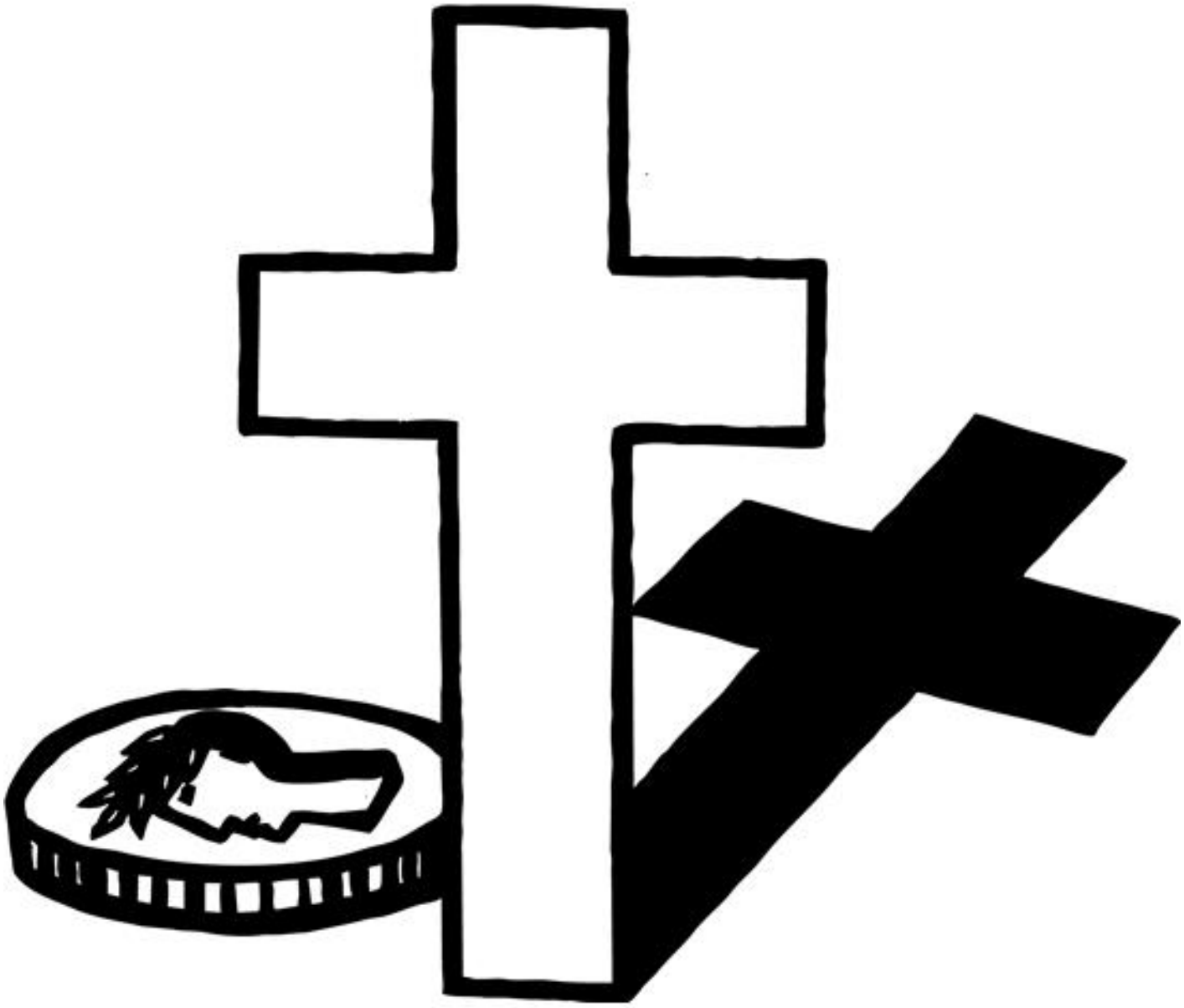
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture Psalm 100:3



October 18, 2026 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction: *In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*rise in body or spirit when indicated by **

PRAYER BELL AND WELCOME

The ringing of the bell calls us to enter the sanctuary and prepare our hearts for worship. The lighting of candles reminds us that Christ, the light of the world, is with us.

