ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Eucharist

September 28, 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 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
Kari Miles
Angela Pleasants
Geoff Wodell
Brandon Bennett
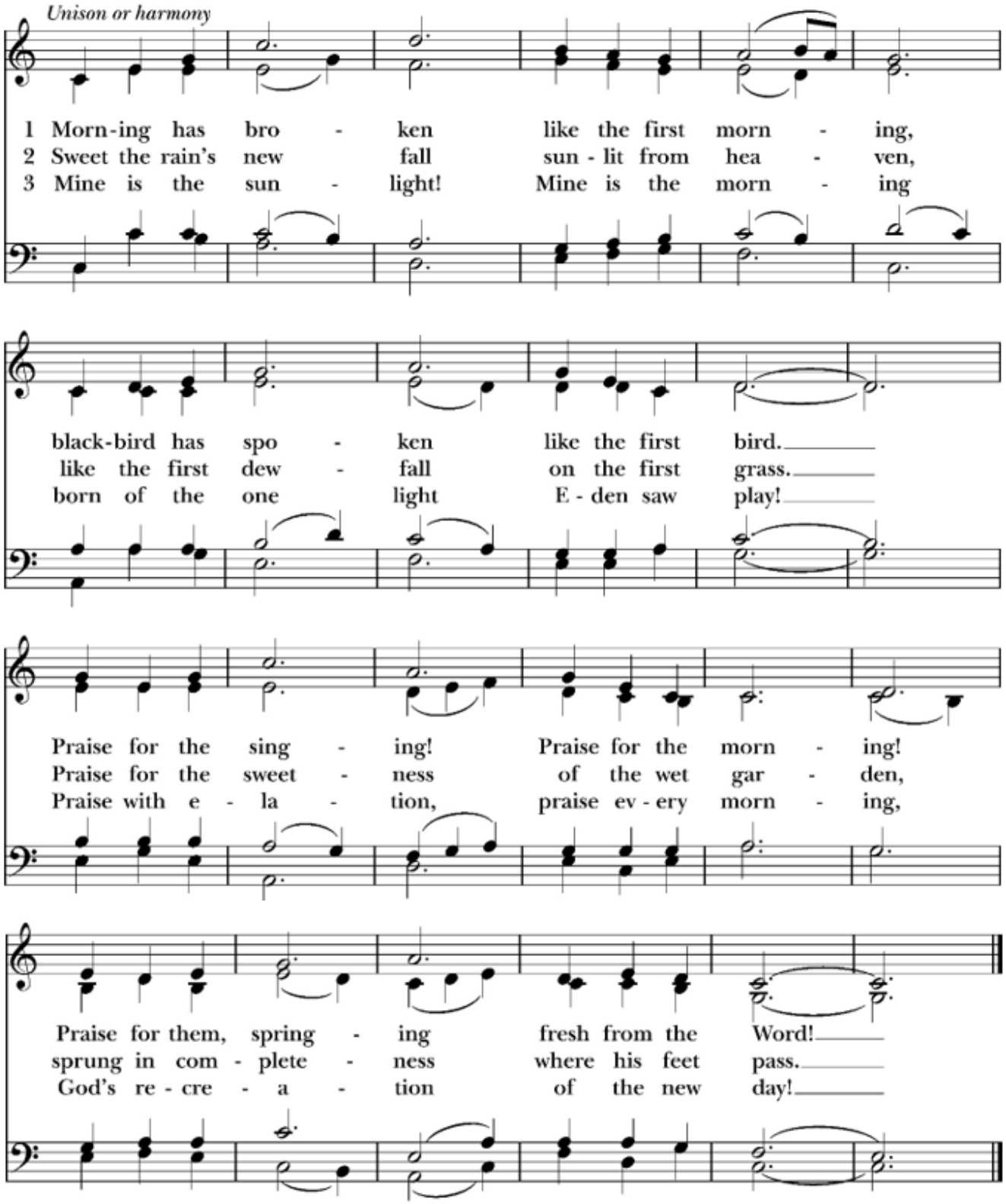
Godly Play and Nursery
Maria Perez

Contact Us:

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

Processional *Morning has Broken* Hymnal 1982 #8

Please stand in body or spirit.



