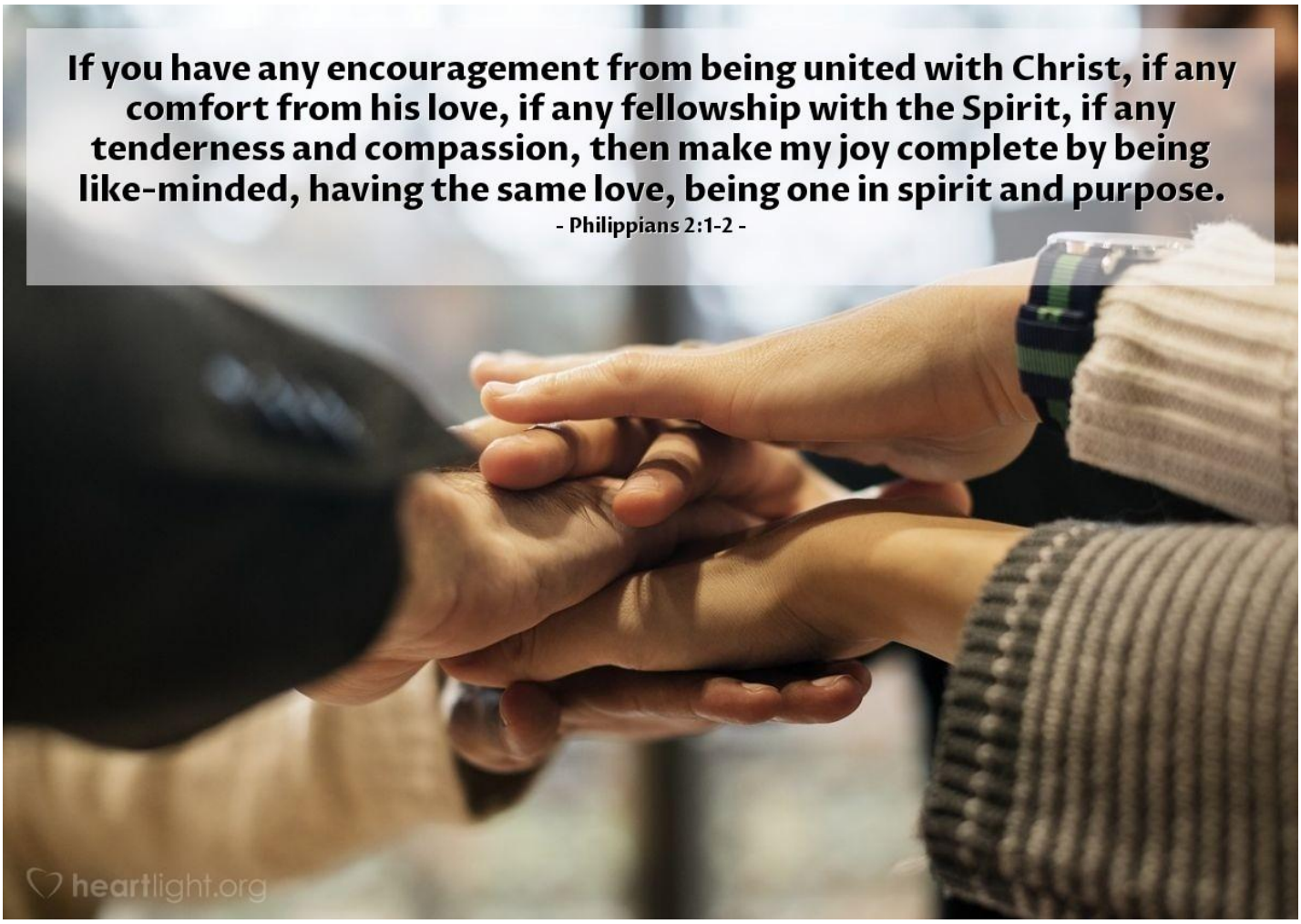
ZION
Lutheran Church



18 Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026
11:00 a.m.

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

Presiding Minister – Rev. Aleese Kenitzer
Music Minister – Charles Potter
Holy Communion, ELW Setting 1

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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
Hymn numbers are the large numbers at the top of the page in the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, which is located in the pew racks.
Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

PRELUDE **Charles Potter**
"At the Name of Jesus" David N. Johnson
"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Gerhard Krapf

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.

