Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
God's Work Our Hands Sunday

10:30 A.M. Worship with Eucharist
September 13, 2026

616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 ● 847-864-4464 ● www.immanuelevanston.org
E-mail: Church: immanuel@immanuelevanston.org ● Pastor: pastor@immanuelevanston.org
● Parish Administrator: parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org

Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.
We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

Masks are optional during worship service.

Facilities

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays, see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. Parking meters are free until 1:00 P.M. on Sunday.
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near the elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by the elevator.
- We love having children in worship! Activity bags are available from the ushers. There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome." Please use the Internet responsibly!

About Our Worship

Our Sunday worship is organized around the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It has a familiar form each week, but the content changes for each service according to a calendar shared with many other Christians. The liturgy is printed in this bulletin. If you're worshipping via Zoom, please remain muted until you get to the part where you will be invited to unmute and participate in some parts of the liturgy, as marked by this symbol. = UNMUTE

Receiving Holy Communion

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal because Christ invites you! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. There are two options: You may come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements. If you need communion brought to you in the pew, please tell the ushers.

Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God …*

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

***P:** Presiding Minister* ***L:** Leader/Assisting Minister* ***R**: Reader* ***A:** Assembly*

✢ *All may make the sign of the cross.*

Prelude "Sonata 3, 1st movement, parts 1-3 and 2nd movement," both by Felix Mendelssohn

The Assembly stands when directed and turns toward the font.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

A **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

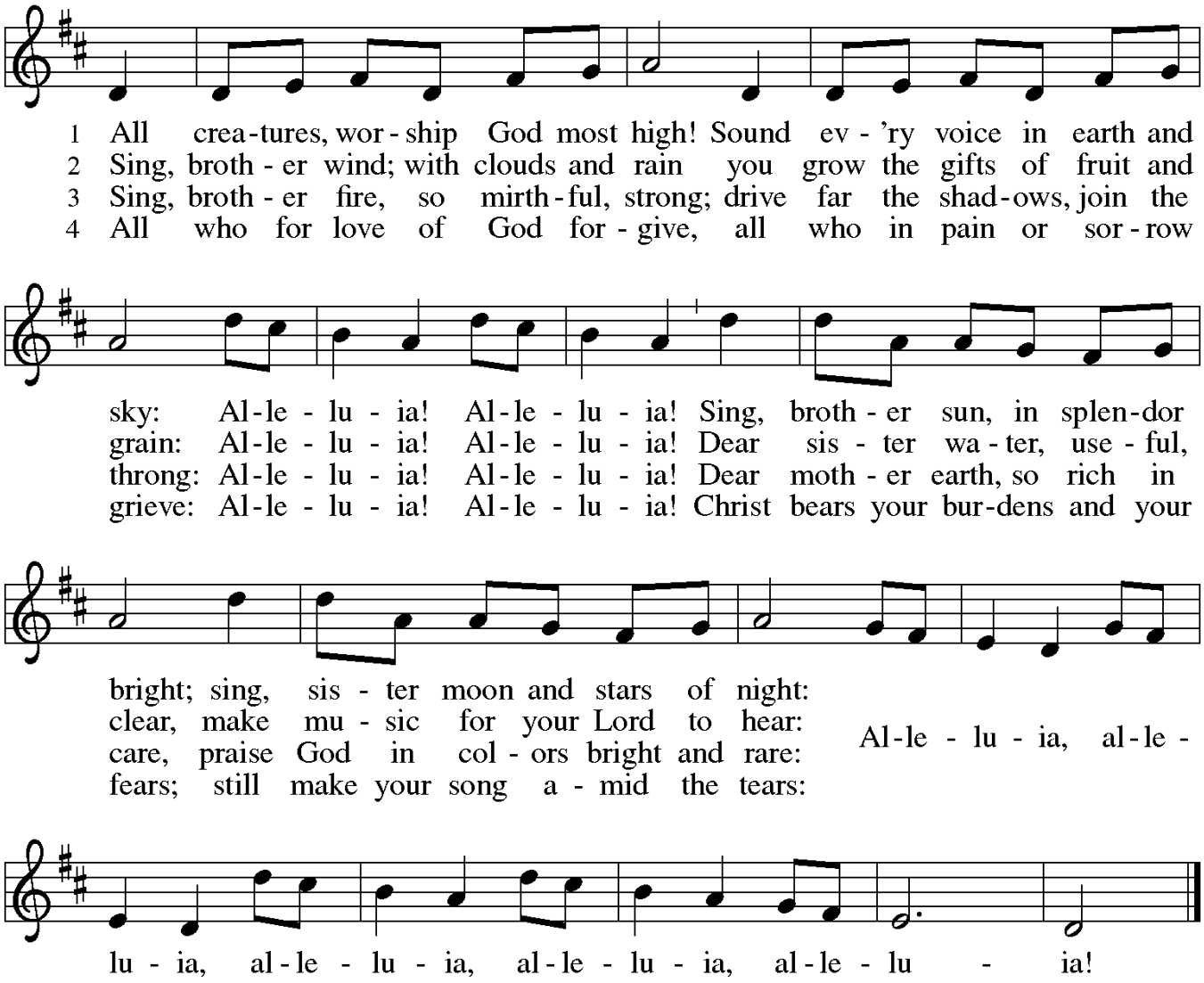
A **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ
Amen.**

P Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✢ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

A **Amen.**

Gathering Song "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" (LASST UNS ERFREUEN) **ELW 835**

You may reverence the cross as it passes you.



