 1098, St. Hildegard von Bingen was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary, and as a medical writer and practitioner during the High Middle Ages. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony, as well as the most recorded in modern history. Hildegard is considered by many scholars to be the founder of scientific natural history in Germany. There are more surviving chants by Hildegard than by any other composer from the entire Middle Ages, and she is one of the few known composers to have written both the music and the words. She died in 1179.

Opening Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Hymnal 1982 #56
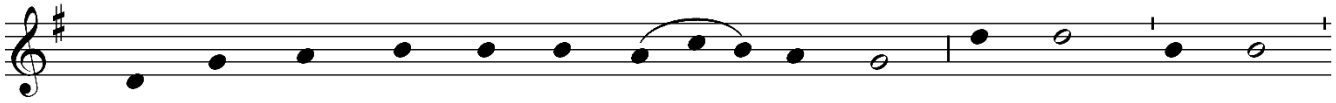
Please stand in body or spirit. *Verses 5-6*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

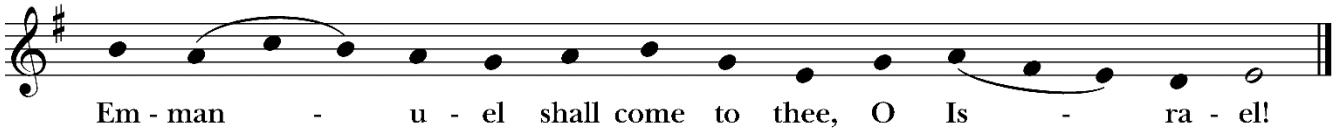


1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath *The Candle of Joy*

Presider The first candle is the Light of Hope. The second candle is the Light of Love. The third advent candle is the Light of Joy. We remember the angels' pronouncement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, to awaken our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(*The first, second, and third candles are lit.)*

Presider As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

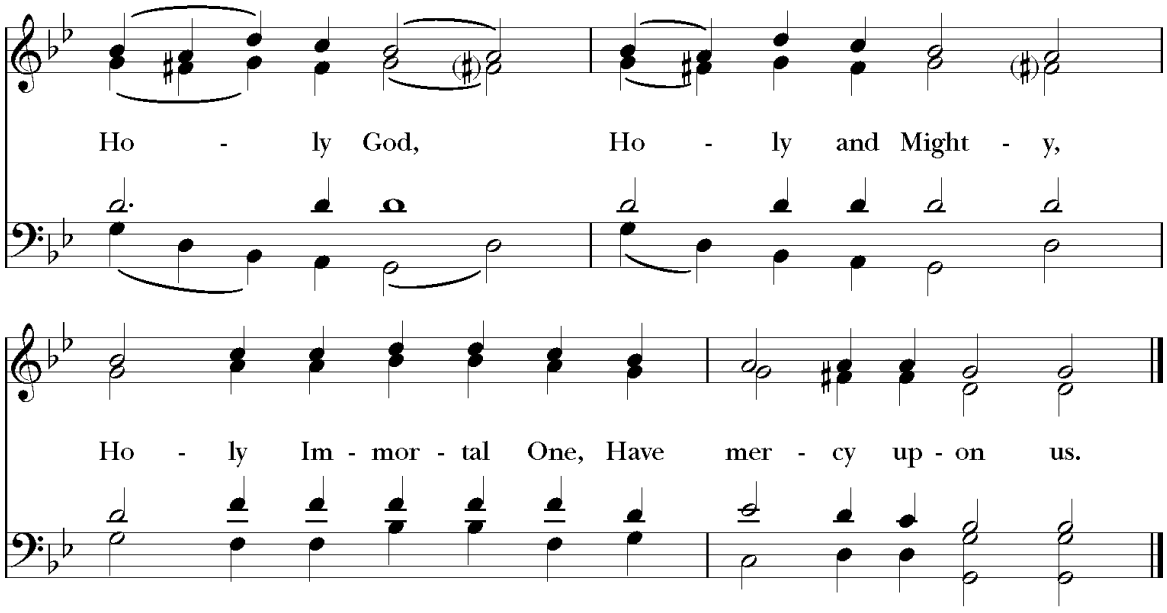
Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Trisagion

Sung 3x



The Collect of the Day

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

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**. *Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004)*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Zephaniah **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Response

