

# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LENT

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado  
(303) 776-2800 | [www.firstluth.org](http://www.firstluth.org)  
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

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Third Sunday of Lent  
Sunday, March 8, 2026  
9:30 a.m.

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## GATHERING



PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

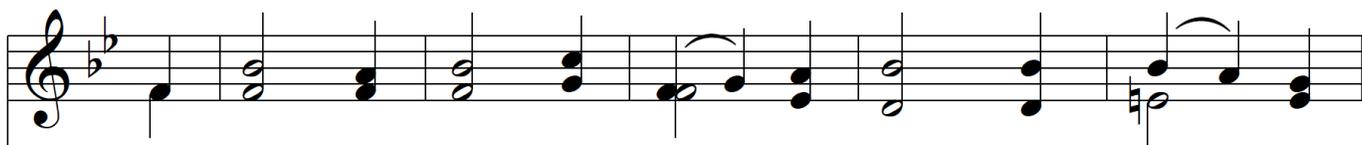
## **GATHERING HYMN**

*"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"*

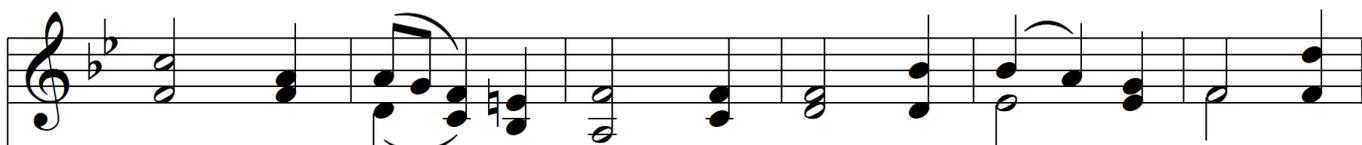
ELW 658 vs. 1,3,4

# O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

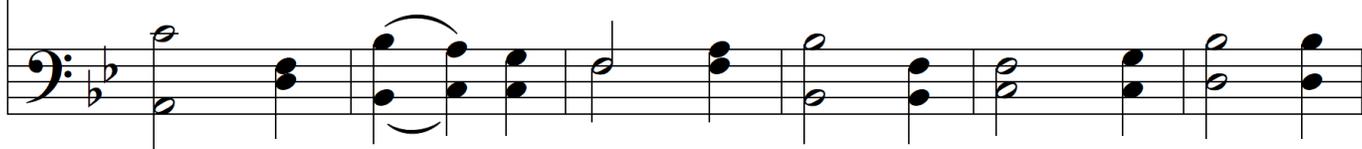
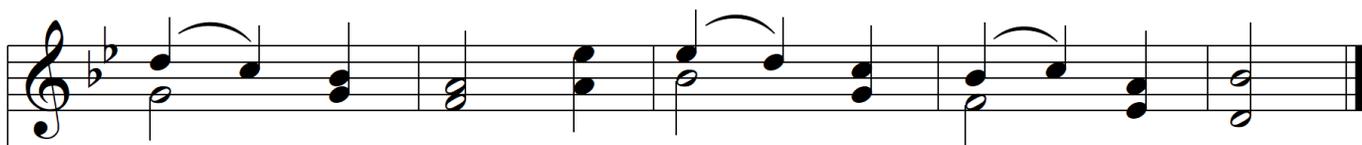
ELW 658



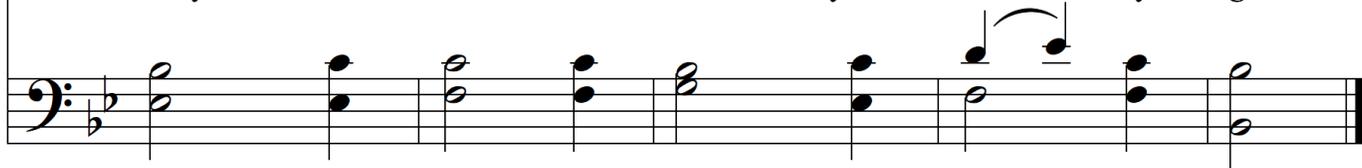
1. O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
 2. We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
 3. For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e're\_\_ our  
 4. O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all\_\_ our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 feast up - on\_\_ you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 chang - ing lot\_\_ is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
 mo - ments fair\_\_ and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts\_\_ we turn, un - filled\_\_ to hear\_\_ your call.  
 head;\_\_ our thirst - ing souls\_\_ from you\_\_ we fill.  
 turn,\_\_ blest, when by faith\_\_ we hold\_\_ you fast.  
 way!\_\_ Shed o're the world your ho - ly light.



