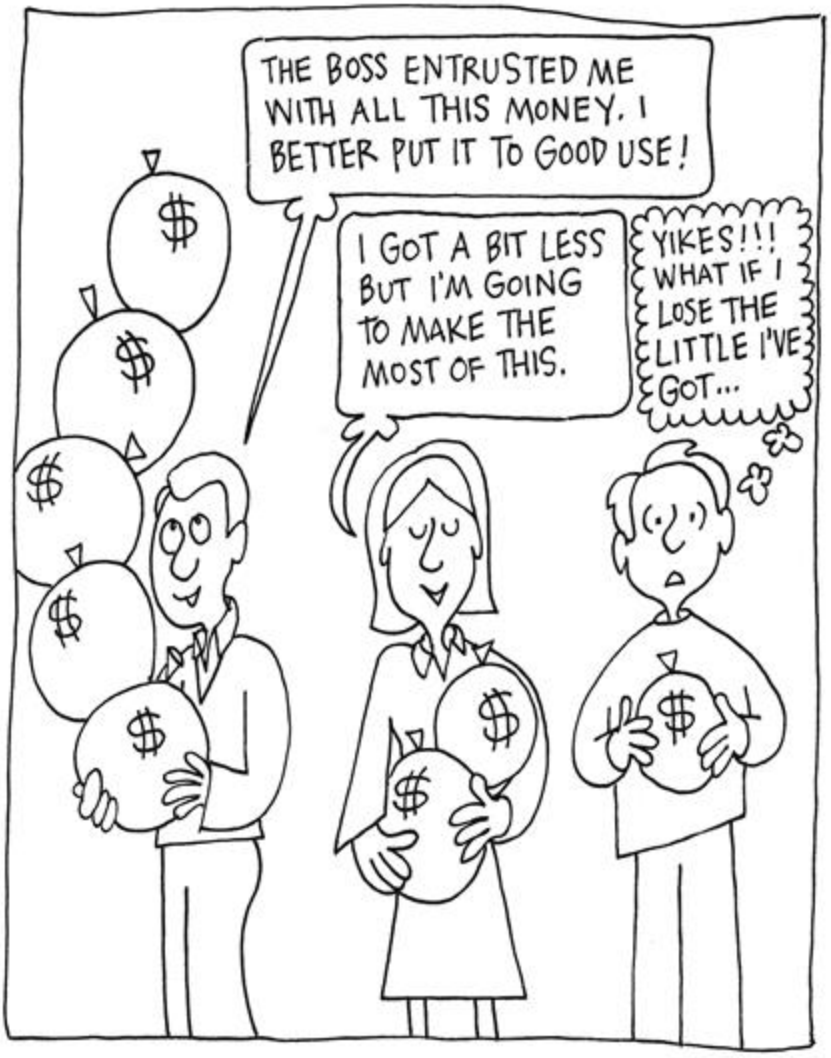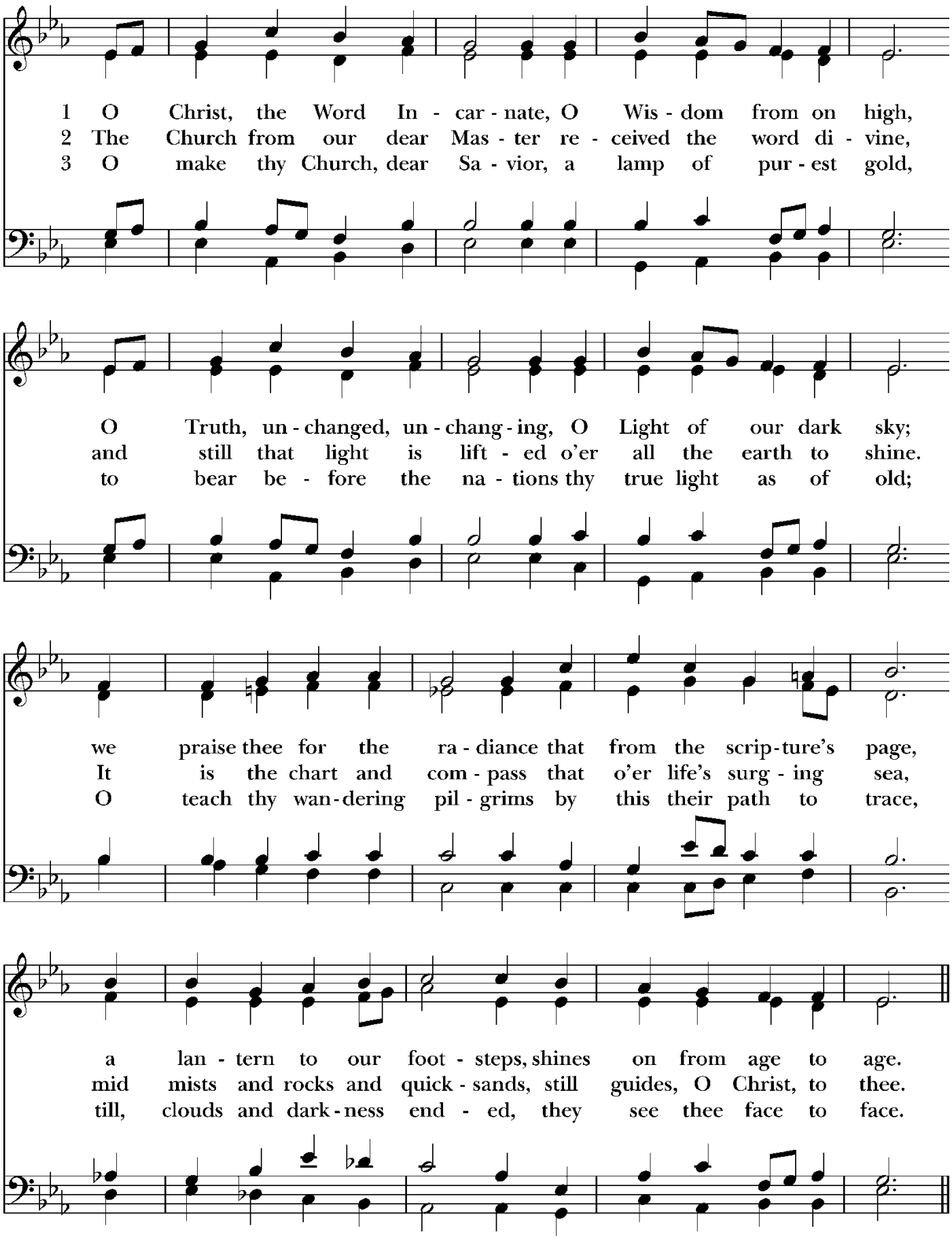
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026



Prelude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

After the prelude, the bell is rung ten times to summon the people of Chester to join us for the Eucharist on this Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Then we observe a moment of silence before the opening hymn.

