St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Lead With Love

Holy Eucharist
Fifteenth Sunday
After Pentecost
September 10, 2023

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, 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 (she/her)

Music Leaders

Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell

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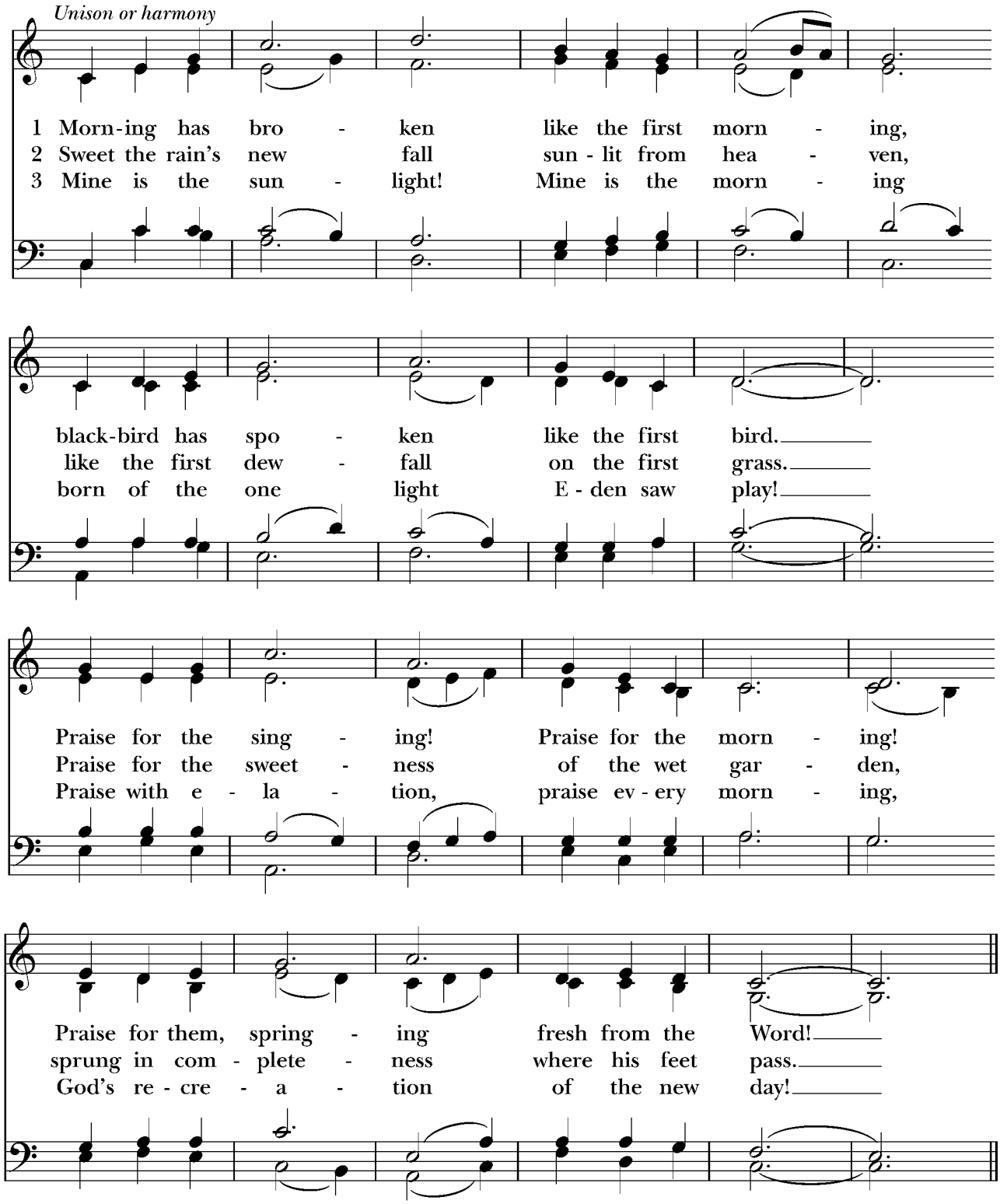
The Altar Flowers were graciously donated by Pat Horoschak in loving memory of her mother, Marie Hoy.

