

... you will not see me until the  
time comes when you say,  
“Blessed is the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord.”

Luke 13:35, NRSV

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Sunday, February 24, 2019

**8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

WOV Holy Communion Setting Four: Light of Christ

Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson

Minister of Music: Michael Busija

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

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/Stand*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

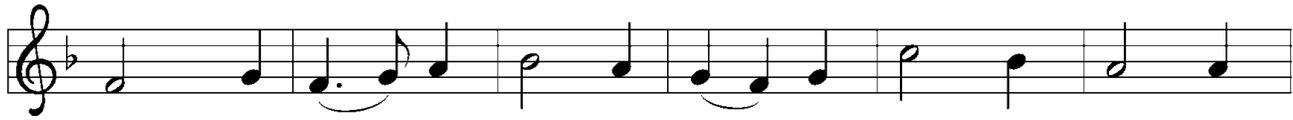
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

*The assembly stands.*

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

## GREETING

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

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

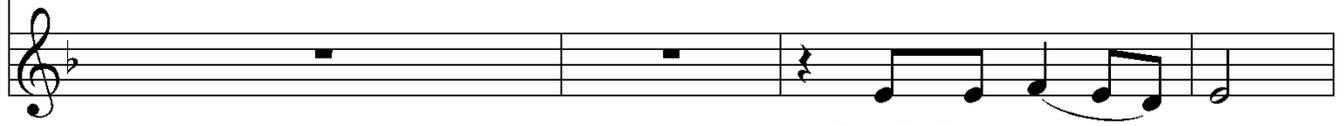
Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



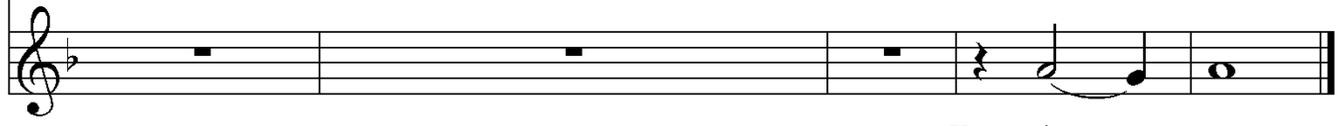
wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



**☒** Lord, have mer - cy.



**☒** Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

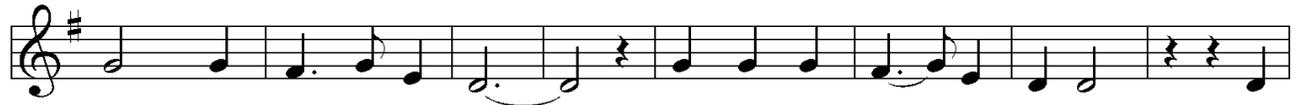


**☒** A - men

# HYMN OF PRAISE



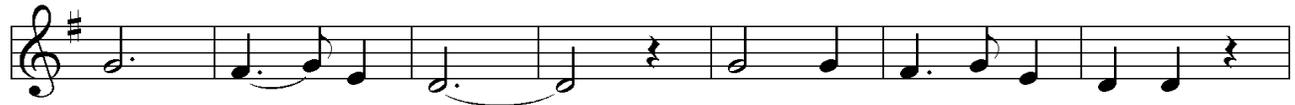
☐ Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy, have mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed



at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD WITH THE CHILDREN**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

A reading from Genesis the 45<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good, to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.}*

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

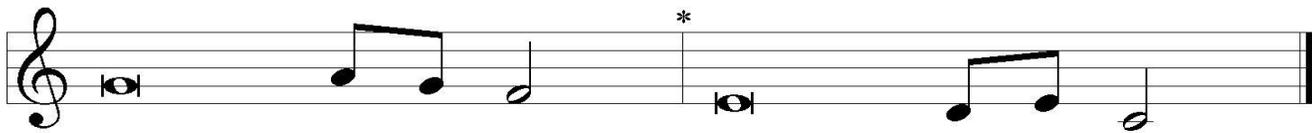
<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 (sung responsively)

Psalm Tone 1



<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by | evildoers;

do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart's desire. R**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in |  
evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. R**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