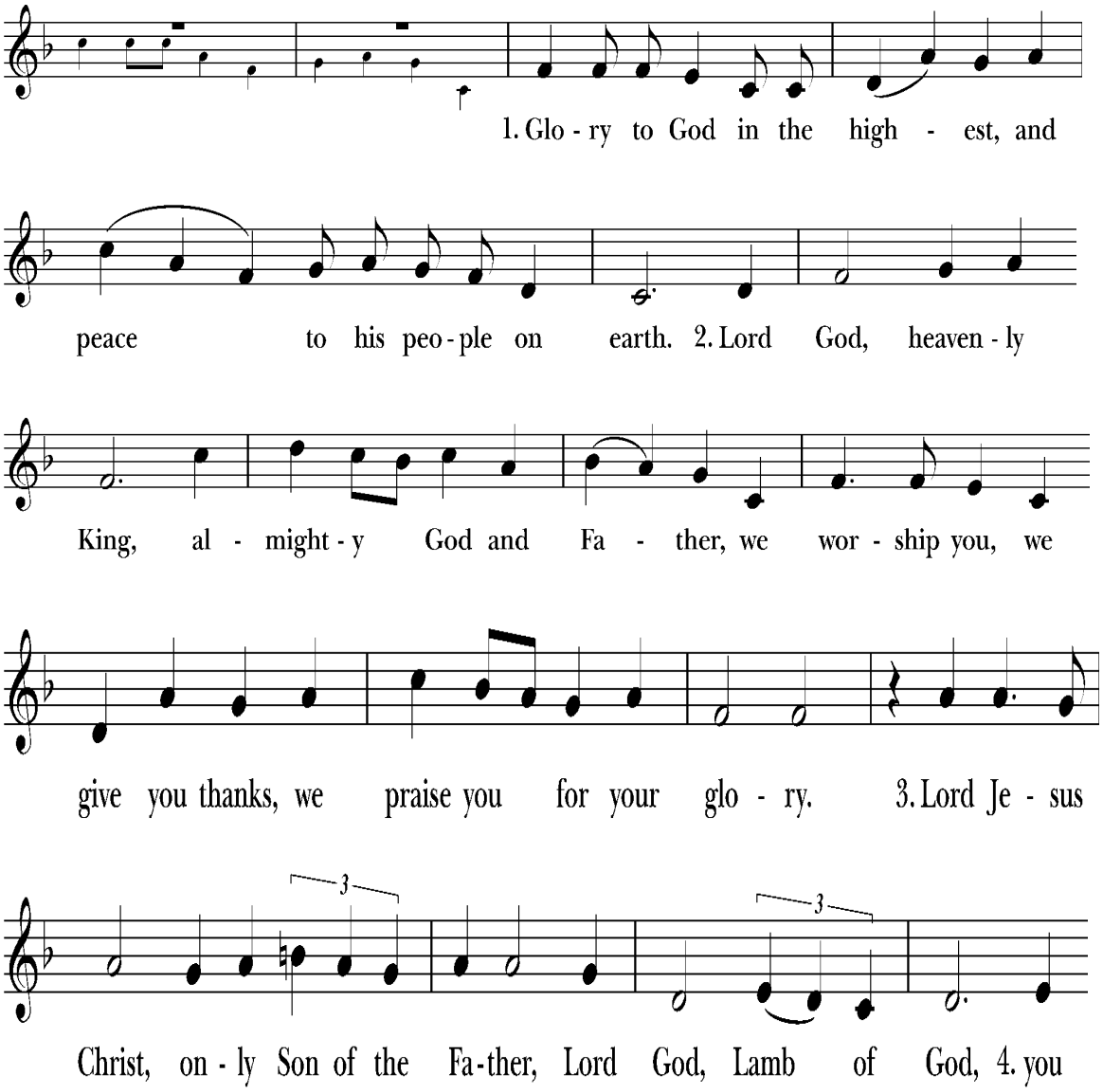
Entrance Hymn 632 The Hymnal 1982
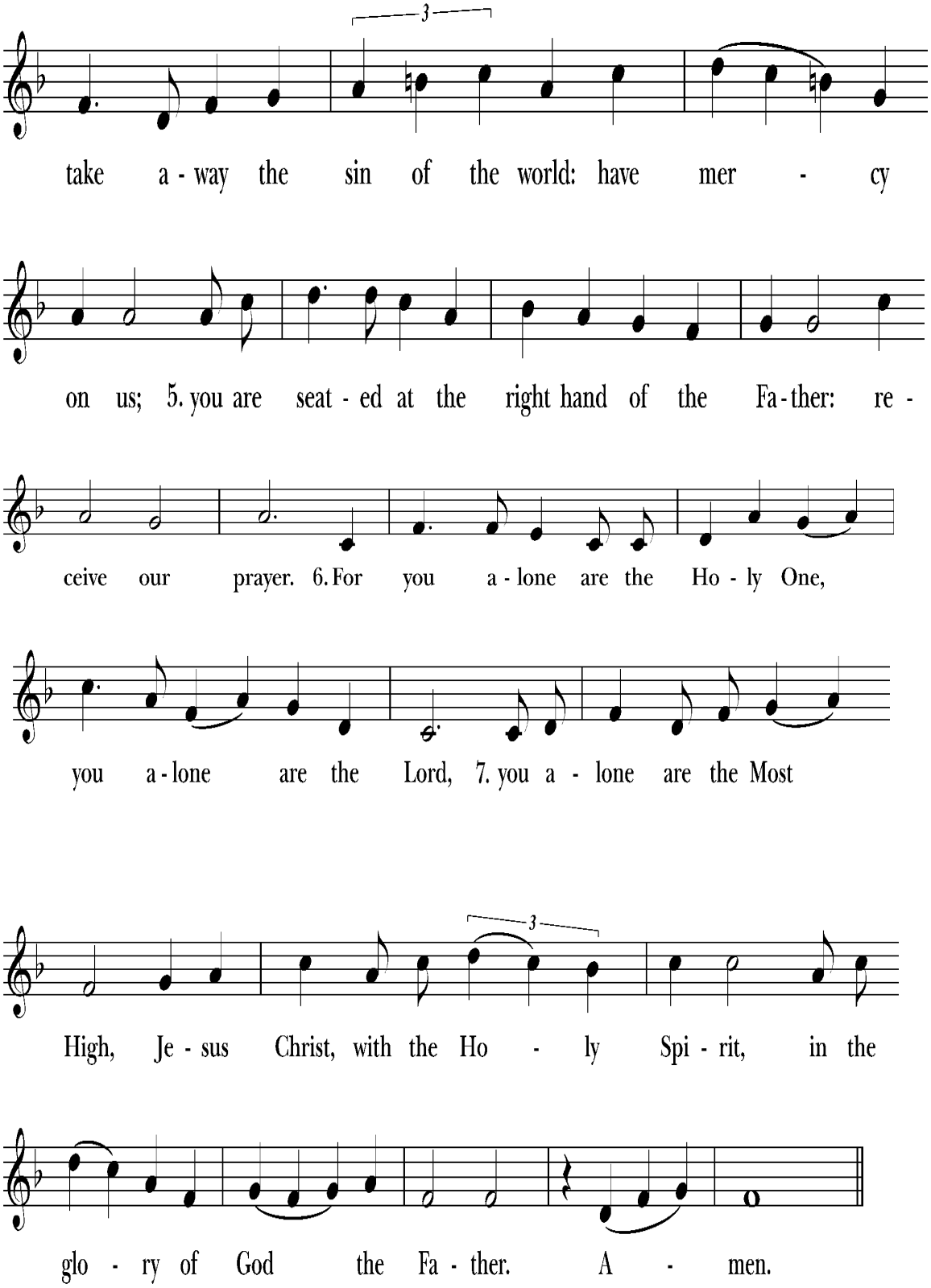