After the Reading:

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The First Song of Isaiah ***Ecce Deus***

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from Philippians **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
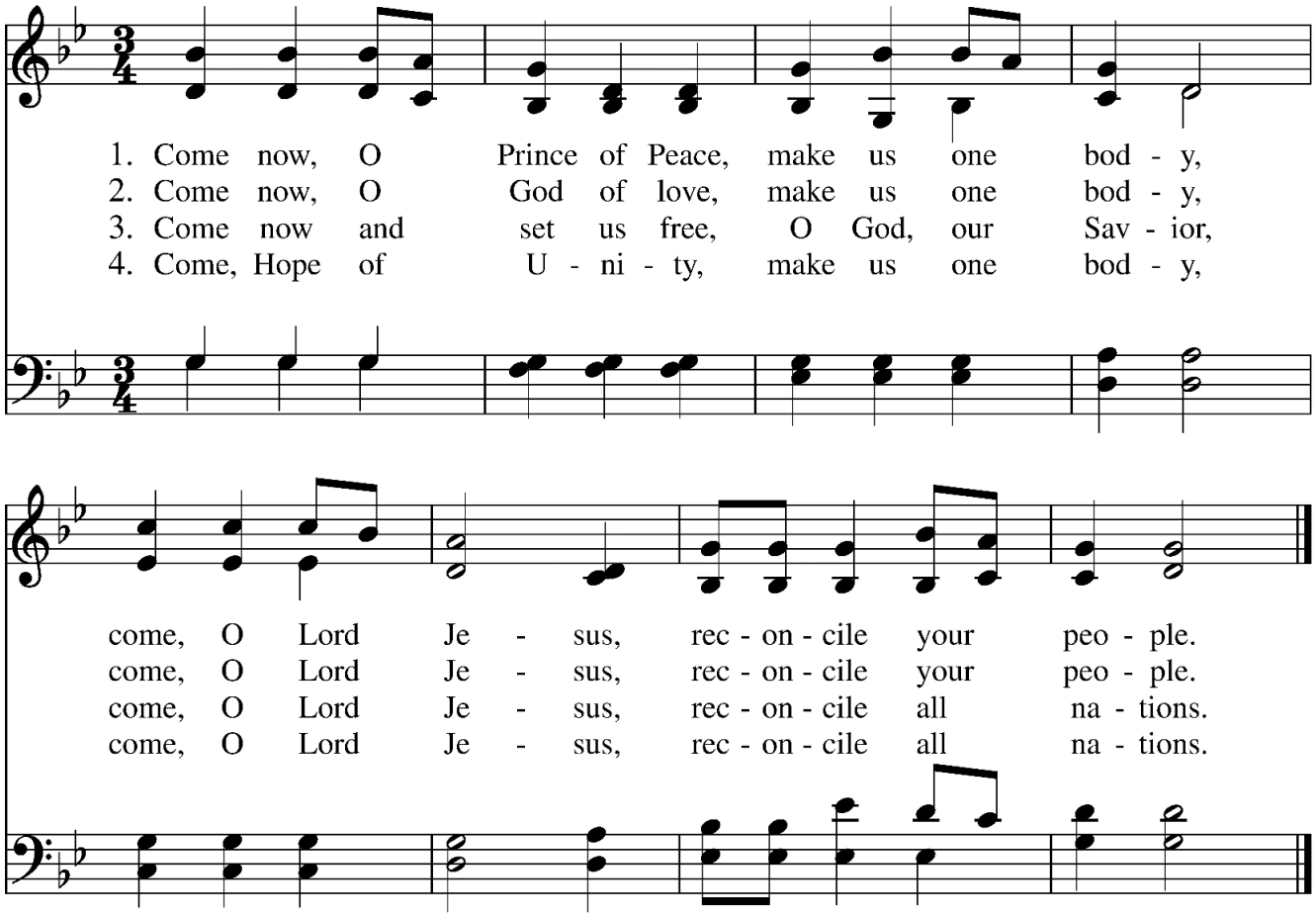
The Response

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 3:7-18**

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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.

