**Fourth Sunday in Lent** **March 14 & 15, 2026**

**Introduction to the day**
Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**
In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
**Amen.**

Blessed be God
who is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in love,
God does not treat us as our sins deserve
nor punish us according to our guilt,
but looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

Therefore, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection*

Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone, have we sinned.**
**In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.**
**Create in us a new heart, and give us a steadfast spirit.**
**Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us.**

As tender as parent to child,
so gentle is God with you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
**Blessed be God forever.**

## GATHERING SONG *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*

Verse 1
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus
My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3
The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Verse 4
The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio
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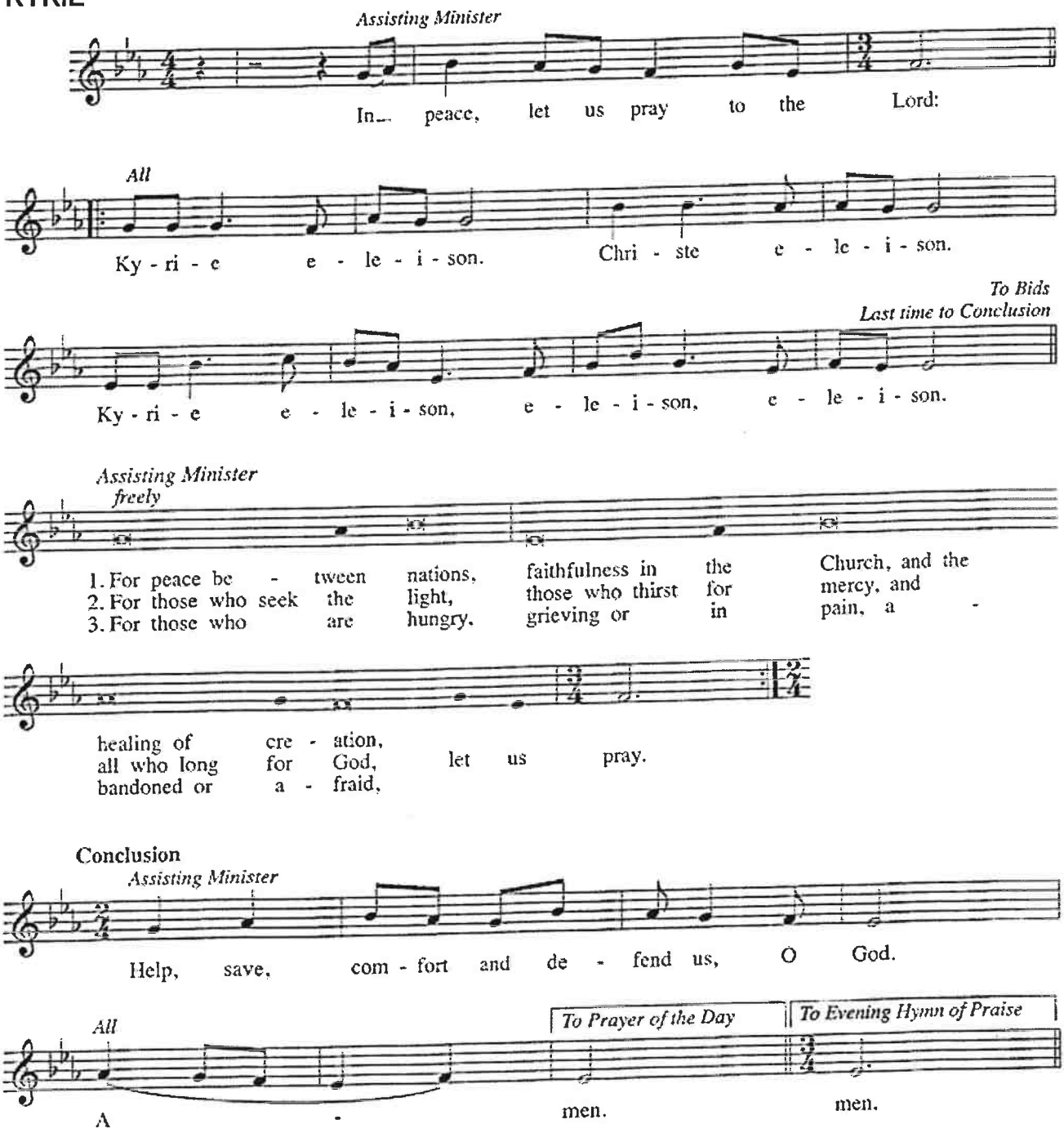
## GREETING

Christ has called us to this place,
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit
**We are followers of Christ**
**who seek to hear the Word,**
**live the Word, and share the Word.**
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




## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

5:30 Chancel Choir 8:30 Praise Team 11:00 Choir on Fire

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being
king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I
have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of
it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to
the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall
anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came
to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come
peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and
come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the
sacrifice.
6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the
LORD." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his
stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the
outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made
him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made
Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of
his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of
these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the
youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we
will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had
beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one."
13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the
spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went
to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

