

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Thanksgiving Eve

At harvest time we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship this evening. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshipping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion. *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ GATHERING ✠

As the prelude begins, we invite you to conclude your conversations and join us in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship together.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

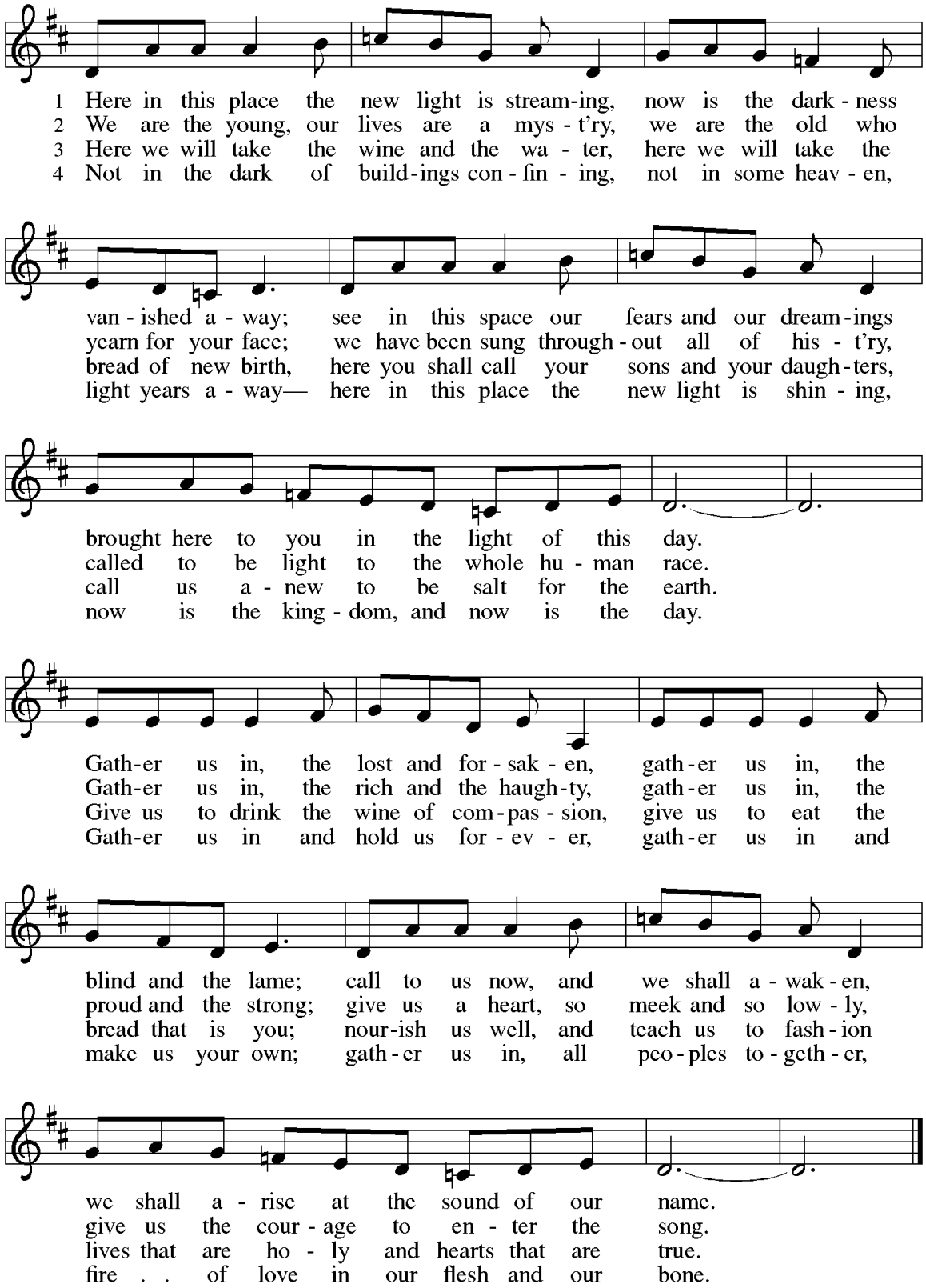
P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent reflection.

