St. Thomas Episcopal Church

LEAD WITH LOVE

Second Sunday After the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

January 25, 2026
2201 Dexter St., Denver, CO
saintthomasdenver.org

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 and Shofar

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. In addition to blowing the conch we have added another call to prayer. Geoff Wodell blows the shofar, a ram's-horn trumpet used by ancient Jews in religious ceremonies and as a battle signal. These are some 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 office@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
Brandon Bennett
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell

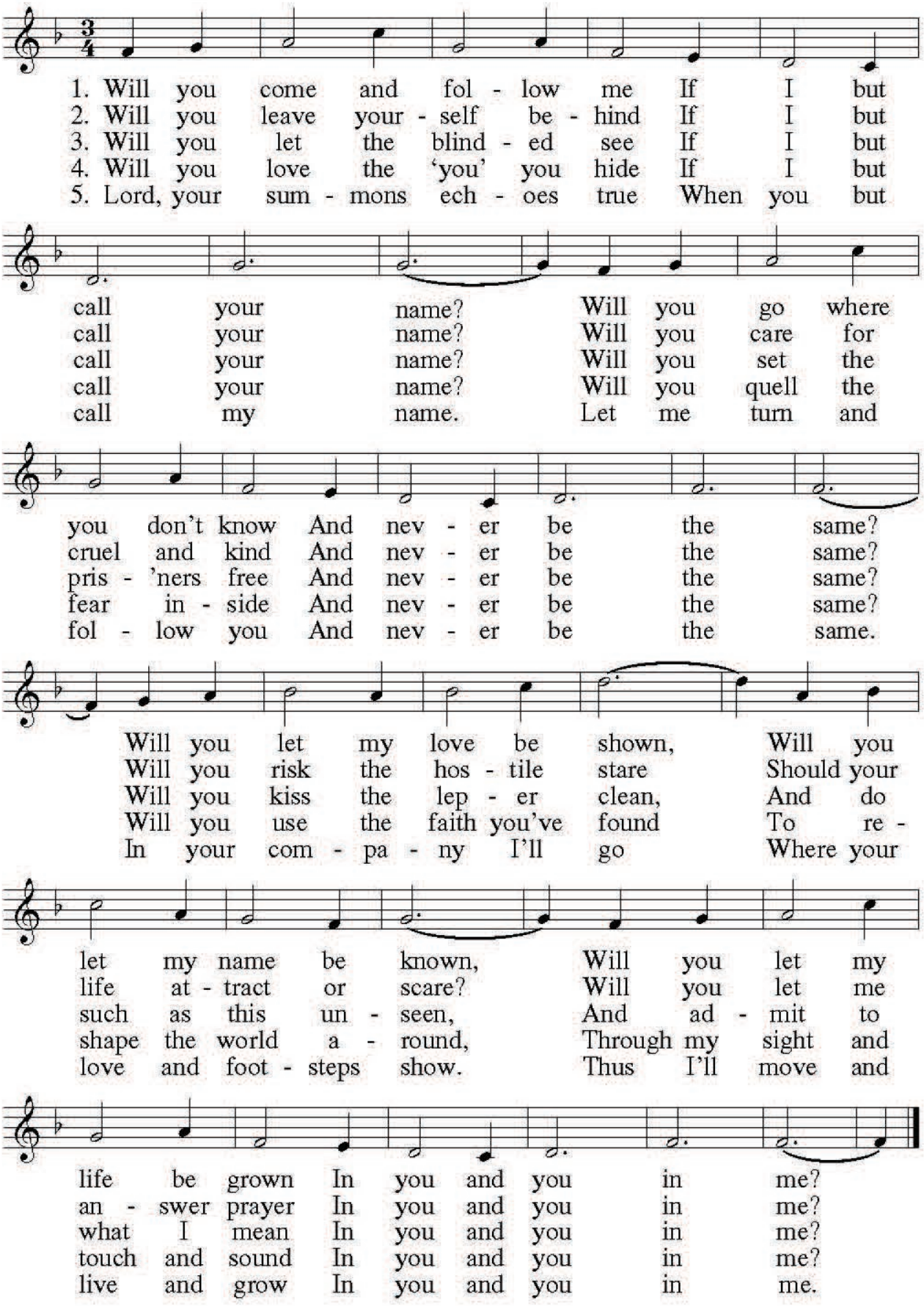
Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez

Contact Us:

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Opening Hymn *Will you Come and Follow me*

Please stand in body or spirit.



