Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
10:30 AM



"WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT"

In a world marked by much suspicion and back-biting, those who offer encouragement, trust, and hope are like an oasis of green-growing life. In a world wounded by rugged individualism, cutthroat competition, and much greed, the Holy Spirit blesses each Christian with the ability to use one's gifts for the greater and common good, to build up the body of Christ, and to serve those who suffer injustice.

The gospel reading for this day encourages us to use our God-given talents wisely while we still have time to do so. We do not know the hour of the Lord's final advent among us. But we do know that we have been formed into a body of servants who live according to the light of faith, nourished by word and sacrament, eager to share the riches of God's love with all in need.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
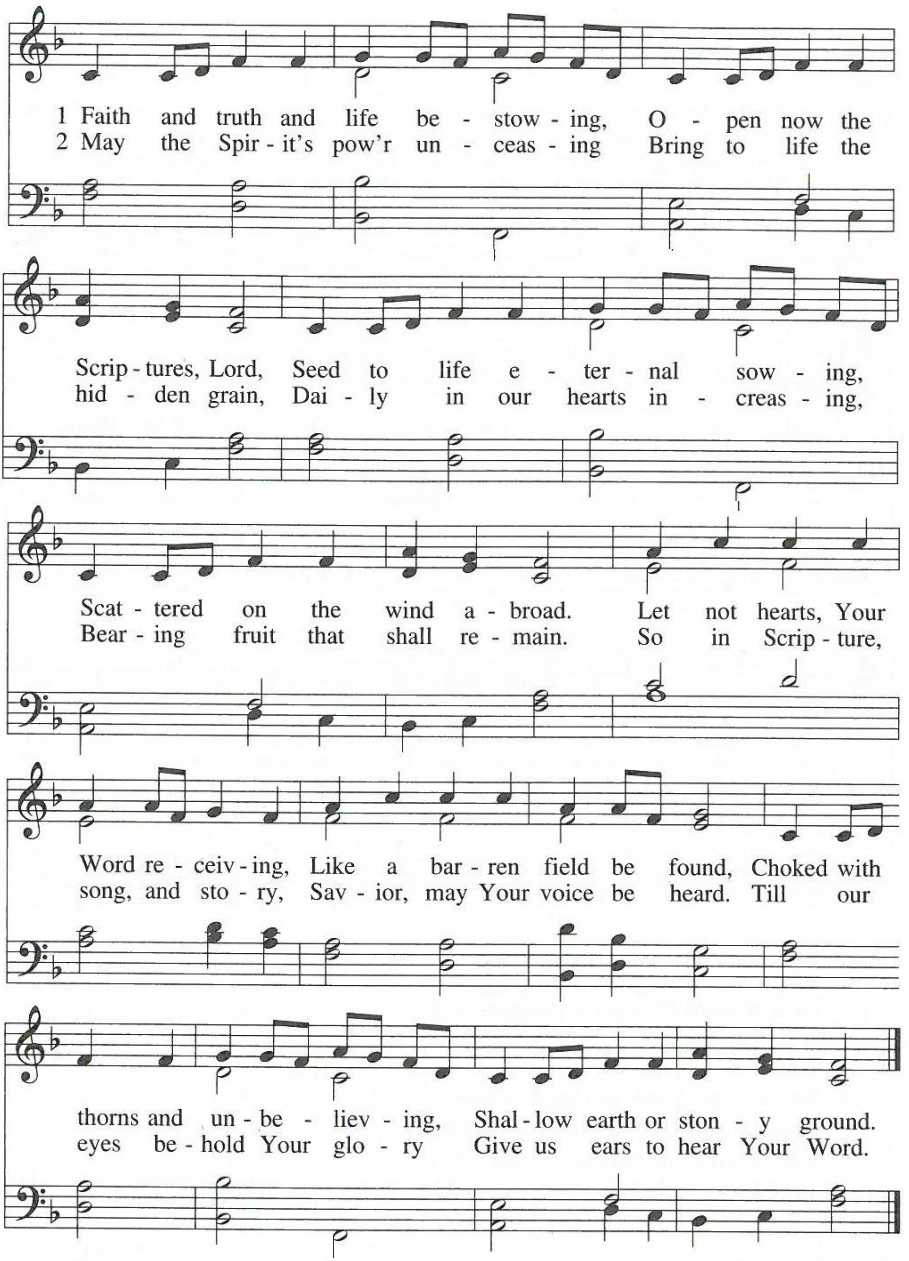
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN **"Faith & Truth and Light Bestowing"**