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Opening Hymn *Morning Has Broken* Hymnal 1982 #8
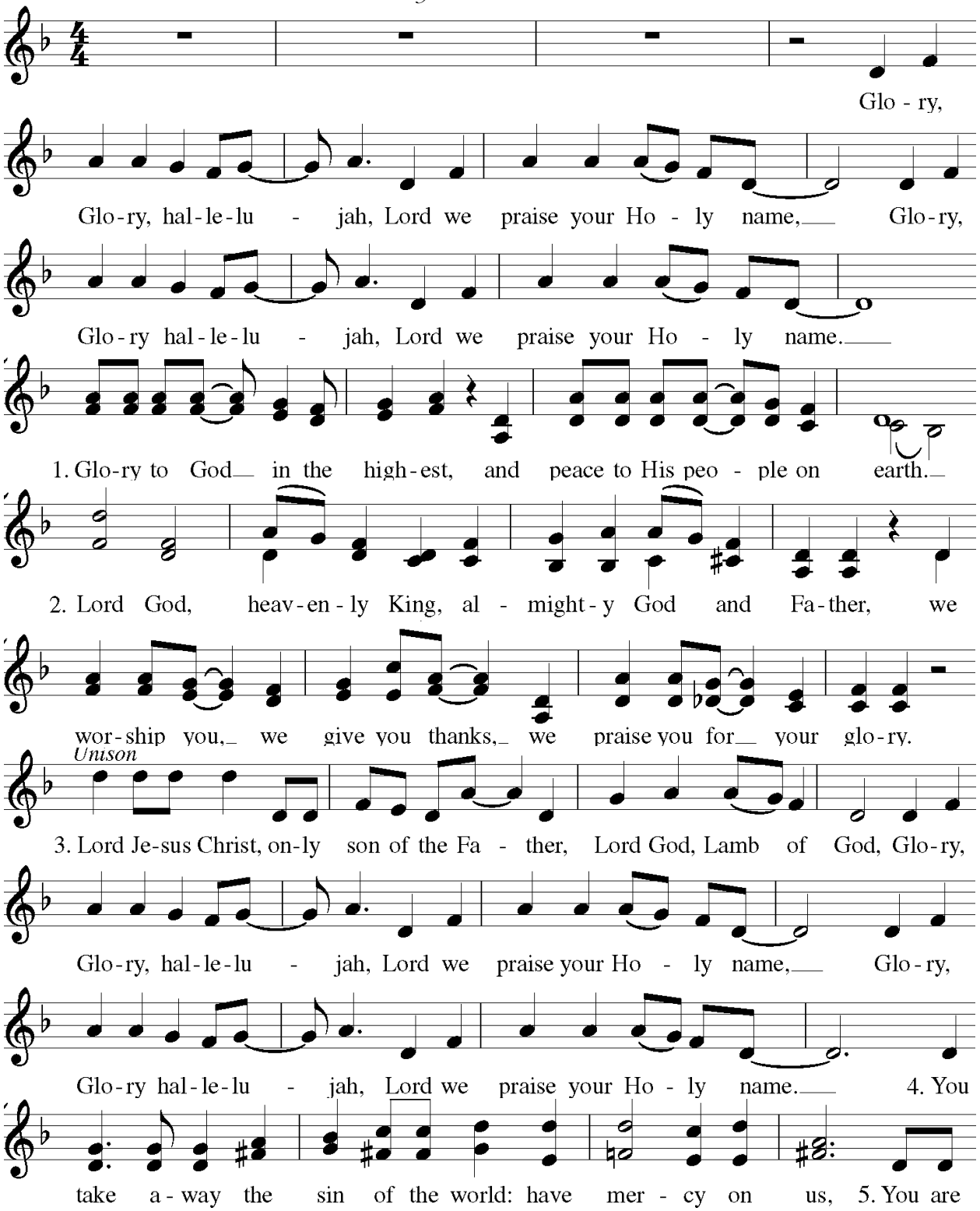


Opening Acclamation
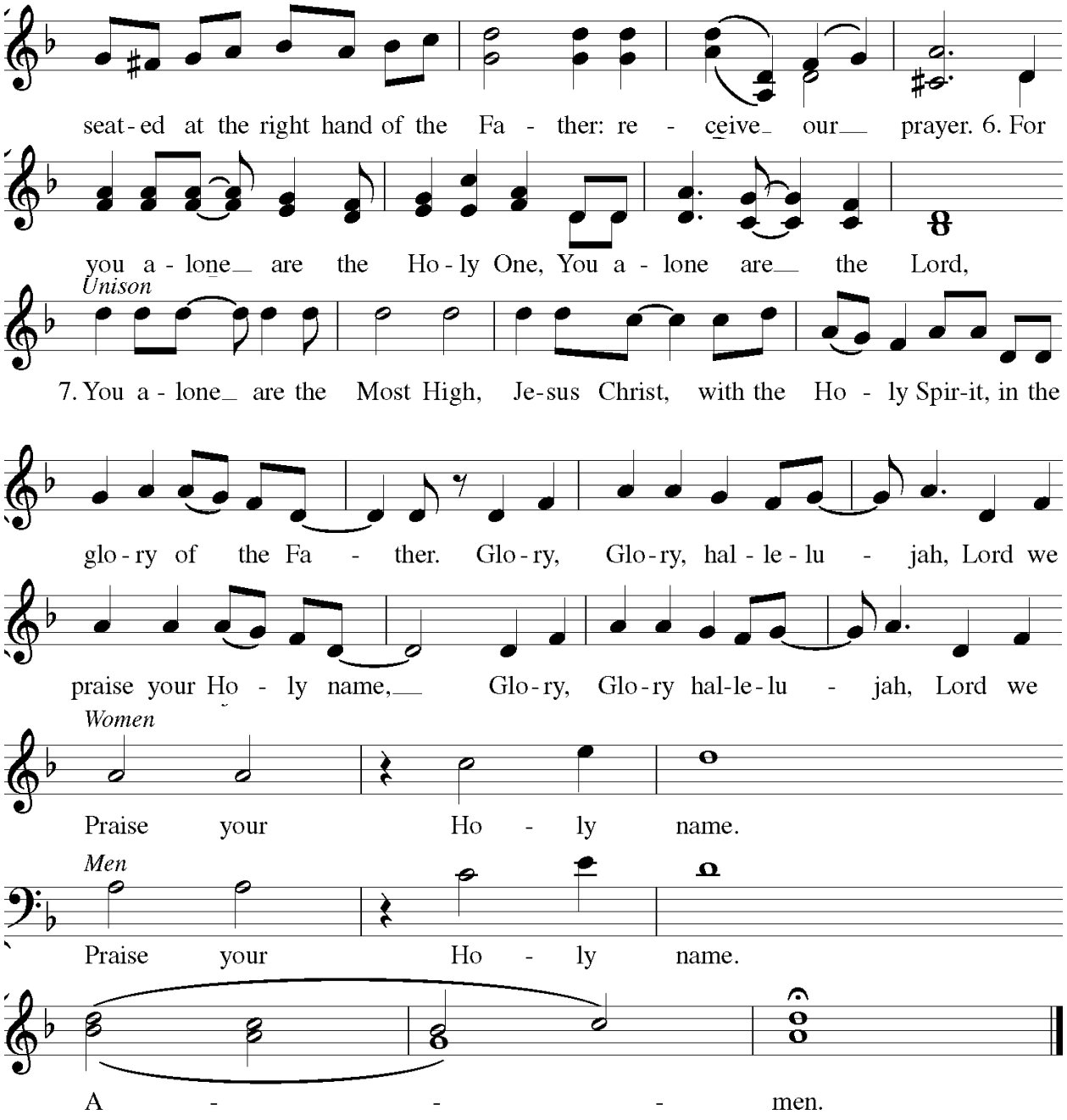
Presider Blessed be the One Holy and Living God

People **Glory to God forever and ever.**

Presider Love one another, for love is of God, and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.