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Service of Institution of a Senior Chapter

Clergy We are gathered here in the sight of God and before this congregation to institute the St. Hildegard von Bingen Chapter in The Order of the Daughters of the King®, and to receive and admit the members of the chapter: We commend them to your earnest prayers that they may have grace to perform and keep the vows and obligations of the Order and that the St. Hildegard von Bingen Chapter and its members may work to the glory of God and for the spread of Christ's Kingdom. Will the Diocesan Assembly President, or her representative, please present the Charter?

Presenter It is my privilege to present t o you the Charter of the St. Hildegard von Bingen Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King® so that you may formally institute the chapter.

Clergy (*Facing the altar*) O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you, bless and hallow this Charter of the St. Hildegard von Bingen Chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King®, that all your servants who shall take the vows of prayer and service may have the strength and courage to faithfully fulfill them for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

Clergy (Facing the congregation) In accordance with the constitution of The Order of the Daughters of the King® and by my authority as clergy of the parish, I hereby declare the St. Hildegard von Bingen Chapter duly instituted in this parish. We are now ready to admit its members.

The Service of Admission

Presenter It is my privilege to present Leslie Stewart and Lola Wilcox as candidates for membership in The Order of the Daughters of the King®.

Clergy We commend these candidates to your earnest prayers that they may have grace to fulfill the obligations of the Order and that their labors may be to the glory of God and to the welfare of all His people.

Clergy (*Addressing the candidates*) The Daughters of the King is an Order for women whose mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom, especially among women and girls, through prayer, service and evangelism. Do you desire to become a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King®?

Candidates I do

Clergy (*Addressing the congregation*) Will you support these women in their ministry of prayer and service?

Congregation **We Will.**

The clergy blesses the crosses.

Clergy Bless, O Lord, these crosses and grant to your servants now admitted into this Order such an abundance of your grace that they may wear this sacred symbol in the spirit of humility and with devotion to the service of the King of kings. *Amen.*

Each new member is presented her cross with the following words:
"Accept and wear faithfully the cross of the Order, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Take up your cross and follow me."

New Members Almighty God, help me to pray so faithfully that I may draw near to you and learn your will. Help me to serve so joyfully that others may be drawn to you. May your Holy Spirit guide me each day, that all I think, do, or say may be pleasing in your sight. I ask it all for the sake of Him whose cross I wear; my King and Savior; Jesus Christ. Amen.

All Daughters of The King O Eternal Father; you have sent us your Son to teach us things pertaining to your heavenly Kingdom. Give your blessing to our Order wherever it may be throughout the world. Grant that we, your Daughters, ever may discern your truth and bear the cross through the battles of our earthly life. Give us strength to overcome temptation and the grace to work to spread your Kingdom and to gather your scattered sheep within your fold. Pour out upon us the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit that we may always remember it is your work we are called to do; that all we think, do or say may be pleasing in your sight. We ask it all For His Sake, our King and Savior; Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Clergy May your love, O Lord, help the Daughters live lives of love, and may your holiness lead them to be examples of virtue, that they, strengthened by your Holy Spirit, may pray and serve you all their days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Clergy The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

