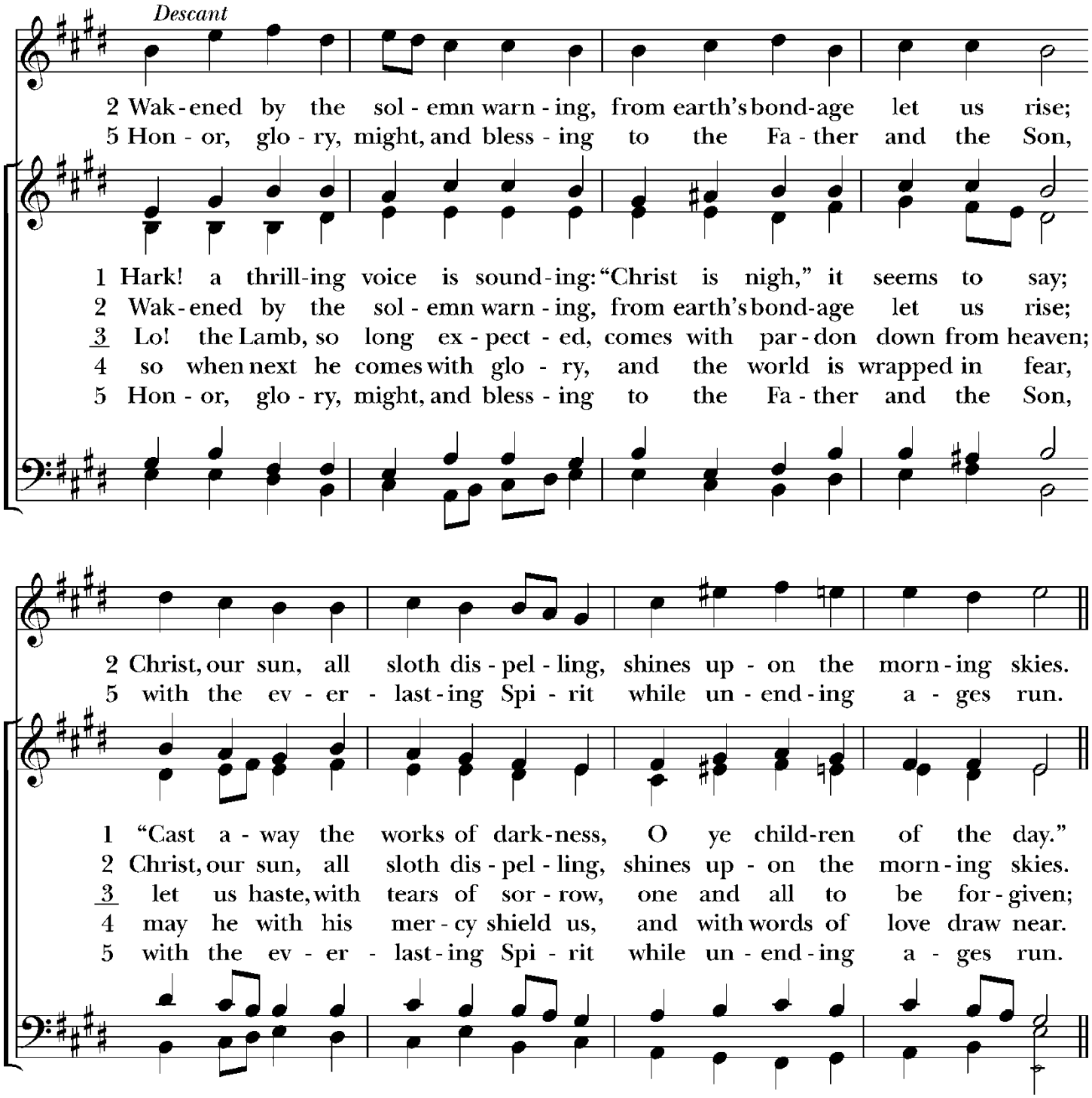
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