5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

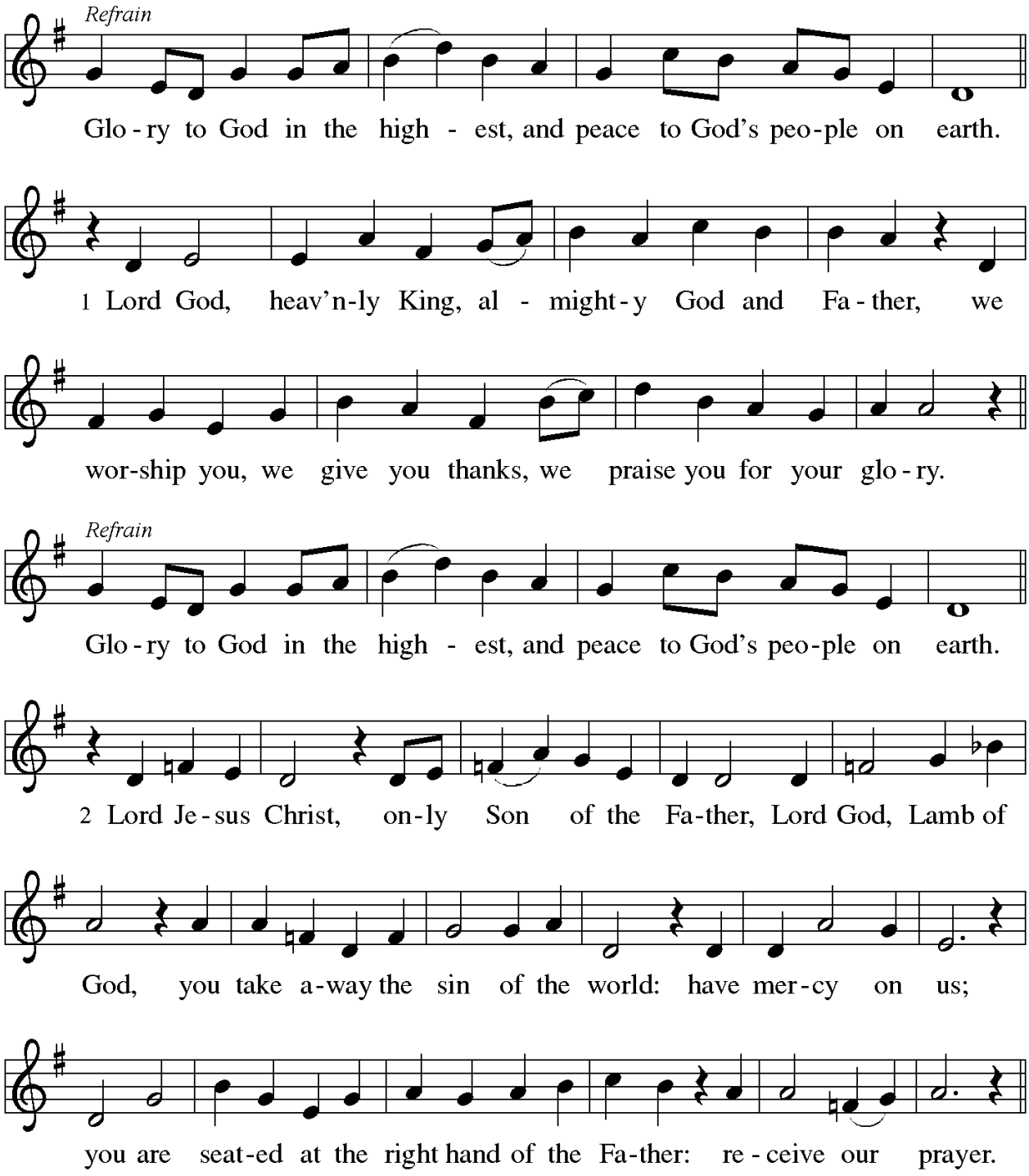
6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

A **And also with you!**

Canticle of Praise S195



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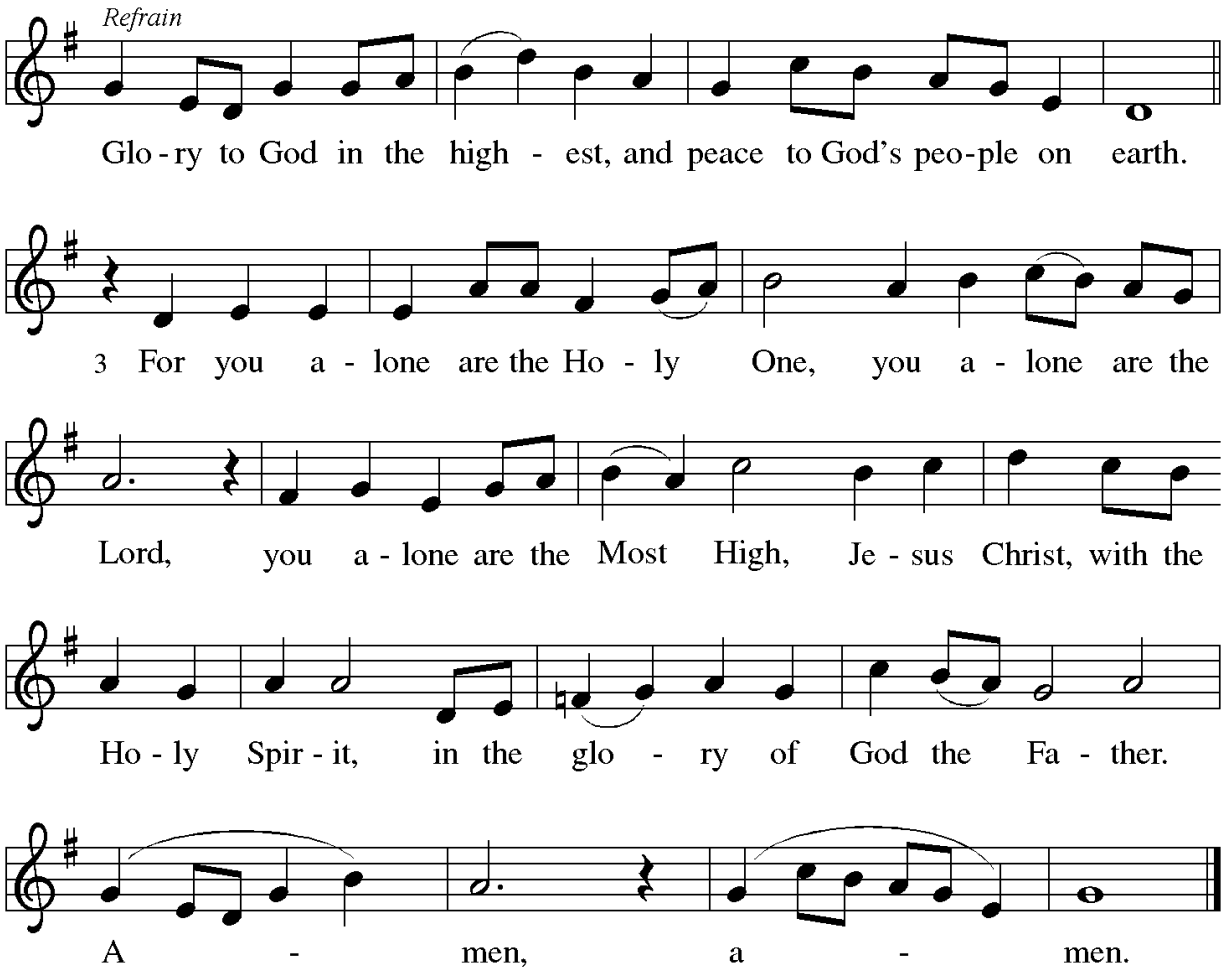


Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

P Let us pray...