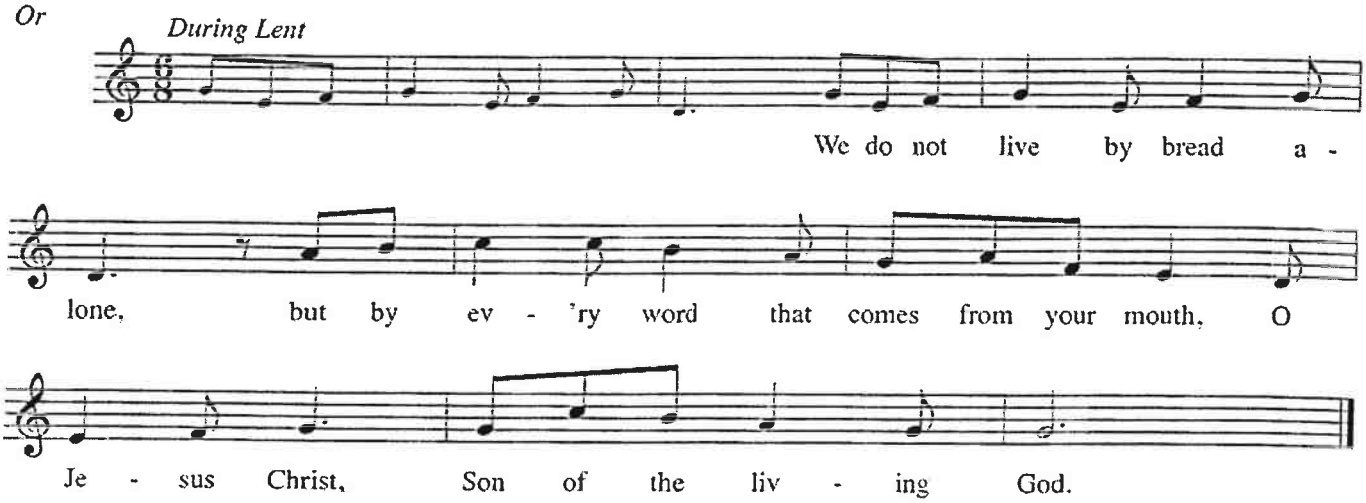
8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the
fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to
the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is
shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light
becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Or*




The holy gospel according to St. John the 9th chapter.
**Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

**GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

[1] As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. [2] His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. [4] We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." [6] When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, [7] saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. [8] The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" [9] Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." [10] But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" [11] He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." [12] They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

[13] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. [14] Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. [15] Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." [16] Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. [17] So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

[18] The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight [19] and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" [20] His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, [21] but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." [22] His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who

confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. [23] Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

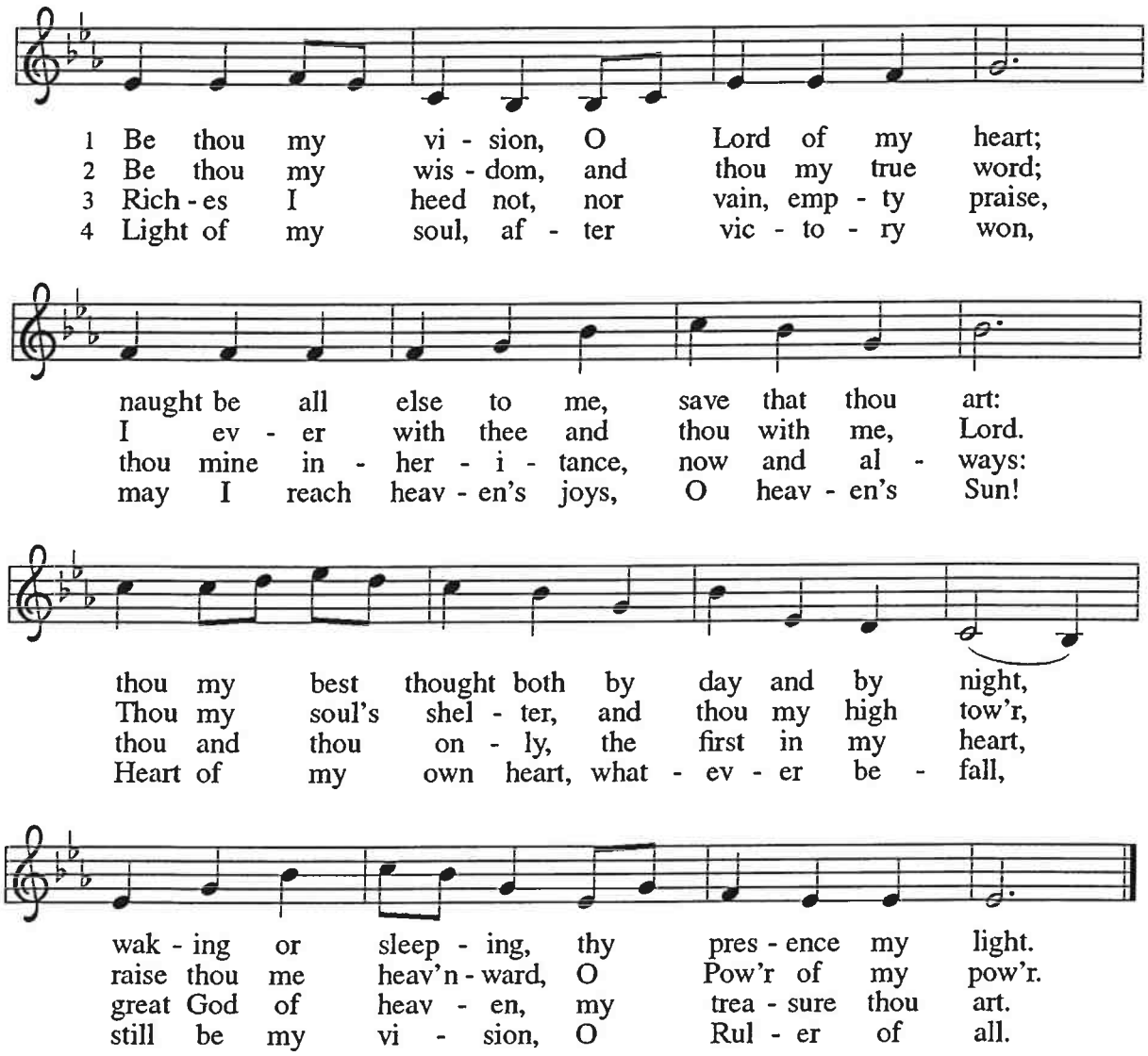
[24] So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." [25] He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." [26] They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27] He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" [28] Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29] We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." [30] The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. [32] Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33] If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34] They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

