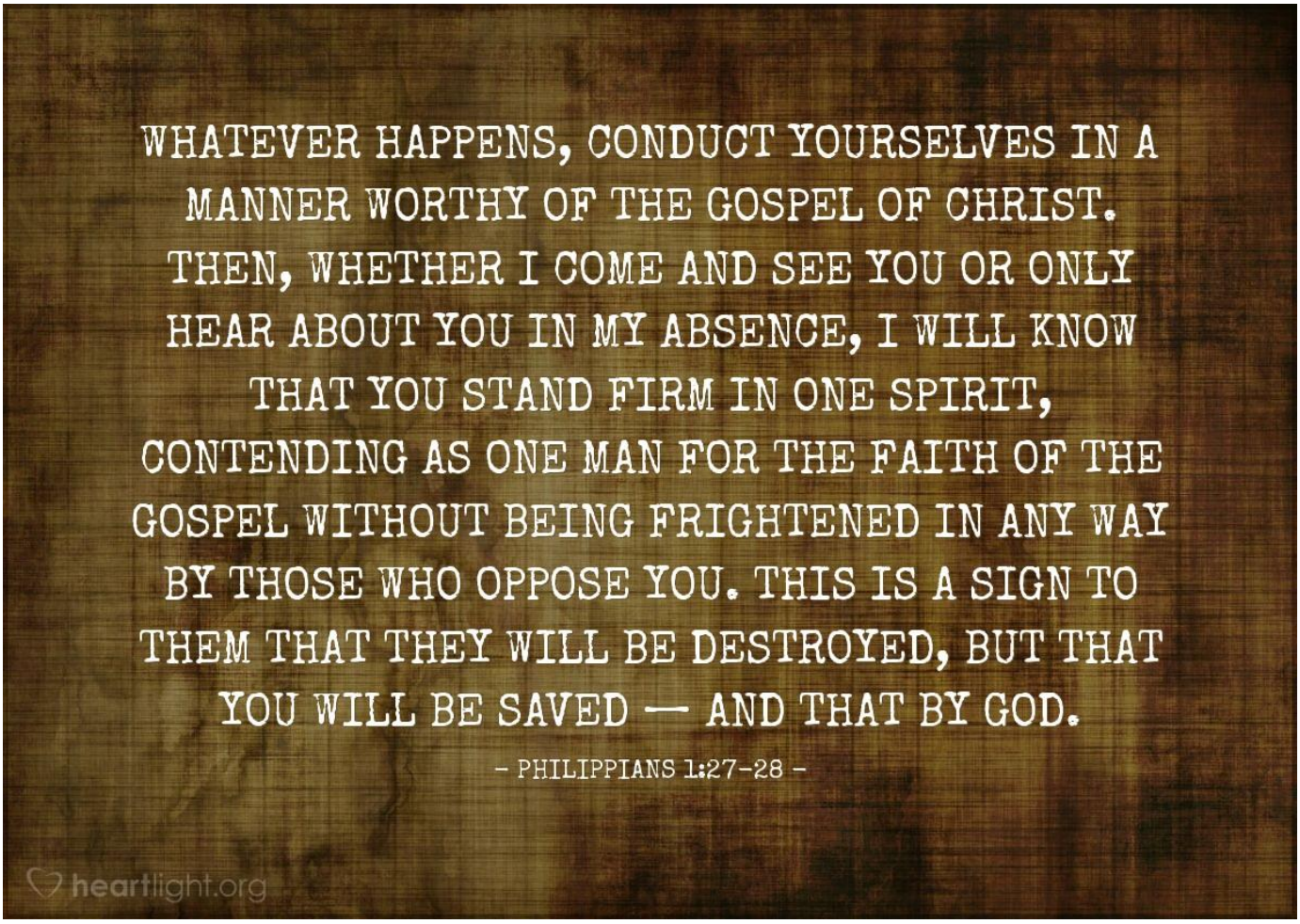
ZION
Lutheran Church



17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026
11:00 a.m.

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

Presiding Minister – Rev. Susan Bantz
Music Minister – Sue Robinson
Holy Communion, WOV Setting 5

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Thank you for joining us! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a 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

Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

PRELUDE **Sue Robinson**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

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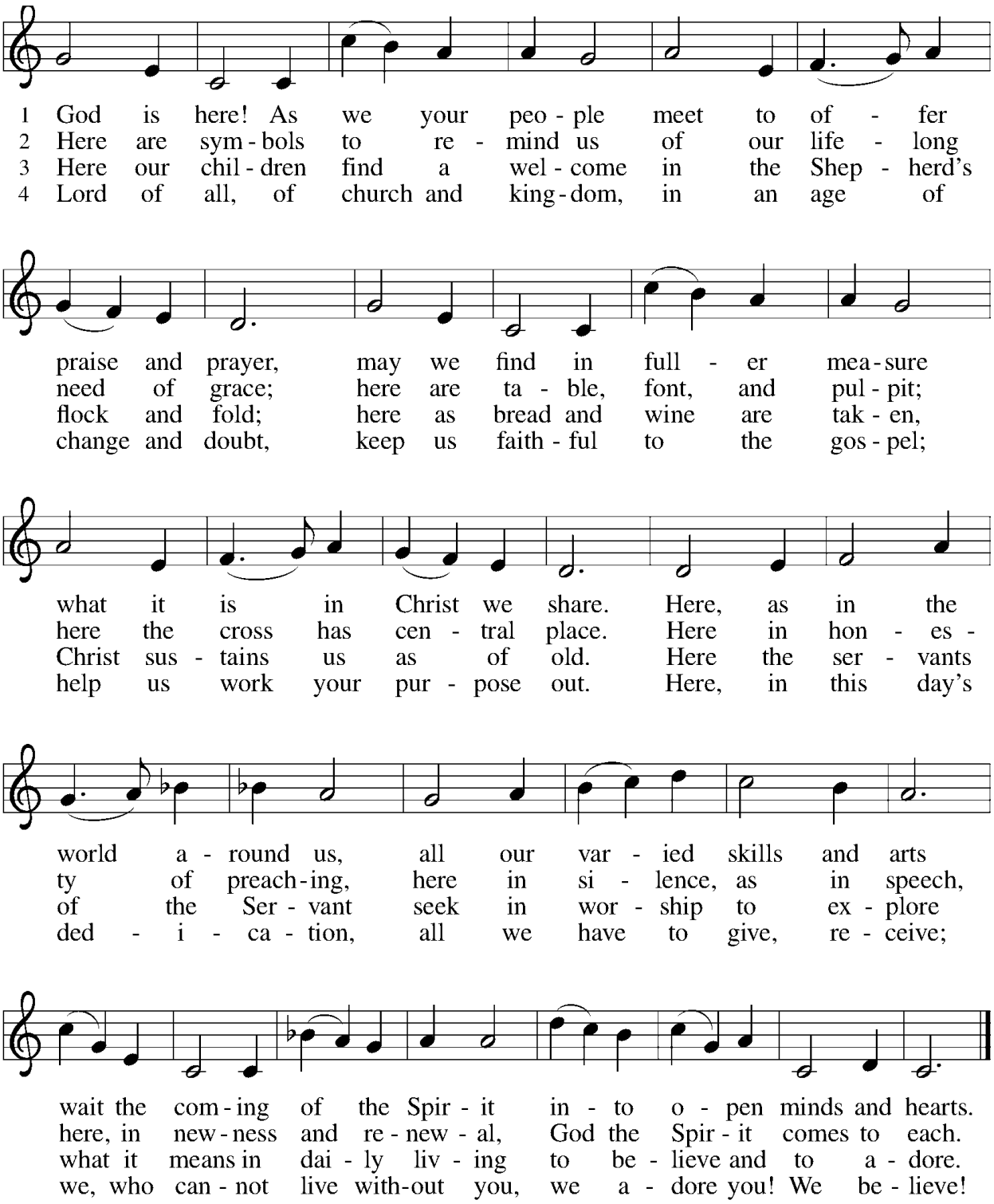
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God,
who 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.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✢ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

