Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry
July 2, 2023 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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INTRODUCTION

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

WELCOME

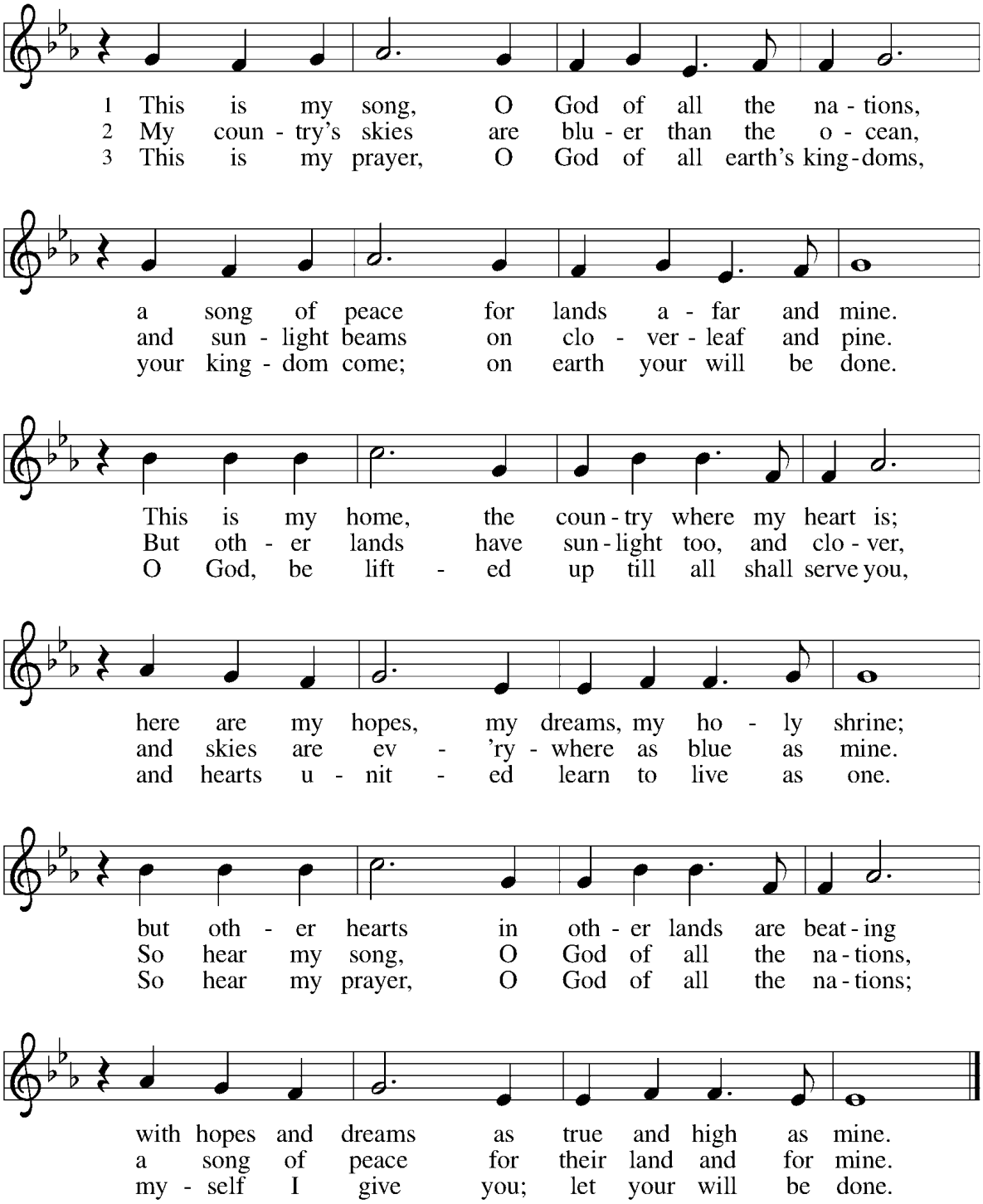
Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.
God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG ***This Is My Song*** **(ELW 887)**

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3
Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957
Text sts. 1–2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Company, st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved.
Outside USA: Music © Breitkopf & Härtel, Wiesbaden.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

A reading from Jeremiah.