Pause for a moment of silence...

P O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

Word: *God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song*

If you wish to see the text, then use the pew Bible - Page numbers are at the top of the page & in the center.

Reading from the Old Testament *p.42 in the pew Bible* **Genesis 50:15-21**

R A reading from Genesis.

R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

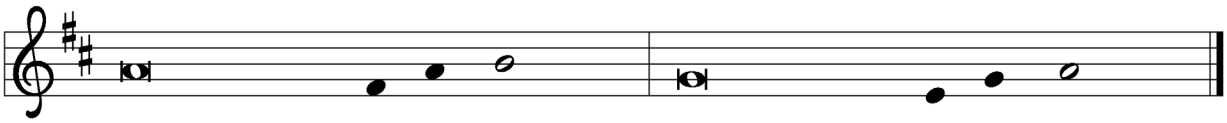
Psalm 103: 1-13 **Psalm Tone 1, 2 sharps**

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through. The organ will only accompany the first two verses and the refrain.

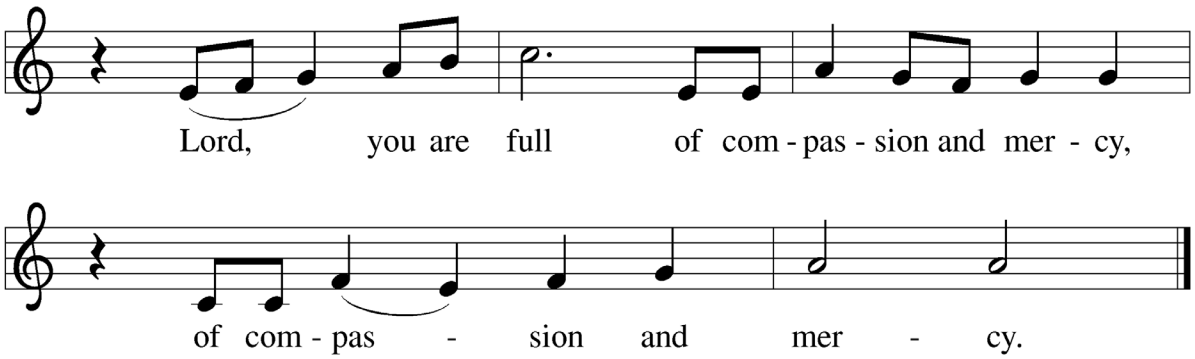
The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. The organ accompanies the first two verses and the remaining verses are sung unaccompanied.

All sing the refrain where indicated by "R.".

Tone:



Refrain:



[1] Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
[2] **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
[3] who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
[4] **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R

[5] who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
[6] **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
[7] You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
[8] **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R

[9] you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
[10] **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
[11] For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

12 **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
13 As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

Reading from the New Testament *p.923 in the pew Bible* **Romans 14:1-12**

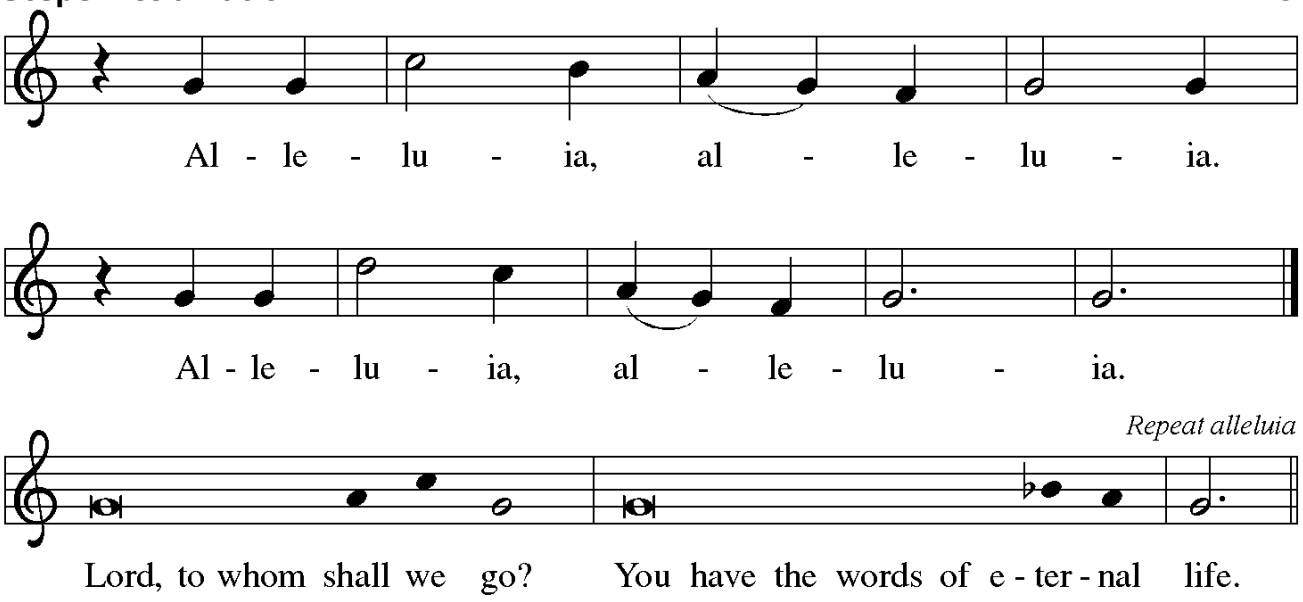
R A reading from Romans.

R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation S198a



Gospel *p.800 in the pew Bible* **Matthew 18: 21-35**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

The Gospel is read.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel Acclamation Alleluia is sung once again.
The Assembly is then seated.

