

4th Sunday in Lent - Now the Feast  
March 15, 2026 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanist

Dave Vagts

Liturgist

8:15 -

10:45 -

*† indicates stand as able*

## Gathering

### *Prelude*

### *Welcome*

### *† Confession and Forgiveness*

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Most holy God, **We come to you in need of grace. Time and again we have forgotten your simple and loving call—to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves. We have forgotten your promise to care for us, and in our fear, we have made choices that hurt us, those around us, and even those we don't know. Remind us who we are and whose we are, and show us the way to amend our wrongs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior and friend.**

Have no fear, little flock, for God loves you already, and desires nothing more than to restore you to wholeness. Know that you are freed from sin and death now and forever in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### *† Gathering Hymn: Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult* **ELW 696**

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me":



*to Verses*

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:*

Help, save and de - fend us, O

*Congregation:*

God. A - men.

## † *Now the Feast*

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

*Refrain*

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

**† Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, you are the vine from whom we grow. Let us abide in your love, that we may grow much fruit. Let all of our growth be to your glory and praise. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**READING: Psalm 145: 10-13**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,

<sup>12</sup>to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**† Gospel Acclamation: Return to God**

*Congregation:*

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

mer-cy; Come, seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God.

*Optional Repeat*

**† GOSPEL: John 15: 1-27**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

**Glory, to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep

my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, 'Slaves are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me

without a cause.'

<sup>26</sup> "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. <sup>27</sup> You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Children's Sermon***

**Pastor Beth Wartick**

***Sermon***

**Pastor Beth Wartick**

***† Hymn of the Day: Change My Heart, O God***

**ELW 801**

Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.

You are the potter;  
I am the clay.

Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.

***† Apostles' 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 Intercession*

With hope in God's promised redemption, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

True Vine, apart from you, we can grow nothing good. Make us abide in you, connected always to you, growing always like you. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Almighty God, your thoughts are well beyond our own. Challenge us to look beyond our narrow assumptions into a wider vision of how the world could be. We pray for peace, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Iran, Israel, and Palestine. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

God, you have made us for connection. Instead of self-reliance, help us see and rejoice in our dependence on you, each other, and all of creation. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

You put no condition on your blessings, and offer healing at our most vulnerable, least attractive moments. Surround us with mercy and visit the sick and troubled with your renewing spirit, especially the family and friends of Pat Lehman and Paul

Axness. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Blessed are those who were severely tested and prevailed, receiving your approval rather than that of the world. May we stand at last in their company and share your blessed eternity with our sibling saints. God of mercy and grace, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Into your hands we place our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and entrust all things to your eternal care. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