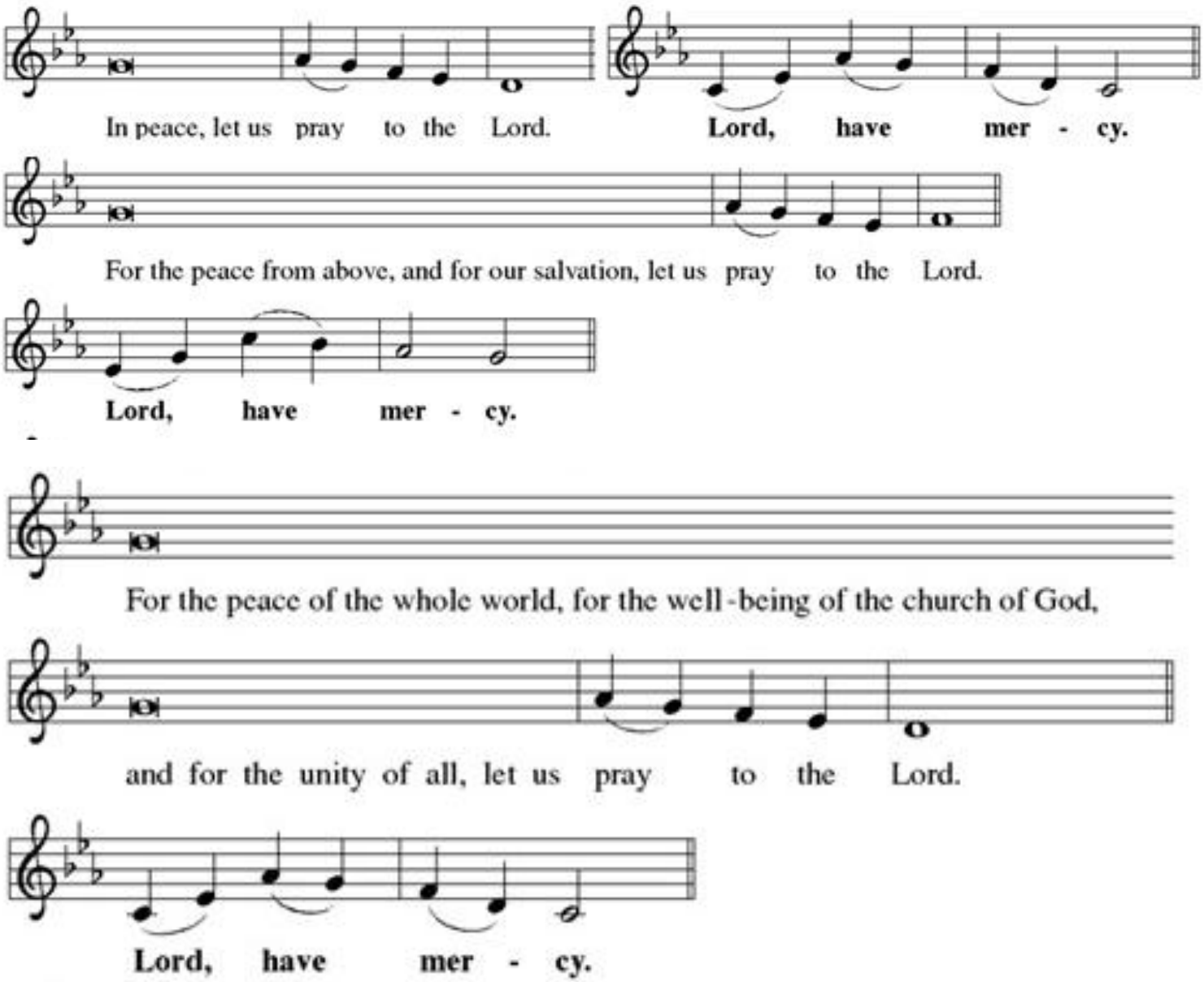
+ GATHERING HYMN ELW 836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