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1825; setting: Margaret W. Mealy, b. 1922

HOLY MANNA
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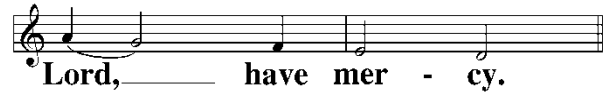
Text: © 1997 Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: Public domain; setting: © 1984 Margaret W. Mealy

Matt. 13:3–23; Col. 1:3–6; 2 Cor. 9:10; Luke 4:16–22
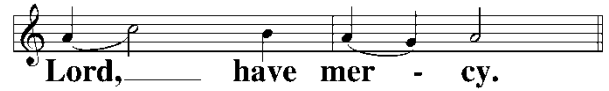
KYRIE

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all **C And also with you.**
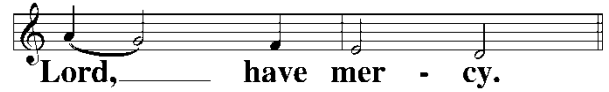
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
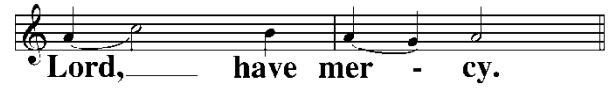


P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
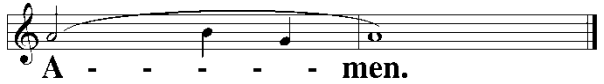


P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

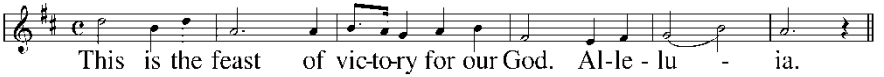


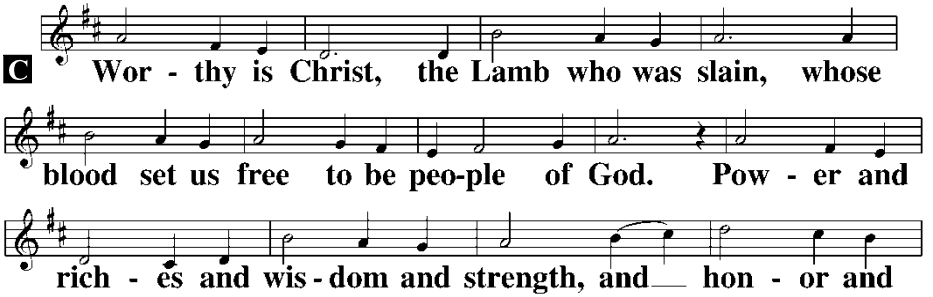
P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

