THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT *December 12, 2021*

Are You the One?

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus. As we worship, we pray that you will open your heart in preparation as our Savior comes to us through the word and sacraments. If you are a guest, please sign your name, address and most importantly your phone number in our Guest Book in the entrance and come and worship with us again. If we can be of assistance to you in your spiritual walk through life please let us know. We invite you to join us for refreshments after the service in the room adjoining the worship facility.

AS WE GATHER

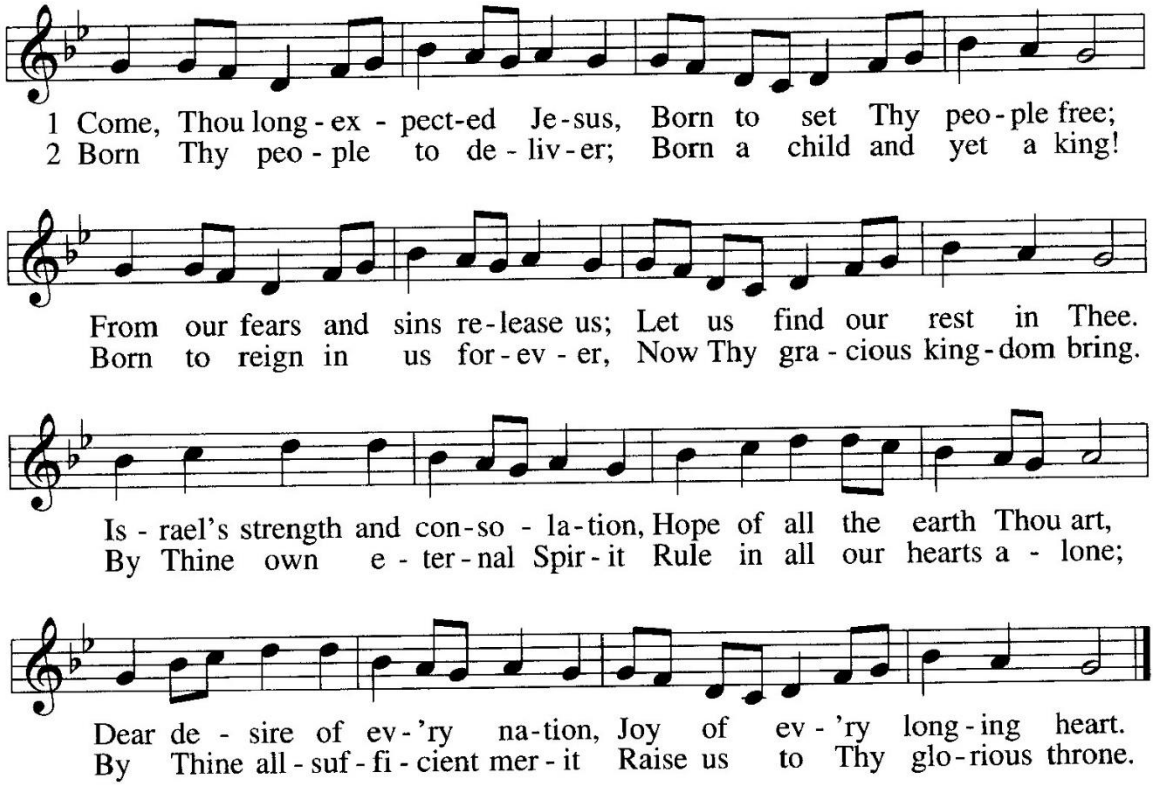
The American folk song “I Wonder as I Wander” captures the Advent question asked by John the Baptist’s messengers in today’s Holy Gospel. “Are You the one,” they wondered, “or shall we look for another?” We live in a wandering world, constantly looking, seeking, and yearning for that one thing, that one idea, that one person, that one amount of money that unlocks the way to a life of flourishing. We ourselves, wandering as we sometimes do, at times have put our trust in people or things that cannot deliver what only Jesus can. Today we rejoice that amidst our wonderings and wanderings, Jesus is the one. He is the one by whom the blind saw, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, demon-possessed people were freed, and the dead were raised. Jesus is the one who will restore all creation to its original perfection and who, when He comes again in glory, will restore all things forever.

COMMUNION PRACTICE

Lamb of God celebrates the Lord’s Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff;18:15-35;26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" *[LSB 338]*



✠ INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20*

P: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

C: The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

P: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

C: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

P: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

C: He will exult over you with loud singing.

P: I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

C: We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Three Advent candles are lit.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

