

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HOLDEN EVENING SERVICE

MAY 31, 2025

4:00 PM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

901 EAST STROOP ROAD

KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688

(937) 298-0136

# INTRODUCTION

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

## Praying for You

Today's gospel reading is first and foremost a prayer. It is Jesus' prayer, and we are given the privilege of listening in as he prays on behalf of his disciples and people of all times and places. Listeners are given a glimpse of Jesus' mission for the world—that all may be drawn into the life of the triune God. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusts this particular community of disciples—but also our communities, our lives, and our world—into the care of God.

What is it Jesus is doing when he prays? What is it the church does when it prays on behalf of the world and other people? To be prayed for by another is to know one's life is cared for and has value to the one praying on your behalf. It is to know that much of the future is out of one's own control but rests instead in the care of the Triune God. To be prayed for is to be vulnerable, dependent, and deeply loved.

Here is the astoundingly good news: Jesus prays for you, and for the communities in which we find ourselves. Whether your cup is empty or full, whether your community is in crisis or experiencing joy, whether your future is foggy or clear, Jesus loves you deeply and your life is bound to the God who loved you before the foundations of the world. On the eve of his death, Jesus entrusted your life and the church's life and its entire future to the Father. What glorious good news that the future rests in the care of the Triune God, and that we, the church, are set free to make God known to the world.

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*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Judy Treadway*

## HONORING THE MINISTRY OF DON BENNETT

### \*\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

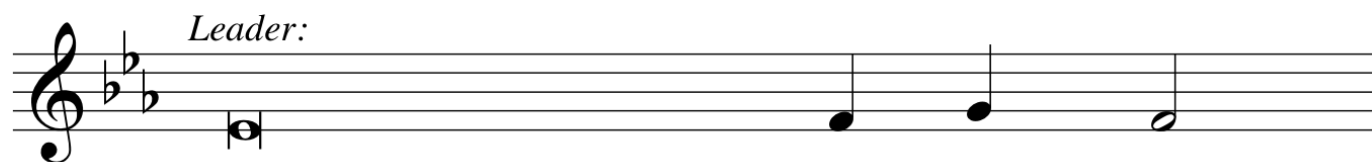
We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

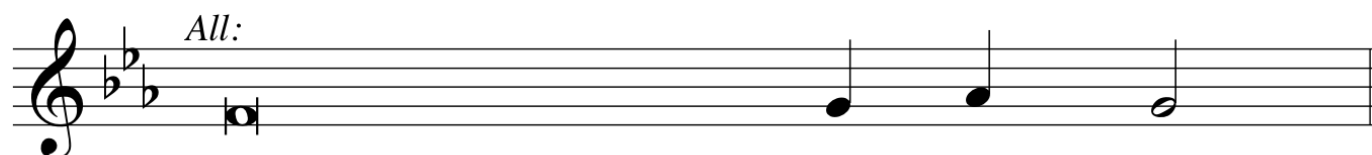
Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

# SERVICE OF LIGHT

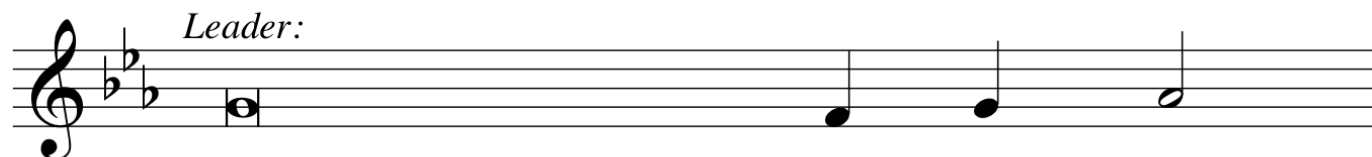
## \*\* PROCESSION



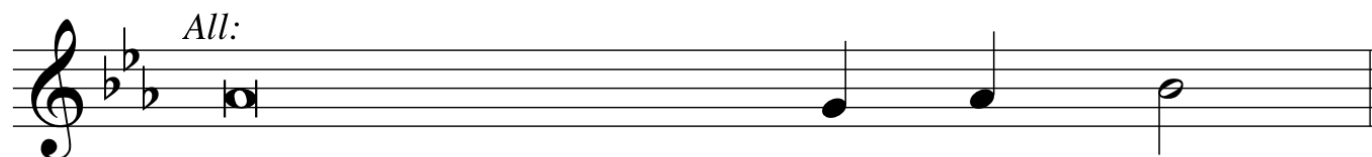
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