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,
O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;
we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,
It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,
a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

Presider *Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.*
People *Glory to God for ever and ever.*
Presider Let us pray.
Presider and people

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise S-280 ***The Hymnal 1982 Service Music***





Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.
Collect for the the 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people
Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

The First Reading – Judges 4:1-7
Reader A reading from Joshua
1 The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. 2 So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. 3 Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites crue lly twenty years.
4 At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. 5 She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. 6 She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. 7 I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

Reader *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123
1. To you I lift up my eyes, * to you enthroned in the heavens.
2. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, * and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
3. So our eyes look to the Holy One our God, * until God shows us mercy.
4. Have mercy upon us, O God, have mercy, * for we have had more than enough of contempt,
5. Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, * and of the derision of the proud.
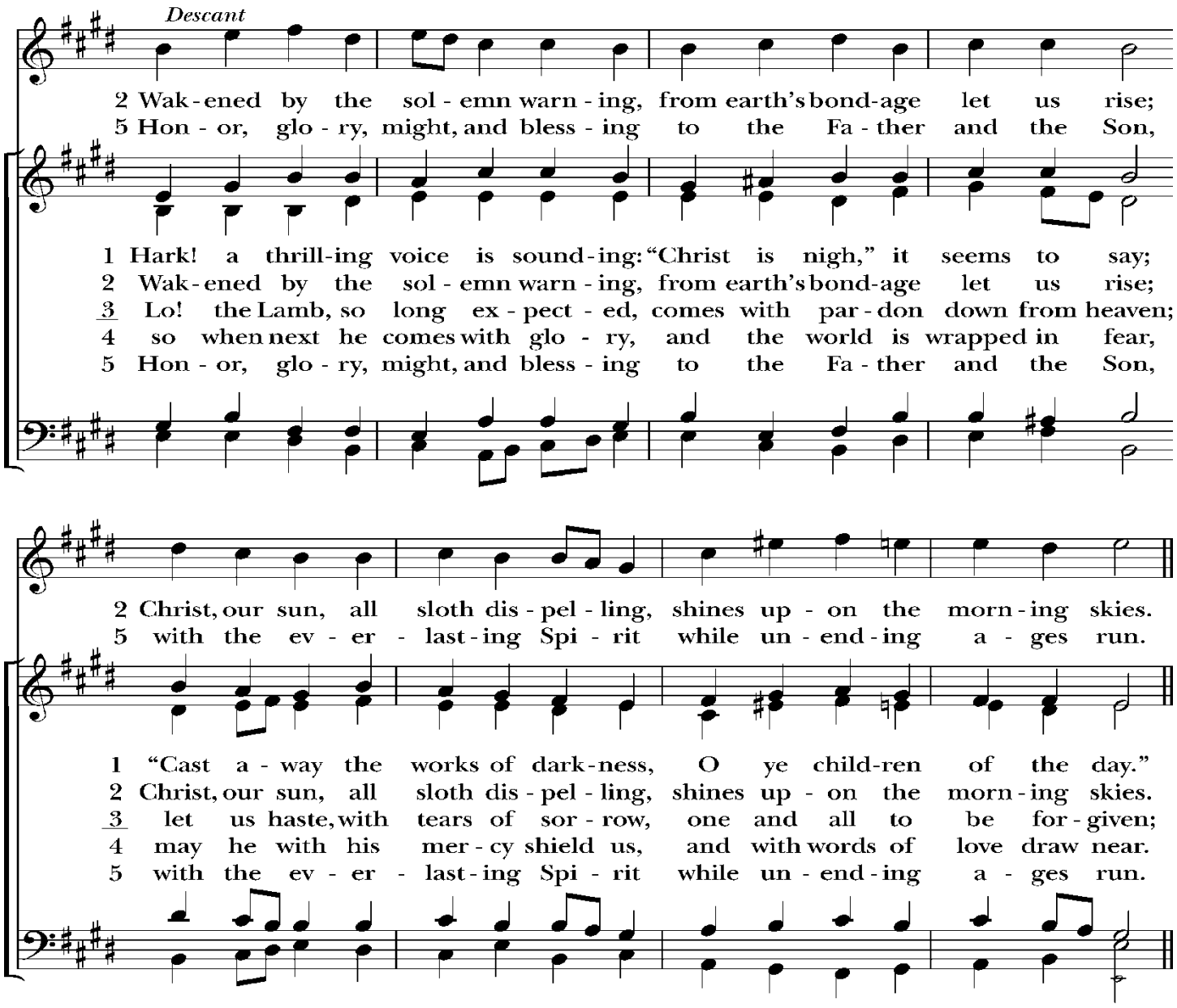
Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do
not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very
well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When 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! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you
like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are
not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do,
but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night,
and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But 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. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for
obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 59 ***The Hymnal 1982***