PRELUDE: *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele* – J. C. Oley

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.
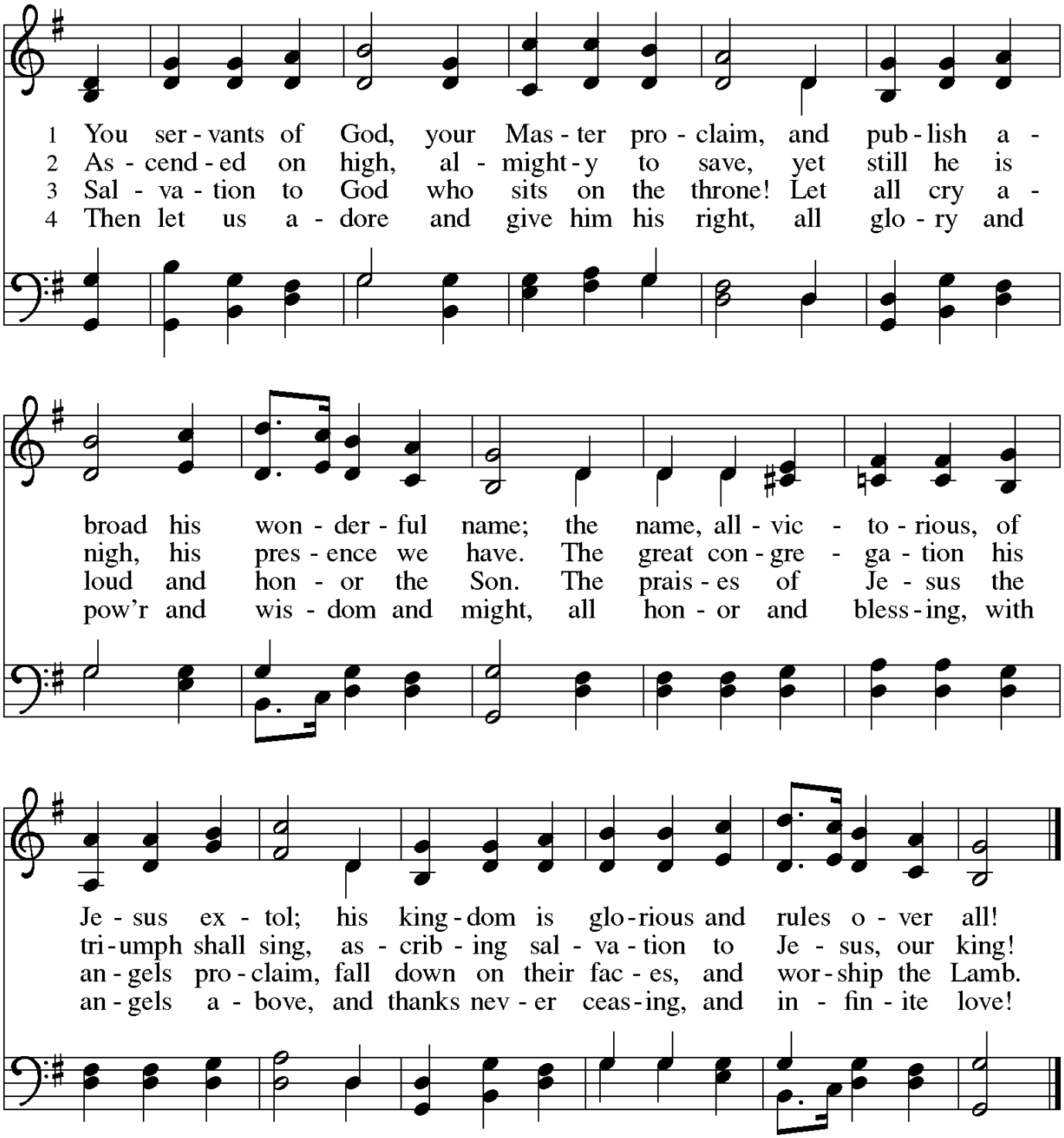
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Beloved, hear this good news:
In Jesus Christ, there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace and peace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:** ***You Servants of God **825 Red Hymnal**
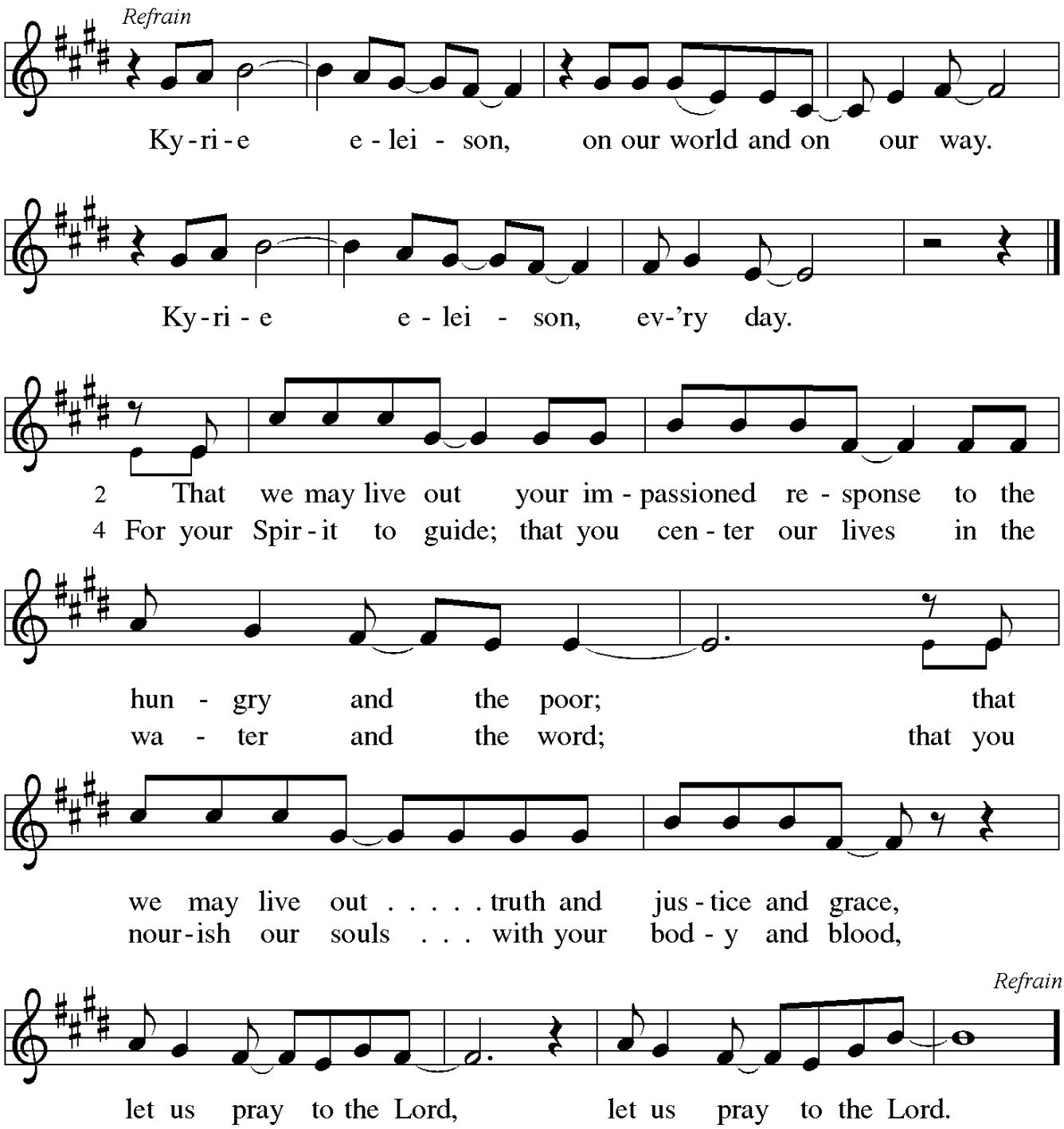


Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

***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:**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sovereign God,

raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

KIDS' TIME

READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed:
2 I will go before you and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me.
5 I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***PSALM 96:1-13 WITH PSALMODY**

SING: ***Oh, sing to the lord, oh, sing God a new song. (x3)***
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

READ RESPOSIVELY:

1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

3 Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,**
more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

SING: ***For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders. (x3)***
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

READ RESPONSIVELY:

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!**
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood**
shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.

13 You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SING: ***So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets. (x3)***
Oh, sing to our God, oh sing to our God.

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:15-22**

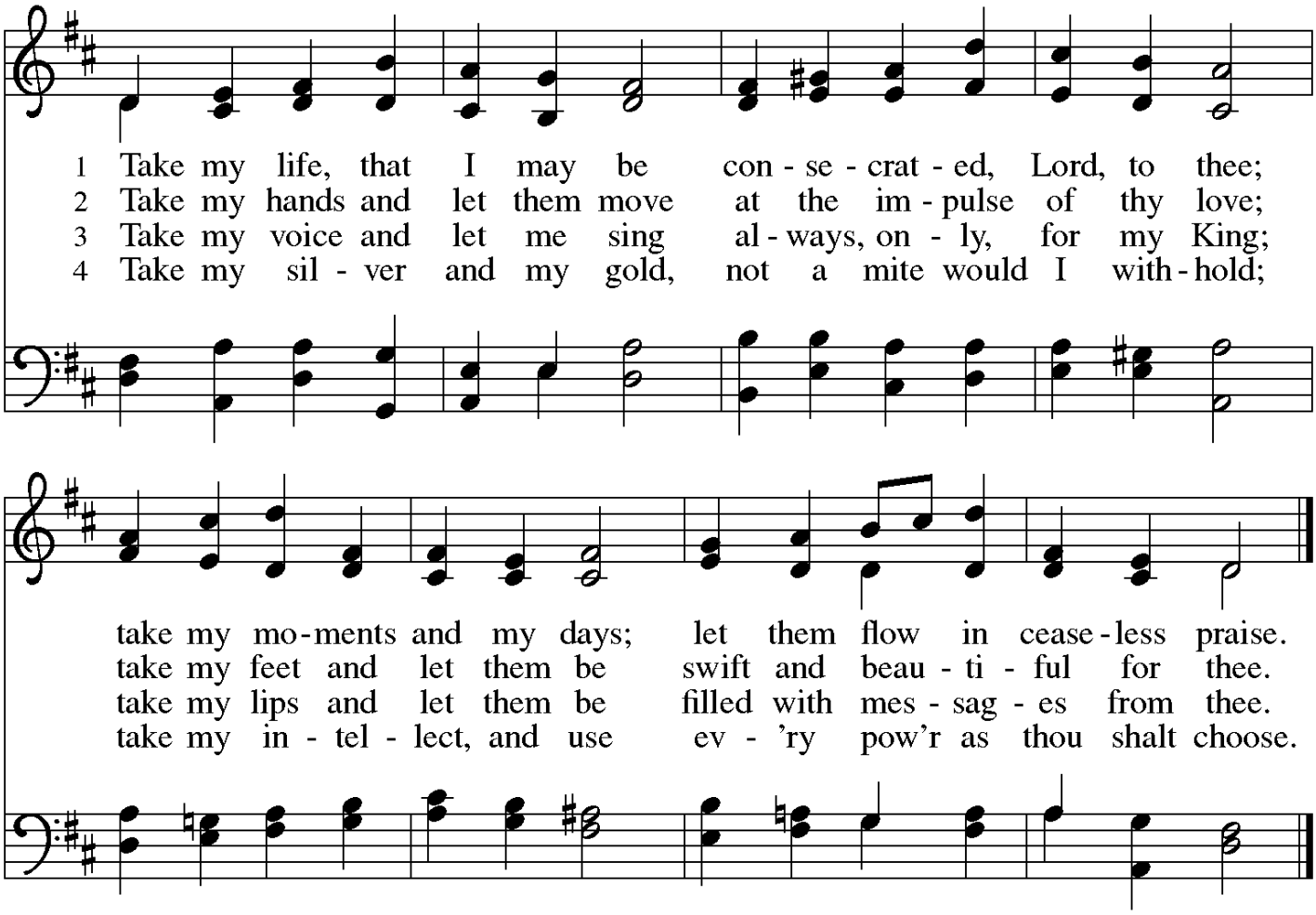
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent
their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that
you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show
deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then,
what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of
their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show
me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to
them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he
said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God
the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they
left him and went away.

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

SERMON Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt

HYMN OF THE DAY:** ***Take My Life, That I May Be **685 Red Hymnal**



5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER:

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.

WHEN INVITED, RESPOND:

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER:

We welcome you as a sister in Christ into this mission that we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Response: God in your mercy**, hear our prayer.**

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary.