<sup>10</sup>**In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup>**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you |  
they seek refuge. R

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{In the Apostles Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.}*

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## **GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.}*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

# Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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Together we confess our faith:

## **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**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort the grieving (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

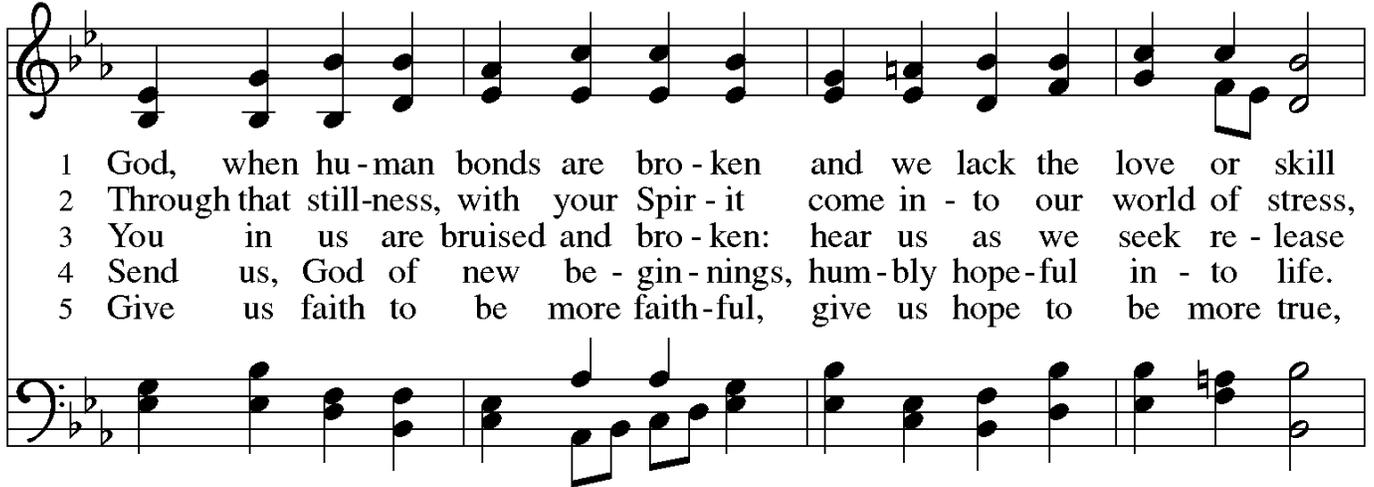
*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

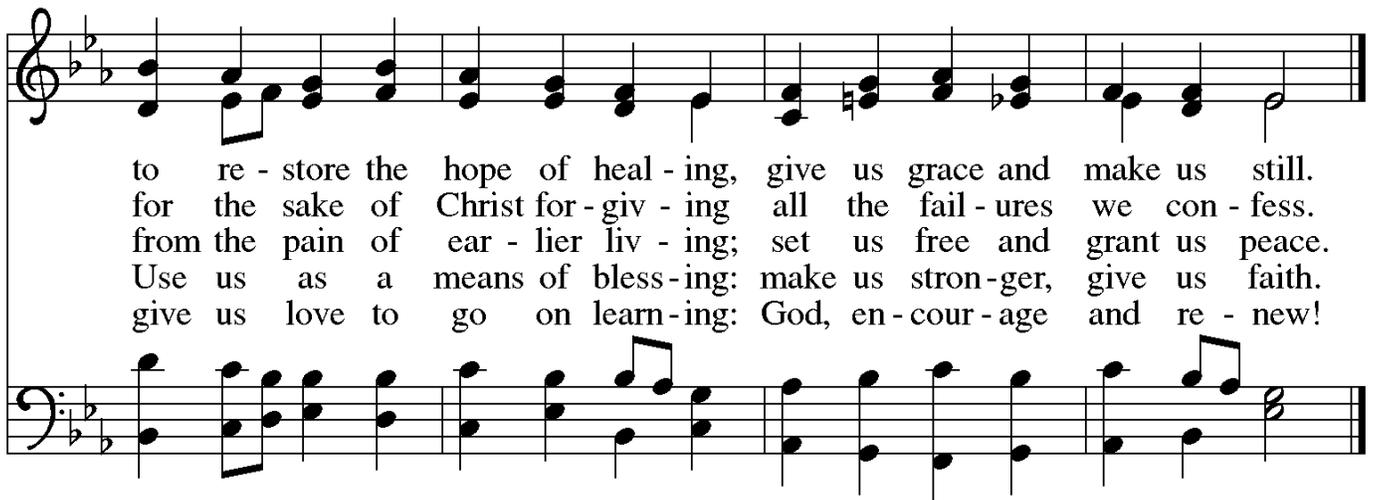
## **OFFERTORY**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