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 59 The Hymnal 1982

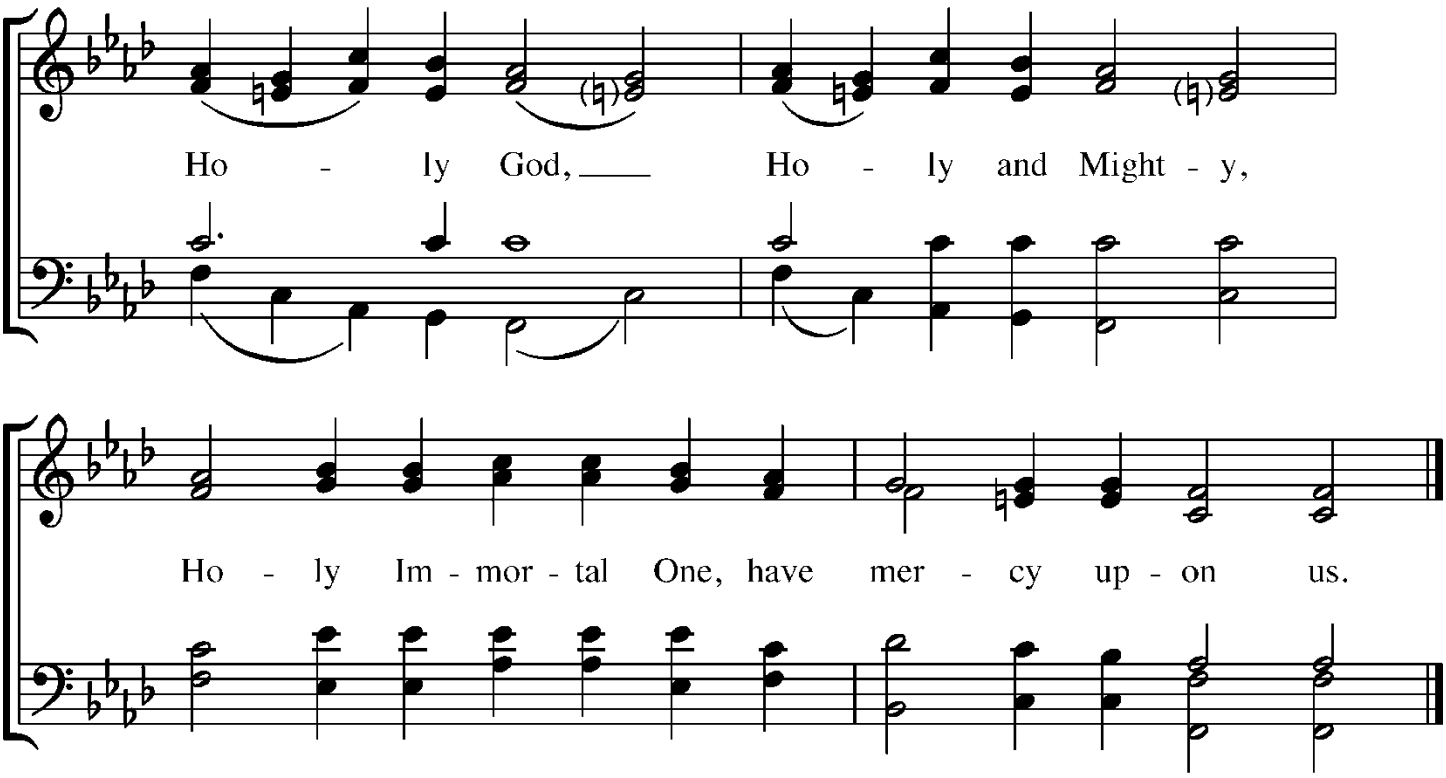


Celebrant *Blessed are you, holy and living One.*
People *You come to your people and set them free.*
Presider Let us pray.
Presider and people

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 Enriching our Music 1



Setting: *Missa Oecumenica*, from the *Trinitatis Choral Review*, arr. Richard Proulx, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846–1924), © 1999 Oregon Catholic Press. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Presider God be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Presider and people

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*. (Book of Common Prayer)

The First Reading – Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

11Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek
them out. 12As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their
scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick
darkness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from
the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them
on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited
parts of the land. 14I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain
heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good
grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down,
says the Lord God. 16I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat
and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between
the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you pushed with flank and
shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you
scattered them far and wide, 22I will save my flock, and they shall no longer
be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall
feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the Lord, will
be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the
Lord, have spoken.

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

Psalm 80:1-10, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; * shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, * stir up your strength and come to help us.

3. Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4. O God of hosts, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

5. You have fed them with the bread of tears; * you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6. You have made us the derision of our neighbors, * and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7. Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

8. You have brought a vine out of Egypt; * you cast out the nations and planted it.

9. You prepared the ground for it; * it took root and filled the land.

10. The mountains were covered by its shadow * and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

16. Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, * those whom you have made so strong for yourself.

