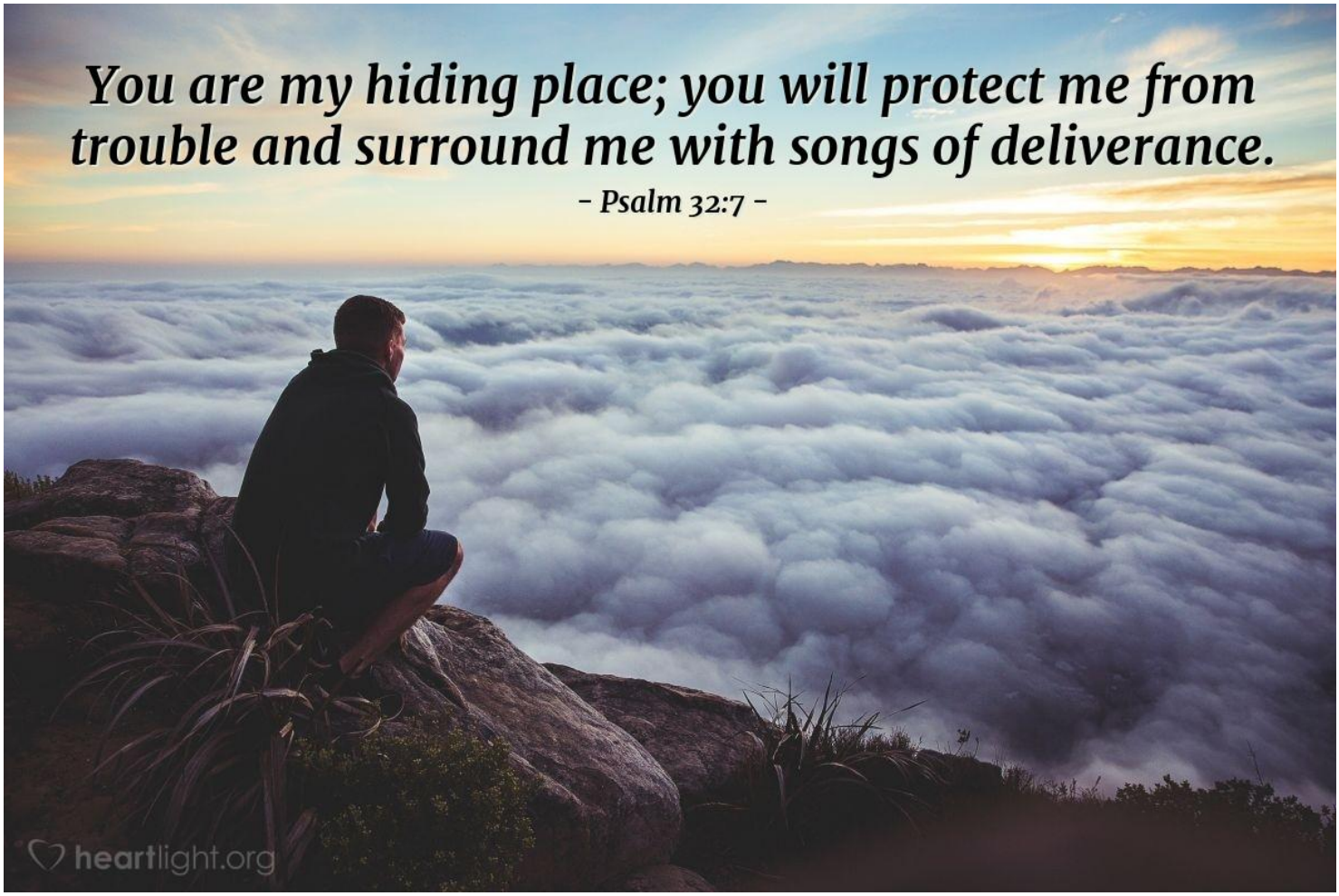
ZION
Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Lent
February 22, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Zion's Office Email **zionmuscatine@gmail.com**
Zion's Phone Number **563-263-5074**

Presiding Minister – John Meyer
Assisting Minister -Jan Pohl
Music Minister – Charles Potter
ELW Holy Communion Setting 3

Welcome to worship here at Zion on this first Sunday of Lent– we are glad you are here. Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

WORSHIP NOTES:
Thank you for joining us! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a Blue Visitor Card, located in your pew rack, if you would like to have us contact you.
We practice an open communion table at Zion. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion with us, from the youngest to the oldest members of the body of Christ present in worship.

Children are welcome to fully participate in worship. What could be better than the whole family of God being together in worship? There are Children's worship bags available near the usher's table in the narthex. Should you or your child need a break, there is a nursery located across from Fellowship Hall for your use.
Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Mothers' Room, just two doors down the hall from the nursery. Please knock before entering.