Text: John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
Tune: KELVINGROVE, 7 6 7 6 7 7 6; Scottish traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949

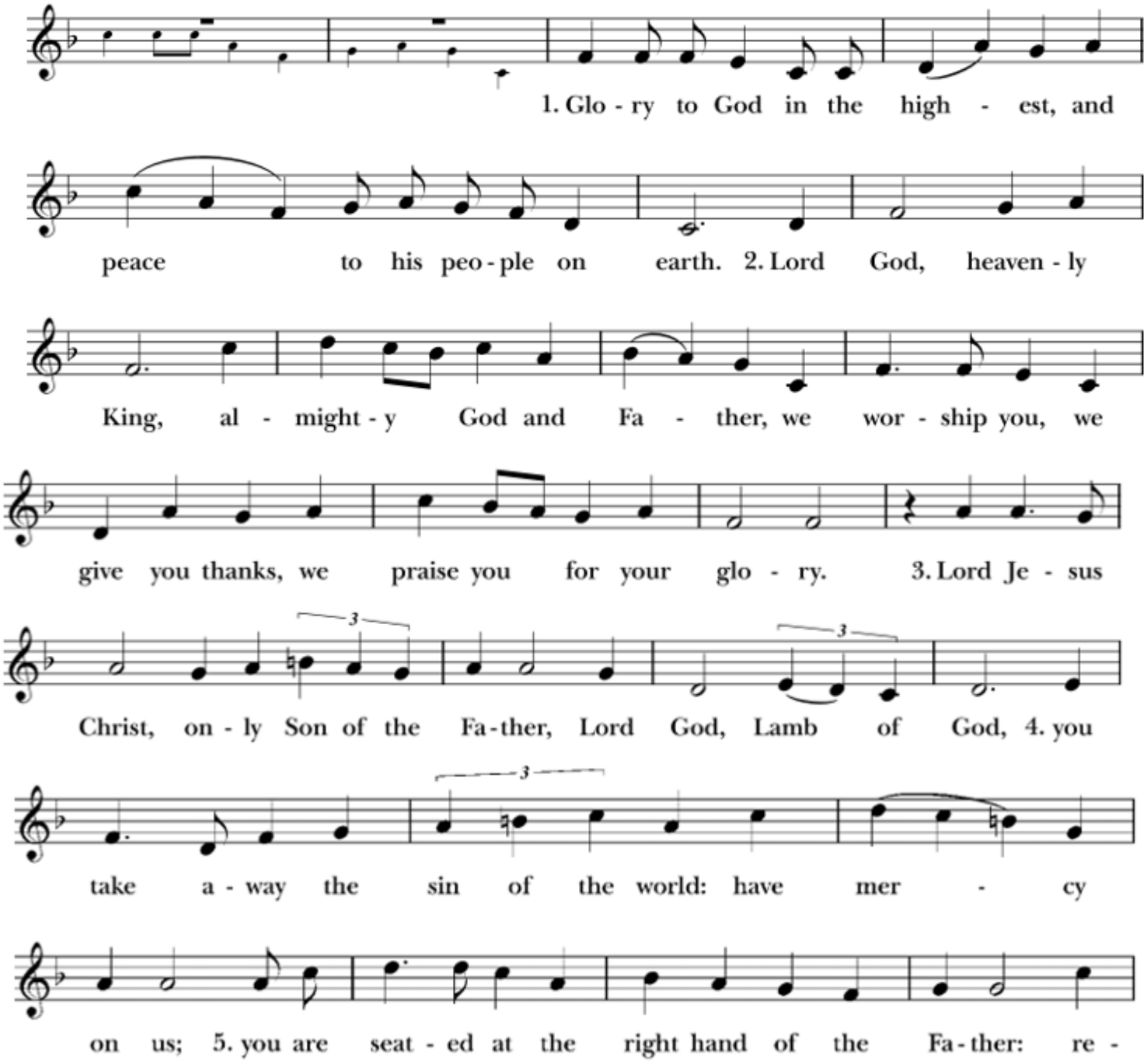
Opening Acclamation

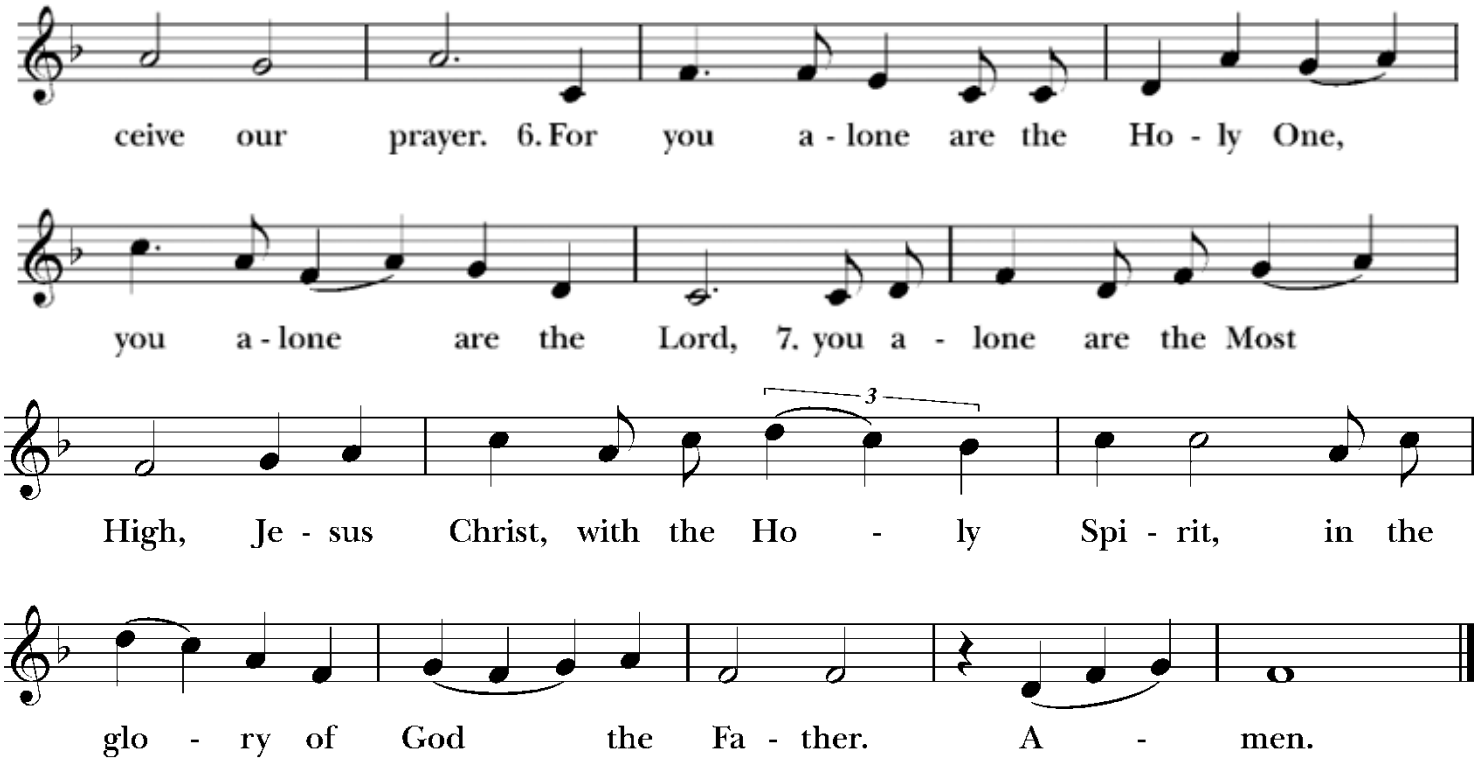
Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Hymn of Priase 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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Isaiah Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

After the Reading:

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

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

God is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
God is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

One thing have I asked of you, O God;
one thing I seek: *
that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,

To behold your fair beauty, O God, *
and to seek you in your temple.

For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe in your shelter; *
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.

Even now you lift up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to you.

Hearken to my voice, O Most High, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, O God, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