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt  
 Music: W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

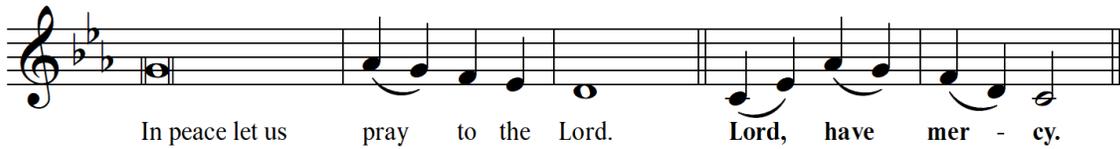
WALTON  
 LM

# REETING

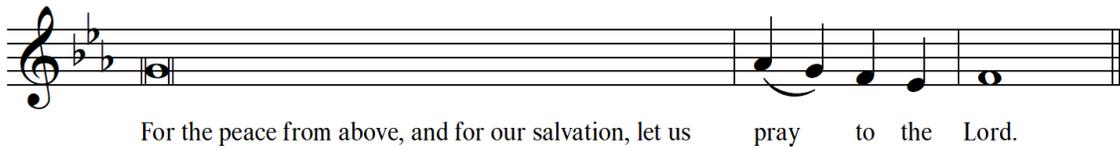
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

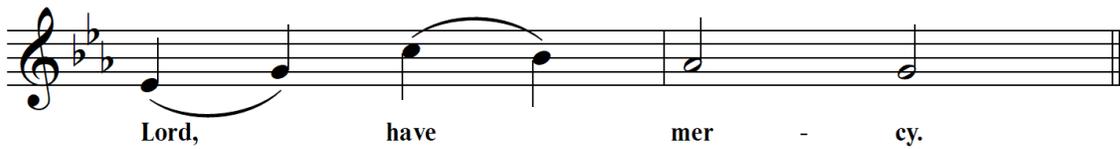
# KYRIE



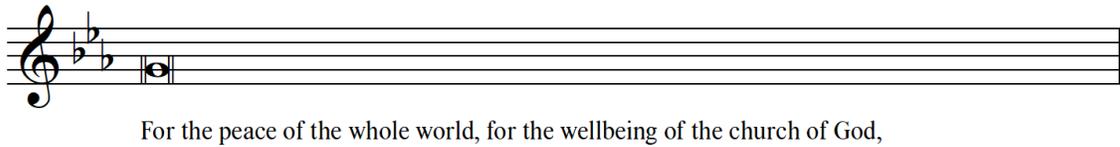
In peace let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



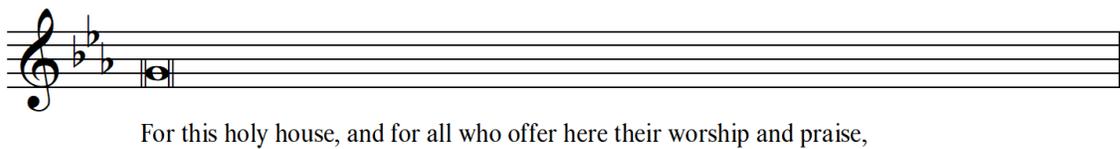
Lord, have mercy.



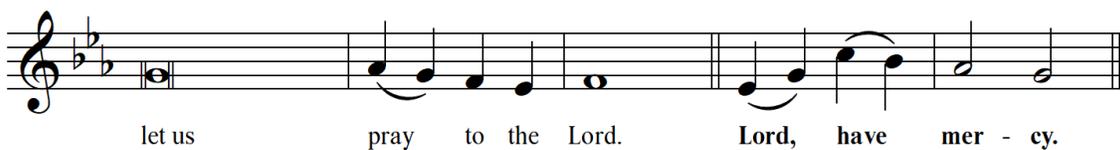
For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.



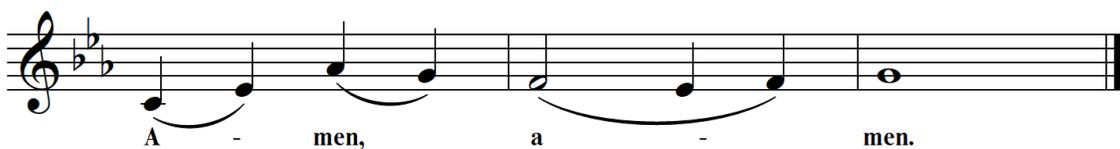
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

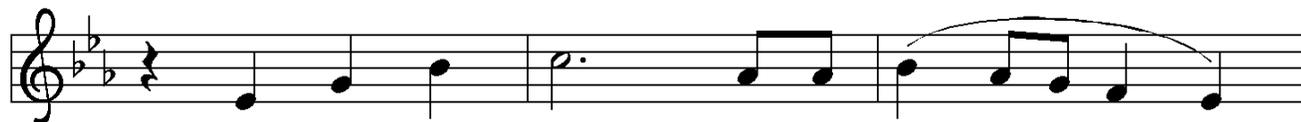


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Amen, amen.