+ OPENING HYMN WOV 719 "God Is Here!"



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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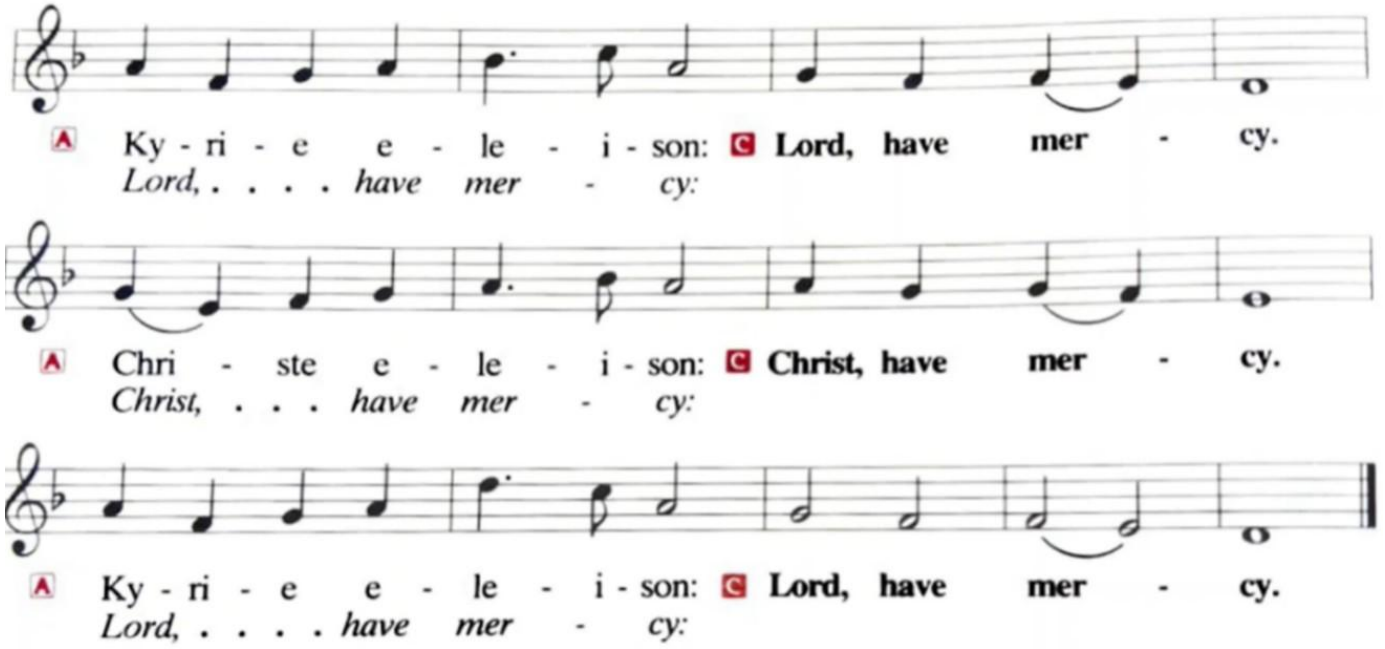