Gloria *Glory to God* LEVAS #243





The Collect of Day

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Praise be to Adonai, Praise be to the Living God, who calls us, a broken people to your table, who teaches us in times of disagreement to listen, who looses us from prejudice and binds us to your way of forgiving grace; through Jesus Christ, who stands at the heart of our gathering. Amen. **Amen**

Prayer for the City-wide Initiative to Reduce Homelessness

All Holy and Gracious God of love, keep our unhoused neighbors close in our hearts. May they receive compassion, mercy, and justice. For those leading and supporting the initiative to address our homeless crisis, we ask for wisdom, courage, strength, humbleness, creativity, and perseverance. Let our city come together in unity and open our hearts and minds to address this urgent human rights crisis. Provide us with the resources we need to create sufficient housing units for all. Give us eyes to see new opportunities and resources and to boldly invite each other into sharing them together. Fill us with love and compassion for our unhoused siblings. Let us dare to believe that the power of love can unite us across faith traditions and diverse demographics to provide much needed, long-term, viable solutions to our homeless crisis. May these efforts reconcile us and unite us in peace, common love, and shared hope. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Book of Exodus Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149

Prayed antiphonally from side.

Alleluia! Sing to God a new song; *
sing praise in the congregation of the faithful.
Let the people of Israel rejoice in their Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their Monarch.
Let them praise God's Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise with timbrel and harp.
For God takes pleasure in the people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
To bind their rulers in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all God's faithful people. Alleluia!

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans Romans 12:1-8

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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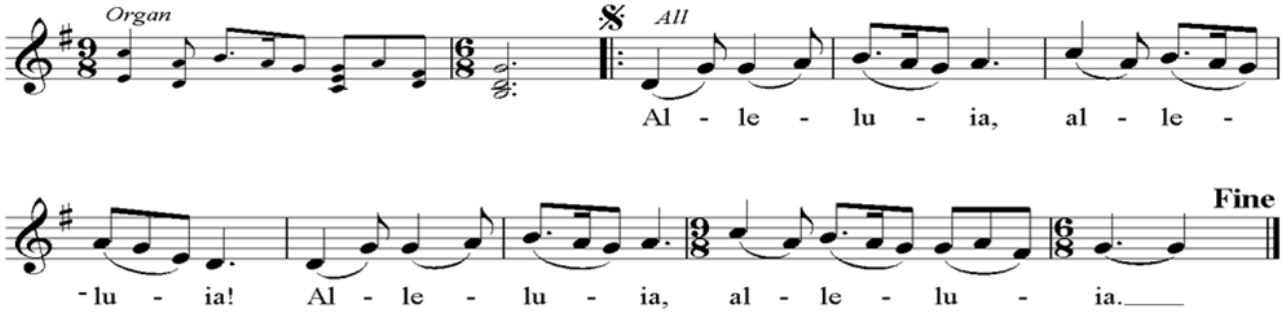
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *Celtic Alleluia*

Please stand.

Verses 1,2 before Gospel
Verses 3 after Gospel



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

2. Come, Holy Spirit.
Fill the hearts of your faithful
and enlighten them
with the fire of your love. *Refrain*

3. All those who live in love
with God are united.
for they live with God
and God lives in them. *Refrain*

The Gospel Matthew 18:15-29

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

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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.

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

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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Kym, our Rector, Terri; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.
Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.
Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. [especially _____] Pray for those in any need or trouble.
Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.
Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____]. Pray for those who have died.
Silence

I ask your prayers for those on your heart today: _____.
Silence

I ask your prayers of thanksgiving: _____.
Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially _____ whom we remember today]. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.
Silence

The Collect

Presider God of love, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Confession

Loving God, hear our prayer:
our hearts are heavy .
We have trusted too much in our own strength.
We have hidden our faces from those who suffer.
We have turned away from neighbors in need.
We have given up hope instead of seeking your help.
O God, be gracious to us.
Forgive our sin.
Heal our brokenness,
and fill our hearts with songs of joy. Amen.