+ Indicates that you are invited to rise as you are able

BOLD PRINT INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES
Hymn numbers are the large numbers at the top of the page in the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, or the blue hymnal, *With One Voice* which is located in the pew racks or handed out.
Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

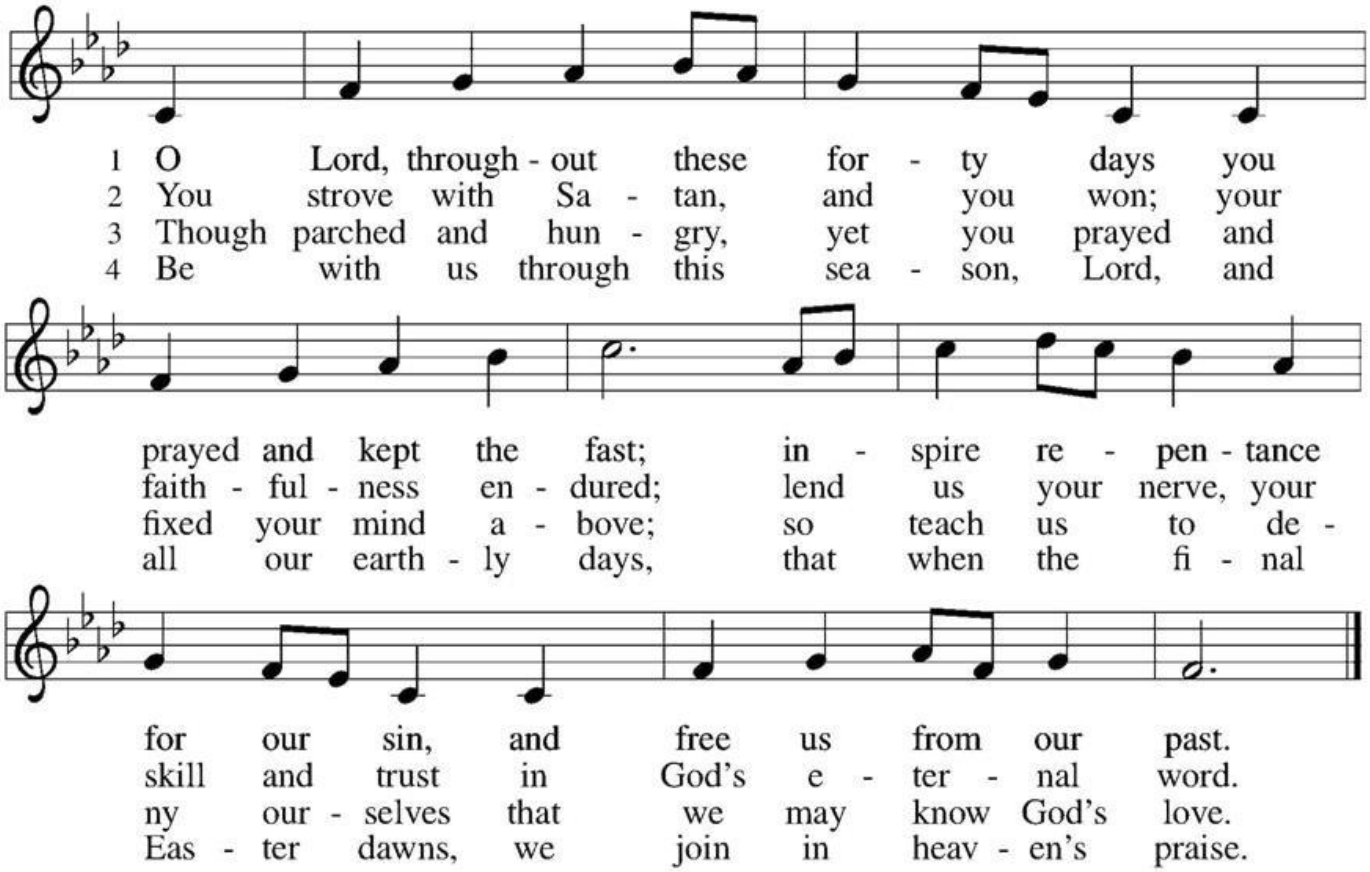
PRELUDE *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* David Lasky **Charles Potter**
There in God's Garden Robert Buckley Farlee

‡ GATHERING ‡
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL CALLING US TO WORSHIP

+ GATHERING HYMN ***O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*** **ELW 319**



+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

+ KYRIE
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
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 mercy.
For this holy house , and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY
The Lord be with you
And also, with you
Let us pray.
Lord God our strength**, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

ANTHEM *Wondrous Love* **Zion Choir**

‡ WORD ‡

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And
the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of
the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it
you shall die."