*† Peace*

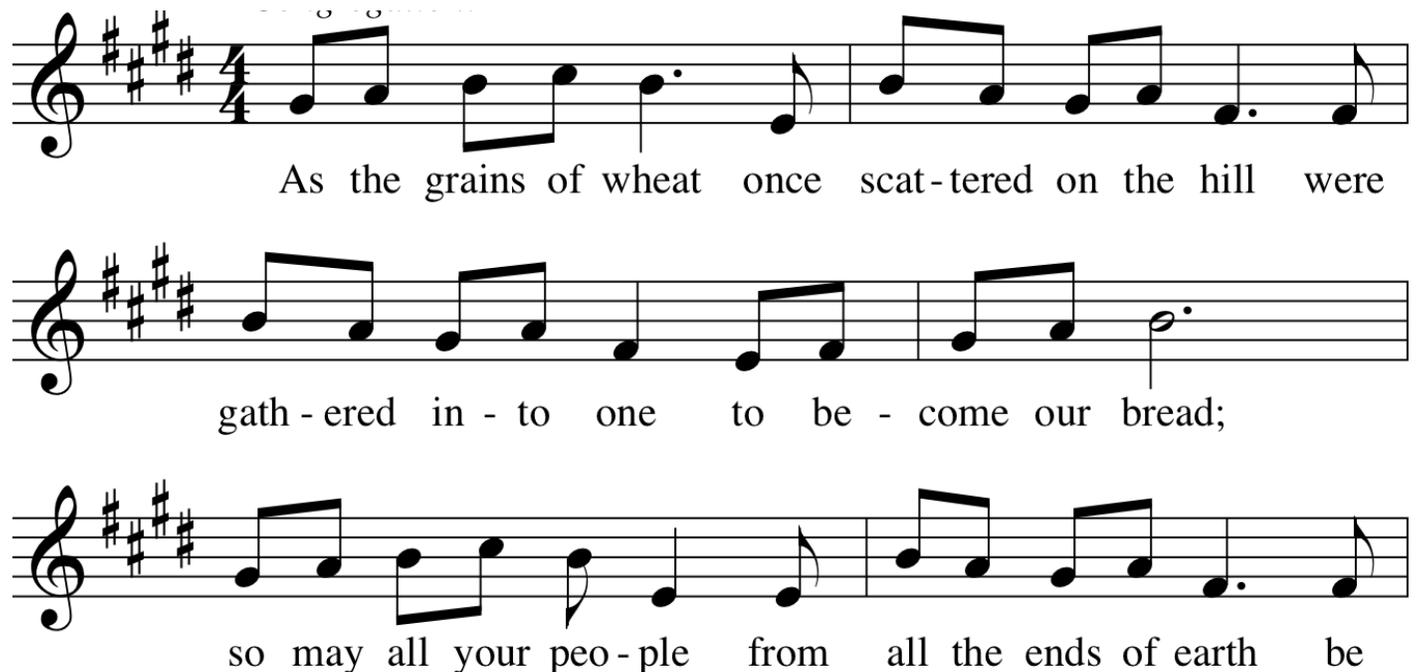
### **Offering**

*RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR code to give securely online.*



*Thank you!*

### **As The Grains of Wheat**

Musical notation for the hymn 'As The Grains of Wheat'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be

gath - ered in - to one in you.

**Verses**

1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*to Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**Offering Prayer**

We offer these gifts, O God, out of what you have first given us. By your power and love, make of them something more than we could imagine, for purposes higher than any we could devise, or the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

**† The Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

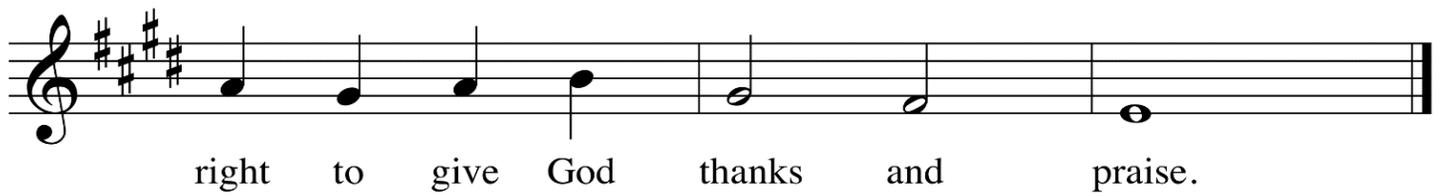
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Presider:* *Congregation:*

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

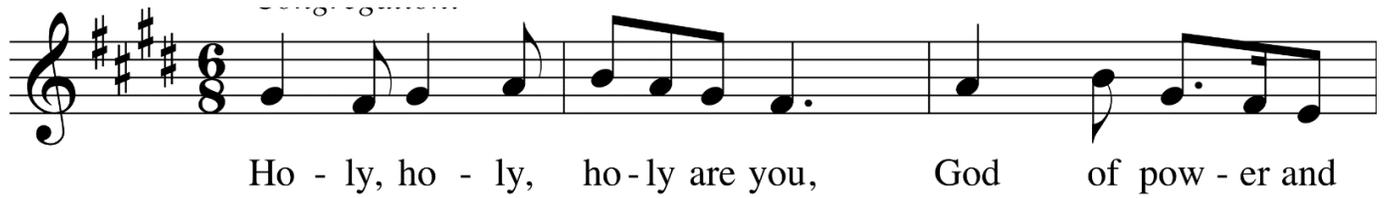
*Presider:* *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

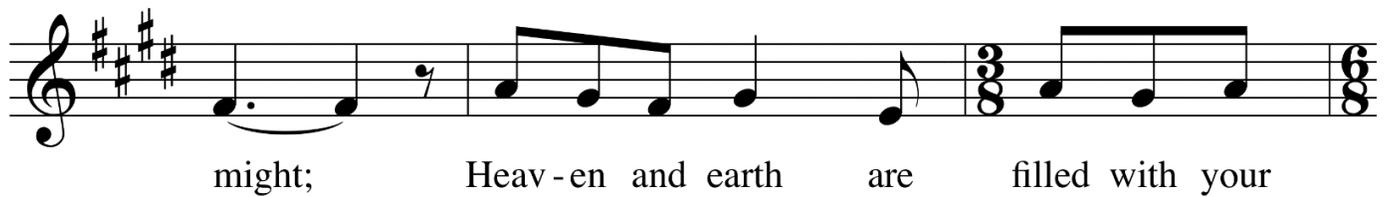


right to give God thanks and praise.