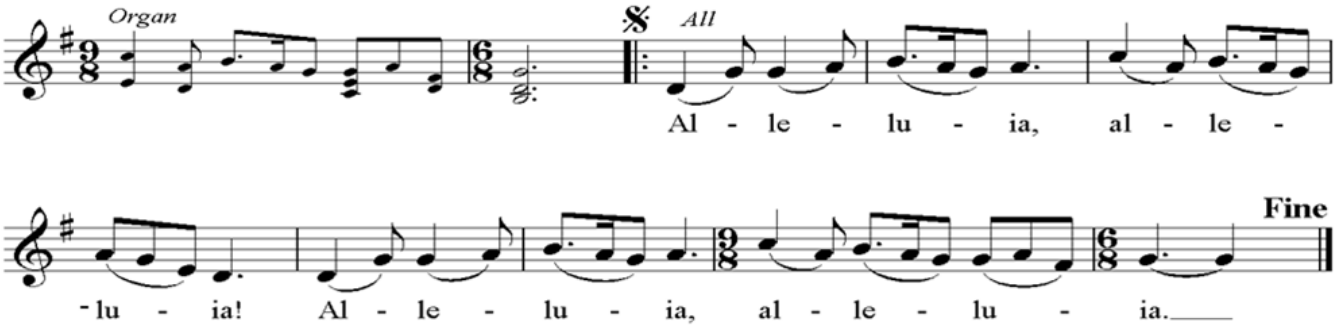
For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Celtic Alleluia*



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. A holy day has dawned.
   Adore the Lord, you nations,
   for today a light
   has come on the earth.

The Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

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

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

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
> on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
> the people who sat in darkness
> have seen a great light,
> and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
> light has dawned."

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among 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.

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.
During the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For Kym, our bishop, and for Terri, our rector, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For our communities, for every city and community, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and refugees, and for all who rem ember and care for them, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For deliverance from all affliction, strife, and poverty, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to God.
God, hear our prayer.

The Collect

God of mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice; and have promised to hear the prayers of two or three who agree in your name; fulfil now, we pray, the prayers and longings of your people as may be best for us and for your kingdom. Grant us in this world to know your truth, and in the world to come to see your glory.
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.

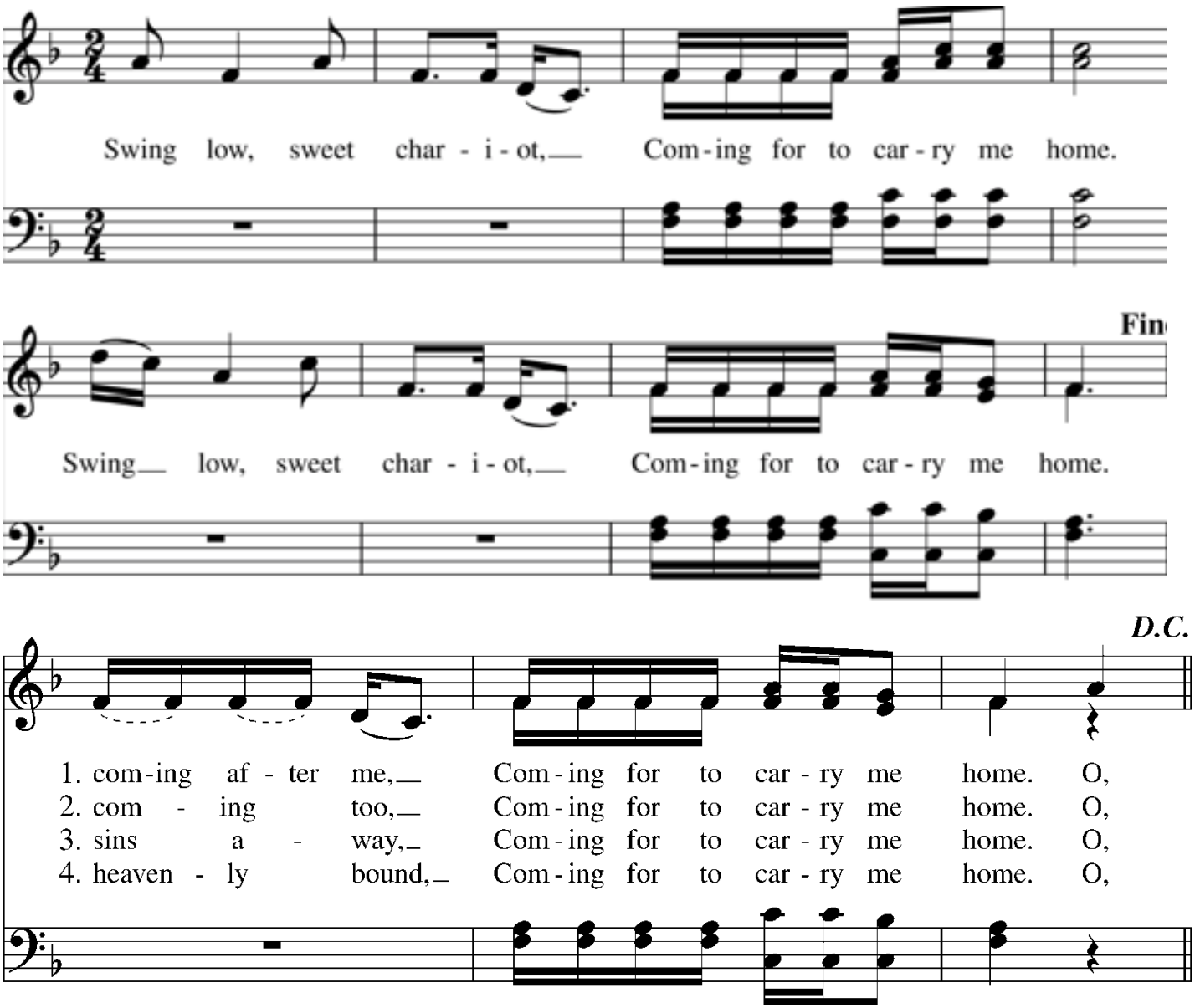
Each week we gather to proclaim God's love for all and to offer strength and courage for the journey.We are convinced that the hope, love and good news that we offer are exactly what people need to navigate these challenging times in which we live. If you share our conviction and values, we invite you 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
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Credit Card