The Absolution

The Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

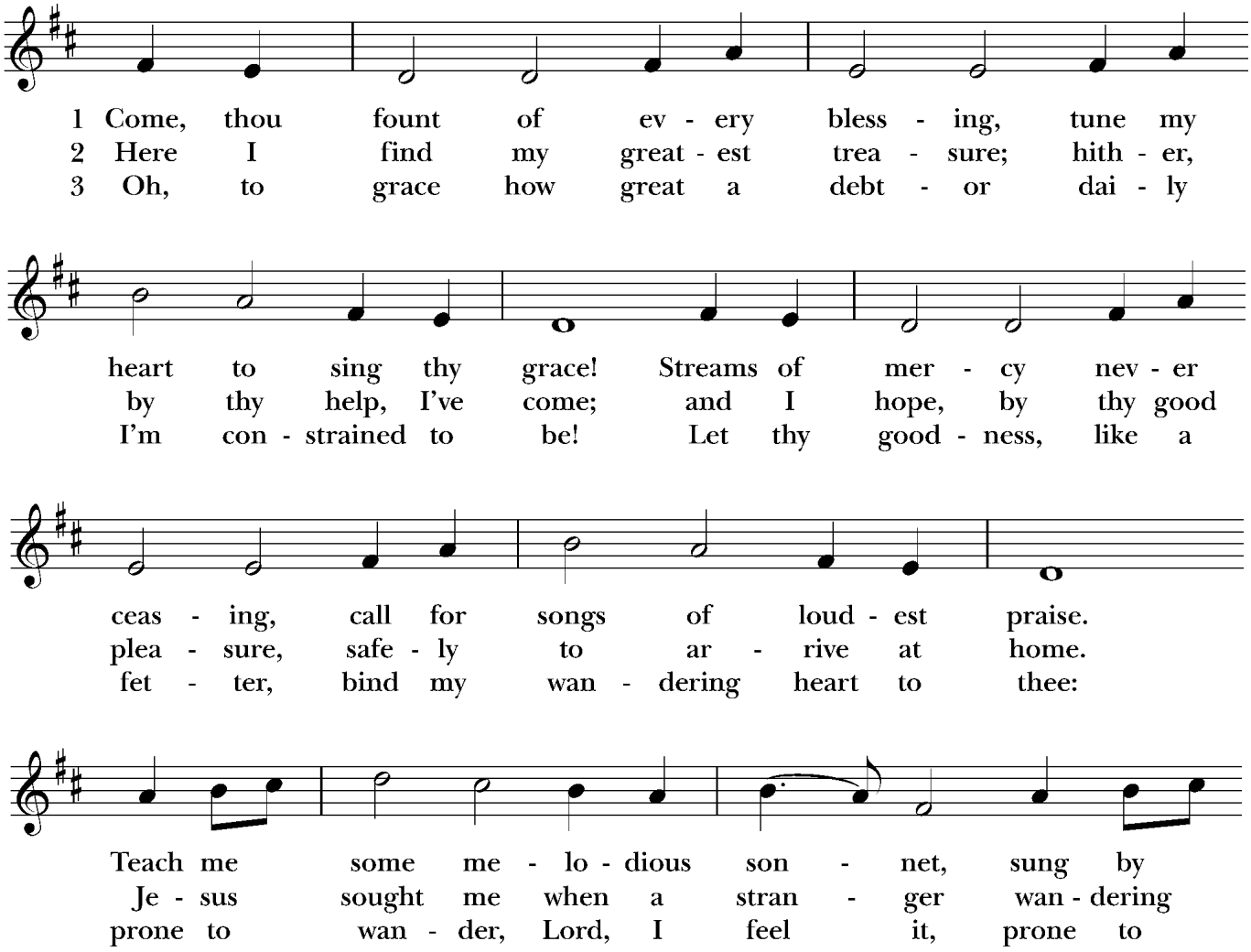
We greet one another in the name of Christ.

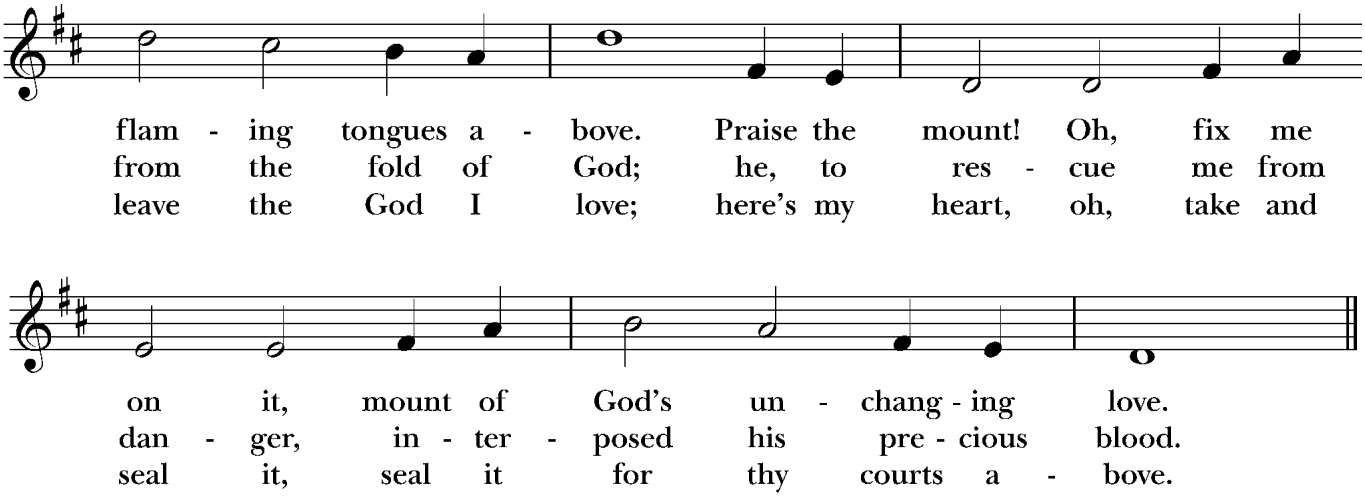
THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

Offertory Hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Hymnal 1982 #686

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:





Presentation Hymn *Doxology* Hymn #380 v3

Please stand as you are able.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him 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.