5 The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the
people who were standing in the house of the LORD; 6 and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen!
May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to
this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. 7 But listen now
to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. 8 The prophets who
preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many
countries and great kingdoms. 9 As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of
that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

1 Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
2 **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.
3 "I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:
4 **'I will establish your | line forever,**
and preserve your throne for all | generations.' " R
15 Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.
16 **They rejoice daily | in your name;**
they are jubilant | in your righteousness.
17 For you are the glory | of their strength,
and by your favor our might | is exalted.
18 **Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;**
our king to the Holy | One of Israel. R

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

A reading from Romans.

12 Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13 No
longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to
God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as
instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under
law but under grace.

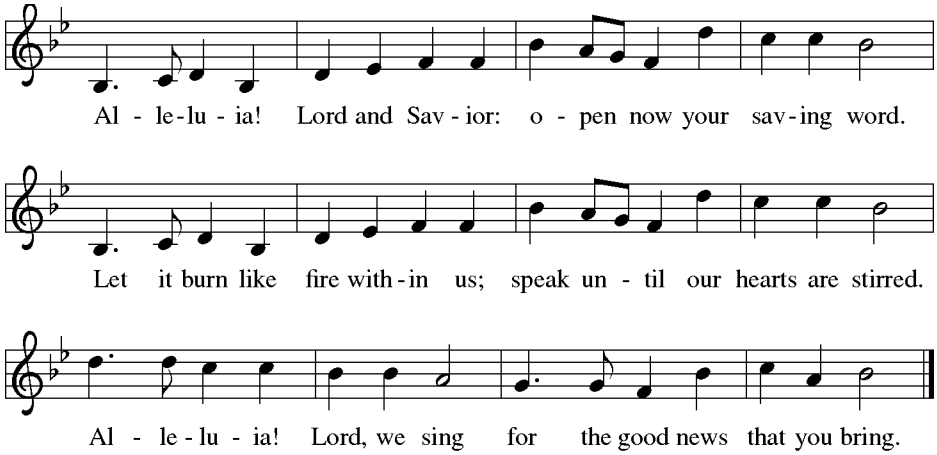
[15]What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!
[16]Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? [17]But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, [18]and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. [19]I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

[20]When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. [21]So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. [22]But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. [23]For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

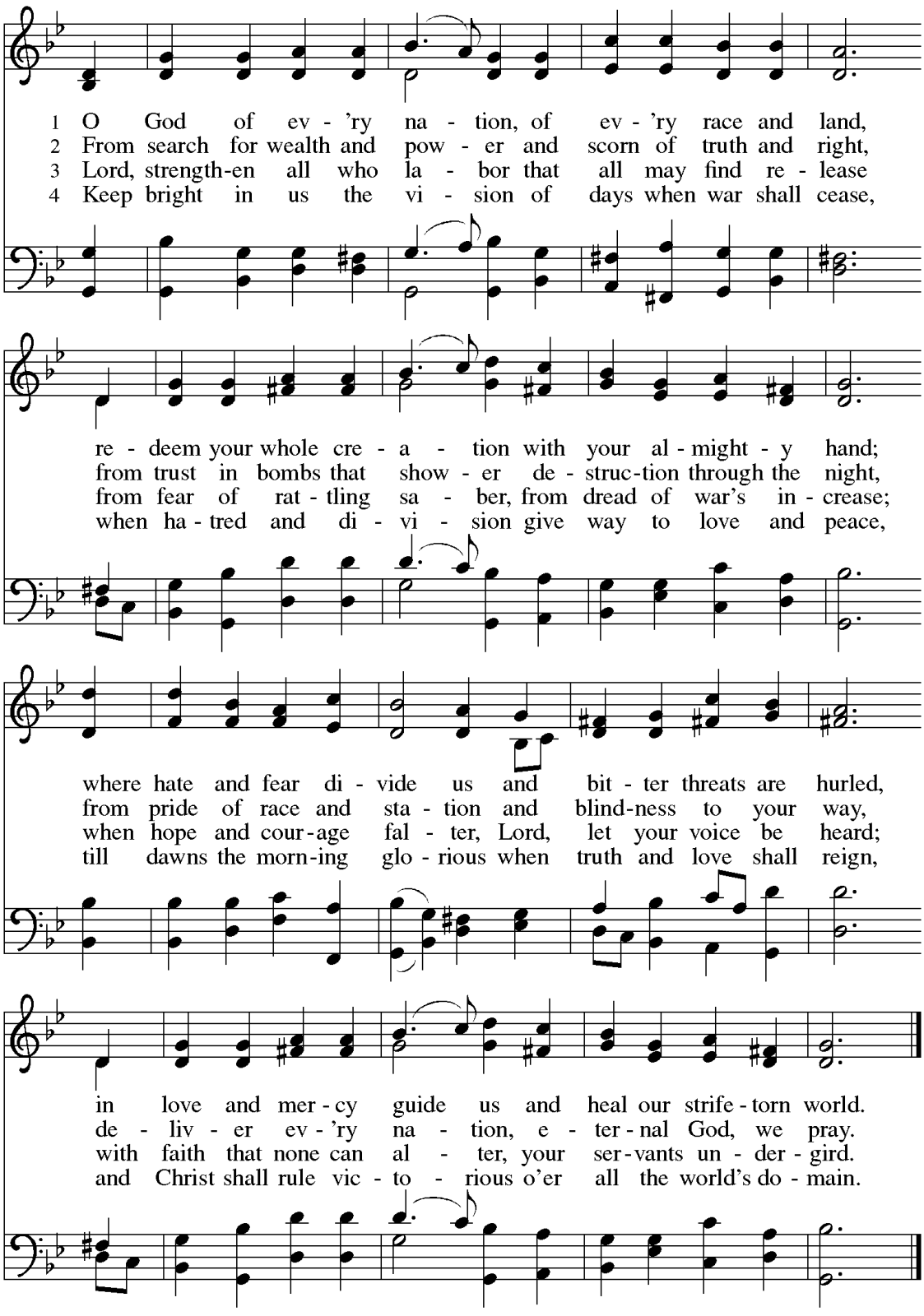
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] [40]"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. [41]Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; [42]and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ***O God of Every Nation (LLANGLOFFAN)*** **(ELW 713)**