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt. By permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921). Harmonization Copyright © by The Church Pension Fund.
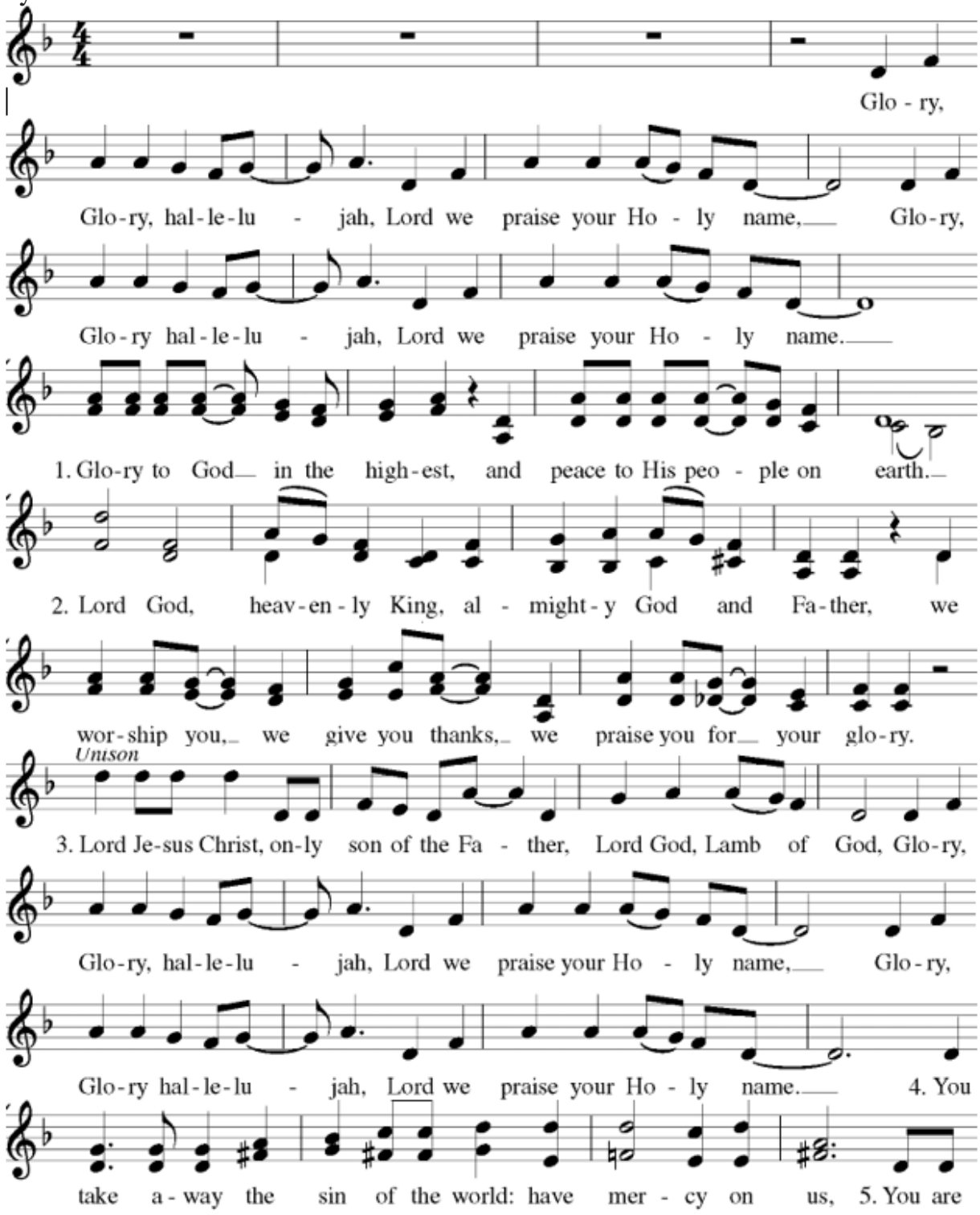
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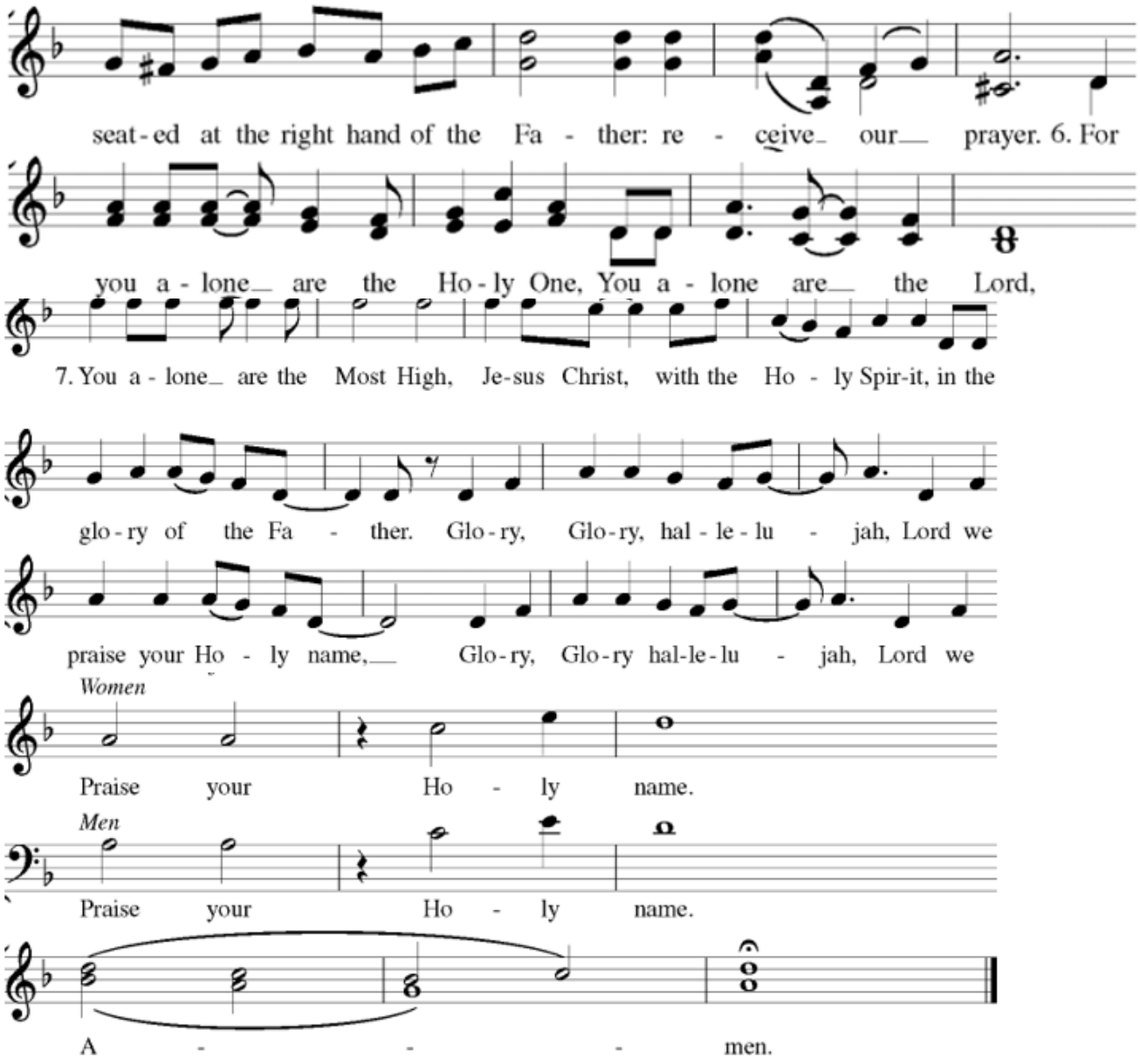
Presider Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. *1 John 4:7,8*

