TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ November 8, 2026 +
10:00 am



Redeemer Lutheran Church

300 O'Neal Road
Greer, South Carolina
Office (864) 877-5876

TRUSTING IN GOD, TRUSTING WITH GOD.

Human beings are relational creatures. We are created to be in relationship with one another and with God. No one, no matter how independent or disconnected they may feel they are, functions completely outside the context of relationships. From the moment we are born we are thrust into relationship with people around us—the people who delivered us, the people who will be taking care of us in a hospital nursery, our family, and God. When we enter this world we do so forming relationships right from the start.

Relationships, healthy relationships, require a lot of work and care to continue. In particular, relationships require trust to grow and become mature. Relationships rooted in trust can bring out the best in us. Relationships rooted in anything else can bring out the worst.

Today's readings give us the chance to consider the trust required in the relationship between God and God's people. Moreover, we are invited to give thought to the consequences of replacing trust with something else: hubris stemming from trust in one's identity or work (in Amos), or hubris stemming from trust in others to sustain us rather than God (in Matthew). Paul reminds us that our relationship with God is cause for joy even in the midst of sorrow, since we believe (trust) God's promise of eternal life through the living Lord Jesus.

Ministers	The People of Redeemer
Pastor	The Rev. Elise T. Stringer
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Jackie Pitts
Director of Music Ministries	Mrs. Donna Cotter

Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.
Today we celebrate military Veterans, to honor the service, bravery, and sacrifice of all men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

We also welcome Rev. Kevin Koger to preach and preside!

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US this Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have any questions, our Ushers will be happy to help you.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts at (864) 877-5876.

TODAY THE PROPHET AMOS CALLS FOR JUSTICE TO ROLL DOWN LIKE WATERS. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

PRELUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**

The prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
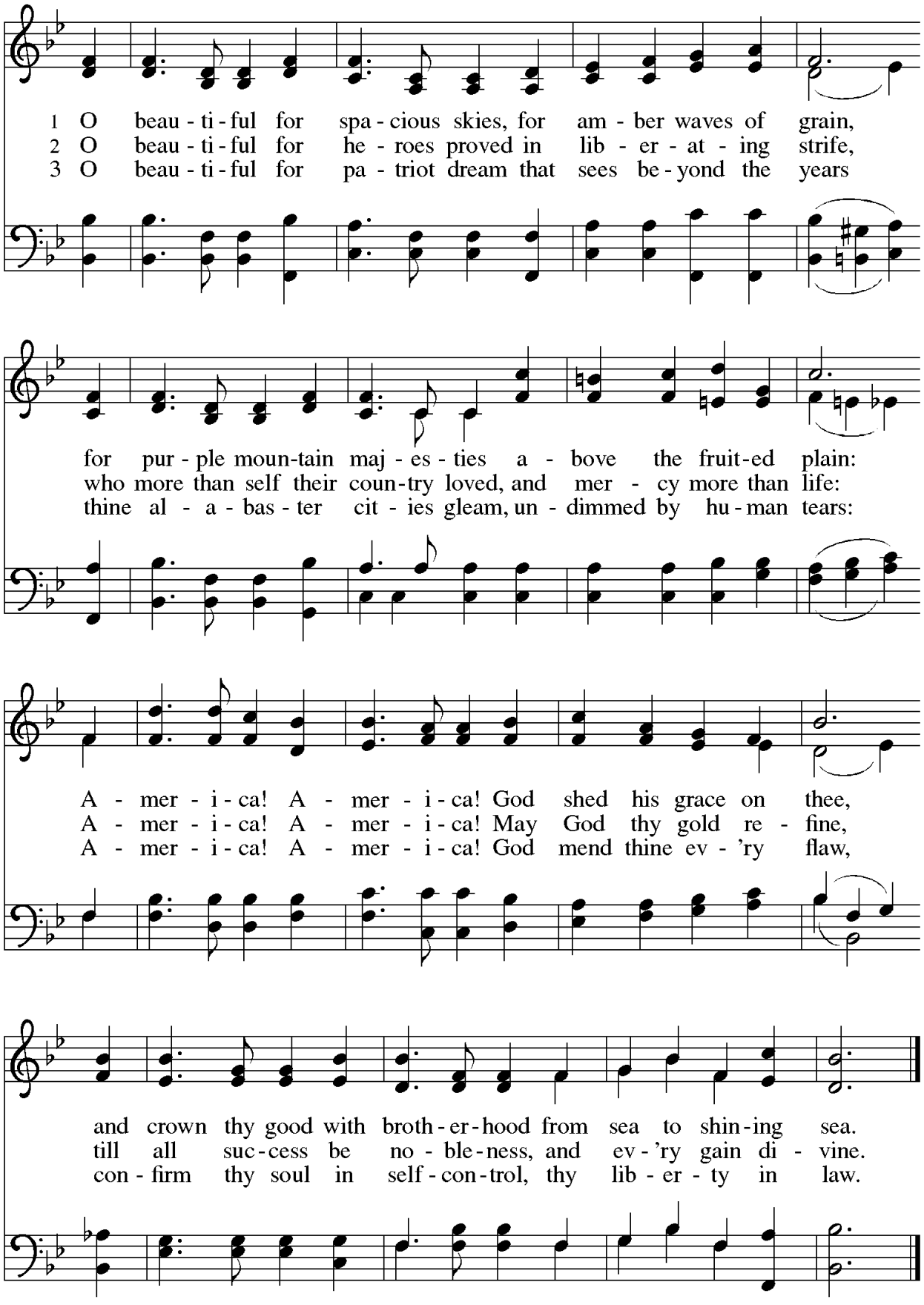
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES* **ELW #888**