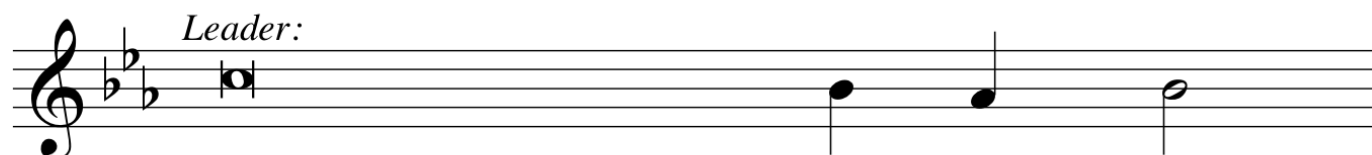
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;



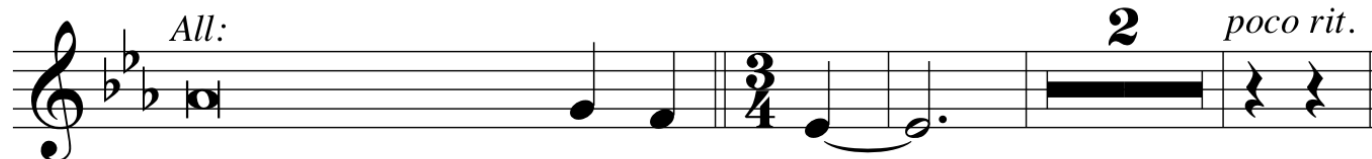
Stay with us now, for it is evening,



and the day is al - most over.



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

**2** *poco rit.*

# \*\* EVENING HYMN



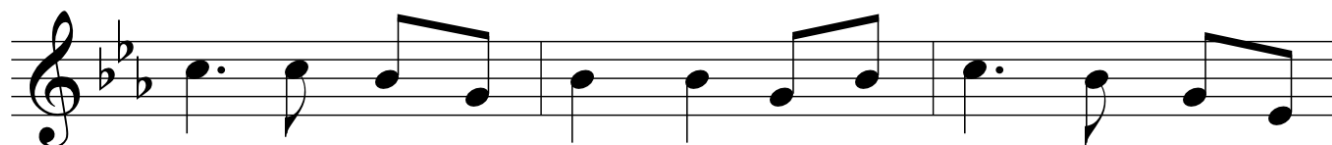
1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing  
 2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the  
 3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's  
 blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and  
 danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as  
 wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
 jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to  
 fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry  
 God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us

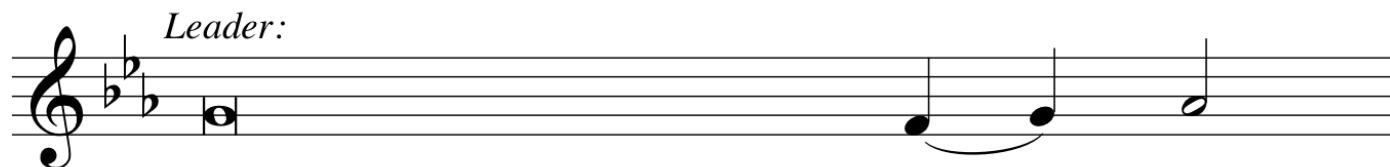


light our hearts a - new. \_\_\_\_\_  
 free and make us whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
 on to end - less day. \_\_\_\_\_

