The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Longview, WA

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.

St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. **We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!**

Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!



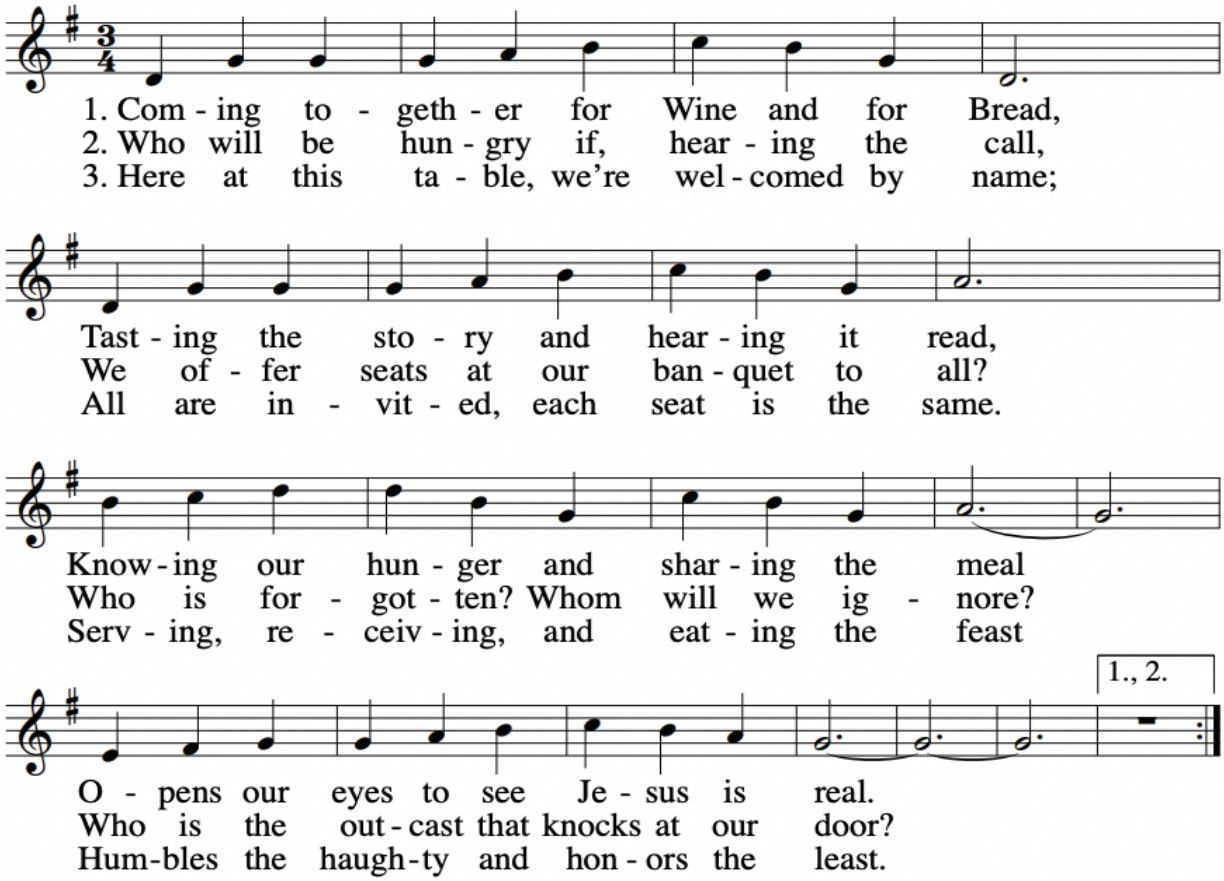
Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