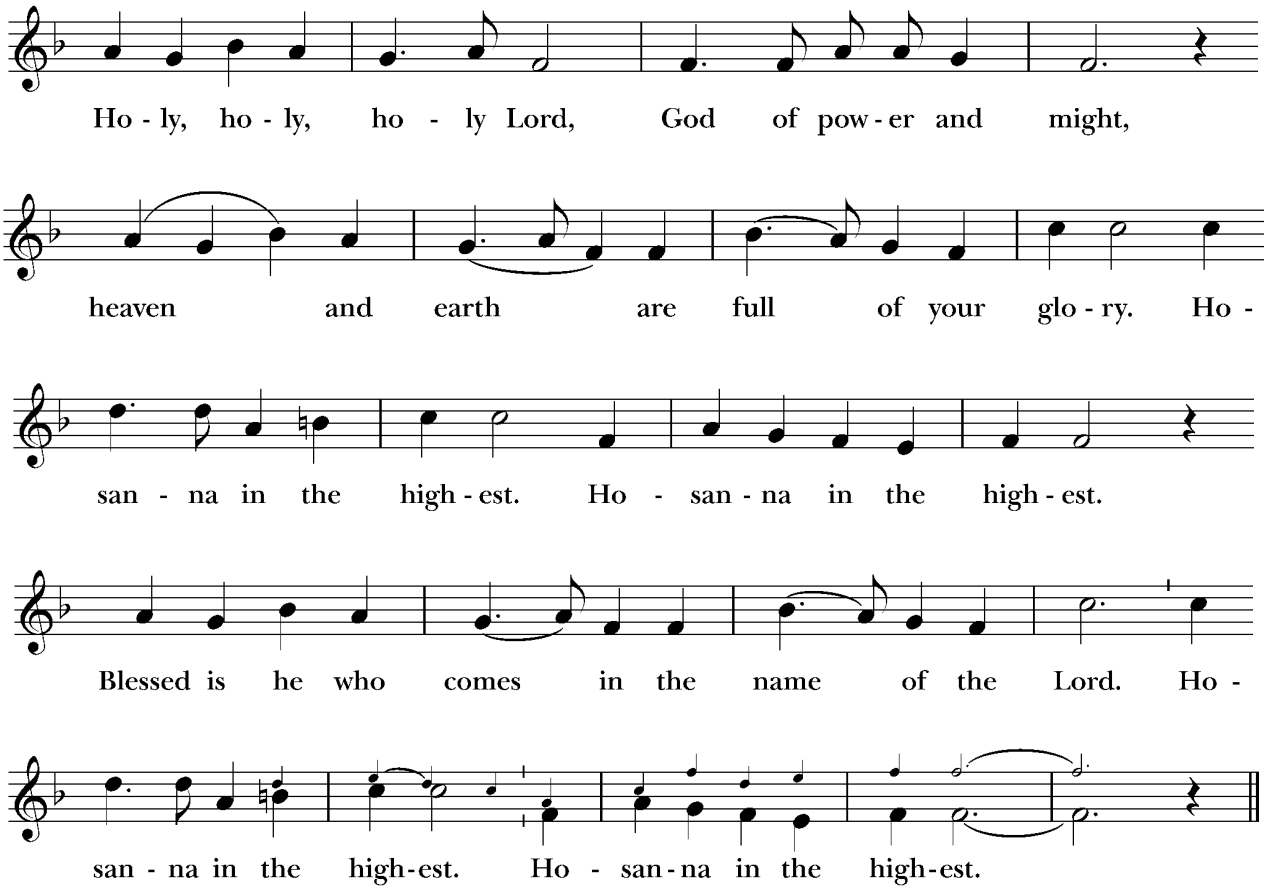
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right indeed - that we should praise you, our God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things, and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky. When the times had at last grown full and the earth had ripened in abundance, you made us in your image for yourself. And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own to lead them in your way of compassionate love. From your own being you sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary our sister. Jesus revealed your care for all you have made and showed us your way of reconciliation. Jesus suffered the pangs of the cross and in rising again became the first-born of the renewed family. You sent your Holy Spirit and gave birth to us your church. Your Spirit nurtures and to guides us.

Now with all creation we sing your praise for your unending love, as we sing,

Sanctus Hymnal 1982 S125



The people stand or kneel.

Presider (continues)

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

And so in this great sacrament we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.
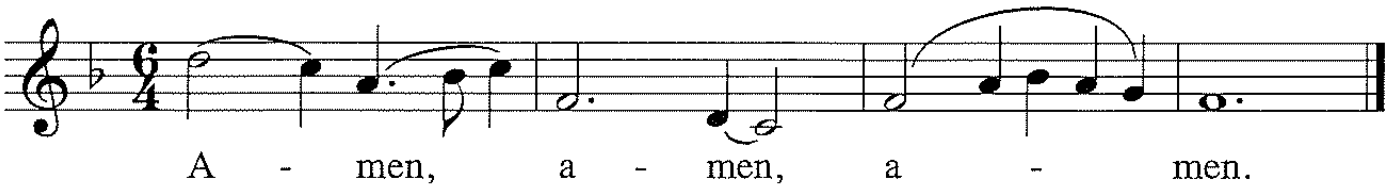
Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Strengthen us to do your work, and to be your body in the world.

Unite us in Christ and give us your peace. Through your Holy Spirit, burning as a flame, gentle as a dove, may we who receive these gifts live lives of justice, love, and prayer, and be a voice for those who are not heard. In union with your whole church we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, by him, with him, and in him, In the unity of Your Holy Spirit, we give ourselves to back to You, our Infinite God of Compassion, Mercy, and outpouring Love.