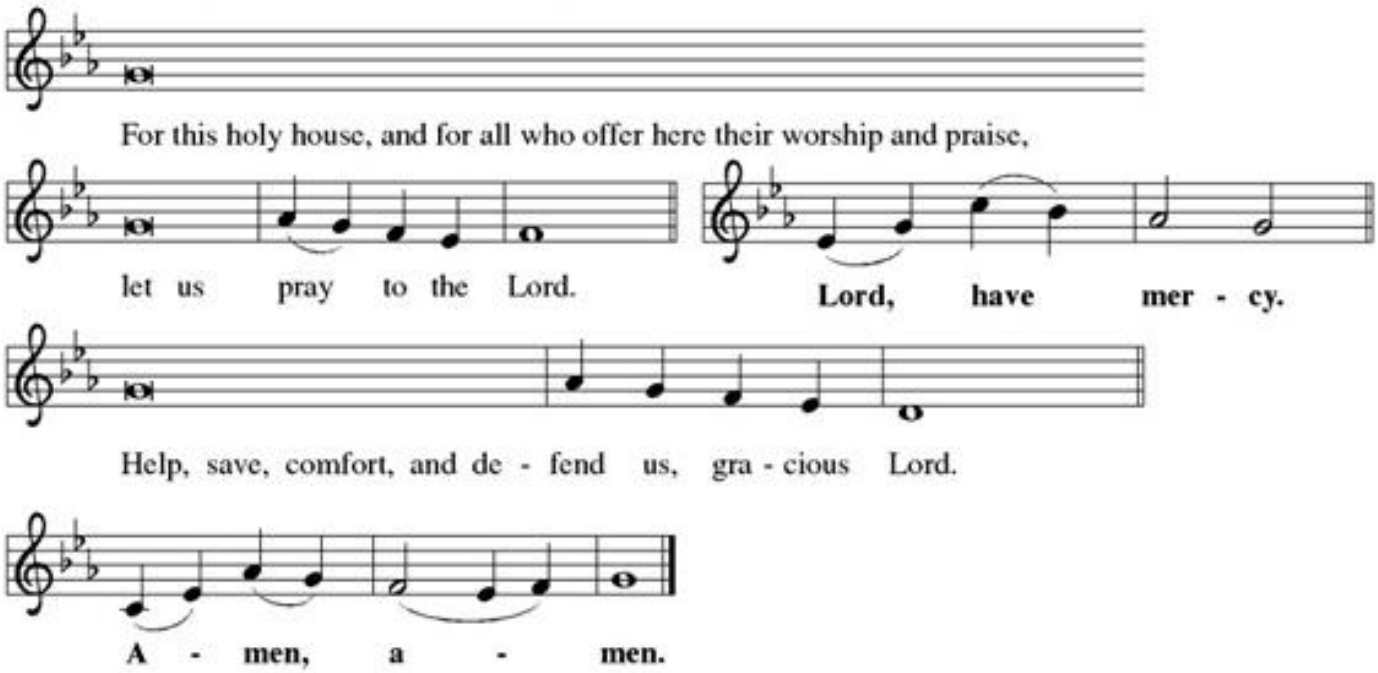


Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

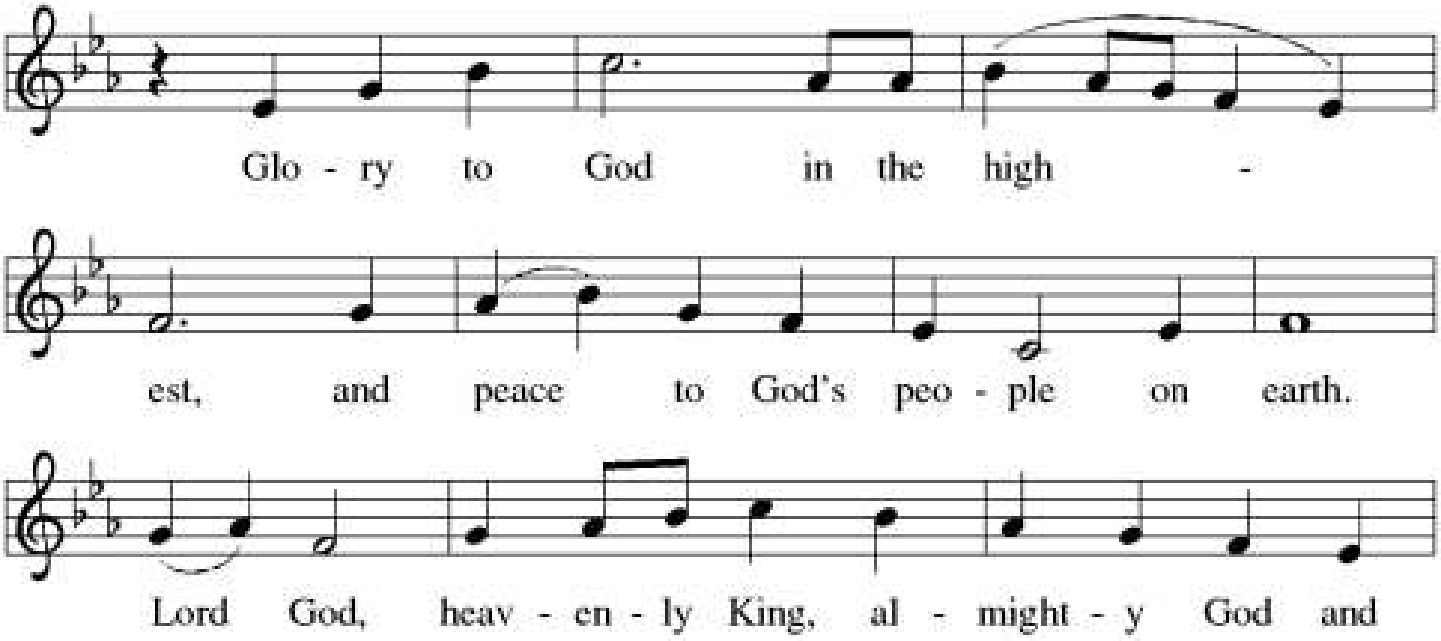
+GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