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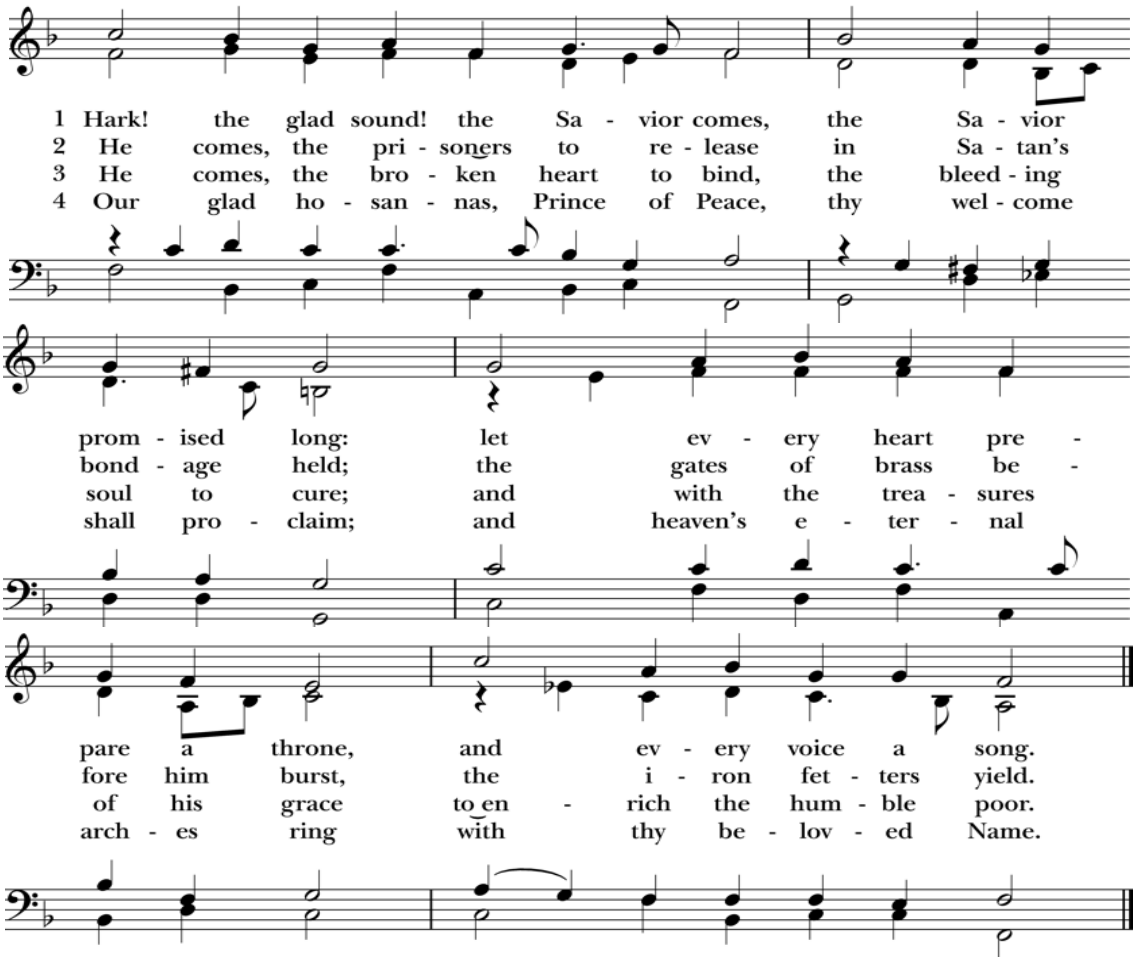
Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