Blessed are you, our beloved God.

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

Hymn of Praise LEVAS #243





The Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

God of the sabbath, this is the day and this is the hour when women long oppressed stand with dignity, and when your healing escapes our desire for control: may your joy stretch the fabric of our hearts and inspire us to loosen each other's bonds; through Jesus Christ, the shamer of the powerful and the raiser of the dead. **Amen.** *Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit as you are able.

A Reading from Jeremiah Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, *
abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

They shall say to God, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

For God shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.

God's pinions shall cover you,
and under God's wings you shall seek refuge; *
God's faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

Because you are bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver you; *
I will protect you, because you know my Name.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you; *
I am with you in trouble; I will rescue you and bring you honor.

With long life will I satisfy you *
and show you my salvation.

A Reading from 1 Timothy 1 Timothy 6:6-19

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

After the Reading:

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Please stand in body or spirit.

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Seek Ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia.
CHORUS
Alleluia. x 4

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, Alleluia.
CHORUS

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia.
CHORUS

The Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

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

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

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, `Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, `Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, `Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, `They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, `No, father Abraham; but if

someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, `If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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 Open our lips, O Spirit, that we may proclaim love's truth and call for justice in our communities and in the world.
Spirit, **open our lips.**

Open our minds, O Creator, that we might dream a Church recondled, knowing your love so abundantly it bursts with a passion for ministry, a desire to give, and seeks to give back.
Creator, **open our lips.**

Open our hearts, O Giver of Gifts, to be transformed by compassion, serving others with humility, integrity and urgency.
Giver of Gifts, **open our lips.**

Open our eyes, O Sanctifier of Life, to the hurts and needs of others, teaching us to see where we are needed and how our abilities and resources can be used for good.
Sanctifier of Life, **open our lips.**

Open our hands, O Spirit, to be your instruments of gospel witness, helping us work without caution, serve without recognition, and proclaim justice, love and kindness, in your name.
Spirit, **open our lips.**

Open our memories, O Redeemer of All, as we tenderly remember those who have asked for our prayers, and those known to you alone.
Redeemer of all, **open our lips.**

We pray for those in need:
Please add your prayers silently or aloud.

We pray for those we love but see no longer:
Please add your prayers silently or aloud.

Give thanks for the blessings in our lives:
Please add your prayers silently or aloud.

Presider God, your love is free, your compassion unconditional, and your mercy infinite, grant that we may know and trust these gifts cultivating kindness and generosity of spirit in our lives. **Amen.**

Our Confession

Please kneel as you are able.

All 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. 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 *Gospel Train*

The Gospel train's comin'
I hear it just at hand
I hear the car wheel rumblin'
And rollin' thro' the land

REFRAIN:
Get on board little children
Get on board little children
Get on board little children

I hear the train a-comin'
She's comin' round the curve
She's loosened all her steam and brakes
And strainin' ev'ry nerve

REFRAIN

The fare is cheap and all can go
The rich and poor are there
No second class aboard this train
No difference in the fare

REFRAIN

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 May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

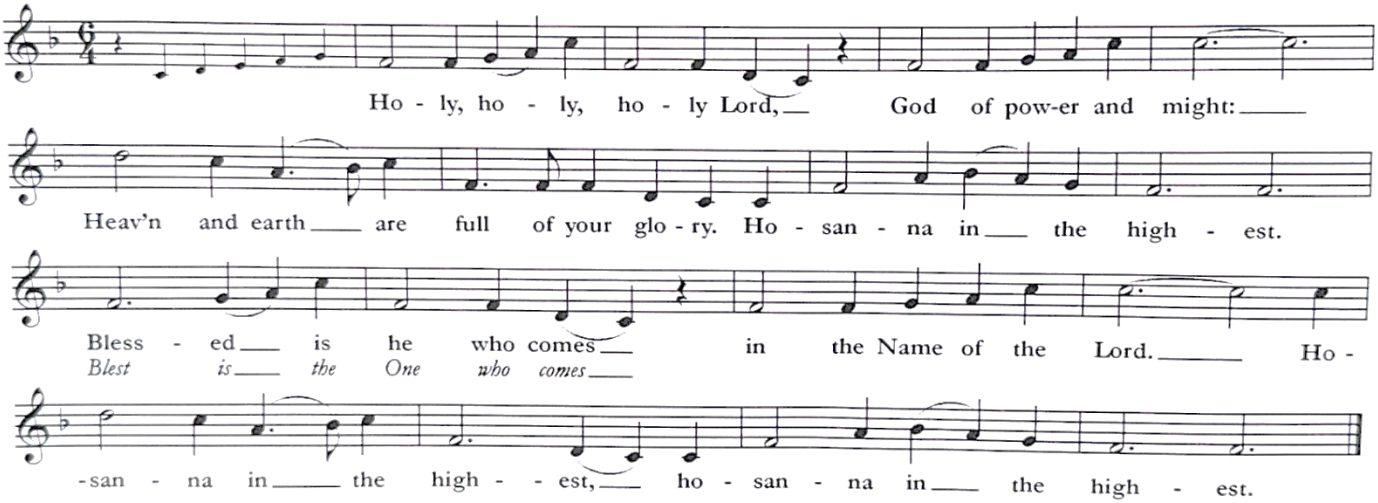
Presider Let us give thanks to God.