+Kyrie: page 98

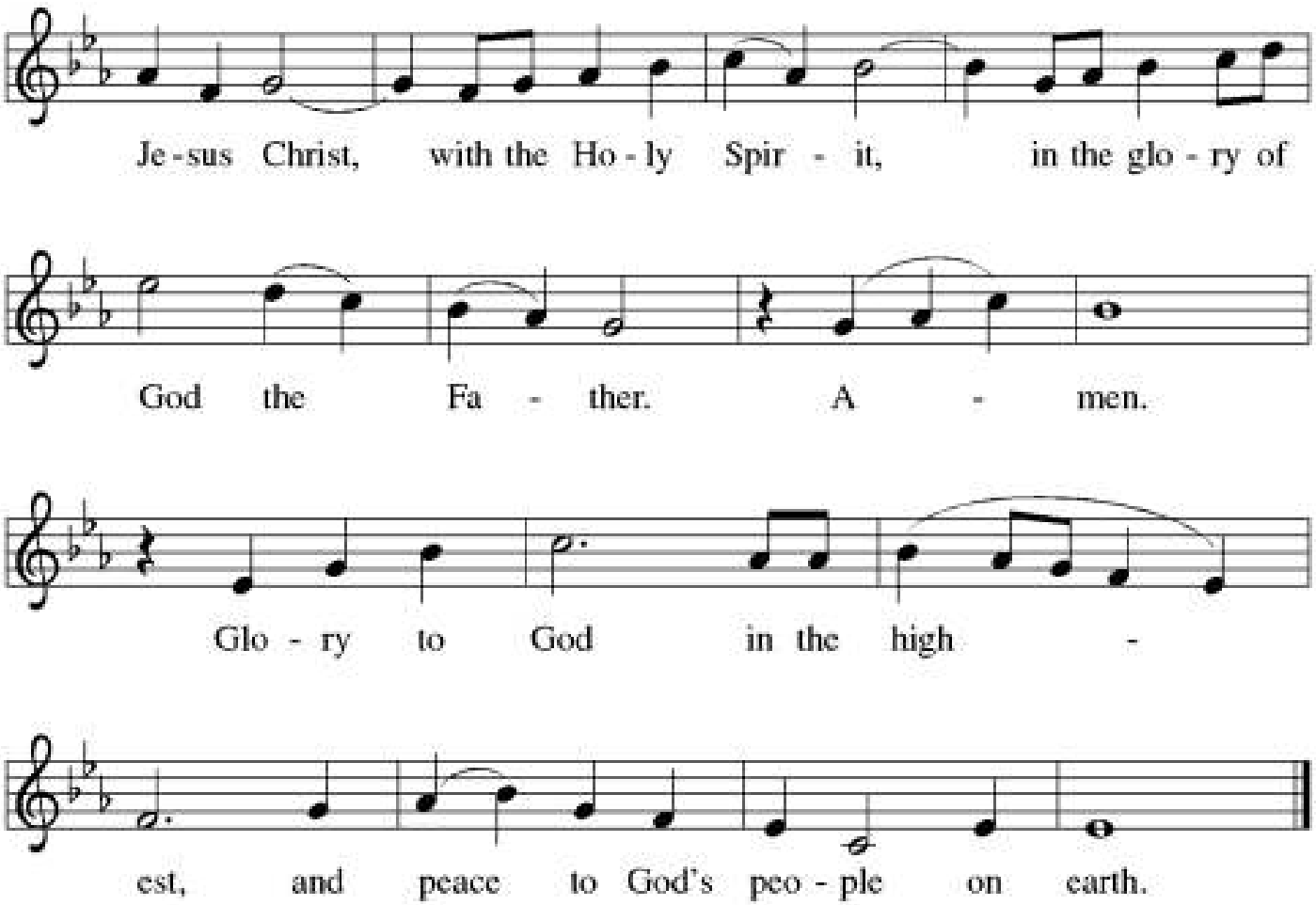




+Hymn of Praise: page 99 Glory to God




Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 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.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



+Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray,

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Anthem *When the Storms of Life Are Raging* **Senior Choir**

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning
the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on
edge"? 3 As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine:
it is only the person who sins who shall die.

25 Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way
unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? 26 When the righteous turn away from their
righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have
committed, they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have
committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. 28 Because they considered
and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live;
they shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of
Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the
Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your

ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.
The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

1 To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
2 My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
3 Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
4 Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
8 You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
9 You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

1 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

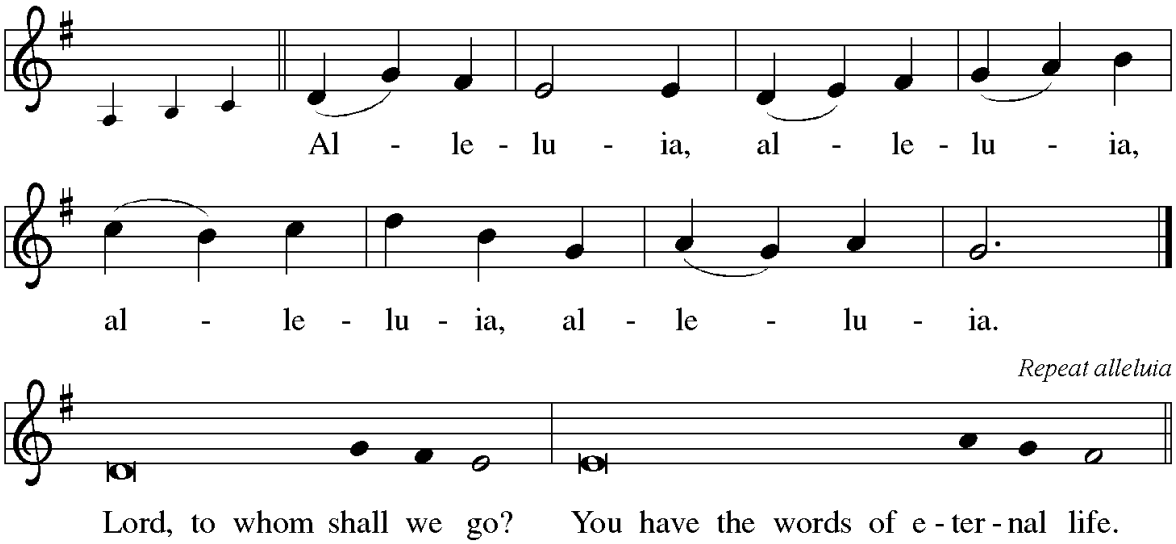
9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON Sarah Evans

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 102



+GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.
23 When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to

them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+HYMN OF THE DAY ELW772 “Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways”



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

+ 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.