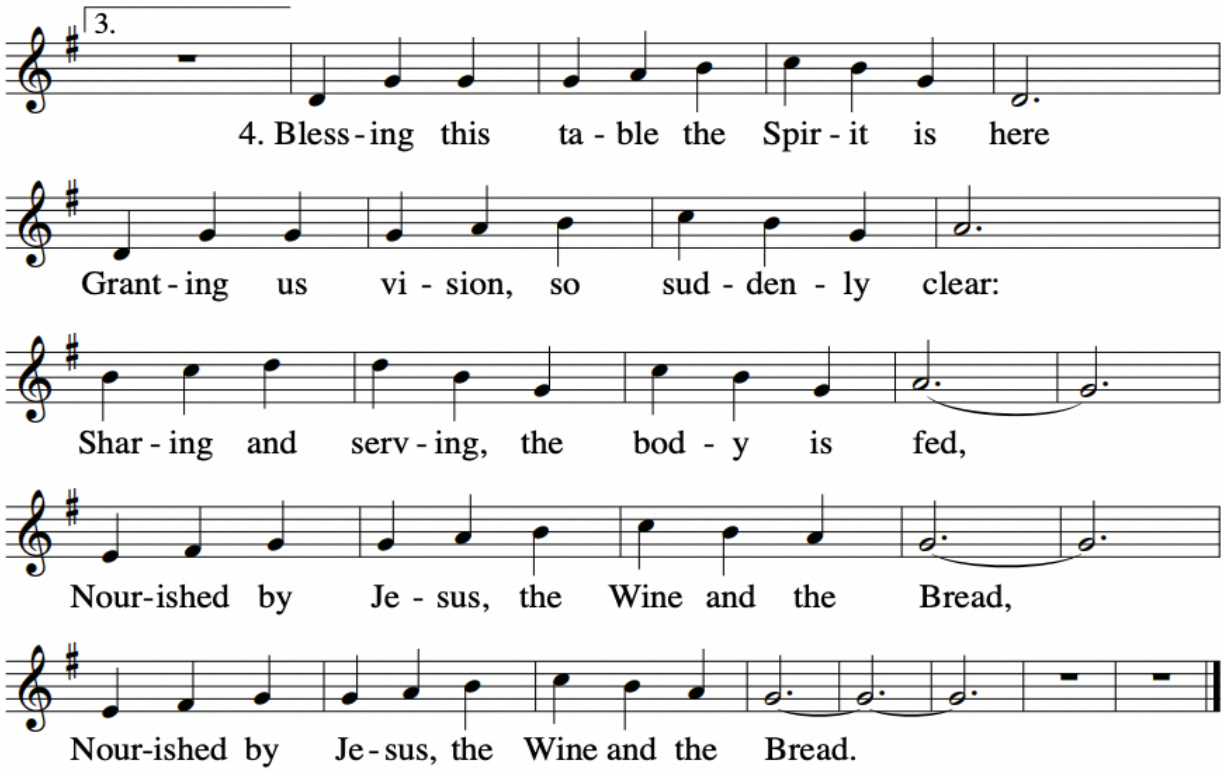
Your Email:_____

Coming Together for Wine and for Bread

Verses 1–3



Verse 4



Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b.1979, © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BLACKHAWK LANE, 10 10 10 10; David Haas, b.1957, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Liturgy of the Word

