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



November 8, 2026 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction: *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.*

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: *Wachet Auf* – Hugo Distler

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
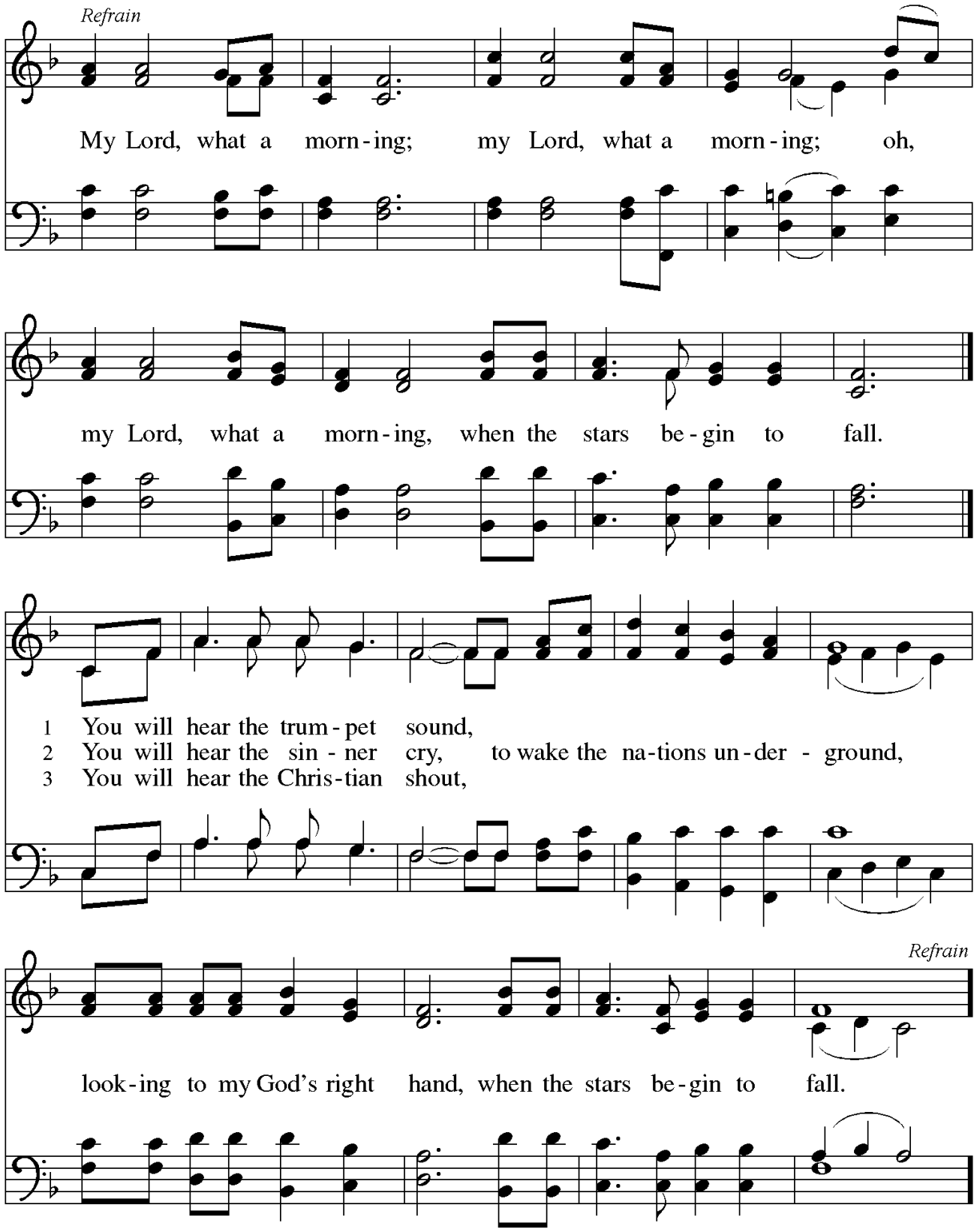
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

Beloved, Inherit the riches of God's grace.

☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:** ***My Lord, What a Morning **438 Red Hymnal**
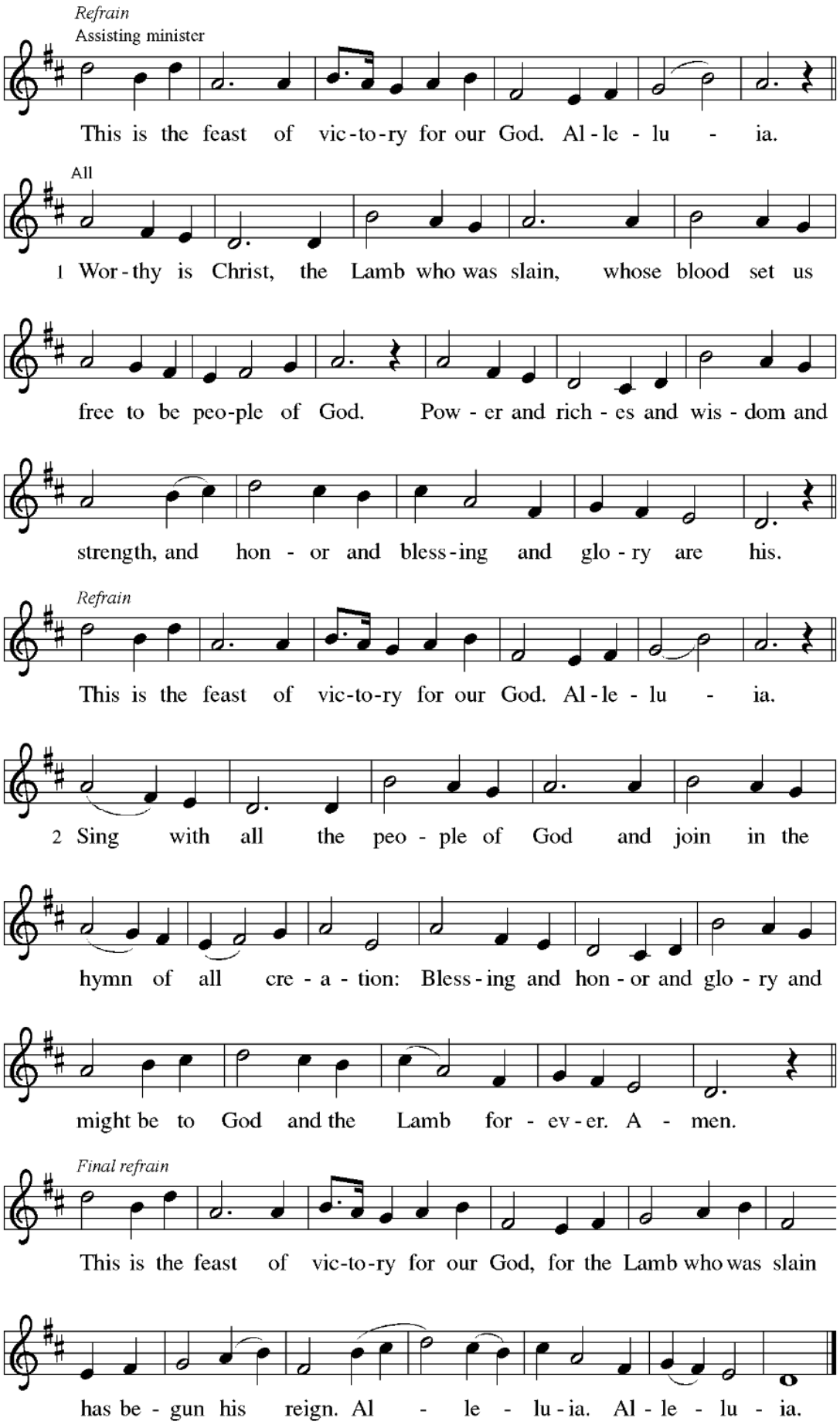


Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

***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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE:



***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

STEWARDSHIP TEMPLE TALK *Luther Snow*

KIDS' TIME

READING: Amos 5:18-24

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.
23 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.

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

***PSALM 70**

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!"