[35] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" [36] He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." [37] Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." [38] He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. [39] Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." [40] Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" [41] Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pr. Sharon

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)




Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**
**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**
**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again 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**
Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

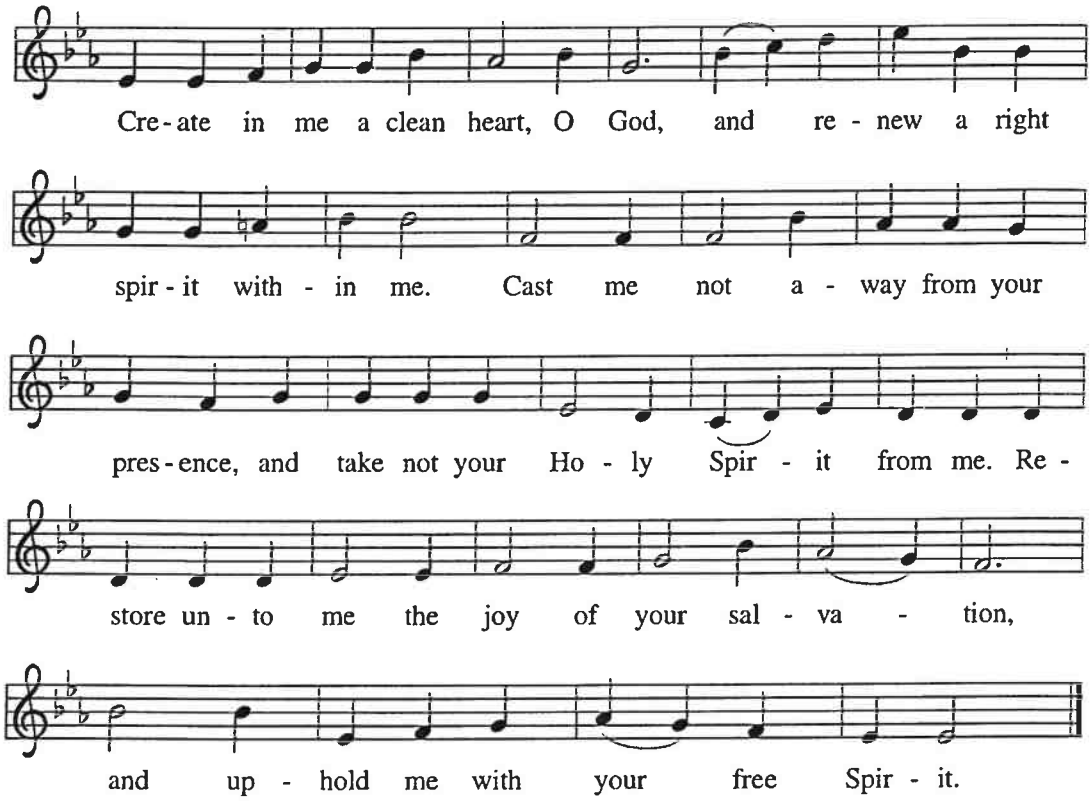
God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community (*here local congregations may be named*) and across the globe (*here international companion churches and synods may be named*) in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day (*especially*).