Offertory Anthem *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* LEVAS #18



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943). Arr. Copyright © Paul A. Schmitt Music Company. Copyright assigned to Belwin Mills. Made in U.S.A. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission of CPP/Belwin, Inc., P.O. Box 4340, Miami, FL 33014.

Presentation Hymn *Doxology* Hymnal 1982 #380 vs 3

Please stand as you are able. During the hymn an offering is presented at the altar along with the oblations of bread and wine.

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

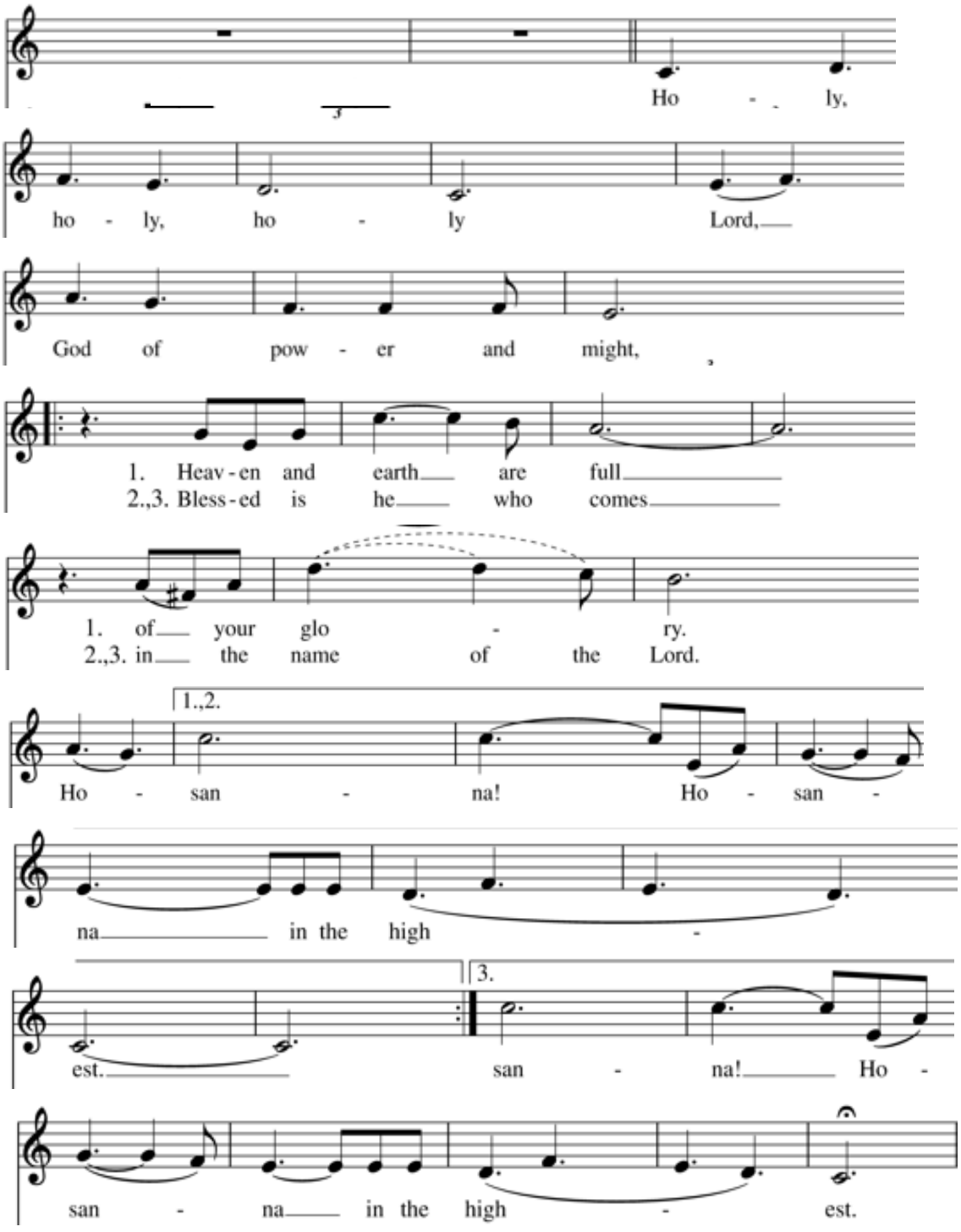
Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. 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 LEVAS #253