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

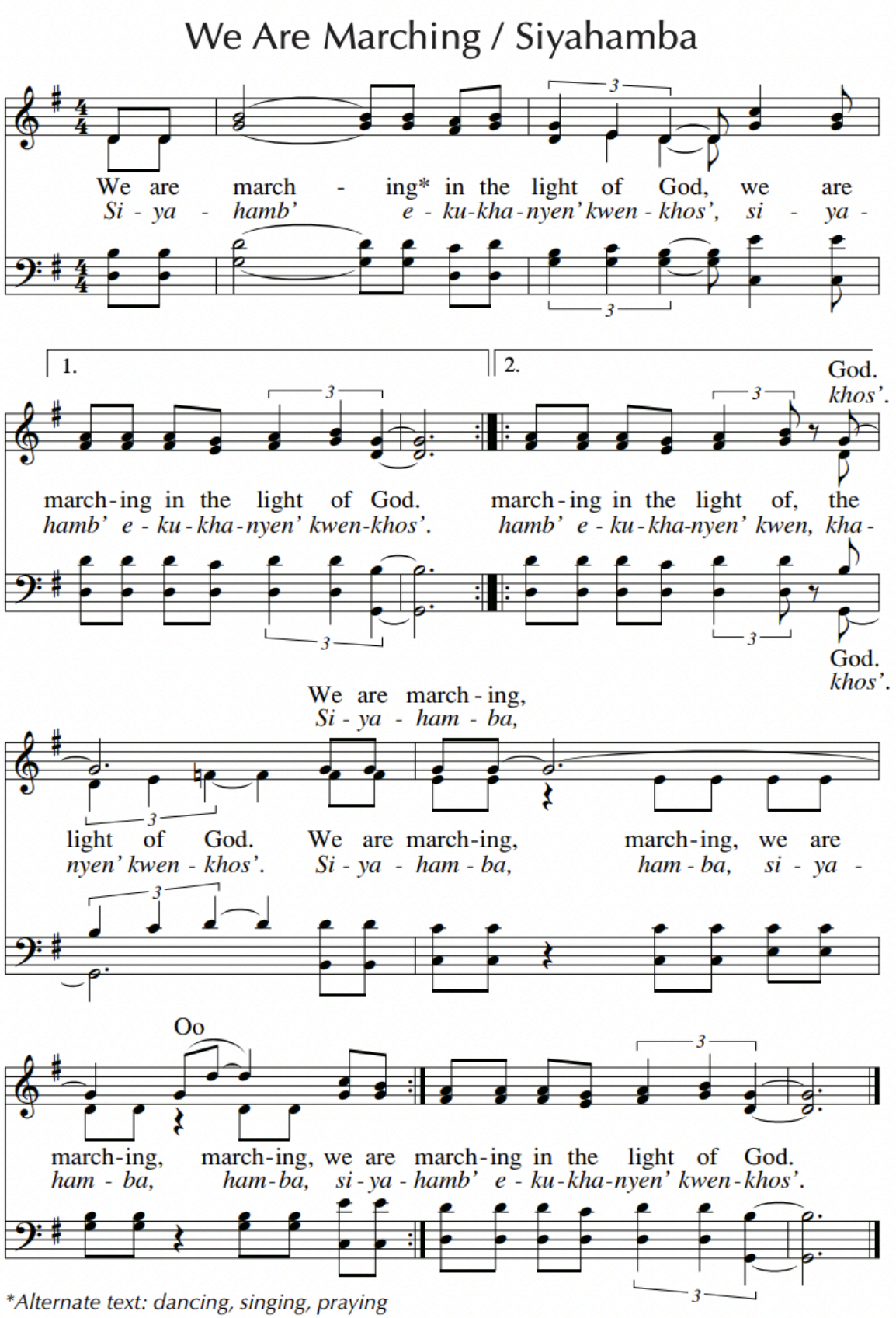
Song of Praise & Children's Procession

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

Worship Leaders November 15, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	
Altar Guild	Michele Waite, Lisa Harrington
Reader	David Piper, Christopher Ortiz
Greeter	Gretchen Niemi
Chalice Bearer	Michele Waite, Lisa Sudar
Usher	Mike Claxton
Verger	Garry Beauregard
Vestry Presence	Heather Niemi, Lisa Harrington
Coffee Hour	Gretchen Moore

First time: "Marching", Second time: "Singing", Third time: "Praying"



Text: South African
Tune: South African
© 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation, agent

The Collect of the Day

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

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

Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture.

A Reading from **Judges 4:1-7**
The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

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

Psalm 123

**1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.**

**2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**

**3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.**

**4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
For we have had more than enough of contempt,**

**5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.**

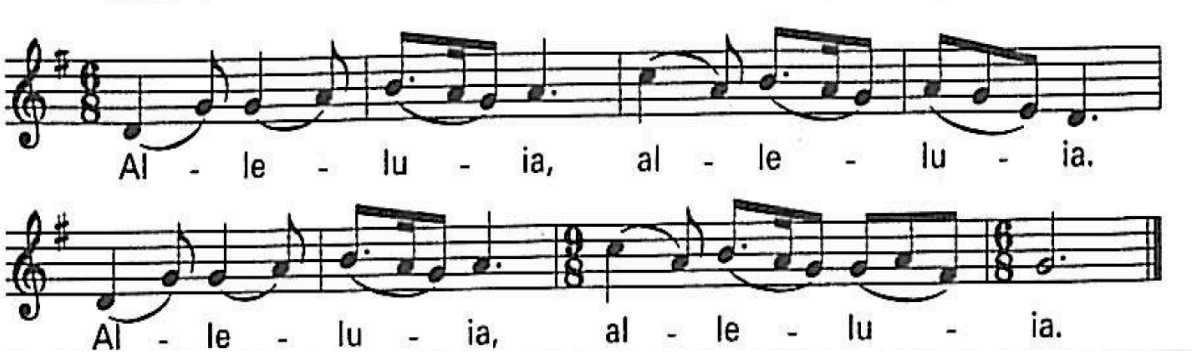
A Reading from **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Matthew 25:14-30**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the

ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily **The Rev. Nic Mather**

Nicene Creed *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*

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

Celebrant: Lord, you give us the gift of life and call us to use this gift for the betterment of the world and the glory of your name. Grant us courage to use your gift fearlessly and in joy and hear us as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the church to be in deeper relationship with each community, for the wisdom to reach those who hunger for you, and to bring them into the work of loving and serving the world in your name. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation and all nations. We pray for the life and needs of all people and an end to policies of oppression. We pray for those who govern, that they might have hearts for their people and priorities for those most in need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our local community and this congregation, that we might cling to hope and labor ceaselessly to build the kingdom in our midst. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the health of the world, for sustainable policies that ensure the abundance of creation and the thriving of people and all your creatures. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to illness and suffering. We pray for those who work to bring hope, healing and assistance to those who are lost, marginalized, imprisoned, ill, suffering, persecuted, or broken. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marge Ofstun, Holly Miller Spieth, Jesse Lucas, Tom & Bev Finlay, Greg Lapic, Glenna Van Allen, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the promise of new life and for all those who leave this life with hope of being in your presence. Especially we pray for Barbara Moore and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord, hear these prayers and answer them as may be best for us, O Father, O Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins *Please kneel in body or spirit*
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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**.

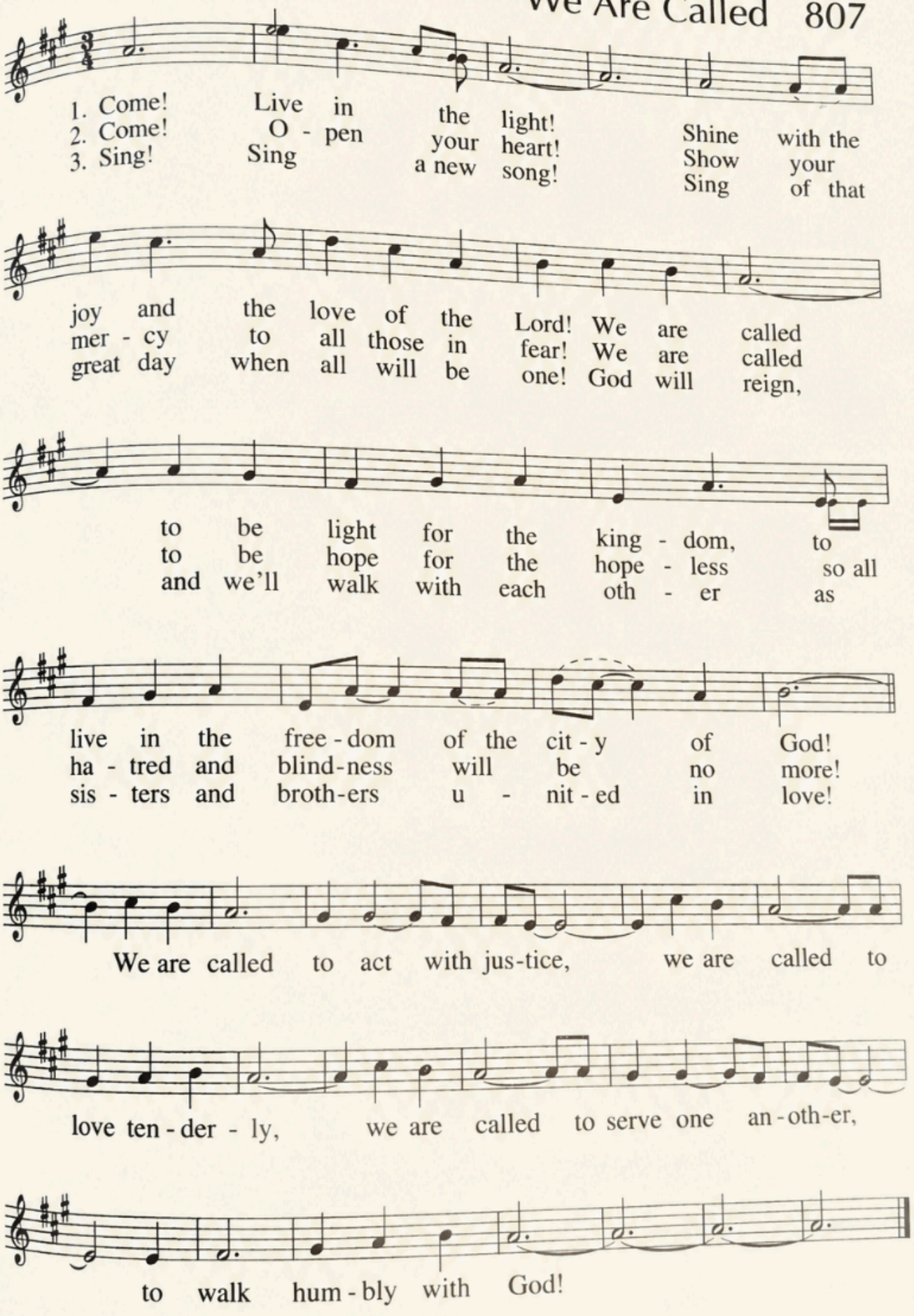
The Peace *You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*
The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence
Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Virtual Offering Plate