3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had
made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the
garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the
garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the
garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You
will not die, 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will
be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for
food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one
wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her,
and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and
they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of
my sin.
6 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
10 **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;**
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-19

12 Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned 13 for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16 And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17 If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

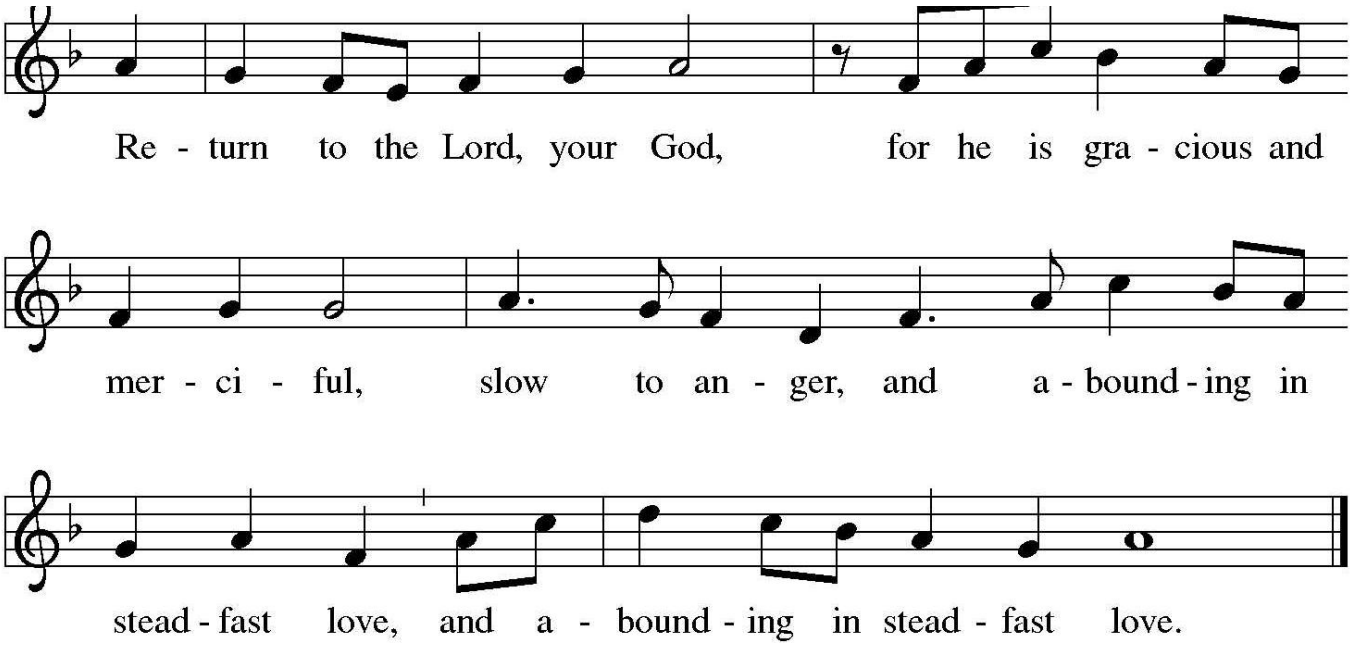
18 Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19 For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON- Sarah Evans

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING Matthew 4:1-11

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

1 Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty
days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him,
"If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he
answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the
temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of
the world and their glory, 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down
and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

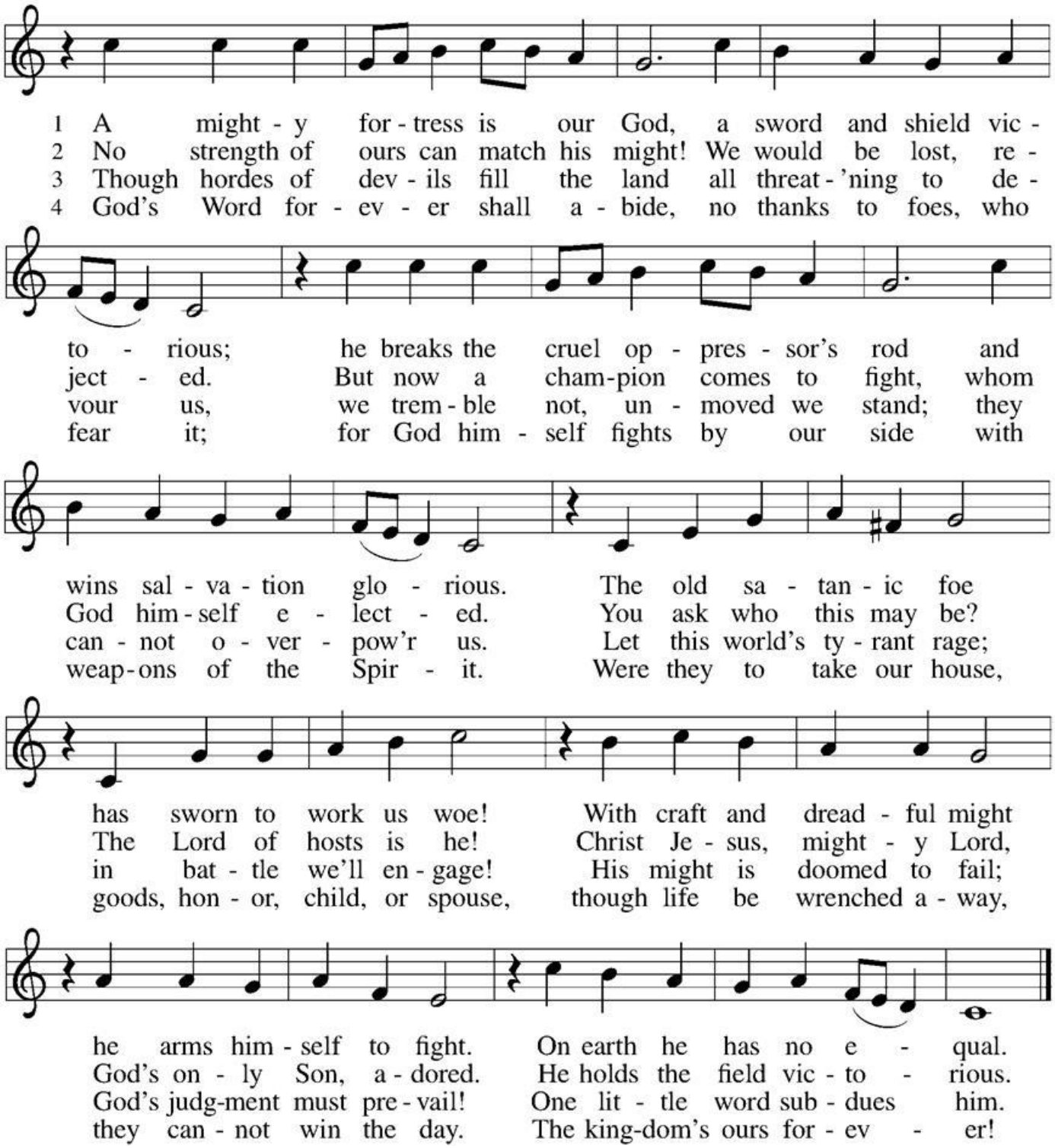
11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY ***A Mighty Fortress is Our God*** **ELW 504**



+ APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.

*Or, "he descended into hell.

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding to each petition with,"hear our prayer."
A brief silence

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

‡ MEAL ‡

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for supporting God's ministry and mission through the people of Zion Lutheran Church. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. We have online giving options available through Tithe.ly which allows you to give through the app, online, and even make weekly, biweekly, or monthly donations on a regular schedule. If you are interested in electronic giving options, please contact the church office.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Our Nature Fell in Adam's Fall* Johann Sebastian Bach
Charles Potter

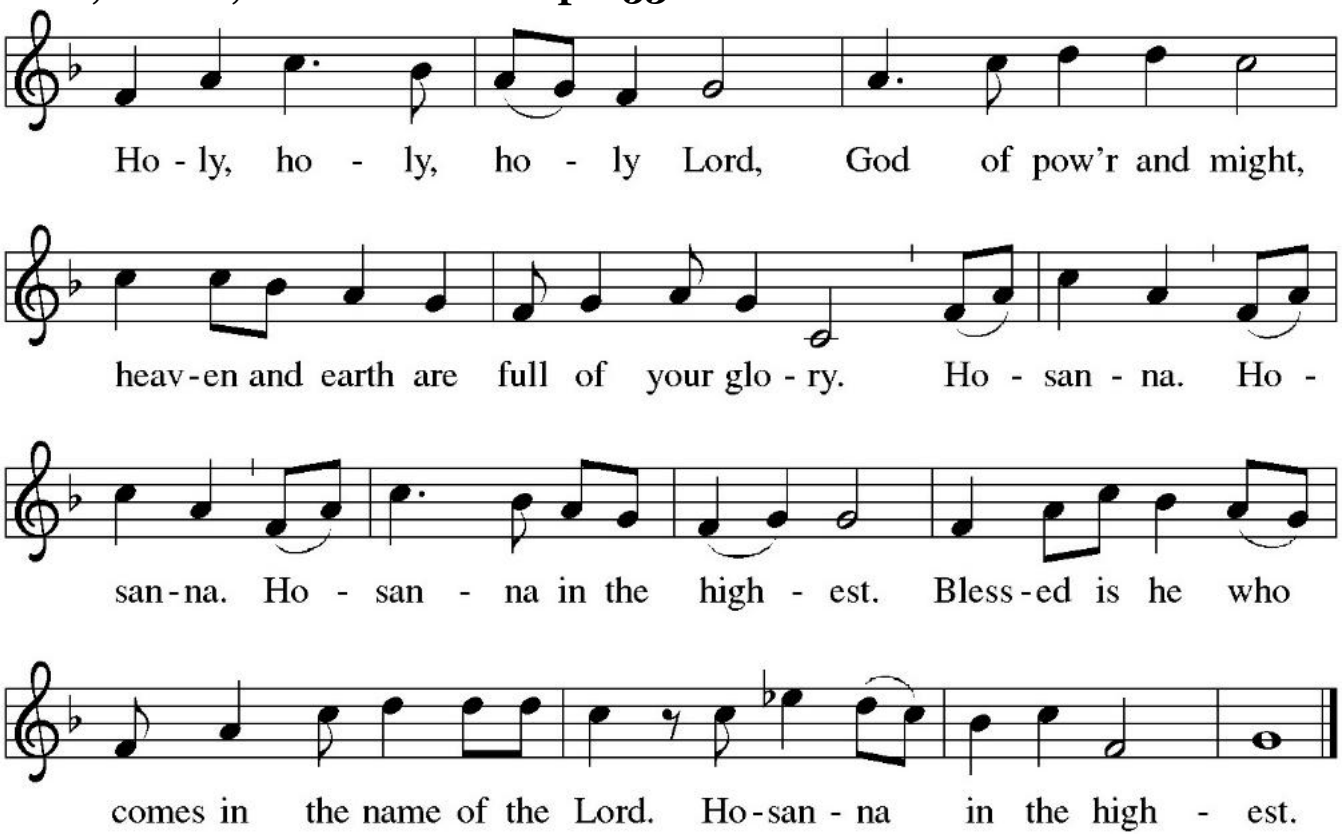
+ OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
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:

+ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW p. 153



+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or version of your heart:

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.