The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People Glory to you, O Christ.

14[Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be as when] a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same

way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then 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.' 21His 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.' 22And 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.' 23His 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.' 24Then 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; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But 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? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For 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. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Dr. Bruce MacDuffie

The Nicene Creed

Presider and people We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Deacon or presider

Believers, in love let us encourage one another and build each other up. Let us pray saying, "Have mercy upon us, *O Lord, have mercy.*"

Intercessor

Lord God, you have destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ: strengthen your Church to confidently share your gospel throughout the world.

Silence

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, have mercy on all who are shown contempt and scorn: Hear the cries of the needy and lift up the downtrodden and lowly.

Silence

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, you rule the day and the night: Bless and sustain the works of your hands. Restore your creation.

Silence

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, you are enthroned in the heavens: may we trust not our own schemes but lift up our eyes to you. Lead and guide our communities and leaders in all justice and truth.

Silence

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, you are a merciful God: hear the prayers of those who cry out to you for help. Be present with the suffering in their waking and their sleeping.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, we ask your blessing on all who serve in Armed Forces. Empower them by your Spirit we pray to find peace making and peacekeeping to be their mission. We give thanks for their faithfulness to the service they carry out.

Silence

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, your Son Jesus died for us that we might dwell in your light forever: give to the dying and the dead the hope of salvation.

Silence

Have mercy upon us,

O Lord, have mercy.

Presider Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution
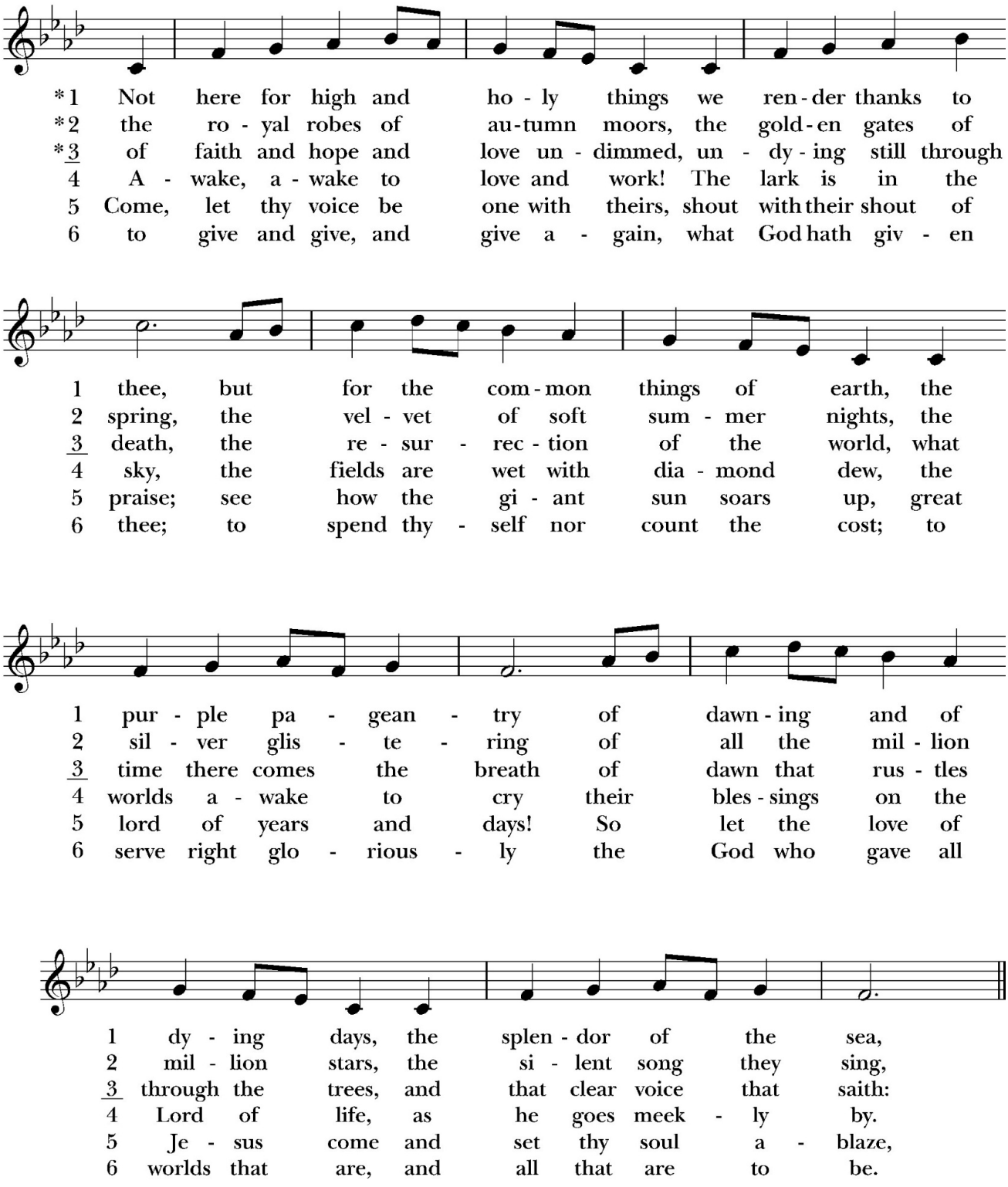
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace *Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