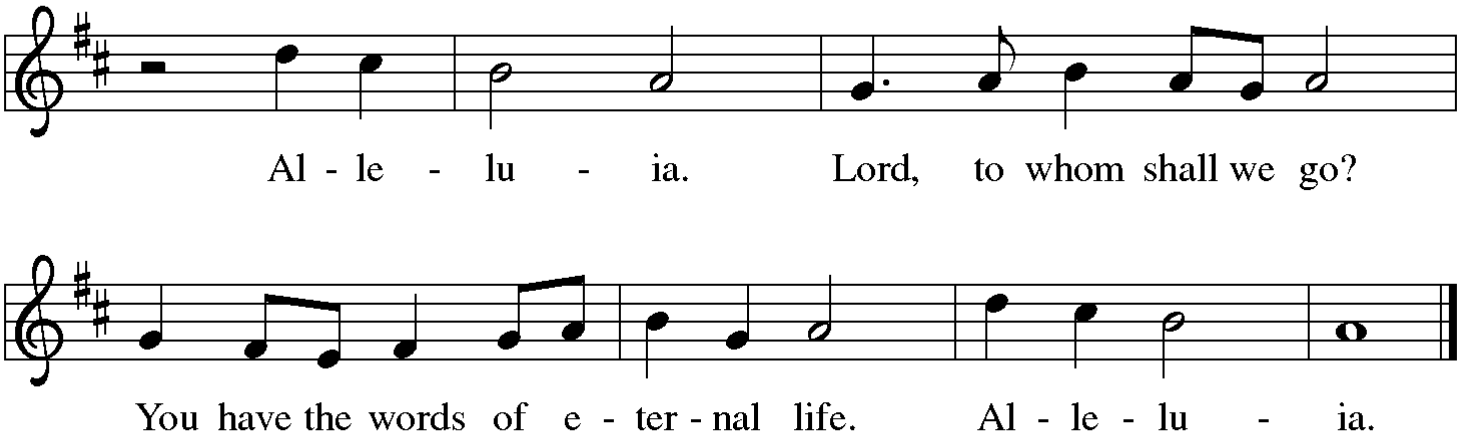
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1-13**
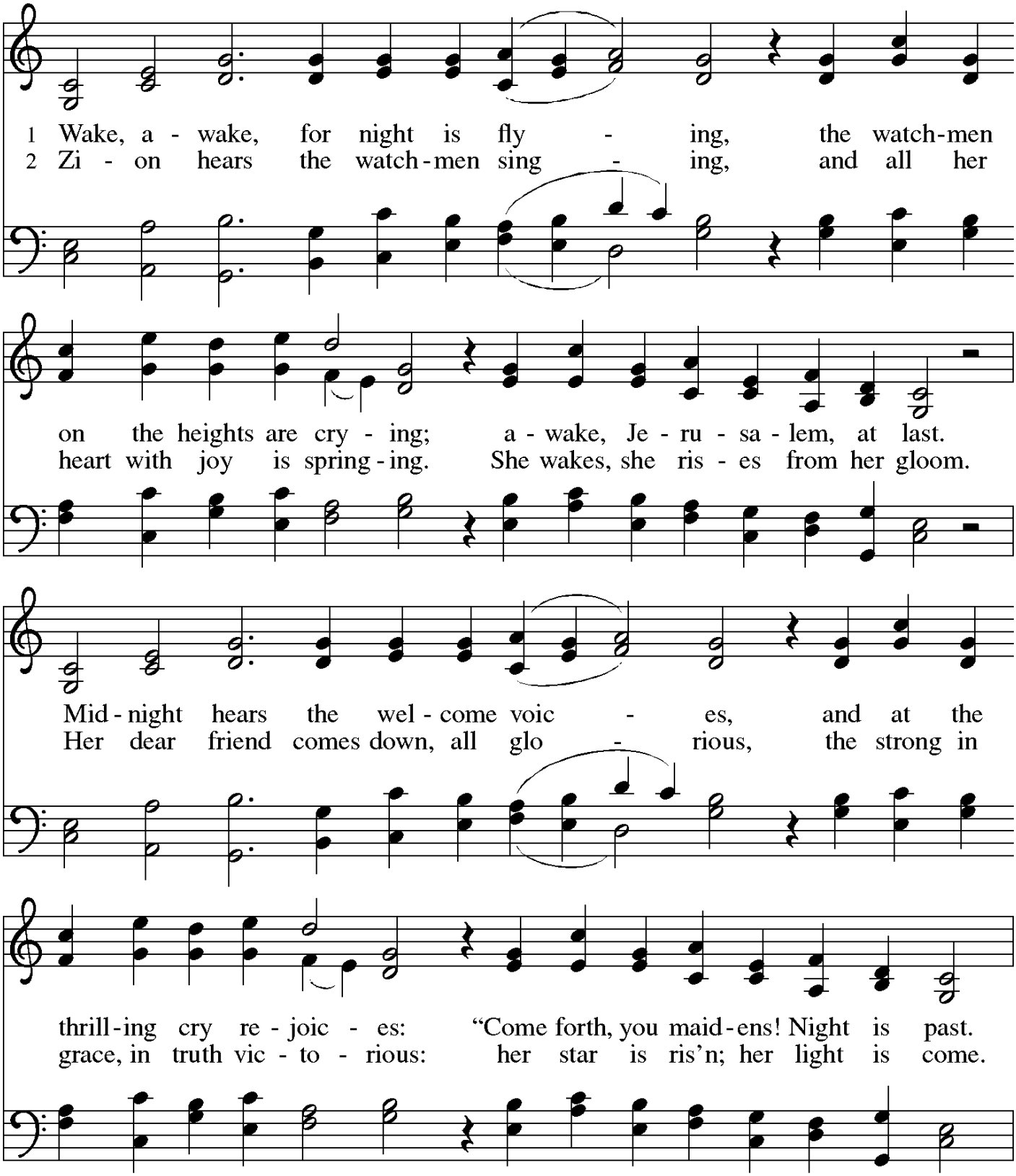
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**
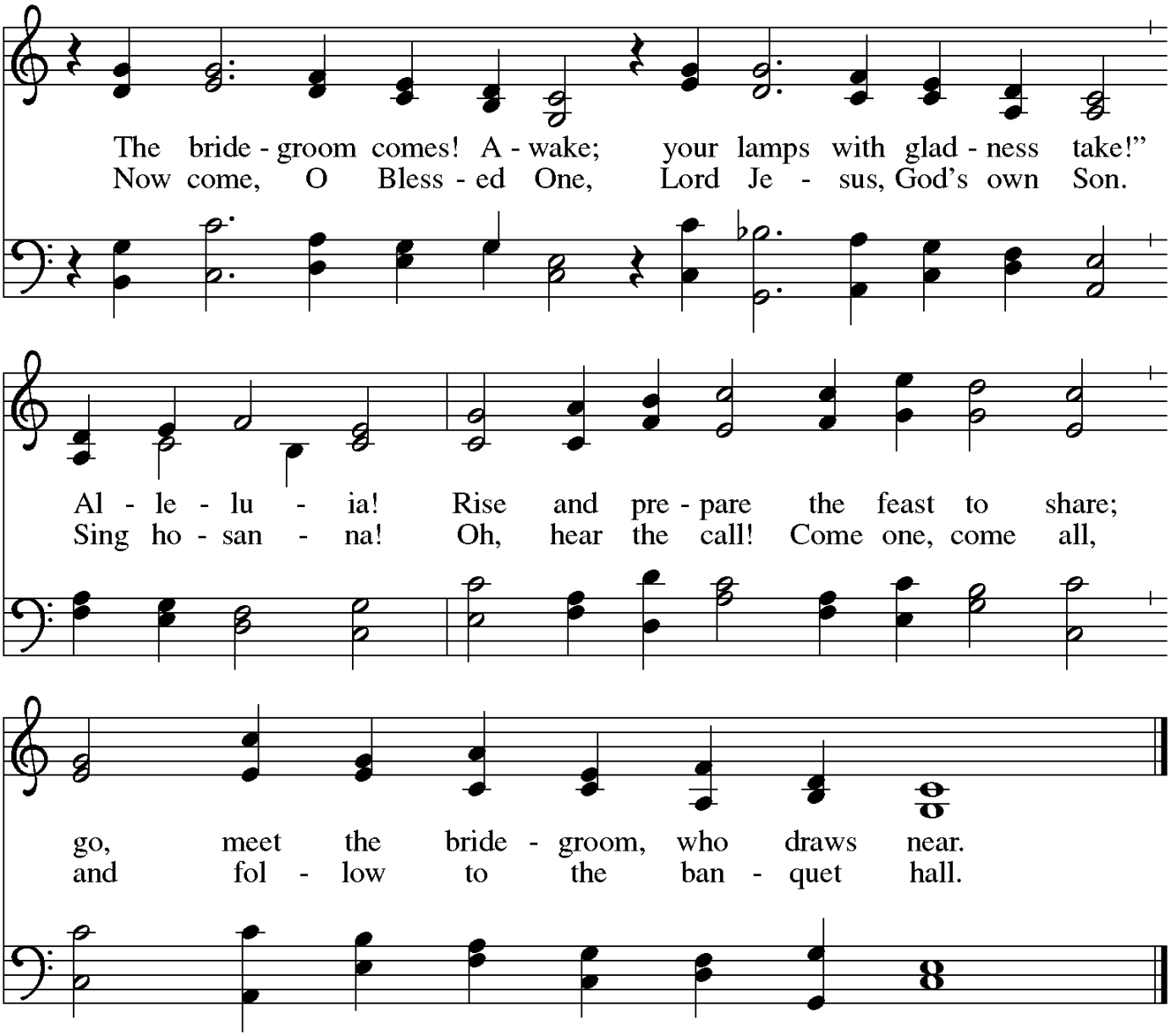
SERMON *Brian Caton*