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+GREETING
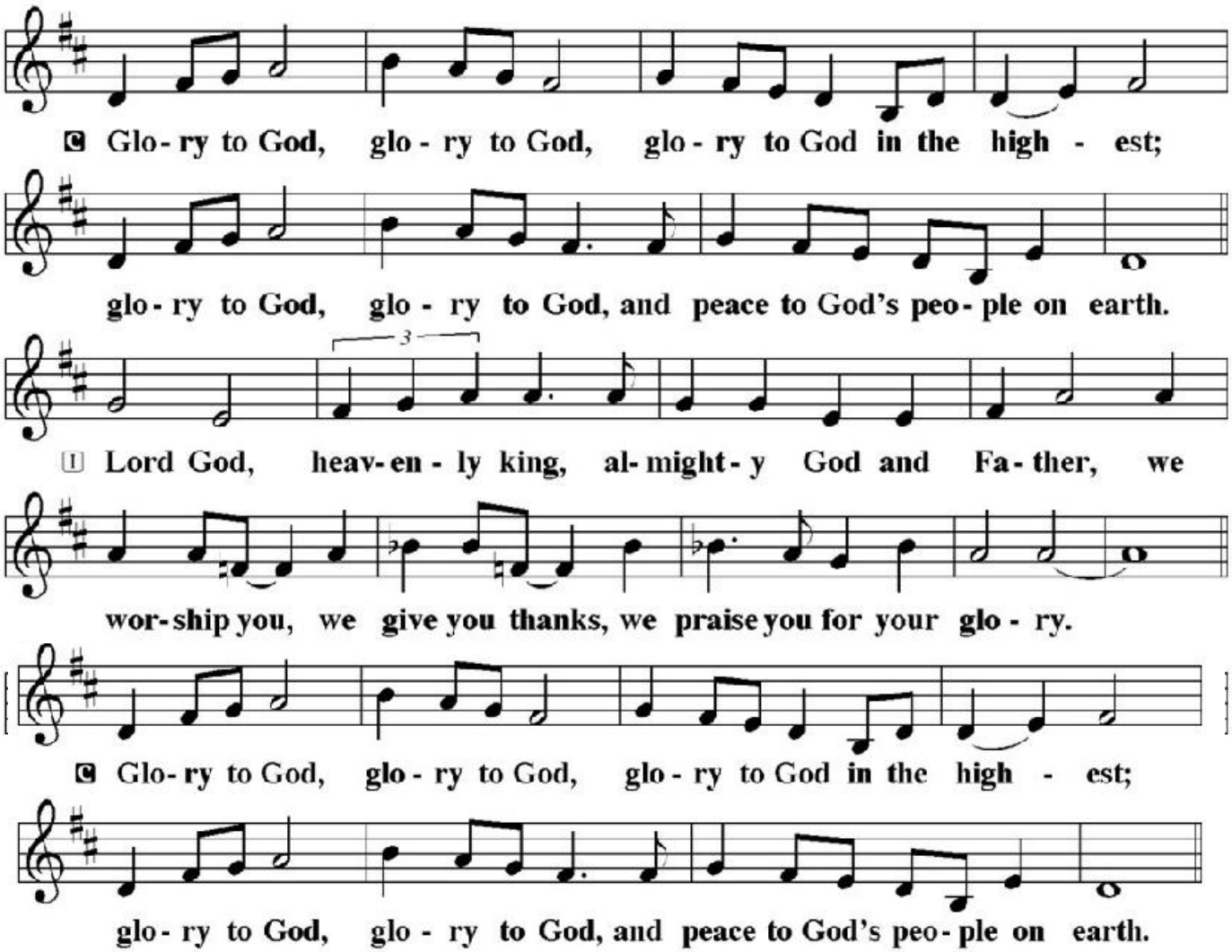
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
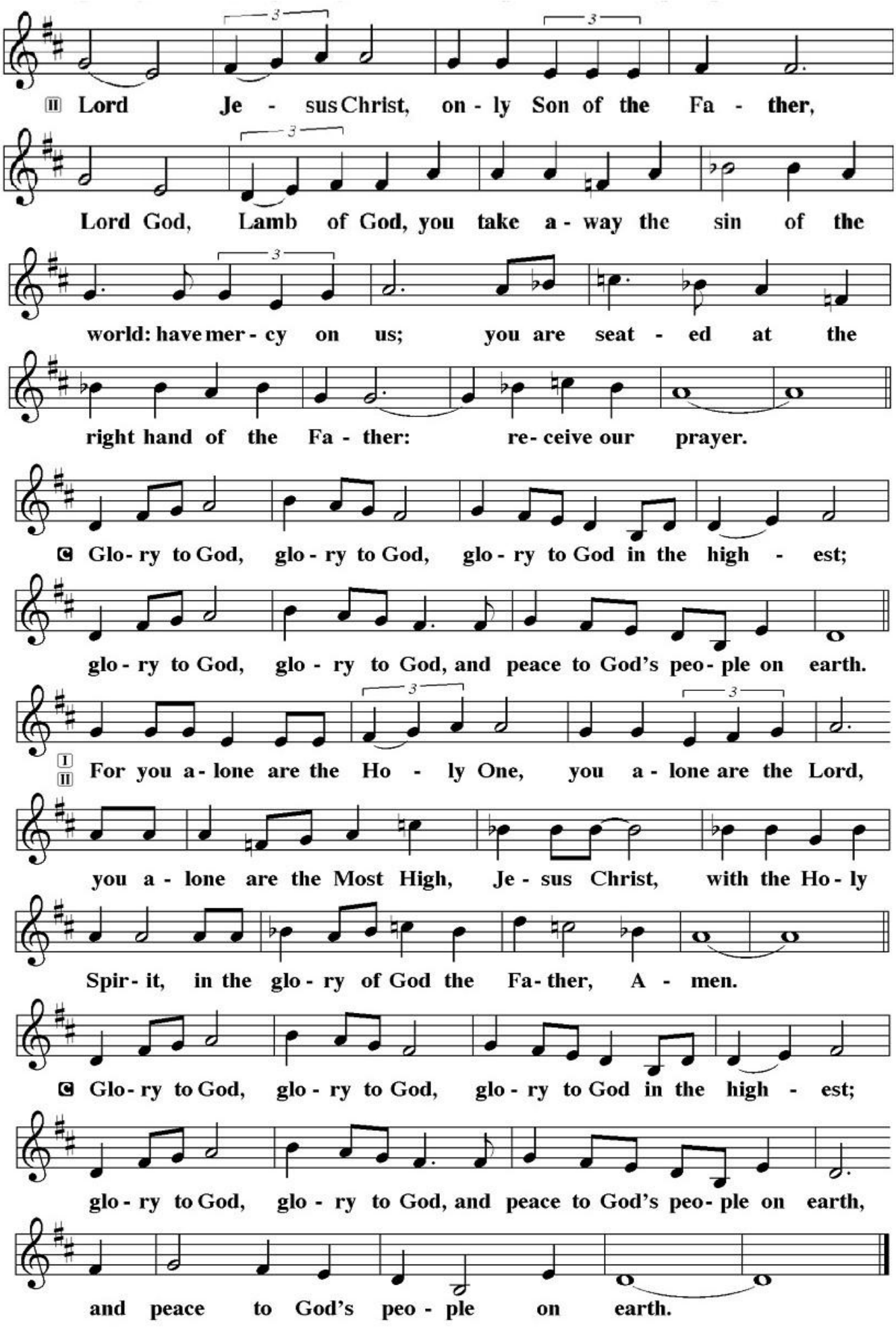
And also with you.