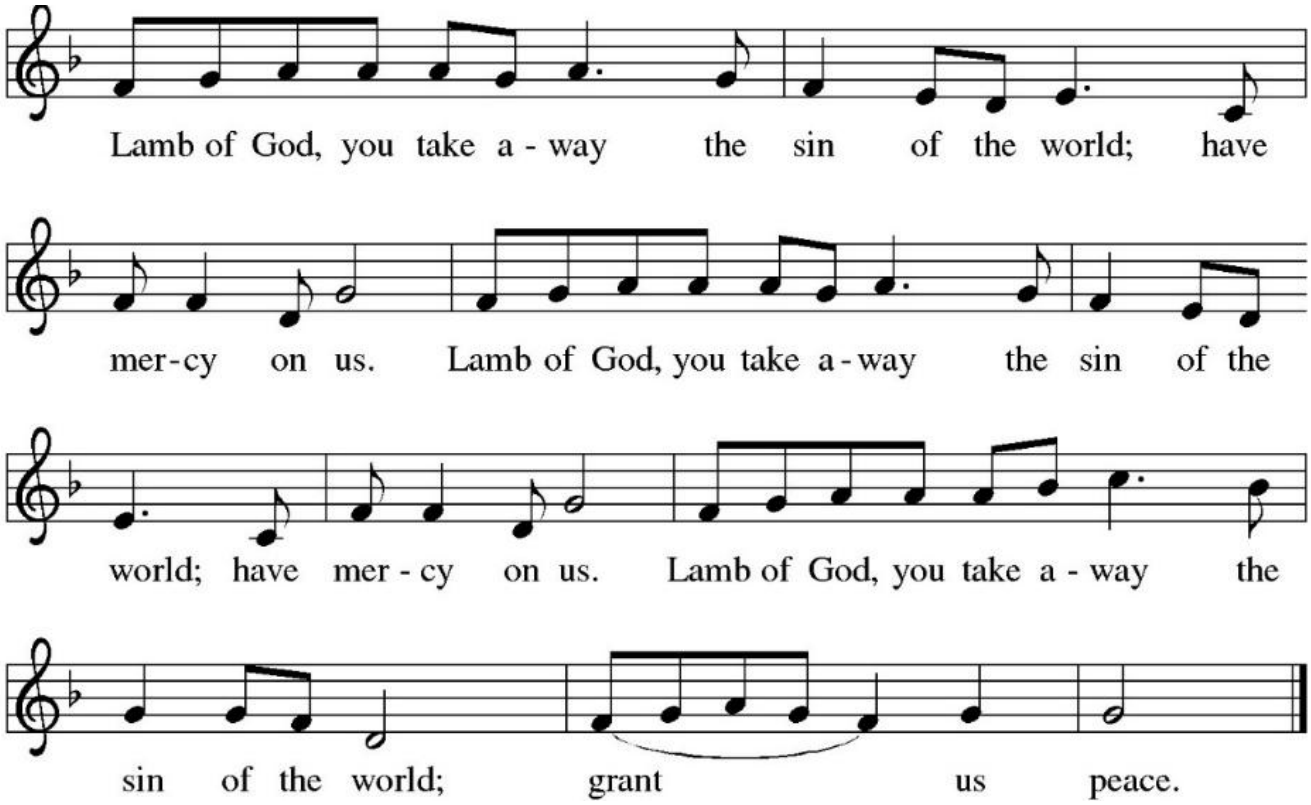
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