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
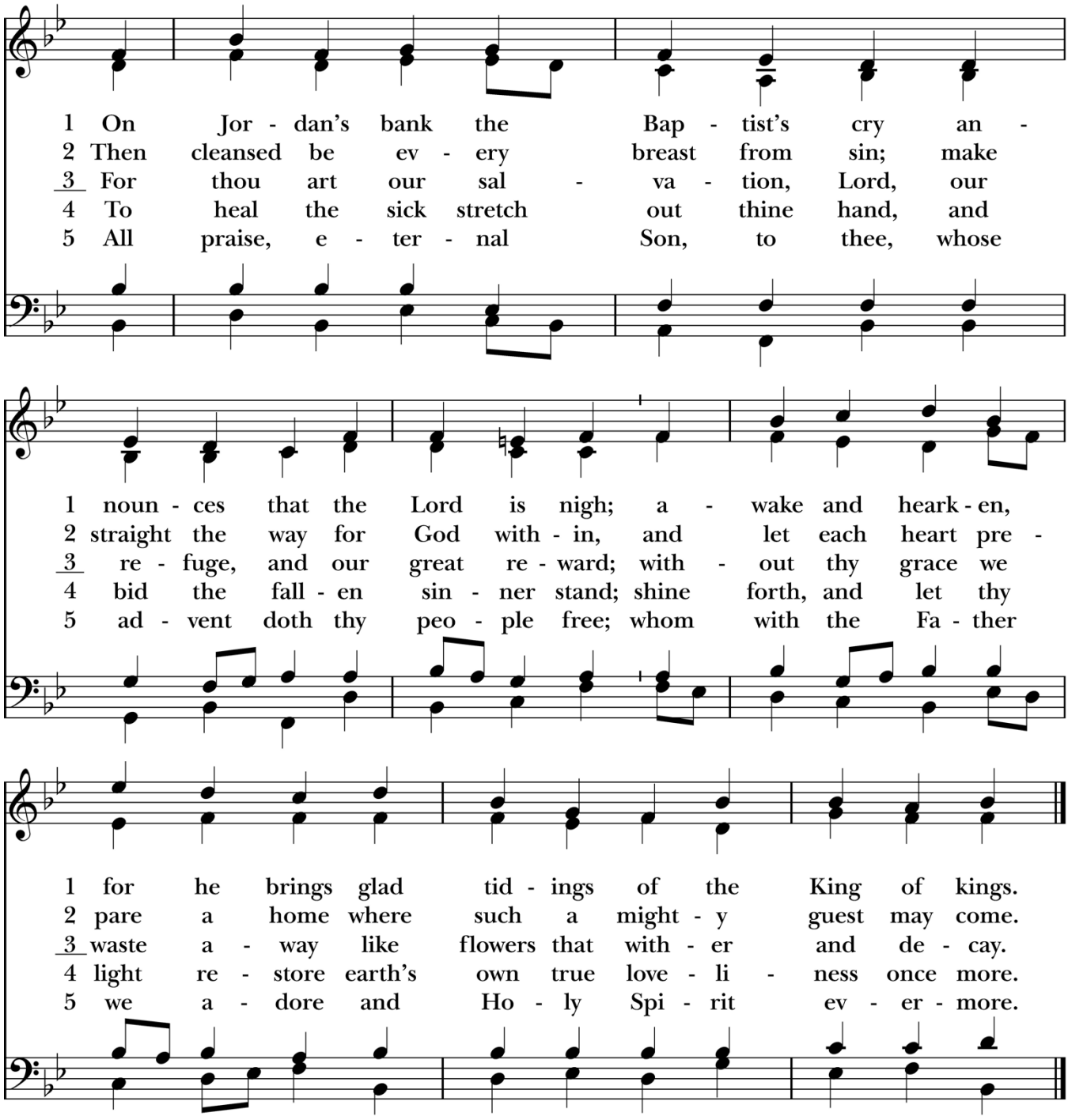
Offertory Anthem *Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes* Hymnal 1992 #71



Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751). Music: *Bristol*, from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621.

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.

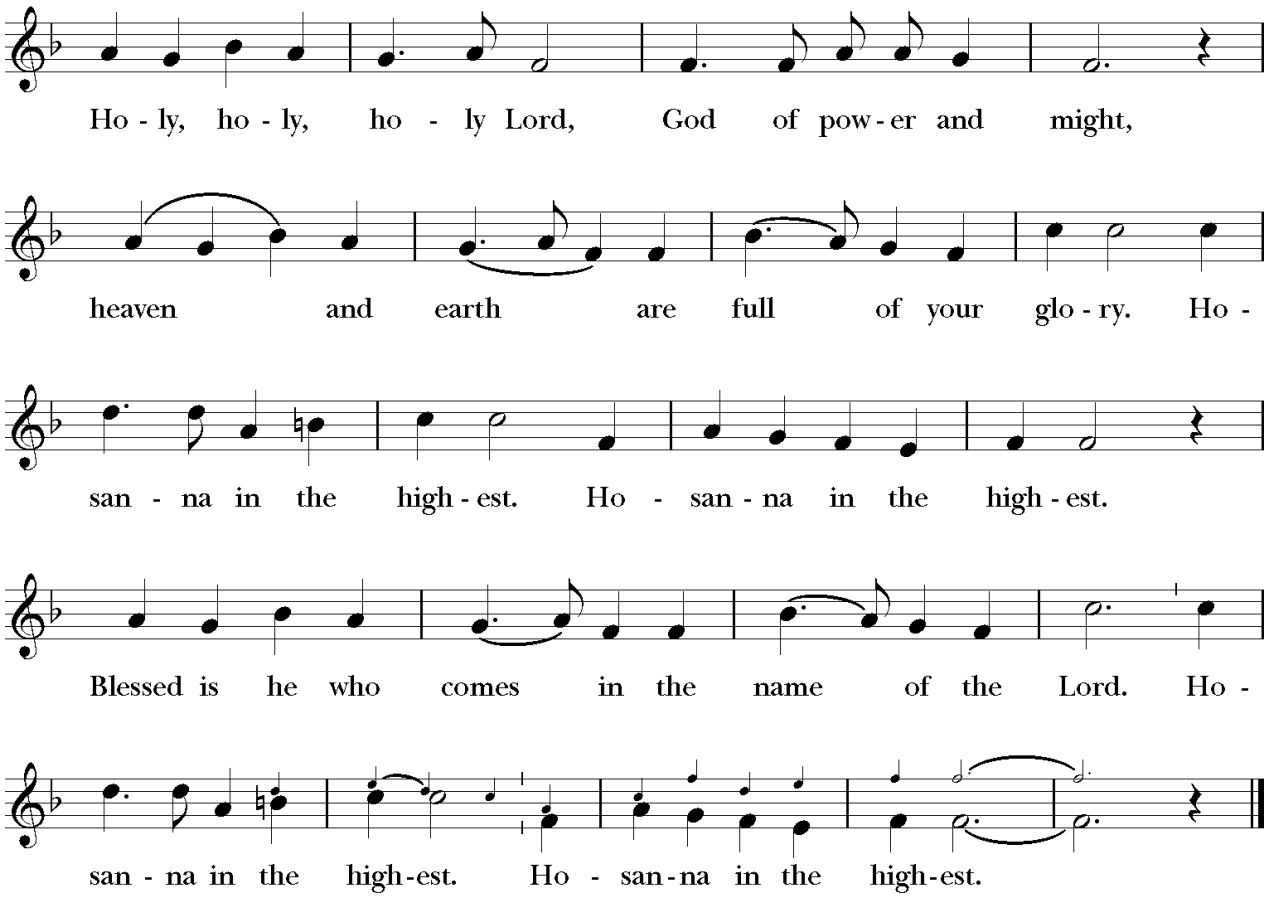
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