P: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

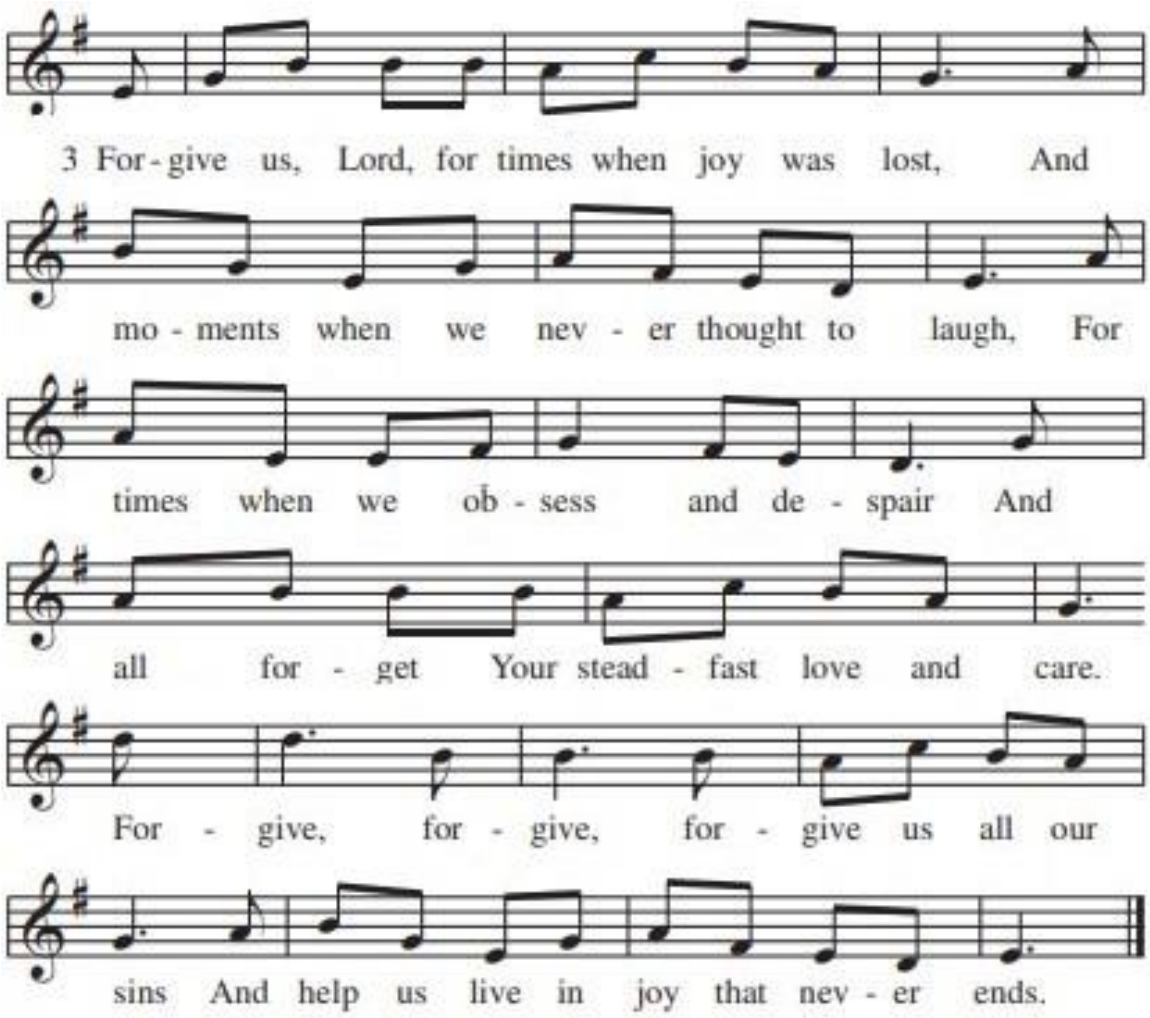
A time of silence is observed.

P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.

C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

HYMN “Kyrie for the Four Sundays in Advent” *[Verse 3]*

Text: Copyright © 2015 Stephen M. Fearing. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: Public Domain.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

P: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

C: who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

P: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

C: By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.

L: You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

C: You alone are the Way to abundant life.

L: Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone

C: that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;

L: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✞ OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