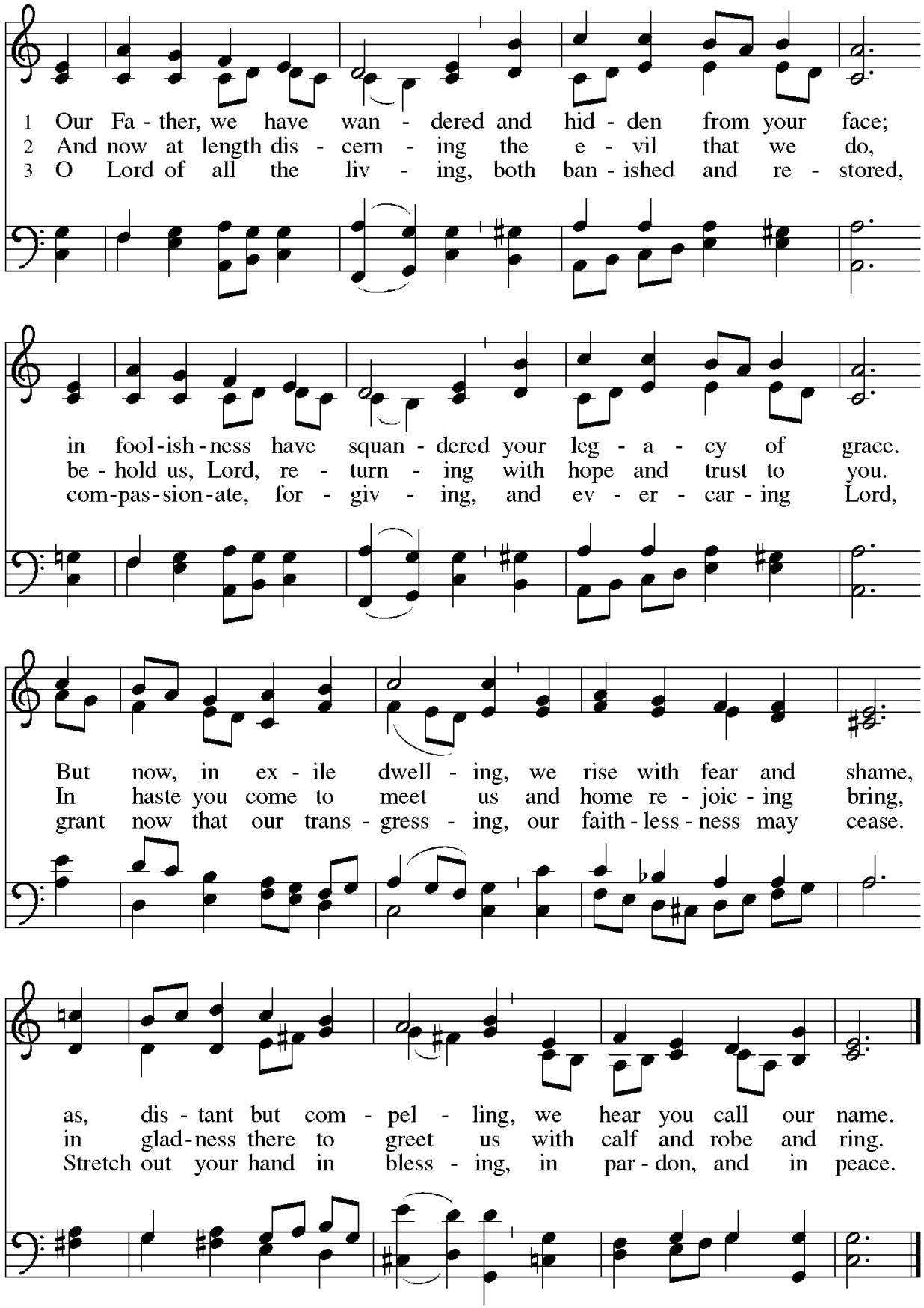
Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.
During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures
that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.
When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

Hymn of the Day "Our Father, We Have Wandered" (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)

ELW 606



The Apostle's Creed

L With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the ☩ resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

(brief pause)

L Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Empower us with the will to give freely of our time and abilities to all those in need. We pray for our bishops Yehiel, and Erik, our pastor Mark, our president Kit, our council, and our justice ministries. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need, especially Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Jim Krokar, Nancy Lang, Shirley Patrick, Beth Rohrer, Ionie Smith, Laurie Stivers, Steve Warner, Marina Yarnoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts… Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.

L Hear us, O God,

A Your mercy is great.

L With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember John Chrysostom, Cyprian, Hildegard, Dag Hammarskjöld, and all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

A Amen.

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

The Assembly is seated.

Meal: *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ …*

Offering

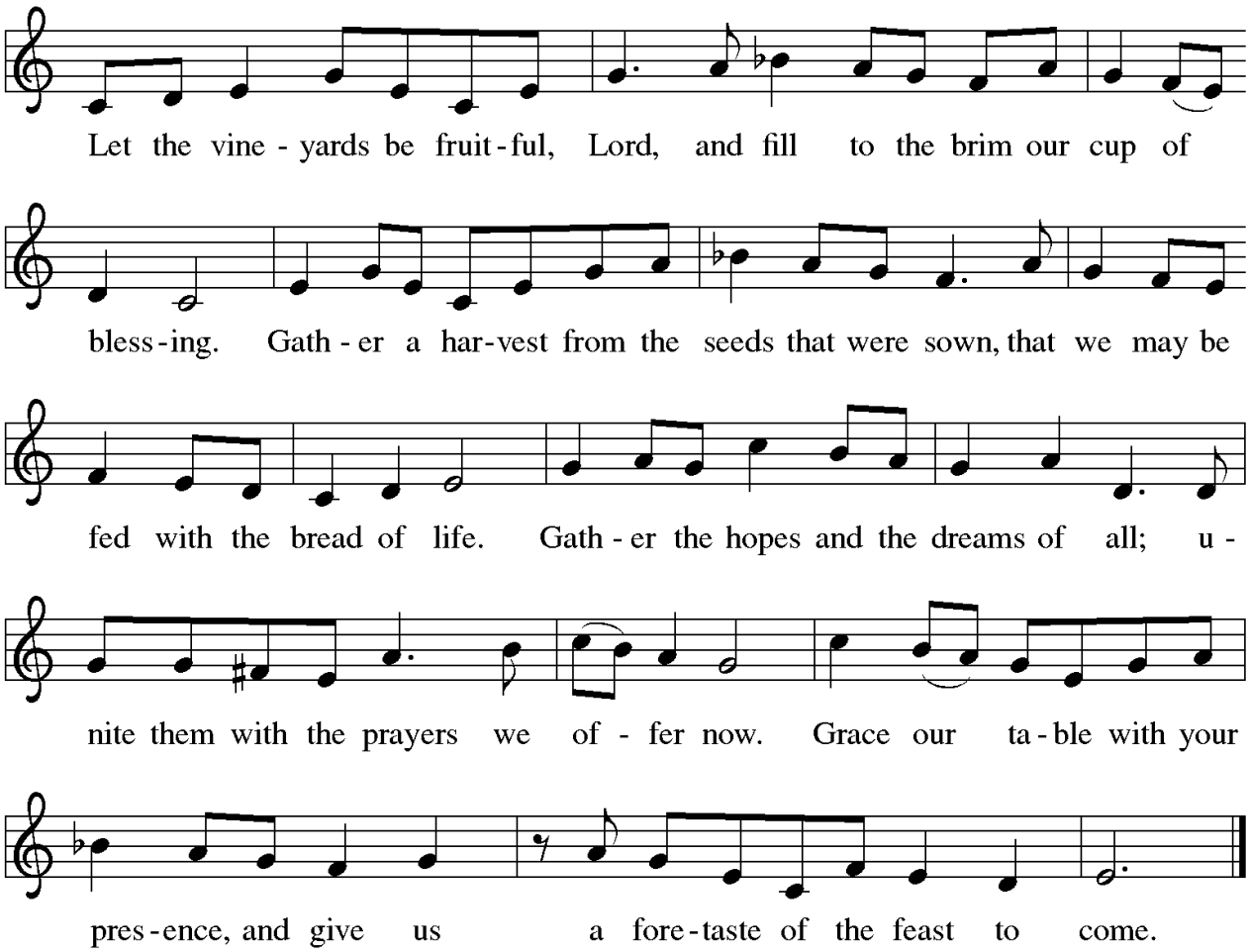
An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.
Hold your smartphone camera up to this QR code and click on the link that appears on your screen to go to our website and make your financial offering online.