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.**

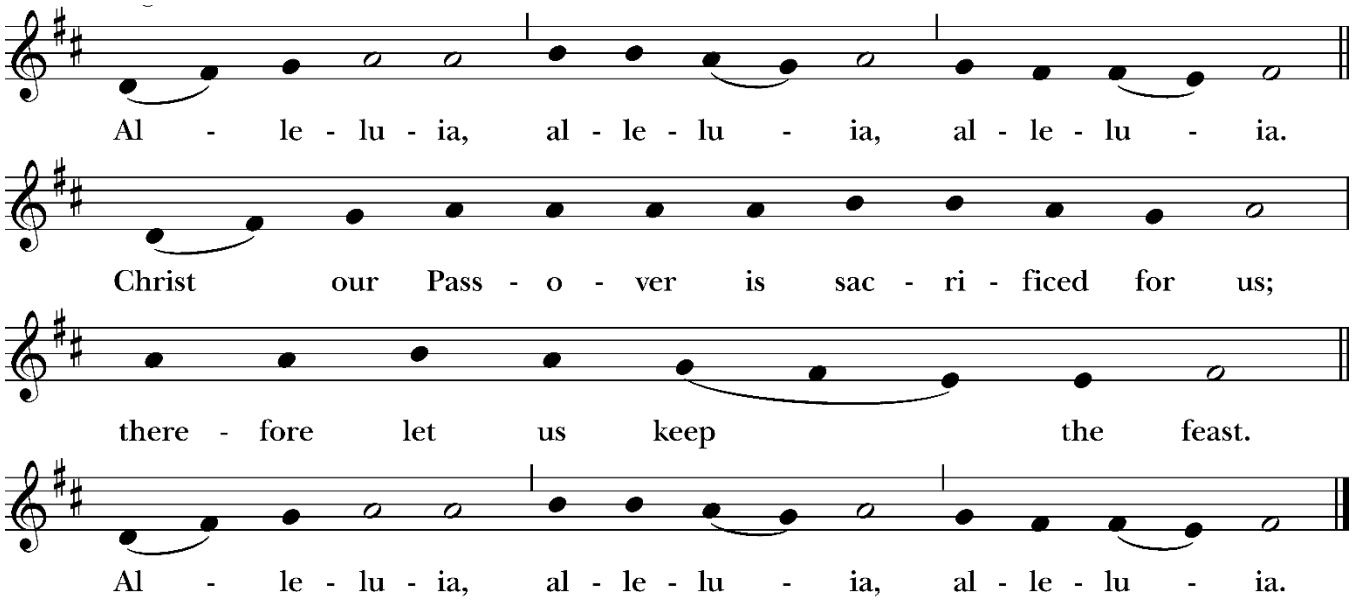
Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we, are bold to pray.