We Are Called 807



Text: Micah 6:8; David Haas, b.1957
Tune: David Haas, b.1957
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Eucharistic Prayer B

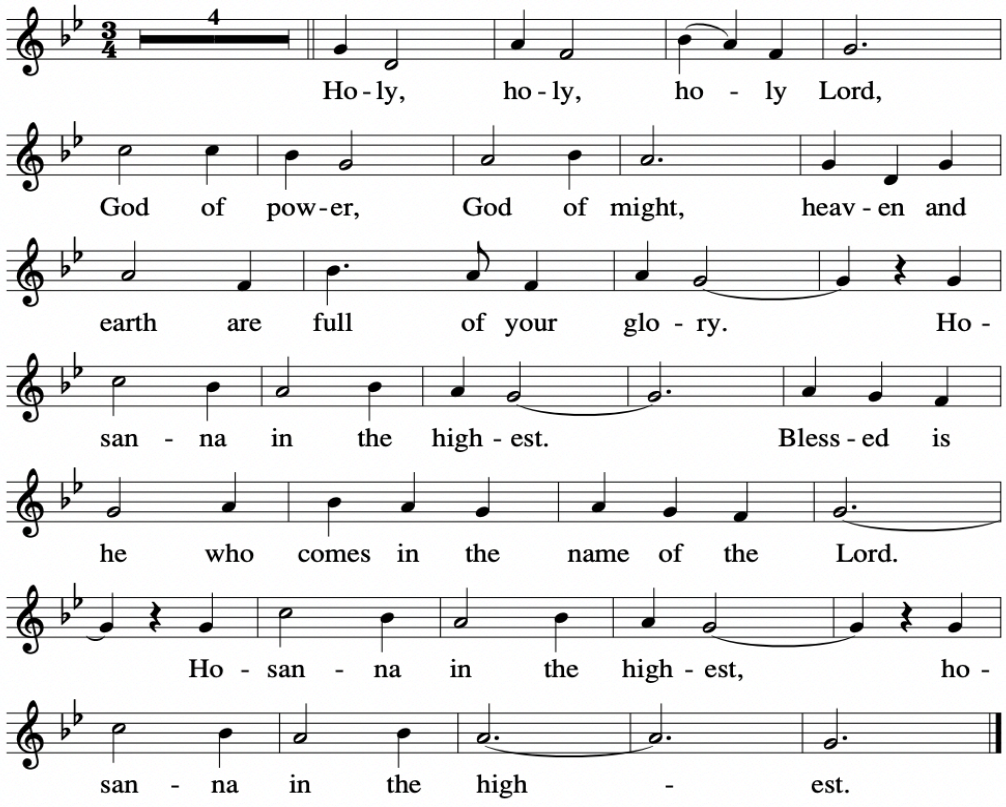
You are invited to stand in body or spirit.

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. 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. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus acclamation is sung to conclude the introduction to the eucharistic prayer.