The people stand or kneel in body or spirit.
Presider (continues)

Holy and gracious God: 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, the God and maker of all.

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, our Savior Jesus Christ 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, Almighty 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 kingdom.

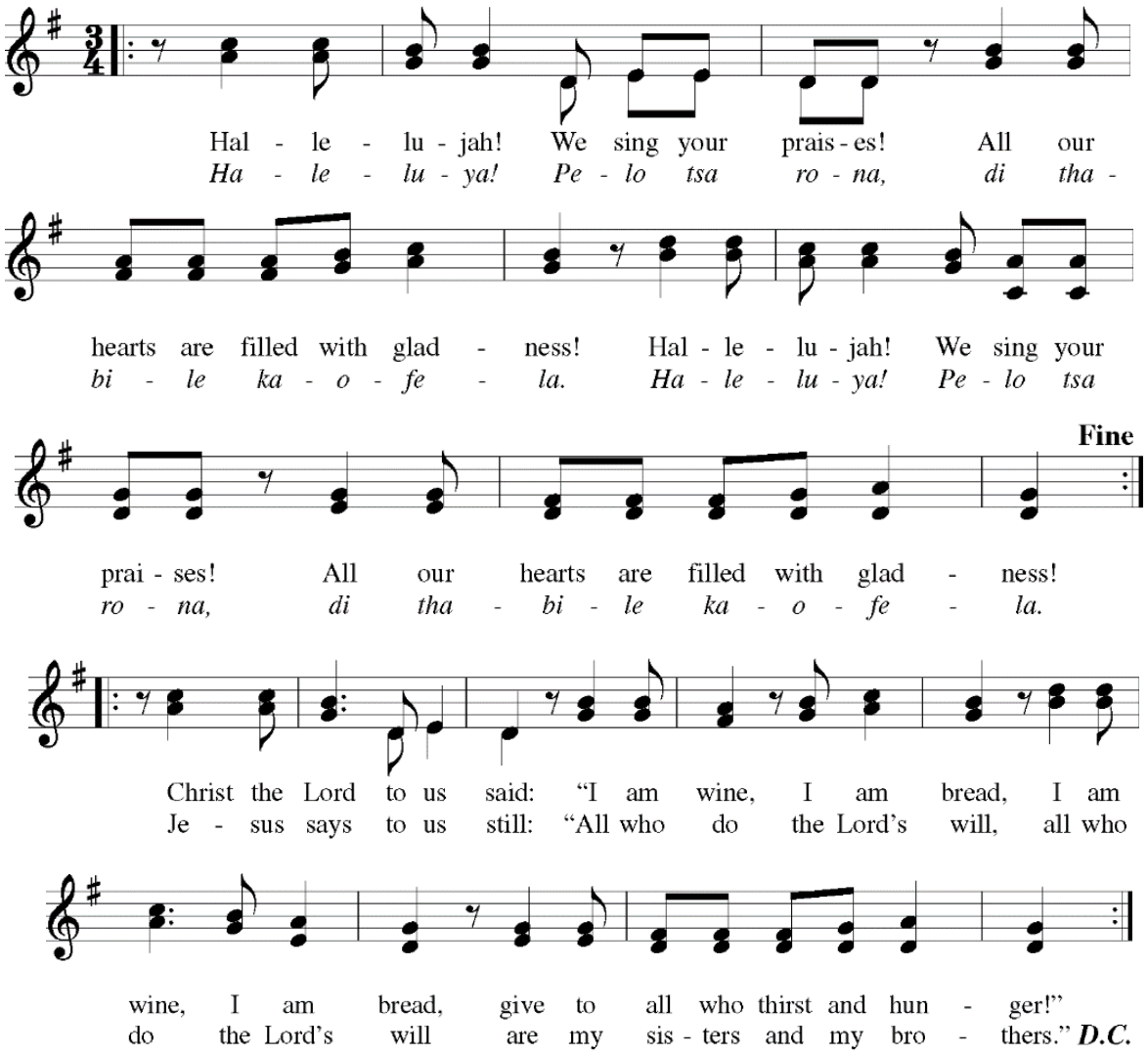
All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