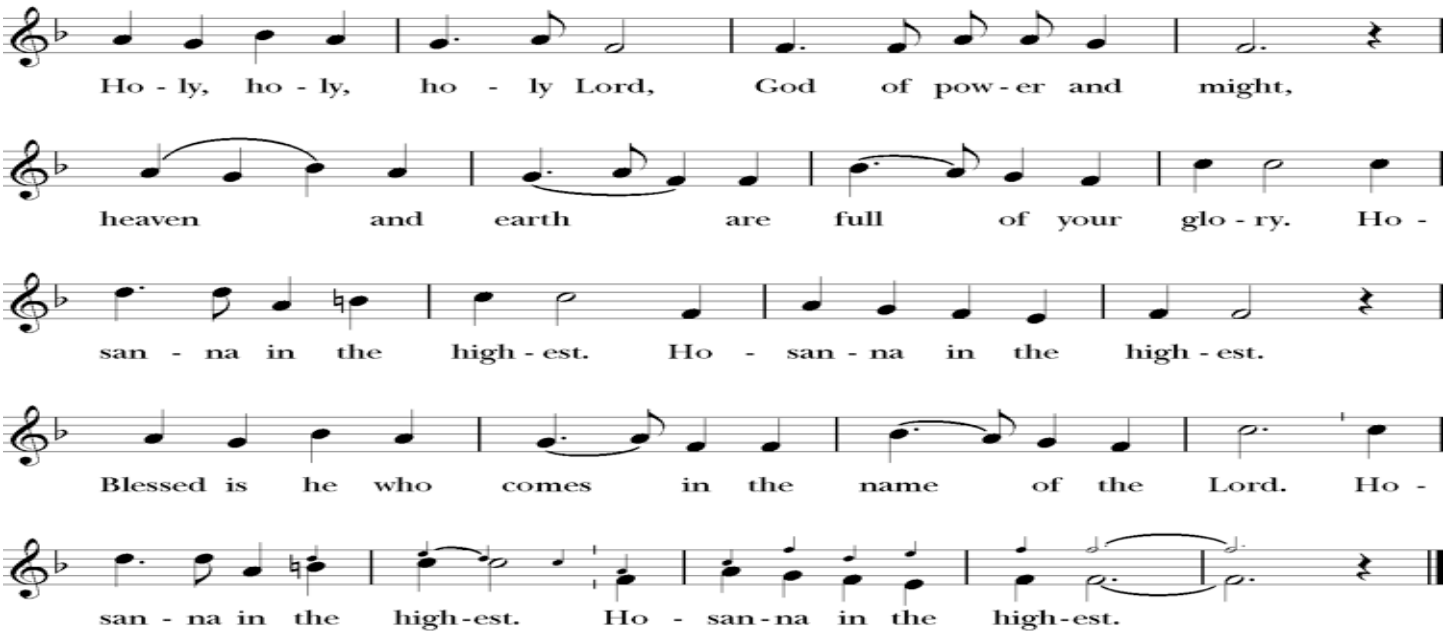
“Our eyes look to the Lord our God until he show us his mercy. “(Psalm 123)

Offertory Hymn 9 *The Hymnal 1982*


*1 Not here for high and ho - ly things we ren - der thanks to
*2 the ro - yal robes of au - tumn moors, the gold - en gates of
*3 of faith and hope and love un - dimmed, un - dy - ing still through
4 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the
5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of
6 to give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en
1 thee, but for the com - mon things of earth, the
2 spring, the vel - vet of soft sum - mer nights, the
3 death, the re - sur - rec - tion of the world, what
4 sky, the fields are wet with dia - mond dew, the
5 praise; see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great
6 thee; to spend thy - self nor count the cost; to
1 pur - ple pa - gean - try of dawn - ing and of
2 sil - ver glis - te - ring of all the mil - lion
3 time there comes the breath of dawn that rus - tles
4 worlds a - wake to cry their bles - sings on the
5 lord of years and days! So let the love of
6 serve right glo - rious - ly the God who gave all
1 dy - ing days, the splen - dor of the sea,
2 mil - lion stars, the si - lent song they sing,
3 through the trees, and that clear voice that saith:
4 Lord of life, as he goes meek - ly by.
5 Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze,
6 worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Offertory Presentation Hymn 380 Verse 3 "Doxology"
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer *The- people remain standing.*
Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. And so as the stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:
Presider and people S125 The Hymnal 1982



The people stand, sit, or kneel as is comfortable.
Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;