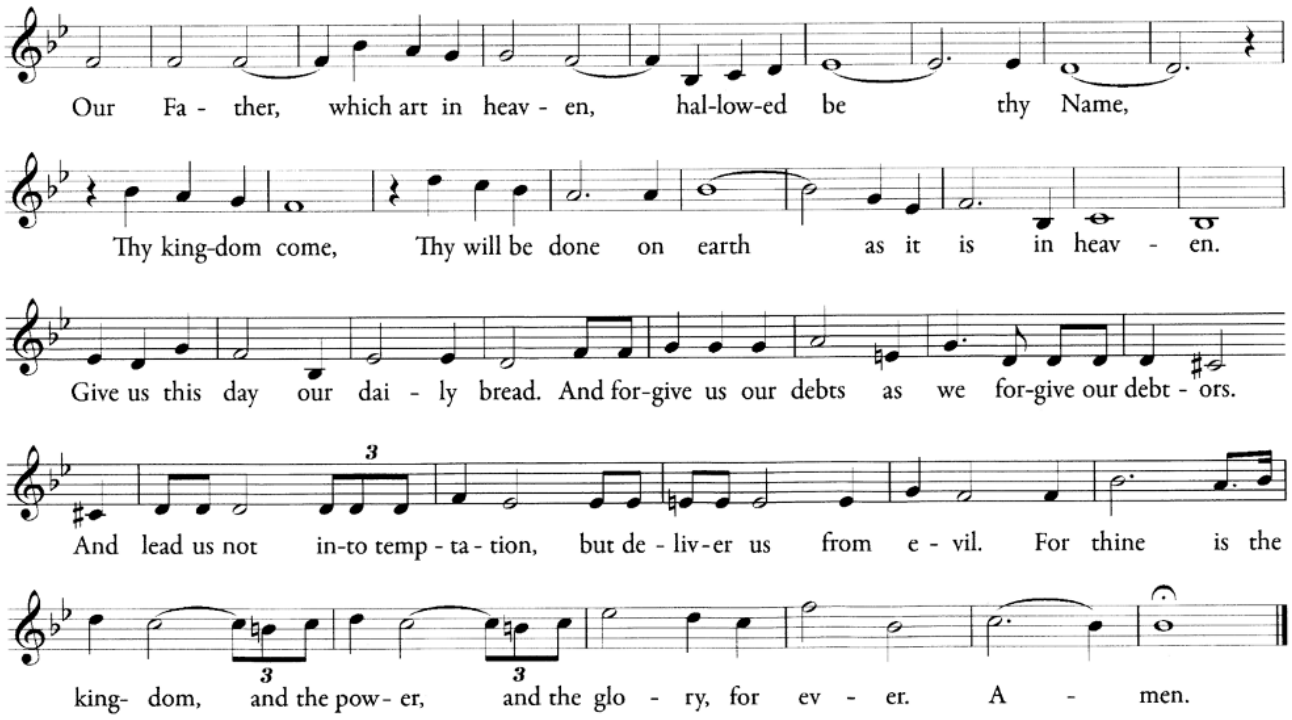
The Great Amen



Music: *Land of Rest,* arr. Richard Proulx,
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Presider And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray.
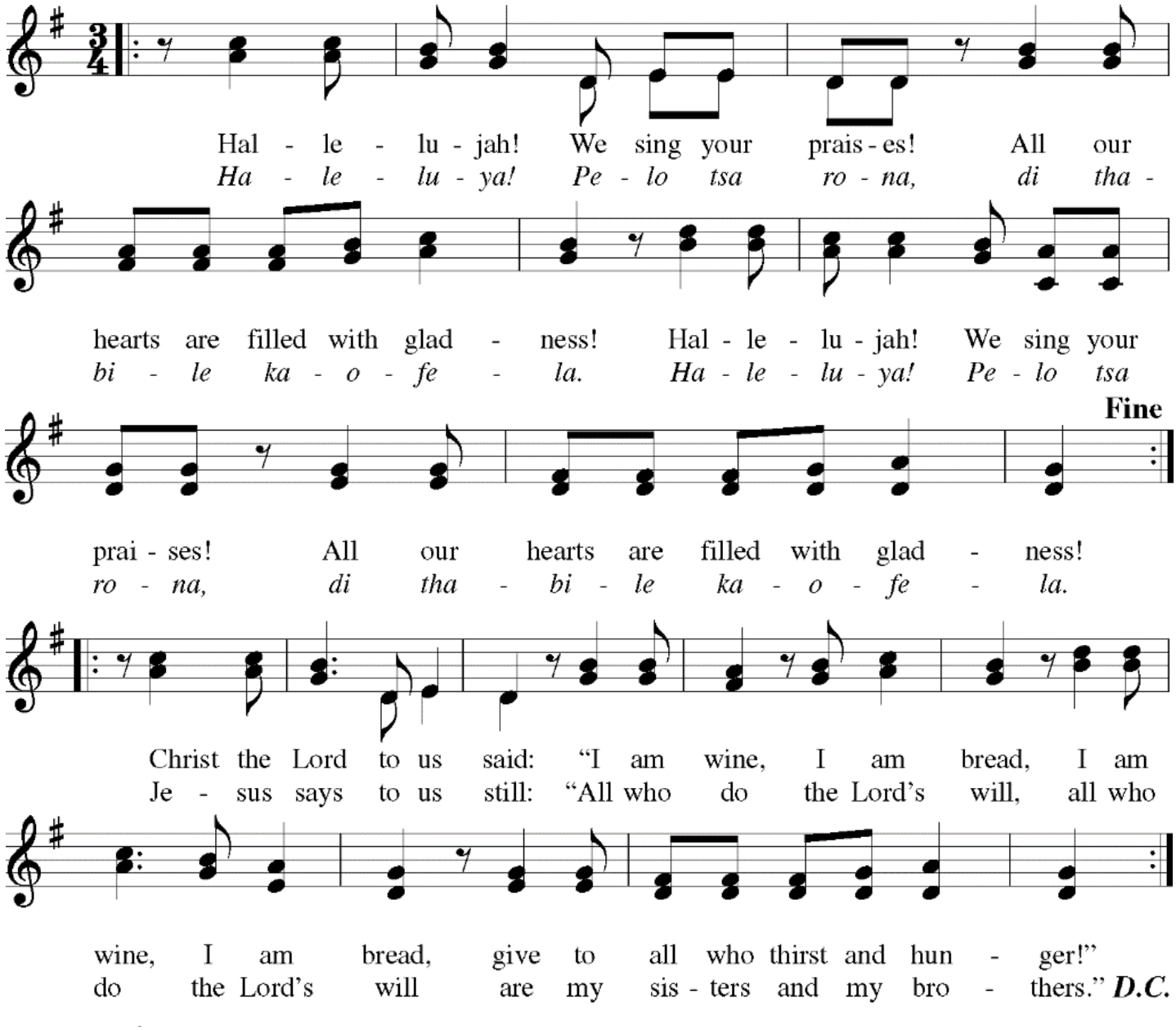
THE LORD'S PRAYER — Albert Hay Malotte