P Gracious God, **C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **C Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *GATHER US IN* (ELW 532)

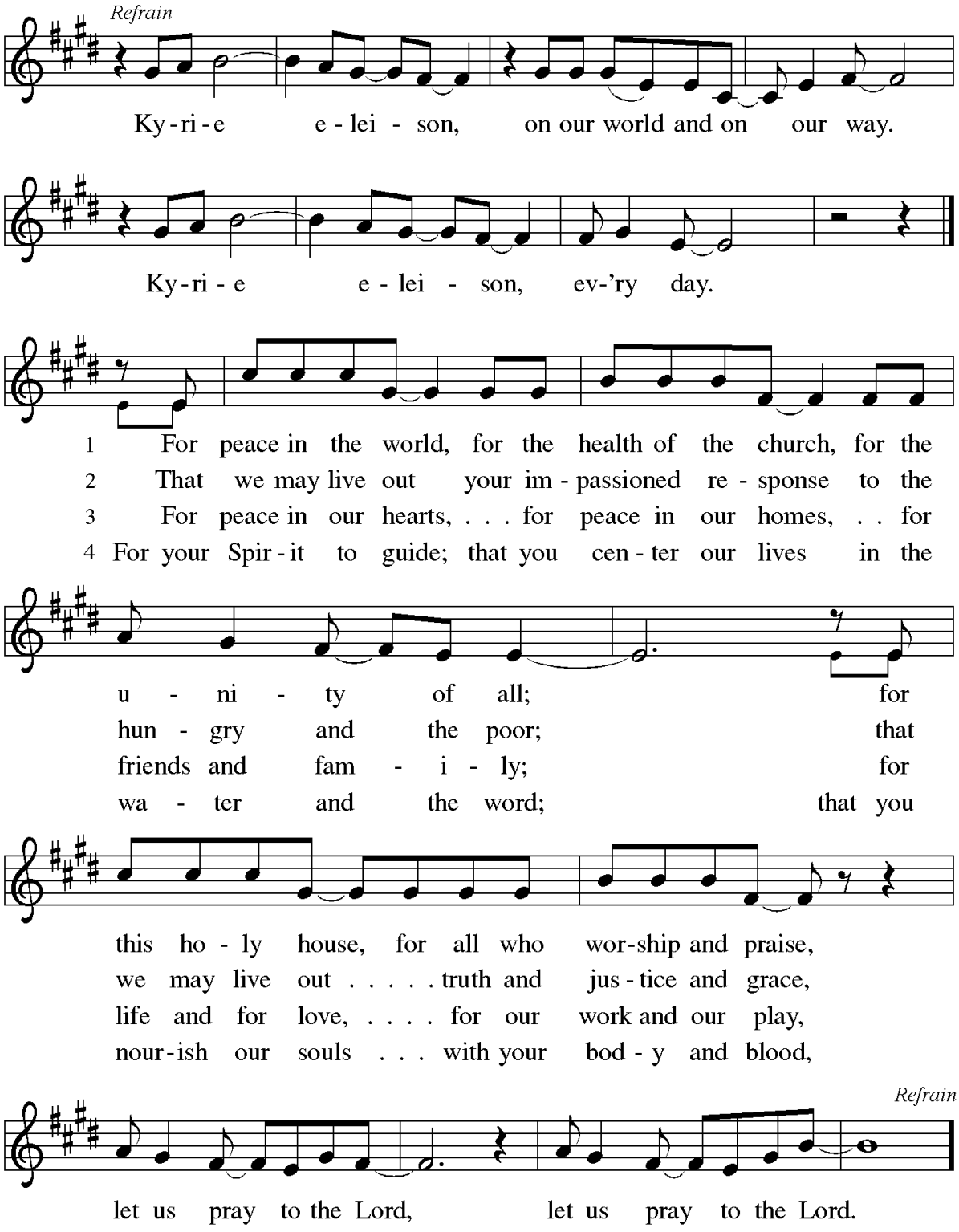


Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

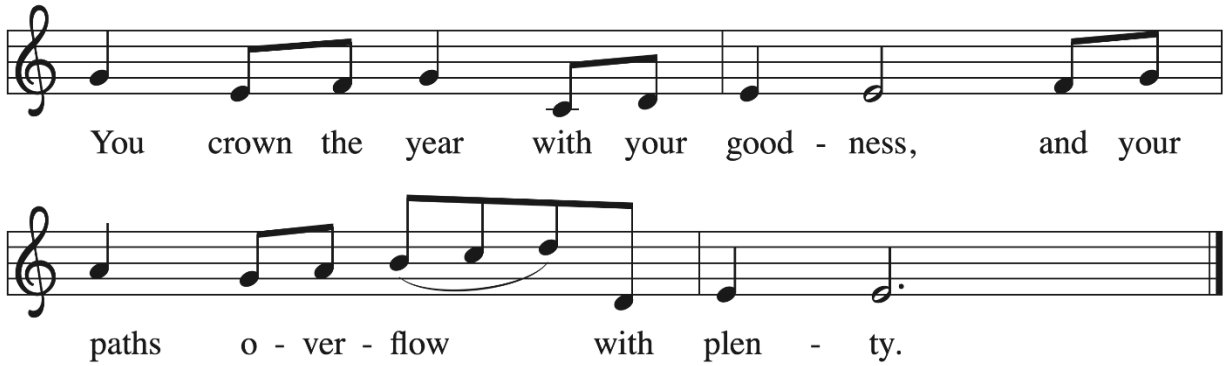
FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 8:7-18

A reading from Deuteronomy.