HYMN OF THE DAY:** ***Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying ***(verses 1 & 2)*** **436 Red Hymnal**



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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***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
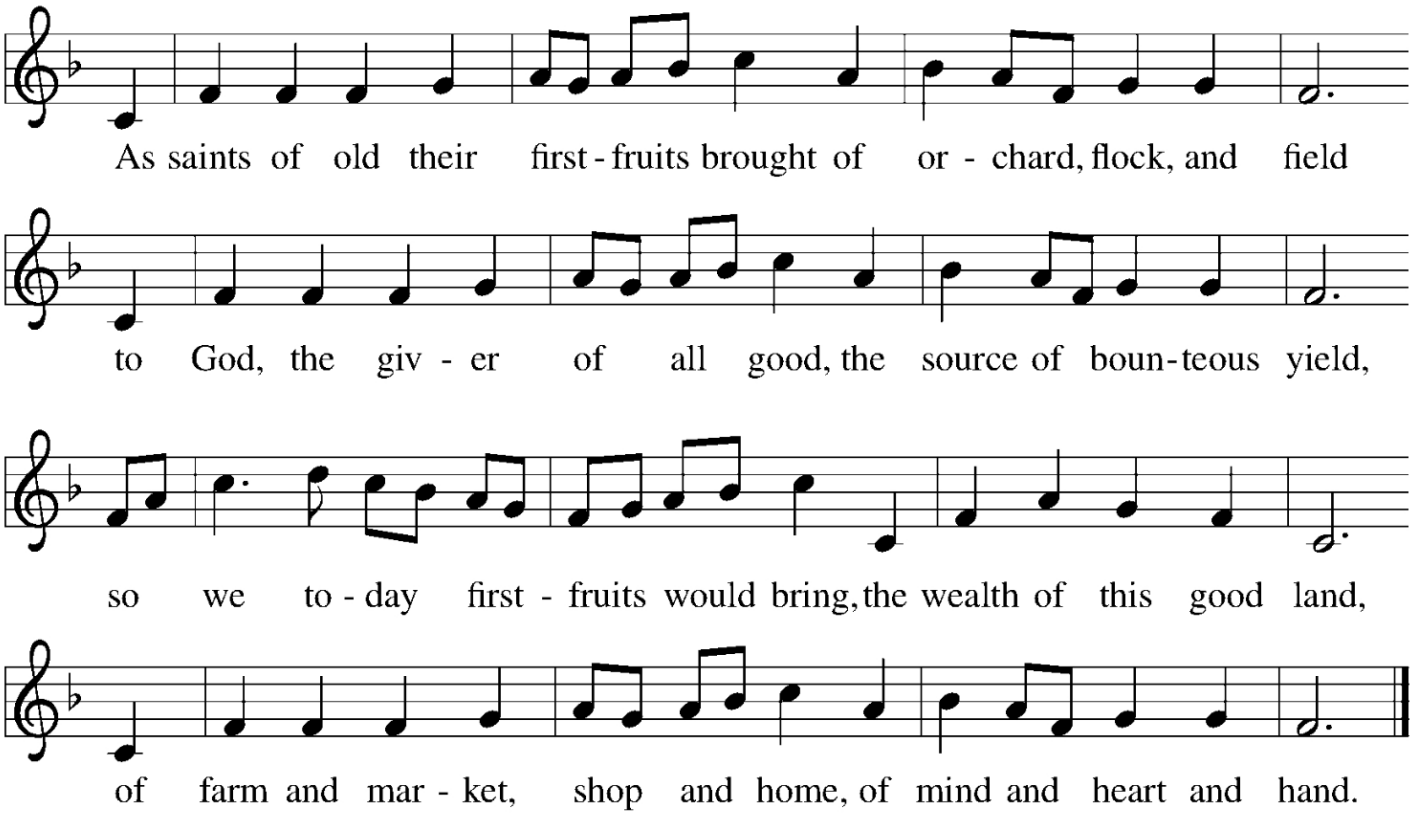
Children are invited to come forward to get a pail to collect change and bills for our mission of the month, which is the Decorah Community Food Pantry.

To give online, scan here.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *My Spirit Longs for Thee* – Paul Ayres

OFFERTORY SONG:



Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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***OFFERING PRAYER:** 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,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through 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.