Offering Anthem "With a Voice of Singing" by Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
And let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!
O, be joyful in God, all ye lands.
O, sing praises to the honor of His name,
make His praise to be glorious.

Presentation of the Gifts "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" (HILLERT) **ELW 182**

The Assembly stands and sings as the gifts are brought forward.



Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

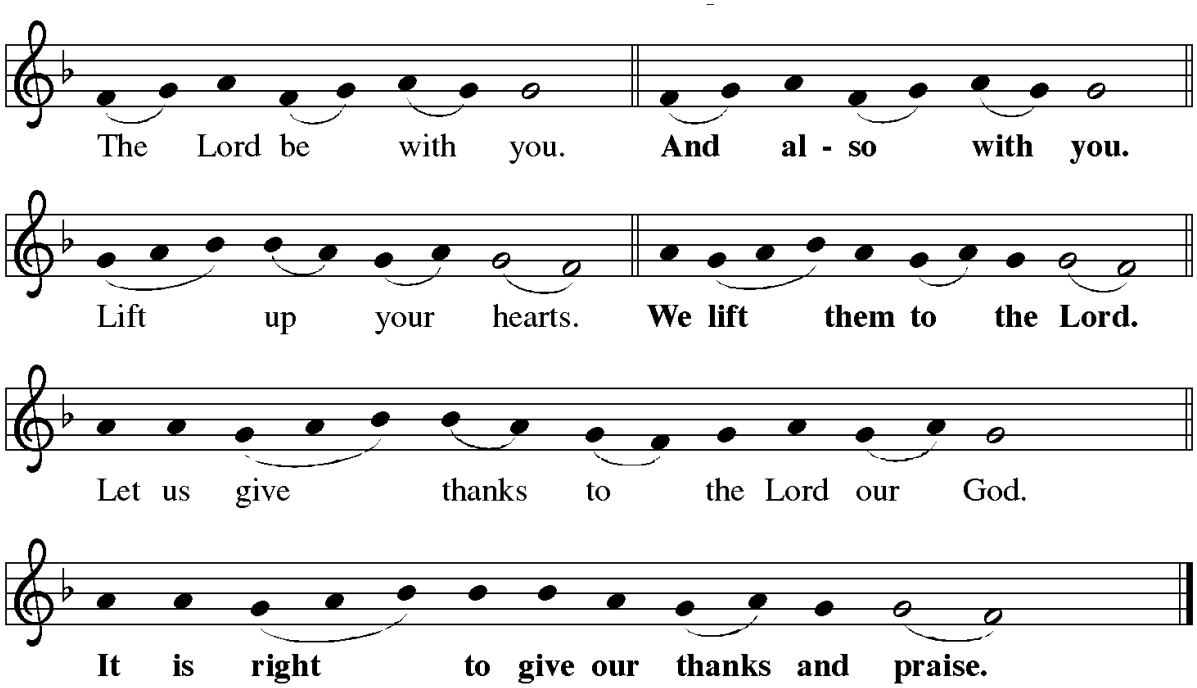
L God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