7 "The LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with
springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and
barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, 9 a land
where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose
stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. 10 You shall eat your fill and
bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.
11 "Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his
commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today.
12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them 13 and when
your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that
you have is multiplied, 14 then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who
brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who led you through
the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.
He made water flow for you from flint rock. 16 He fed you in the wilderness with manna
that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you
good. 17 Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten
me this wealth.' 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to
get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is
doing today."

…The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 65:11



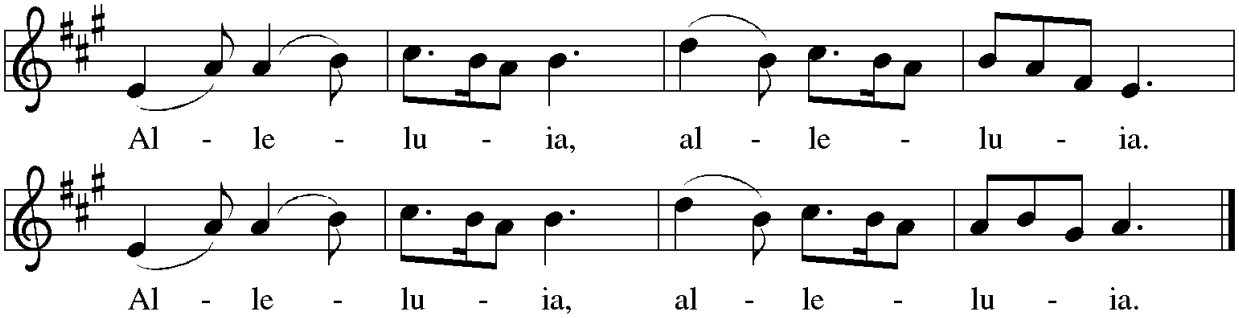
[1] You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion; to you shall vows | be fulfilled.
[2] **To you, the one | who answers prayer, to you all | flesh shall come.**
[3] Our sins are strong- | er than we are, but you blot out | our transgressions.
[4] **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple. R**
[5] Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.
[6] **You make firm the mountains | by your power; you are girded a- | bout with might.**
[7] You still the roaring | of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.
[8] **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.**
[9] You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.
[10] **You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**
[11] You crown the year | with your goodness, and your paths over- | flow with plenty.
[12] **May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing, and the hills be | clothed with joy.**
[13] May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain; let them shout for | joy and sing. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15
A reading from 2 Corinthians.

[6] The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who
sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. [7] Each of you must give as you have made up
your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And
God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having
enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. [9] As it is written,
"He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."
[10] He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your
seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be enriched in

every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us,
12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also
overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you
glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the
generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you
and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks
be to God for his indescribable gift!
…The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA (ELW 174)