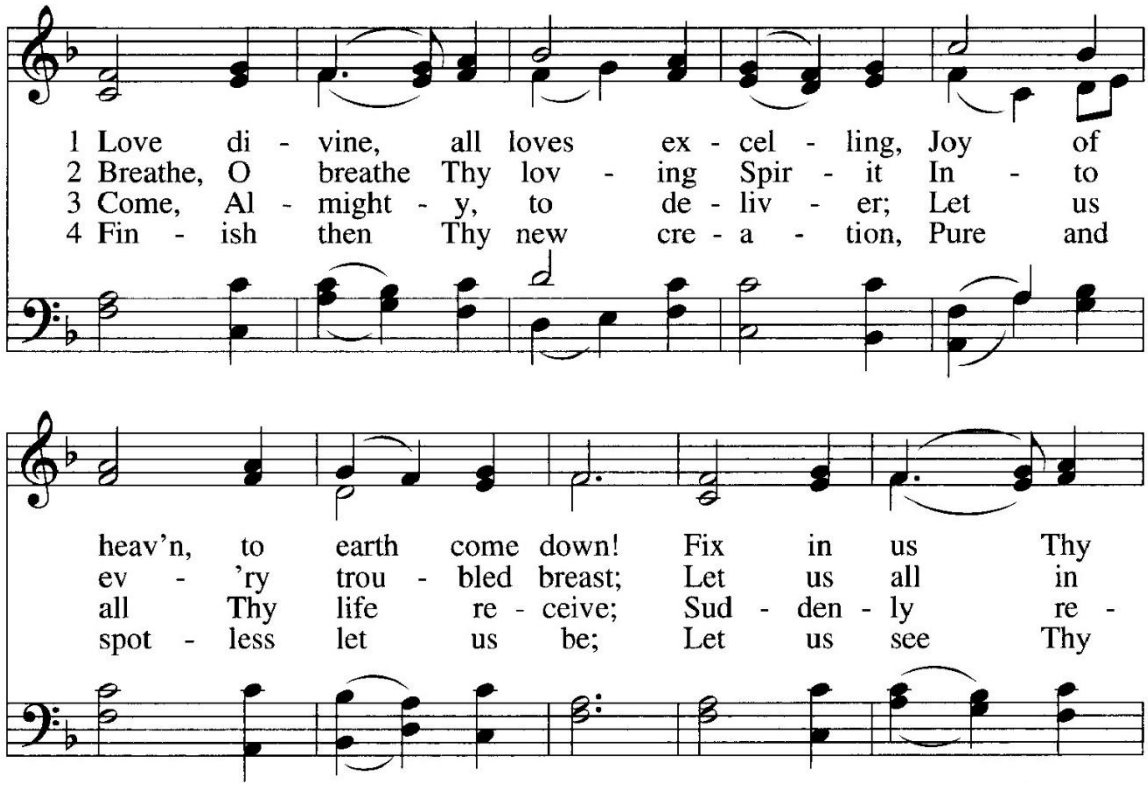
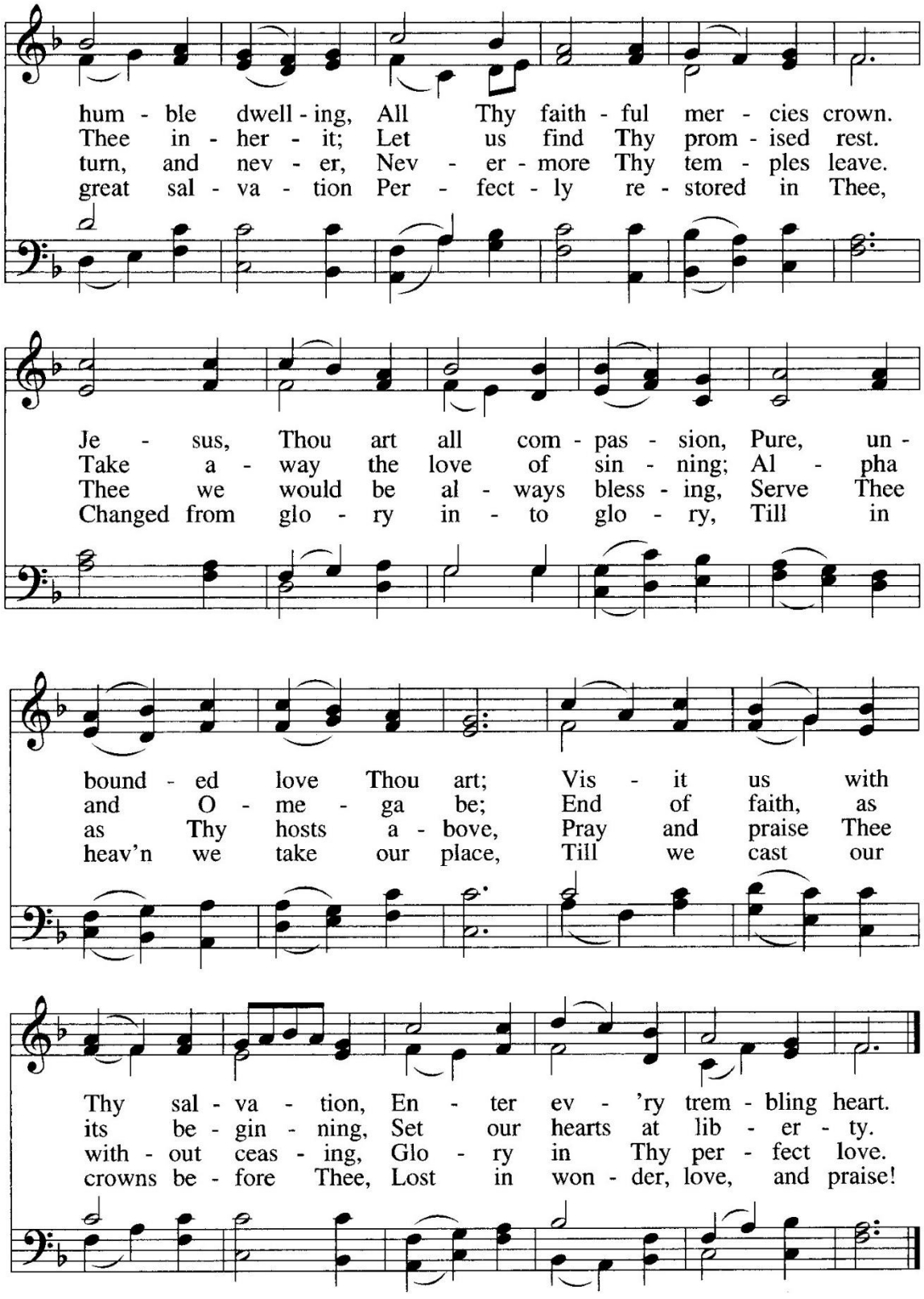
(God will gather His scattered people and restore them to Him.)

14Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem! 15The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back
your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.
16On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang
limp. 17The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great
delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with
singing." 18"I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you. 19At that time I will deal with all who oppressed
you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in
every land where they have suffered shame. 20At that time I will gather you; at that time
I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" *[LSB 700]*



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,
Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in
bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our
Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

L: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

L: Behold, your king is coming to you;

C: righteous and having salvation.

L: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–7*

(The Lord invites us to bring our worries to Him in prayer.)

4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

☩ VERSE *Matthew 11:10b*

P: Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia!