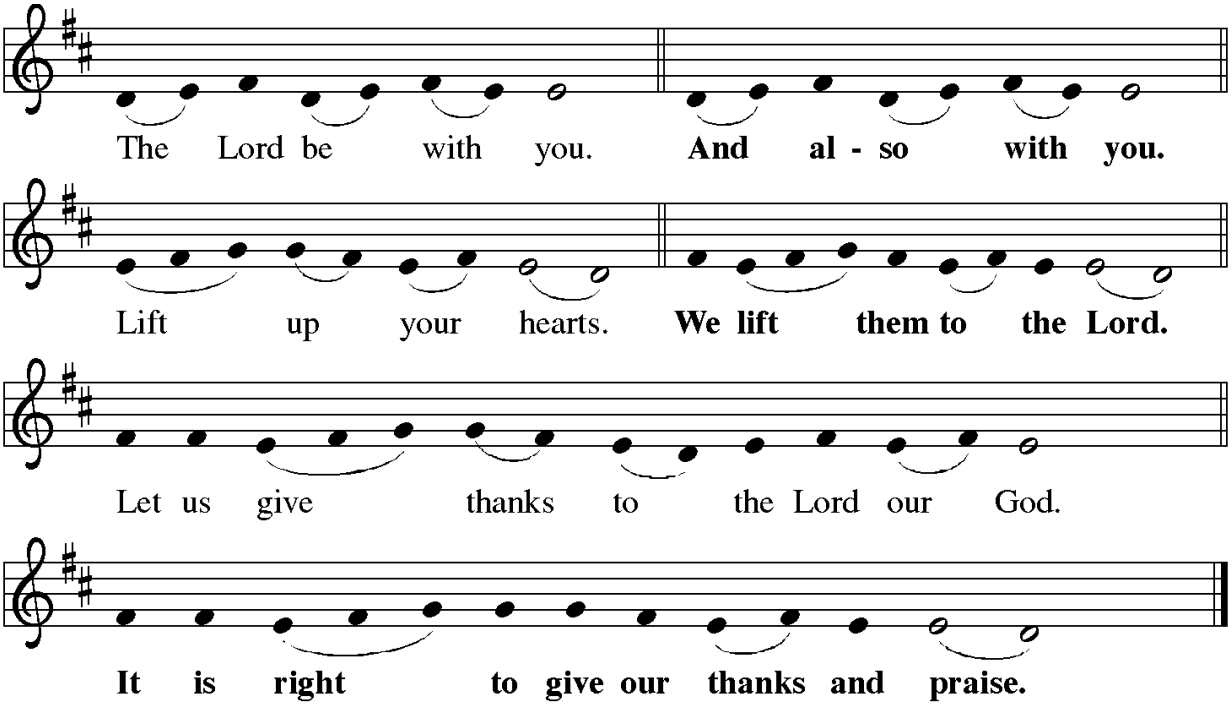
‡ MEAL ‡

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 "Let Us Break Bread Together" Charles Callahan **Charles Potter**

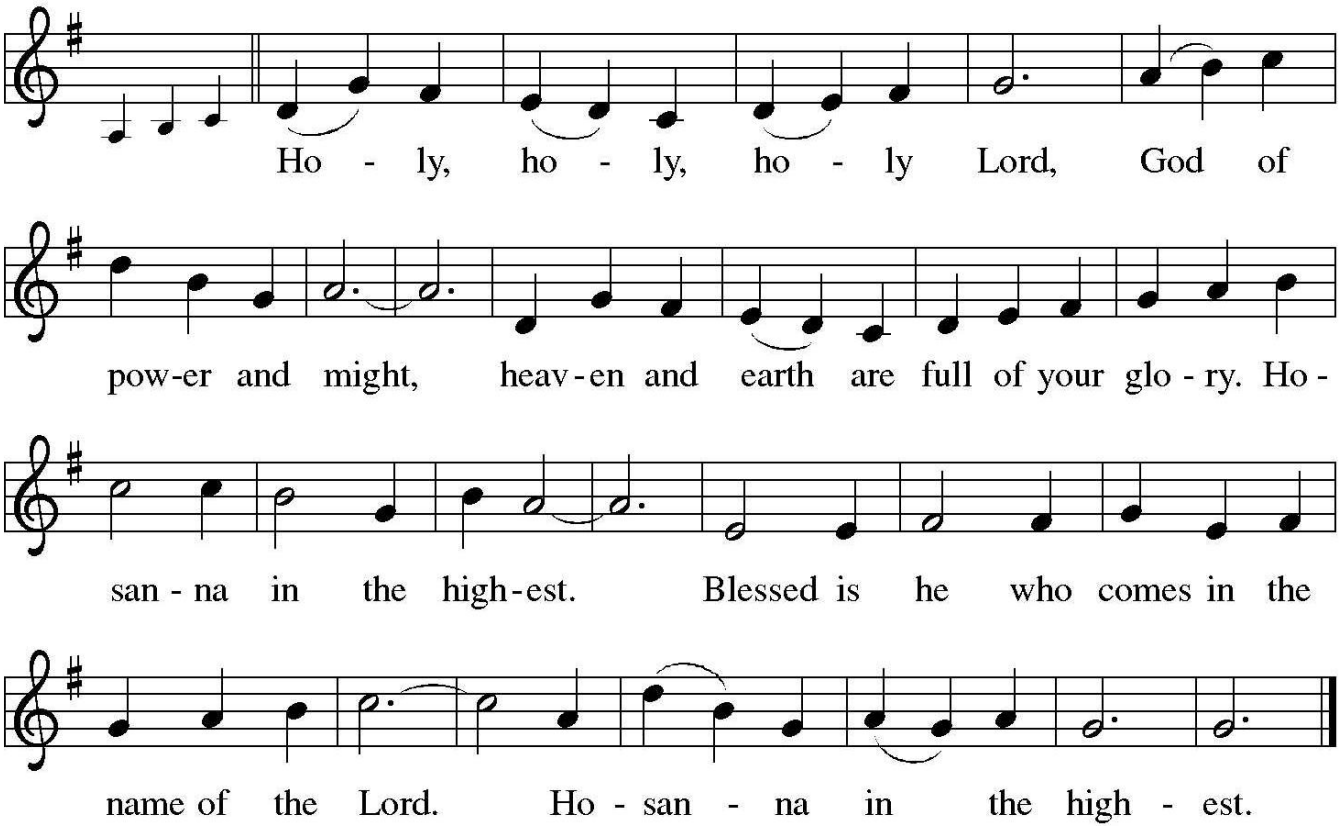
Offering Prayer
God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