The Breaking of The Bread

Fraction Hymn

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
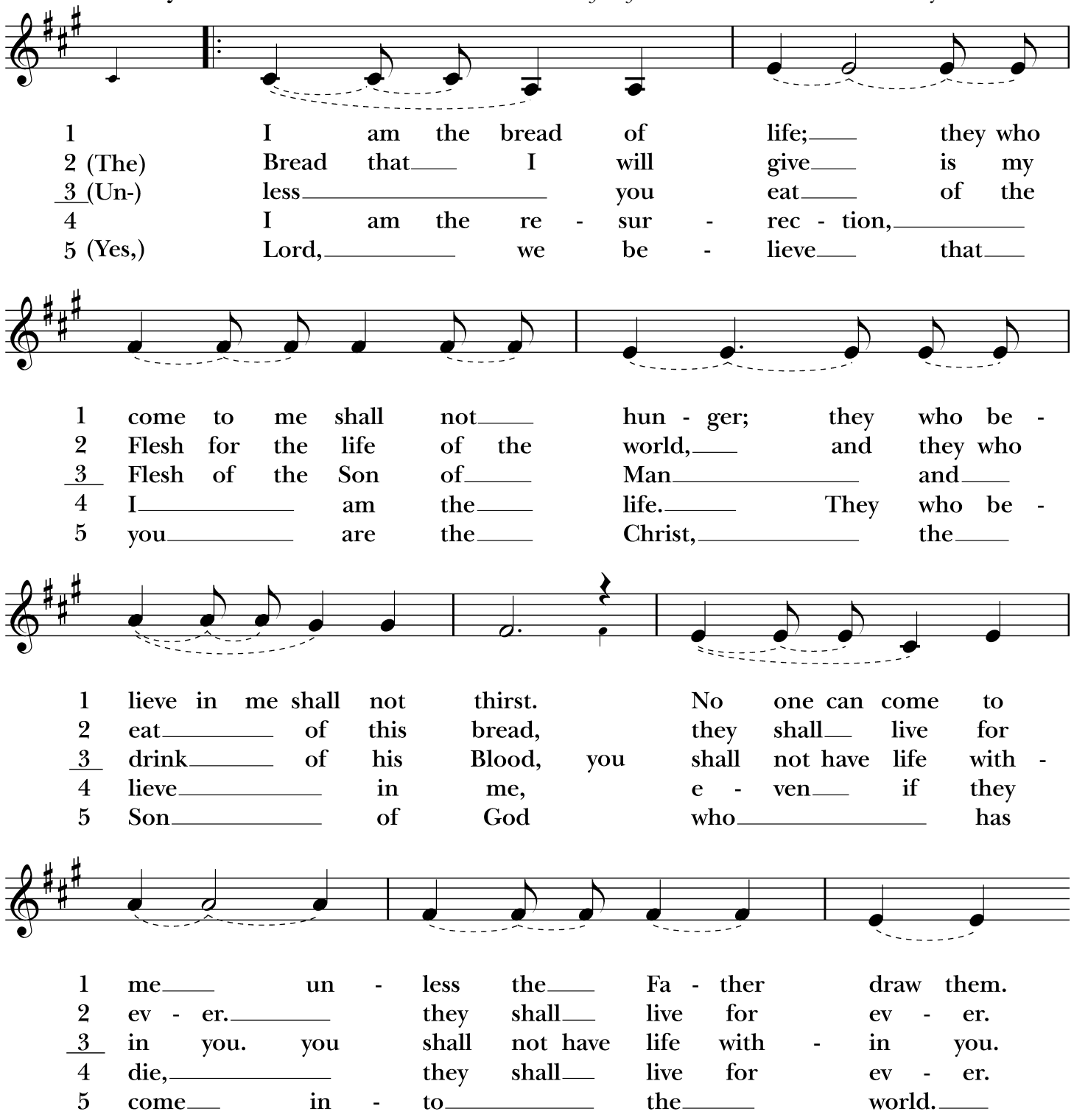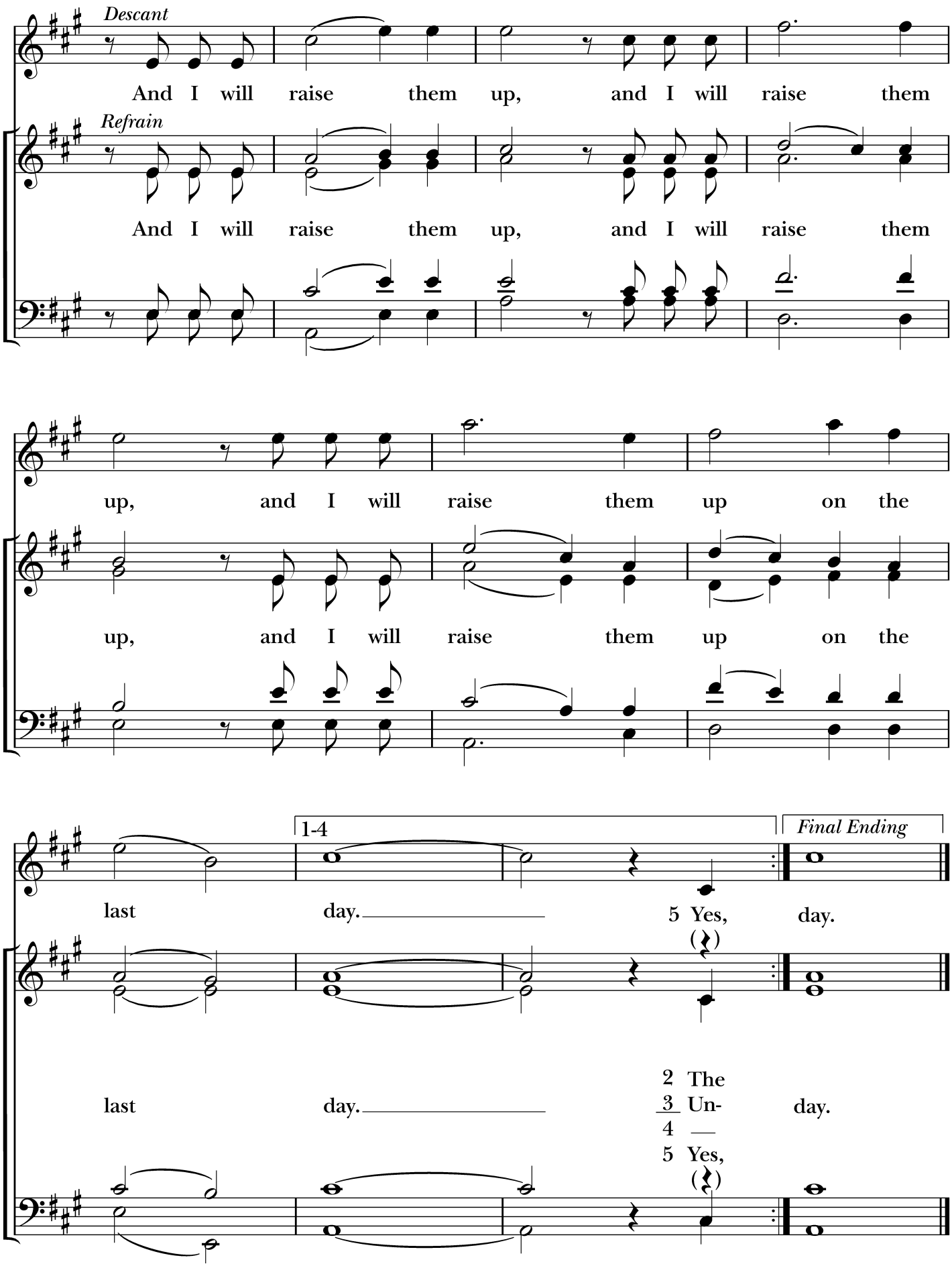