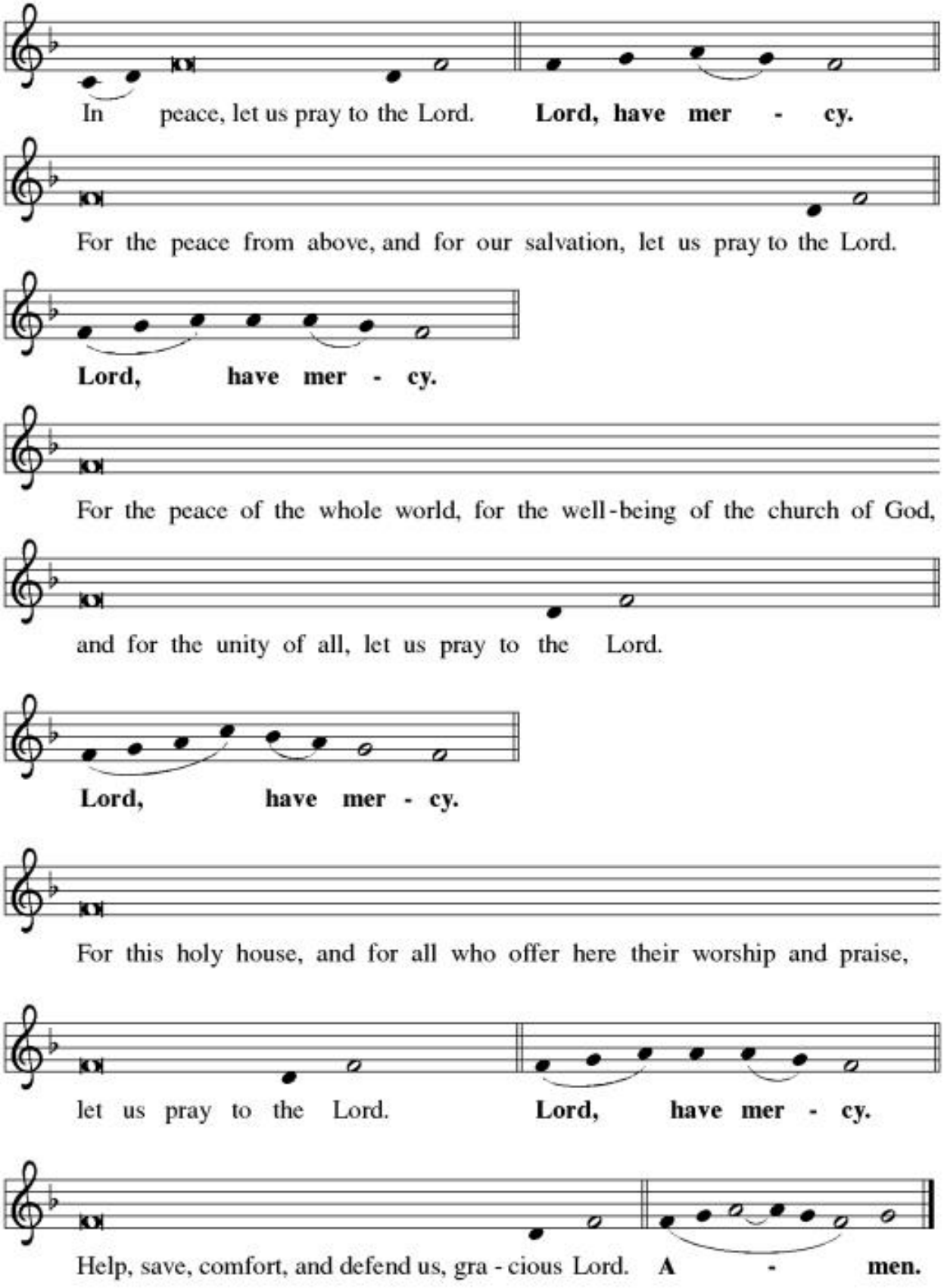


Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903
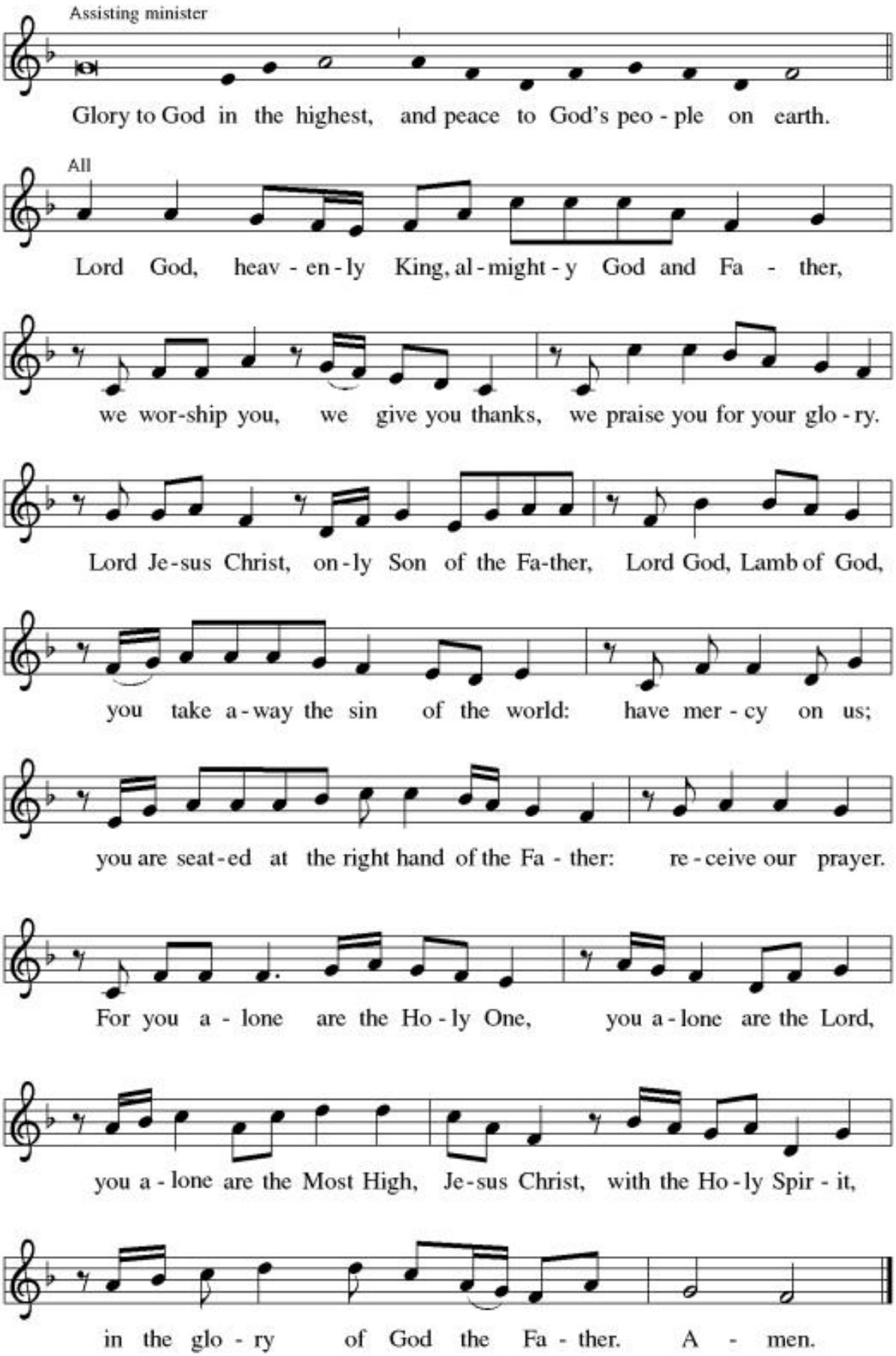
GREETING

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.**

KYRIE **(NOT SUNG TODAY)** **ELW p. 138**



CANTICLE OF PRAISE **(NOT SUNG TODAY)** **ELW p. 139**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Sit

HONORING OUR VETERANS

A Blessing for Veterans

The presiding minister addresses veterans who may be assembled at the baptismal font or in front of the assembly. This blessing can be preceded by brief remarks on the nature of military service and/or a scripture reading.

For everything there is a season.
A time for war and a time for peace.
A time for every activity under heaven.
For a season of life you gave up freedom to become a servant.
For a season of life you put the lives of others before your own.
For a season of life you sacrificed for the sake of others.
Your season of military service is complete, yet your life in Christ knows no end.
In baptism Christ claimed you as his own and grafted you into his servant body.
The burdens you carried in military service, and those you carry now,
are not far from Christ but are taken by our Savior to the cross.
They are swallowed up in his death, and you are raised with Christ to resurrection life.
We give thanks to God for your season of service
and for your life in Christ among us today.
May the One who gave you the will to deny yourself, sacrifice, and serve,
bless you with faith, hope, and love all your days, in the name of the Father, the ✢ Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Let us pray:
Eternal God, we give thanks for all those who have shown the greatest love by laying down their lives for others. We especially thank you for those in our military throughout history who have sacrificed their lives for their fellow citizens and for us who came after. As we remember their service, keep us mindful of all those for whom this day is a burden, and send your spirit of comfort to them.
Be present with all the women and men who are serving in the military today, let them live for the peace known only from you. Help us to be worthy of their legacy, and keep us mindful of their service, that in all things we may live our lives in praise and thanksgiving to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services (*Augsburg Fortress, 2013*)