+Kyrie: WOV page 28



+Hymn of Praise: WOV page 29




II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
C Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
I II For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.
C Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

+Prayer of the Day:
Let us pray,
Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING **Senior Choir**

FIRST READING Jonah 3:10—4:11
10 When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God
changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did
not do it.
4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord and
said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to
Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger,
abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O Lord, please take
my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the Lord said, "Is it right for
you to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a
booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the
city.
6 The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his
head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 7 But when
dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it
withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the
head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to
die than to live."
9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes,
angry enough to die." 10 Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you
did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a
night. 11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more
than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left
and also many animals?"
The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8
1 I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
2 Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
4 One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
5 I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

6 They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.
7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
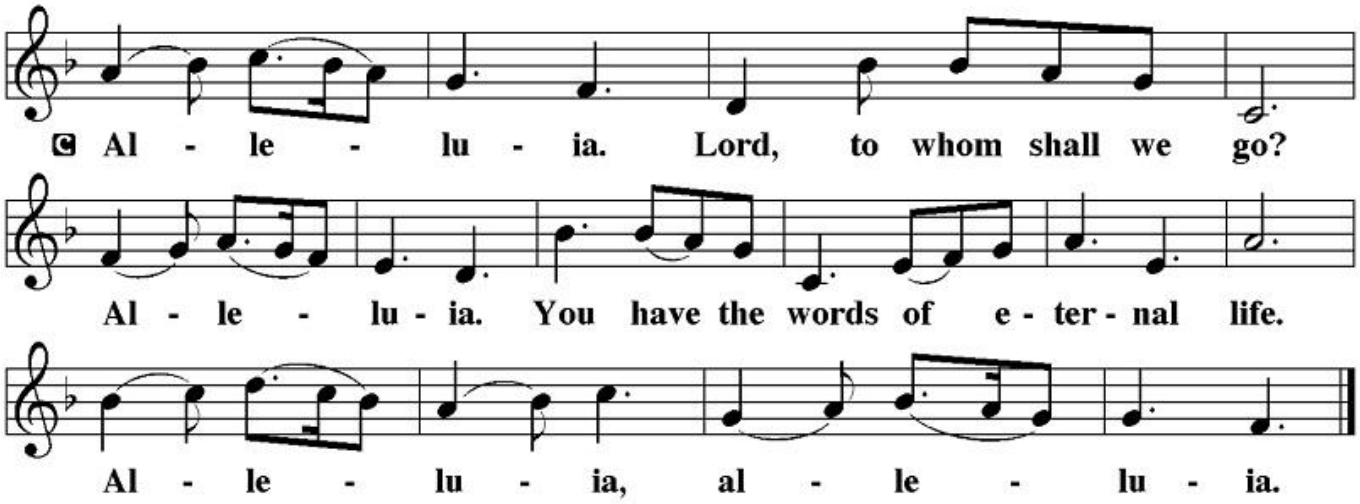
SECOND READING Philippians 1:21-30

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26 so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION WOV page 31



+GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

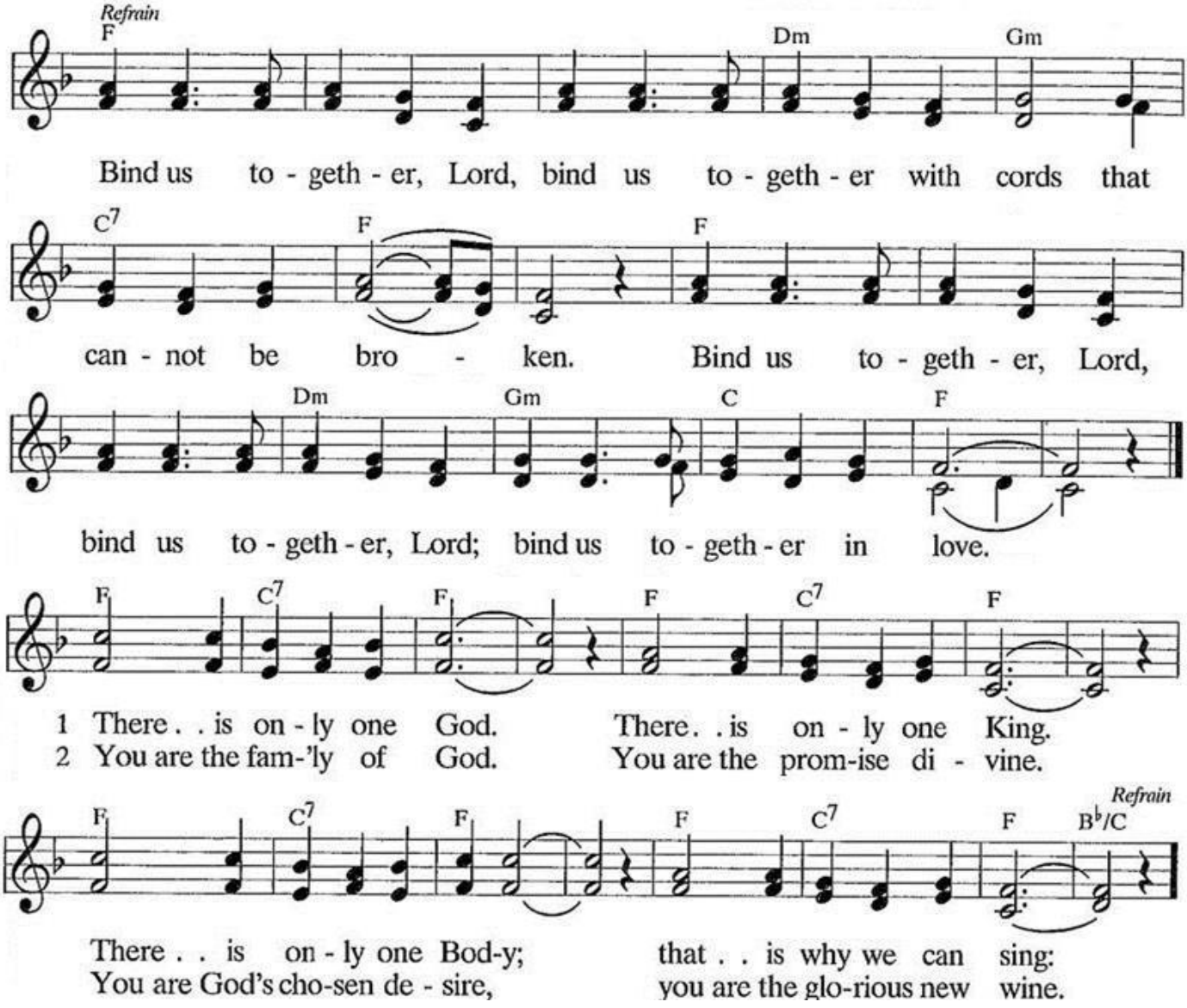
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o'clock he went out and found

others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ 9 When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+HYMN OF THE DAY WOV 748 "Bind Us Together"