OFFERING AND CHILDREN'S OFFERING
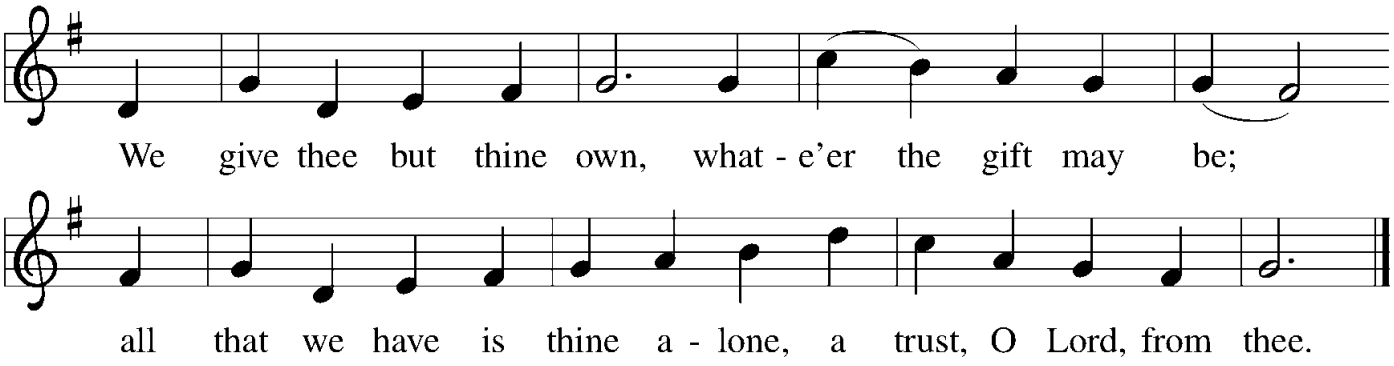
Children are invited to come forward to get a pail to collect change and bills for our mission of the month, which is the Strategic Iowa Land Trust.

To give online, scan here.

Thank you so much for your support of our shared ministry!

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY SONG:



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray…

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

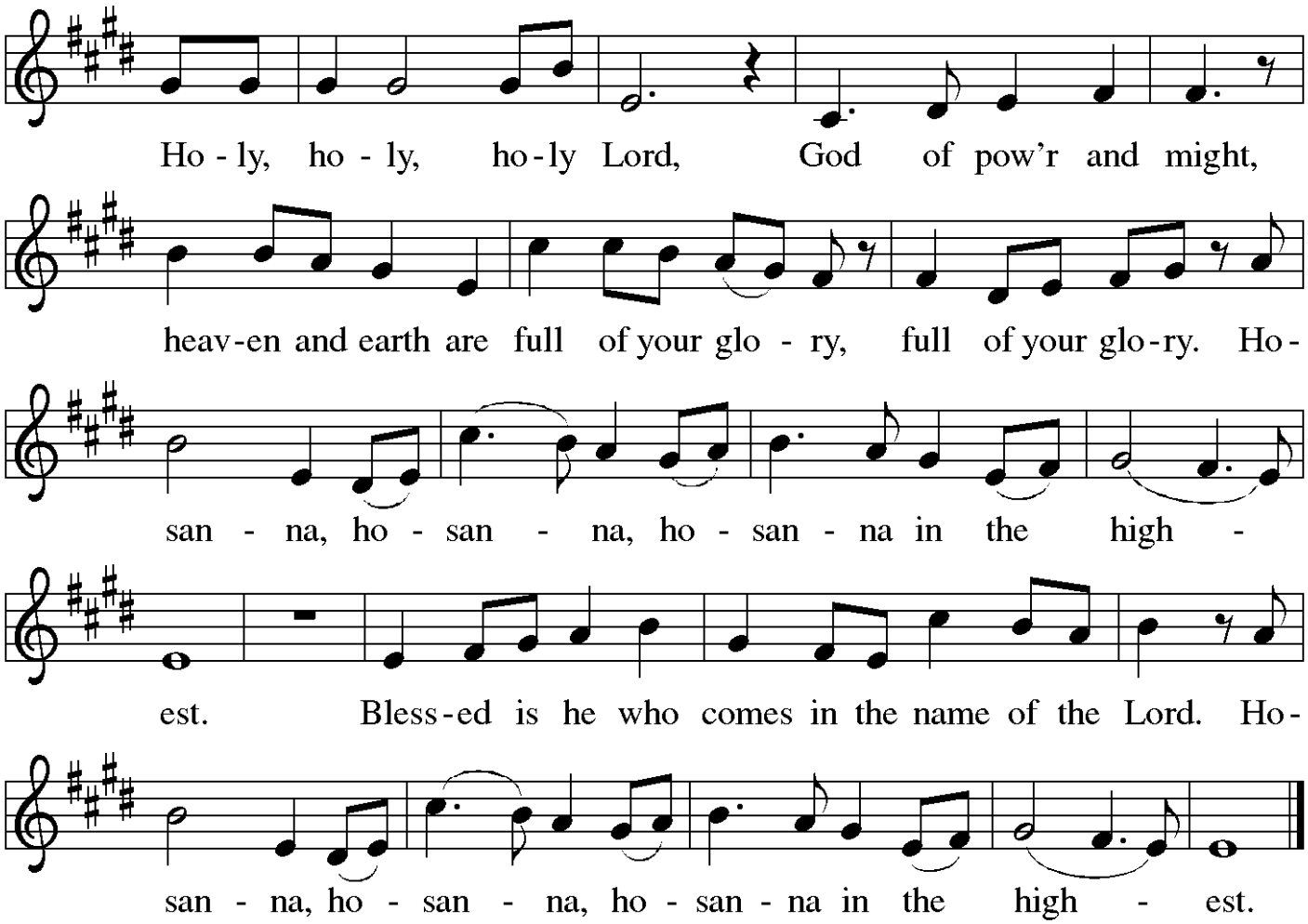
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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**