CHILDREN'S SERMON **Mrs. Kathy Koger**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community. (not read aloud)

A reading from Amos Chapter 5:

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the
Lord? It is darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is
not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept
them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 3 Take
away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM: 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5) (Ps. 96:7)

1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O Lord, make | haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

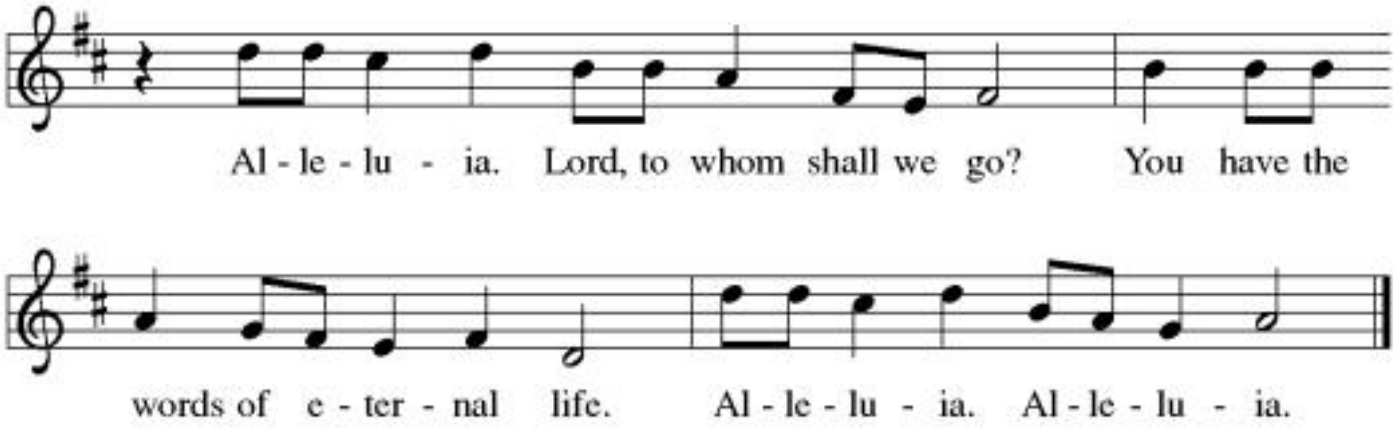
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ. (not read aloud)

A reading from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4:

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who
have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we
believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who
are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who
have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and
with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will
rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together
with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW p. 142**



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten
young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with
them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
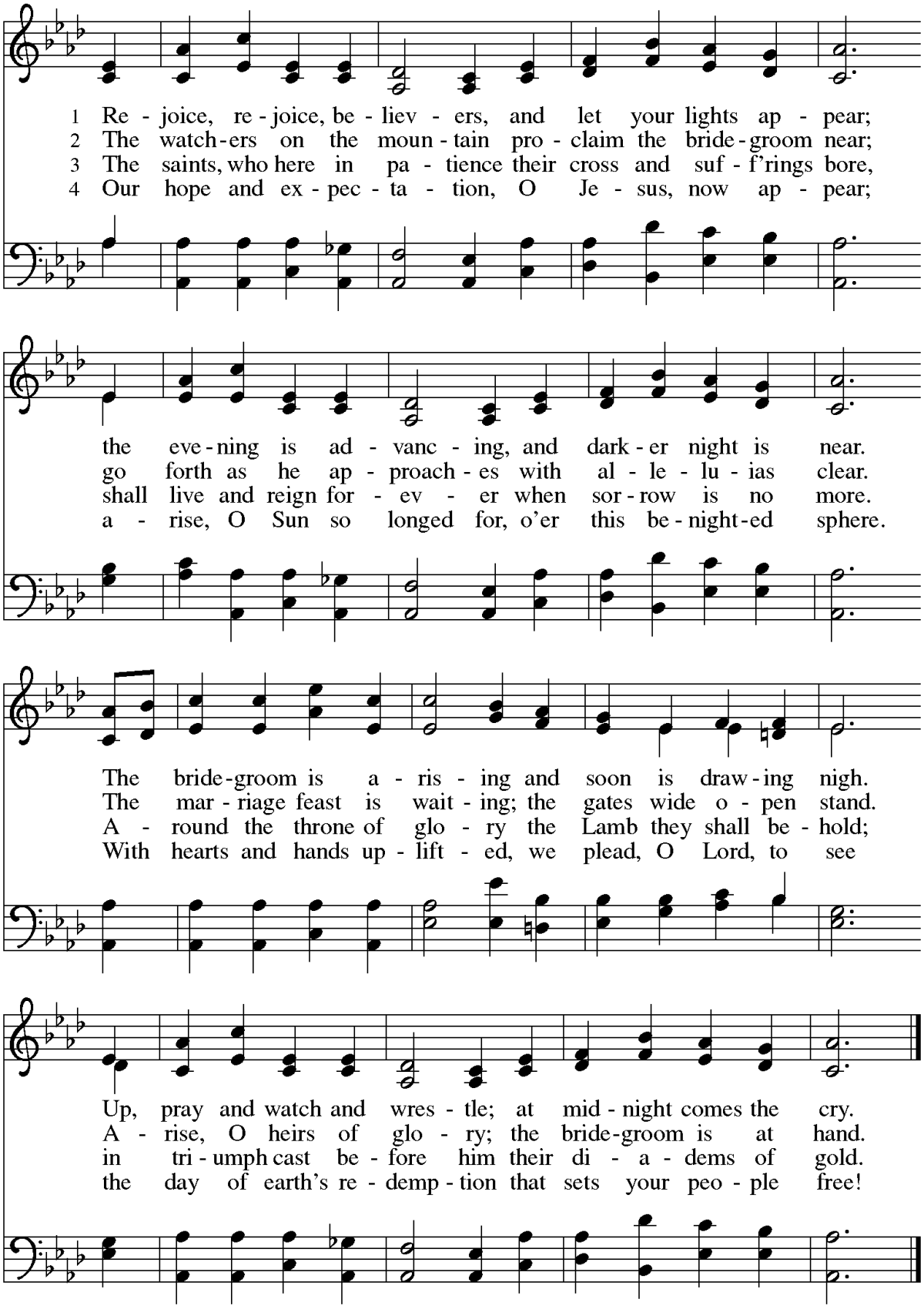
THE SERMON **Rev. Kevin Koger**

