1st Sunday of Advent - Now the Feast
November 29, 2026 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanist — Diane Rauser
Liturgist — 8:15 - Lois Kern
10:45 - Rachel Barton

† indicates stand as able

Gathering

Prelude
Welcome

† Confession and Forgiveness
We confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God, **We come before you with contrite hearts, aware of all the ways we have failed to do what you would have us do, and the ways we have insisted on doing what we know does not contribute to our flourishing or that of the world. As we anticipate and celebrate your selfless act of becoming one of us in Jesus Christ, re-center us on your call to empty ourselves as you did, so that we might serve you and all of creation with open, loving hearts, and work diligently for the peace and justice you desire for all that you have made.**

The One who was and is and is to come hears your confession and in his name, you are forgiven. Free of the burden of your sin, go forth in gratitude and joy to love and serve. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee **ELW 836**
Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

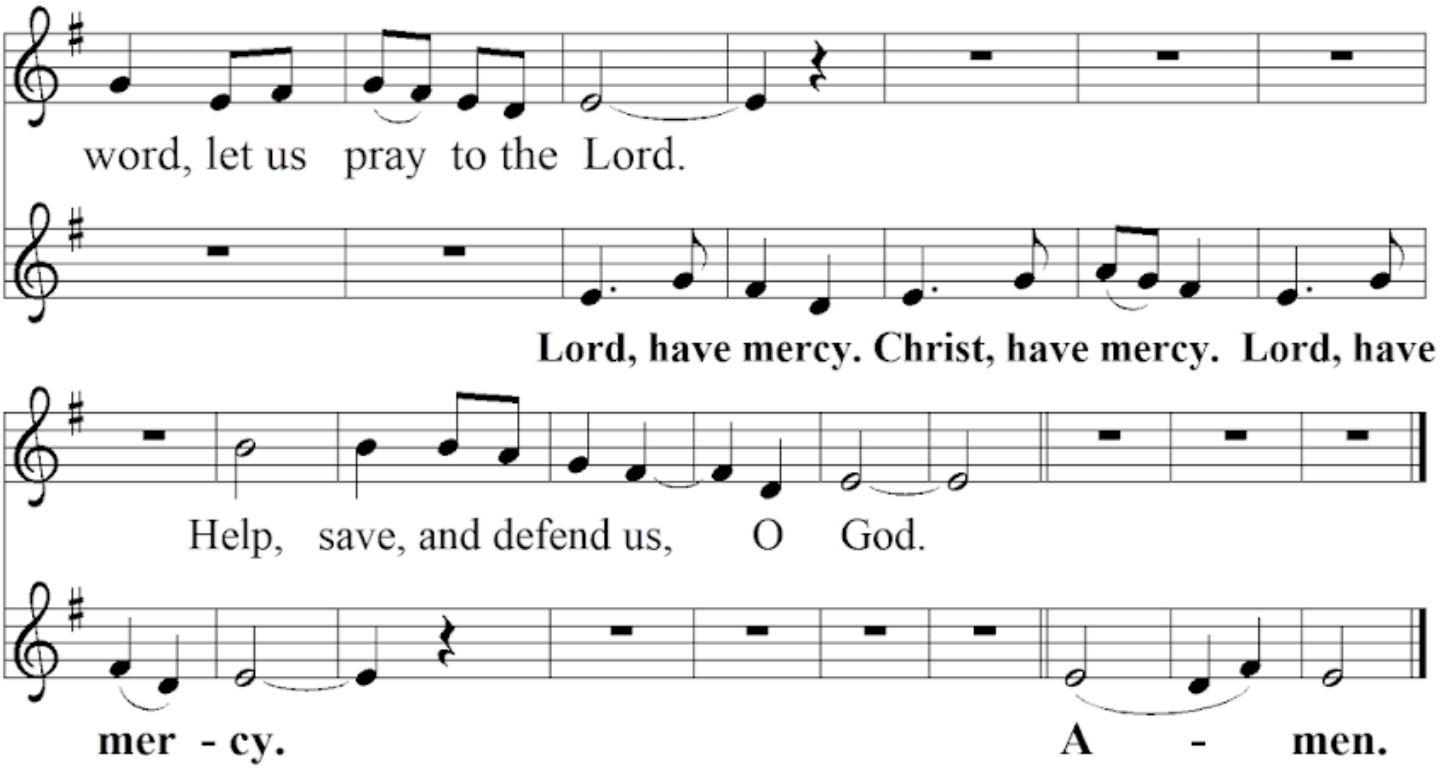
Liturgy of the Word

† 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


Leader
In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.
Assembly
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer- cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the
Lord.
For your
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo- ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



† Prayer of the Day

Holy God, as we begin our season of waiting for your humble birth in a manger, open our ears to listen eagerly for what you would have us hear and understand on this day. Strengthen and deepen our faith in your good promises of peace in all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

† Lighting the Advent Wreath

How long shall I cry for help?

Hope is on the way. O Come Emmanuel.

There is destruction and violence in the world. Will justice ever prevail?

Hymn:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Look nations! Be astonished! Be astounded. Already work is being done that you would not believe if you were told! Have faith, have hope.

Have faith, for faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of the things not seen. Emmanuel brings hope.