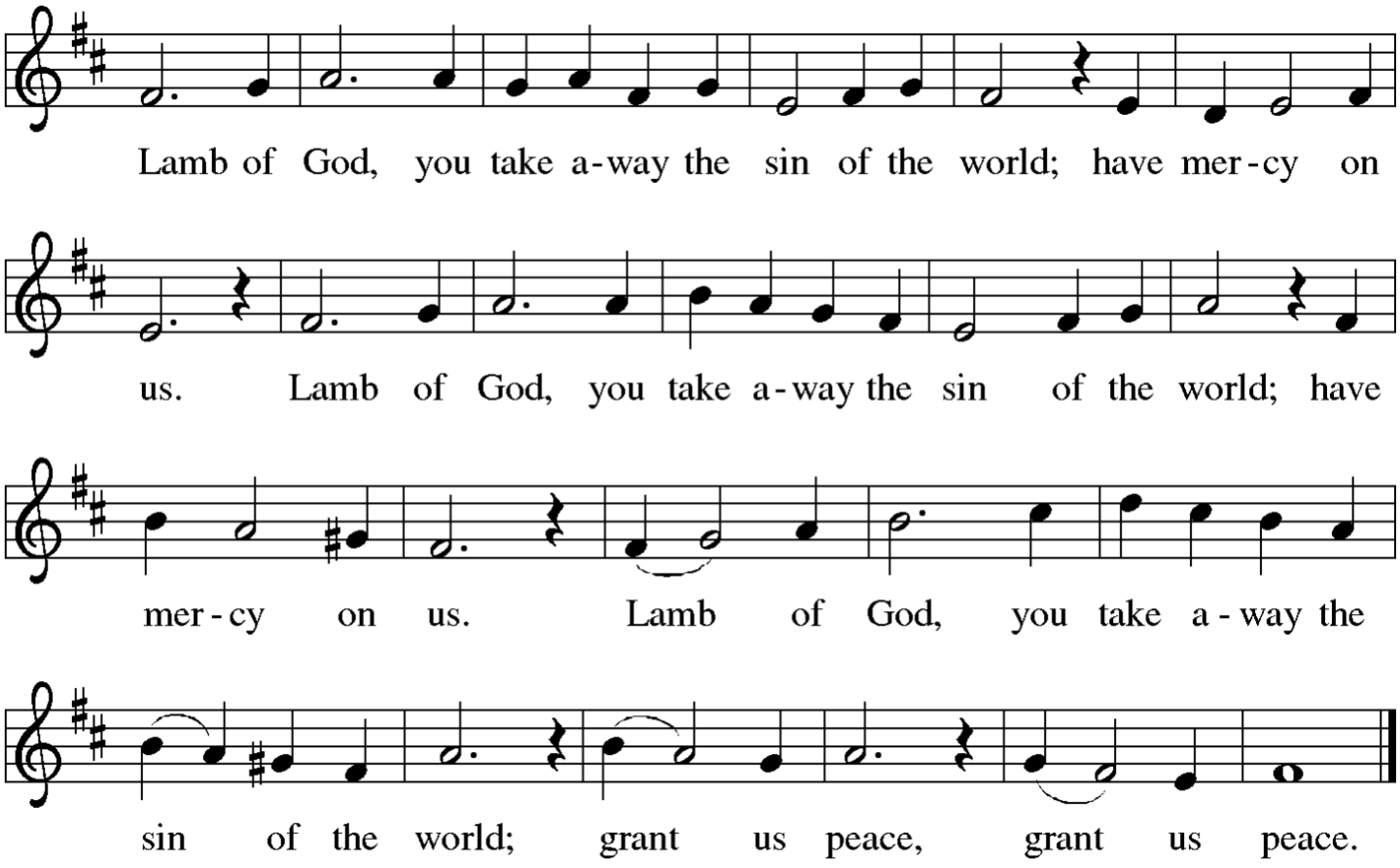
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

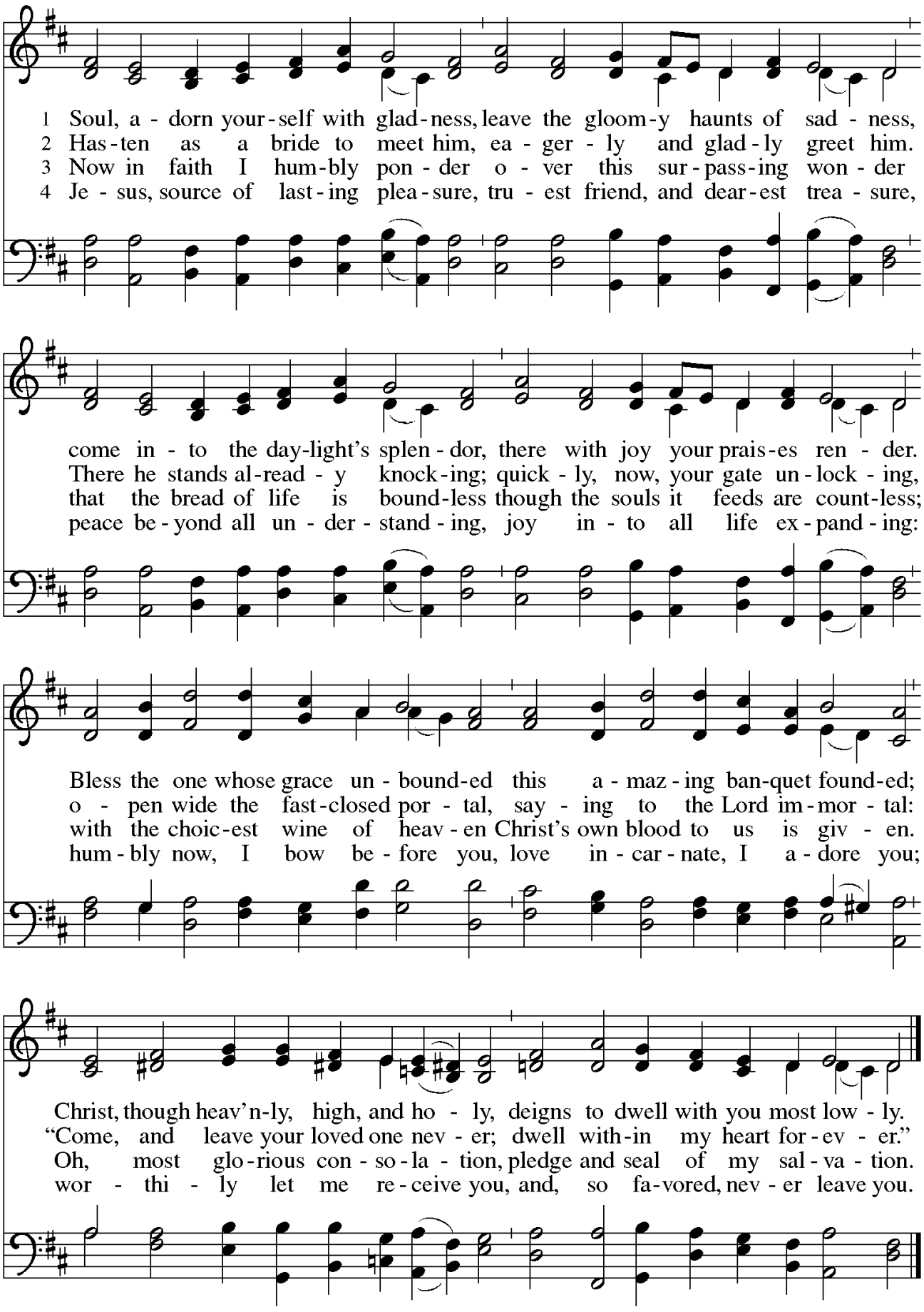
***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER: 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.**