P: Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

C: who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18–35)*

(The lame walk, the blind see, and the poor have good news spoken to them.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

18 John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, 19 he sent them to
the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"
20 When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are
you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" 21 At that very time
Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many
who were blind. 22 So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what
you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have
leprosy[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is
proclaimed to the poor. 23 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."
24 After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What
did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 25 If not, what did
you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes
and indulge in luxury are in palaces. 26 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes,
I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is the one about whom it is written:

"'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

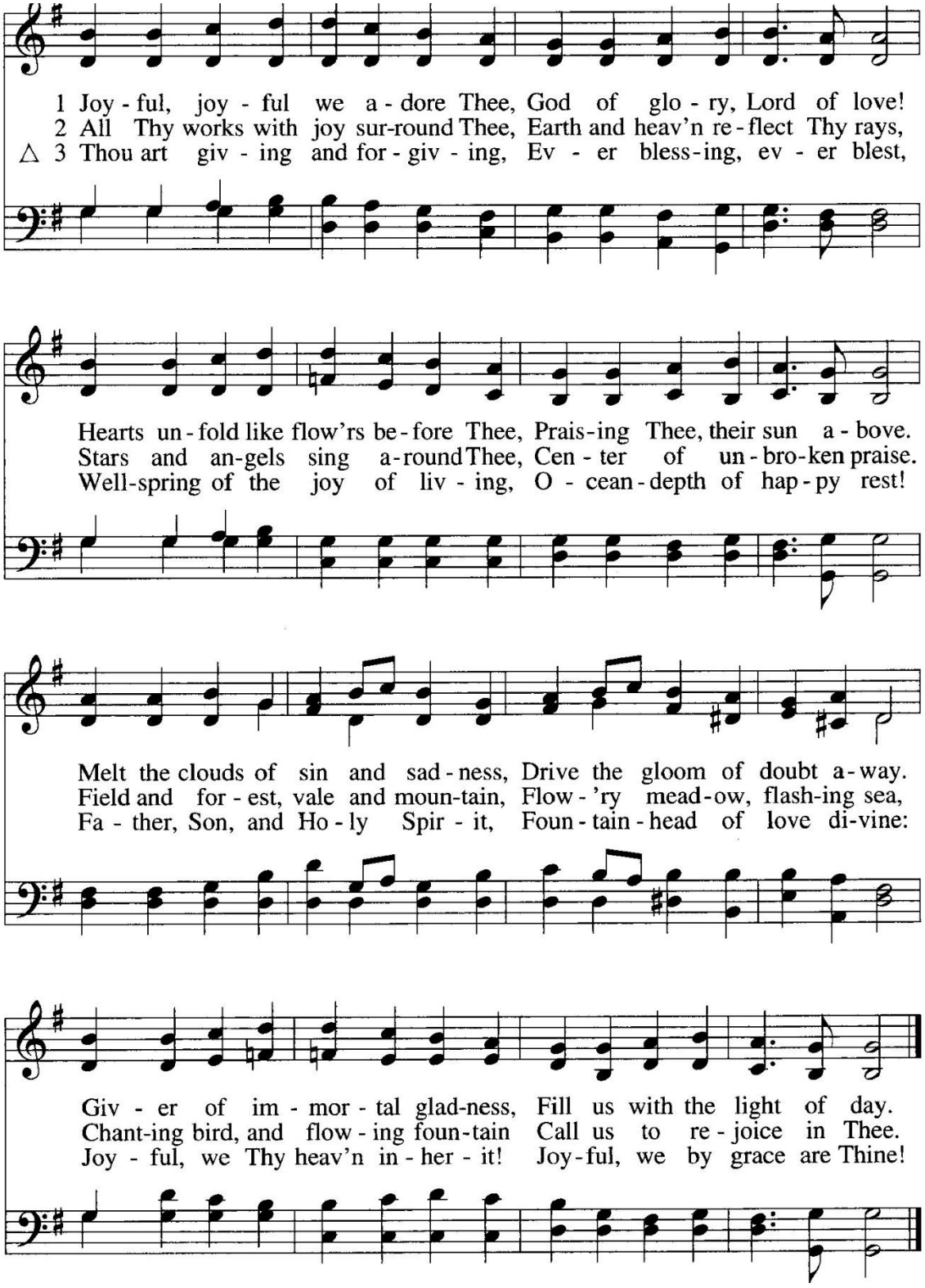
28 I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one
who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." 29 (All the people, even the tax
collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right,
because they had been baptized by John. 30 But the Pharisees and the experts in the law
rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)
31 Jesus went on to say, "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation?
What are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to
each other:

"'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.'

33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He
has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a
glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' 35 But wisdom is proved
right by all her children."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

❶ HYMN OF THE DAY "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" *[LSB 803]*

SERMON

CREED *Nicene Creed*

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

P: O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,

C: hear us, O coming Lord.

P: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C: hear us, O coming Lord.

P: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C: hear us, O coming Lord.

P: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C: hear us, O coming Lord.

P: O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. Help us to be instruments by which our wandering world may come to see Jesus as the one who alone brings true joy into our lives. We pray,

C: hear us, O coming Lord.

P: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C: hear us, O coming Lord.

P: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Plates are in the Fellowship Hall
Please enter your attendance in the Record of Fellowship