# God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill  
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,  
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease  
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.  
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.  
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.  
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.  
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.  
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

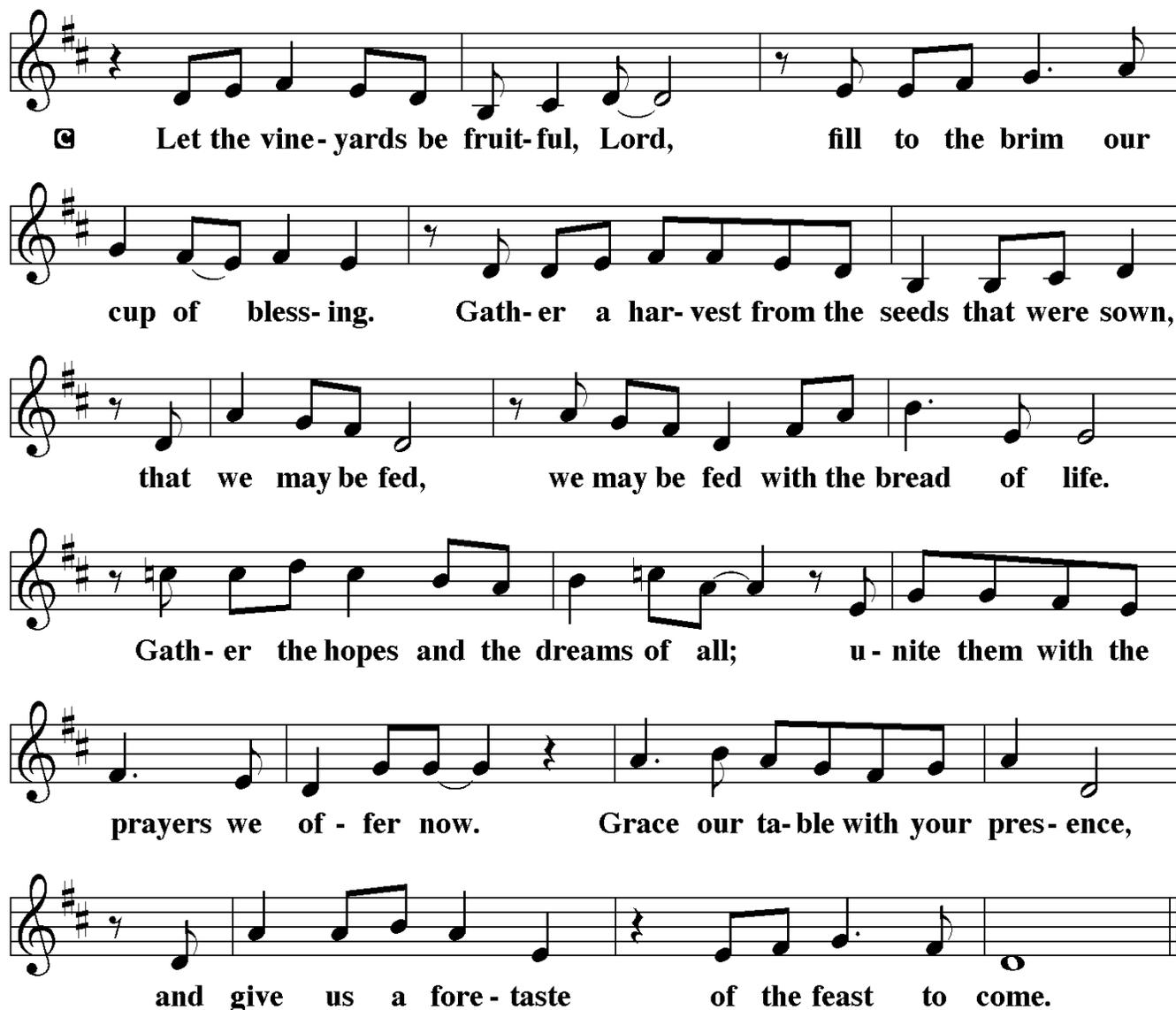
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*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our  
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the  
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,  
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