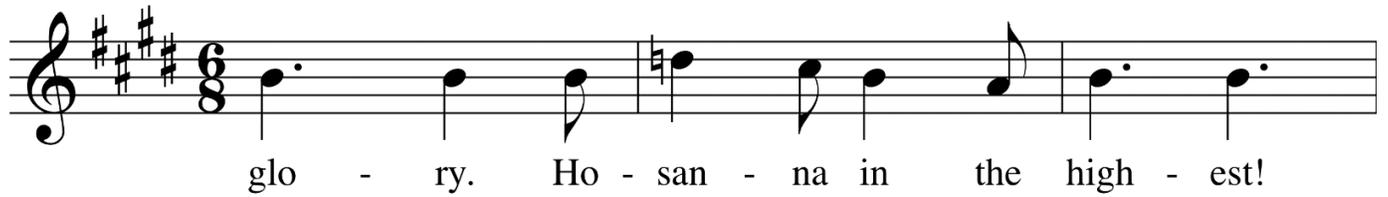
Pastor: It is our duty and delight...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



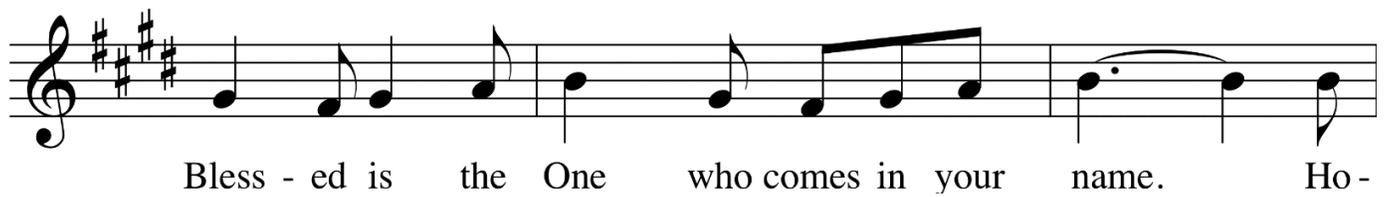
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



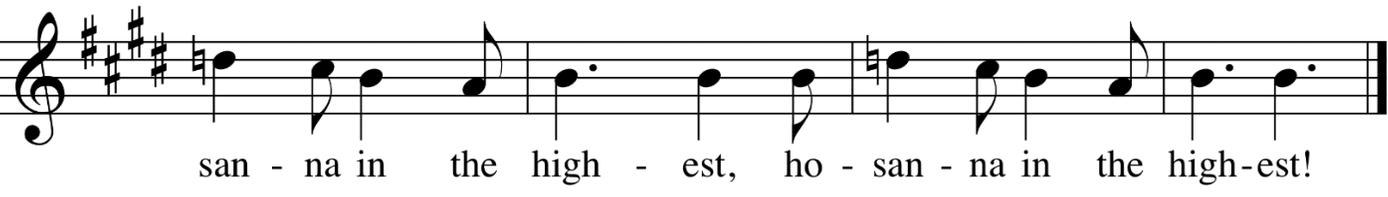
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

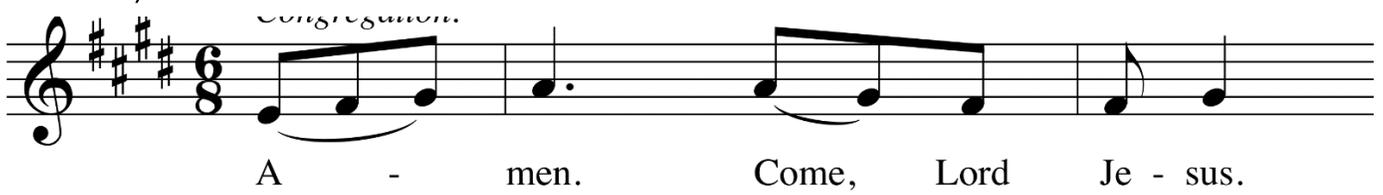


Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Pastor: You are indeed holy... Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



*Congregation.*  
A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

Pastor: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

*Congregation:*



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

† *Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ*

*Congregation:*



Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the



u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is



yours, O God, now and for ev - er.



A - men.

† *Lord's Prayer*

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.