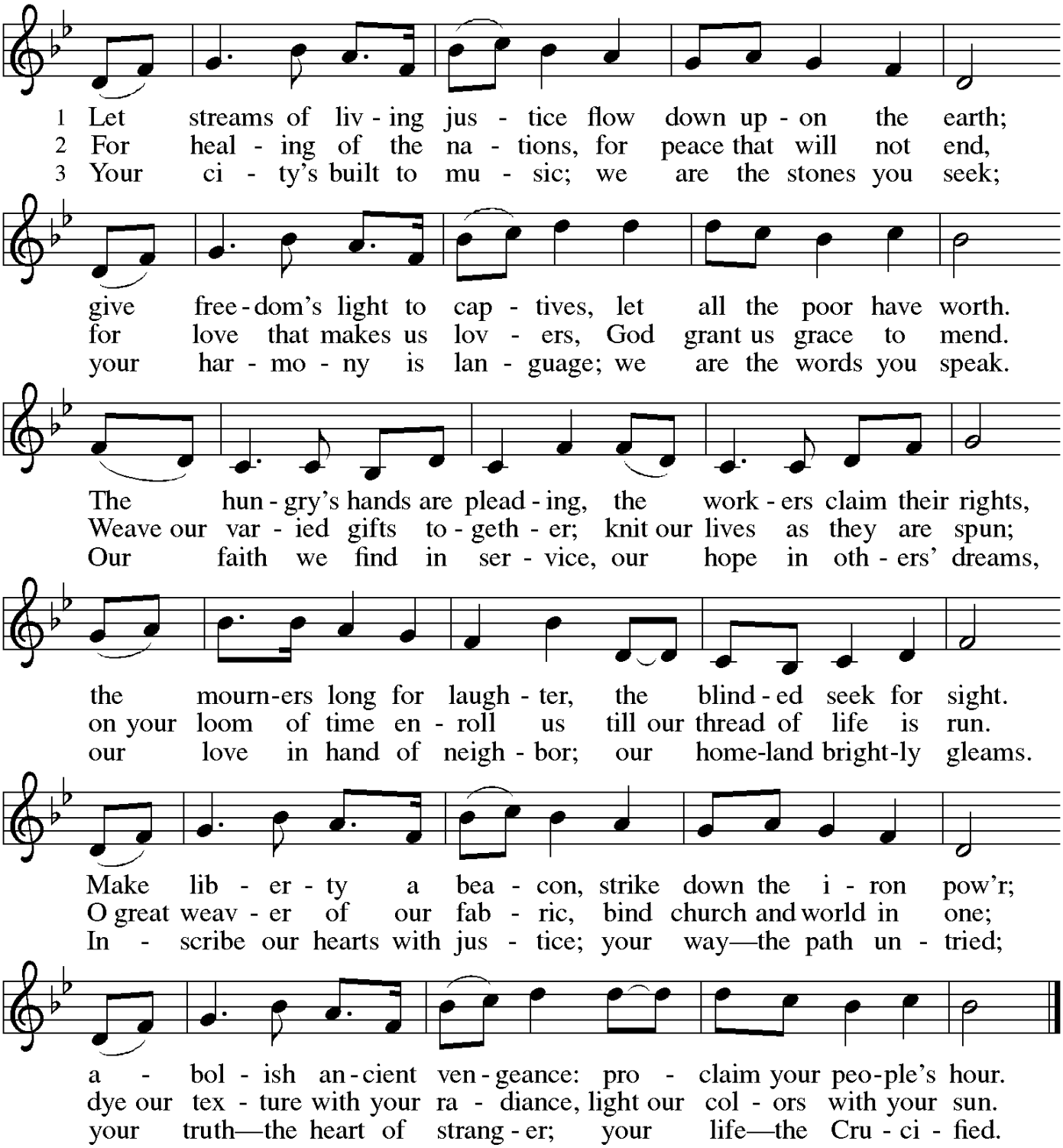
HOLY COMMUNION: *All are welcome at Christ's table.*

COMMUNION SONG:



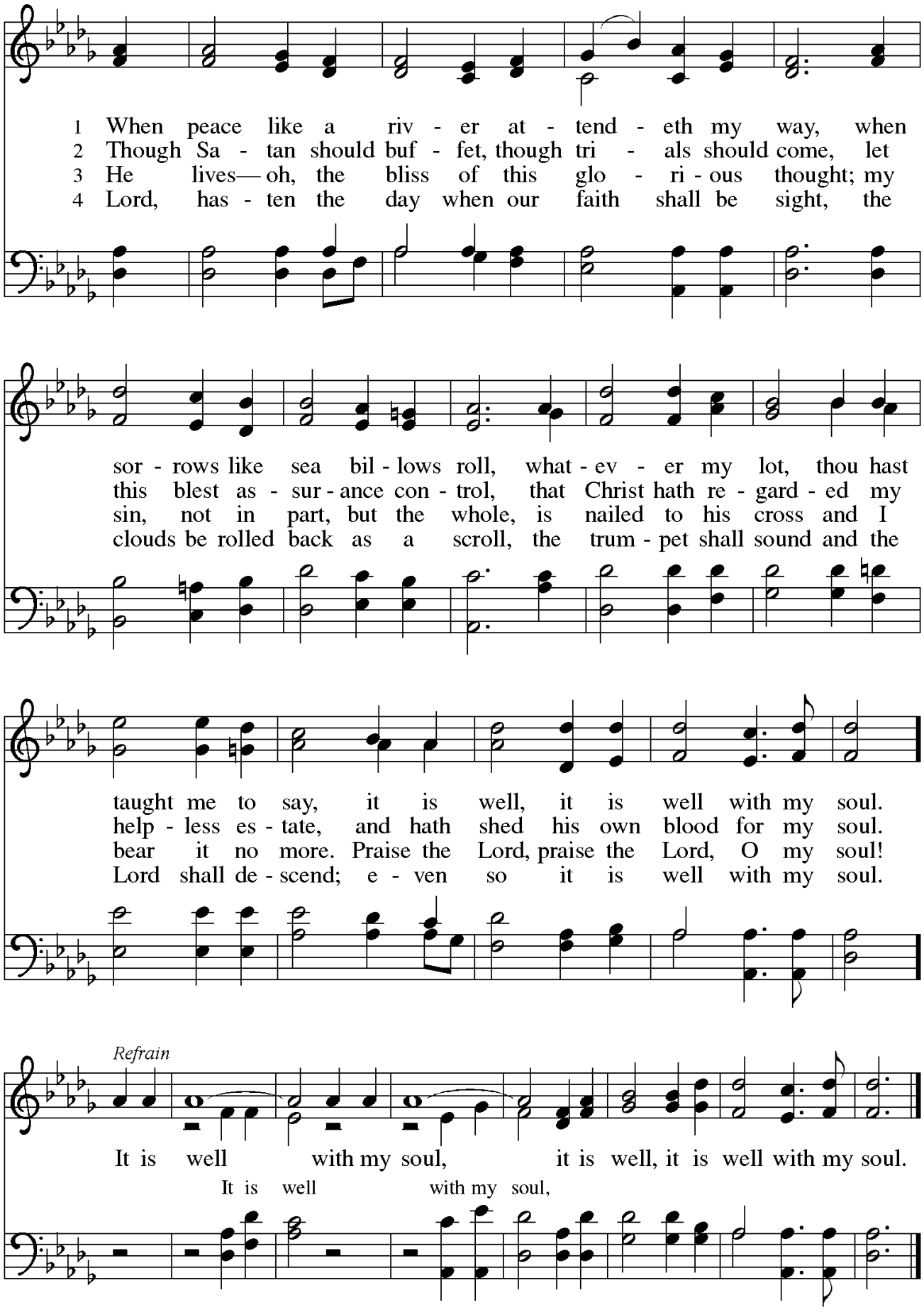


Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

TABLE BLESSING
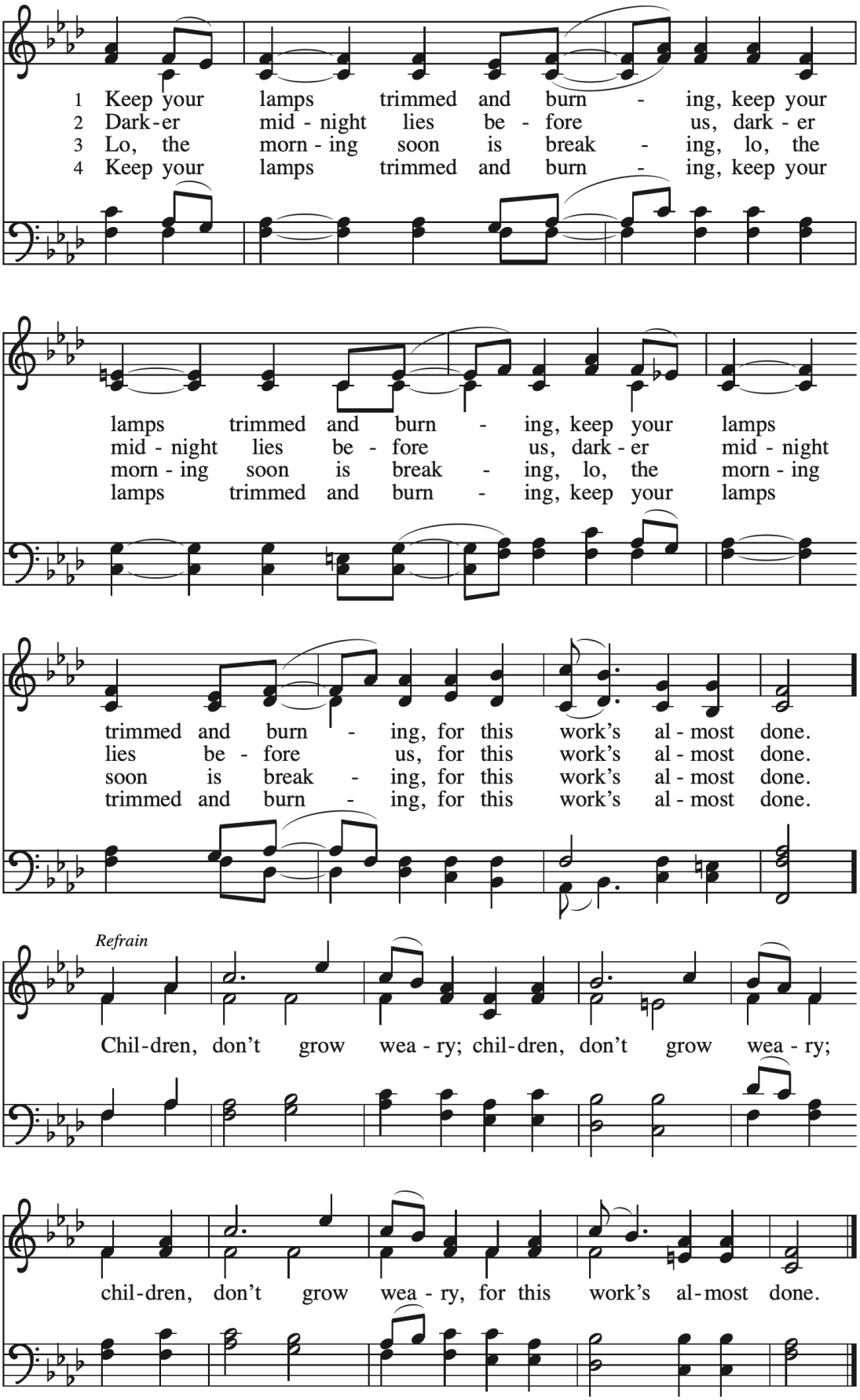
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Let us pray… **Amen.**

SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

*SENDING SONG: *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* **949 Purple Hymnal**

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



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY:

PRESIDING: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt PREACHING: Brian Caton
ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce READER: Tim Folkerts
USHERS: Luther Snow, Ray Torresdal GREETERS: Pam Torresdal, Jon Lund
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Melanie Folkerts, Pam Torresdal
ALTAR GUILD: Jan Siefken, Jeri Laursen AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN: Ethan Friedrich
FELLOWSHIP: Melanie Folkerts, Lise Kildegaard, Norma Refsal, Jon Lund, Lise Kildegaard

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We have now posted our job ad for the position of Church Engagement Coordinator. If you know anyone who might be interested, encourage them to contact the church office!

Decorah UCC and the Decorah Contemplative Circle invite you to a free Autumn Silent Saturday on November 14, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Decorah UCC.

Sign-in and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m. Attendees are asked to arrive by 8:45.

Beginners are welcome. In a culture filled with constant noise and distraction, this event provides a sacred space to disconnect from busyness and connect with God through a variety of silent and meditative practices.

Learning In Faith Together (L.I.F.T.): **Gratitude and Thanksgiving for Creation and Indigenous Foods**

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 **5:30-6:00 p.m.**

Three Sisters Shared Meal

featuring Three Sisters Soup & braised bison

We are asking congregation members to please provide sides & desserts made from Three Sisters ingredients (corn, beans, and/or squash).

(Peanut butter, jelly, and bread also available.)

For Native recipes, scan here
or pick up a handout in the Gathering Space.

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Three Sisters Story and teachings through the voices of Native elders & Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address