+ DIALOGUE ELW p. 107



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

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW p. 108



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

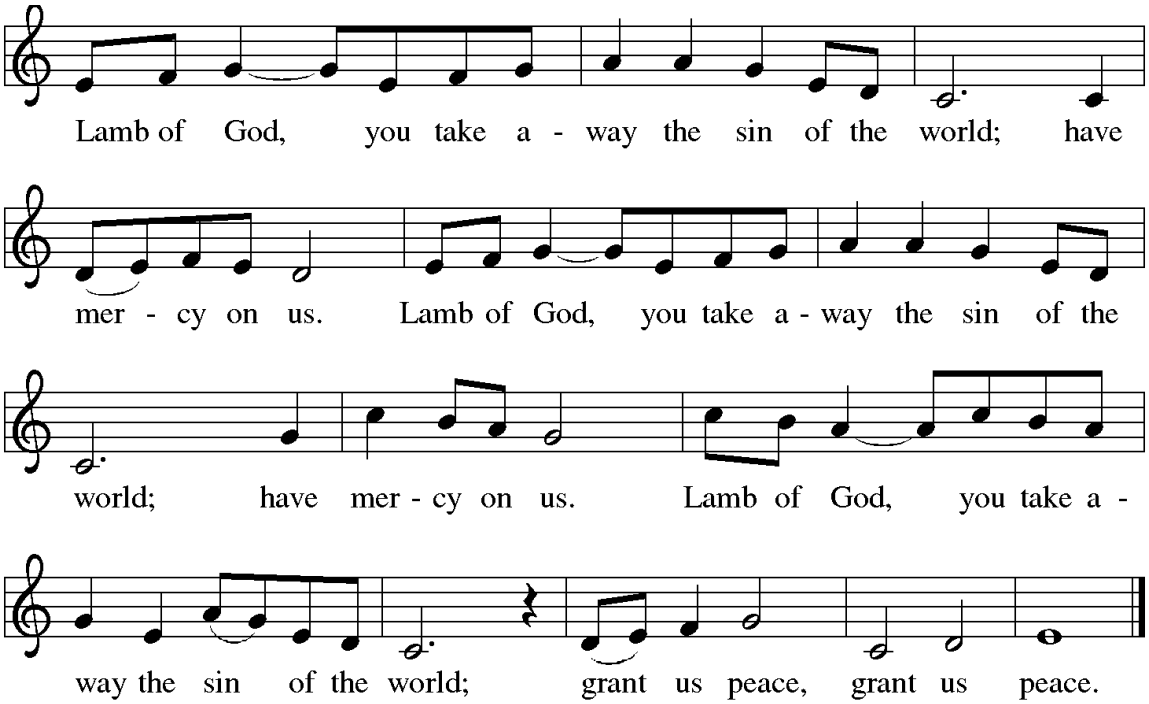
+ LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or version of your heart:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our 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.