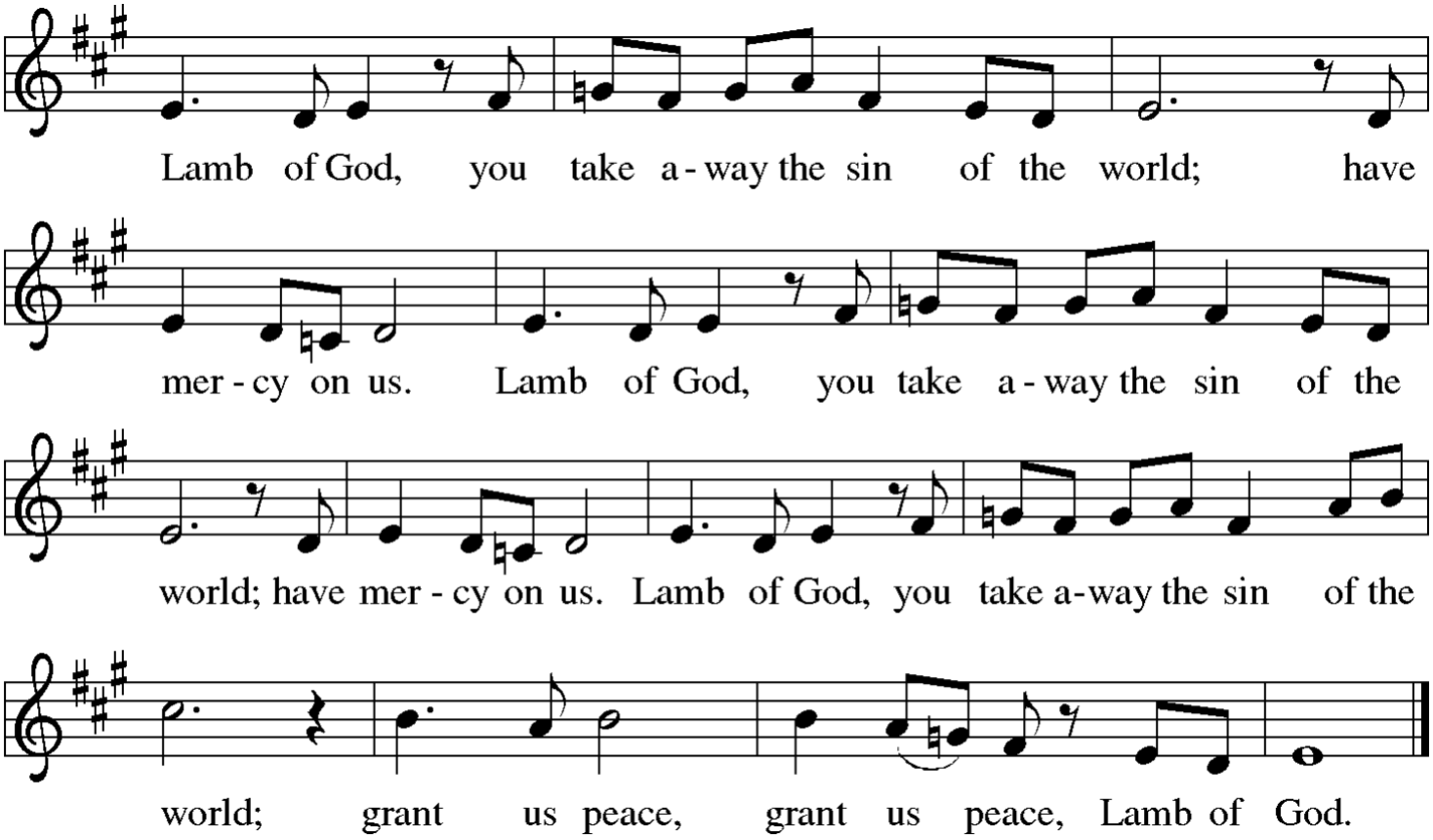


***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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. 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ's table.*