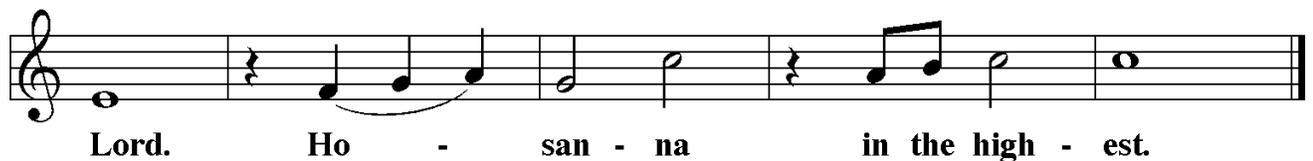
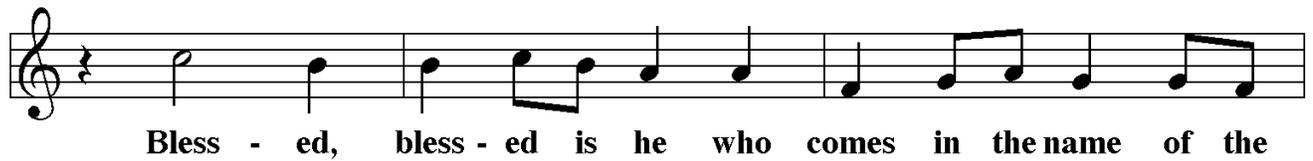
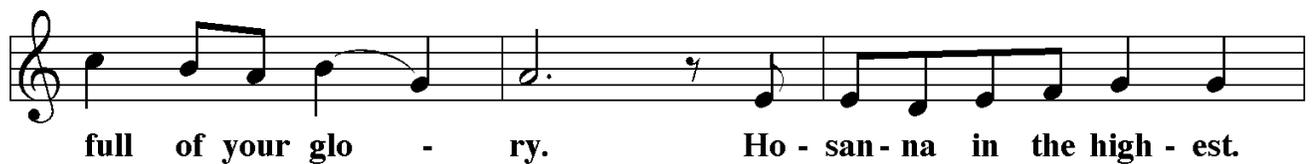
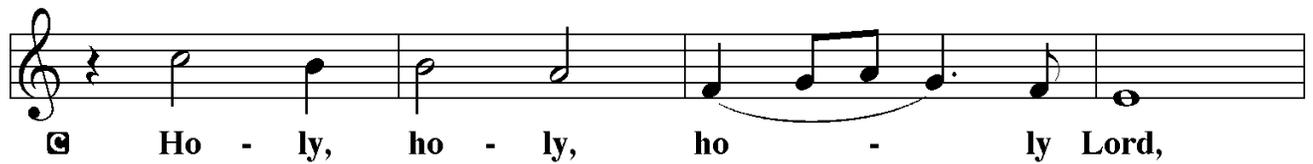
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the  
Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners,  
and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
when Christ will come again in beauty and power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place, and unite them  
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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;**