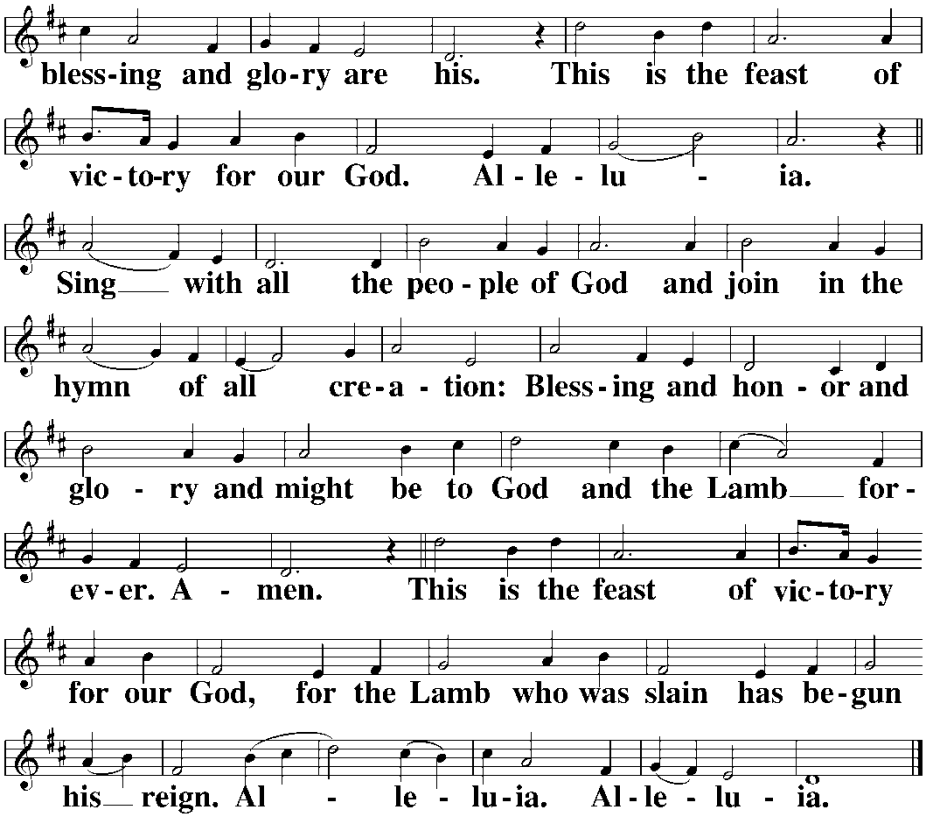


P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.









℗ The Lord be with you. **℃ And also with you.**

℗ Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **℃ Amen.**

Children are invited to meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Today's lesson revolves around the concept of the Day of the Lord, the day of destruction of the Lord's enemies and of salvation for the Lord's faithful. This little-known prophet declares to the people of Jerusalem that sin without repentance will lead to destruction.

℟ Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,

and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
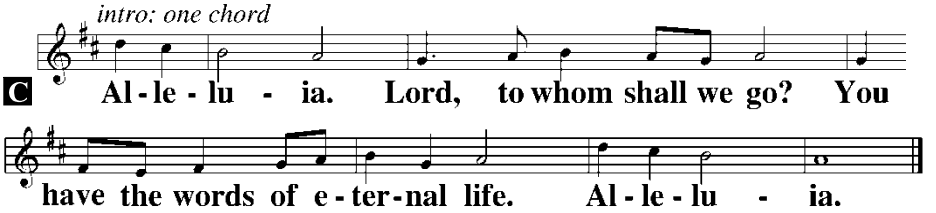
Paul encourages the Thessalonian Christians to look forward to the return of Christ as a day of salvation.

R Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say,

"There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Stand



GOSPEL P The Gospel is written in Matthew chapter 25 beginning at verse 14.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

In the second of three parables concerning the second coming, Jesus indicates that merely maintaining things as they are is not sufficient. As Christians await his return, we are to use wisely the gifts of God.

P Jesus said to the disciples: "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said