17. And so will we never turn away from you, * give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18. Restore us, O God of hosts; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

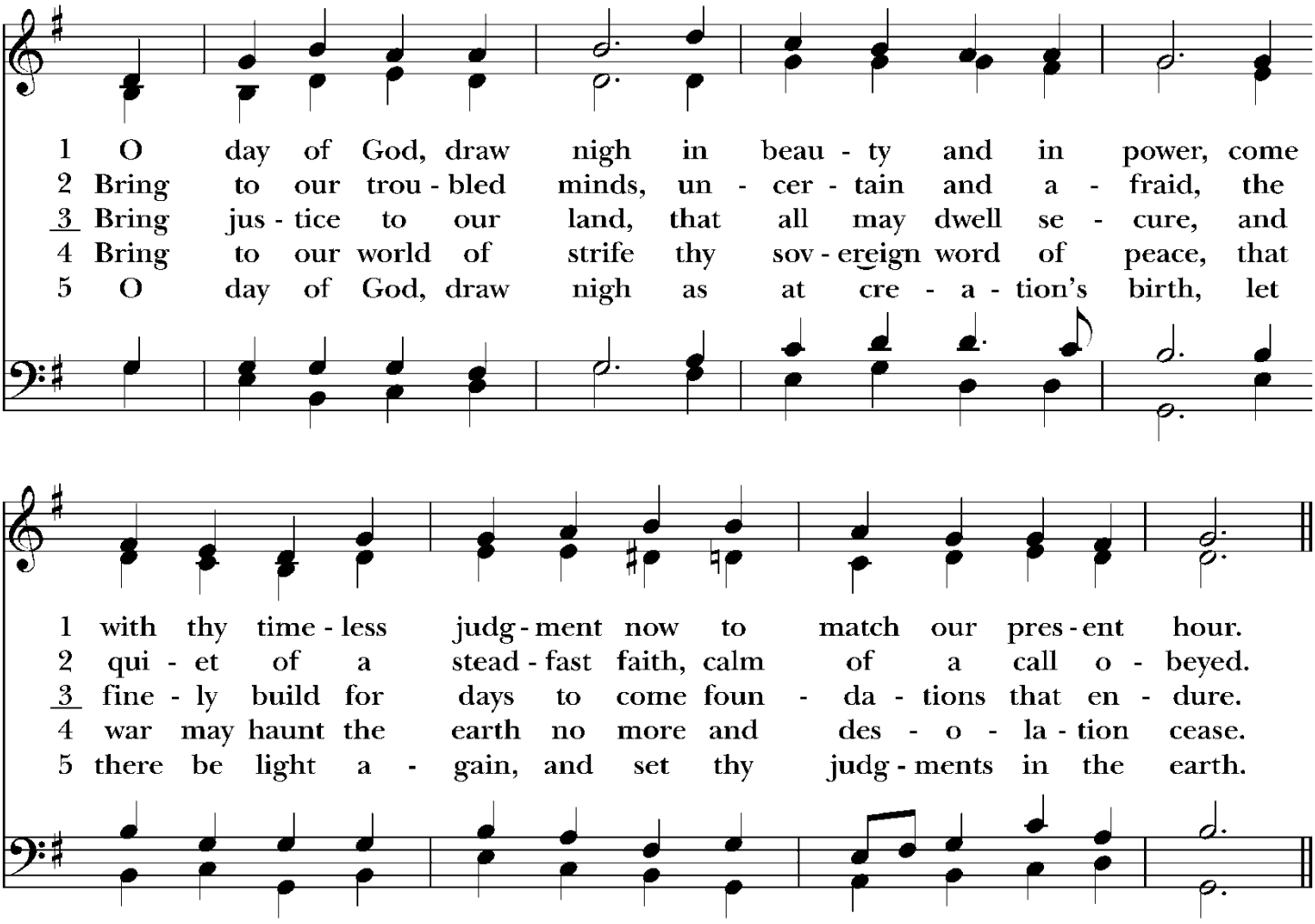
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 601 *The Hymnal 1982*



The Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

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

People Glory to you, O Christ.

[Jesus said,] 24"In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass

away.
32"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know
when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves
home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the
doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at
cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

Creator of the stars in the sky, the sun, and the moon, You are the light by which we wake and work.
Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.

Surround your church, her leaders, and people, with your armor of light. We pray especially for *Sean*, our presiding bishop; *Shannon*, our bishop; and *Bruce*, our priest. Strengthen them as they reach out to you in prayer and hope. Open their hearts to your will.

For our Jewish sisters and brothers at they observe and celebrate Chanukah from Dec. 4-12. May we support and embrace each other with your grace and in your love. ***Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.***

We pray for our leaders: especially *Donald*, our president; *Scott*, our governor; and the Congress and courts of this land. Savior of the nations, guide those who govern, and awaken those they lead, that we may all live in the spirit of cooperation and share so that all have enough: food, care, and peace.
Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.

For people across the world whose spirits bend under the yoke of oppression and struggle, give the people of our communities a sense of togetherness and support. Open our eyes to those who fall by the wayside and whose faces and needs remain invisible.
Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.

Lover of our souls, you continue to mold us in your image and hold us in your hands. We ask your blessing on those who struggle with illness, anxiety, grief, or isolation. Today we pray for *(here insert the names of those for whom prayers are requested)*.
Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.