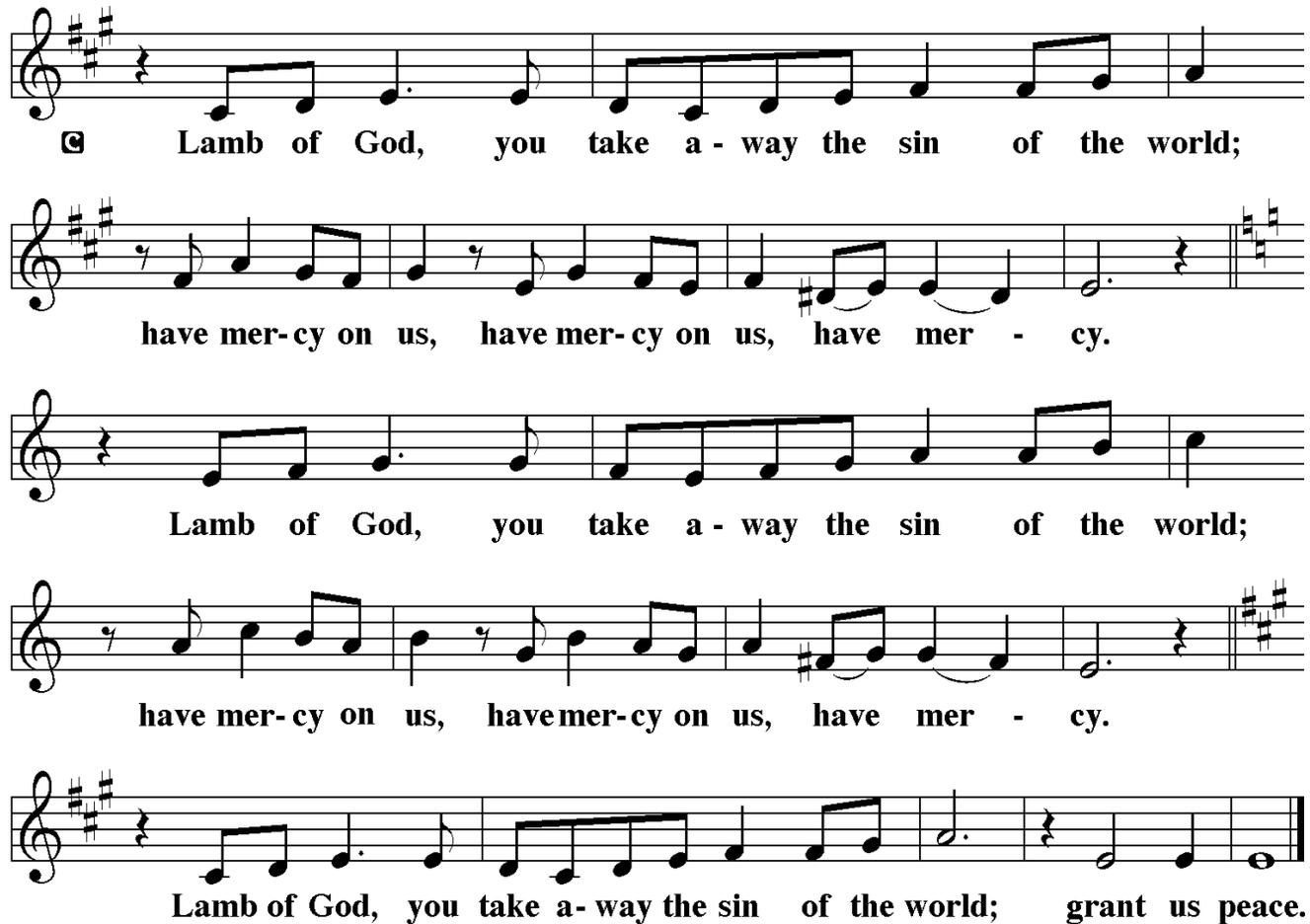
**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**

**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**

**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Please come forward by the center aisle. Pick up a communion glass from the trays at the end of the center aisle. Then move to the altar where you may kneel or stand. After receiving the elements the empty glass can be returned to the tray for empty glasses as you return to your pew by the side aisles. Be sure to fill out the pew pad.