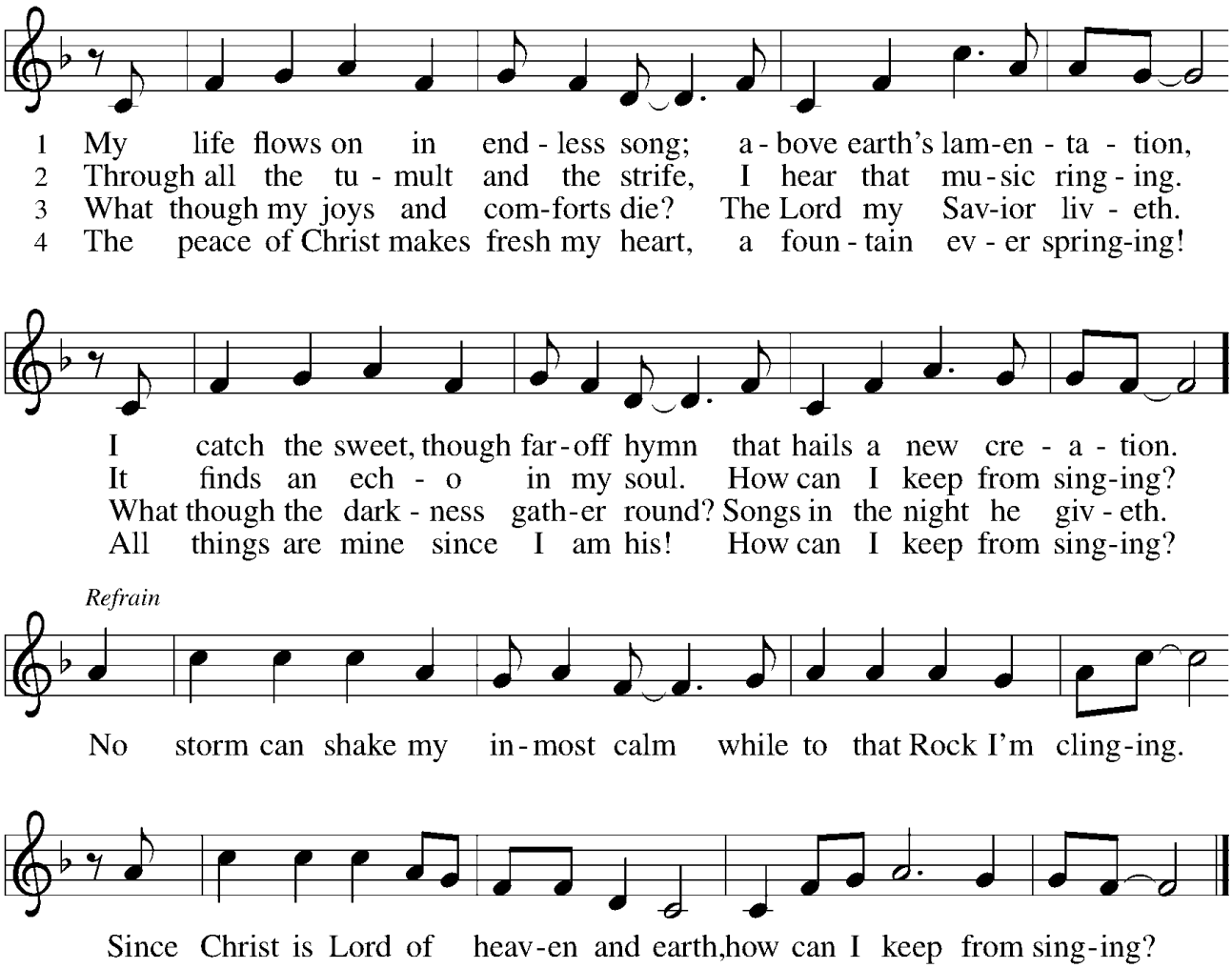


GOSPEL: LUKE 17:11-19
P The holy gospel according to Luke. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

11 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and
Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping
their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he
saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went,
they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back,
praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him.
And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are
the other nine? 18 Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?"
19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."
…The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG* (ELW 763)



Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

C 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

A United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A We give thanks for the communion of the church. Infuse a spirit of generosity in your people. Bless relationships among differing religions and faiths as signs of unity and hope. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for abundant harvests and the many gifts of your good creation. Make us faithful caretakers of land, water, soil, and air, that all life might flourish. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for local and global peace efforts. Uplift the voices of Native communities and theologians, and further the work of truth-telling and reparations in solidarity with our Indigenous siblings. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for your tender care. Accompany all who travel; comfort all for whom this is a lonely season, and assure all weary hearts and bodies of your healing love. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for ministries working to end food and housing insecurity. Open our hearts to your abundance and our minds to new ways of sharing that abundance for the good of all. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A We give thanks for the witness of all the faithful departed. Empower us, by their example, to serve you with courage, hope, and joy in the promises of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **C Amen.**

