



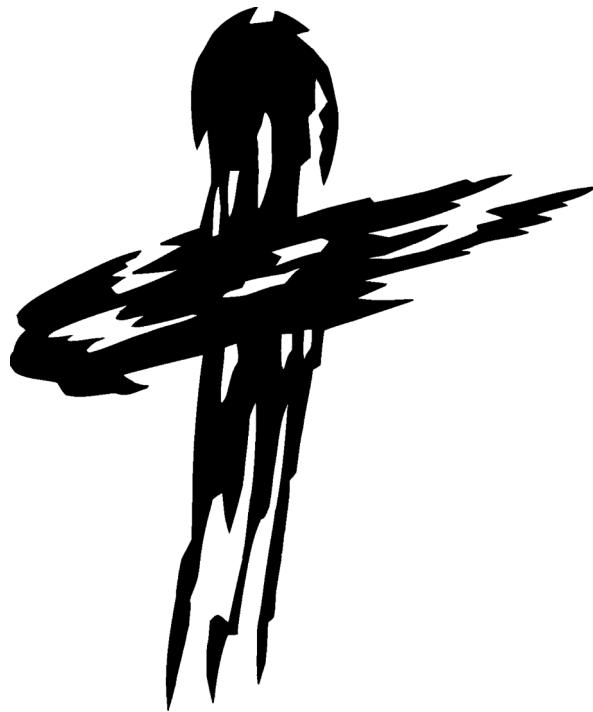
ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853