Reading: Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4, 3:17-19

1:1The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

2O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? 3Why do you make me see wrong-doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. 4So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous— therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

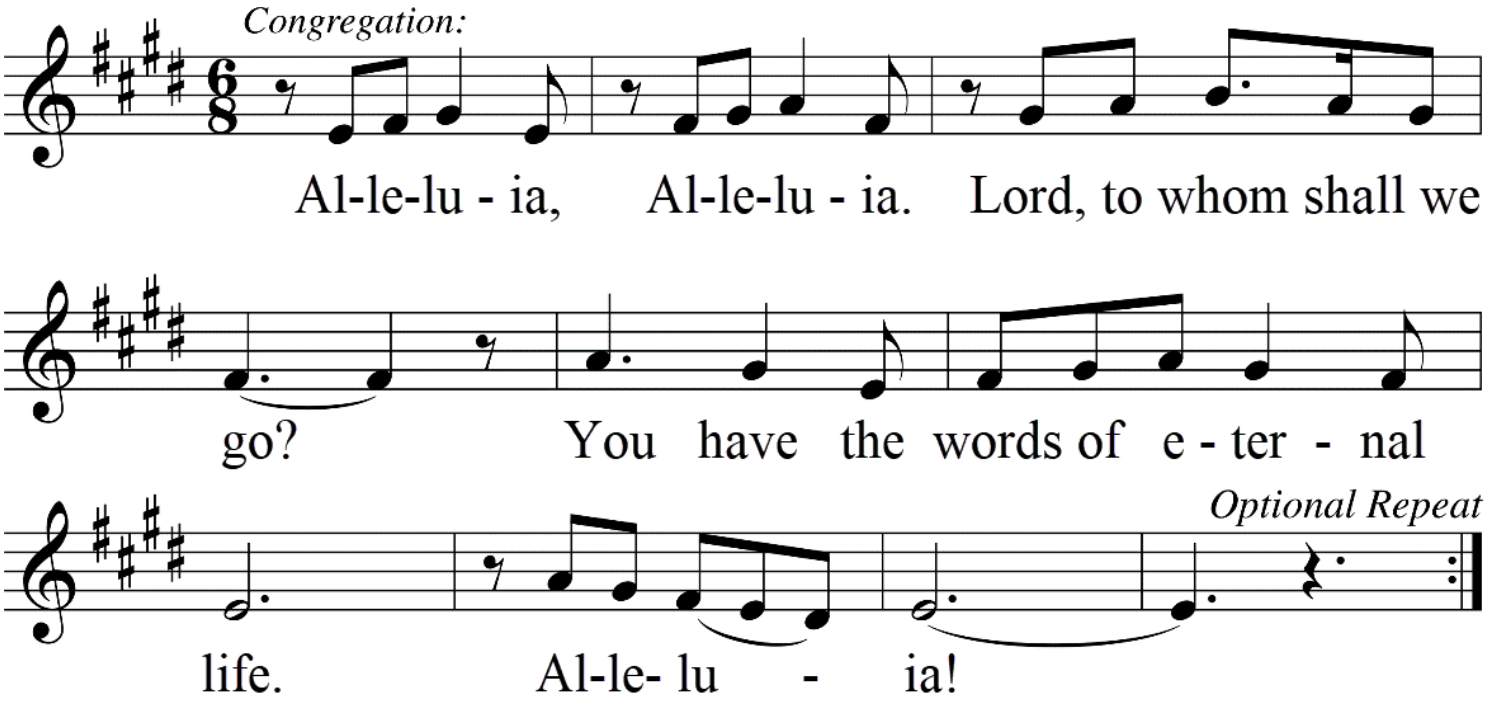
2:1I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. 2Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. 3For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. 4Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

3:17Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, 18yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in

the God of my salvation. [19]God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.

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

† Gospel Acclamation:



† Gospel: Matthew 26: 36-38

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 26th chapter.

Glory, to you, O Lord.

[36]Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” [37]He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. [38]Then he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”

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

Children’s Sermon **Kathryn Christy**

Sermon **Pastor Beth Wartick**

† Hymn of the Day: *How Long, O God* **ELW 698**

"How long, O God?" the psalmist cries,
a cry we make our own,
for we are lost, alone, afraid,
and far away from home.

The evil lurks within, without,
it threatens to destroy
the fragile cords that make us one,
that bind our hearts in joy.

Your grace, O God, seems far away;
will healing ever come?
Our broken lives lie broken still;
will night give way to dawn?

How can we hope? How can we sing?
O God, set free our voice
to name the sorrows, name the pain,
that we might yet rejoice.

"How long, O God?" the psalmist cries,
a cry we make our own.
Though we are lost, alone, afraid,
our God will lead us home.

† 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 humble anticipation of God's promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Holy God, with Habakkuk we cry out for your justice in the face of the violence that pervades our societies from top to bottom. Make us to proclaim your peace and healing love. God of promise, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Give us faith in your promise of restoration, and stir up in us a passionate love of your astonishing creation, that we might join you in the work of bringing healing and wholeness to all the earth. God of promise, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Make us to raise up and support leaders who proclaim your way of peace and restoration throughout the earth. Guide all who lead in their efforts to bring flourishing to your beloved children everywhere. God of promise, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Help us show your love in concrete ways to those who are dealing with health challenges of any kind, especially Earl and Jim. Hold all who suffer in your loving arms; comfort and

strengthen them on their journeys. God of promise, **We lift our prayers to you.**

As we begin the season of Advent, which so often comes with a flurry of overwhelming preparations in the midst of demands that we spend beyond our means, keep us firmly rooted in our faith, that we might open our eyes and hearts to the wonder and anticipation of Jesus' coming. God of promise, **We lift our prayers to you.**

With all your saints, living and long departed, we put our trust in you. Walk with us, as you did with those who came before, that we might live with confidence in your good promises. God of promise, **We lift our prayers to you.**