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923
Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs…..

O Faithful God, as we celebrate Independence Day, we pray for our democracy that all citizens may truly take part. Grant wisdom and integrity to our president, vice-president, and all elected officials so they will make decisions to promote equity, justice, and peace. Help us be grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, especially the ability to worship without persecution. We pray for those who don't have basic freedoms. Keep them safe and help them gain the rights to speak and worship freely. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Savior Christ, you have set us free. Lead us to repent from our selfishness and instead focus on serving our neighbors regardless of race, economic class, sexual orientation, age, or gender. Your Word reminds us that You made us all in Your image. Help us to love and respect every person as we strive to reflect your grace. Bless all pastors, bishops, and lay church leaders. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Creator God, thank you for all the ways you bless us with bountiful gifts: safety, family, friends, work, food, and shelter. Show us to how to share our abundance with those in need. Inspire us to be careful stewards of your beautiful world. Teach us to care for everything in the Earth, and to use your resources wisely. Empower us to identify and use our talents to the fullest. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other happy occasions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Loving Father, we pray that your Spirit of Peace will spread throughout our broken world. Bring your blessed serenity to places where chaos and violence reign, so that your peace may prevail instead. Bestow the spirit of compromise and tolerance on all leaders, so they will end war, torture, and revenge. Protect and comfort all who serve in the military, veterans, and their families. We also pray for the millions of refugees who are desperate to find safety, shelter, food, and dignity. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Healer, we pray for all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore them to wholeness. Give strength to those dealing with long-term diagnoses, such as depression, addiction, and dementia. Bless all medical researchers with the wisdom to find cures. Grant patience and skill to all caregivers, so they may provide the best care and compassion. Bring joy and comfort to our elderly loved ones and shut ins. Remind us that you know our suffering and are always with us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of compassion, listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud…… Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