301-946-5458

www.stjohnsrockville.org



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 | 11:00 am & 7:30 pm



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



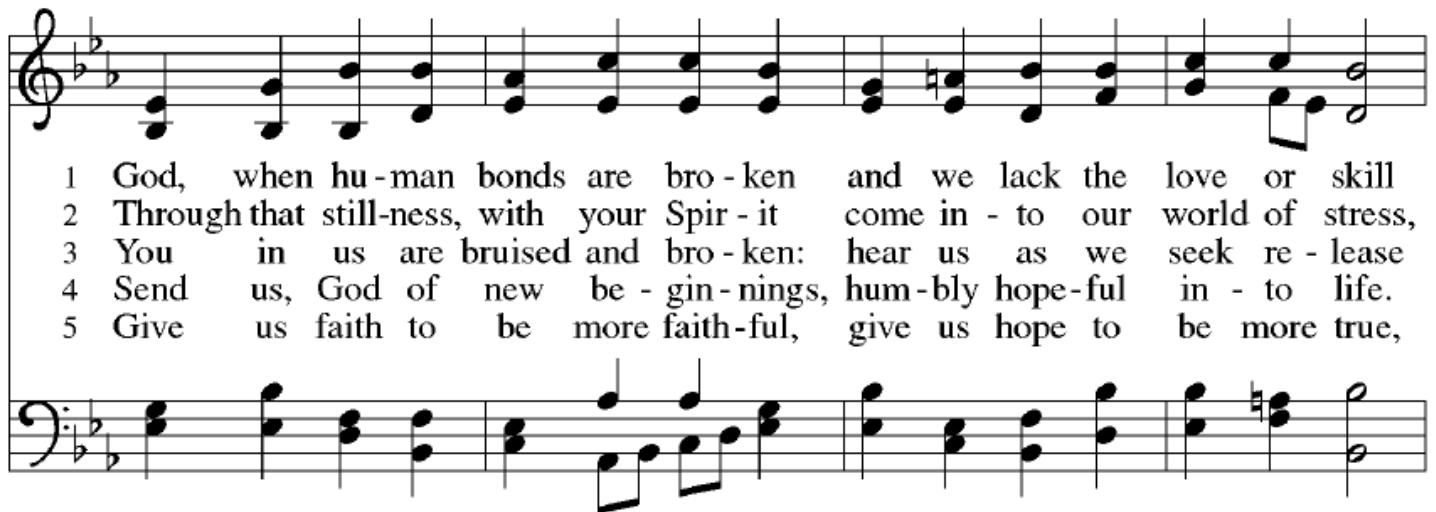
A Reconciling in
Christ Congregation

GATHERING

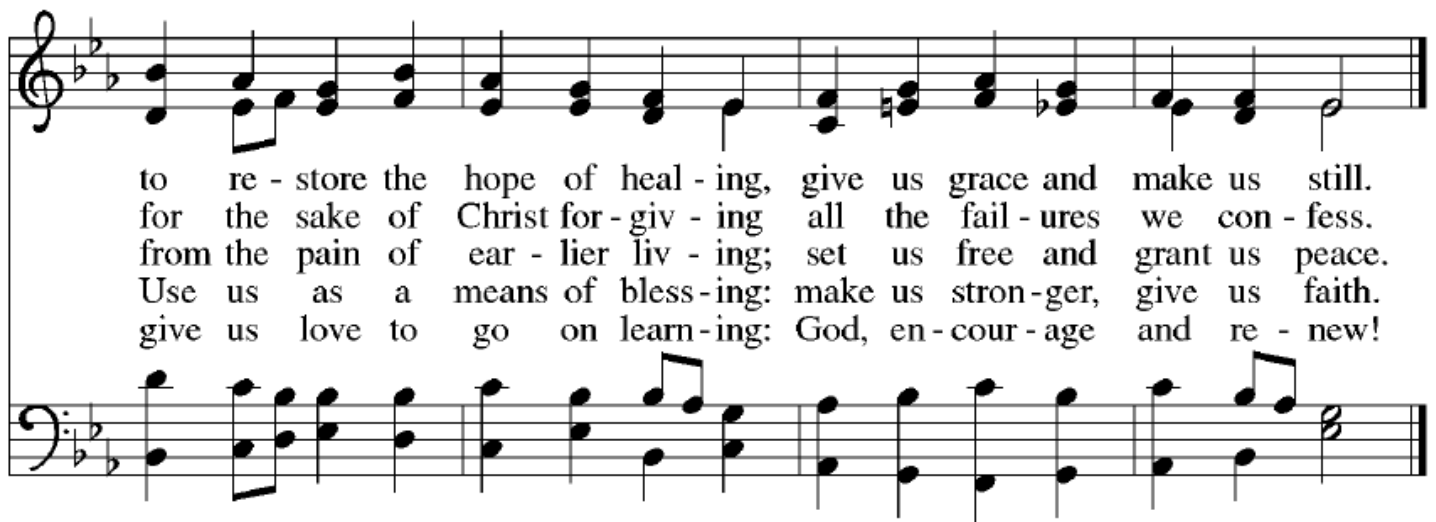
PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN | ELW 603

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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GREETING

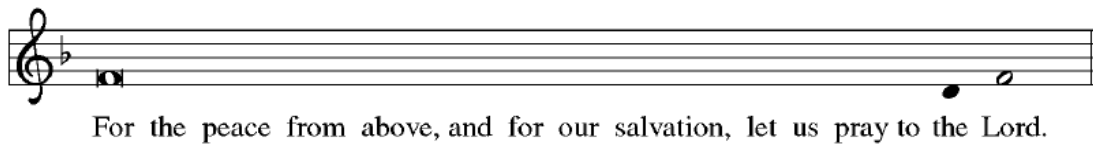
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



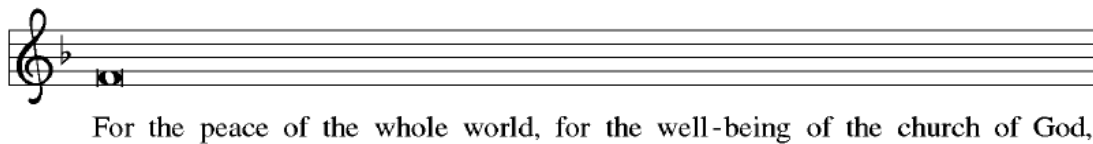
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



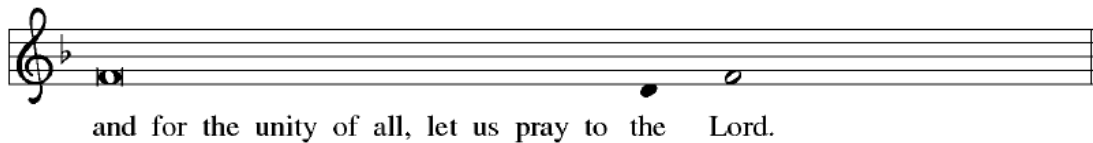
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



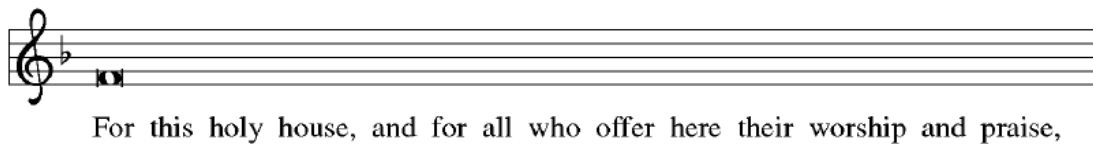
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