Father of us all, we pray for those who have recently returned to your embrace and those who are broken with grief.

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

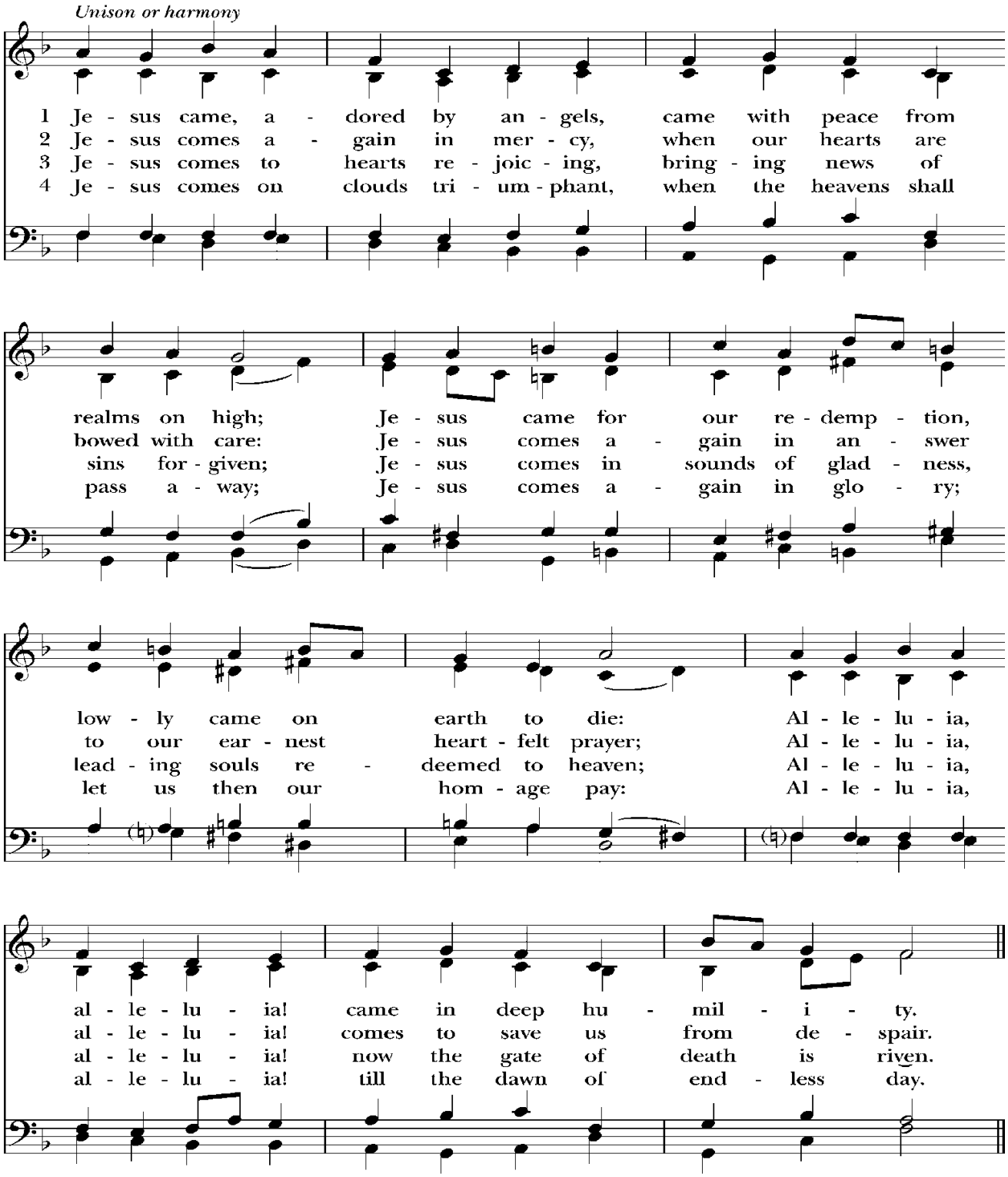
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

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

Offertory Sentence

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.(1 Corinthians)