to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

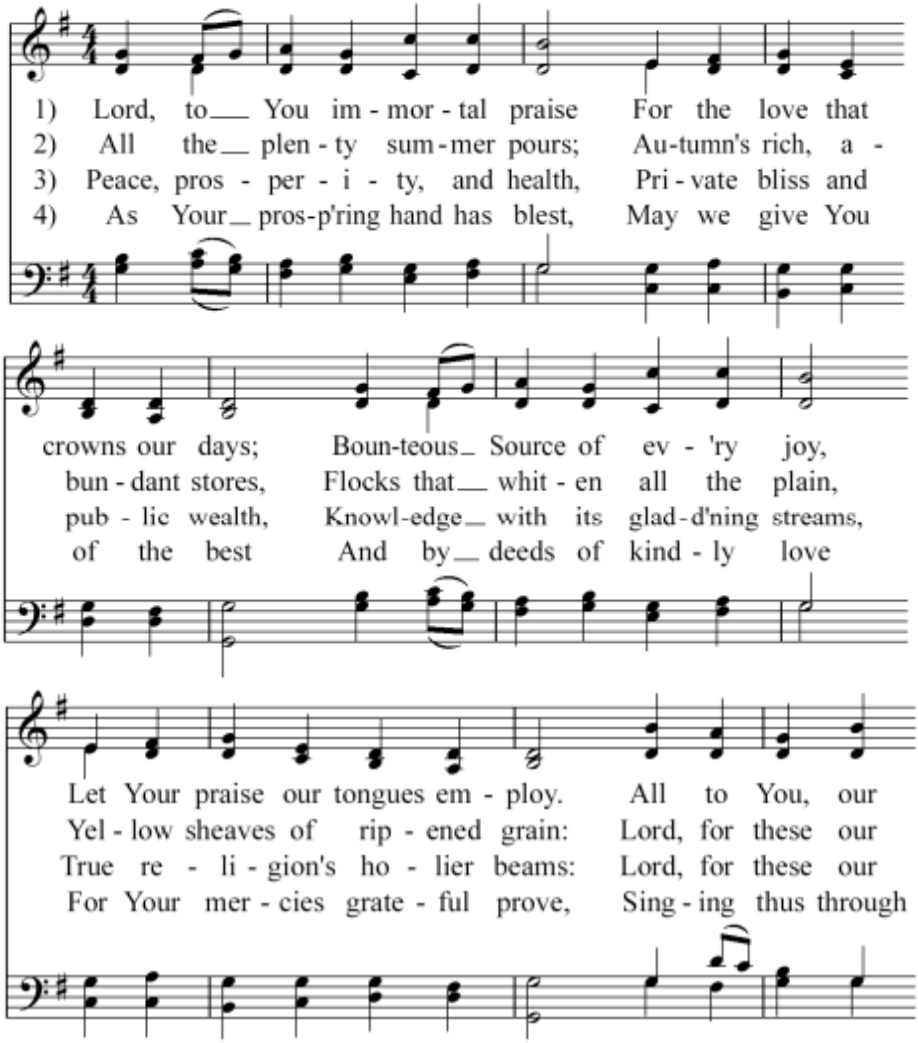
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

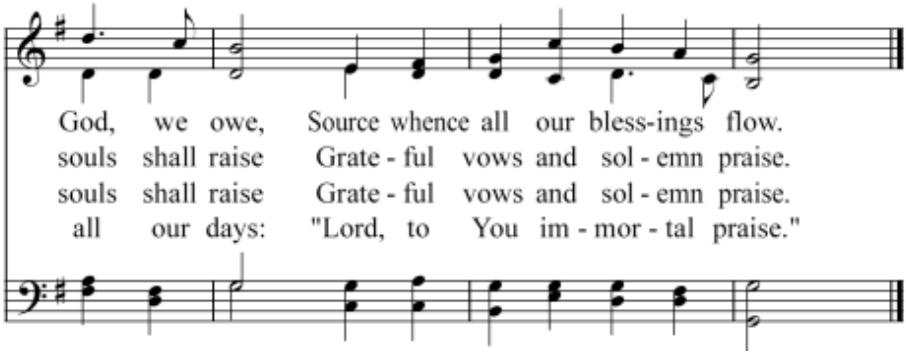
Sit

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN "Lord To You Immortal Praise"





Meter: 77.77.77
Anna L. Barbauld
pub. 1772

Source:
oremus.org (alt.)

Tune: Dix
Conrad Kocher, pub. 1838

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

℗ Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, ***"hear our prayer."*** *The prayers conclude:*