+ APOSTLES' CREED
Let us confess our faith together in 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

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.
Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy,
Congregational response: **Hear our prayer**
Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always,
And also, with you.

‡ MEAL ‡

Offering *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*
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. To give right now, please scan the QR code to make a contribution.
If you are interested in electronic giving options, please contact the church office.

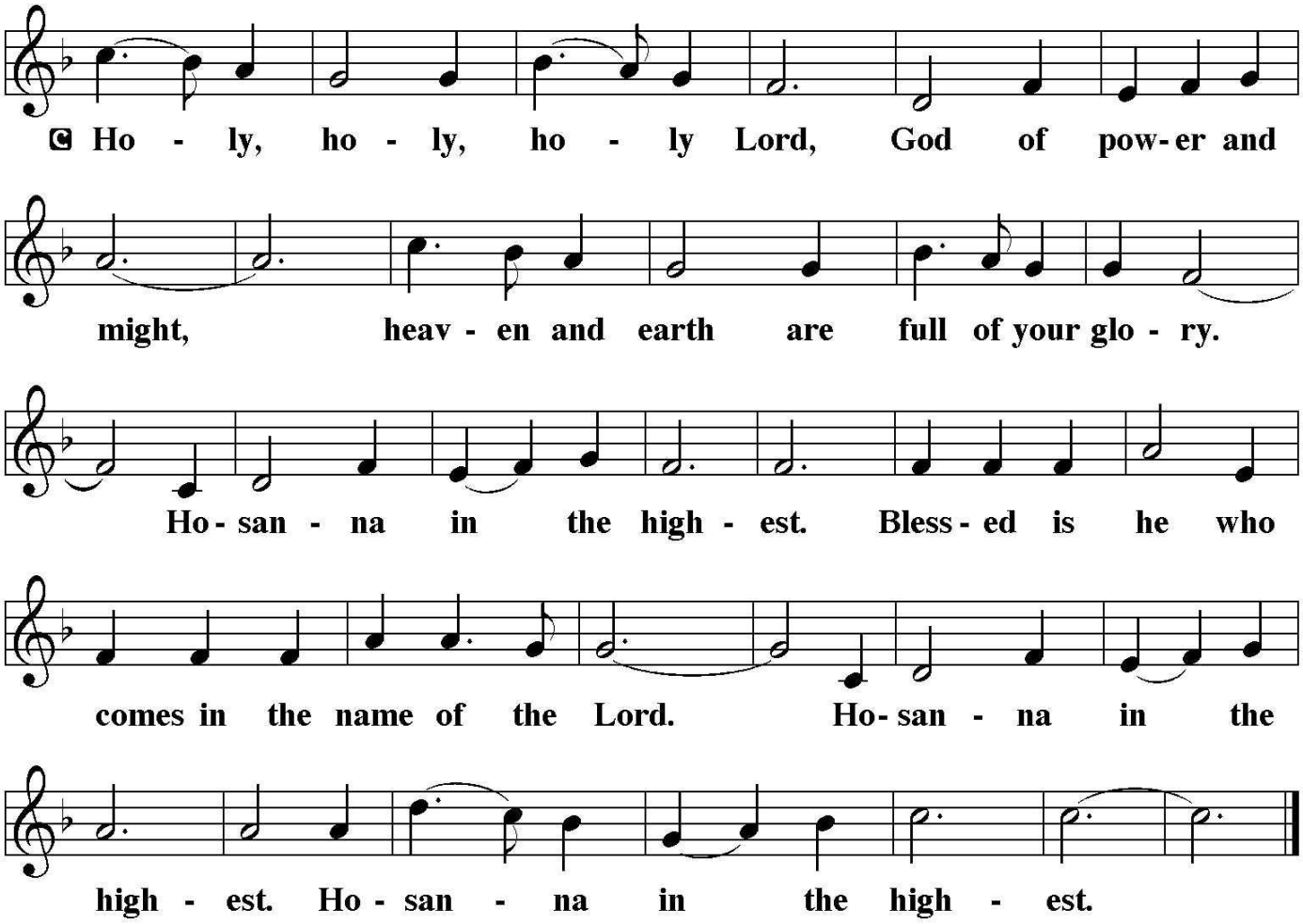
MUSICAL OFFERING "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Sandra Eithun **Bell Choir**

+ OFFERING PRAYER
God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always. **Amen.**

+ DIALOGUE WOV p. 36
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.

+ PROPER PREFACE
It is right, our duty, and our joy……and join their unending hymn.