Offertory Hymn 454 *The Hymnal 1982*

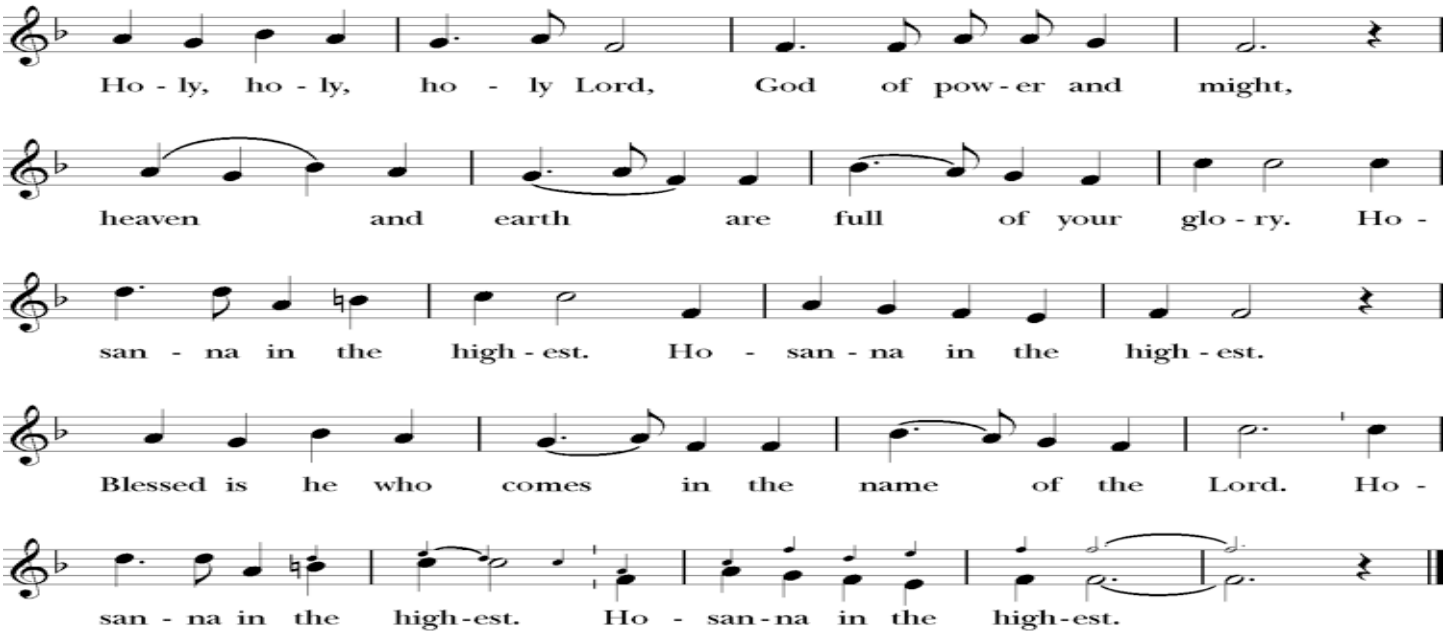


Offertory Presentation Hymn 380 Verse 3 "Doxology"

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.

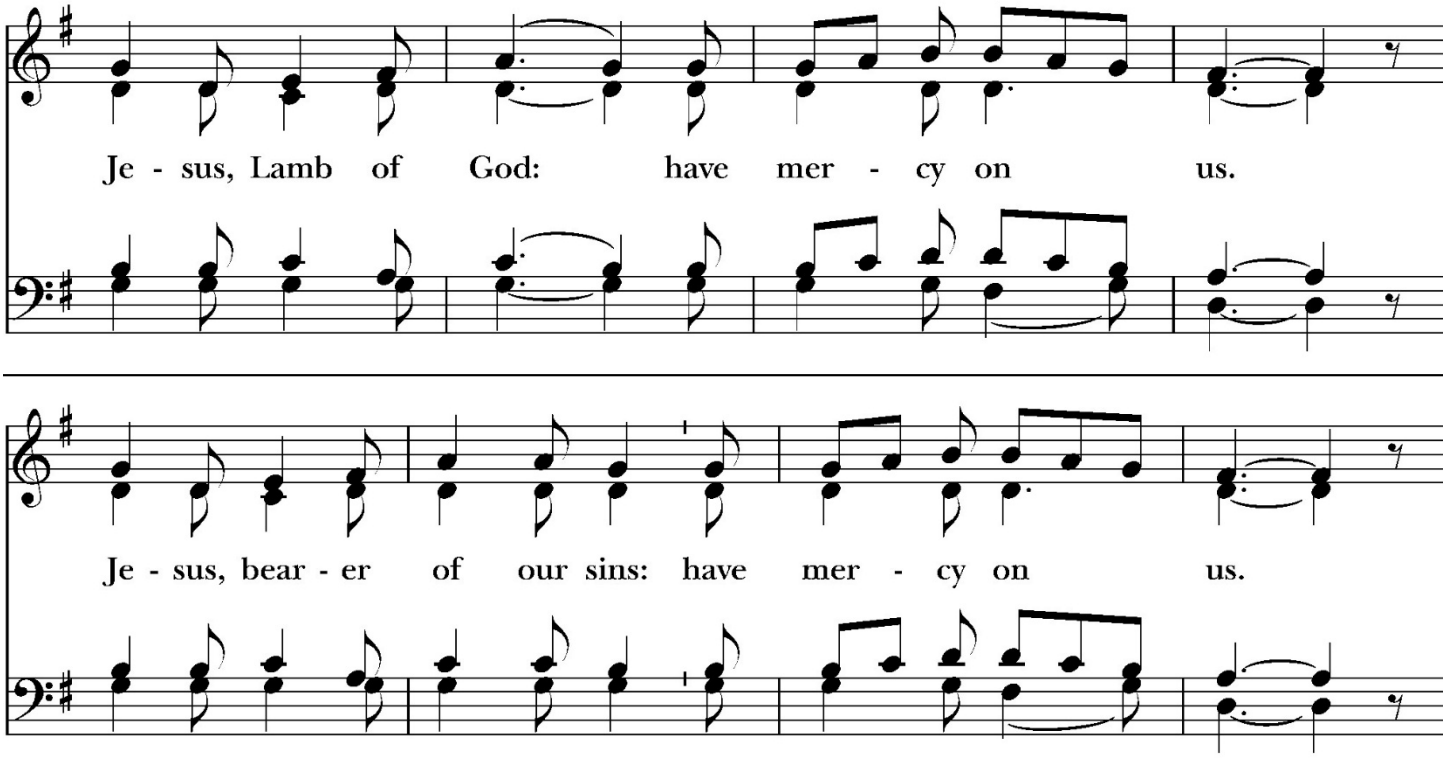
Blessed are you now and for ever. *AMEN*.