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 *Land of Rest*



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.
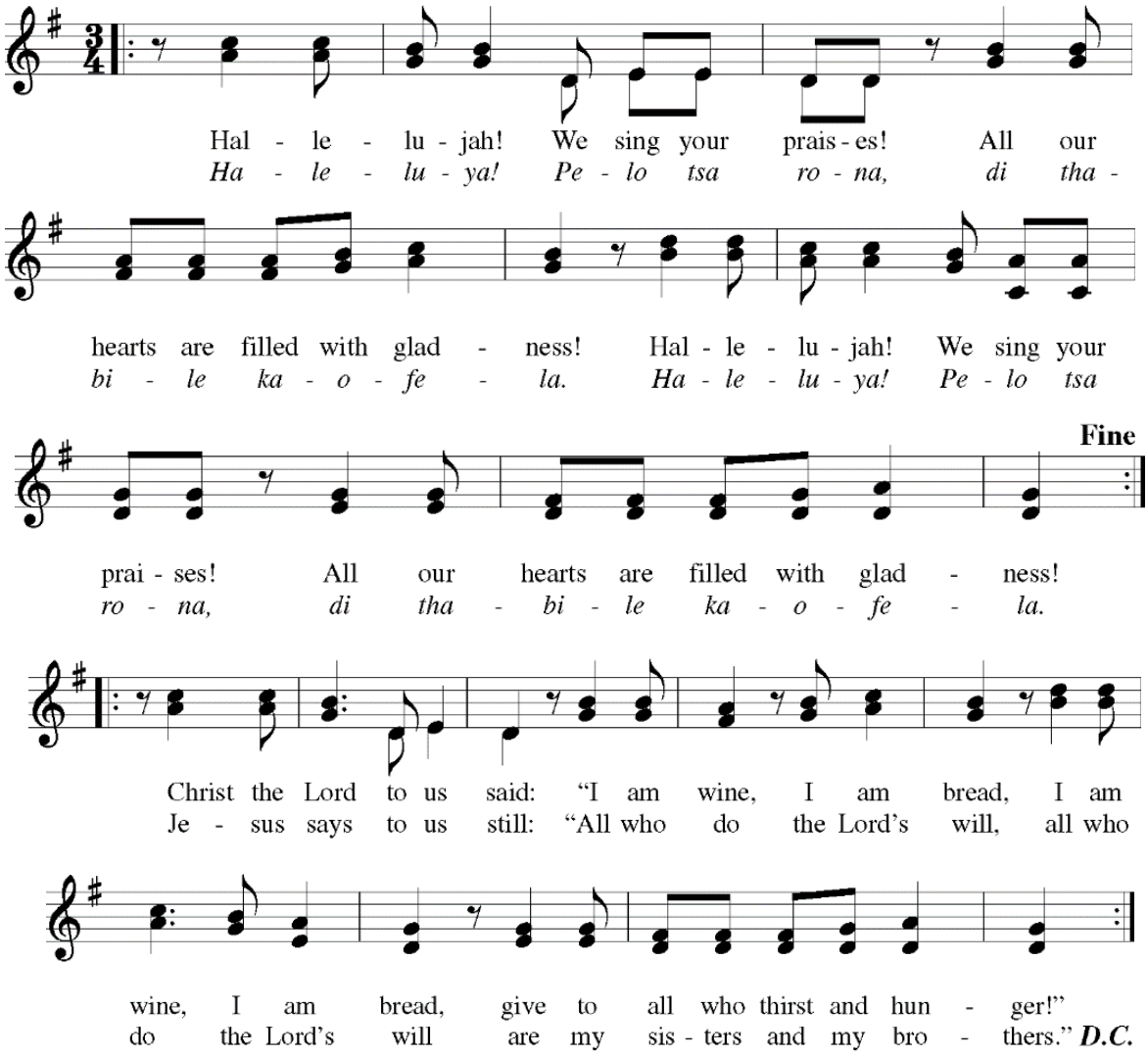
Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. **Amen.**