S199



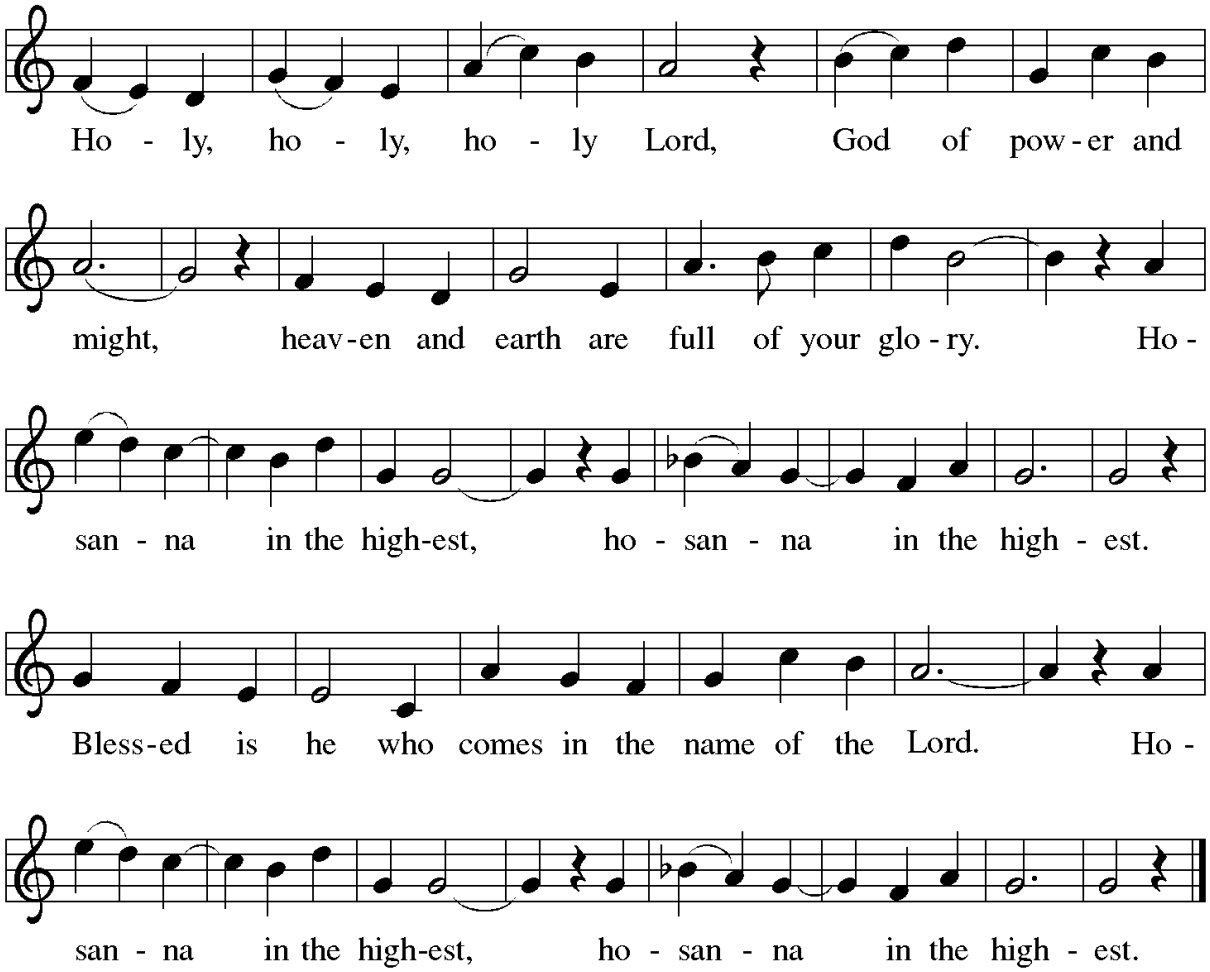
Preface

The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *The Assembly joins in singing:*

S200



Thanksgiving at the Table

P Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for creating us to live together in unity
and for forgiving our failures in following your call.
Blessed are you, Abba Father,
for sending your beloved Son
and for adopting us to be your family of sisters and brothers.
Lord, we receive this good news:

A **Lord, we receive this good news**.

Blessed are you, Sovereign of mercy,
for establishing your kingdom in Jesus the Messiah.
He healed the sick, and welcomed women and men, and taught the commandments.
Blessed is he, the Son of Man, who became a servant of all,
and who overcomes the might of Satan until the end of time.
Lord, we believe this good news:

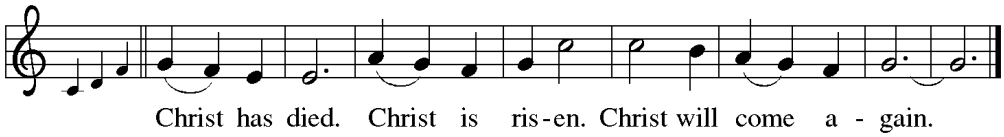
A **Lord, we believe this good news.**

On the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

We remember the good news of his life given for us,
his death on the cross, and his rising from the tomb, and together we sing,



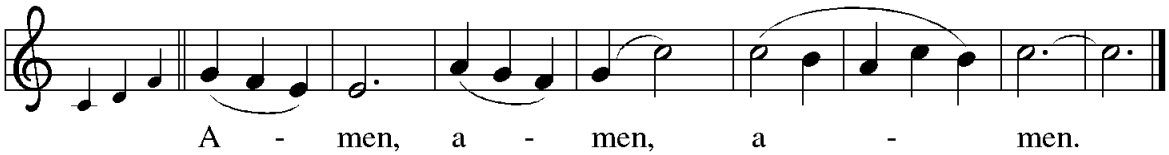
A

By the power of your Spirit, hidden in the ministry of Jesus,
reveal yourself to us here, hidden in this bread and cup.
Do not forsake us, but save us in the time of trial.
By this mystery of Christ's body and blood, cast out our demons,
cleanse our hearts, and strengthen our service toward all in need.
Lord, do not ever forsake us:

A **Lord, do not ever forsake us.**

To you, Lord God, the Blessed One,
and to your Son, coming at the end in glory,
and to the Holy Spirit, descending on us now like a dove,
be all our praise and thanksgiving, now and forever.
Amen.

A



A

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

A **Our Loving God in heaven, Father and Mother of us all,**
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