Mel Satnan, Stephany Sanborn, Lacey Mescher, Dawn Jensen, Alan Meilike, Pam Schulte, Edie Goodwin, John Myre, John Robbins, Sandi Mitchem, Both Dak, Debbie Weaver, Laury Detro, Mary Gittins, Nynette Wilcox, Keith Ashbaugh, Kathy Heilmann

Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
**Amen.**

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

**OFFERING** ***Create in Me a Clean Heart*** **(ELW 188)**

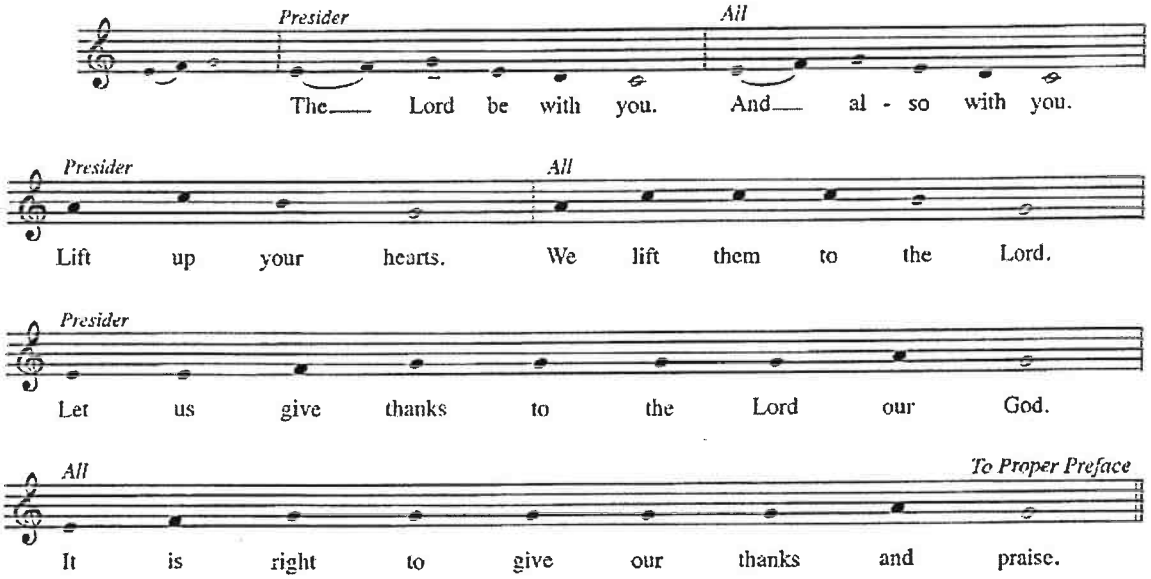



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

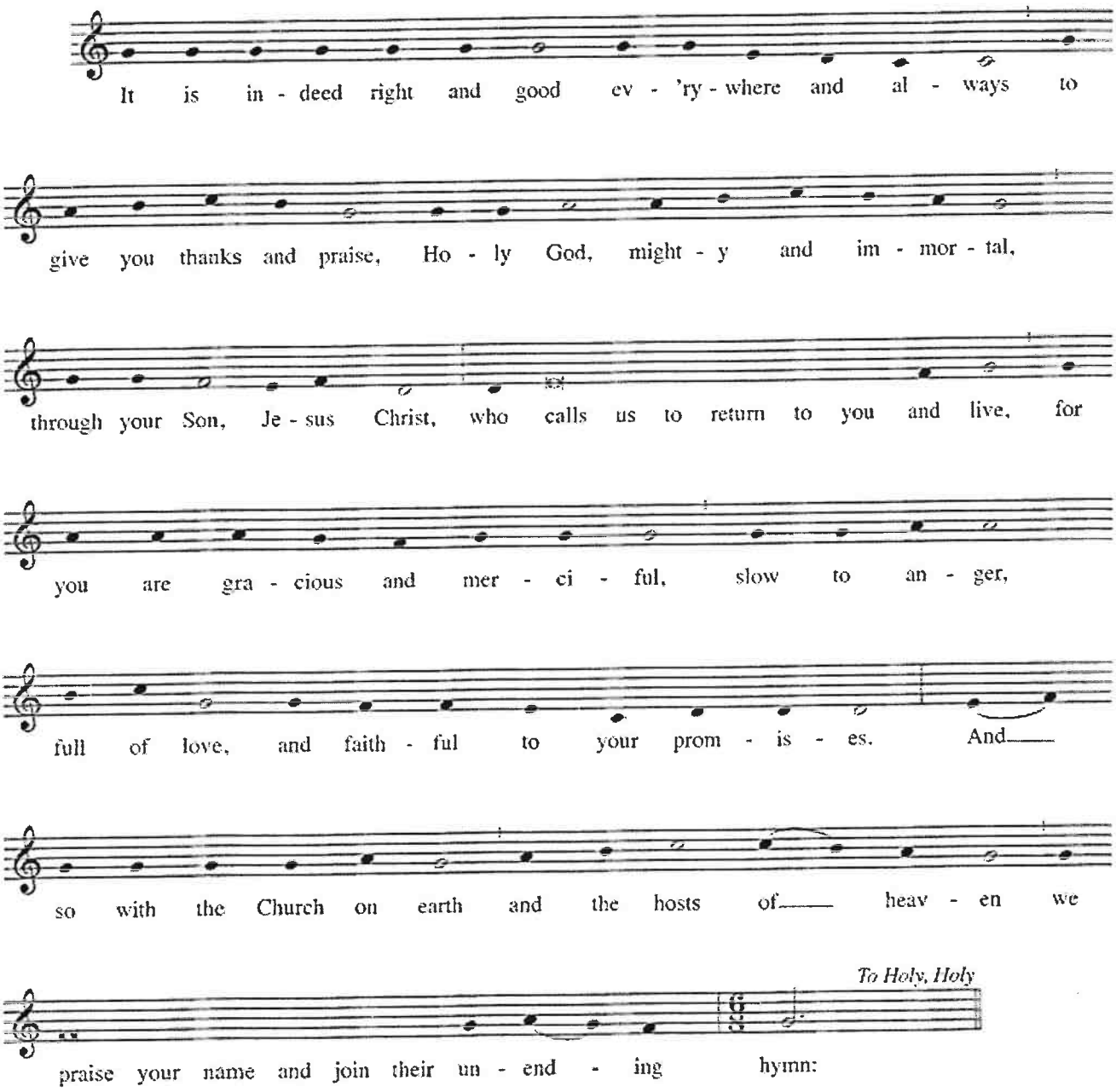
## OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through your abundant goodness, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