for adults and youth

For more information, see the November newsletter.

This Week at Good Shepherd

Today, Sunday, November 8th: *24th Sunday after Pentecost*
10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall; treats: Blue Flock

Monday, November 9th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
12:15 PM: Church Staff Meeting
3:15 PM: Violin Lessons
4:00 PM: Budget Committee Meeting
5:00 PM: Worship and Music Committee Meeting
6:30 PM: AL/ANON; Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 10th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
9:30 AM: Bible Study with Pastor Kristen; Library — all are welcome
1:00 PM: Garden Club Meeting
4:30 PM: Stewardship Committee Meeting
5:30 PM: Education Committee Meeting
6:15 PM: Violin Lessons

Wednesday, November 11th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
10:00 AM: Communion Service at Eastern Star
2:30 PM: Communion Service at The Highlands
3:30 PM: Men's Coffee Ministry; Lefse Lodge Kafe
5:30 PM: Supper for all; Fellowship Hall – Shepherd's Pie,
provided by Confirmation families
6:00 PM: LIFT (Learning In Faith Together) Programming
-Pre-K through 5th Grade: Wednesday School
-6th-8th Grade: Confirmation
-Adult Learning: *Celebrating Samhain* with Lise Kildegaard and Rachael Button
7:00 PM: Choir Practice; 7:45 PM: Band Practice

Thursday, November 12th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-2 PM*
3:15 PM: Violin Lessons
5:00 PM: Kinderhaus Fall Conferences; Library

Friday, November 13th: *Church Office Hours: 9 AM-12 PM*
1:00 PM: Kinderhaus Fall Conferences; Library

Sunday, November 15th: *25th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30 AM: Worship, Sanctuary; with Holy Communion
Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Kristen Larsen-Schmidt
10:45 AM: Fellowship Time; Fellowship Hall; treats: Blue Flock

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:

- Ted Jacobsen, *brother of Anne Clausen*
- Eleanor Reed-Maxfield, *daughter of Kathy Reed*
- Lise Kildegaard
- 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

Those who grieve:

- The family and friends of Carrie Solberg, who died on October 16

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.

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*