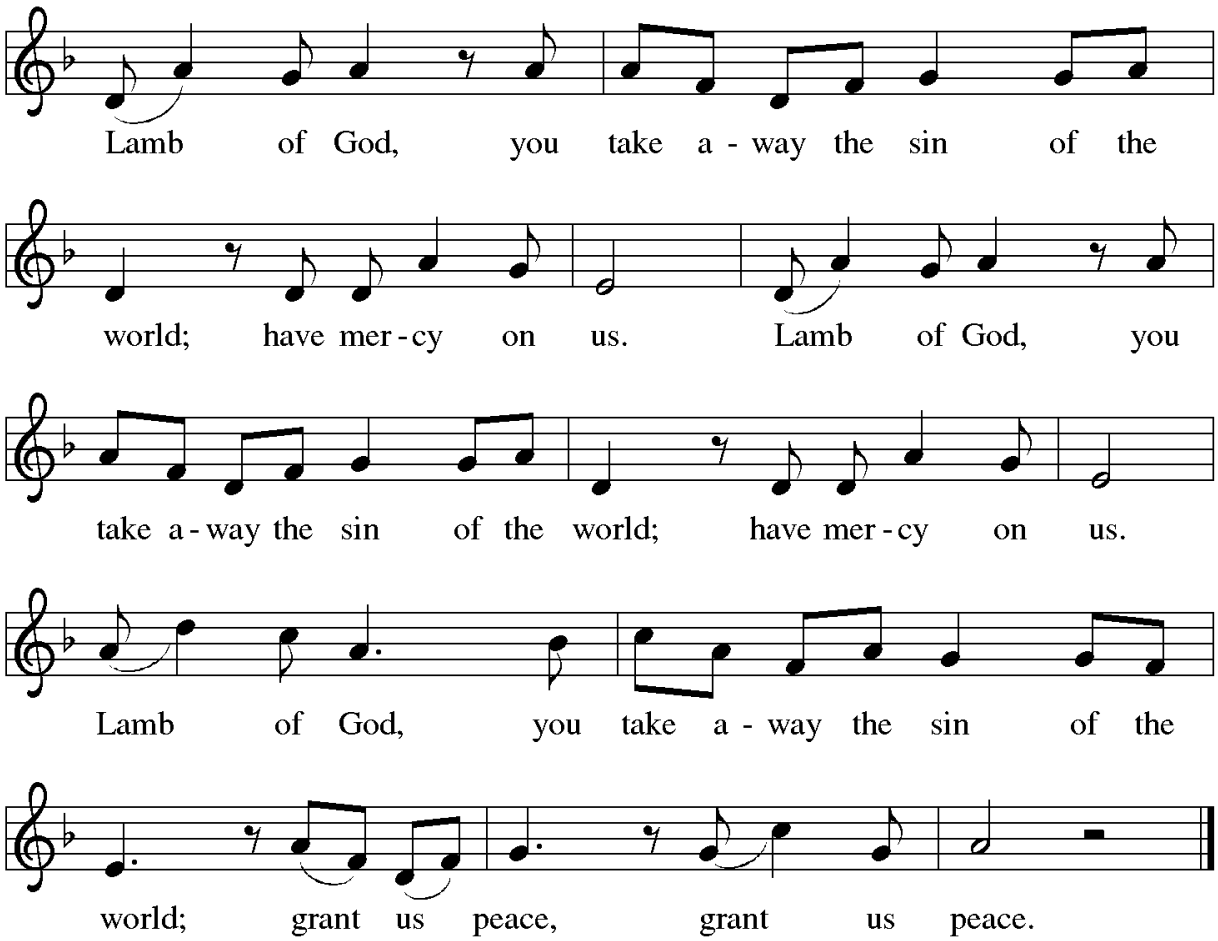
The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

P Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

A **We come to be filled with new life.**

The Assembly is seated.

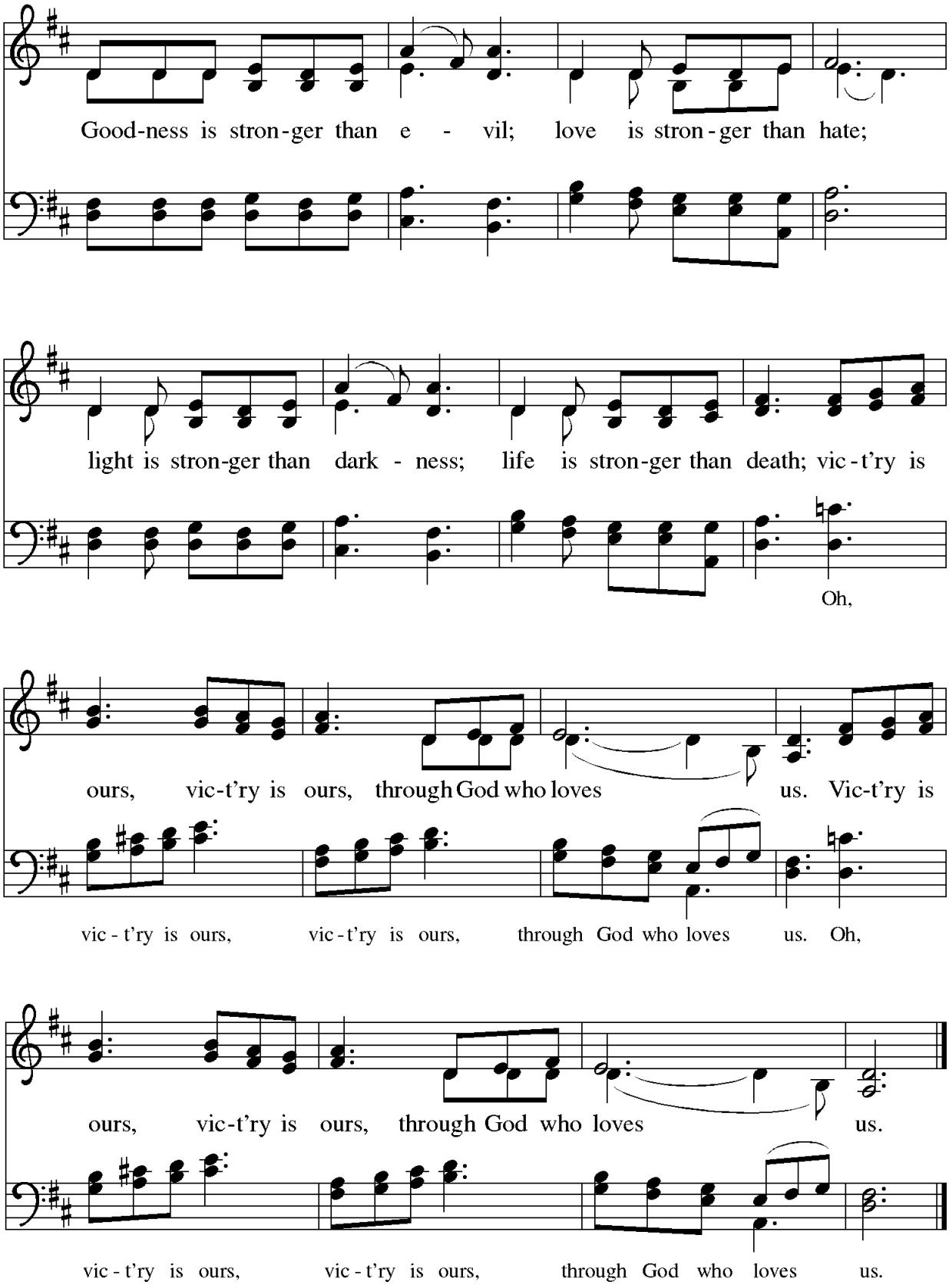
Communion Song Lamb of God S201



Distribution of Holy Communion

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. You may stand or kneel. You will receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion. (If you need communion brought to you, please tell the ushers.)