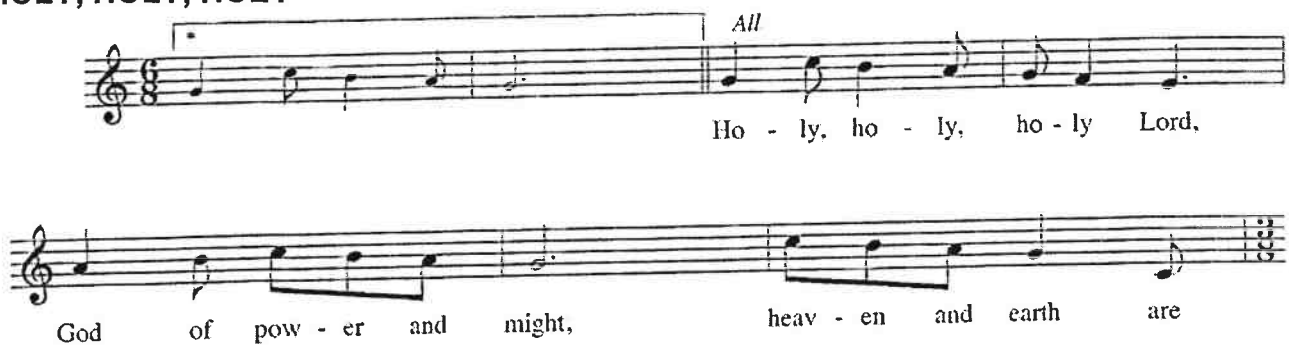
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