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

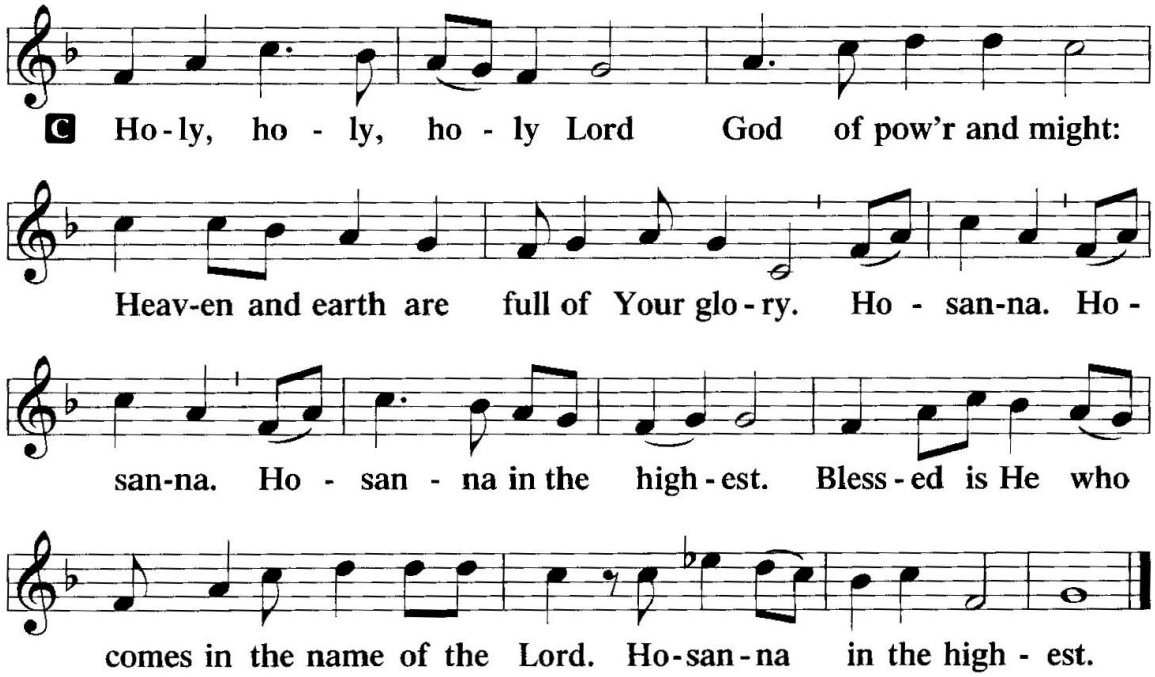
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose identity as the beloved Son of God we find our identity as His dear children—loved, forgiven, and filled with joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

(p. 161 in hymnal)



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Mighty and merciful Lord of all, we give You all thanks, praise, and worship for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave sight to the blind, who made the lame walk, who restored hearing to the deaf, who cast out demons, who raised the dead. By these signs, You point to Christ's future coming for which we yearn, when all things will be made new. In this bread and cup, Christ's body and blood, You beckon us to glimpse the world to come, when You will restore all creation. We give You thanks, praise, and worship for speaking Your Word to us, that we may live in Your kingdom now in these days and forever worship and adore You in the kingdom to come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✞ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✞ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

C: 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.

PAX DOMINI

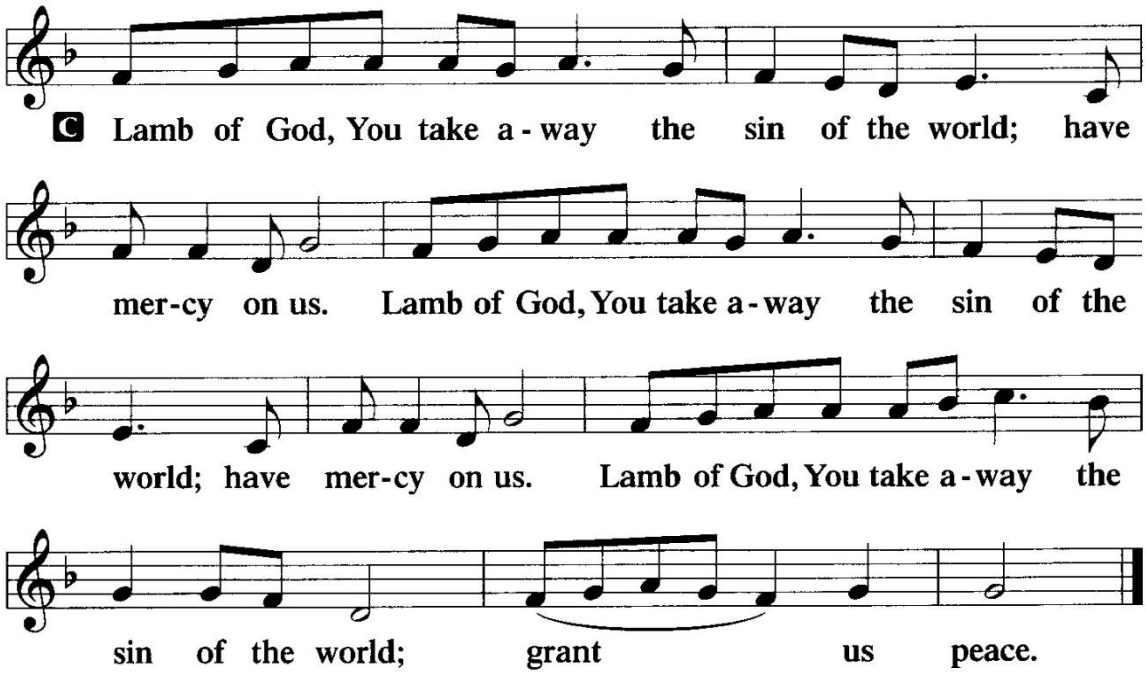
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