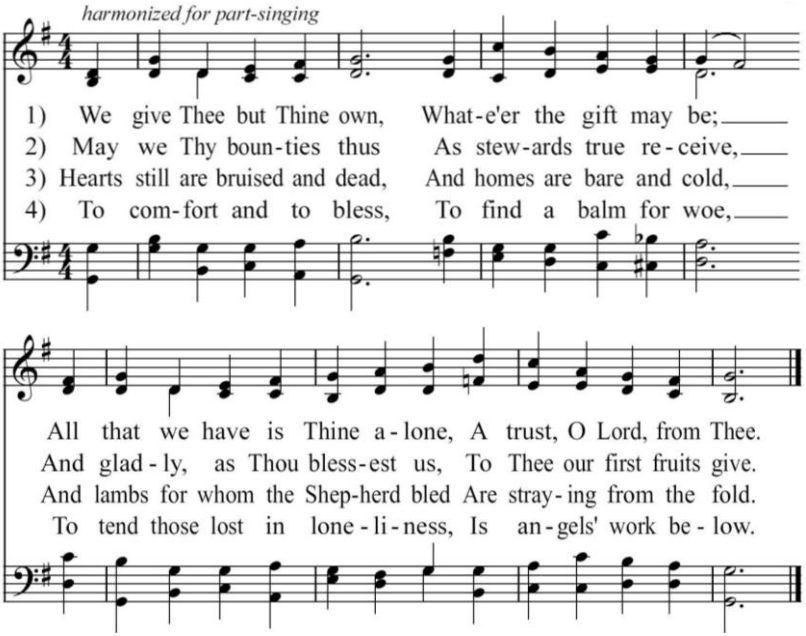
℗ Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

Sit

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "We Give Thee but Thine Own"



5) The cap-tive to re-lease,
The lost to God to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace–
It is a Christ-like thing.

6) And we be-lieve Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
What-e'er we do for Thine, O Lord,
We do it un-to Thee.

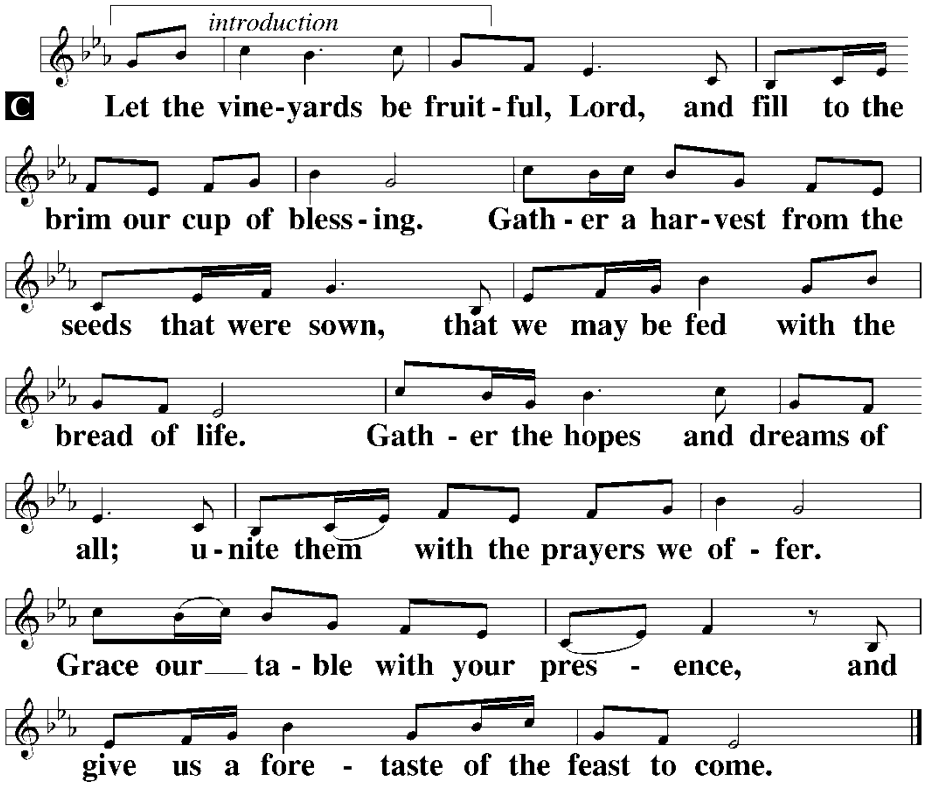
OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.