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 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* *WLP #784*

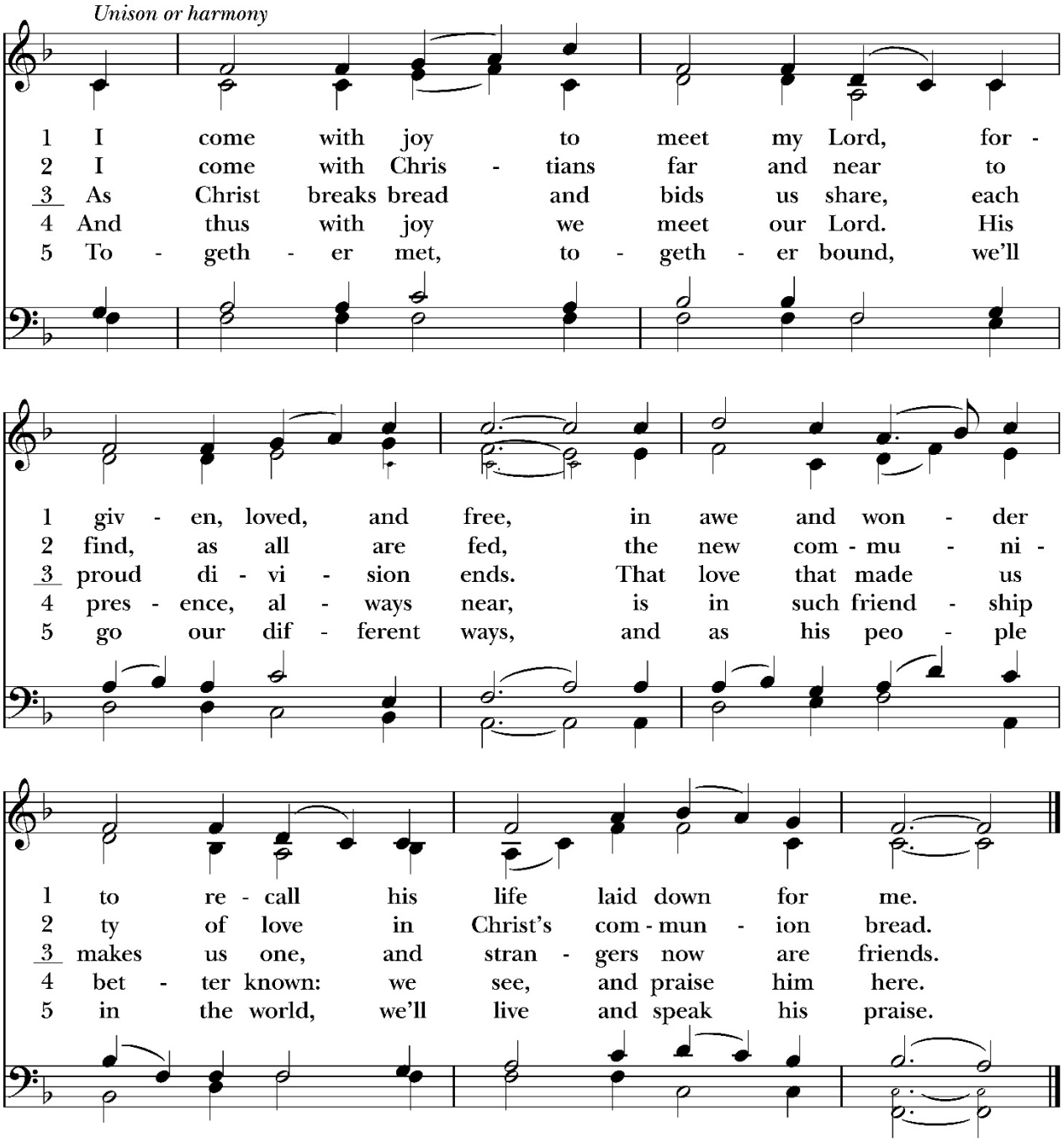


The Invitation to The Table

The Communion of the People

All who love God and seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. Our bread is gluten free. 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. 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 *I Come with Joy to Meet my Lord* Hymnal 1982 #304



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Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel.