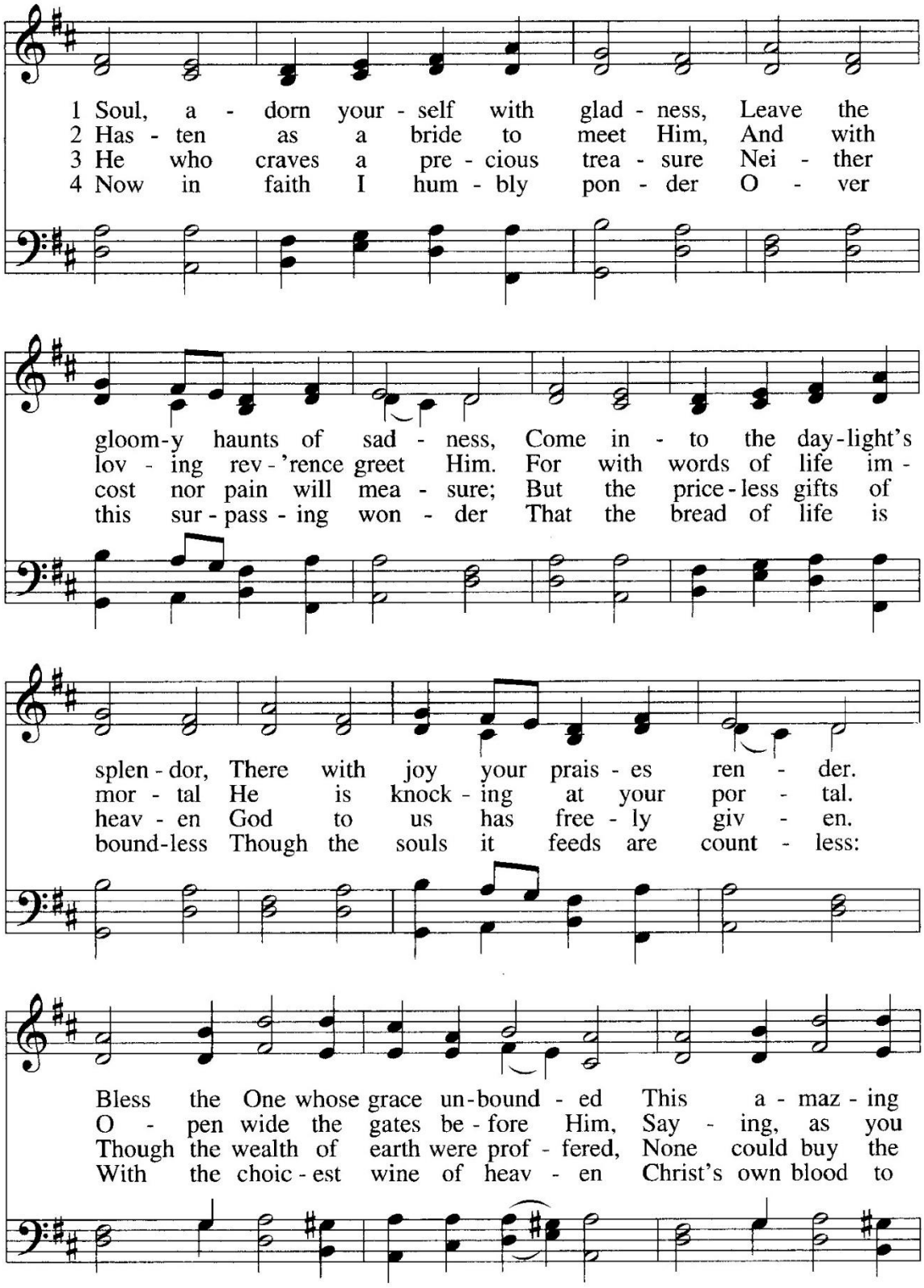
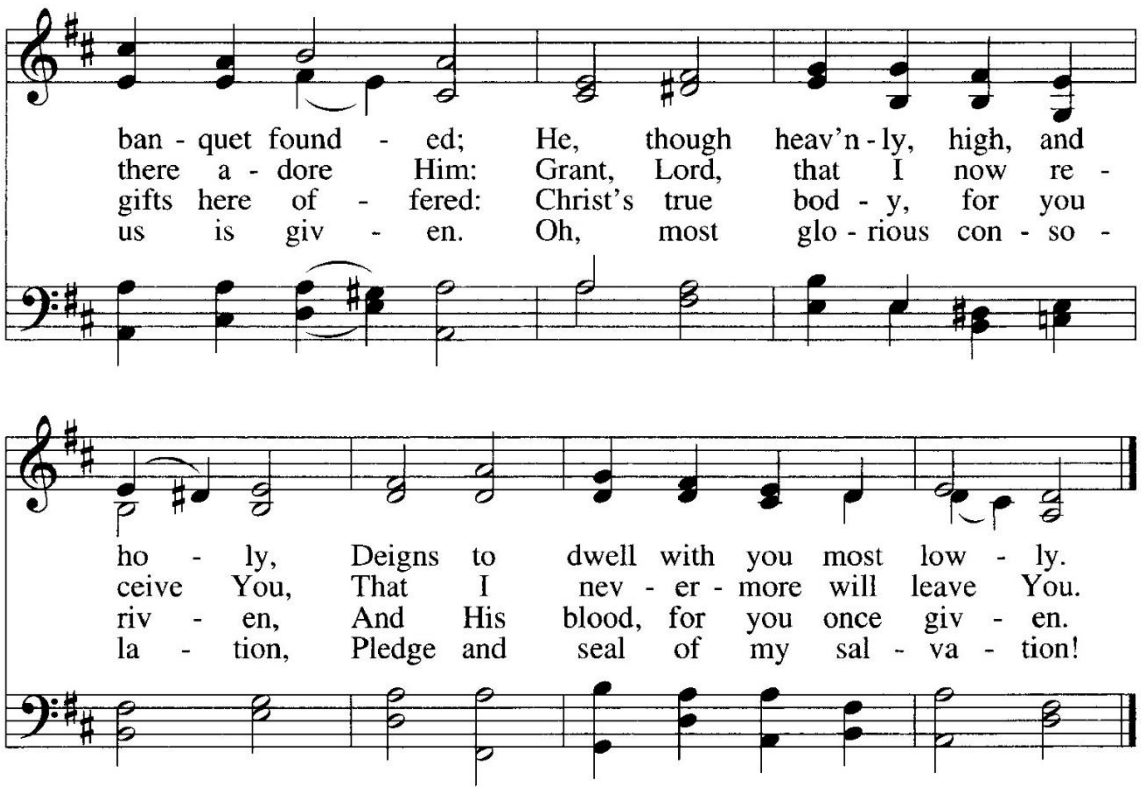
WE SHARE THE PEACE