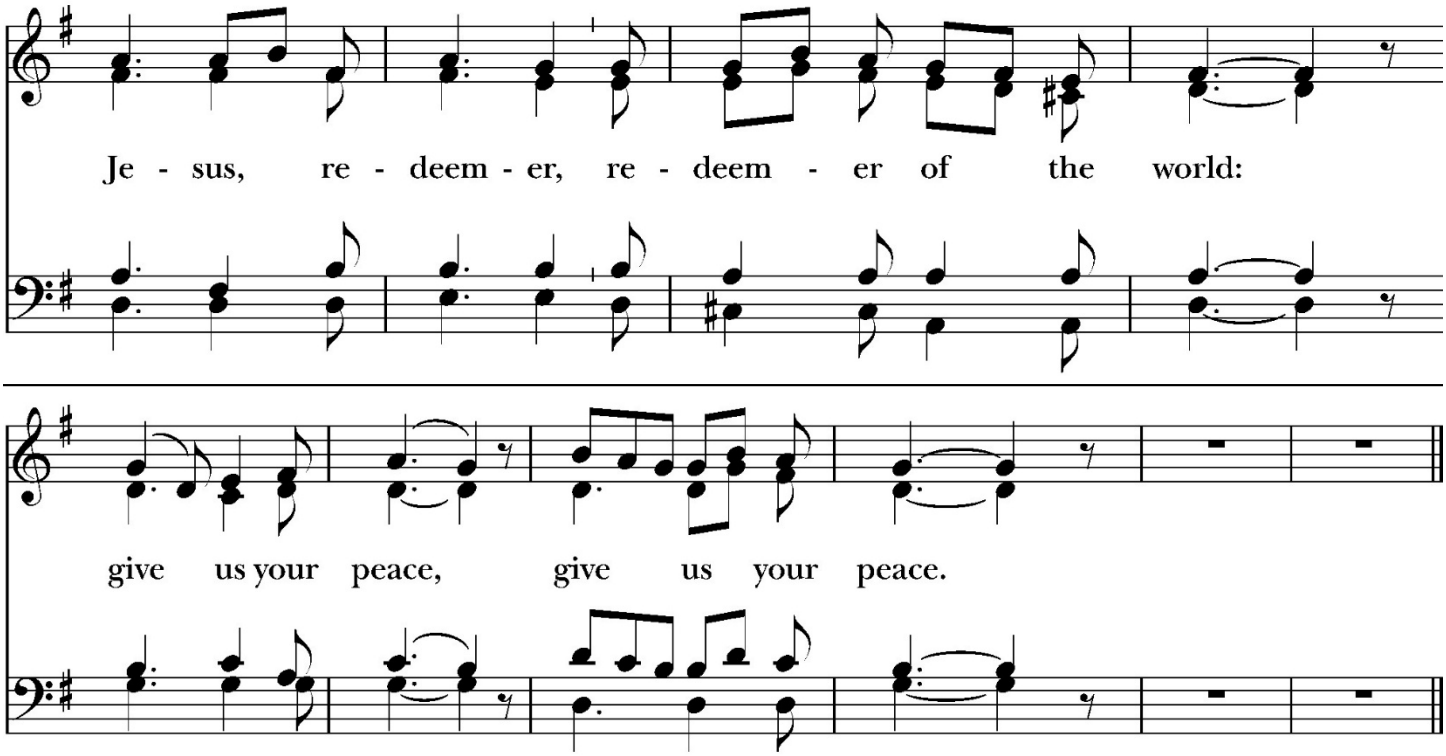
And now, As our Savior Christ Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