Communion Hymn "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil" (GOODNESS IS STRONGER) **ELW 721**



The Assembly stands as directed.

Blessing after Communion

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray…
Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

A Amen.

Sending: *God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world …*

Farewell and Godspeed to Diane Keely

Blessing

P The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

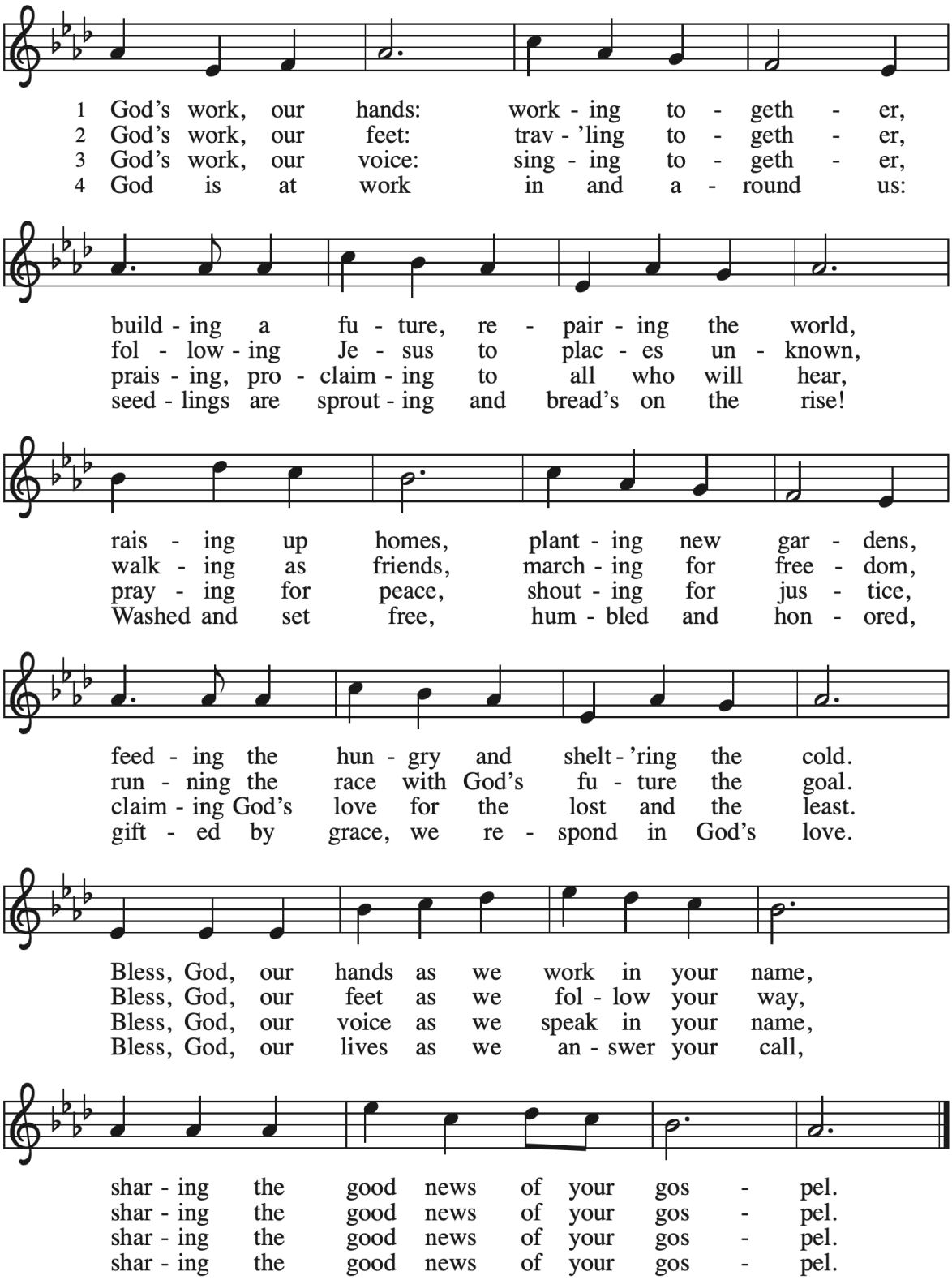
A **Amen.**

P The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

A Amen.

P The God of grace
✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song "God's Work Our Hands" (EARTH AND ALL STARS) **ACS 1000**



Dismissal

L Go in peace. Be led forth in peace.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Sonata 3, 1st movement-Part 4" by Felix Mendelssohn

Come enjoy one another's company and learn what's happening in and throughout Immanuel congregation!!
Today is God's Work Our Hands Sunday! There will be a lunch hosted by Church Council members,
followed by various service projects. All are invited and welcome!

To join coffee hour via Zoom on a smartphone,
scan with your camera to get the link.

Serving in worship today...

Presiding Minister.....The Rev. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister .....Kit McCarthy
Lector .....Susan Ross
Acolyte.....Elora Kloster
Organist .....Greg Hummel
Music Director.....James Morehead
Table Preparation.....Barbara Huffman
Zoom Host.....Jim McCarthy
Audio-Visual Technician.....Kevin McDaniel
Ushers .....Nicolai Schousboe

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Upcoming Events – for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds,* or the website Calendar at www.immanuelevanston.org. Worship services can be attended either in person or online.

Monday, Sep. 14	North Shore Squares	7:00 pm
Tuesday, Sep. 15	Tai-chi	10:30 am
	Midweek Gathering on Zoom	2:00 pm
	North Shore Squares (2 classes)	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Sep. 16	FA Meeting	6:15 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Sep. 17	Daytime Quilters	9:00 am
	Tai-chi	10:30 am
	Wilmette Band Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Sunday, Sep. 20	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
	Sunday Hybrid Worship	10:30 am
	Council Meeting	12:30 pm
	New Community Church	1:00 pm

This week's commemorations...

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407
Sunday, September 13, 2026
John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

Holy Cross Day
Monday, September 14, 2026
Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179
Thursday, September 17, 2026
A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961
Friday, September 18, 2026
A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as Markings, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.
From sundaysandseasons.com.

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Kit McCarthy	Congregation President
Michael Kloster	Congregation Vice President
Jim Miller	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Laura McDaniel, Jared Peck, Terri Simchak	Congregation Council Members
Laurie Stivers	Financial Secretary
James Morehead	Music Director
Greg Hummel	Organist Emeritus
Laurie Stivers	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu	Parish Administrator

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!