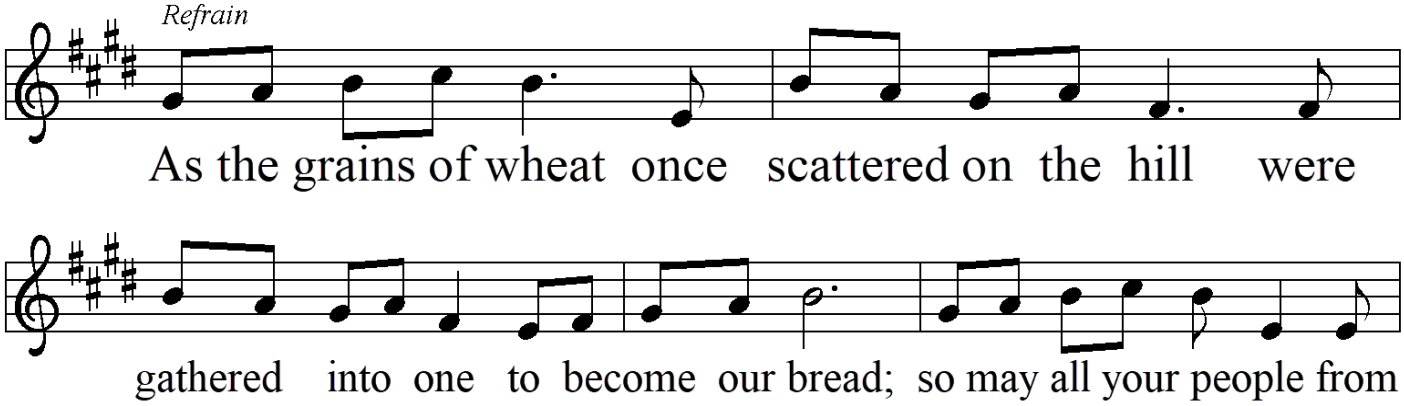
Loving God, we place into your loving arms all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and grace for all of creation. **Amen.**