# COMMUNION HYMN

## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

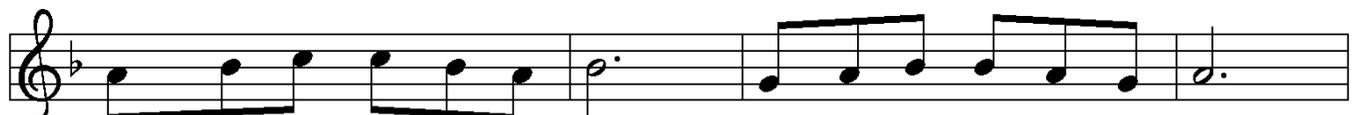
*Refrain*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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*The assembly stands.*

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

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

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silence for reflection.*

## **BLESSING**

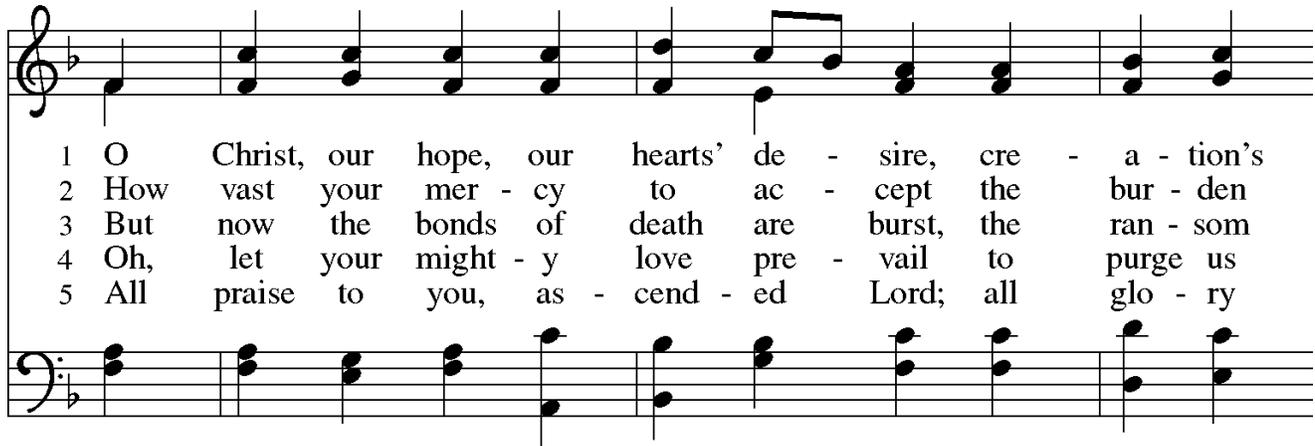
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