PEACE

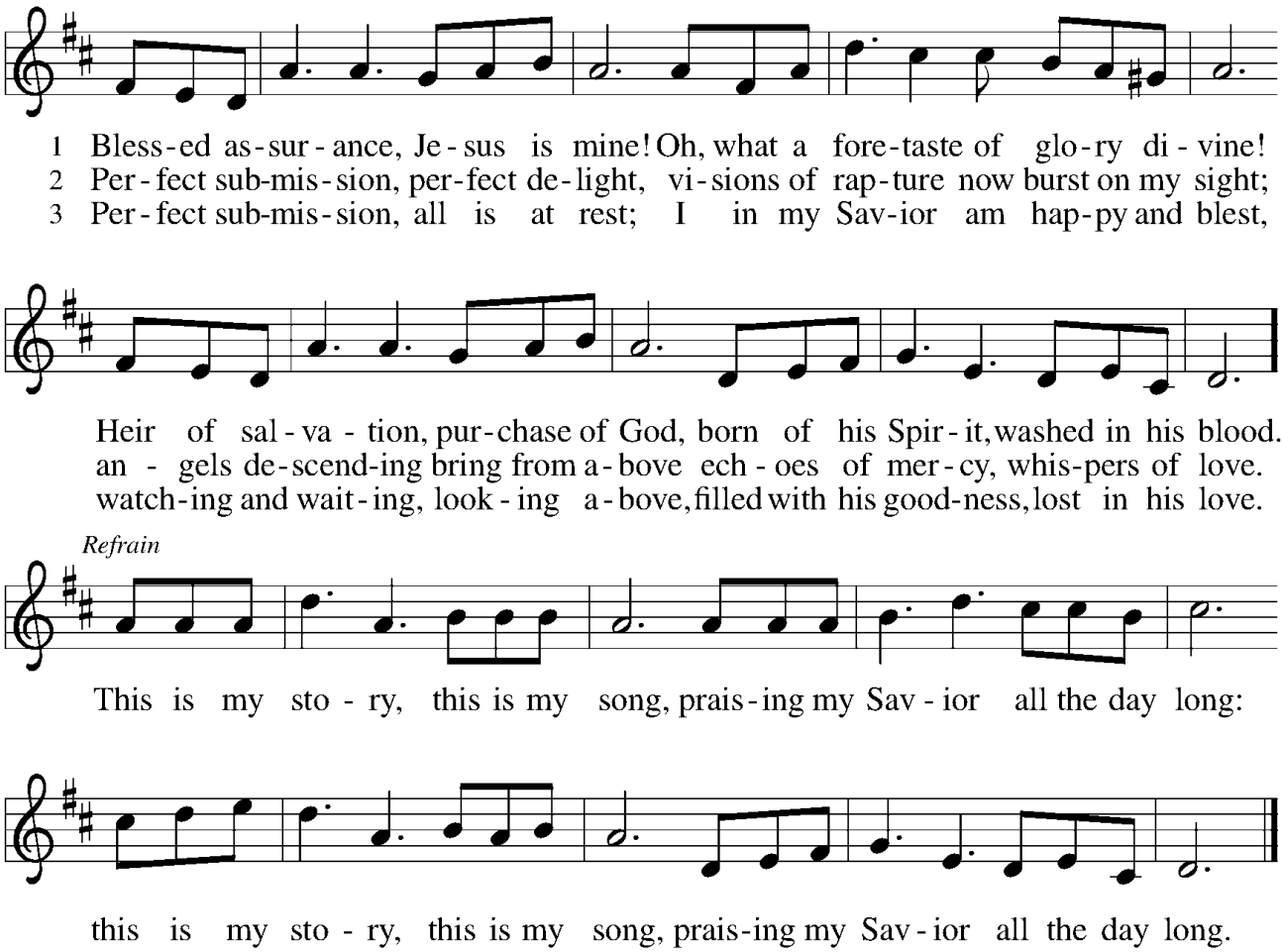
P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *BLESSED ASSURANCE* (ELW 638)



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

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Servant.

C Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

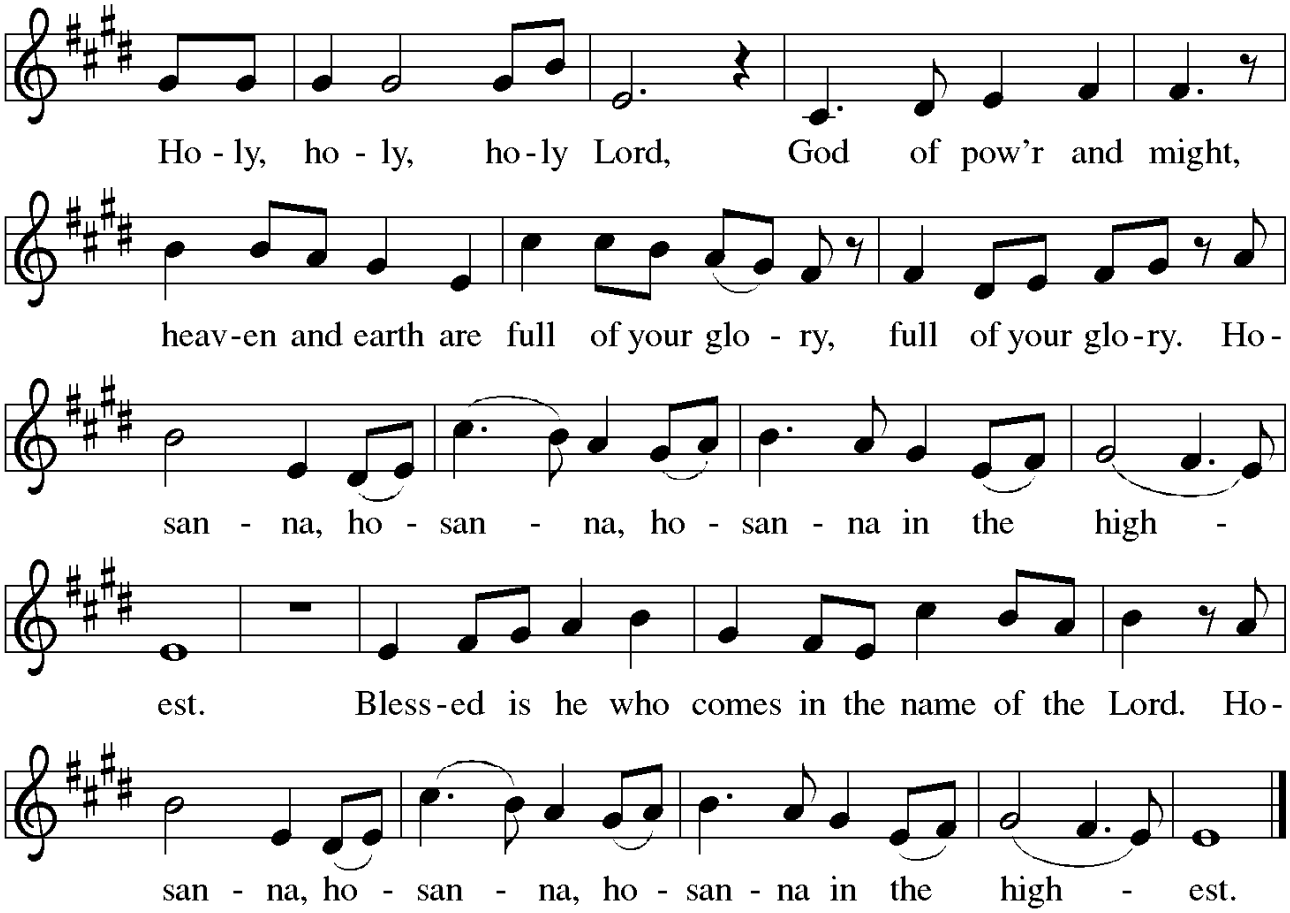
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P 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. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

P Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

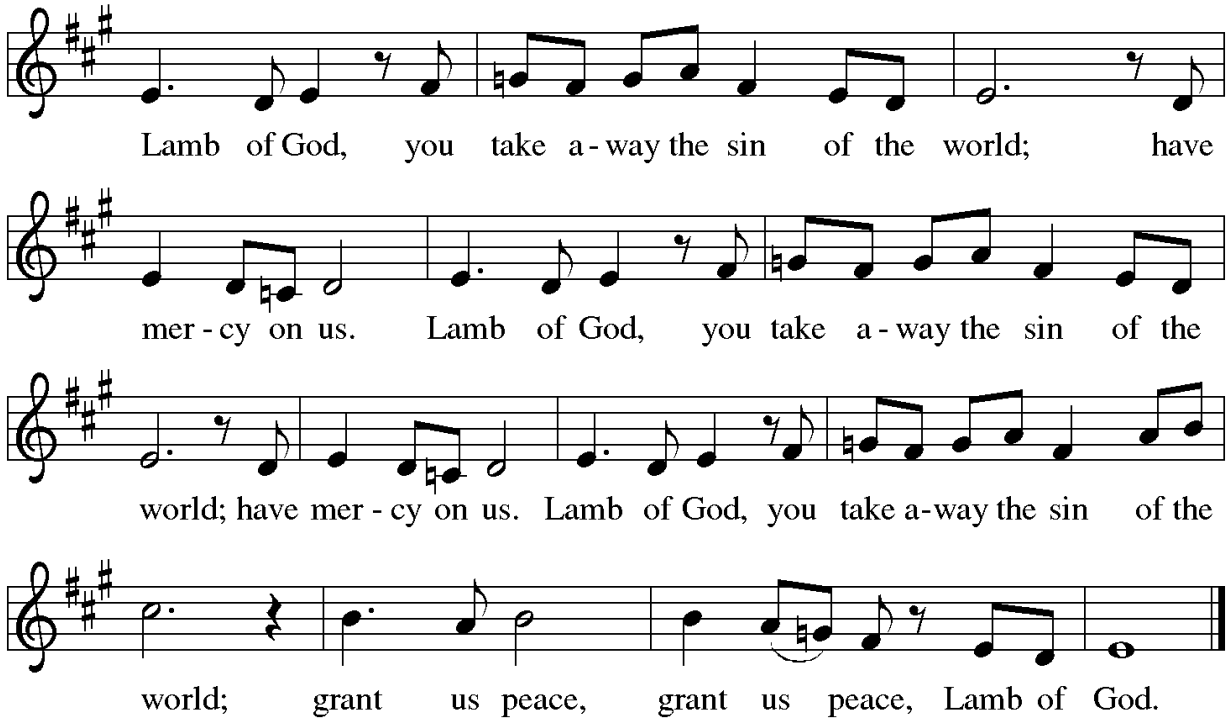
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