you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.
Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin,
brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you,
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us:
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ's coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and people
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Luke, the patron of this congregation, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.
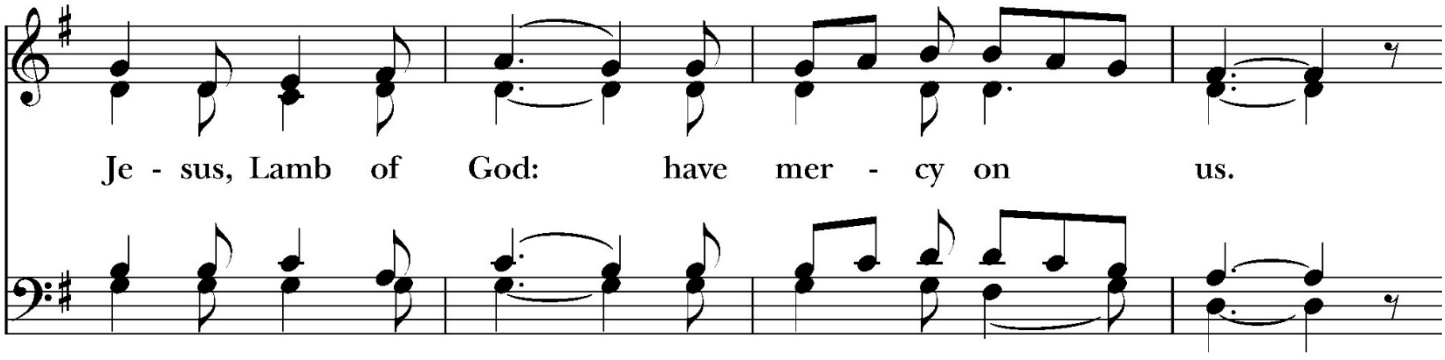
Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN*.
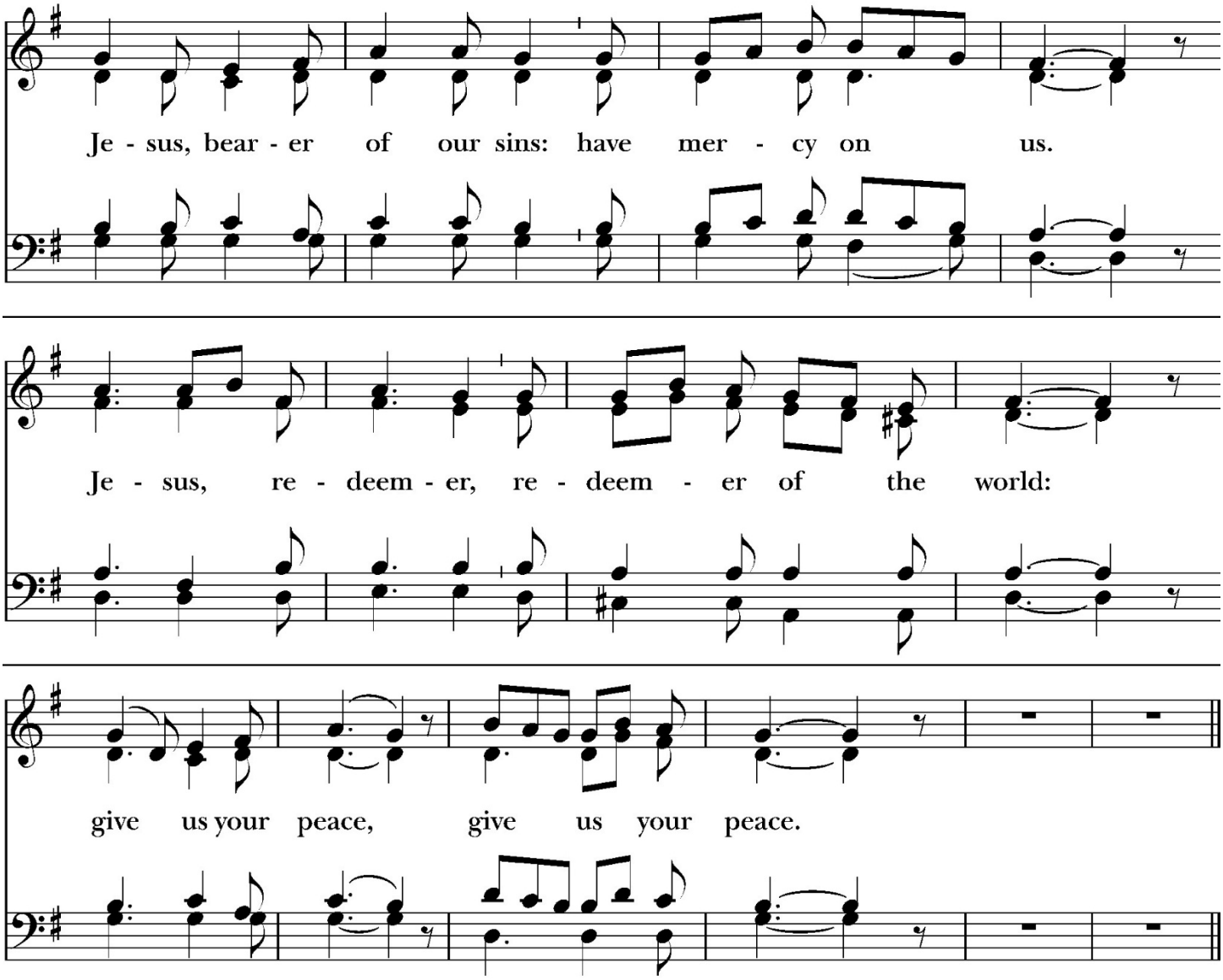
And now, As our Savior Christ Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Presider and people
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, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread
Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S 164 The Hymnal 1982