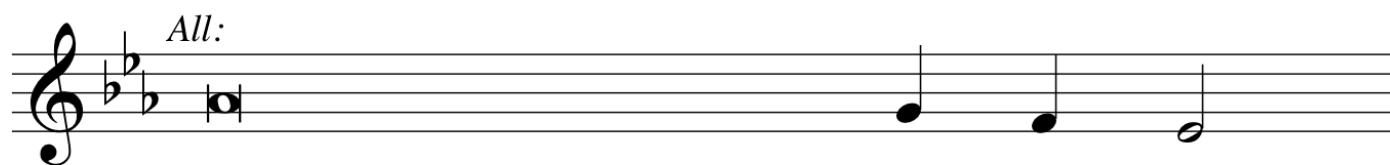
## \*\* THANKSGIVING



May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

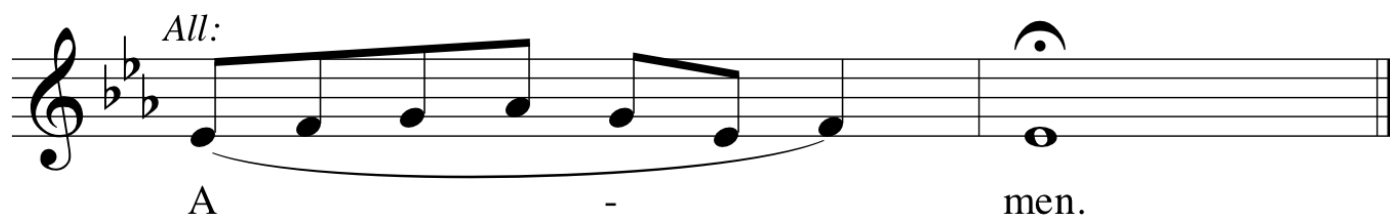


Let us sing our thanks to ——— God,



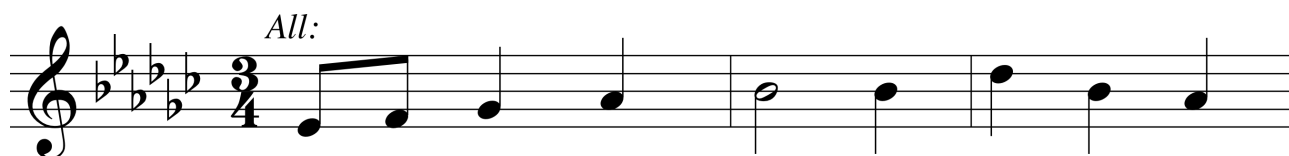
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