HYMN OF THE DAY *REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS* **ELW #244**

(printed on next page)



Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the 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

Offered by the Assisting Minister

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the building up of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray especially for those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen**.

PEACE

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

We share a sign of peace with others as we are comfortable. We sit.



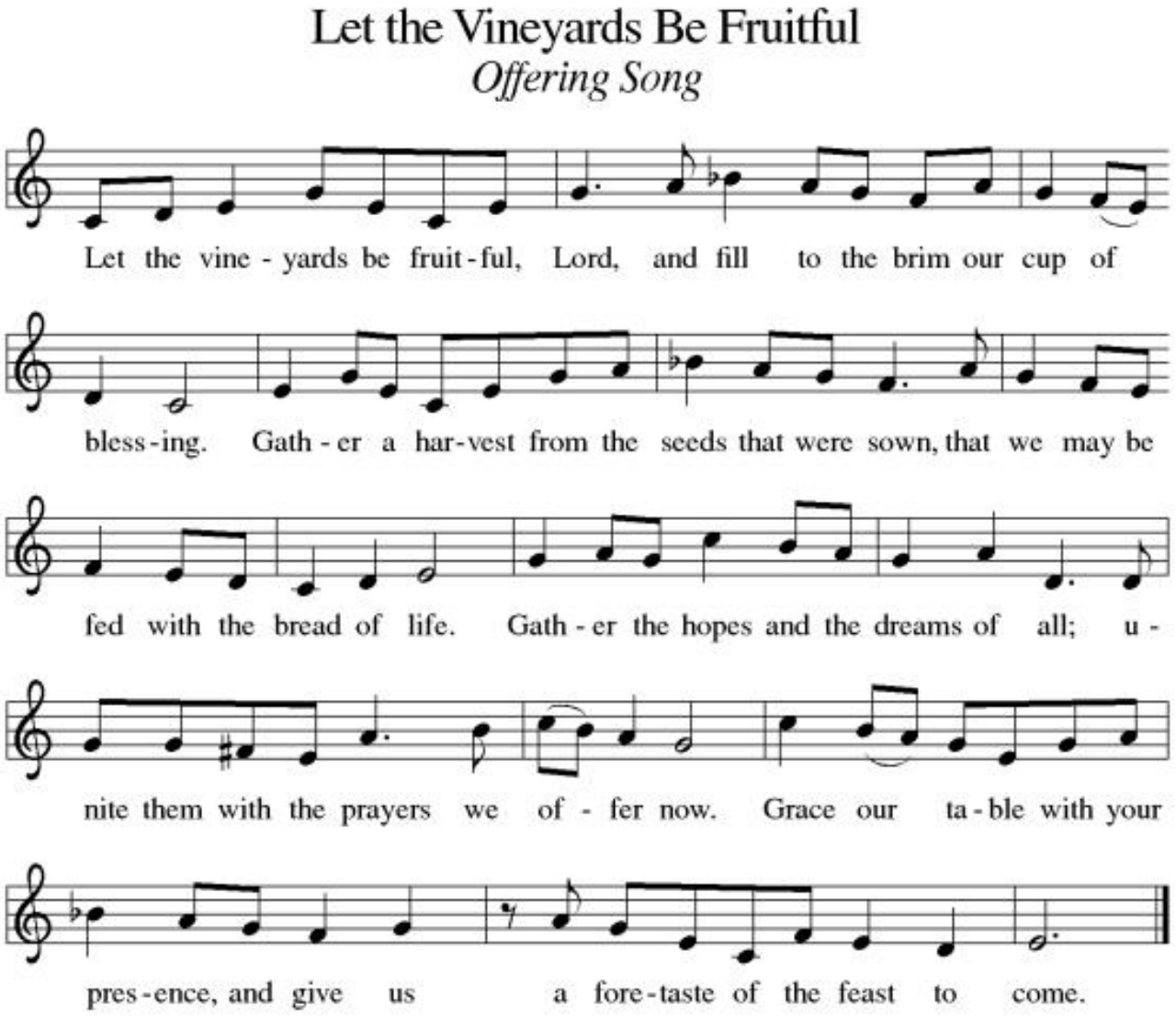
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING *SALUTE TO THE ARMED FORCES MEDLEY*