THE DISTRIBUTION

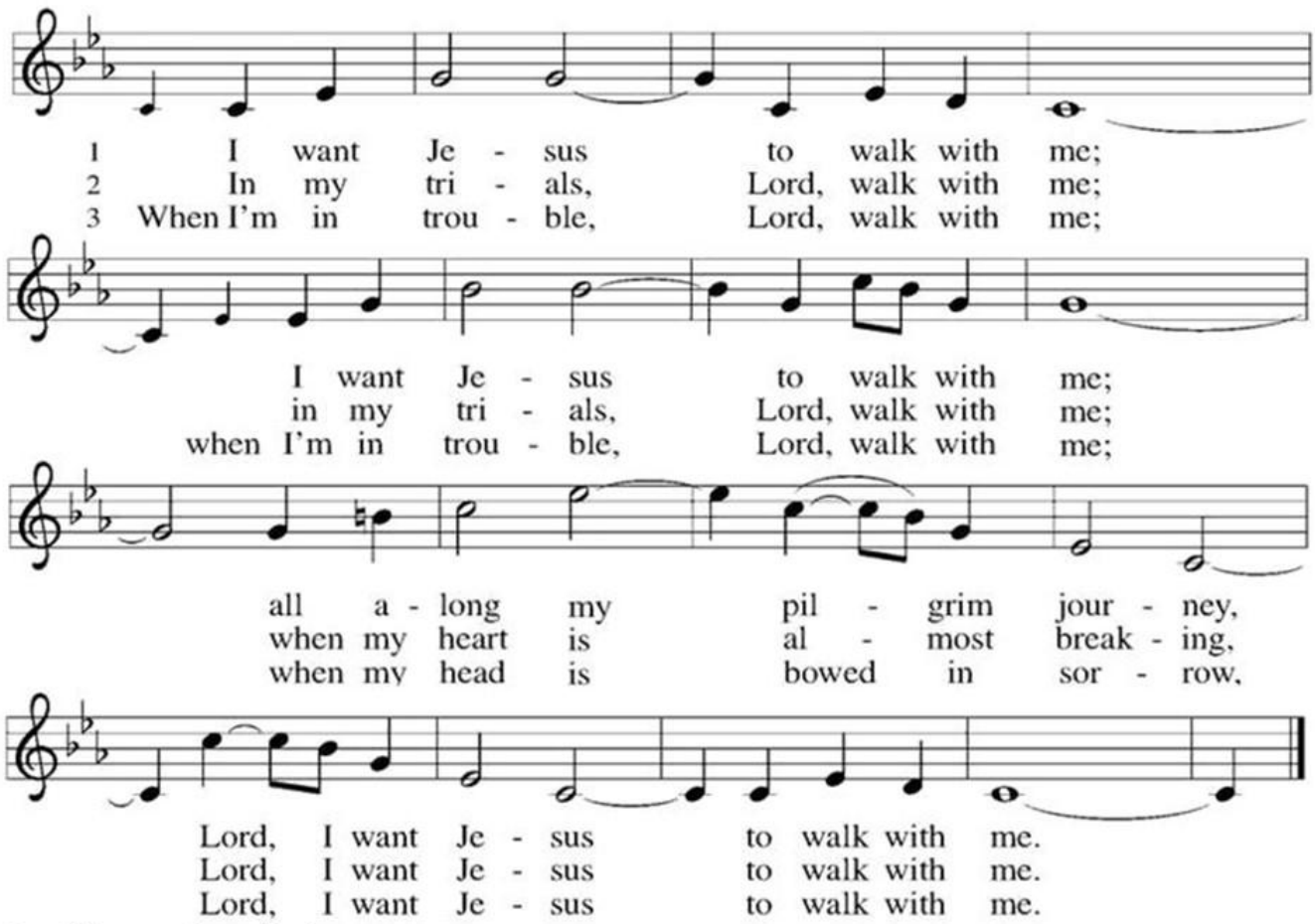
Please come forward for communion as directed. We will serve communion at the rail. If you are unable or would prefer not to come forward, please inform one of the ushers and communion will be brought to where you are seated. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available in the separate small dish. Please let the presiding minister know if you would like a gluten-free wafer. If you wish to receive grape juice rather than wine, the grape juice is located in the center ring of the communion tray. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, young and old, are welcome at this feast.