COMMUNION SONG:
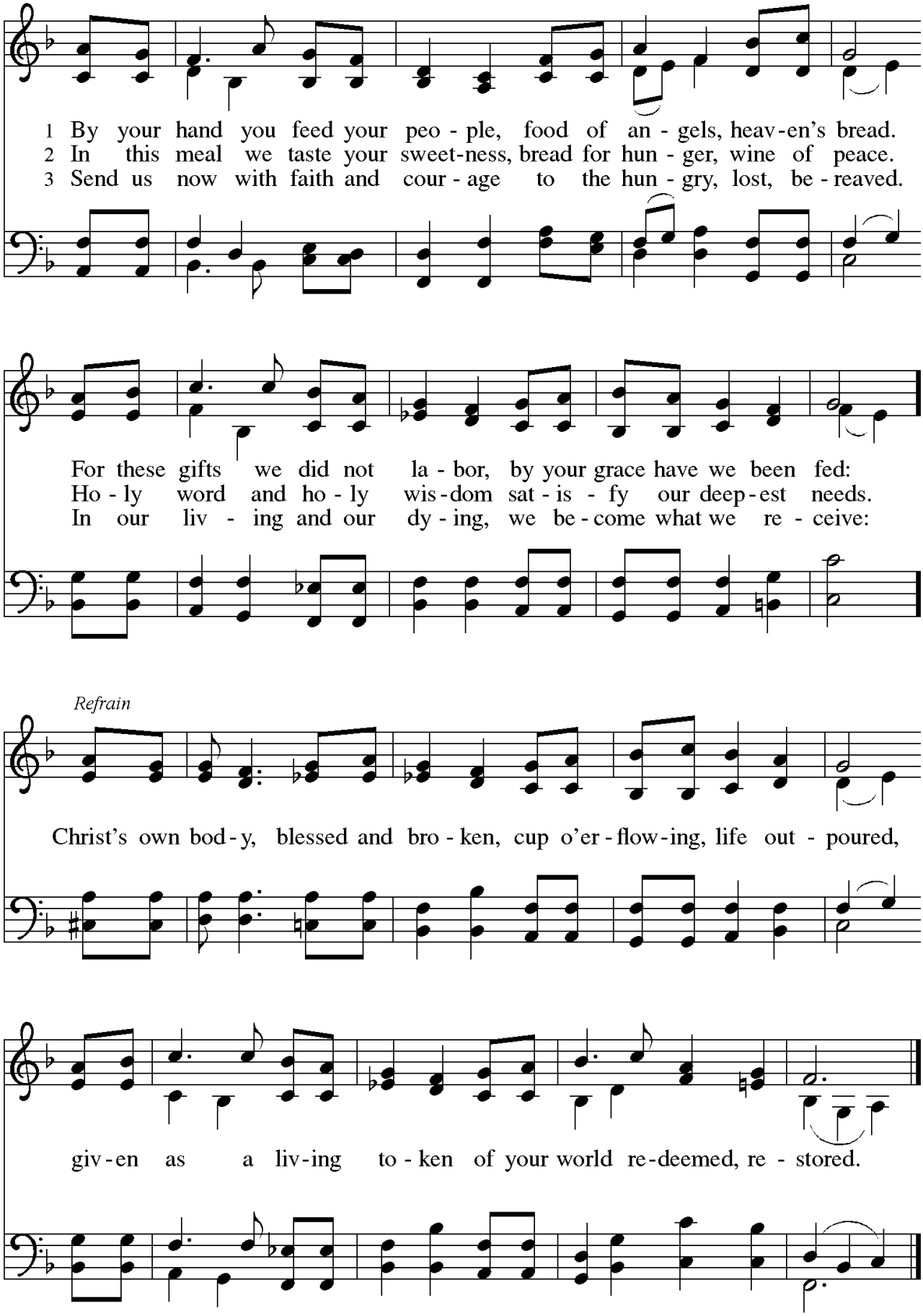


COMMUNION HYMNS: ***This is My Father's World***

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Mother's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Mother's world;
she shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear her pass;
she speaks to me ev'rywhere.

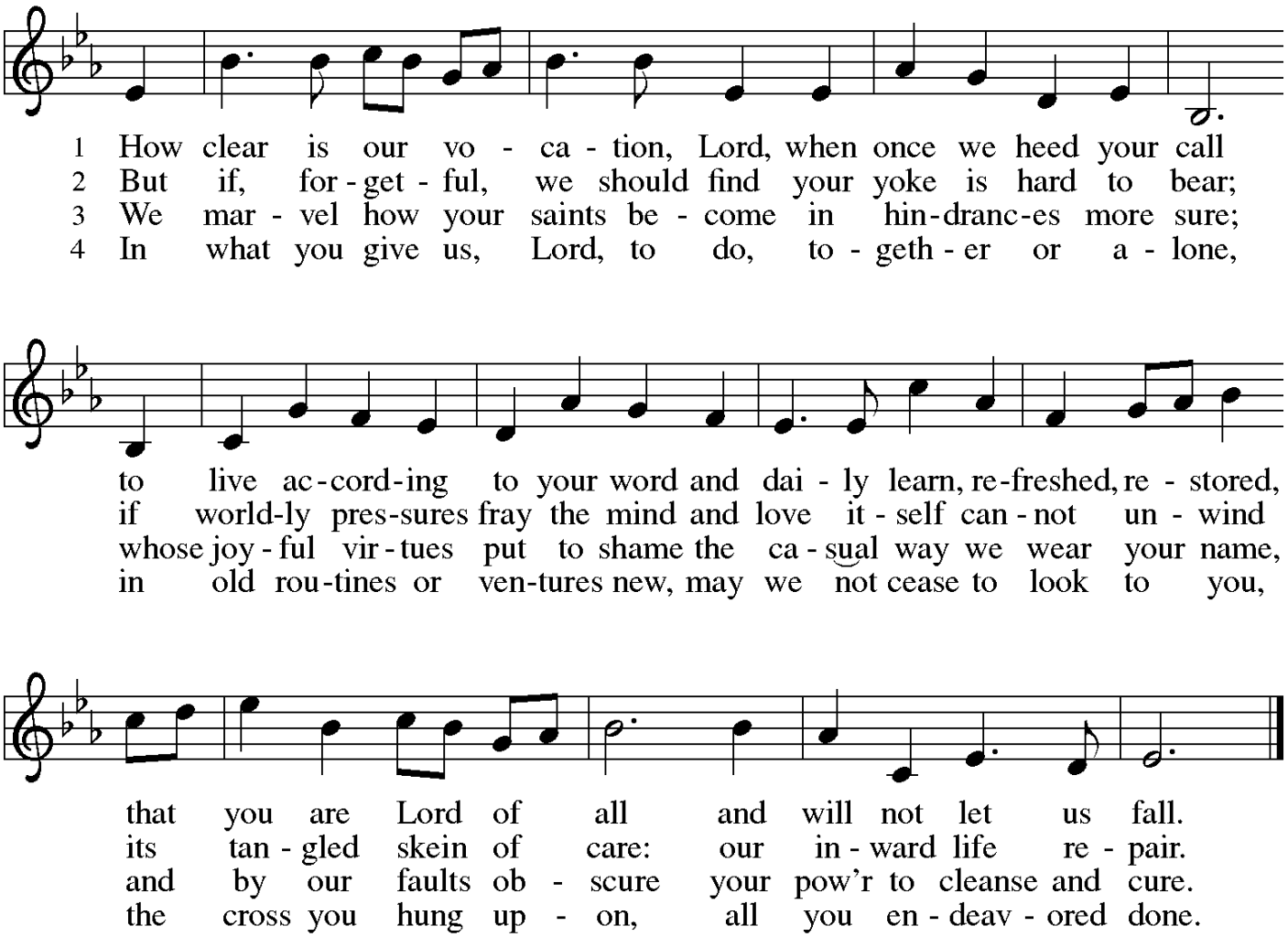
3 This is Creator's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong
seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is Creator's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king,
let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