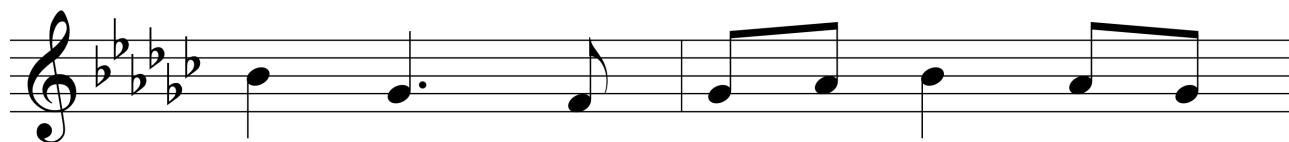


## \*\* PSALM

Psalm 141



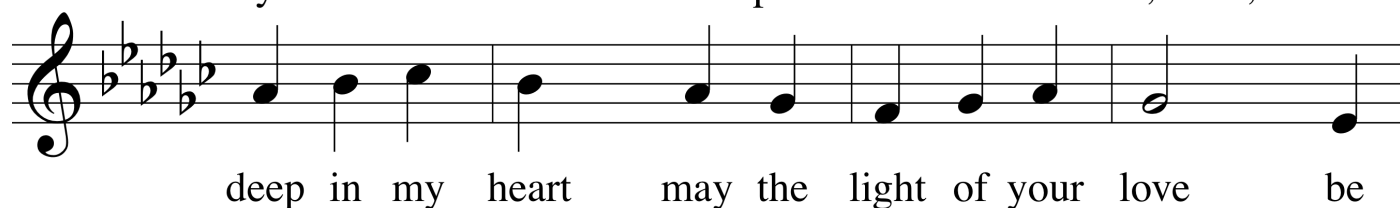
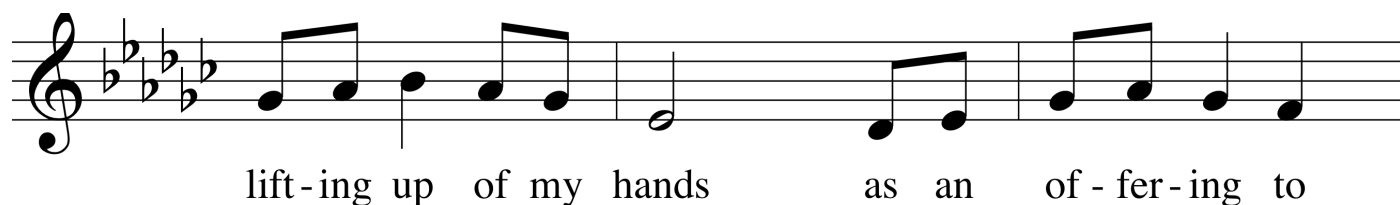
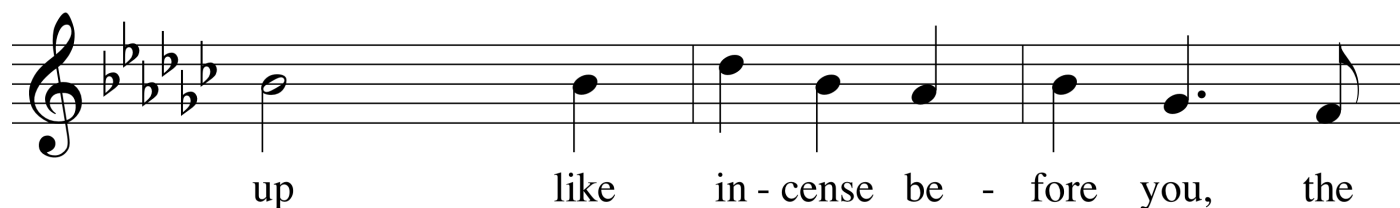
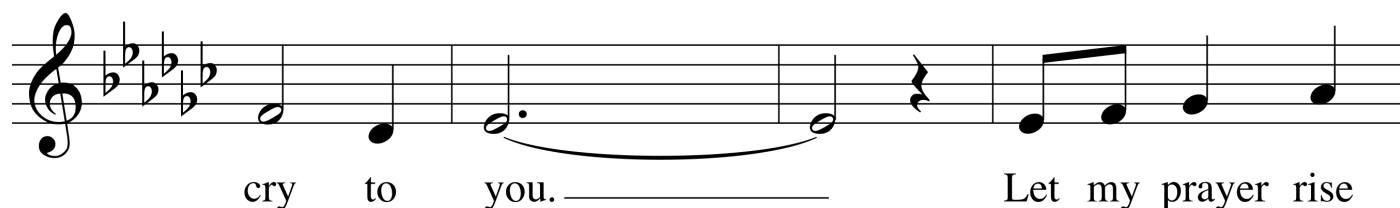
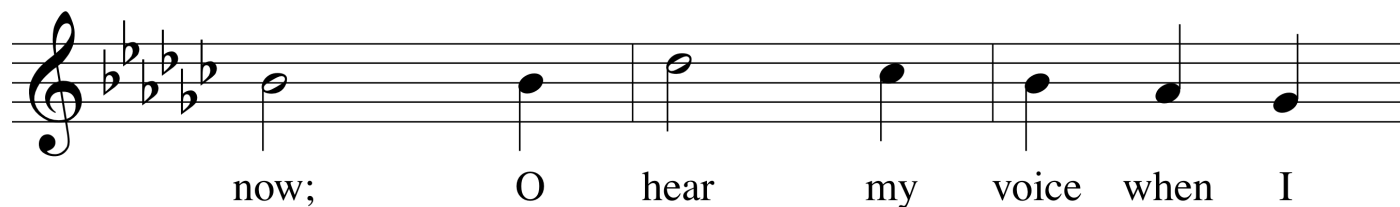
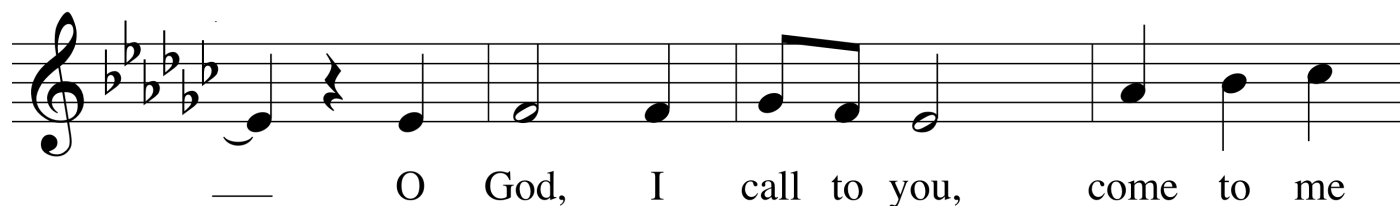
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -