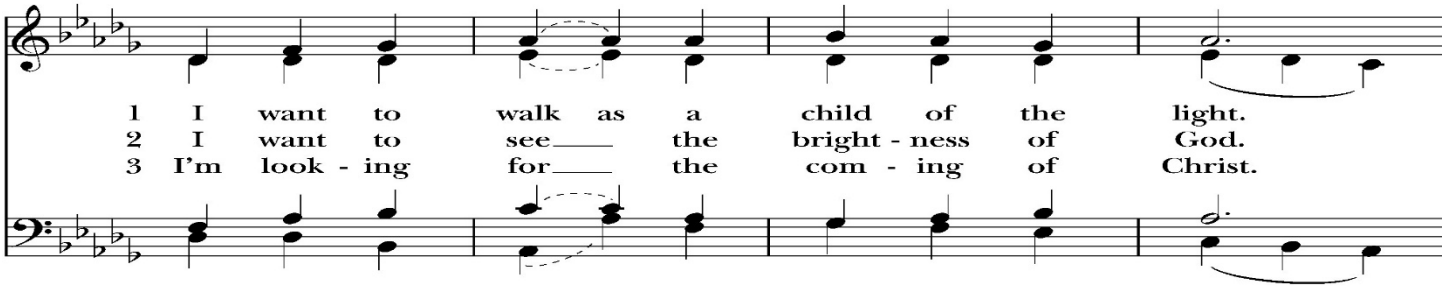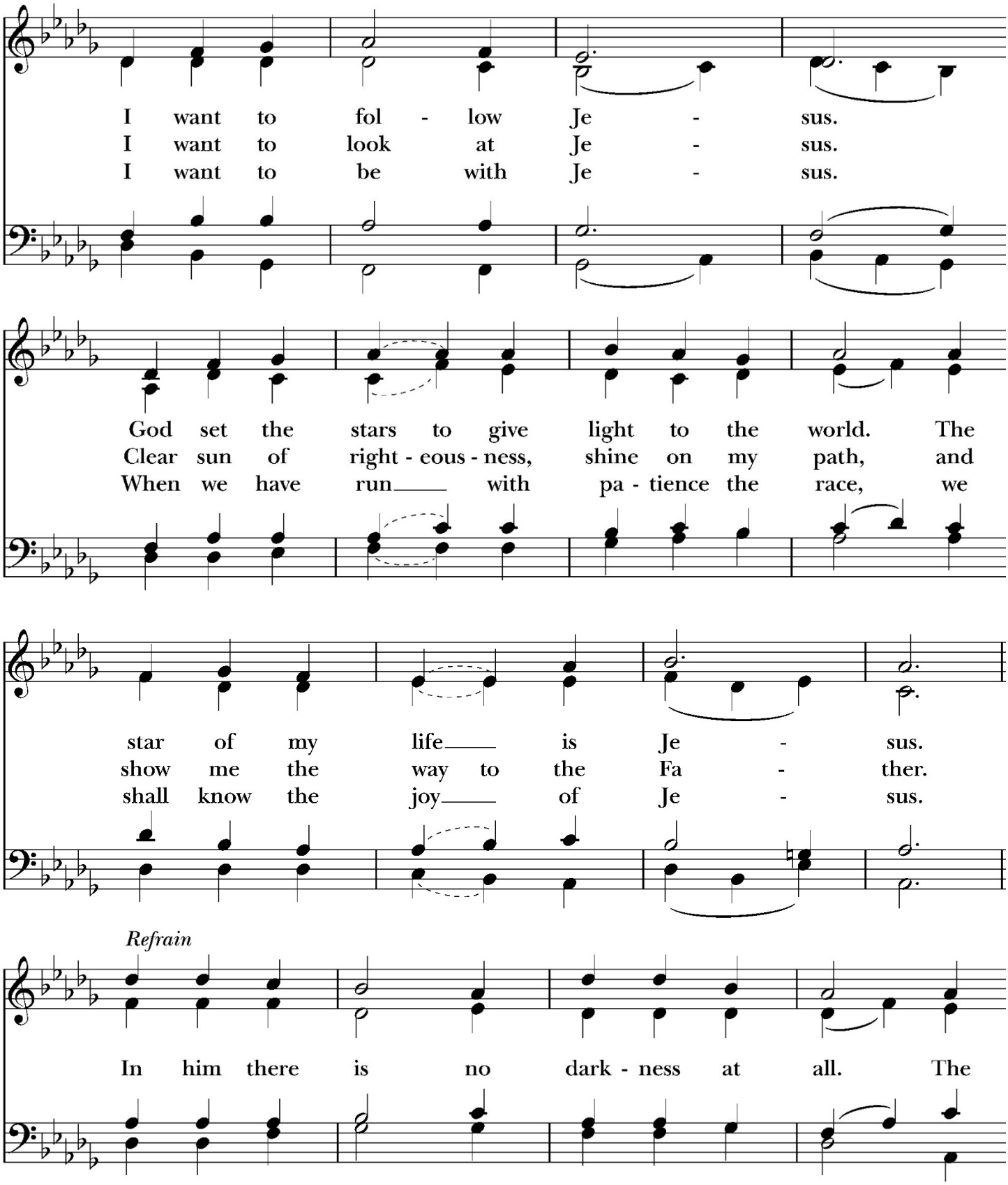




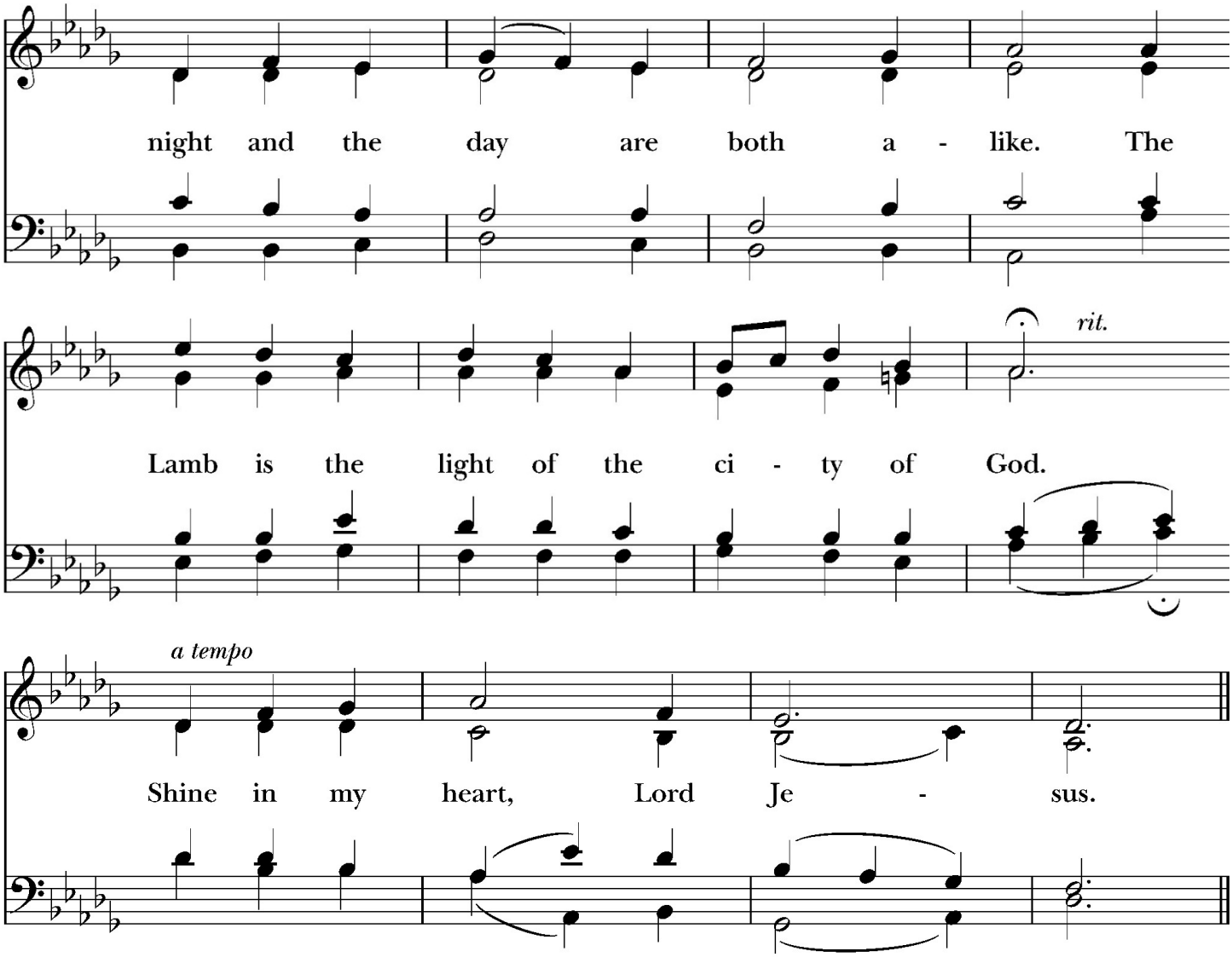
Presider The Holy Gifts of God for the Holy People of God.