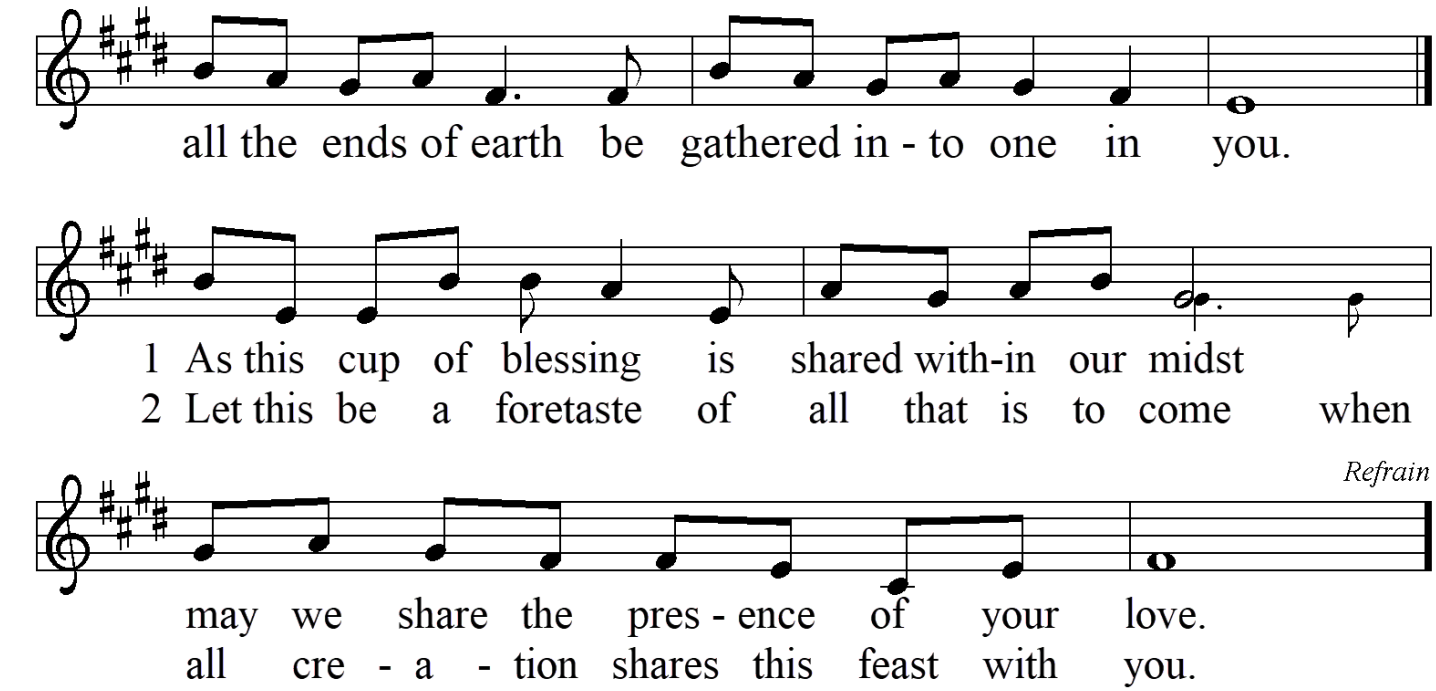
† Peace

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

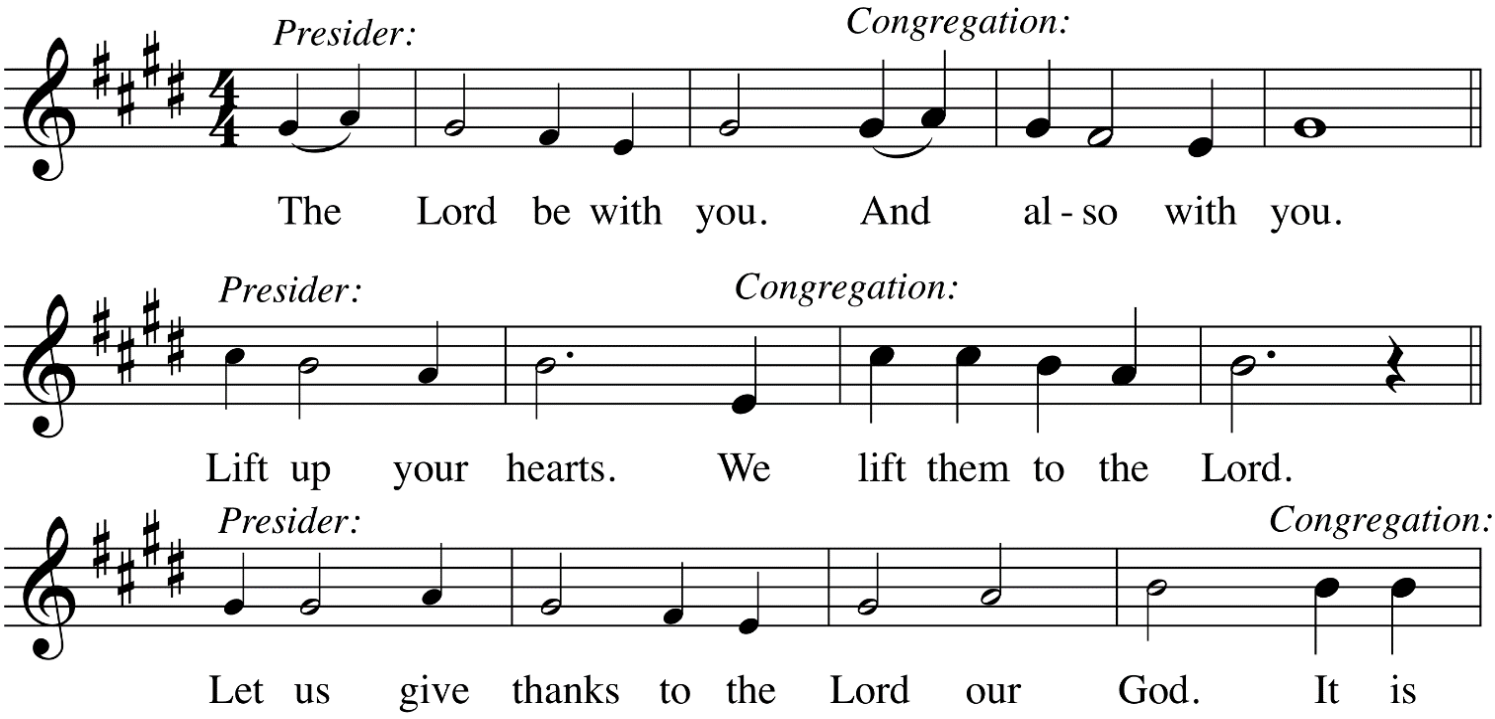


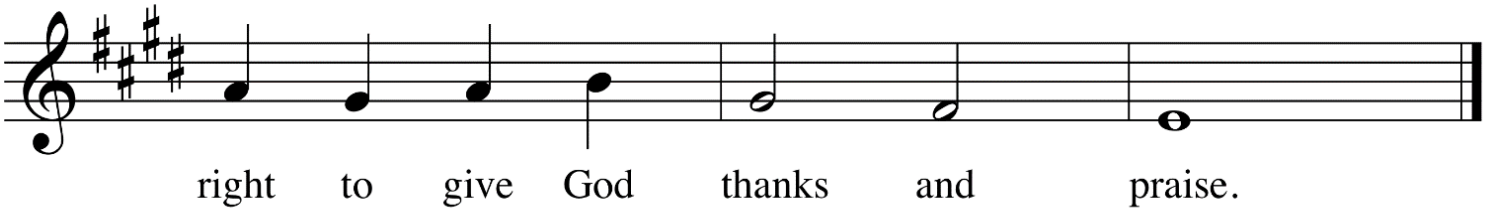


Offering Prayer

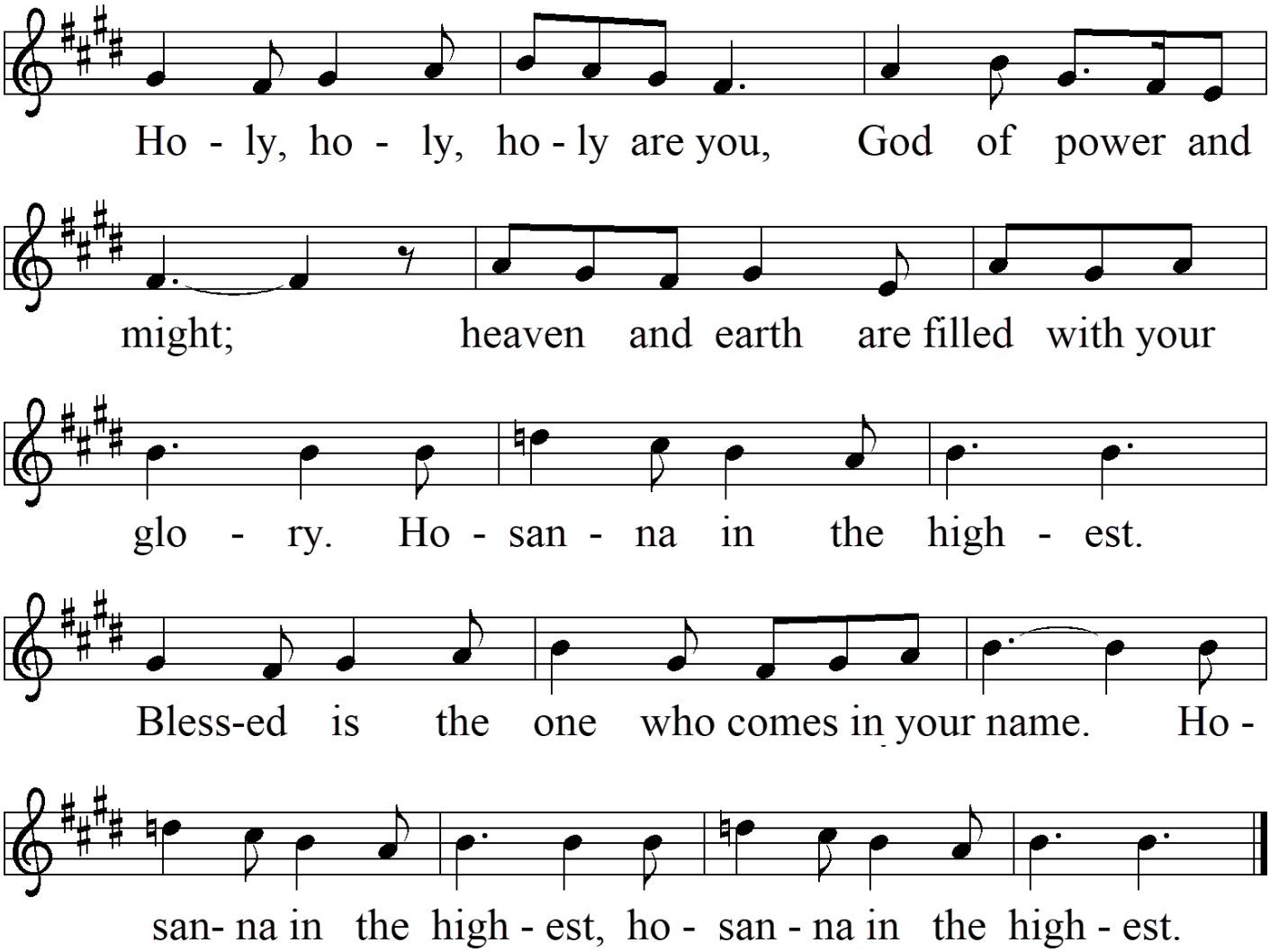
Holy God, you call us into a life of faith and trust, and you satisfy all our needs. In gratitude for your unfailing love and provision, we return these, our gifts, for use in the work of proclaiming that love to all the earth through ministries of peace, justice, and care for neighbor. Bless what we offer now, for the sake of Jesus Christ our savior and friend. **Amen.**