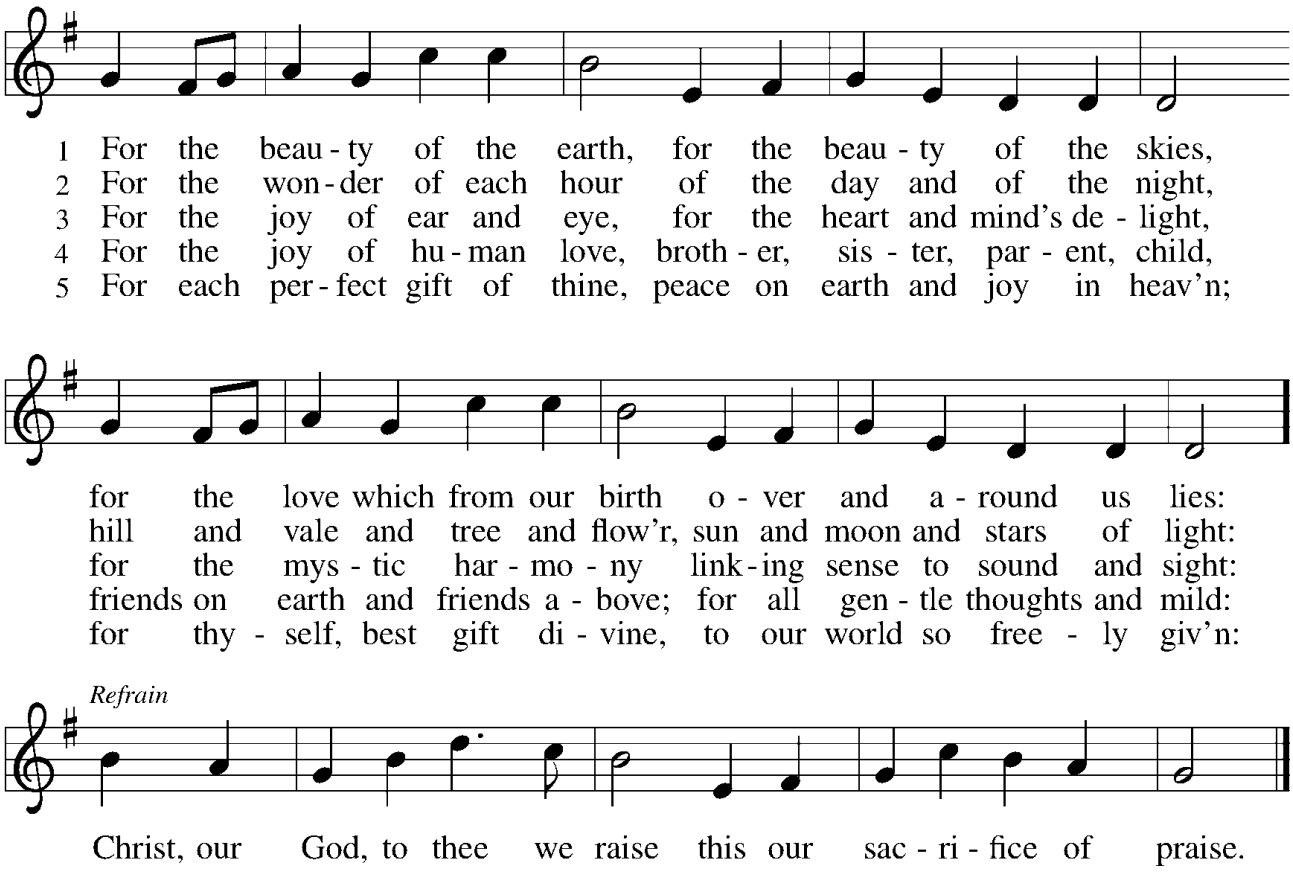
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **C Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: *FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH* (ELW 879)



Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

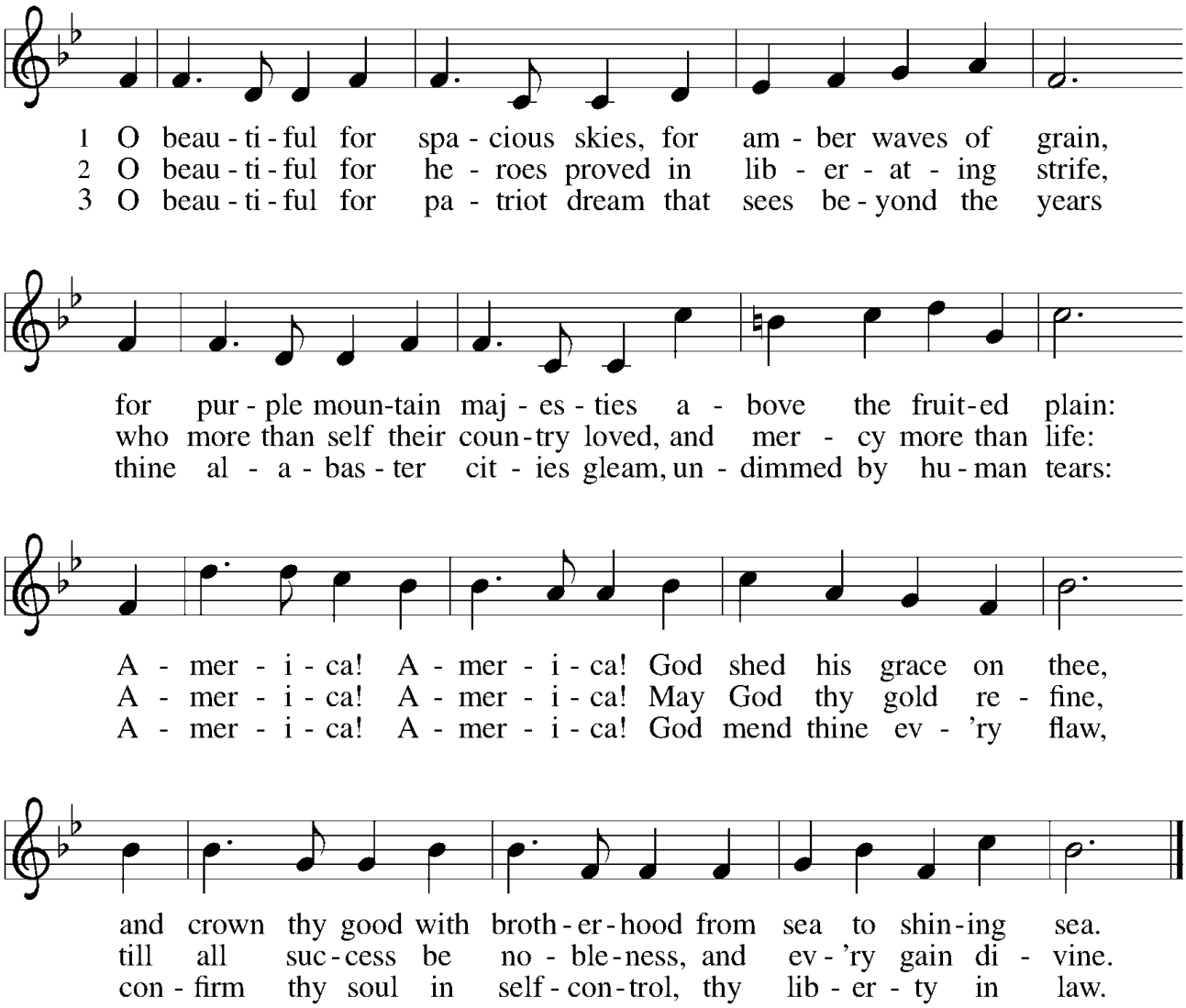
P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **C Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! And may the blessing of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG:
O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL (ELW 888)



Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

DISMISSAL

A Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle
Monday, November 30, 2026
The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552
Thursday, December 3, 2026
A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749
Friday, December 4, 2026
A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Serving at Worship This Evening

Assisting Minister ..... Laureen Aiello
Lector ..... Tyler LaVorgna
Ushers ..... John Musi & Lauren Artus
Musician ..... Mason Griffin
Greeter ..... Maureen O'Brien
Audio/Visual ..... Allison Barone
Altar Guild ..... Allison Barone



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