## Glory to God



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**Amen**

## ANTHEM

*"Meditation"* by Jules Massenet

Rick Burton, Clarinet

Accompanied by Jeffrey Hartmann

## WORD

### READINGS

#### **Romans 5:1-11**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDRENS TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen

**Congregation: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation**

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

**GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning at the 5<sup>th</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 4:5-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit

and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

## APOSTLE’S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

## OFFERTORY

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

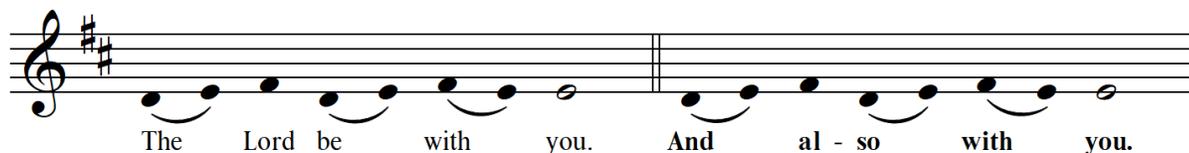
O God,

**maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.**

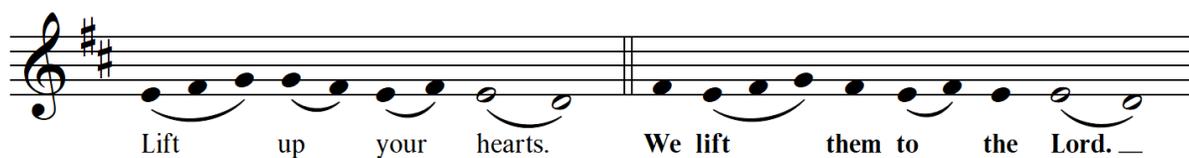
**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

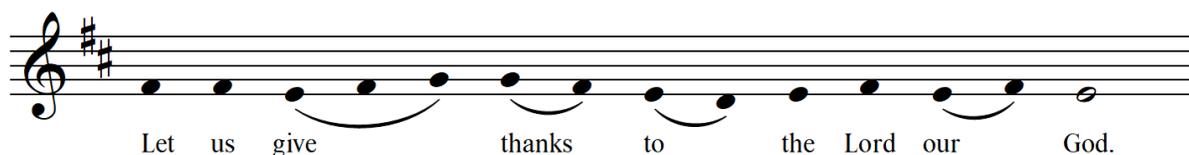
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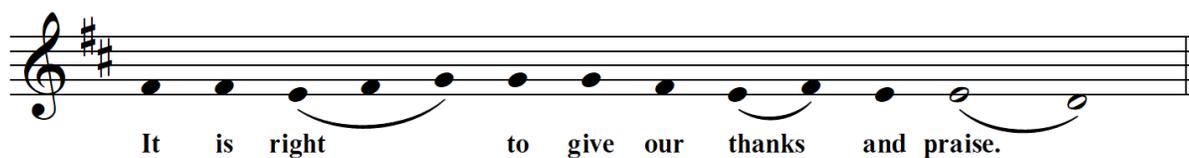
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. —