Agnus Dei

(p. 163 in hymnal)



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

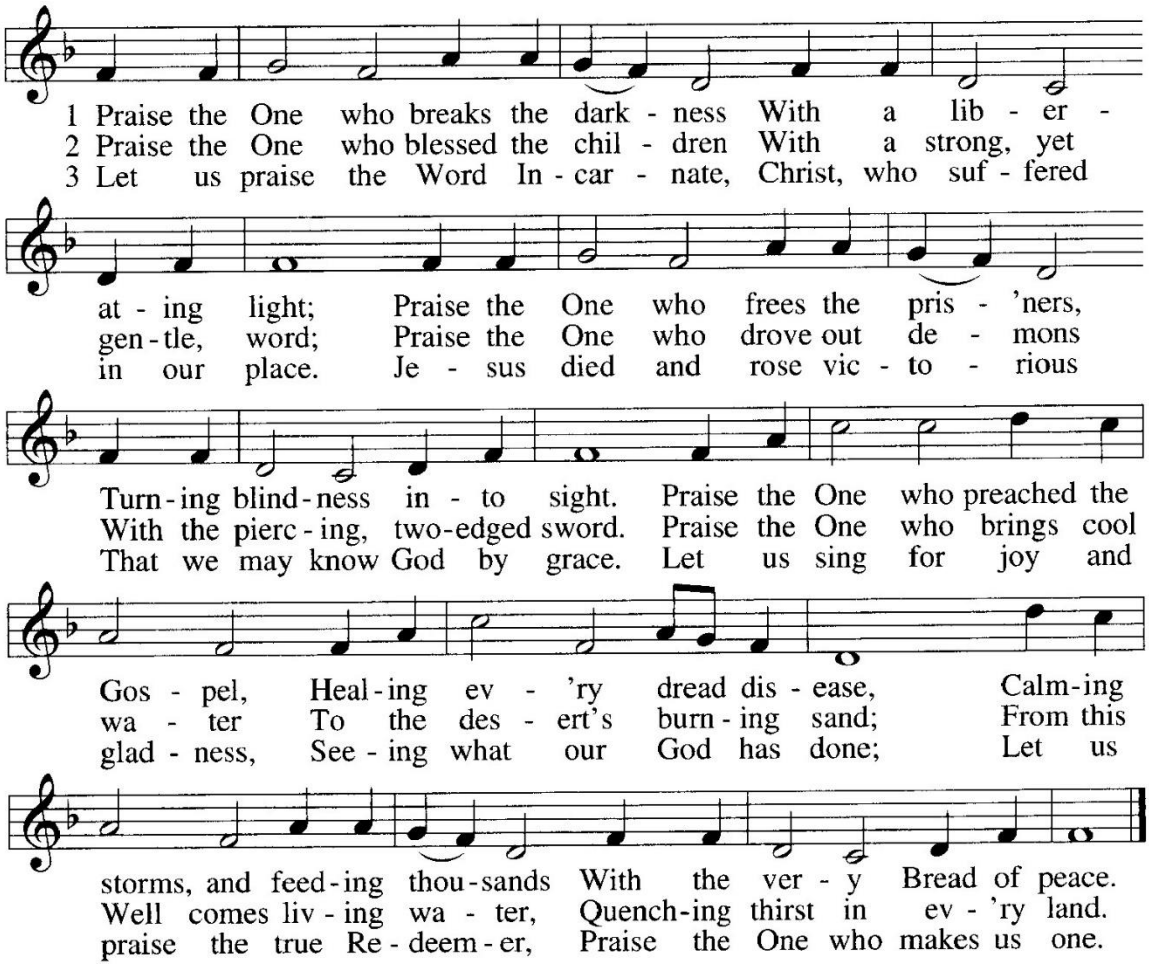
"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" *[LSB 636]*