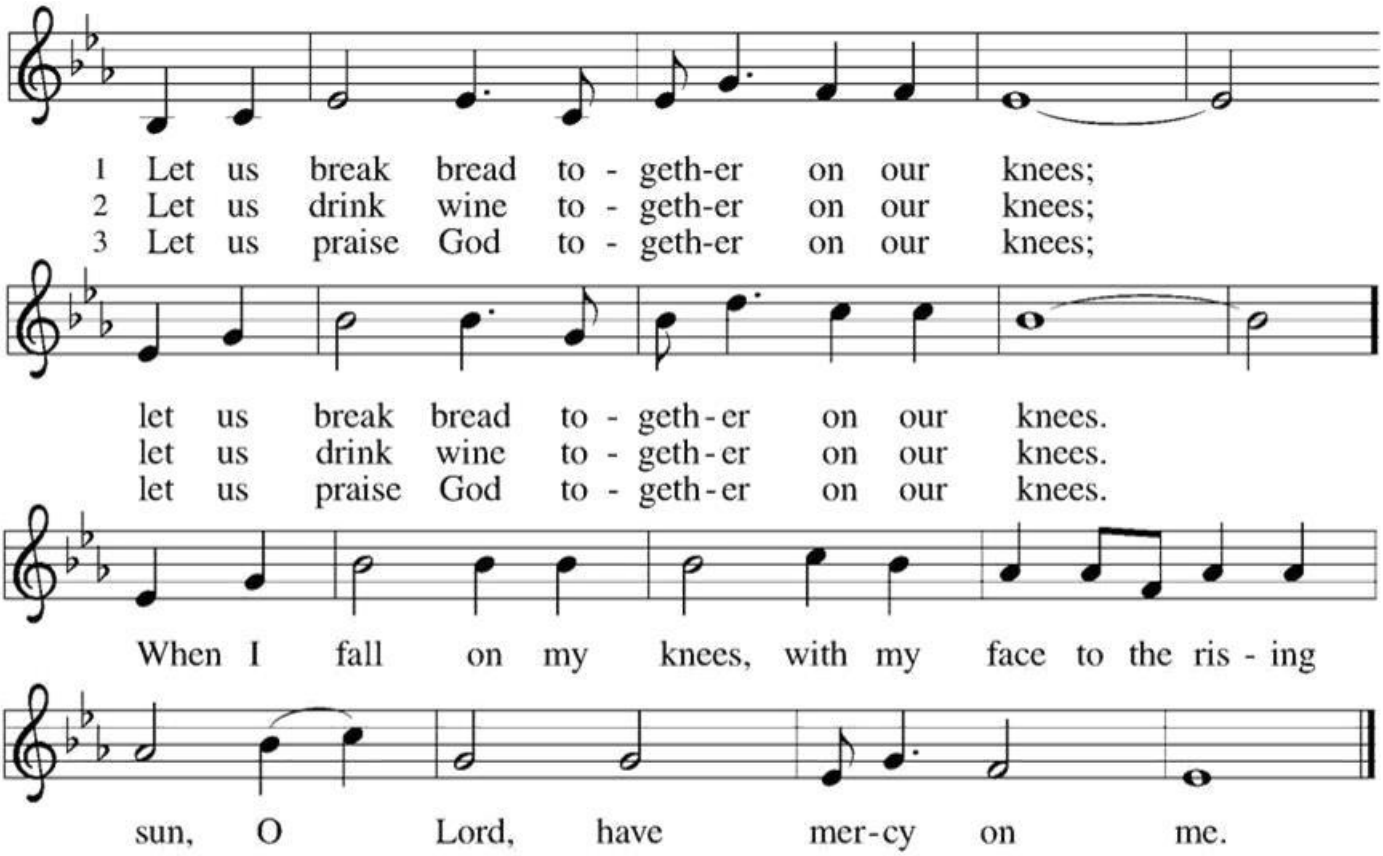
Gluten-free wafers are available in the separate small dish. Please let the presiding minister know if you would like a gluten-free wafer. The grape juice is located in the center ring of the communion tray. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, young and old, are welcome at this feast.