† The Great Thanksgiving

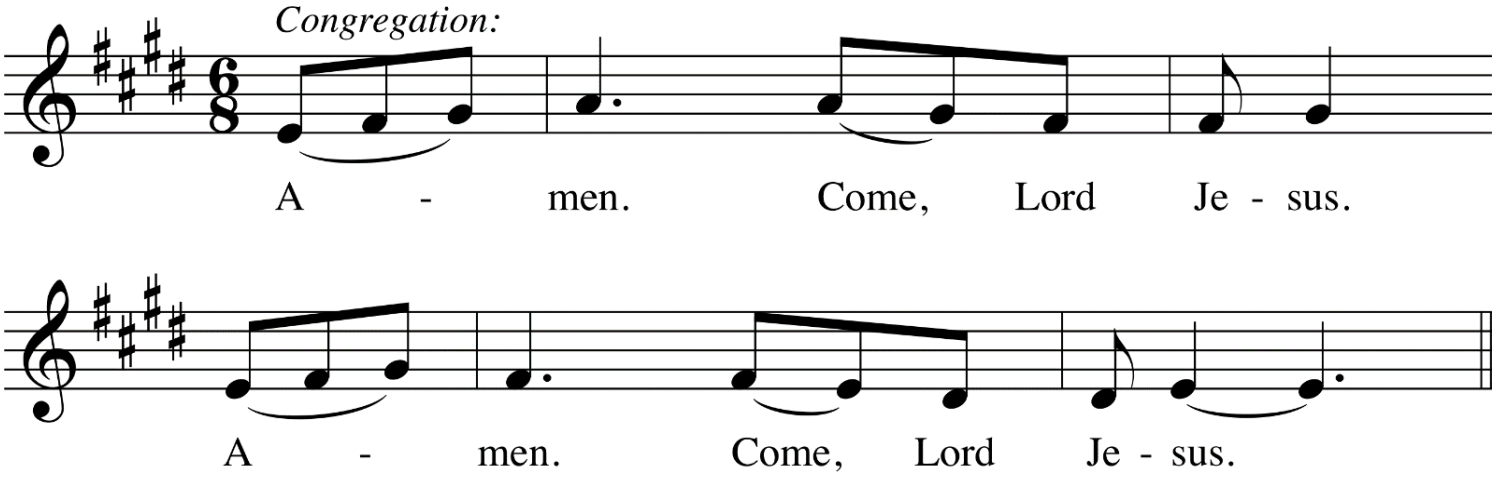




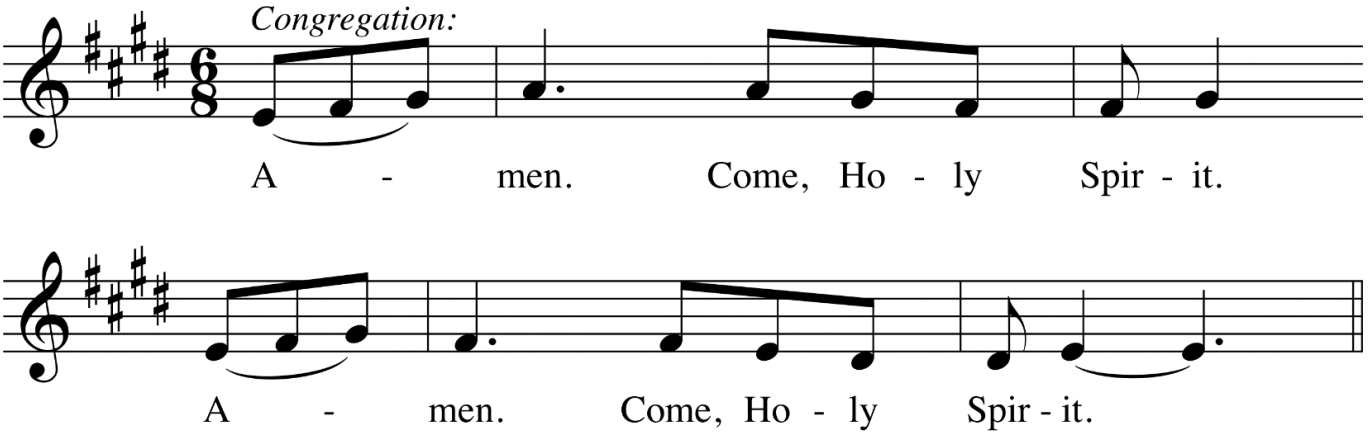
Pastor: It is our duty and delight…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