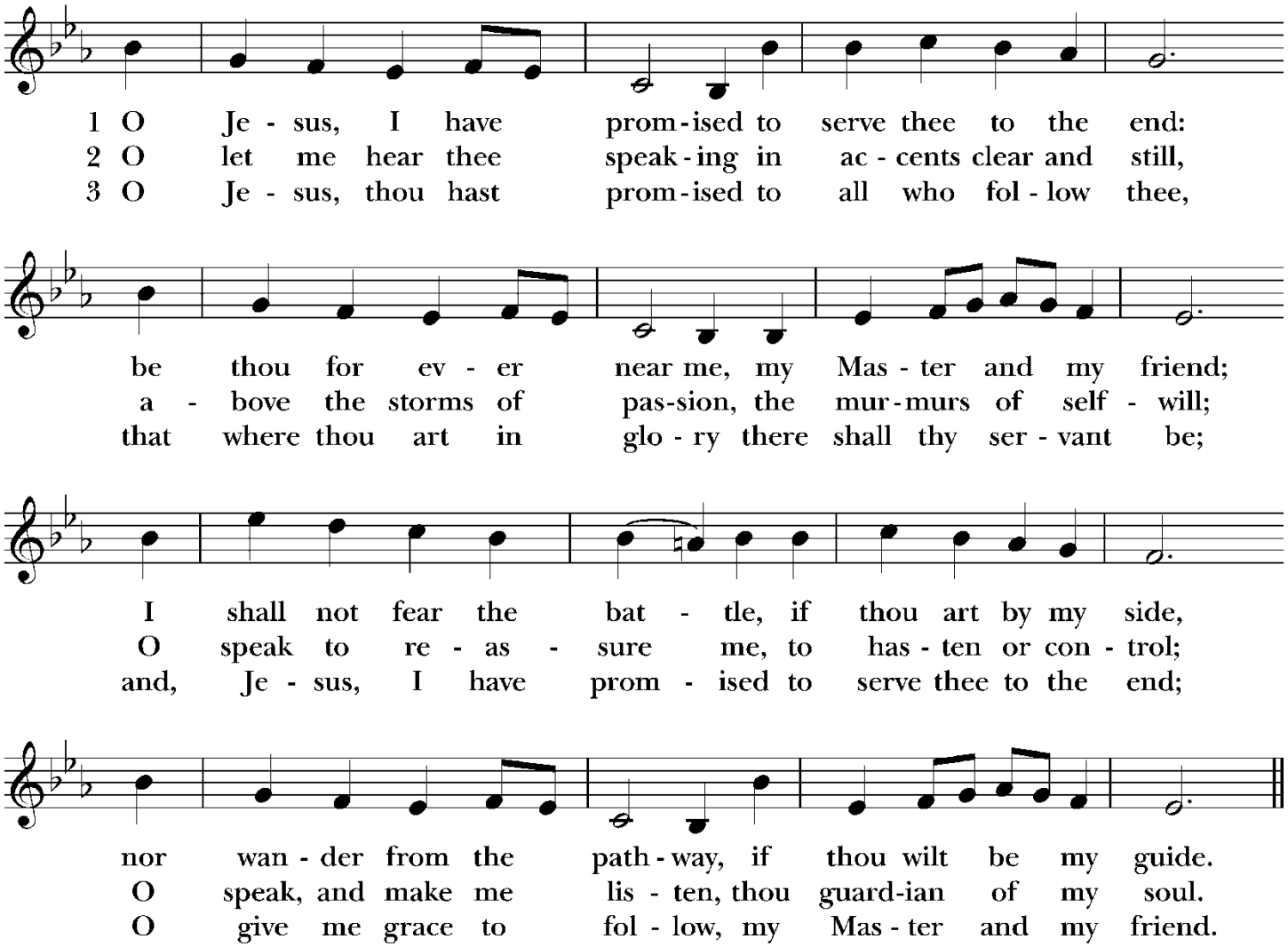




Presider The Holy Gifts of God for the Holy People of God.

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.