Redeemer Choir

OFFERING HYMN



OFFERING PRAYER

Offered by the Assisting minister and congregation.

Let us pray: **Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, so that all the world may be fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Presiding Minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

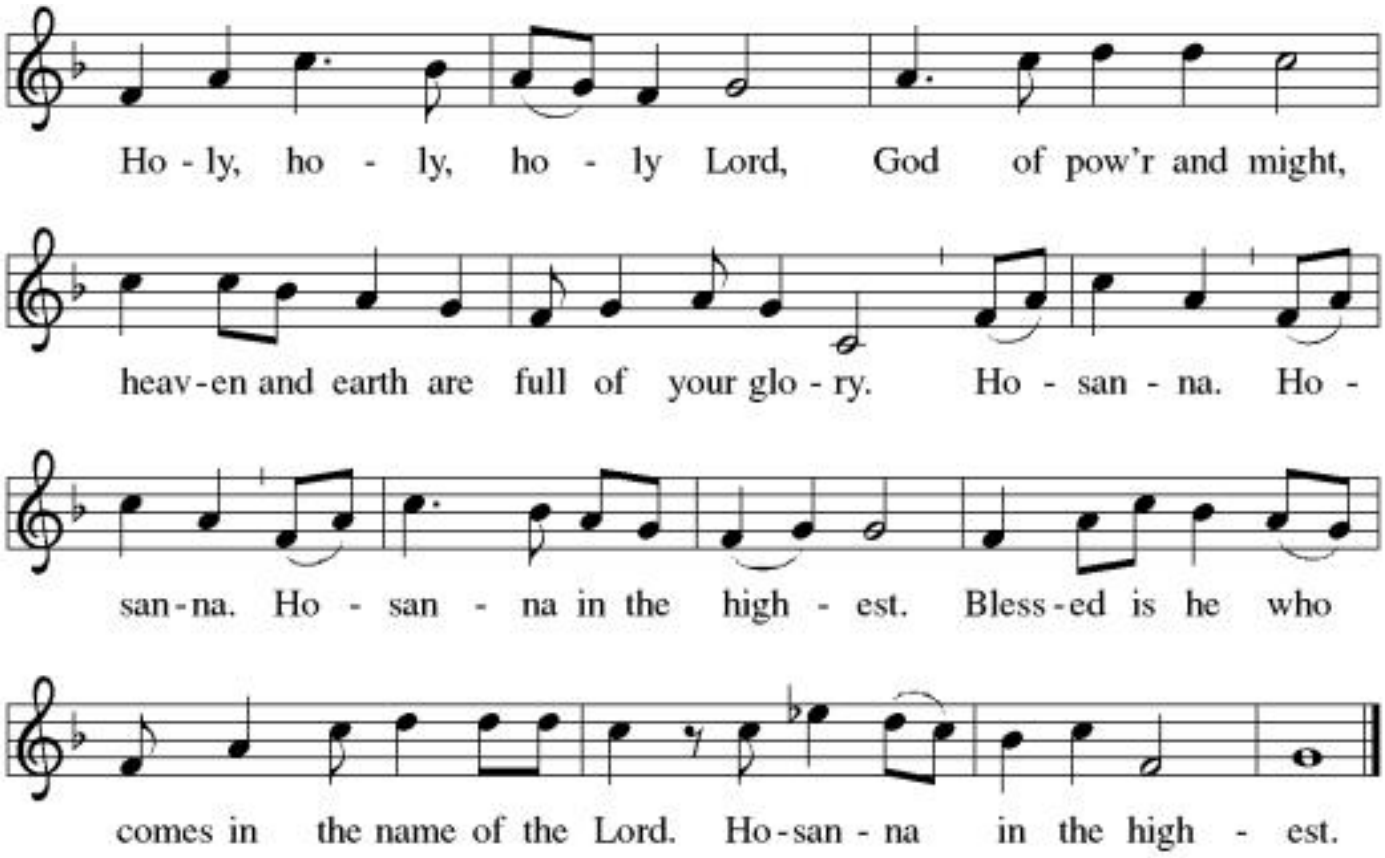
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise**.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