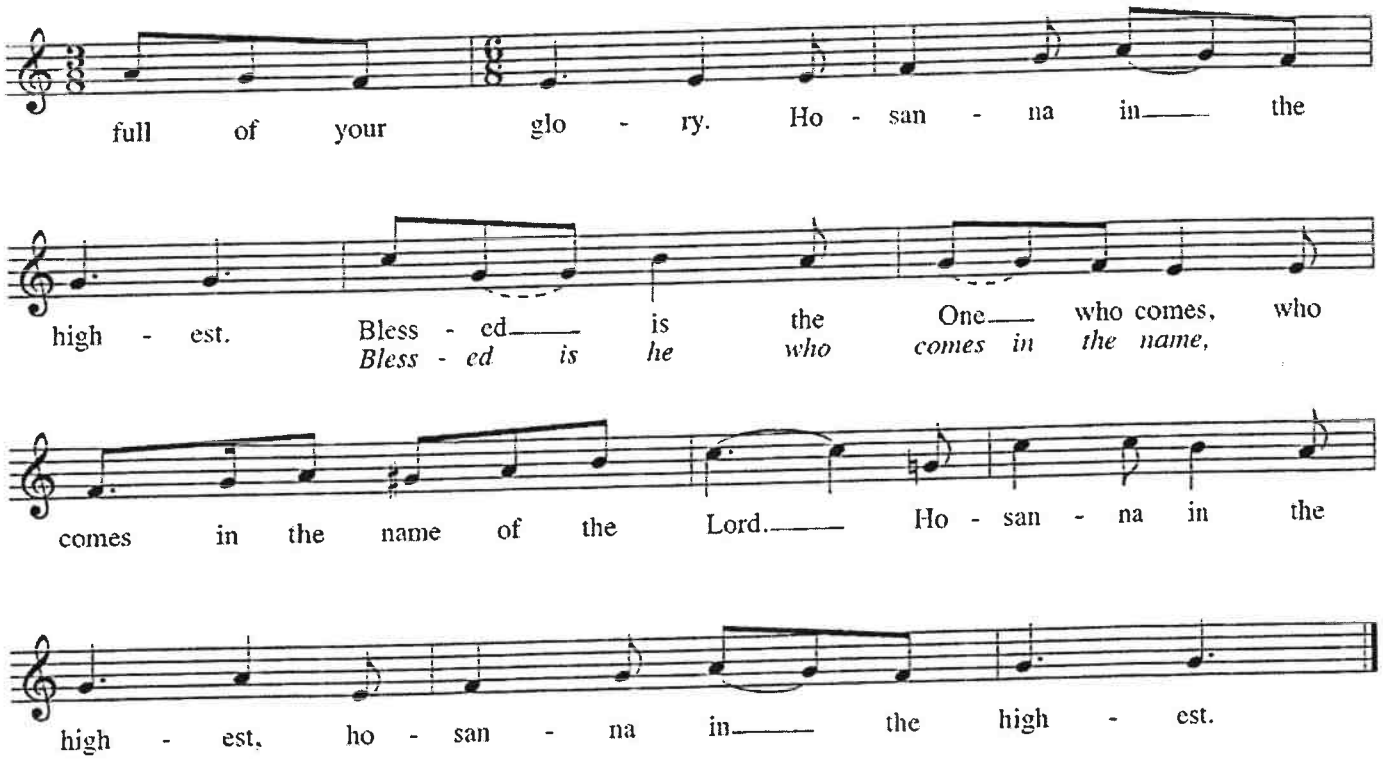


## PREFACE




## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY






**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: LENT**

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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.
Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

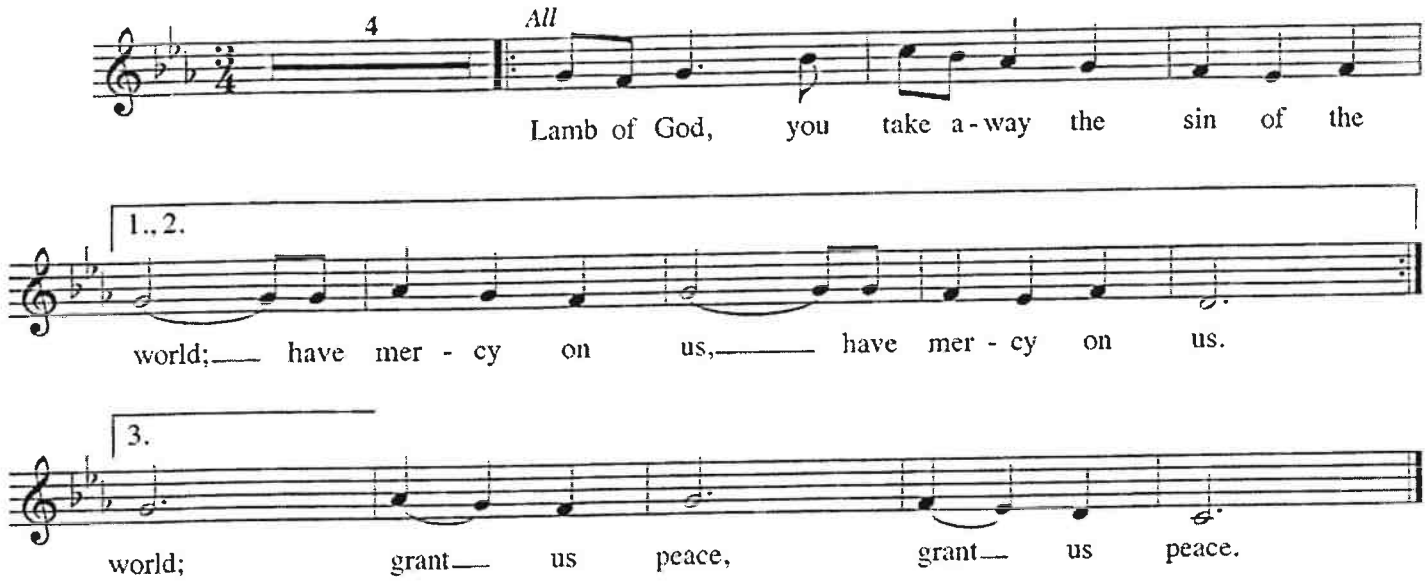
**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