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY WOVp.36

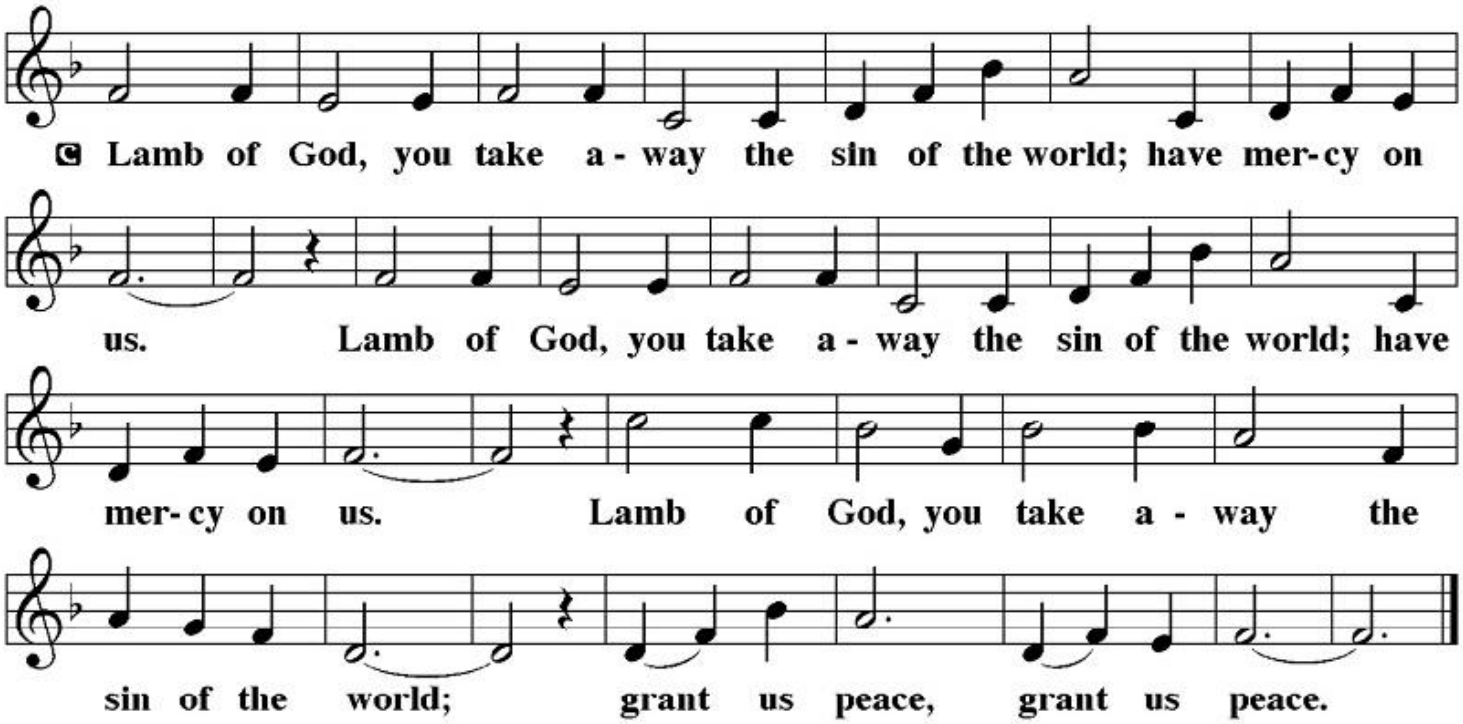


+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION
In the night in which he was betrayed…Do this for the remembrance of me.