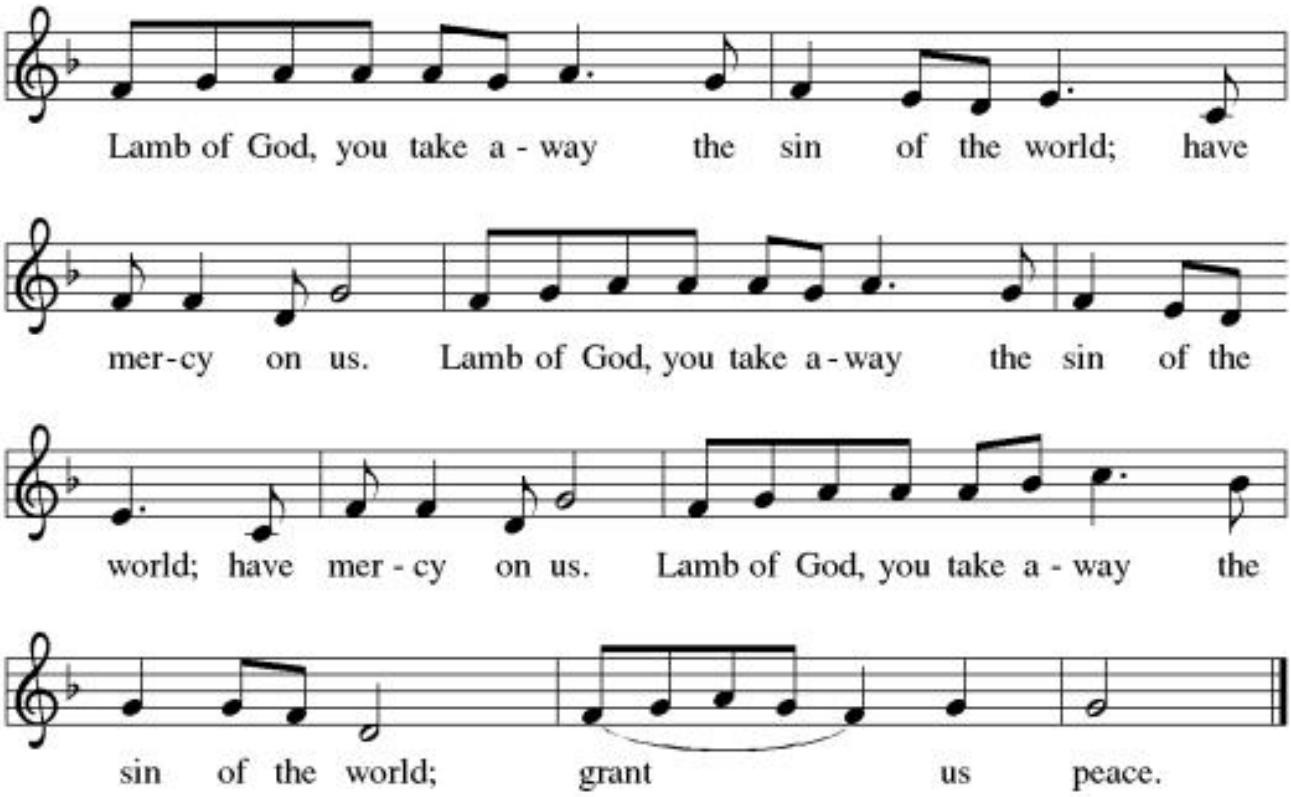
LORD'S PRAYER
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared. **Amen**.

COMMUNION HYMN: *LAMB OF GOD* **ELW p. 146**



HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Congregation is encouraged to sing.

AS SAINTS OF OLD	**ELW #695**
PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING	**ELW #689**
AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE	**ELW #522**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Offered by Assisting Minister.