Music: *Mass of Creation,* Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

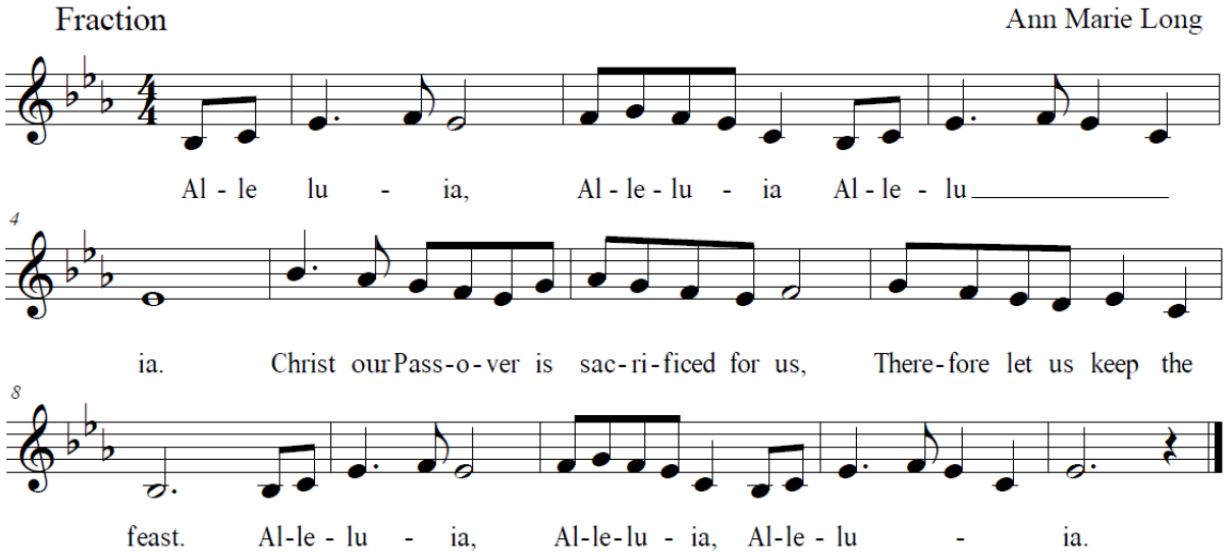
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction

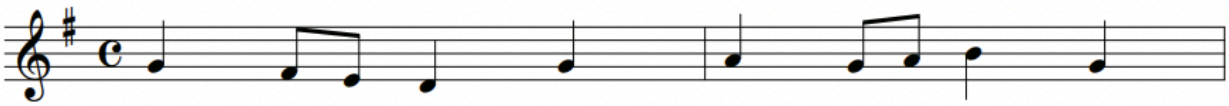


The Invitation to the Table

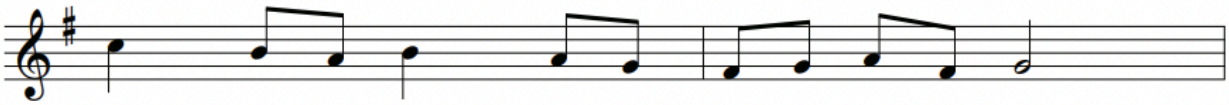
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please leave the bread in your hands and the chalice bearer will intinct for you. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request. You may also place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. ***Know that ALL who God calls to the table are welcome here this day.***

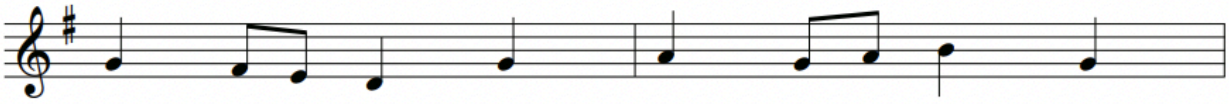
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



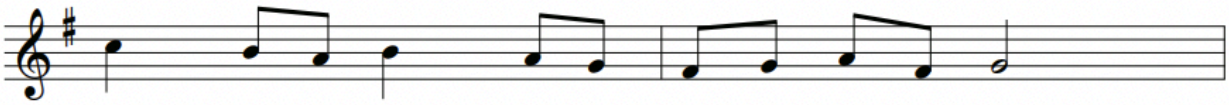
1. Lord, whose love in hum - ble serv - ice
2. Still the chil - dren wan - der home - less,
3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion,
4. Called from wor - ship in - to serv - ice,



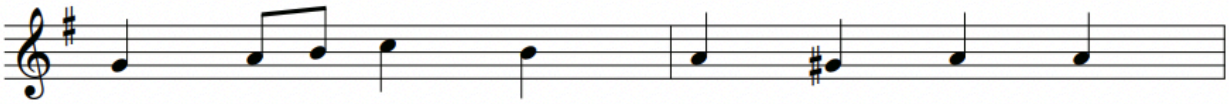
Bore the weight of hu - man need,
Still the hun - gry cry for bread.
Till your love's re - veal - ing light
Forth in your great name we go



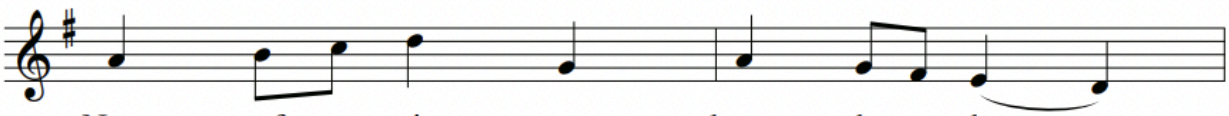
Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
Still the cap - tives long for free - dom,
In its height and depth and great - ness
To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