The Invitation to The Table

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 *I Am The Bread of Life* Hymn #335





The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. of John 6. Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928). Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

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.
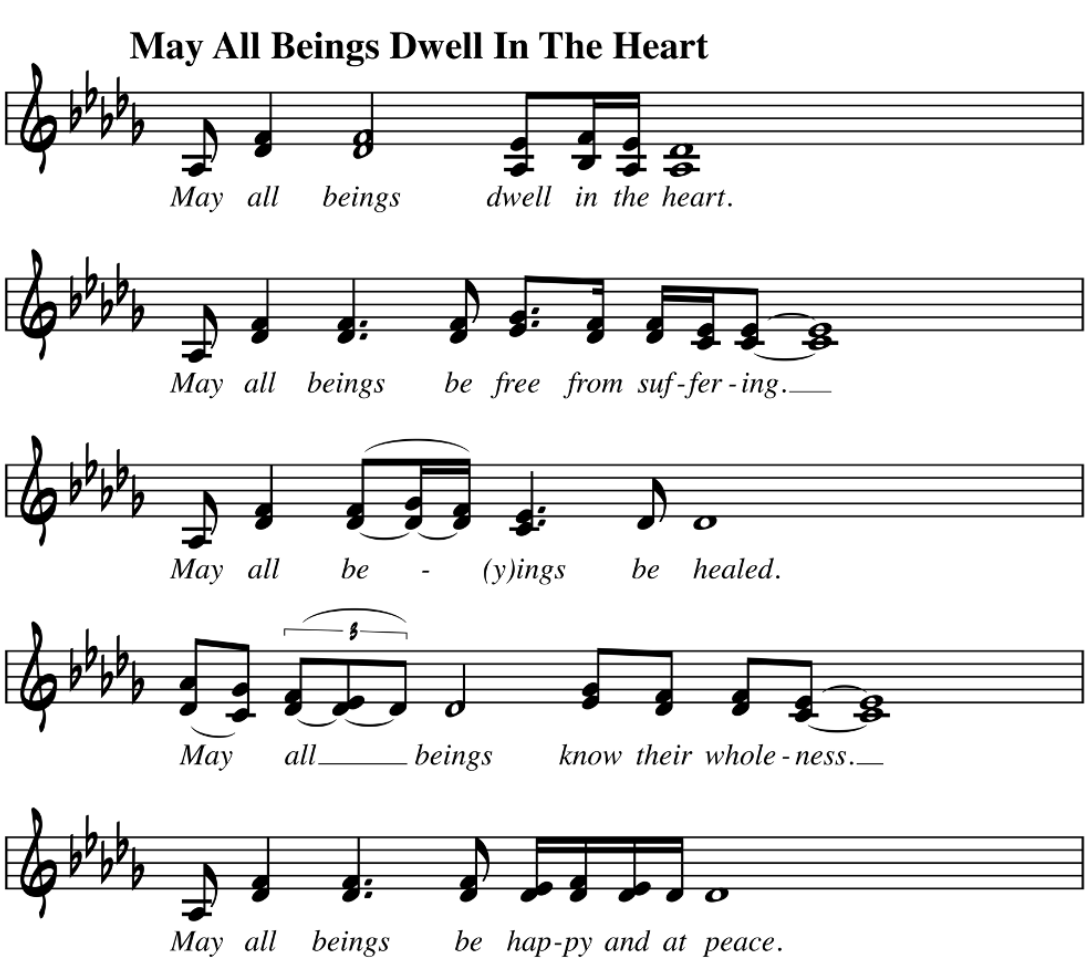
GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Blessings

Welcome Visitors

We are happy you are here and would like to welcome you. If you are comfortable doing so, we invite you to stand and introduce yourself. If you prefer to just sit and enjoy the service, we are happy to respect your privacy.

Announcements



Final Blessing

Closing Song *Lead With Love*

Chorus

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. (repeat all 4 lines)

Verses (call and 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 Go in peace to love and serve 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 come 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 to interpret for us 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/themself; 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 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

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

LEAD WITH LOVE

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)

Support the Ministries of St. Thomas!

Believe OUTLOUD™

THANK YOU! None of this would be possible without your financial support!

www.saintthomasdenver.org