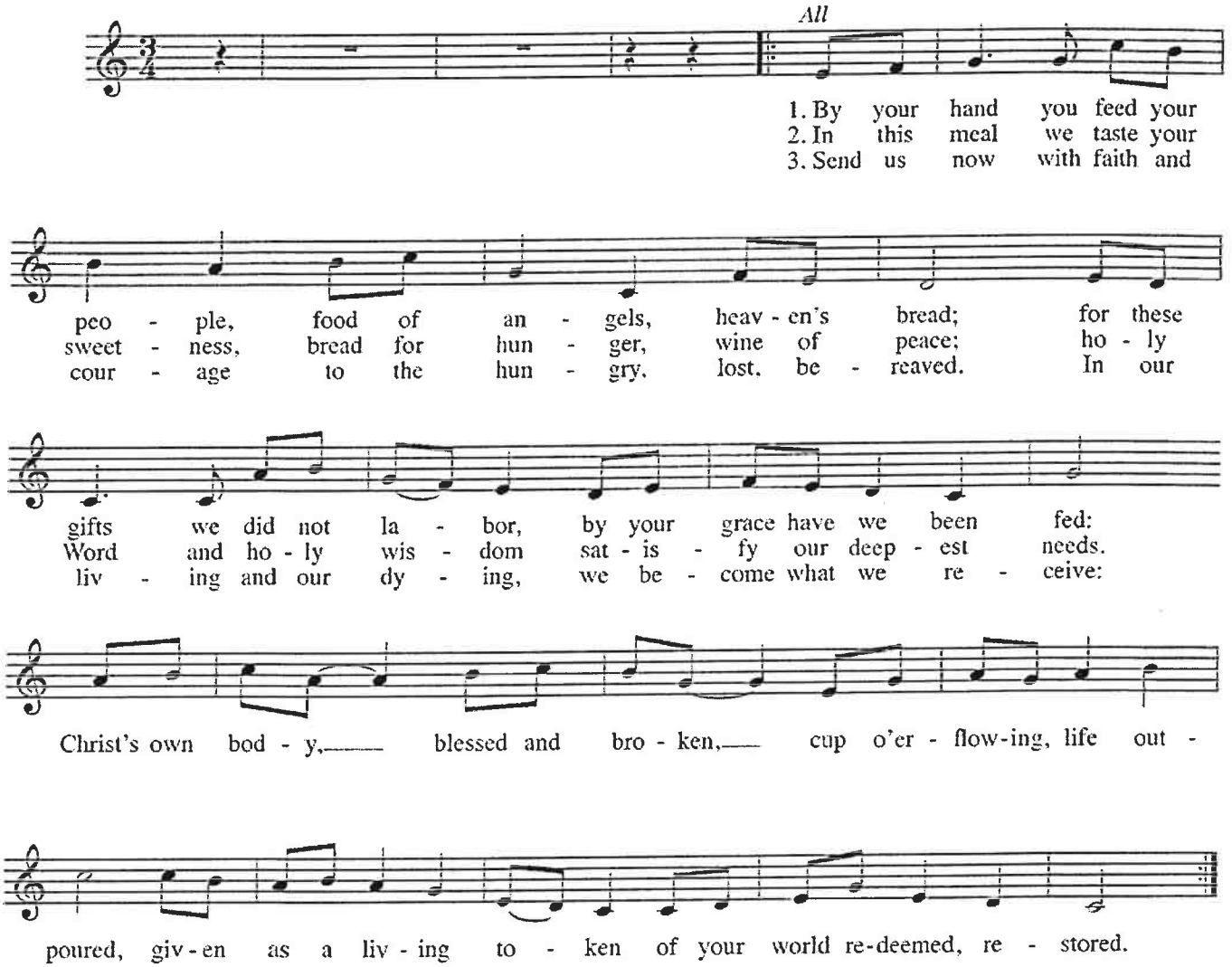
The gifts of God for the people of God.
**I am not worthy to receive you Lord; but only say the Word and I shall be healed.**

**LAMB OF GOD**



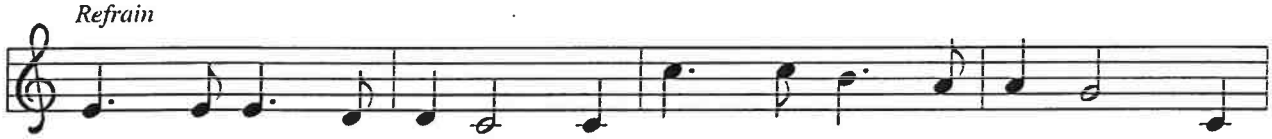
## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

***from Unfailing Light***

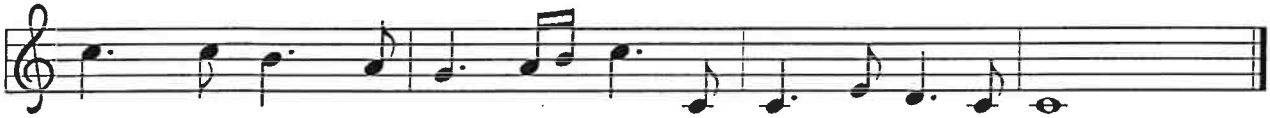


## DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Bread of Life from Heaven* (ELW 474)

*Refrain*

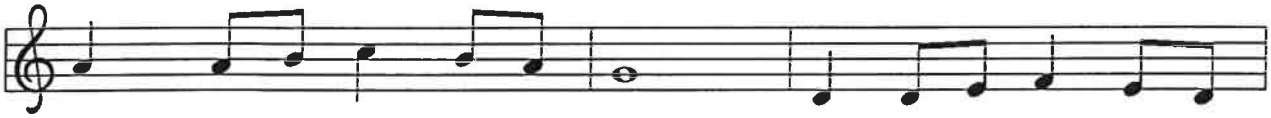


Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



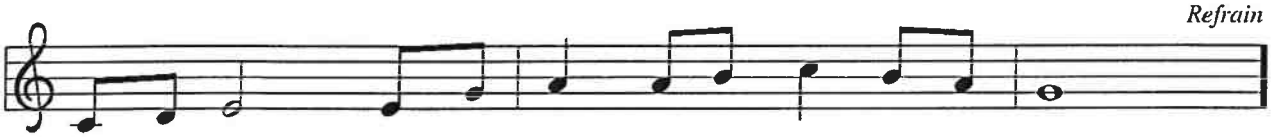
eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