fore you, the lift - ing up of my



hands as an of - fer - ing to you. ———



up like in - cense be - fore you, the

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

you. All praise to the God of all - Cre -

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise

up like in - cense be - fore you, the

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to

you.

*(Silence for meditation.)*



## **\*\* PRAYER**

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 16:16-34

*Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.*

A reading from Acts.

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought

them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

Psalm 97

*Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous. (Ps. 97:12)*

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.

**Clouds and darkness surround the Lord,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

Fire goes before the Lord,  
burning up enemies on every side.

**Lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.**

The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.

**The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord,  
and all the peoples see your glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!  
Bow down before the Lord, all you gods.

**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O Lord.**

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**You who love the Lord, hate evil!**

**God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the honest of heart.

**Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

## **SECOND READING**

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

*The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.*

A reading from Revelation.

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

John 17:20-26

*Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Bob Swanson*

**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
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.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

*Please place your offering in the offering plate in the main aisle.*

*We also ask that you complete an attendance card and place it in the offering plate.*

*Please gather around the communion rail with your worship bulletin.*

**\*\* DIALOGUE**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**\*\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both

enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## **\*\* LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

***For those communing at home or in the pew:***

**COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

## REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

### \*\* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

### \*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Silence for meditation. All may return to their seats.)*

## ANNUNCATION

Luke 1:26–28, 30–32, 38

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

# MAGNIFICAT

*All:*

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, heart, You have looked with love on your  
You have filled the hun - gry with

*fine last time*

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

## LITANY & PRAYERS

**A** *Repeat continuously*

(Hmmm)

**B**

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

*Leader:* **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

*Leader:* **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal - va - tion, we pray to you:

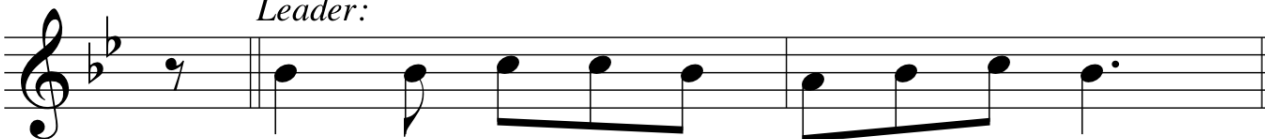
*Leader:* **A** **B**

3. For peace be - tween na - tions, for peace be - tween peo - ples:

4. For us who are gath - ered to wor - ship and praise you:  
 5. For all of your ser - vants who live out your gos - pel:  
 6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus - tice might guide them:  
 7. For all those who la - bor in ser - vice to oth - ers:  
 8. Grant weath - er that nour - ish - es all of cre - a - tion:  
 9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:  
 10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:




*Leader:*




Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

*All:*



Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.