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

Hymnal 1982 #S-154



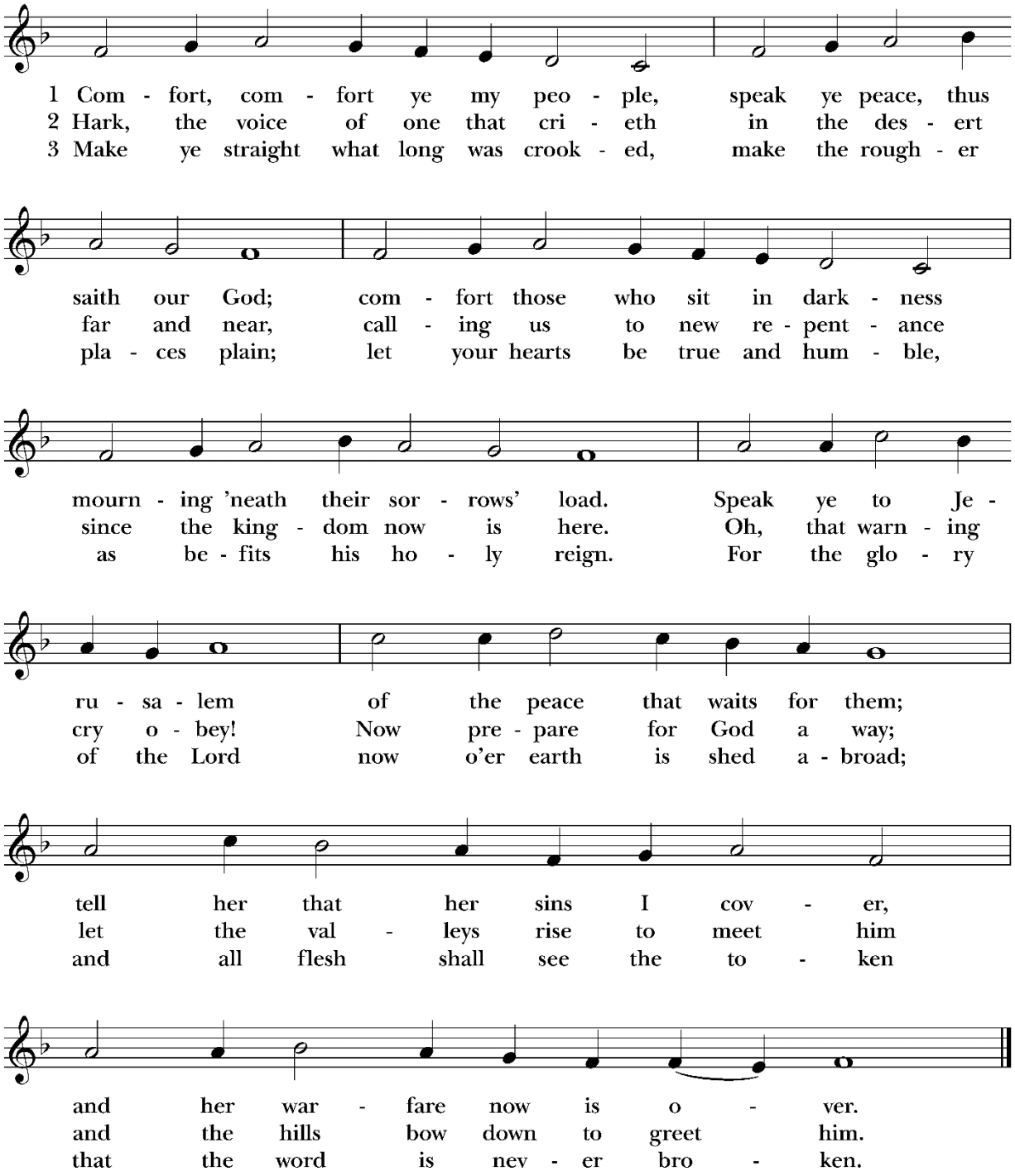
Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

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 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Hymnal 1982 #67