LAMB OF GOD ELW p. 112-113



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

ELW 471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

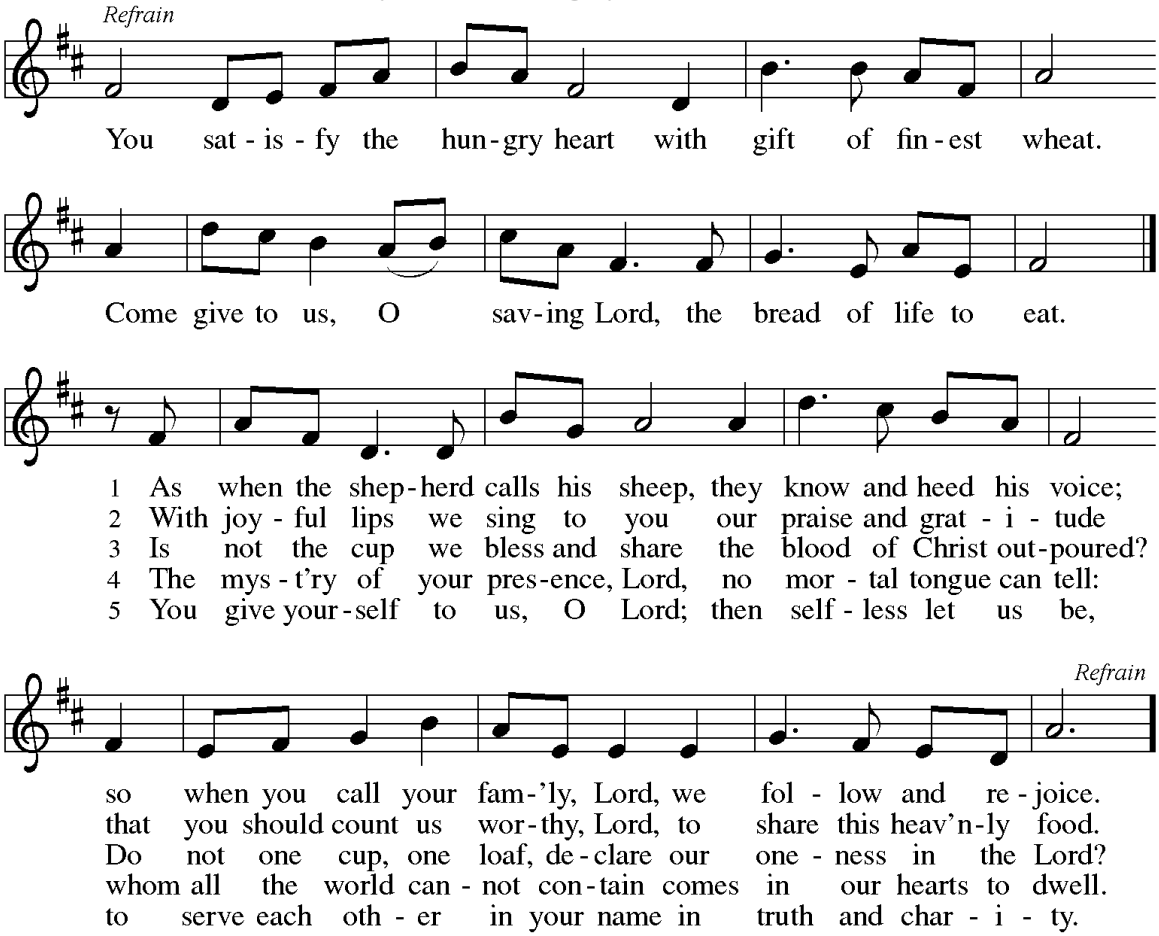


ELW 494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

ELW 484 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

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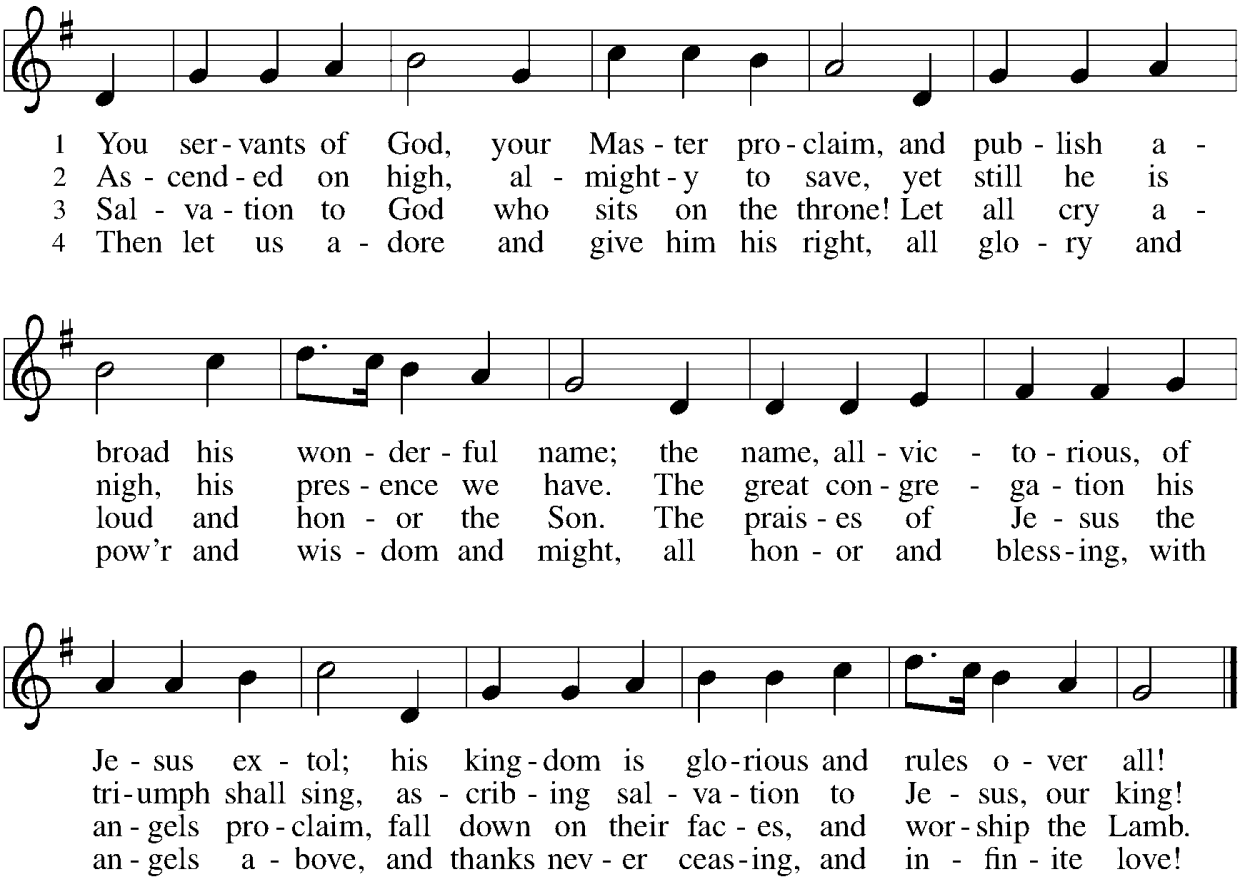
+ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING
Now may this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, ☩ now and forever. **Amen**

+ 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 ELW 825 "You Servants of God"



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

+Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "You Servants of God" David Cherwien **Charles Potter**

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2026-2027

ADULT GROUPS

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION	**Sun 1:30pm Grace**	Deep dive into the book of Exodus until Advent
CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND	**Wed 12:00pm Zion**	Explore the upcoming lectionary Scriptures. Jump in week to week!
WAYFINDERS	**Thurs 6:15pm Grace**	Group to assess (and re-assess!) what we hold as central to our Christian faith and how it impacts our lives, society around us, and the church
MEN'S GROUPS	**Wednesday 6:15am All American First Sat 9:00am Grace**	Fellowship and Bible Study around various topics, including use of *Daily Discipleship*
WOMEN'S GROUPS	**Second Tues 9:30am Grace Second Sat 8:30am SOTC**	Community and conversation around the Bible Study in *Gather*, magazine of the Women of the ELCA