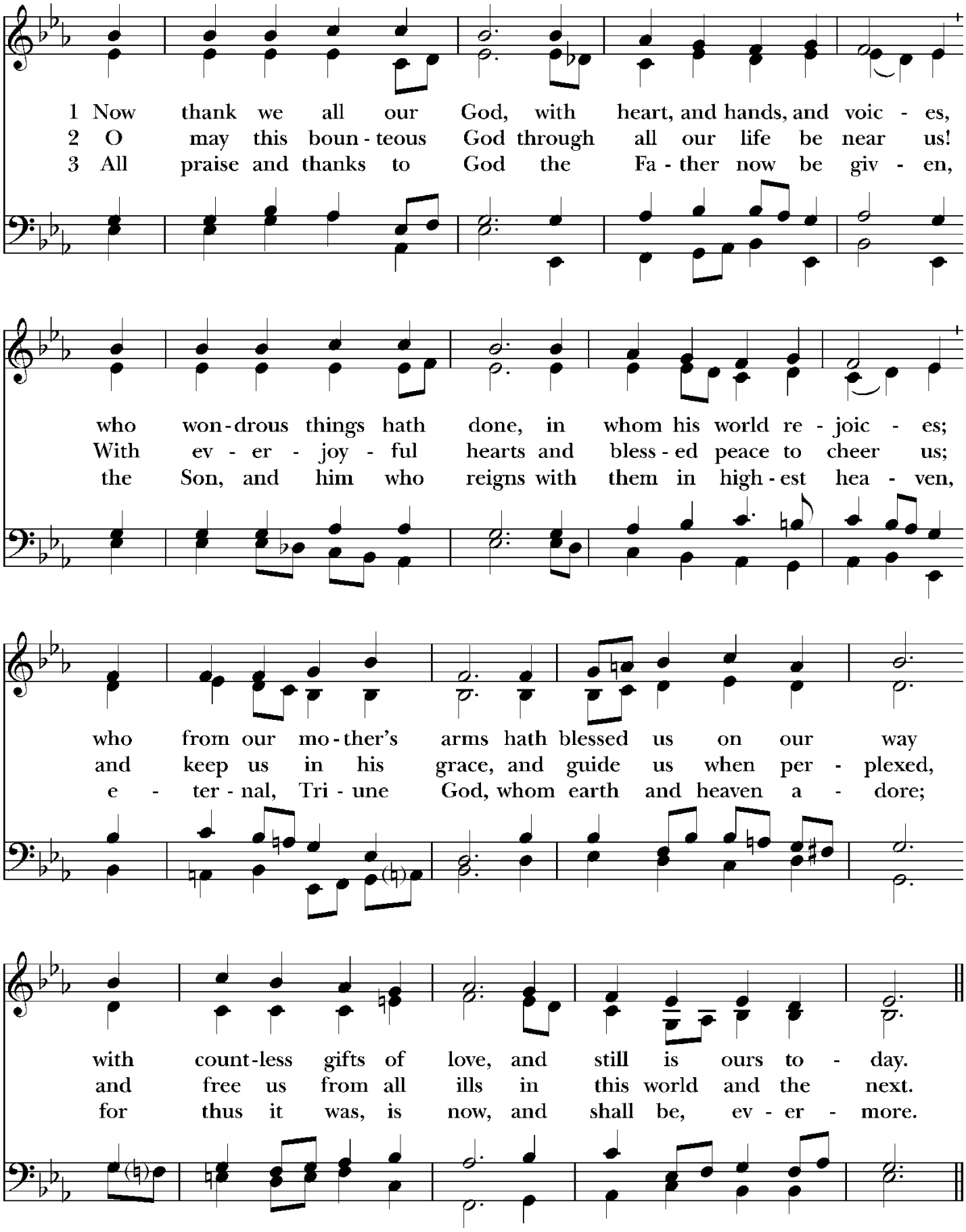
Communion Hymn 655 *The Hymnal 1982*



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 397 *The Hymnal 1982*


1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us!
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,
who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,
who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;
with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

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, December 6, the Second Sunday of Advent. Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8. 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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Note: Midweek services are celebrated in Willard Hall.

December 2 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.
Saint Andrew the Apostle, tr.
December 6 Second Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist
10-11:15 AM
December 9 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 PM

December 13 Third Sunday of Advent 10-11:15 AM
Holy Eucharist *Gaudete Sunday*
Often festive coffee hour…perhaps priest produced
Home made classic cheese cake and other dishes

December 16 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.
Ember Day
December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist 10-11:15AM
Decorating church for Christmas after coffee

Note: because Thursday is Christmas Eve there will be no midweek Wednesday service,

December 24 First Mass of Christmas 6PM Carol Sing
6:30 Christmas Eve Eucharist
December 25 Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 9:00-9:45 AM
December 27 First Sunday after Christmas Holy Eucharist 10:00-11:15 AM
December 30 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.
January 3, 2027 The Second Sunday after Christmas 10-11:15AM
NOTE: Sunday worship from January 3 until Palm Sunday, March 21, will meet in Willard Hall.

OTHER EVENTS

December 3 Memory Café 11AM – 1 PM
December 20 Vestry Meeting following coffee hour – 12 noon
Until 2PM