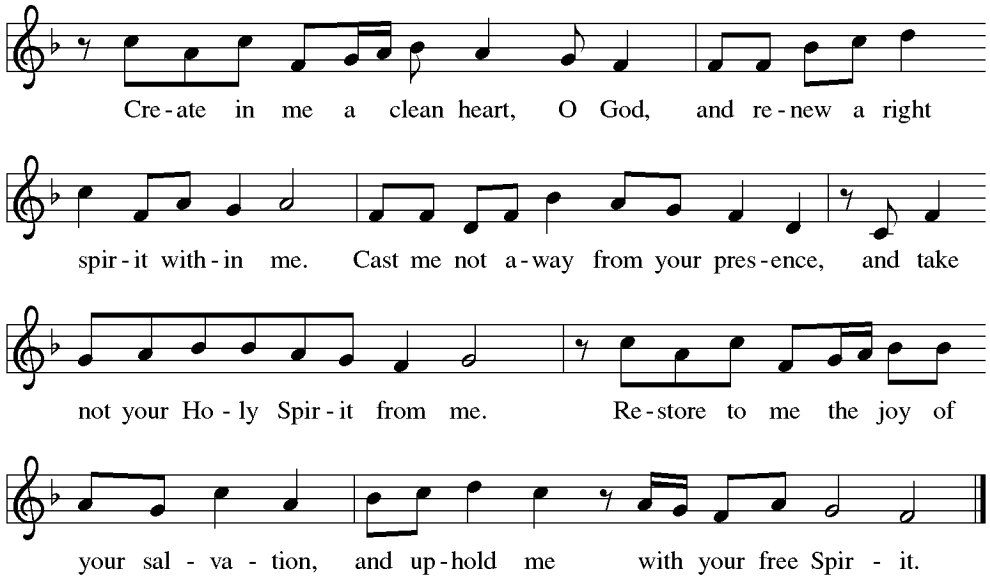
O Comforter, we pray for those to whom death draws near and give thanks for all who have died. Rest your peace, strength, and hope on their family and friends who mourn. Remind us of the promise of eternal life with you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give
There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

OFFERTORY

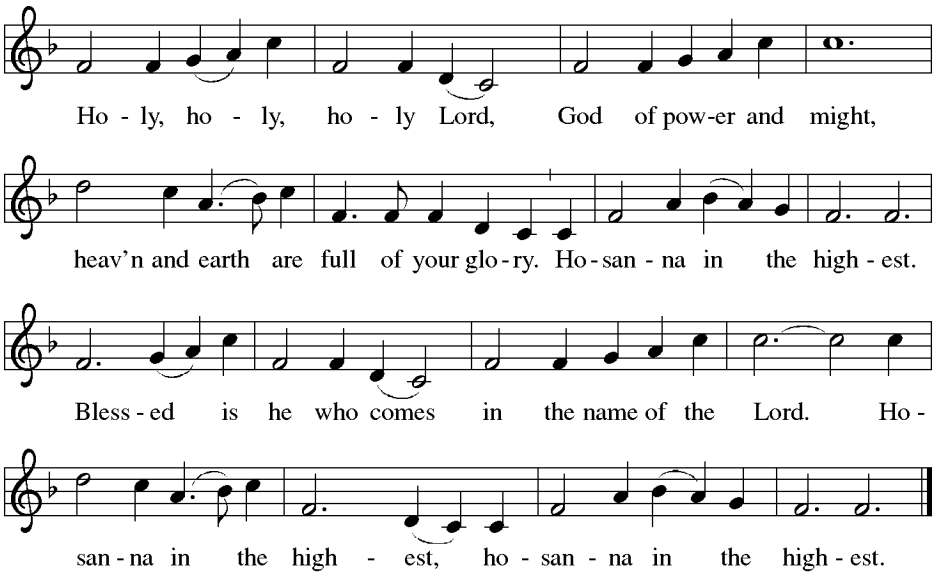
OFFERING SONG

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER
God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

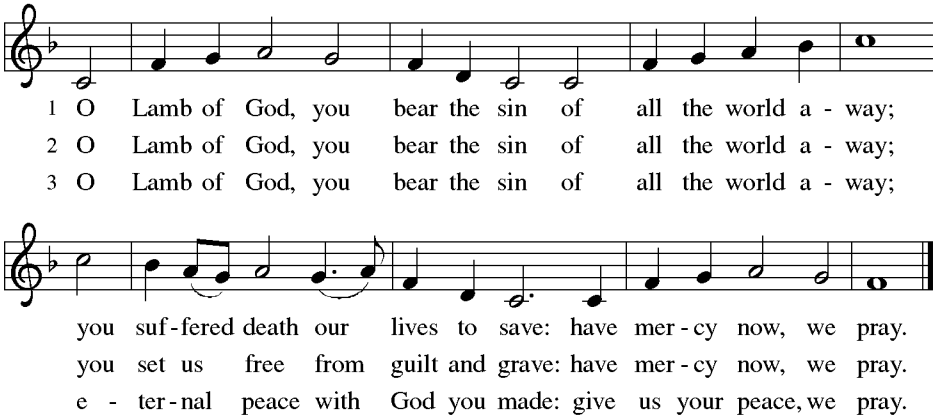
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good.