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

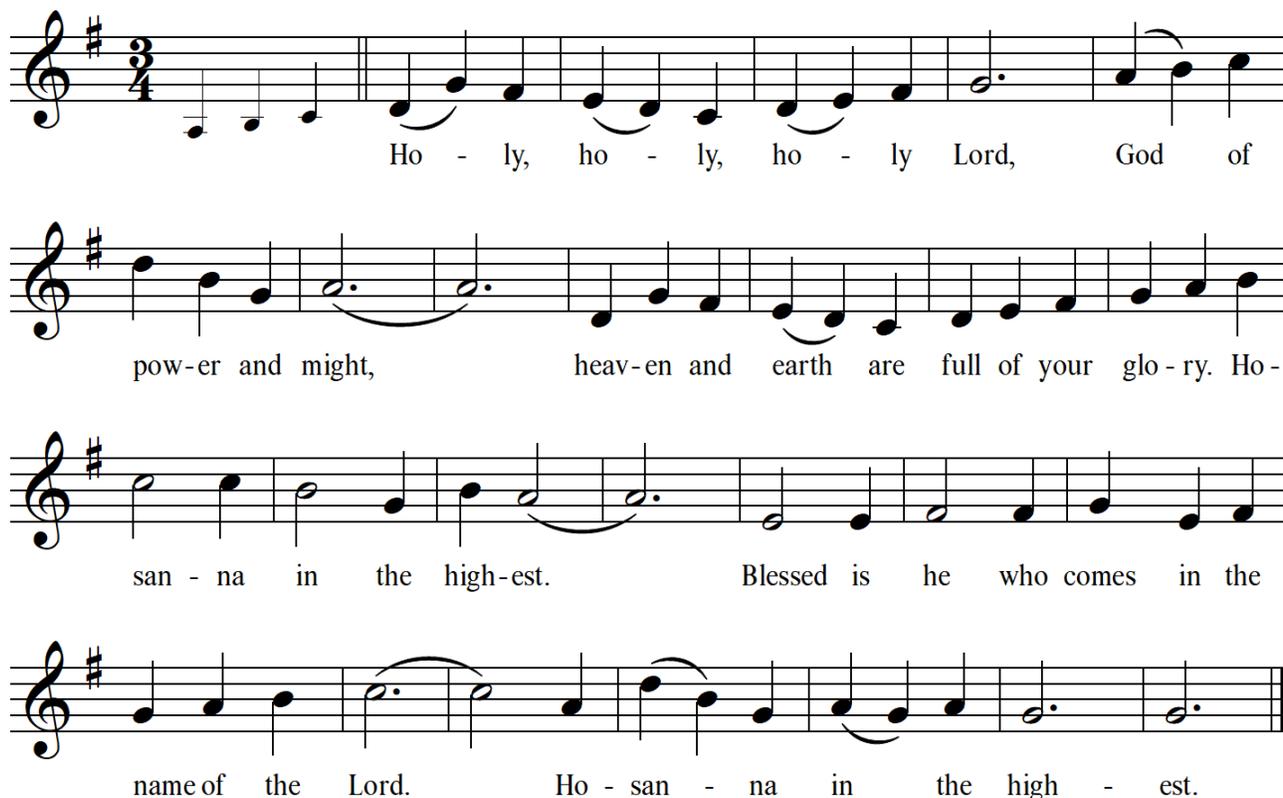


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

## HOLY HOLY HOLY

Page 108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### SHARING OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:*

**"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."**

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will*

*invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Page 112

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

<i>"Let Us Break Bread"</i>	ELW 472
<i>"As the Grains of Wheat"</i>	ELW 465
<i>"Eat This Bread"</i>	ELW 472

# Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER  
 10 10 and refrain

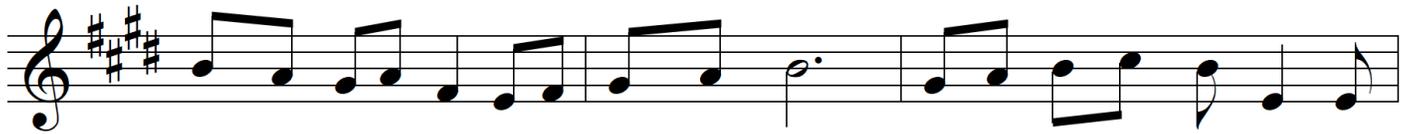
# As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were



gathered in-to one to become our bread; so may all your people from

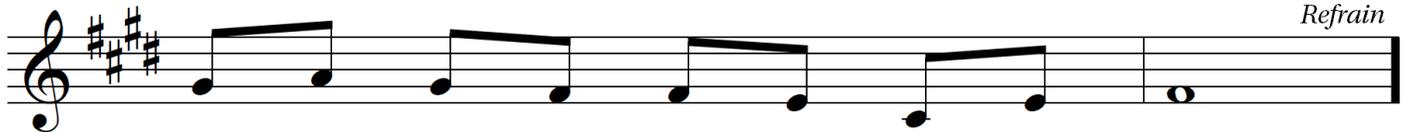


all the ends of earth be gathered in - to one in you.



1. As this cup of blessing is shared with - in our midst, \_\_\_\_\_

2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



*Refrain*

may we share the presence of your love.

all creation shares this feast with you.

Test: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

AS THE GRAINS

Irregular

Eat this Bread

ELW 472

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first. The melody in the upper staff continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The bass line in the lower staff provides accompaniment, ending with a final chord and a double bar line.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

BERHTIER  
Irregular

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our salvation,

**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen**

## **SENDING**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING HYMN

*"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"*

ELW 618

## SENDING

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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We are blessed to be able to record our worship services so that others may enjoy worship remotely. Please note that today's worship service is audio and video recorded for online sharing and archival purposes.

Preacher/Presider

The Rev. Garrett Struessel

Worship Assistant

Deacon Korra Looschen

Council Members

Al Manley

John Gaddis

Ushers

Holly Keenan

Mike Shiveley

Reader

Sally Campbell

Communion Assistants

Sally Campbell

Mary Hall

Pianist/Organist

Jeffrey Elmquist

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Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 O - pen now the crys - stal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 When I tread the verge of — Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are — might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y — pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on — Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm shielded me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams,  
 1722-1796, alt.  
 Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

CWM RHONDDA  
 87 87 877