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

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
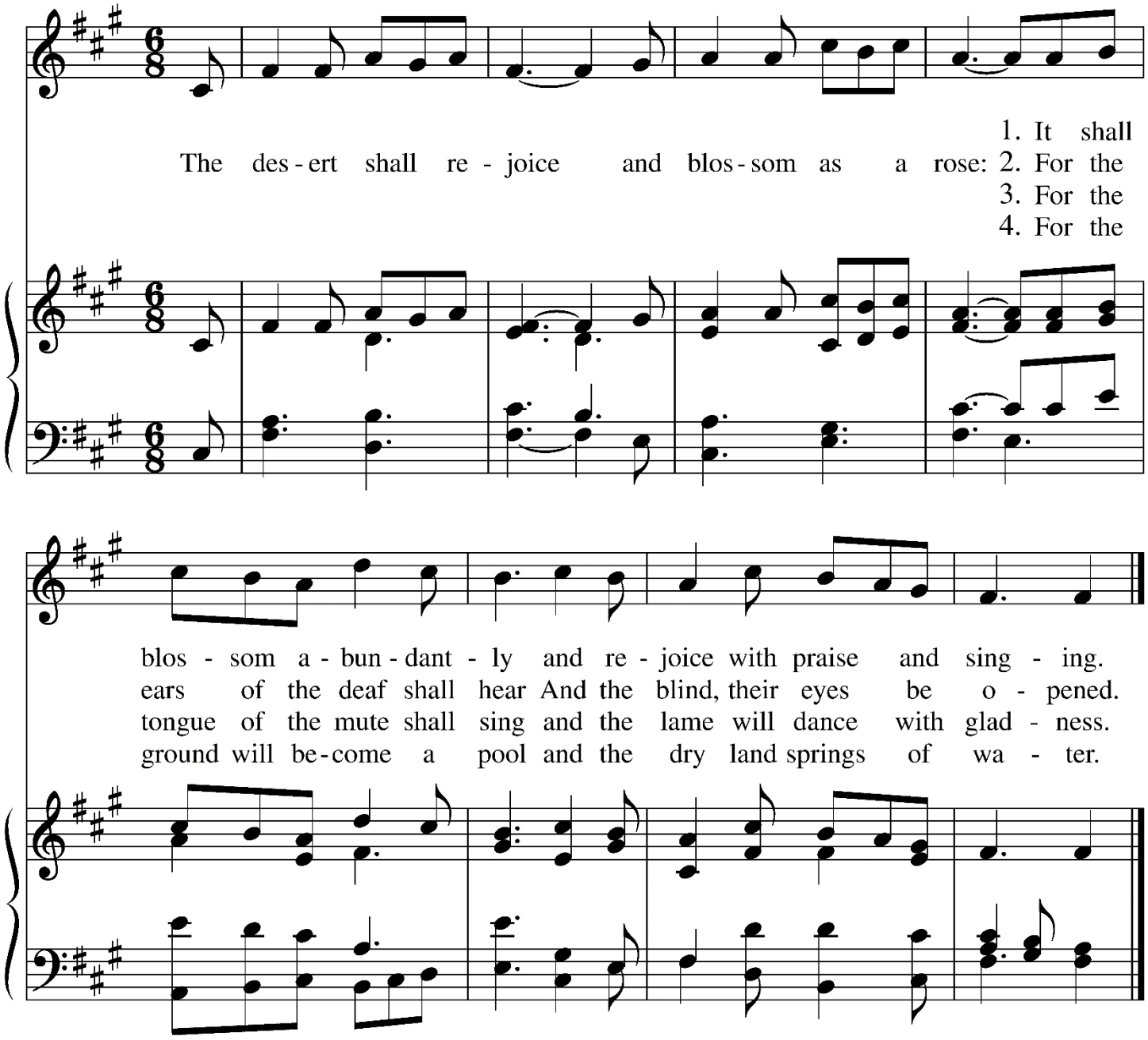
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Final Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *The Desert Shall Rejoice* WLP #722



5. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
as the ransomed return to God
and come singing back to Zion.

6. The desert shall rejoice
and blossom as a rose:
unto Zion we come with joy,
for our God has come to save us.

Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943). Music: *Sterling*, Joy F Patterson (b. 1931).

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