Give Now

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

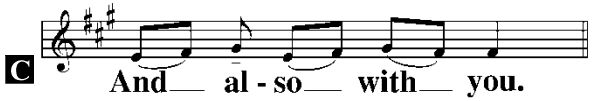


P Let us pray. Loving God,
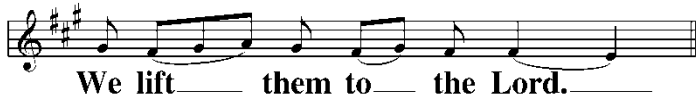
C we give you only what is yours, whatever our gift may be. All that we have is yours alone, a trust given into our care. May we receive your bounty as true stewards, and return to you the first fruits of the harvest of our lives. Amen.

PREFACE
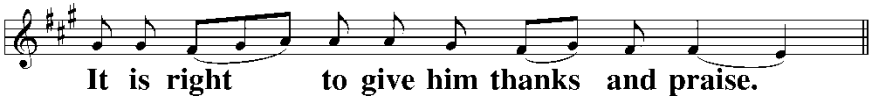
P The Lord be with you.



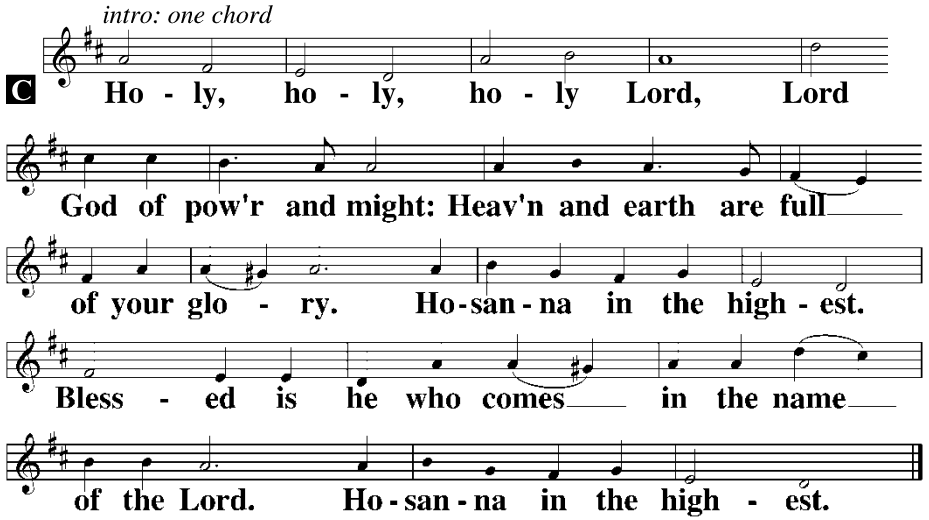
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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."

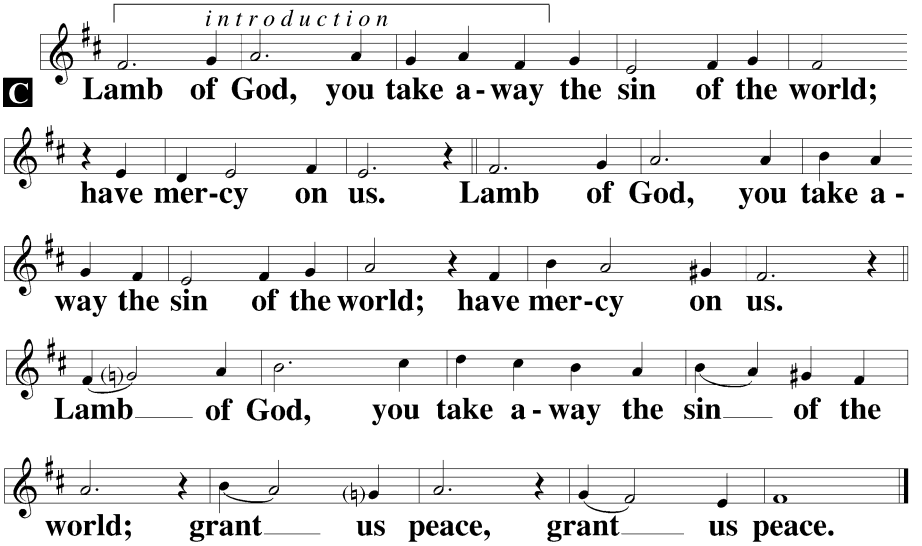
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

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.