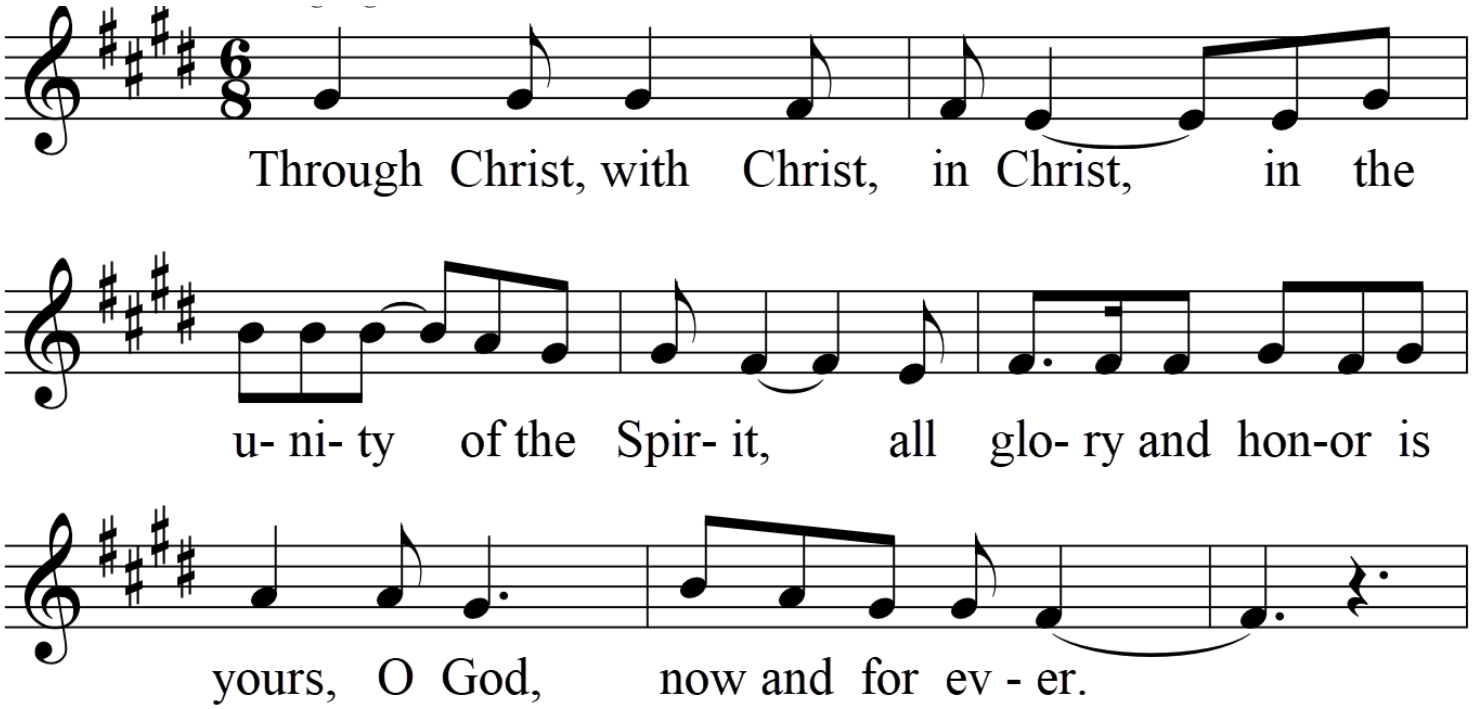
Pastor: You are indeed holy… Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

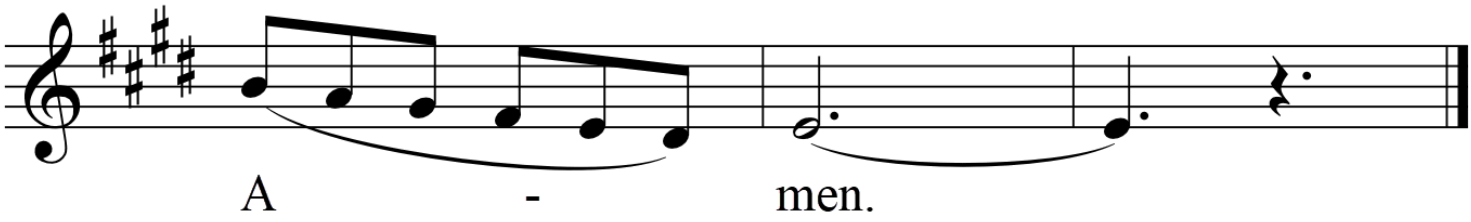


Pastor: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.



† Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ





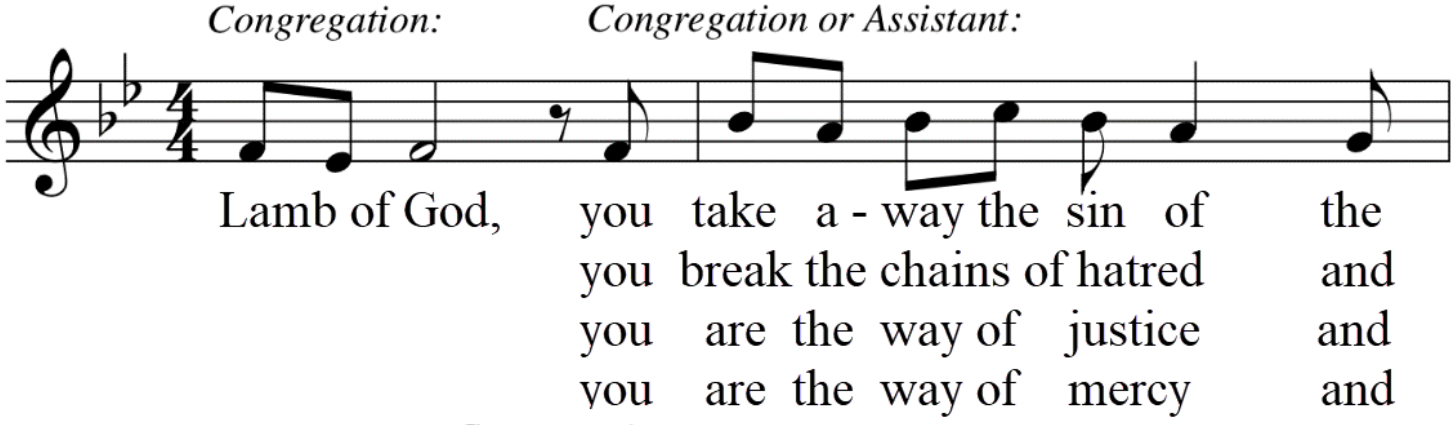
† Lord's Prayer

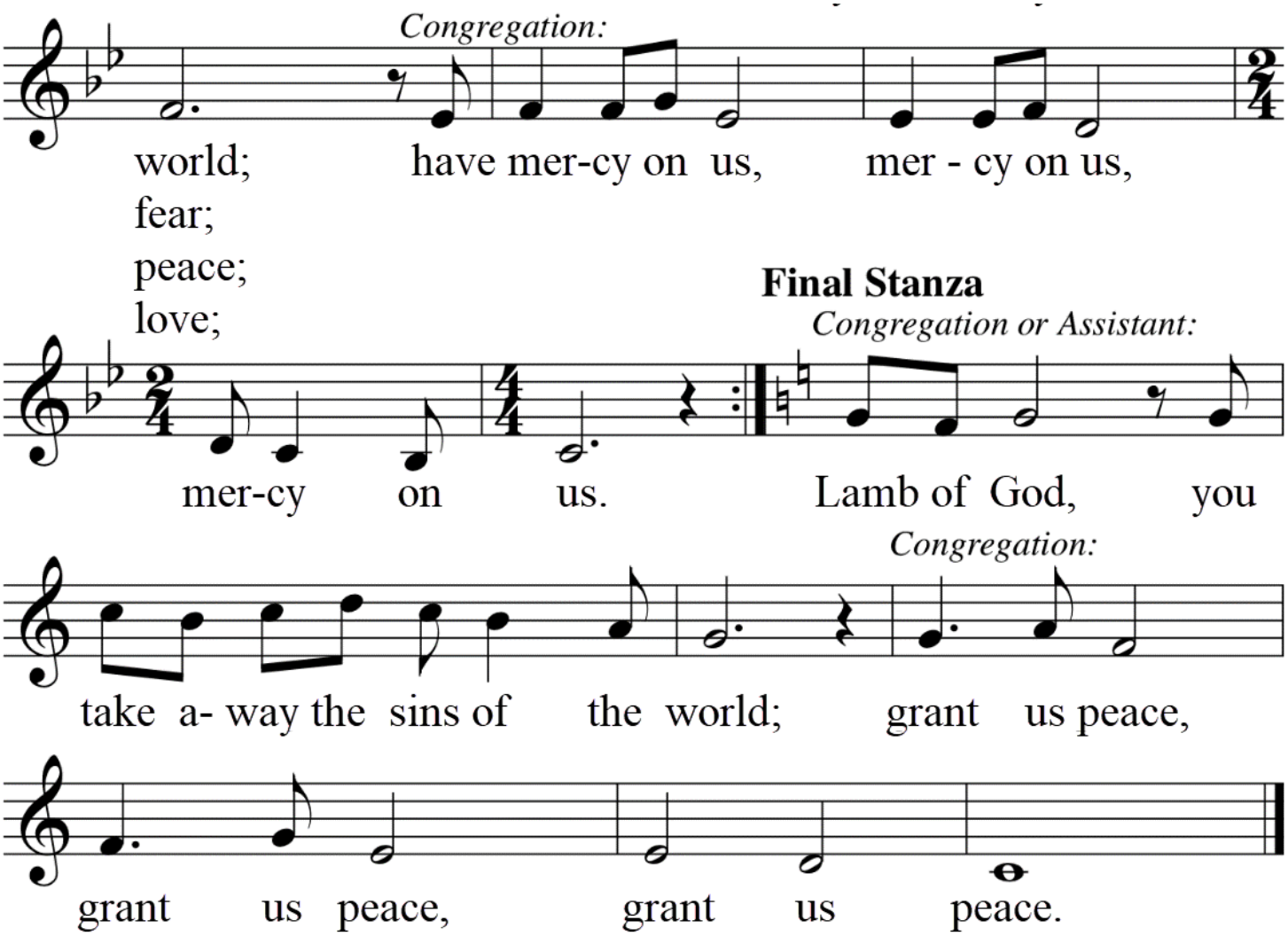
Our Father in heaven,	*Nuestro padre en el cielo,*
hallowed be your name,	*santificado sea tu nombre,*
your kingdom come,	*venga tu reino,*
your will be done,	*hágase tu voluntad,*
on earth as in heaven.	*en la tierra como en el cielo.*
Give us today our daily bread.	*Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.*
Forgive us our sins	*Perdónanos nuestros pecados*
as we forgive those	*como nosotros perdonamos*
who sin against us.	*los que pecan contra nosotros.*
Save us from the time of trial	*Sálvanos del tiempo de la prueba.*
and deliver us from evil.	*y líbranos del mal.*
For the kingdom, the power,	*Por el reino, el poder y*
and the glory are yours,	*la gloria es tuya,*
now and forever. Amen.	*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





Communion Hymn: *Now We Join in Celebration* **ELW 462**

Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.

Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,

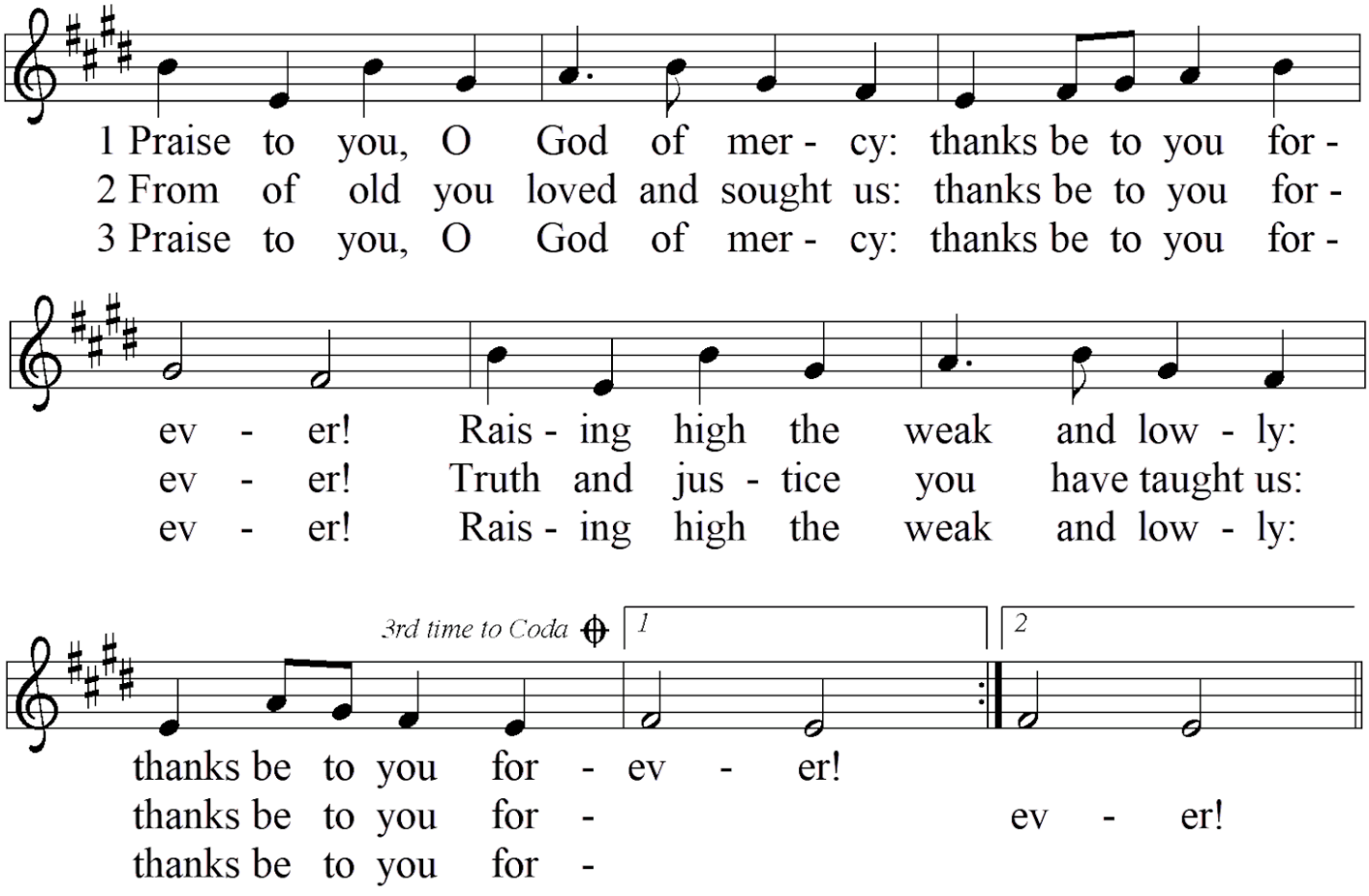
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

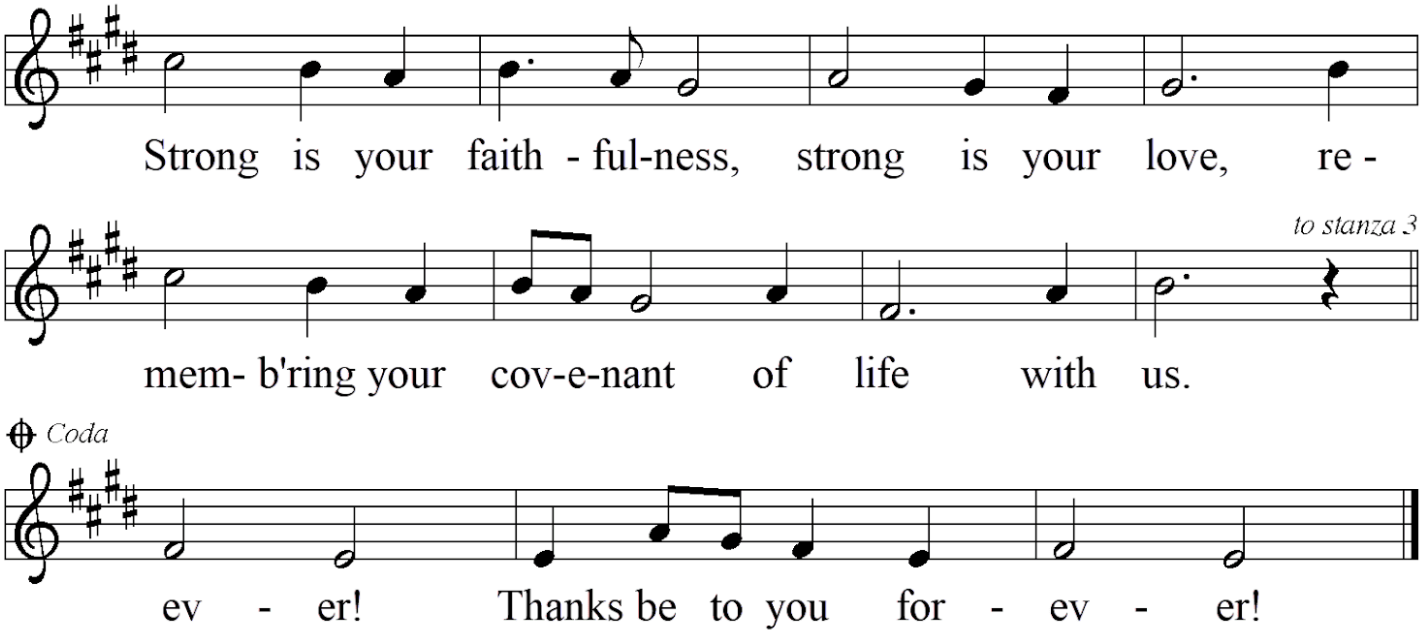
Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Sending

Announcements

† Song of Blessing





† *Blessing*

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

† *Dismissal*

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

Postlude

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