Let us pray: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

REDEEMER'S MISSION

Redeemer's Mission is: **A lifelong family ministry of God's love!**

SENDING HYMN *GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY* **ELW #890**
(printed on next page)
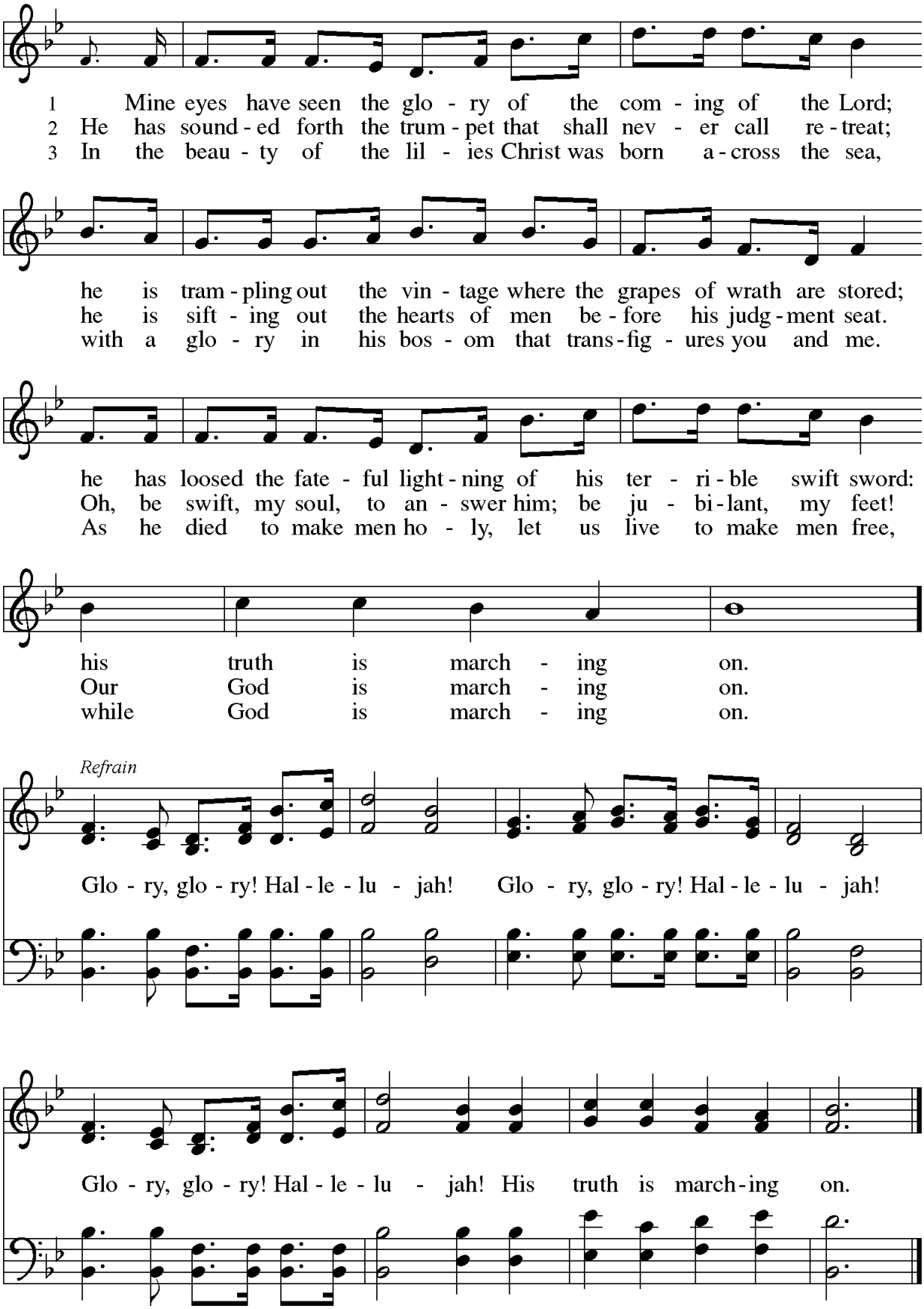
DISMISSAL
Offered by Assisting Minister.

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**



Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



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

Serving Today

Ushers:	Marc Karrmann and Chuck Pegram
Greeters:	John and Sharon Fouke
Assisting Minister:	Heather Hester
Lector 1:	Chuck Pegram
Lector 2:	Michelle Meloon
Acolyte:	Clara Cotter
Crucifer:	Tyndall Stringer
Cantor:	Chrissy Bristow
Counters:	Chuck Pegram and Courtney Childers
Altar Guild:	Donna Norman
Flowers:	Given by Al and Paula Ludwigson
Sheepdogs:	Chris Felicia, JJ Johnson, Beto Damian
	YY (K3-5th Grade) – JJ Johnson
	LCY (6th-12th Grade) – Chris Felicia, Curtis Snyder
Nursery:	Liz Miller and Harper Meloon

Serving Next Week – November 15, 2026

Ushers:	Gordon Johnson and Brad VanPutten
Greeters:	Aaron Cornwell and Tom Lewis
Assisting Minister:	Lily Childers
Lector 1:	David Henderson
Lector 2:	Joyce Frid
Acolyte:	Logan Childers
Crucifer:	Dillon Howell
Cantor:	Jeffrey Stringer
Counters:	Donna Norman and Jennifer Tierce
Altar Guild:	Paula Ludwigson
Flowers:	Given by Janet Elmore in memory of Ed Elmore
Sheepdogs:	Brian Ginsberg, Tom Lewis, Michael Miller, Devin Jackson
	Operation Christmas Child Packing Day 3:00-5:00pm
	Michael Miller and Brian Ginsberg
Nursery:	Jennifer Tierce and Tyndall Stringer

NOTES