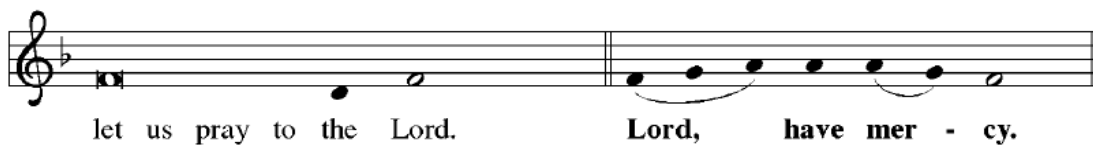
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



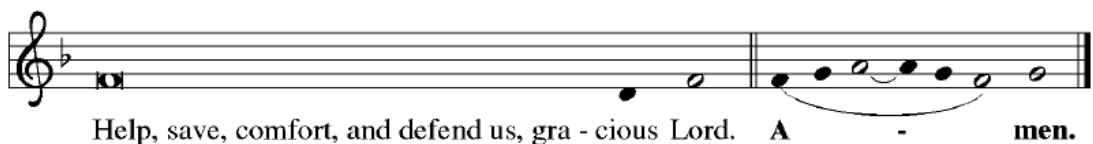
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

† Prayer of the Day

Let us pray—

Almighty and ever-living God,
you hate nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and honest hearts,
so that, truly repenting of our sins,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading

A reading from Joel

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51 (Refrain 2)

David Cherwien

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a supporting bass line. The lyrics are: "Have mer-cy on me, O God, ac-cord-ing to your stead-fast love. sustain through verses". The word "sustain" is written above the final note of the melody, and "through verses" is written below it. There are triplets of eighth notes in both the treble and bass staves. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Second Reading

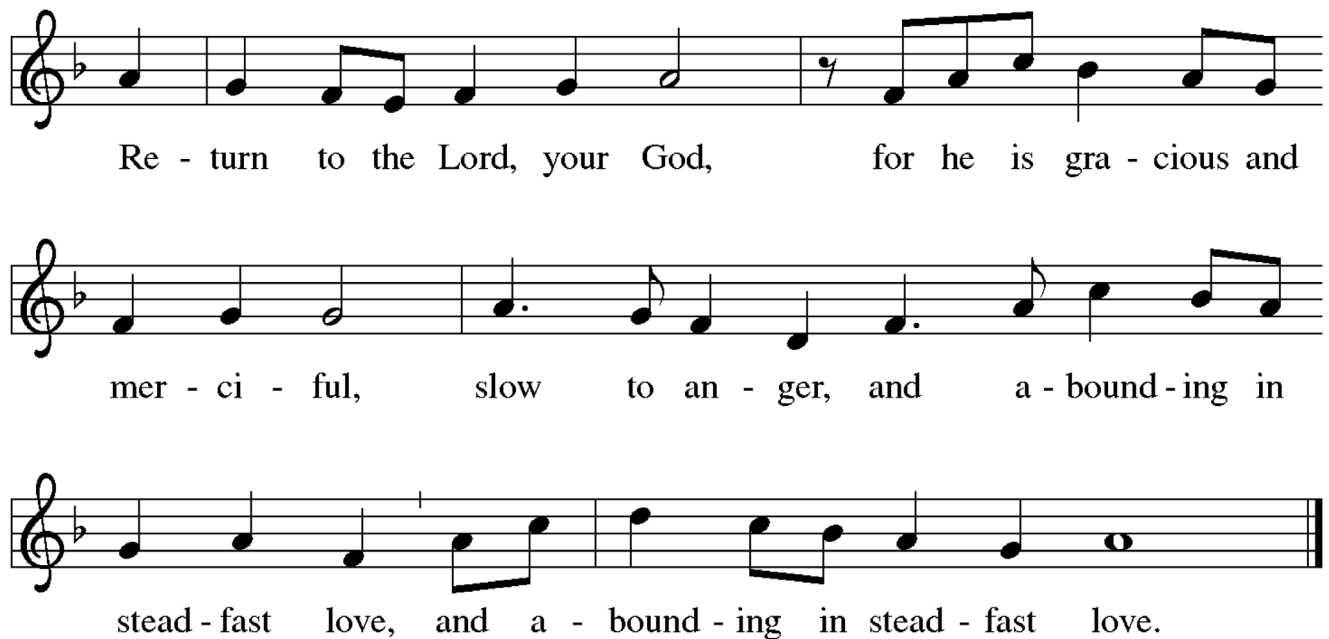
A reading from 2 Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Kern

Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love— strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen

Ubi Caritas Et Amor

ELW 642

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The vocal line in the first system has a fermata over the final note. The piano accompaniment in the first system has a fermata over the final chord. The second system has a fermata over the final note of the vocal line and a fermata over the final chord of the piano accompaniment. There is a triplet of eighth notes in the vocal line of the second system.

† Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church,
the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.
ACS 1043

Amen.

PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

WAYS TO GIVE

Text "give" to (833) 340-0119 or Online at: <https://bit.ly/StJohnsDonate>

Mail:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, MD 20853

MEAL

Offering Song

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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† Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

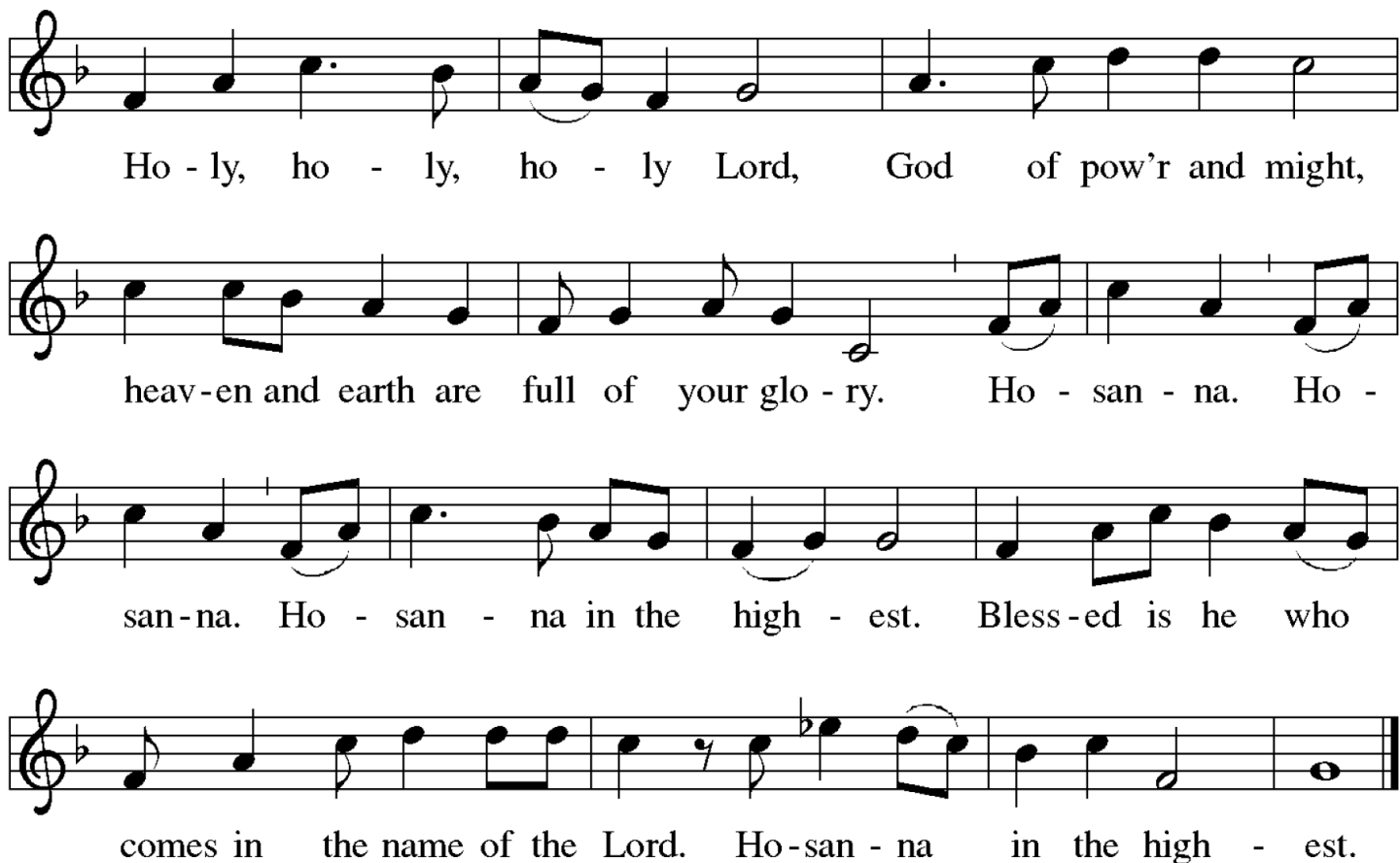
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE—