By Your Hand, You Feed Your People — 469 Red Hymnal



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord **580 Red Hymnal**



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray…
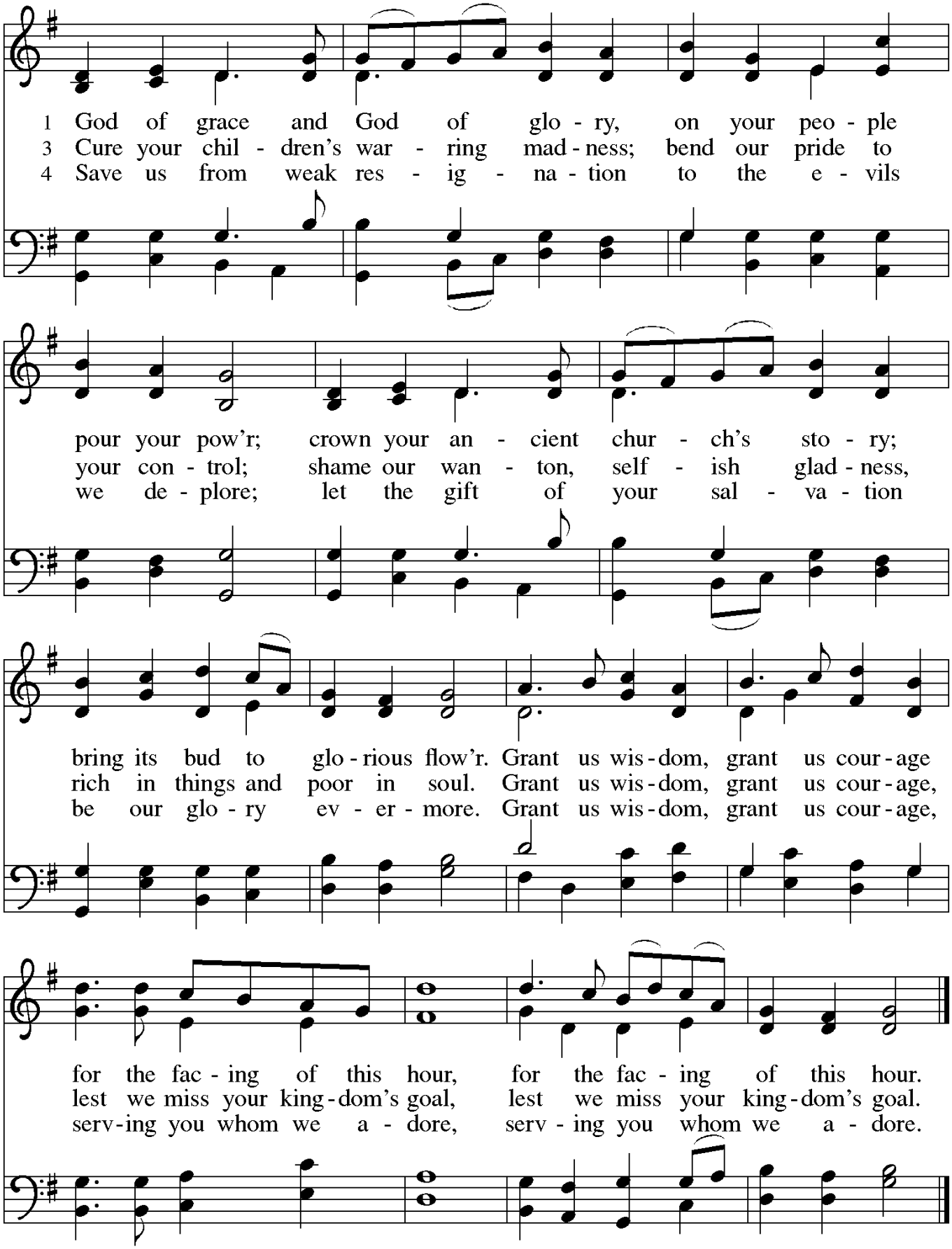
Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

SENDING SONG:** ***God of Grace and God of Glory (verses 1, 3, 4) **705 Red Hymnal**

Kids of all ages are invited to come forward to play percussion.



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***DISMISSAL:** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:
PRESIDING AND PREACHING: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce
CANTOR: Karin Martin-Hiner
ASSISTING MINISTER: Jane Kemp
READER: Kerry Johnson
USHERS: Kirk Johnson, Alex Engelken
GREETERS: Jason and Maryn Engelken
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Keegan Joyce, Sara Fleener
ALTAR GUILD: Jane Kemp, Jeri and Reg Laursen
AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Ethan Friedrich
FELLOWSHIP: Edith Searles, Jennifer Self, Kerry and Kirk Johnson, Alex Engelken, Keegan Joyce

PLEASE ***BRIEFLY*** STAY AFTER WORSHIP TODAY



The Congregational Council recommends that the congregation amend the bylaw of the church that sets the **date of the Annual Meeting** (C10.01.01).

The current bylaw states, "The Annual Meeting of this congregation shall be held on the first Sunday of Februrary [sic]." **Our recommended new wording states, "The Annual Meeting**

of this congregation shall be held on a Sunday between January 15th and February 15th."

The reason for this change is that in 2027, Easter falls early in the calendar year. In addition, February starts on a Monday. As a result, **the prescribed date of our Annual Meeting would be on the same week as Ash Wednesday.** This would mean we are trying to plan the Annual Meeting at the same time we are planning for Lent. As such, it would be a huge help to Pastor Kristen and the staff to hold the Annual Meeting **one week earlier, on January 31**, instead of February 7. **Because the date of the Annual Meeting is set within our constitution, it will require a vote of the congregation to change it.**

It seemed prudent to the Congregation Council to avoid situations like this in the future by building a more flexible timeline for the Annual Meeting into the church bylaws.