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

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

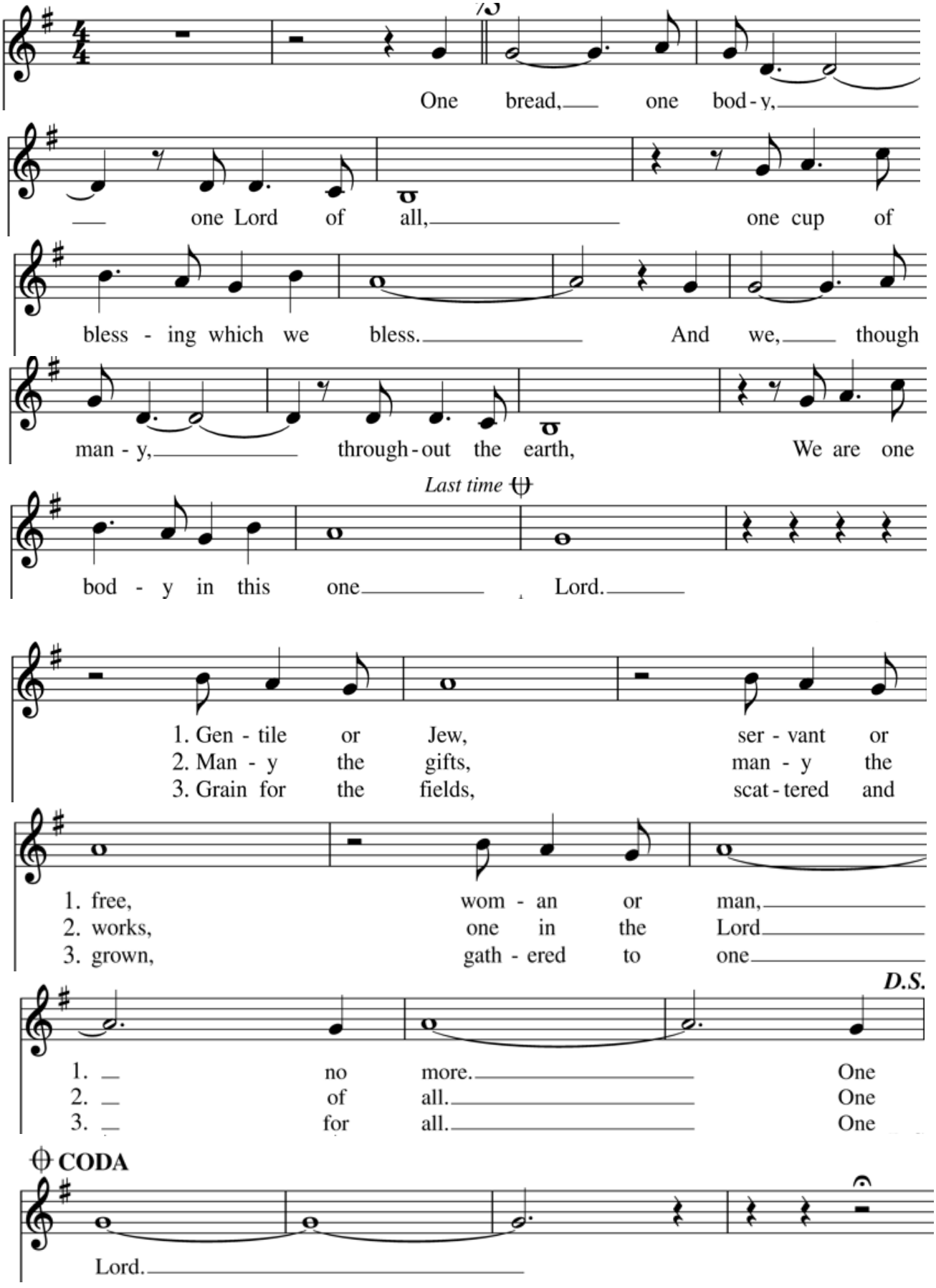


The Invitation to The Table

The Communion of the People

All who love God and seek Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table. 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 *One Bread, One Body* LEVAS #151