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here. All are welcome to receive communion.

Communion Hymn 490 *The Hymnal 1982*
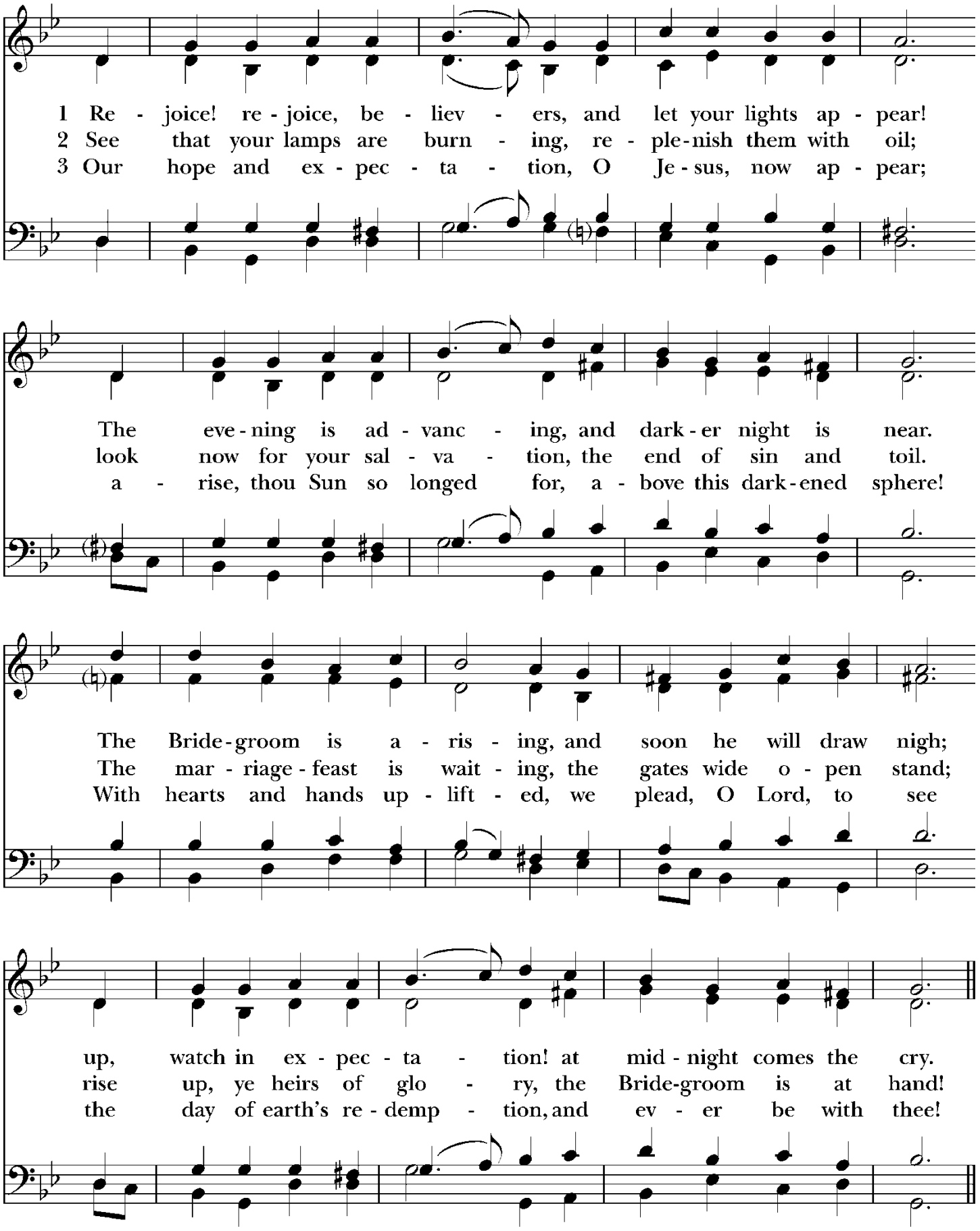



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we
star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.
Refrain
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



Post Communion Prayer *Presider and people*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn 551 ***The Hymnal 1982***


1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;
The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!
The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see
up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Closing Blessing
May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Postlude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston
Announcements

Dismissal
Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PLEASE!! Preparing for Sunday. Next Sunday, November 22, the Last Sunday after Pentecost, and feast of Christ the King. Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46. Prepare to more fully participate in worship by carefully reading the scripture lessons for next Sunday. Try reading them aloud even if to yourself. Write down or record what thoughts or questions come to you and send an email with which to discuss your revelations and questions.

<u>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</u>
November 22 Last Pentecost and Christ the King Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM
November 25 Midweek Eucharist for Thanksgiving Eve Thanksgiving prayers and hymns
November 29 First Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM

<u>OTHER EVENTS</u>
Wednesday, November 18 6:30-8:00 P.M. Vestry Meeting
Thursday November 19-Saturday November 21, Holiday Wreath Workshops, advance registration needed