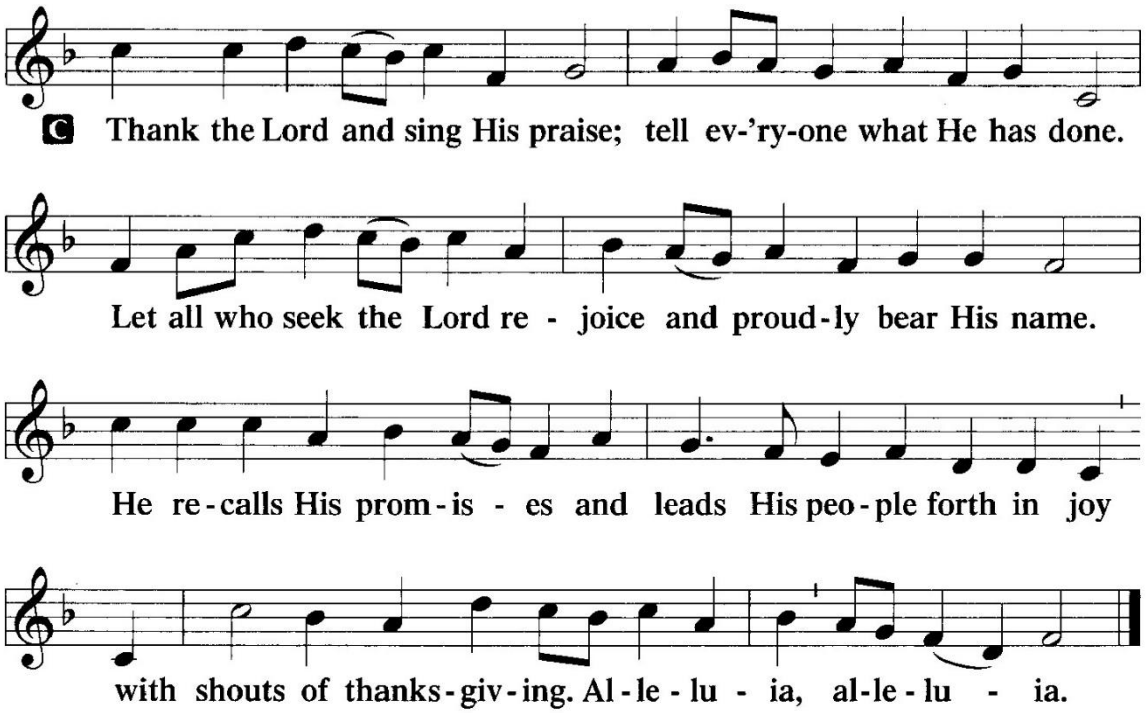
5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessèd food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" *[LSB 849]*

☩ POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *(p. 164 in hymnal)*



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, for Christ's body and blood we give You thanks. Let the forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive take deep root in our hearts and lives, that we rejoice in the Lord always; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

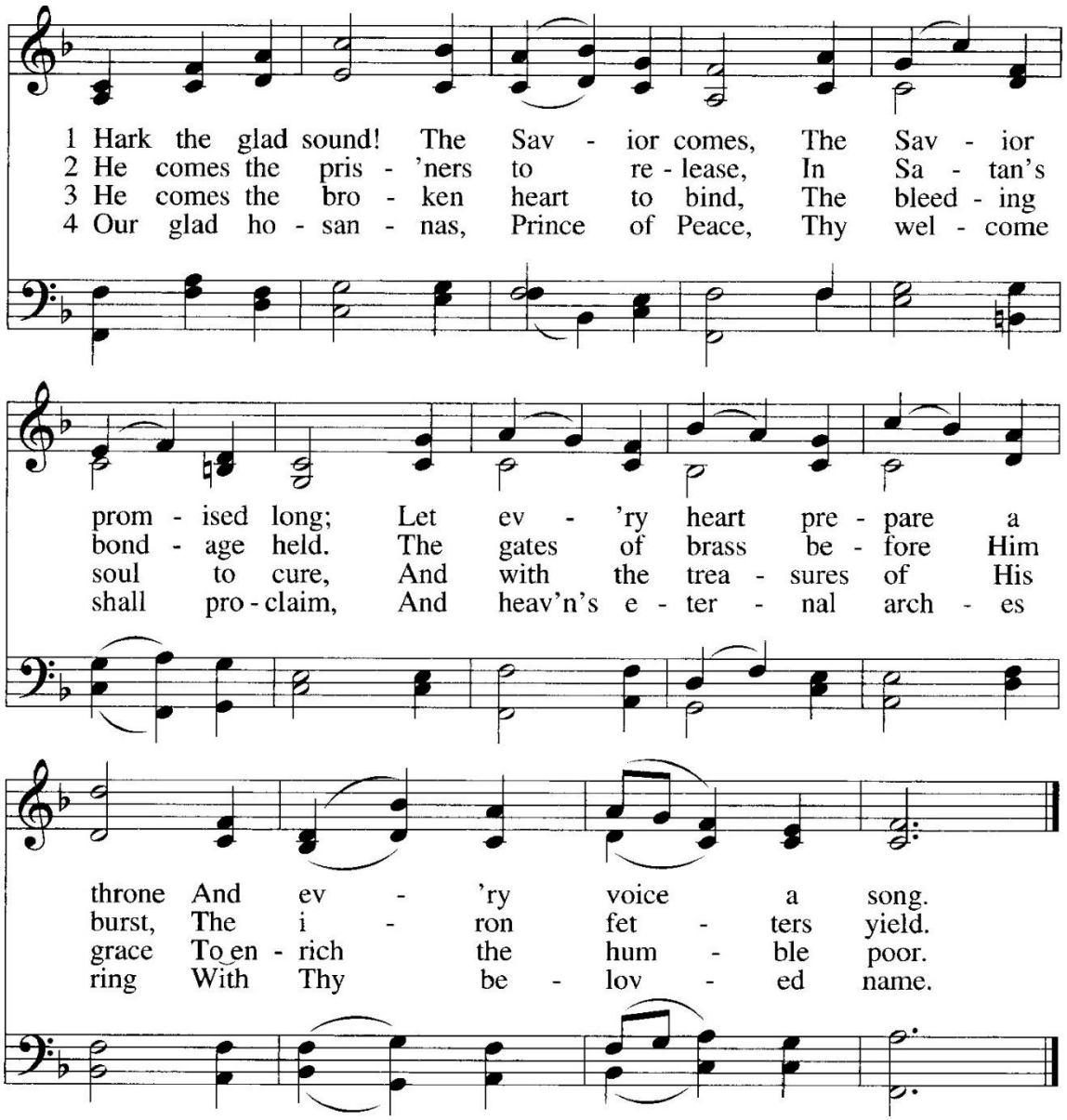
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION *Philippians 4:5–7; Numbers 6:24–26*

P: The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" *[LSB 349]*

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