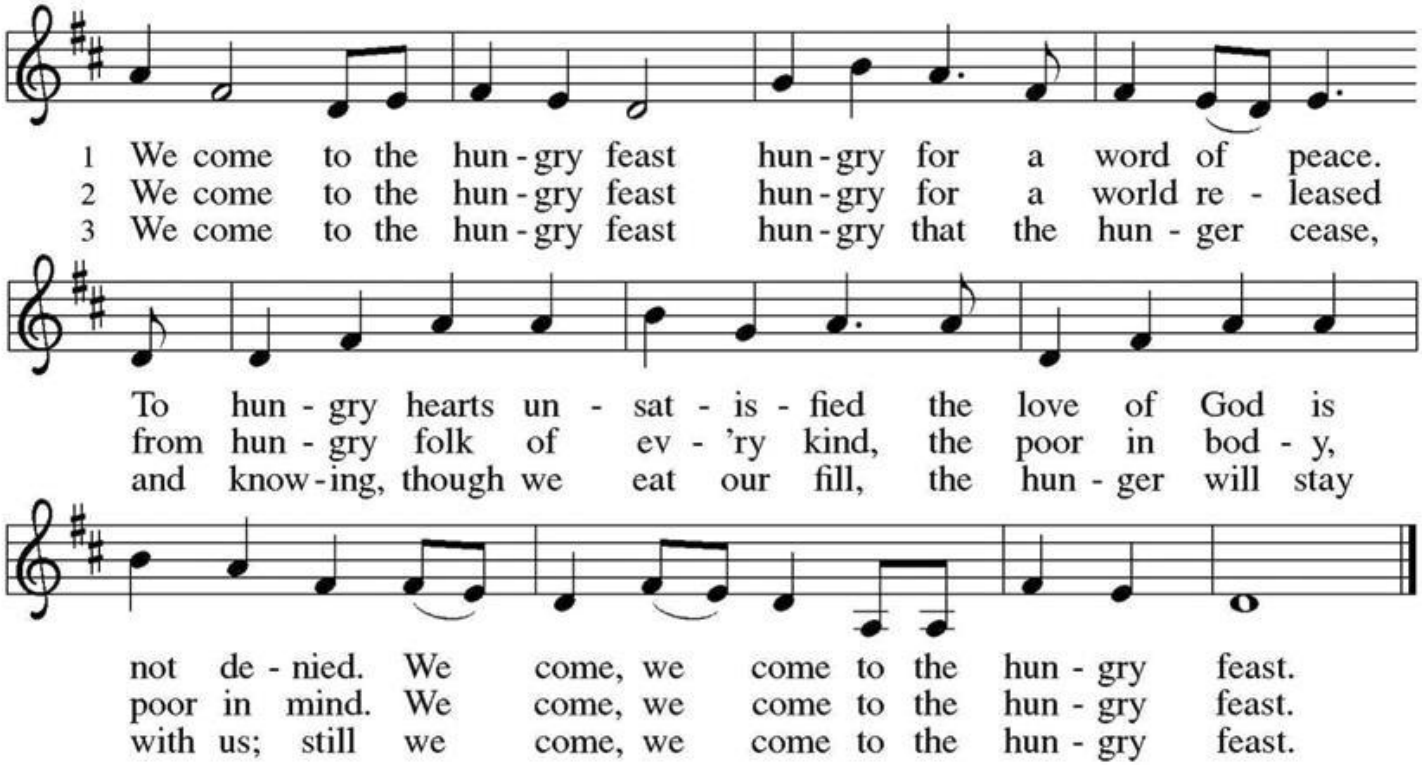
+ LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or version of your heart:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our 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
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
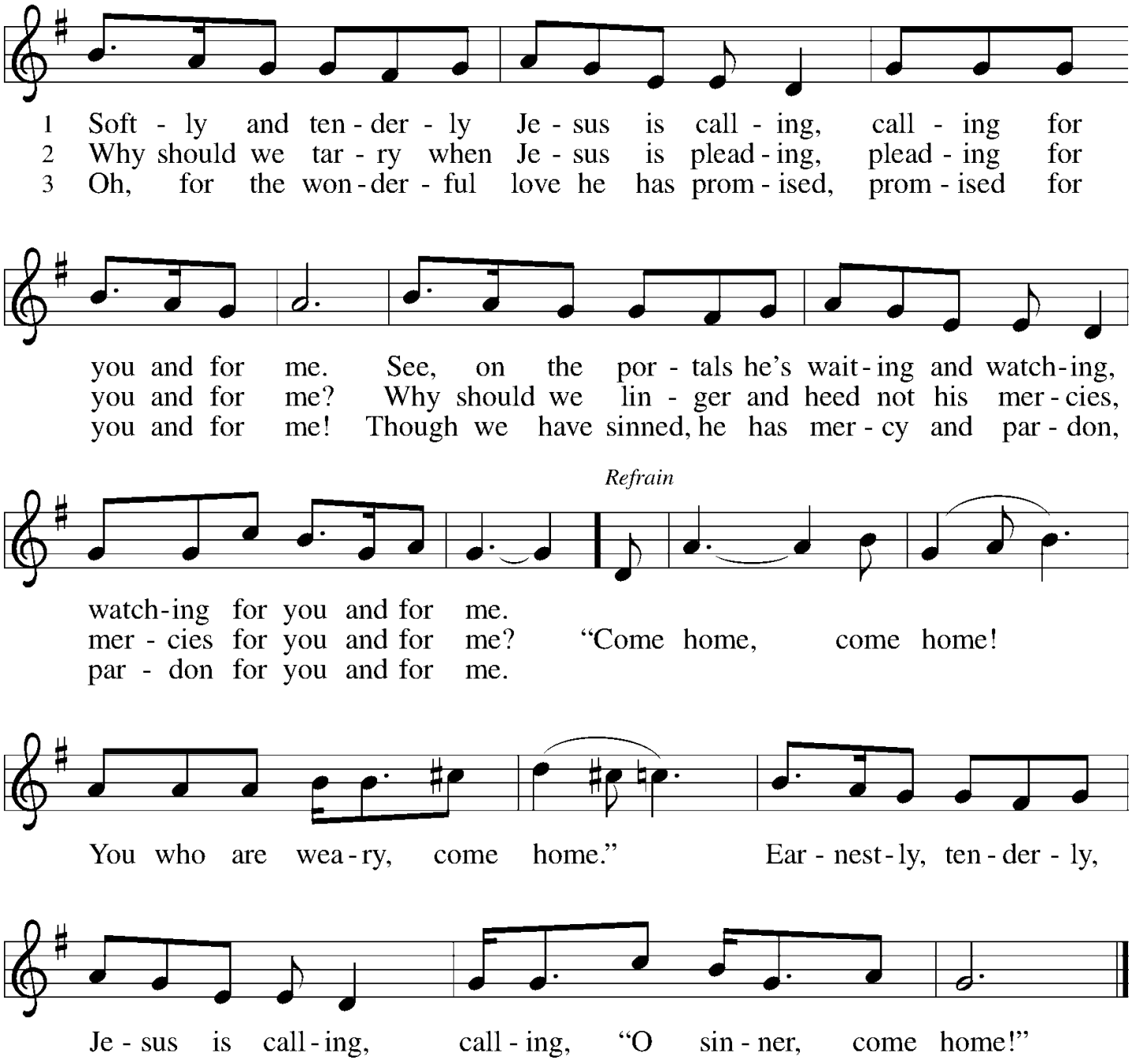
DISTRIBUTION
Please come forward for communion as directed. We will serve communion continuously. If you wish to kneel, please do so after receiving the elements and then proceed to the side aisles. If you are unable or would prefer not to come forward, please inform one of the ushers and communion will 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. 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 - WOV p.39DISTRIBUTION HYMN