*Refrain*



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** *Come to the Table* **(ELW 481)**

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
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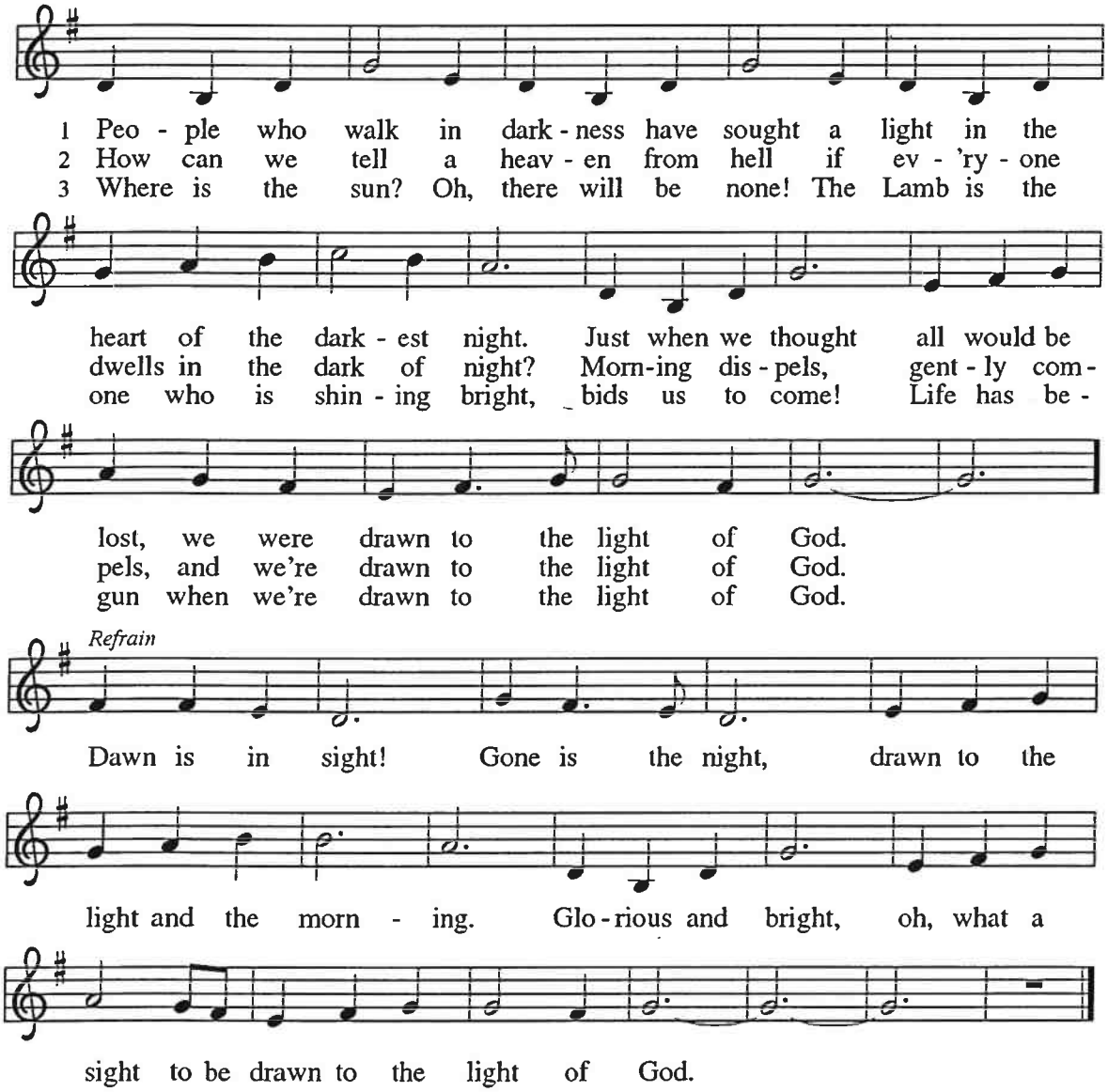
May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us, now and forever.
**Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**
God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

As you go on your way may Christ go with you,
May he go before you to show you the way;
May he go behind you to encourage you,
Beside you to befriend you, Above you to watch over,
Within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.

## SENDING SONG *Drawn to the Light* (ELW 593)




Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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