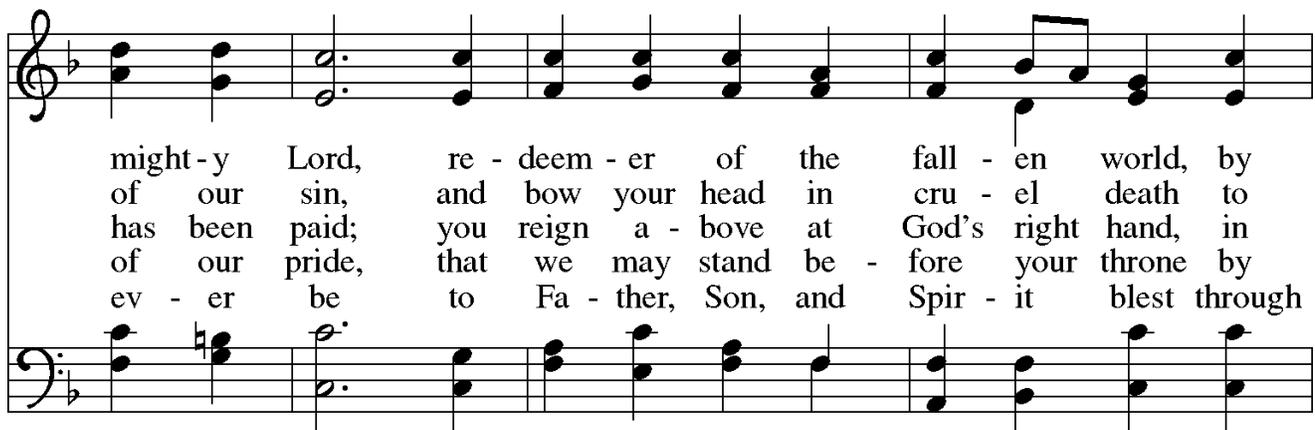
## **QUIET MEDITATION**

# SENDING HYMN

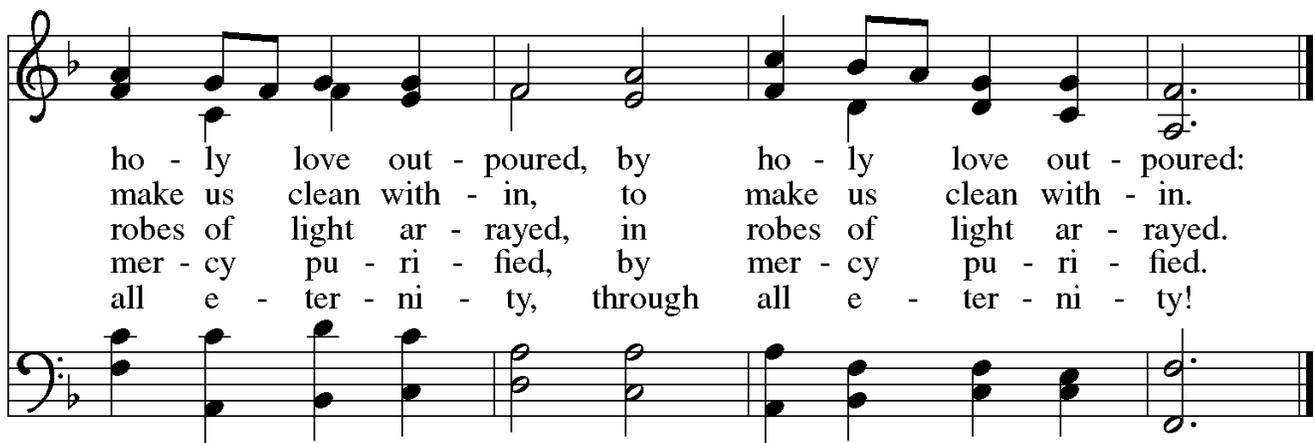
## O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

#### **Overflowing Love's Limits**

Who do you find hardest to love? Maybe it is a family member or coworker who grates on your nerves. Maybe it is a group of people in our society whose party affiliation, different cultural habits, or lifestyle you find irksome. Maybe it is people whose race, hygiene, or mental abilities make them hard for you to approach or understand. Sadly, we are all limited in our capacity to love others because of our culture, history, hurts, and experiences. From unconscious biases to open disdain, our strength for love is constrained and wounded by the effects of sin.

Jesus' words in today's gospel show his deep acquaintance with our deficits in regard to loving. We tend to keep our love confined to limited pools of people and to measure it out far more sparingly to others. If your worship today includes confession and forgiveness, take a moment to trace some of the limits on your own ability to love others, and bring them before God.

The good news that Jesus shares with us today is that God's love is not under the same constraints as ours. God measures out love lavishly on all people regardless of worldly markers of identity, histories of harm and wrongdoing, or some human-derived preference. Against the backdrop of limited human love, divine love consumes us in its abundance. Words like *unconditional* and *limitless* only begin to point to the mystery of the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. We come to worship seeking to be inundated with that love so that our loving might become more generous through God's excess, spilling over the limits our sin has placed on it. In your prayers in worship today and throughout your week, let the thirst in your heart be quenched by God's overflowing love so you can in turn share it with others.

## *Daily Readings for the Week February 24-March 2*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Genesis 45:3-11, 21-28 Psalm 37:1-18 or 37:3-10 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 38 Genesis 33:1-17 1 Corinthians 11:2-16
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 38 1 Samuel 24:1-22 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 38 Leviticus 5:1-13 Luke 17:1-4
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 Proverbs 13:1-12 Romans 5:12—6:2
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 Proverbs 15:1-9 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 Isaiah 30:8-17 John 16:1-4a

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