Words: 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:4; Galatians 3:28; The Didache 9. Music: John B. Foley, SJ. Copyright © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and New Dawn Music, P.O. Box 13248, Portland, OR 97213. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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
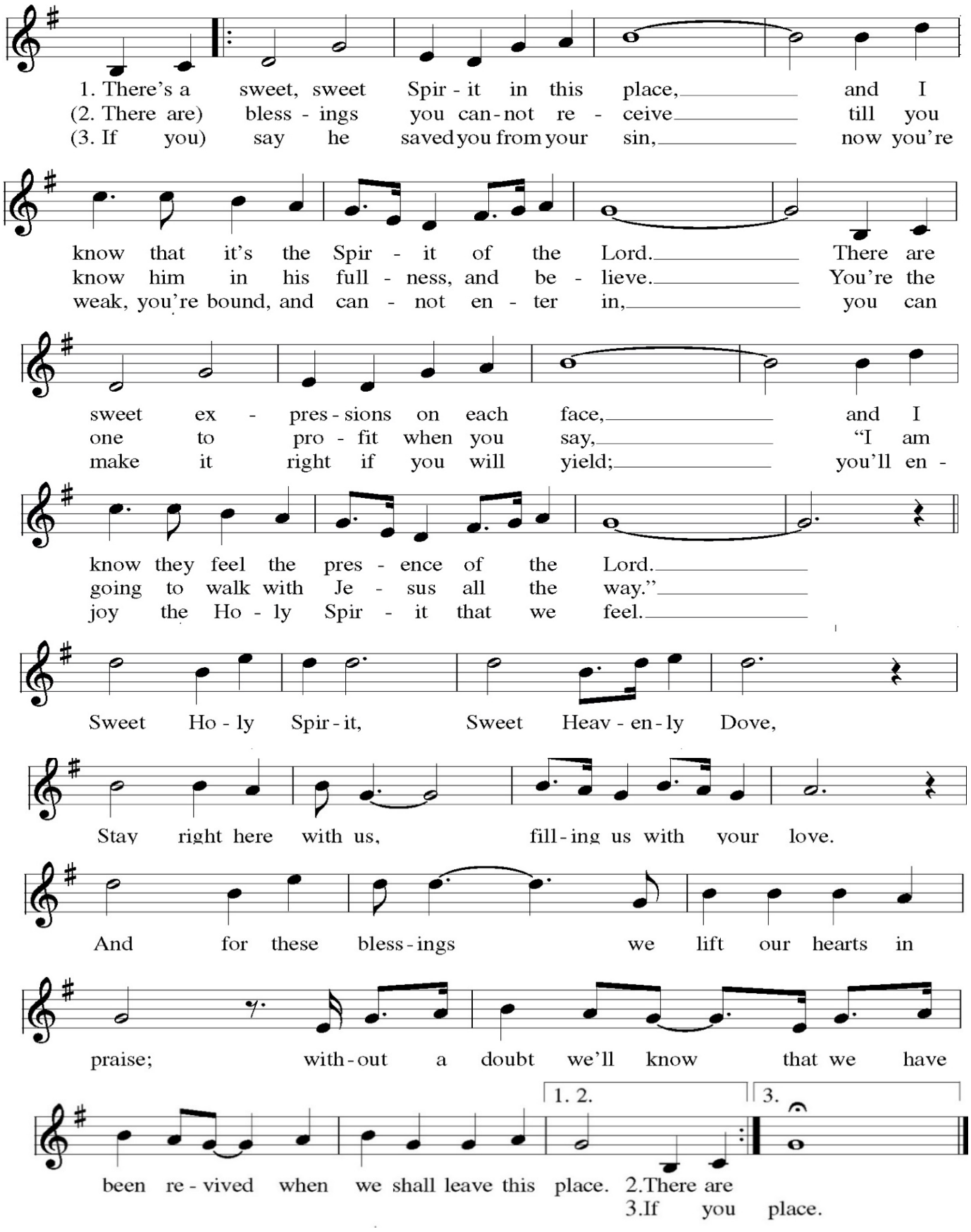
Announcements

Read Our Weekly Newsletter:

Blessing

Please stand in body or spirit.

Recessional Hymn *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place* LEVAS #120



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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