We ask the congregation's members to stay after today's worship service for a brief meeting to vote on this proposal.

This Week at Good Shepherd

Today, Sunday, October 18th: 21st *Sunday after Pentecost*

10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall; treats: Green Flock

Monday, October 19th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*

12:15 PM: Church Staff Meeting
3:00 PM: Piano Lessons
4:00 PM: Outreach and Hospitality Committee
6:15 PM: Life in the Lutheran Lane; Gathering Space
6:30 PM: AL/ANON; Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 20th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*

9:30 AM: Bible Study with Pastor Kristen; Library — all are welcome
6:15 PM: Sons of Norway Meeting
6:30 PM: Congregational Council Meeting; Library

Wednesday, October 21st: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*

3:30 PM: Men's Coffee Ministry; Lefse Lodge Kafe
5:30 PM: Supper for all; Fellowship Hall – Hot dogs and baked beans, provided by Yellow Flock
6:00 PM: LIFT (Learning In Faith Together) Programming
-Pre-K through 5th Grade: Wednesday School
-6th-8th Grade: Confirmation
-Adult Learning: "**Can Ouy Dare Hsti?**" – Experience Dyslexia
7:00 PM: Choir Practice
7:45 PM: Band Practice

Thursday, October 22nd: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*

3:15 PM: Piano Lessons

Friday, October 23rd: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-12 PM*

Sunday, October 25th: *Reformation Sunday – Polka Worship*

9:30 AM: Worship, Sanctuary; with Holy Communion
Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall; treats: Green Flock

Welcome to Krista Moore, who joins our congregation today!

PRE-PLANNING FOR END-OF-LIFE

Good Shepherd will **host a pre-planning for end-of-life seminar** on **Monday, October 22nd at 6:15 pm.** It will be led by Pastor Kristen and it includes information about the role of funerals in faith communities, funeral planning, and how to work with Good Shepherd and Pastor Kristen to plan for your own funeral when that time comes or the funeral of a loved one now. No preregistration is needed.



Life in the Lutheran Lane
6:15pm this Monday
Join us tomorrow, October 19th as Professor Wanda Deifelt teaches a session on "How it's Going: Living as Beloved Saints and Sinners in a Messy World." All are welcome!

NEXT SUNDAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY

WEAR RED IN HONOR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Luminaries for Loved Ones



Create Luminaries for All Saints Sunday in Remembrance of Your Loved Ones Who Have Died - Beginning today, Luminary Bags are available in the Gathering Space for you to decorate at home. At the **LIFT Halloween/All Saints/Reformation Party on Wednesday, October 28** ***(see below)***, there also will be a time for decorating luminary bags. On **All Saints Sunday, November 1,** lighted with a battery-operated votive light, the luminaries will be placed in the altar area.

Folks of all ages are invited to a costume party at LIFT on the evening of Wednesday, October 28! We will carve pumpkins and decorate luminaries!



Come for intergenerational festivities and shenanigans!

Bring your own pumpkin and carving tools if you can. **If you need a pumpkin, sign up in the Gathering Space!**

Check out our **Little Library** in front of the church – here you will find **bulletins, newsletters, and other resources from our church.** Thank you to **Erik Barnaal** for building it and **Erik Berg** for installing it!



Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Praying for others is a cherished ministry that everyone can participate in at any time. People on the prayer list are welcome to remain there for as long as is needed.

Those with health concerns:

- Richard Ylvisaker
- Kristine Wilkie
- Tommy Lowe
- Doyle Gorden
- Paige Murphy
- Karl Knudson
- Marv Slind
- Valerie and Rick, *friends of Sara and Steve Hopkins*
- David Ramsey
- Jake Hiner
- Robin Darland
- Philip Swanson
- Marilyn Anderson
- Mic Martin
- Barbara Nasby, *best friend of Stephanie Hoff*
- Bob Wilson
- Linda and Jim Morgan, *Jane Borelli's sister and brother-in-law*
- Joan Searles
- Naomi Craft
- Barbara, *mother of Christy Vrtis*
- Anthony McCabe
- Mickey Slind
- Jon Wendling
- James Barth
- Ginny Olson
- LaVerne Ramsey
- Carrie Solberg

Those who grieve:

- Connie Buresh and family, upon the death of her sister-in-law Julie Friedrich
- Brian Larsen-Schmidt and family, upon the death of his father Dick Schmidt
- Pastor Kristen and family, upon the death of her uncle John Henningson
- Steve Hopkins and Family, upon the death of his cousin Randy Frush

To have a prayer request added to or removed from the Prayer List, please email Tristan at office@goodshepherddecorah.org, call (563) 382-3963, scan the QR code, or fill out a card in your pew and place it in the offering plate.



All Saints Sunday is November 1st.

On this day we remember loved ones who have died and give thanks for living saints who inspire us by their faithful witness.

If someone dear to you has died since last November 2 (last year's All Saints Sunday), please CLEARLY write their name on the sheet in the gathering space and we will give thanks for their lives during our prayers in worship on November 1, along with Good Shepherd Members who have died in the past year.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
701 Iowa Ave. Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – just follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

- **All are welcome at Good Shepherd.** God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection. We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.
- In keeping with our welcome, **Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation**, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. **We are an *AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation*** - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.
- In keeping with our commitment to steward God's Good Earth, Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero + Energy use.
- **Our RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT** was approved by the congregation on February 6th, 2022. Find the full statement at **goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement** or by scanning the code.
- **ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION**, the bread is all non-gluten. Wine is dark, grape juice light.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF:

Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
(563) 202-0780
pastorkristen@goodshepherddecorah.org

Brooke Joyce; *Music Director*
music@goodshepherddecorah.org

Tristan Occhipinti; *Office and Building Manager*
tristan@goodshepherddecorah.org

Mike Sammons; *Custodian*