COMMUNION
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

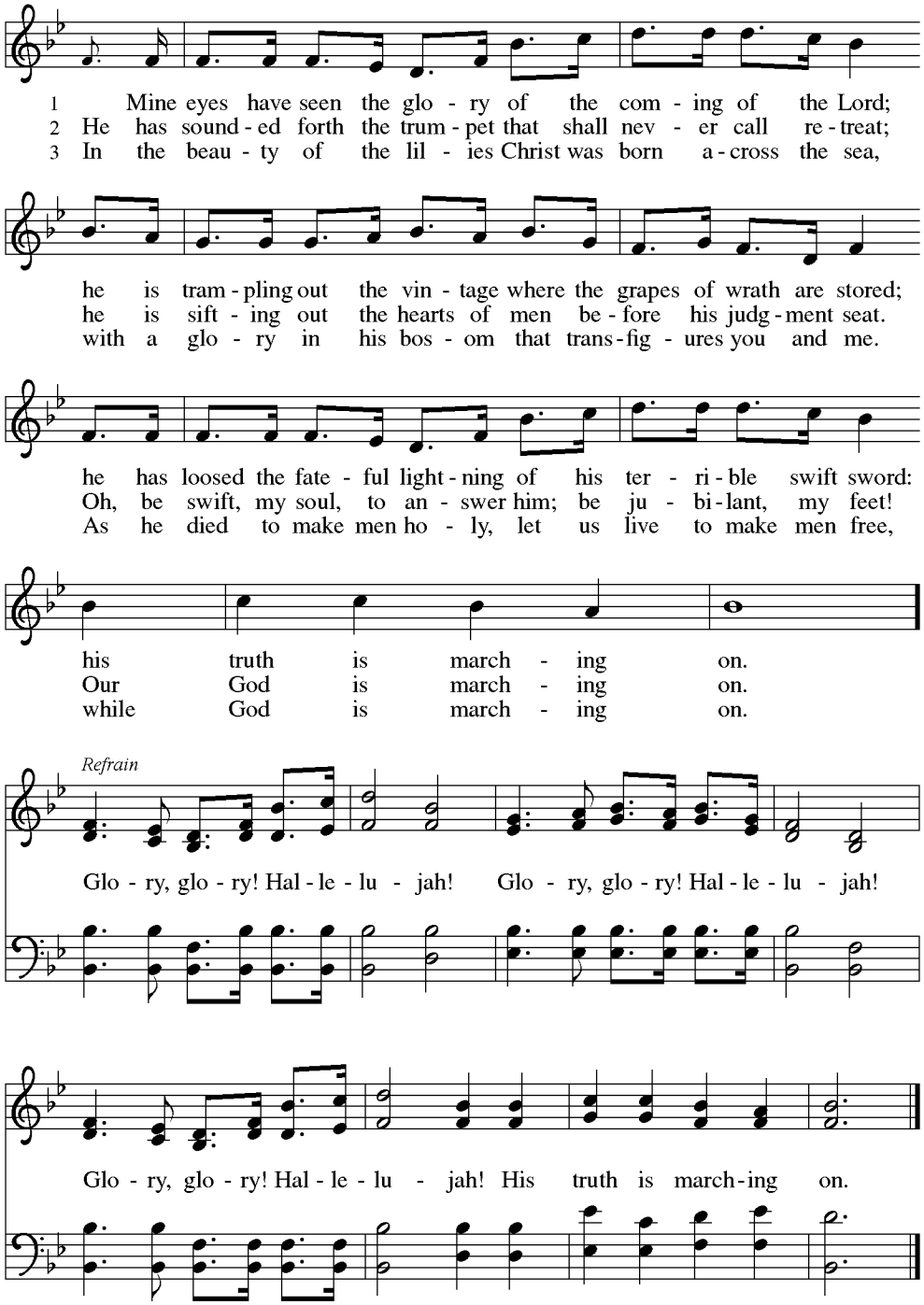
AGNUS DEI

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised ✢ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
Amen.

SENDING SONG ***Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Battle Hymn of the Republic*** **(ELW 890)**

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman**;** Asst/Lector: Jane Unger; Livestream:Doug Debrick; Greeter: Linda Sauer; Usher: Rod Sauer, John Deno, Marilyn Shealy; Time with Children: Cheryl Huebner; Acolyte: Lucy Mae Crawford*