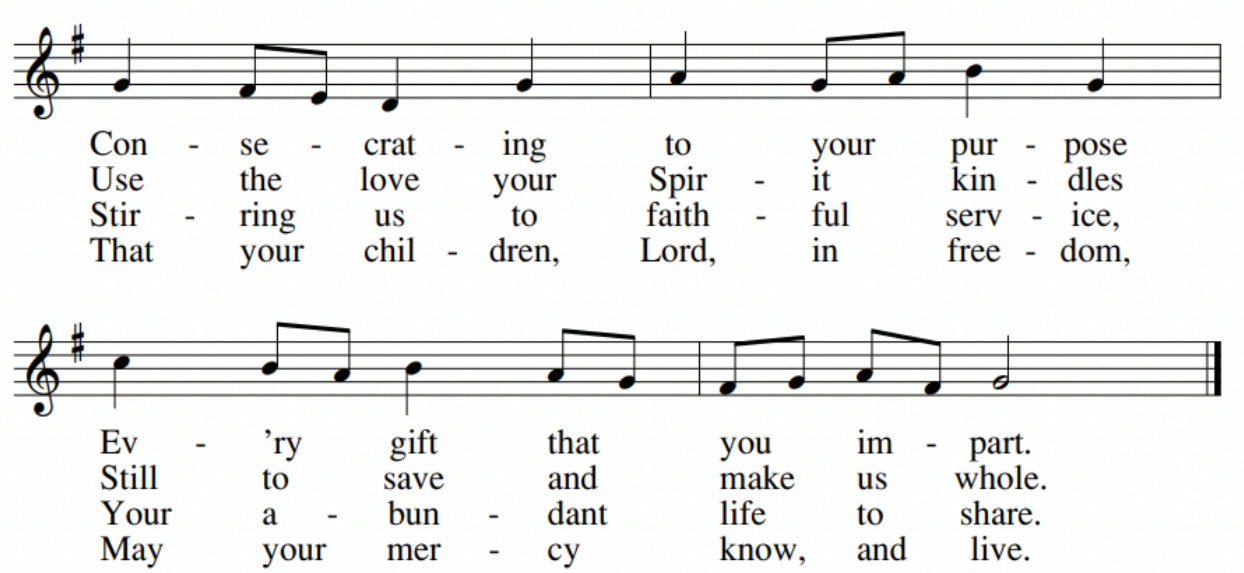
Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed:
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
Dawns up - on our hu - man sight,
Love in liv - ing deeds to show.



We, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion,
Mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
Hope and health, good - will and com - fort,



Not of voice a - lone, but heart,
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt., © 1988, Oxford University Press
Tune: IN BABILONE, 8 7 8 7 D; *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlieties*, c.1710

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. **Amen**.

Postcommunion Prayer
Please stand in body or spirit

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.

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen**.