## PRAYER

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*\* PRAYER & SENDING OF DON BENNETT

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Don, who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve him at this time of transition. Day by day, guide him and give him what is needed, friends to cheer his way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling him. By your Holy Spirit be present in his pilgrimage, that he may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

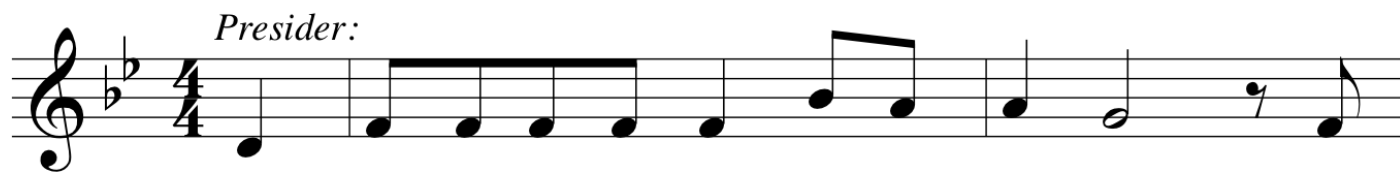
## FINAL BLESSING

*Leader:* *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

*Presider:*



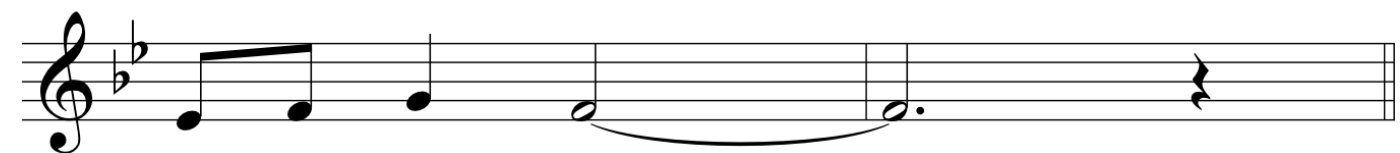
May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the

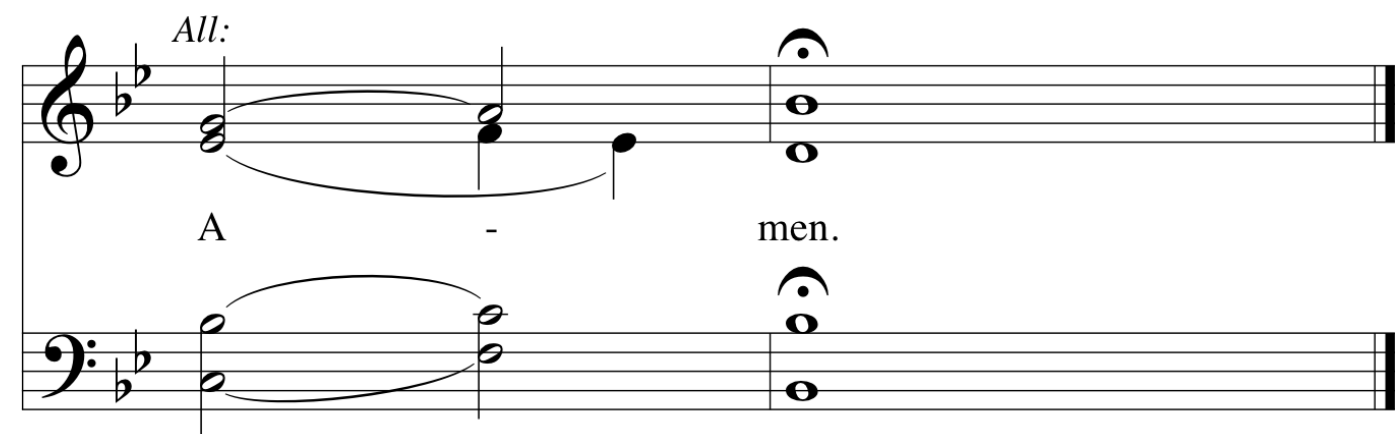


Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. \_\_\_\_\_

*All:*



A - men.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Hallelujah! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!**

Go in peace. In Christ, you are made new.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,**

**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

## **Justin, martyr at Rome, died around 165**

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

## **The Martyrs of Uganda, died 1886**

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men were burned to death for refusing to renounce Christianity. The confident manner in which these Christians went to their deaths contributed to a much stronger Christian presence in Uganda.

## **John XXIII, Bishop of Rome, died 1963**

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

When elected pope, the former Angelo Roncalli was expected to be a short-term caretaker. He showed great spirit, though, and convened the Second Vatican Council which helped bring great changes to Roman Catholic and other churches.

## **Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754**

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

## **Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, died 1866**

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him.