*Nuestro padre en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre,  
venga tu reino,  
hágase tu voluntad,  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.*

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

*Perdónanos nuestros pecados  
como nosotros perdonamos  
los que pecan contra nosotros.*

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

*Sálvanos del tiempo de la prueba.  
y líbranos del mal.*

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

*Por el reino, el poder y  
la gloria es tuya,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.*

### Communion

*If you are communing from home, receive the bread with these words "The Body of Christ given for you" and the cup with "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

### Lamb of God

*Congregation:*

*Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

### Final Stanza

*Congregation or Assistant:*

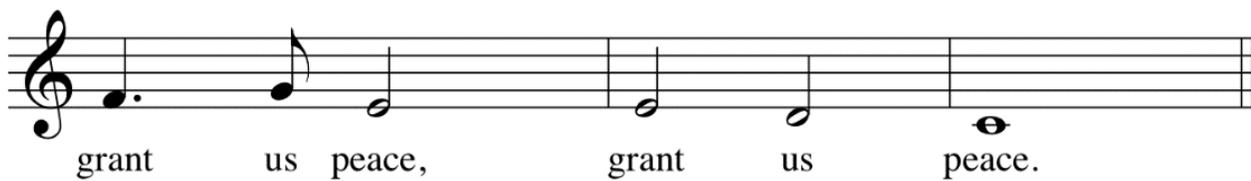


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



***Communion Hymn: I Received the Living God***

**ELW 477**

***Refrain:***

I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

Jesus said: I am the Bread, kneaded long to give you life;

You who will partake of me need not ever fear to die." *Refrain*

Jesus said: I am the way, and my Father longs for you;

so I come to bring you home to be one with us anew. *Refrain*

Jesus said: I am the truth; come and follow close to me.

You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you

free. *Refrain*

Jesus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

but receive this living bread, and my Spirit you shall know.

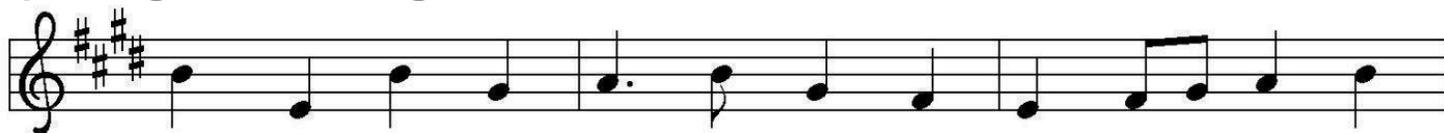
*Refrain*

***Post-Communion Blessing***

**Sending**

***Announcements***

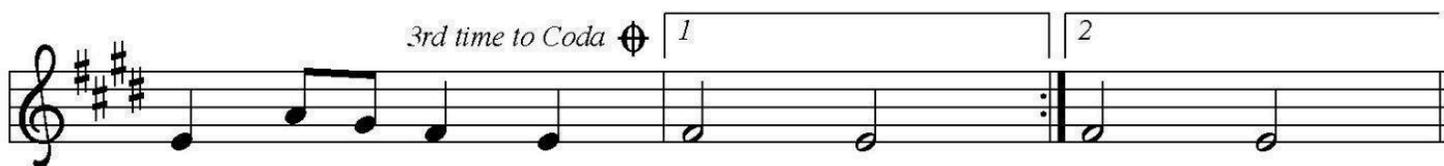
## † Song of Blessing



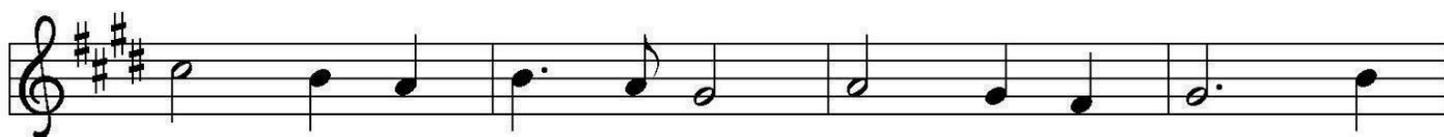
1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



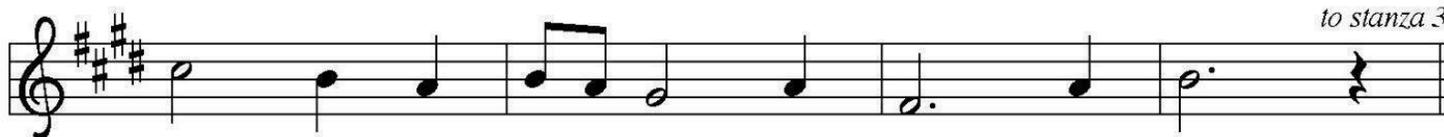
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

⊕ Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

## † Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit † bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

## *† Dismissal*

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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