LAMB OF GOD



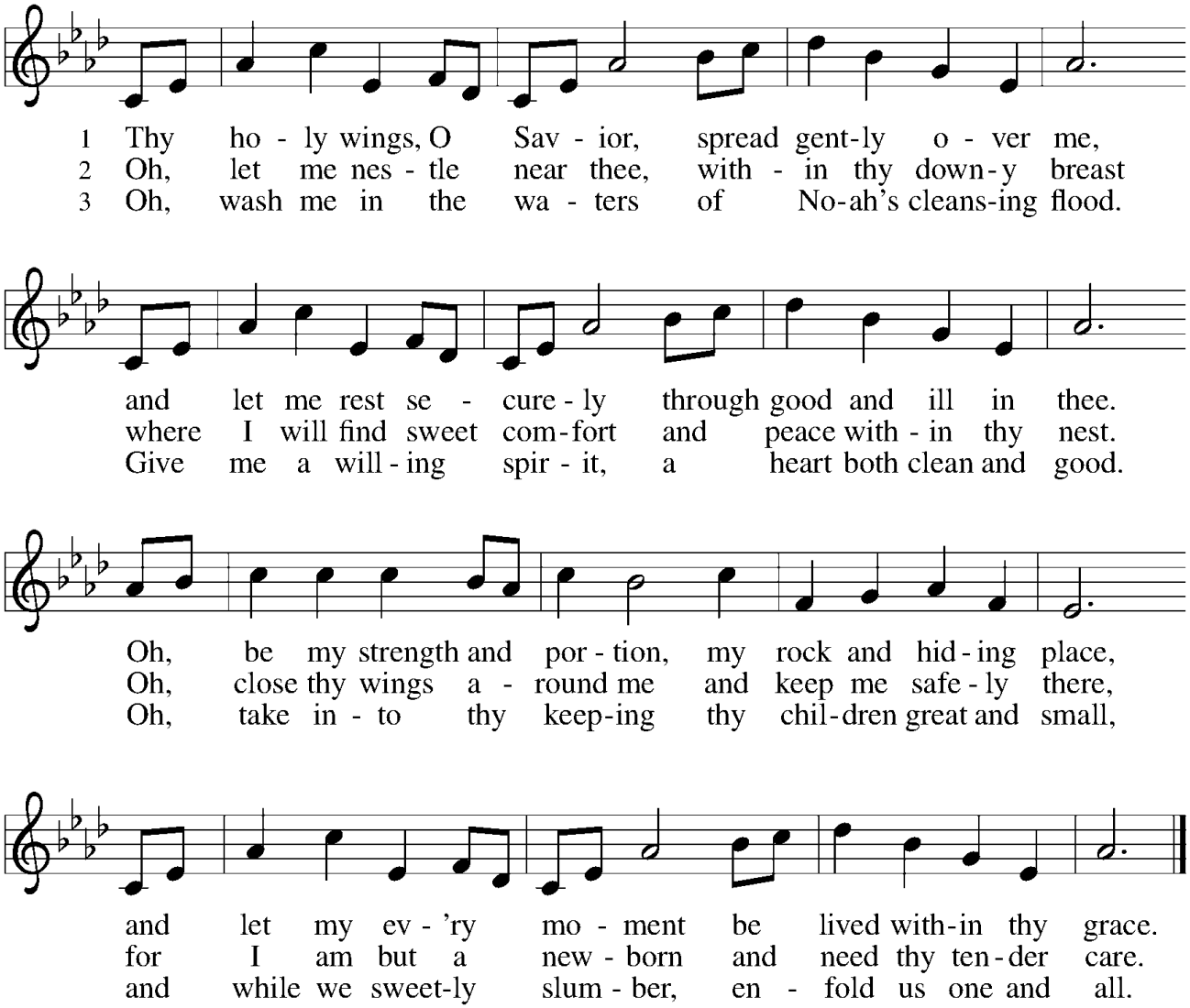
DISTRIBUTION

ELW 325 ***I Want Jesus to Walk with Me***



Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

ELW 613 *Thy Holy Wings*



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

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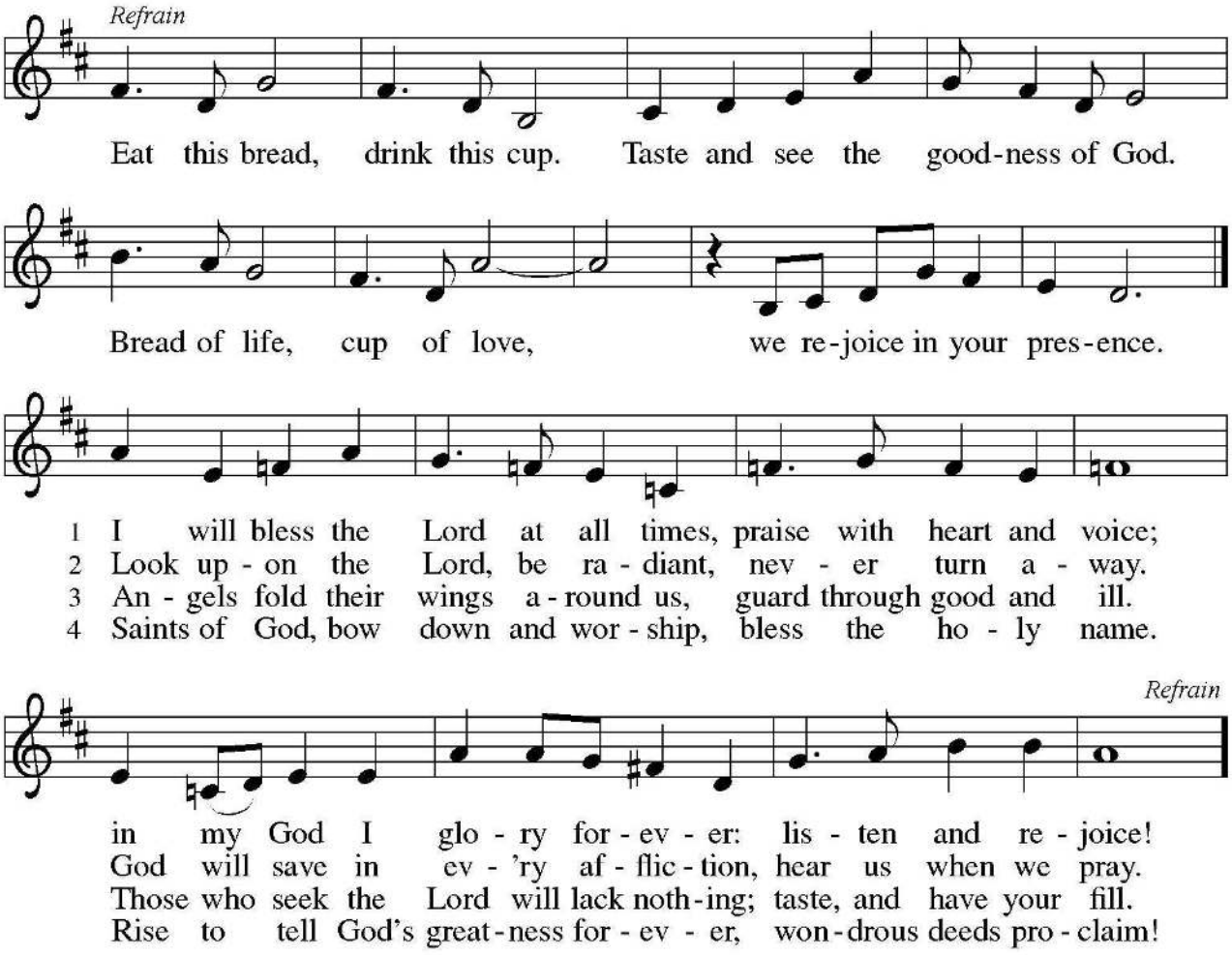
ELW 492 ***Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup***



Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young
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+ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, ✢ now and forever.

Amen

+ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

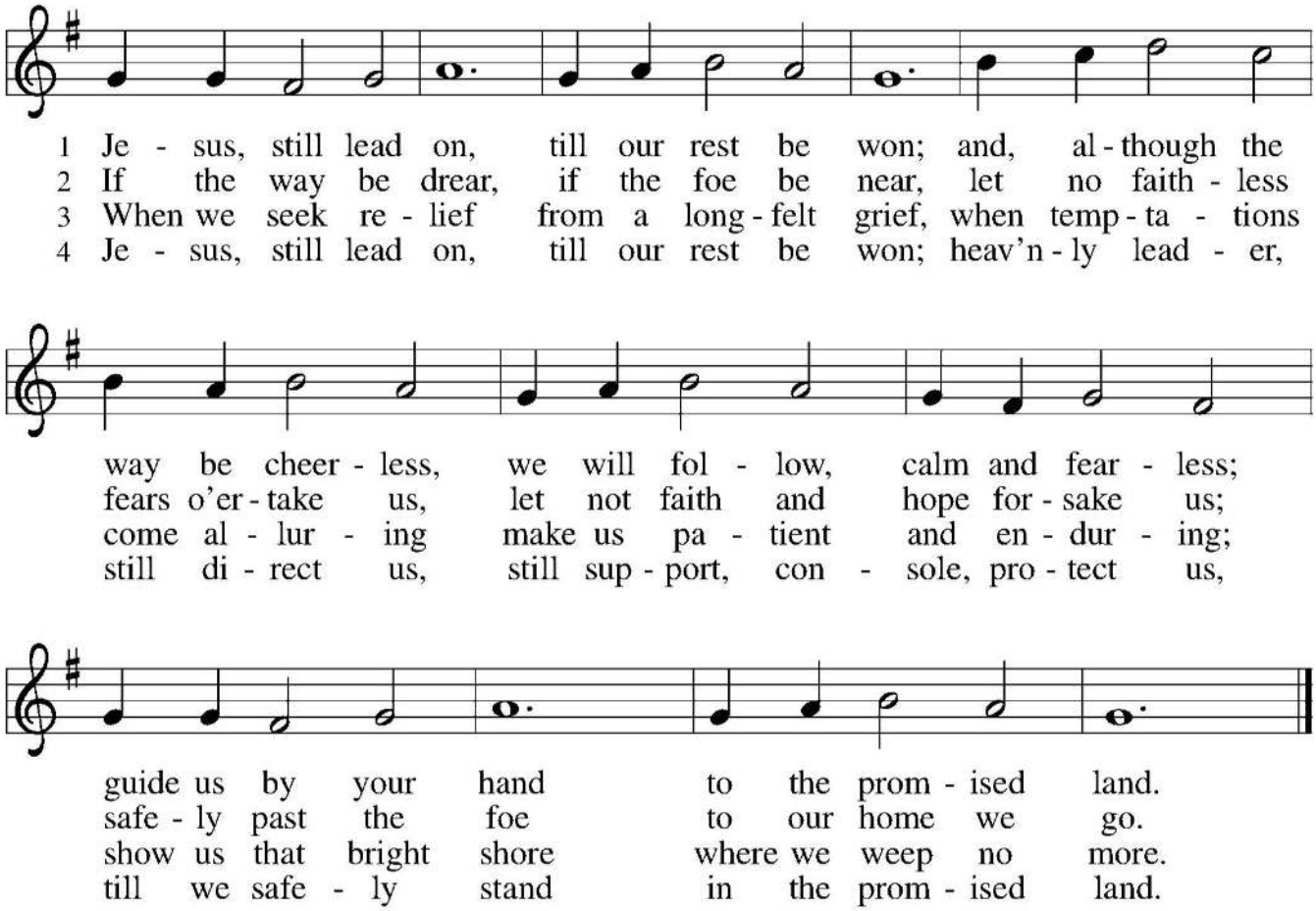
ǂ SENDING ǂ

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ***Jesus, Still Lead On*** **ELW 624**



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Jesus, Still Lead On* Paul Manz **Charles Potter**

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