LAMB OF GOD
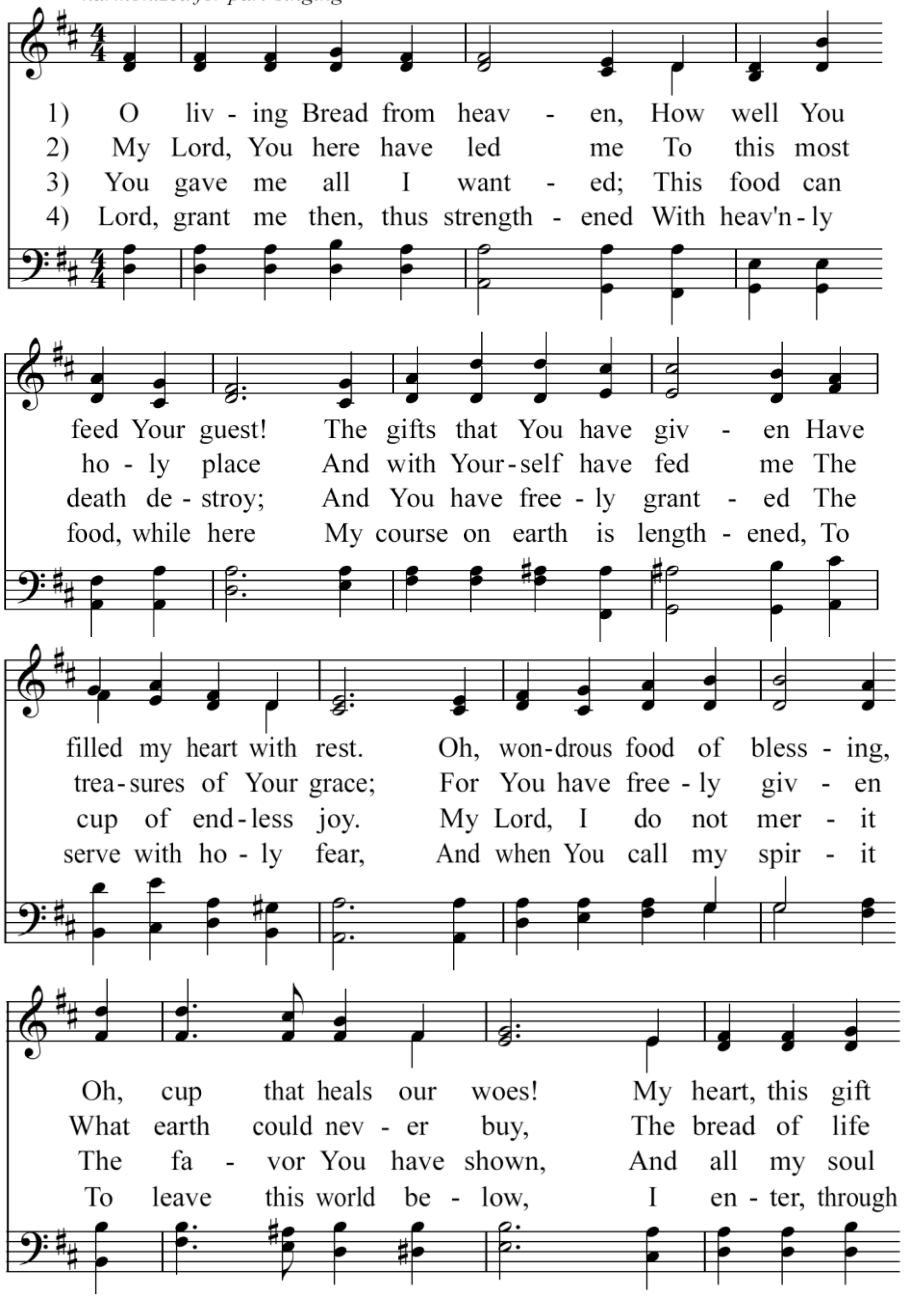


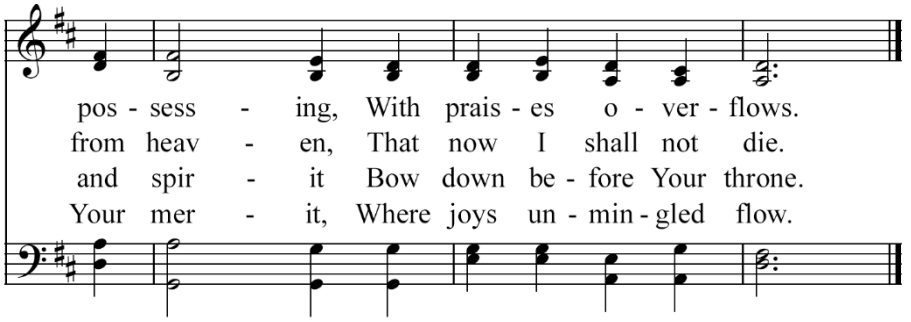
Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN "O Living Bread from Heaven"

harmonized for part-singing
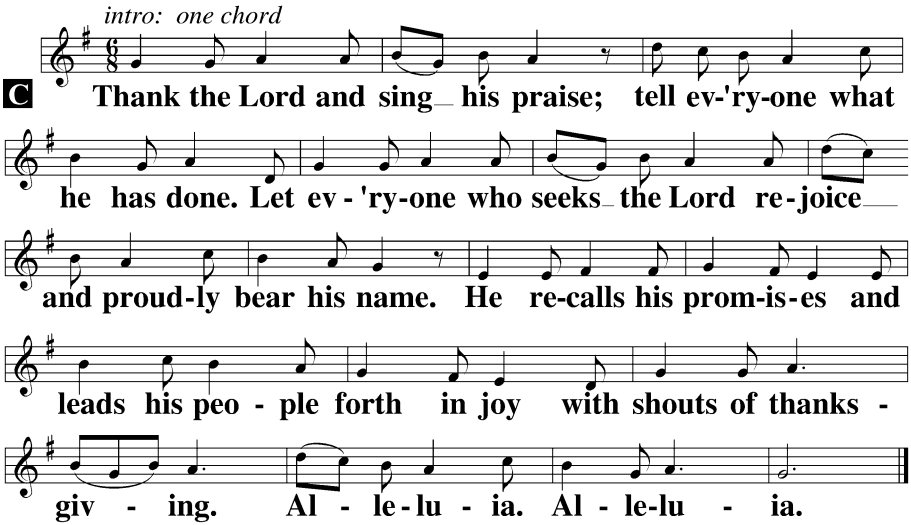




Meter: 76.76 D
Johann Rist, pub. 1651
tr. C. Winkworth, pub. 1858, alt.

Source:
LBW 197

Tune: Aurelia
Samuel S. Wesley,
pub. 1864

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT AND PRAYER



P Let us pray. We give you thanks, loving God, for this meal, a gift from your goodness. Now let us go in peace to serve our neighbor;
and at the end, with our own eyes, let us see our Savior, forever and ever. **C Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P 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.

P Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN "Servant's Prayer"

Lord, it's you who has brought me to this day
Who has carried and kept me in your care
I look back and I see you in all my years
And so forward I go, knowing you are there

Chorus:
May each word from my lips be a song of good news
Every touch of my hand be a gift of grace
Every beat of my heart be a prayer to you
And the sum of my days be a life of praise

May my feet never stumble and never stray
Nor grow weary upon this rocky road
For the path I am on is a narrow way
But I know you are with me so on I go

Chorus

May my eyes ever fixed on your kingdom be
As my heart ever longs for the joy to come
For my hope is in things that I cannot see
But because of your promise I press on

Chorus

Christ before me to guide me on my way
Christ beside me so I am not alone
Christ within me to give me words to say
Christ behind me to bring the harvest home

Chorus

Words & Music by Cathy Pino; © Echelon 2004

POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; and concur in our confession.

Those who are not yet instructed or hold a confession different than this congregation may come forward with their arms crossed across their chest to receive a blessing.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

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