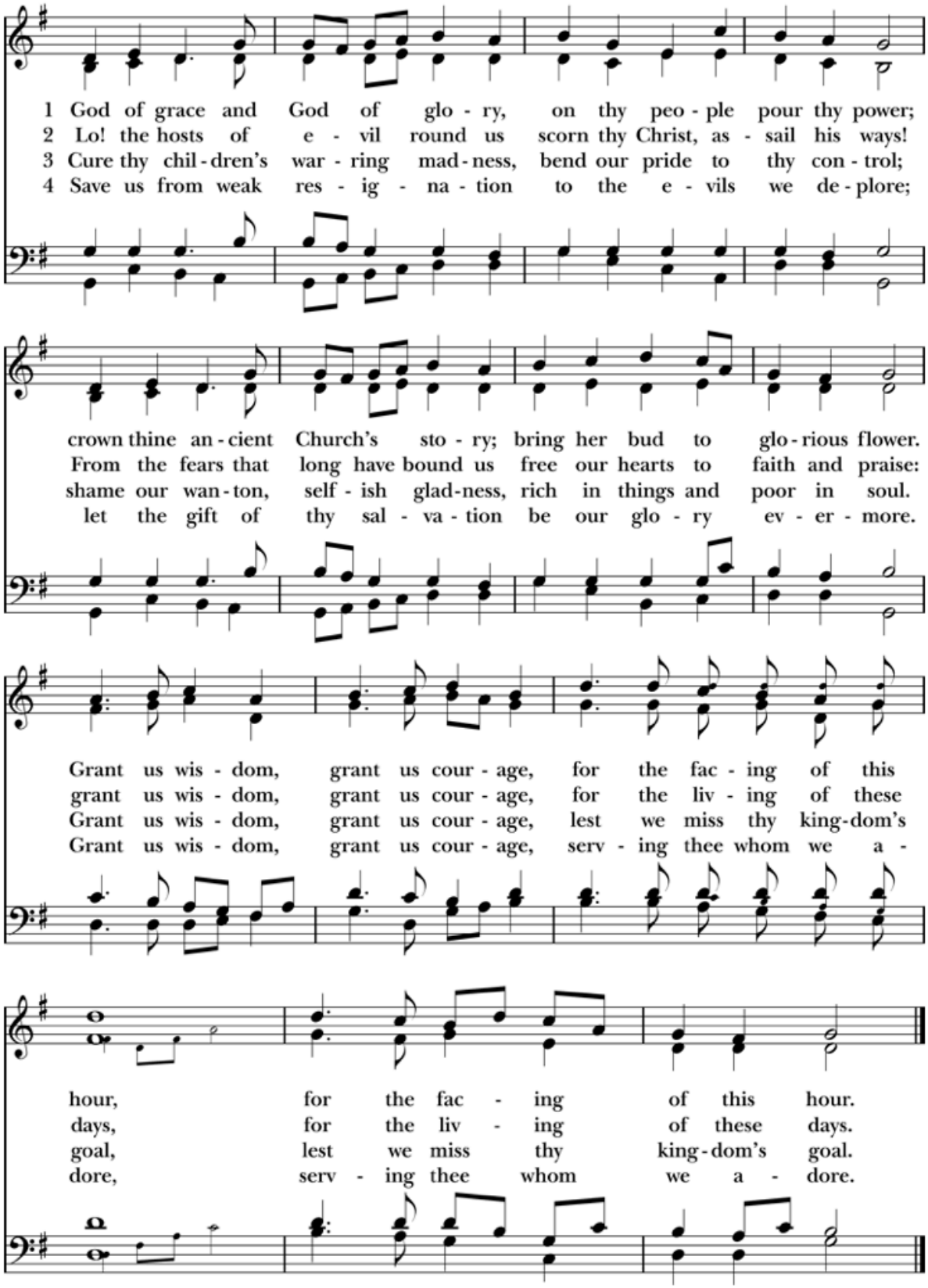
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! If you are new today, please take a welcome packet (found at the front door)!

God of grace and God of glory

The Hymnal 1982, **#594**



Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

Save the Dates:

- **First Sunday of Advent, Sunday November 29:**
  - Annual Advent Potluck:
    - Last Name A-H: Mains; I-O: Sides; P-W: Desserts
  - Advent Wreath Making @ Coffee Hour

- **Feast of St. Nicholas, Thursday December 3, 5-7:30pm:**
  - Crafts & Food!
  - The Story of St. Nic with Special Visitor at 6pm
  - ALL are welcome and invited!

- **Cocoa, Cookies, & Carols, Sunday December 13, 6-7:30pm**
  - ALL are welcome and invited!
  - YOU bring the cookies, WE provide the Cocoa & Carols!

- **Fourth Advent Christmas Pageant, Sunday December 20**
  - All are invited to participate in our Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant!
  - Set decorators, costume support, and actors of all ages welcome!
  - See Fr. Nic to volunteer
  - All involved in the pageant will rehearse at 9am on Sunday December 20, and then will enjoy a provided breakfast before getting in costume and putting on the pageant for the 10:30am service

- **Christmas Eve Worship, Thursday December 24 @ 4pm**
  - Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist

- **Christmas Day Worship, Friday December 25 @ 10:30am**

- **Save the Date! Women's Craft Day Saturday, January 16, 2027, 10AM to 3PM**
  - Join us for a fun day of creativity, laughter, and friendship! Whether you're an experienced crafter or just want to try something new, all are welcome.
  - We'll have morning and afternoon crafting sessions, with a soup and sides potluck lunch in between. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some delicious food, visit with friends, and make new connections! More details to come, so stay tuned!
  - Planning to join us? Please RSVP to Darcy Davis at darcymckee@msn.com so we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!