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Blessings

Welcoming Visitors

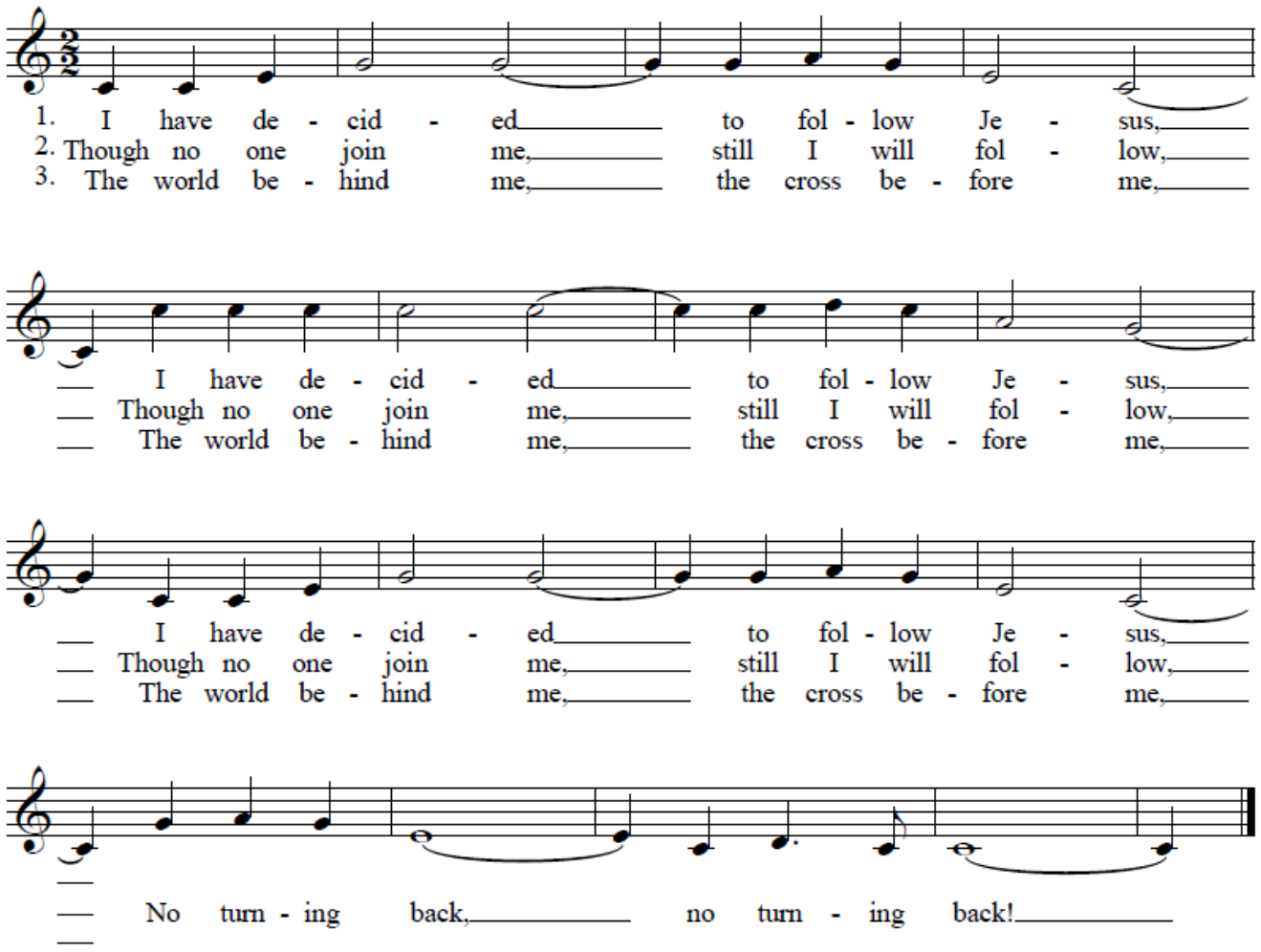
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* LEVAS #136



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