WOV 766 "We Come to the Hungry Feast”
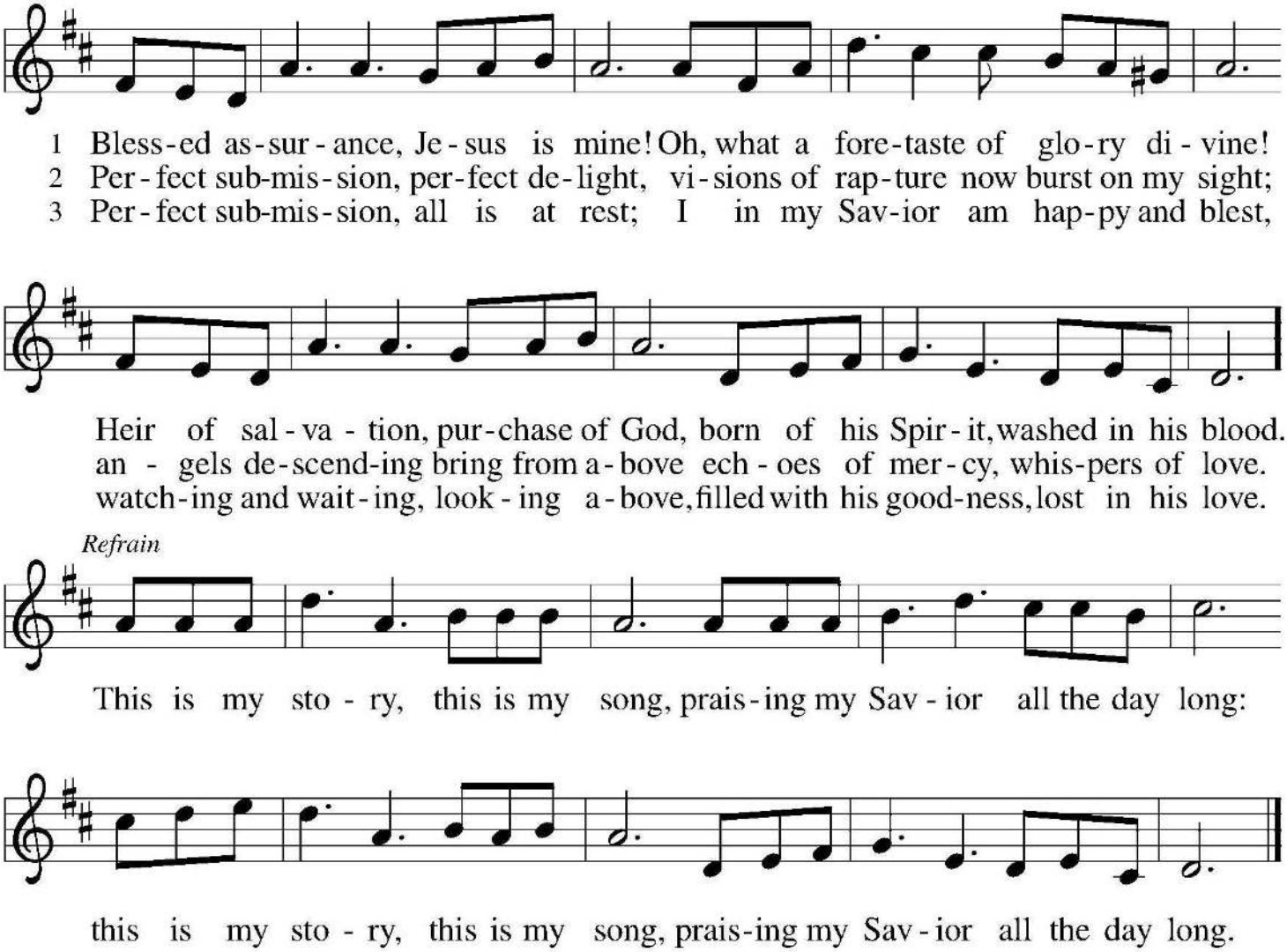


WOV 734 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

WOV 699 "Blessed Assurance"



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

+ 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**

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 ‡
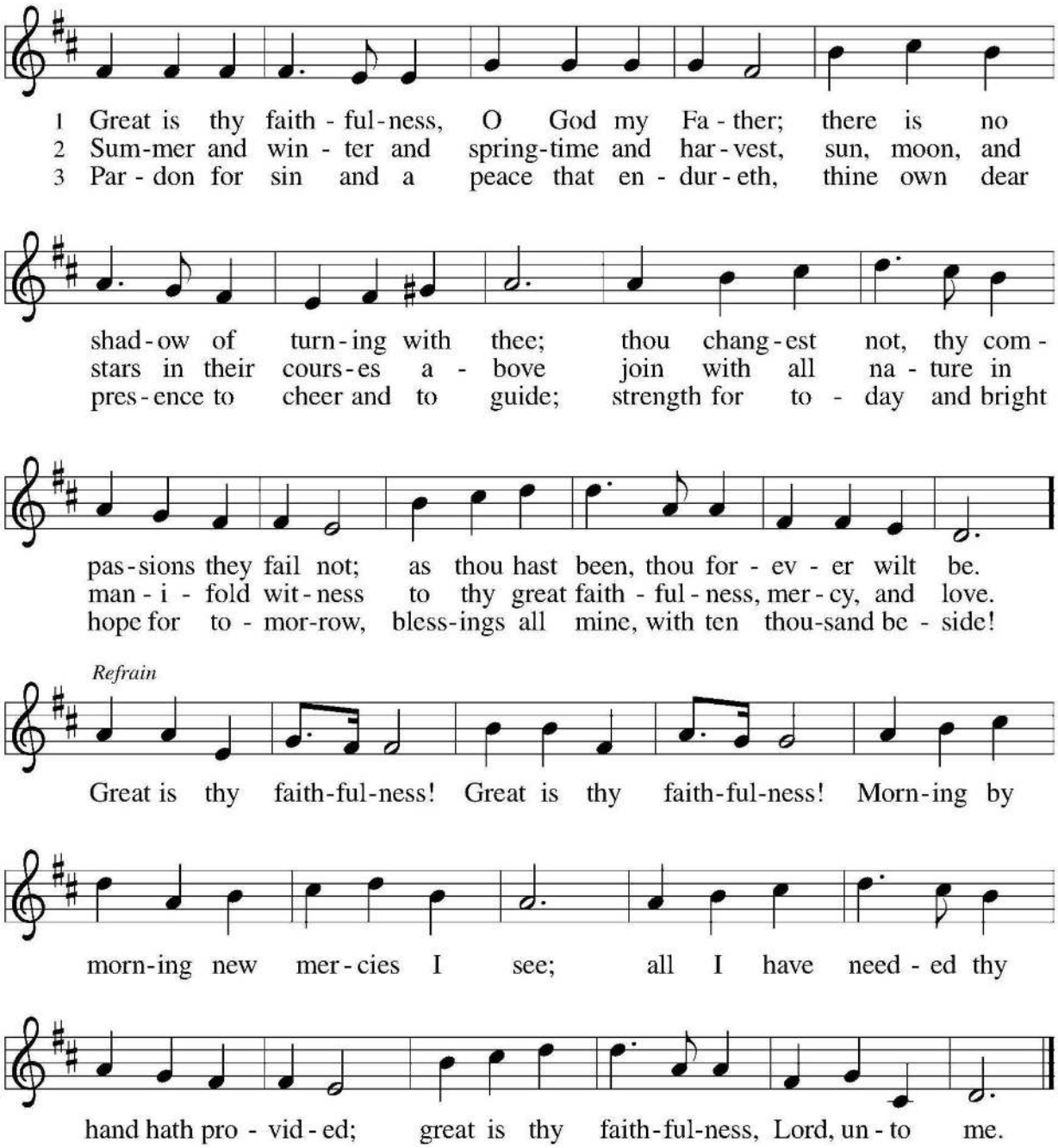
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

+ BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,

in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace
☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN WOV 771 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"



+Dismissal
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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