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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 ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

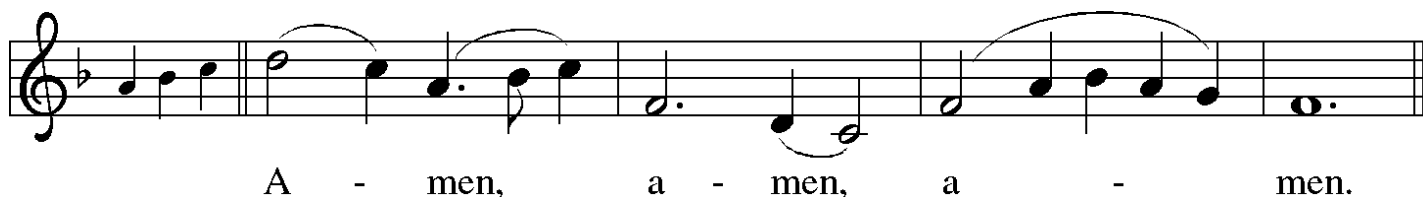
O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice,
peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you,
O God, blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.



† The Lord's Prayer

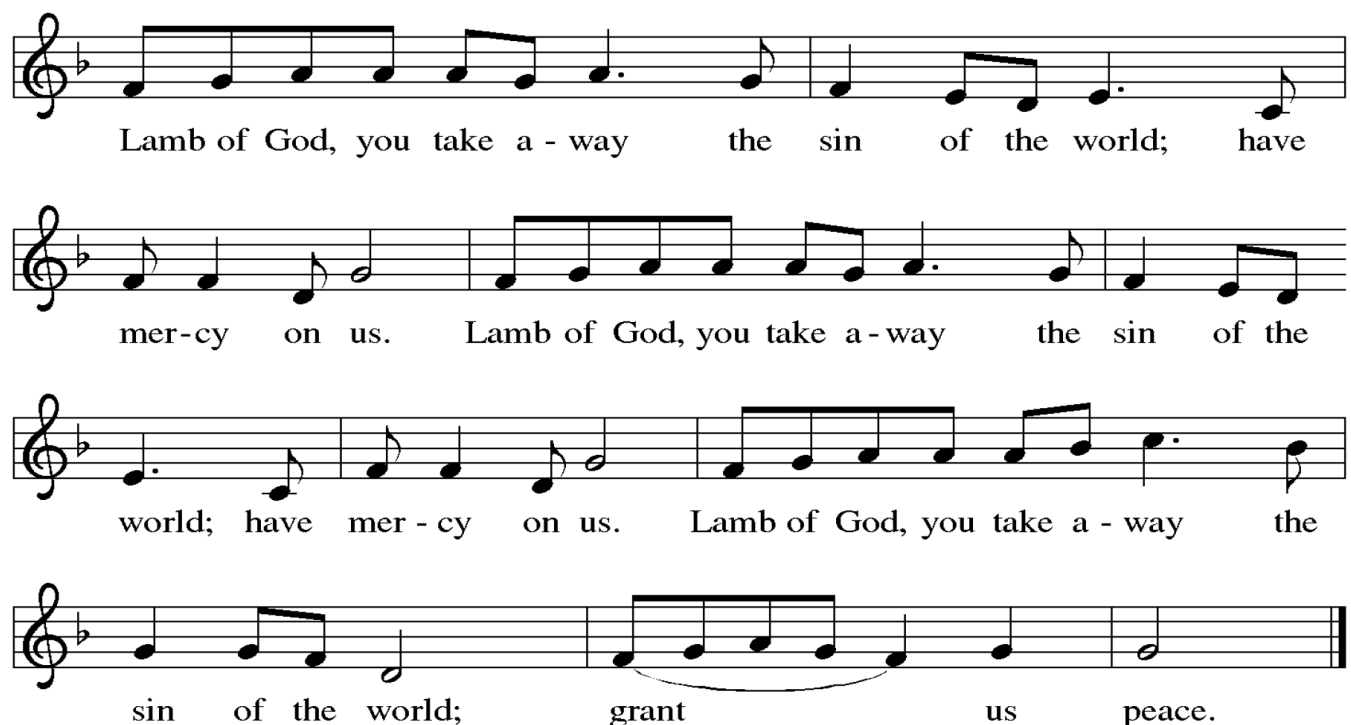
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.



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.

Distribution

This is the body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

Communion Musical Offering

† Prayer after Communion

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us
and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love
and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish
the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.