

Created, Saved and gifted by God,
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, October 11, 2026
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 East Stroop Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-0136

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Expensive Wedding. Expensive Grace.

An average wedding in North America can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars—or more! From the venue to flowers to food, invitations to music to photos, formal wear to centerpieces to officiants, getting married is not cheap.

In today's gospel Jesus tells a parable about a wedding invitation, a banquet, and God's grace. Jesus teaches about a king who ultimately invites all people to a wedding banquet. At first this parable seems to portray a wide open and gracious invitation to a wedding celebration. However, by the end it is hard not to feel sorry for the poor guy who gets a last-minute invitation but gets thrown out for not wearing the correct wedding duds! Again, getting married is not cheap—but neither is grace.

Receiving God's grace changes people. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught, God's grace is not cheap; it comes at a great cost upon the cross. Once we receive this costly grace, our lives are never the same. This grace compels us to act and calls us to bear fruit with our lives, sharing this grace with others. To continue to live in the same way after receiving this gracious invitation is not an option. So what are we to do? We simply receive the gracious invitation to the banquet and find a changing room—it's time to live a new life.

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

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mallory Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Come as You Are"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been.

Come, broken-hearted, let rescue begin.

Come, find your mercy. O sinner, come, kneel;

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal,

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.

All who are broken, lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home;

You're not too far.

So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart,

Come as you are.

(Verse 2 - All)

There's hope for the hopeless

And all those who've strayed.

Come, sit at the table; come, taste the grace.

There's rest for the weary,

Rest that endures;

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure.

(Refrain - All / Music Ministers)

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.

All who are broken, lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home;

You're not too far.

So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart,

Come as you are.

Come as you are.

Fall in his arms.

Come as you are.

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

There's joy for the mourning. O sinner, be still.
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal,
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.

(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers)

So, lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.

All who are broken, lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home;

You're not too far.

So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart,

Come as you are.

Come as you are. Come as you are. Come as you are.

OPENING LITANY

God, who searched us and knows us, invites us to the feast, just as we are.

And so, we come just as we are: hungry for peace and thirsting for renewal.

Here, at this banquet, there is a place set for all of God's children: every sinner, every saint. God's mercy has no limits.

The Good Shepherd leads us to cool, safe waters and revives our weary souls.

Take heart, people of God, for at this table there is found abundance. Be free, and trust in God's power to save.

**We gather at the table of the feast of life,
where we find refuge in the Word, forgiveness in the Sacrament,
and where we see your face in one another.**

GATHERING SONGS

"As We Gather at Your Table"

1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble,
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon

As we lis - ten to your Word,
In the sac - ra - ment of life;
Oth - er guests to share that feast



Help us know, O God, your pres - ence:
 Send us forth to love and serve you,
 Where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come

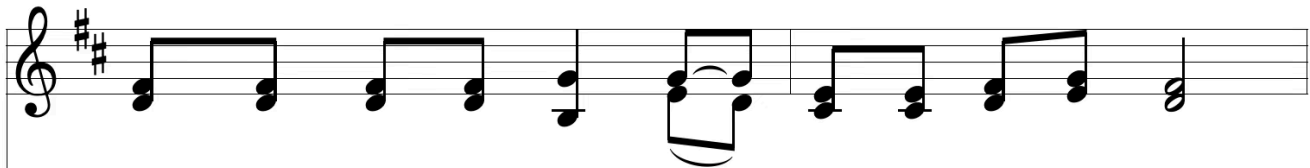
Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with
 Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your
 Those who had been last and least. There no more will

sa - cred sto - ry Till we claim it as our own;
 great com - pas - sion To for - give as you for - gave;
 en - vy blind us Nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

Teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet
 May we still be - hold your im - age
 As we join with saints and an - gels

How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 In the world you died to save.
 To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

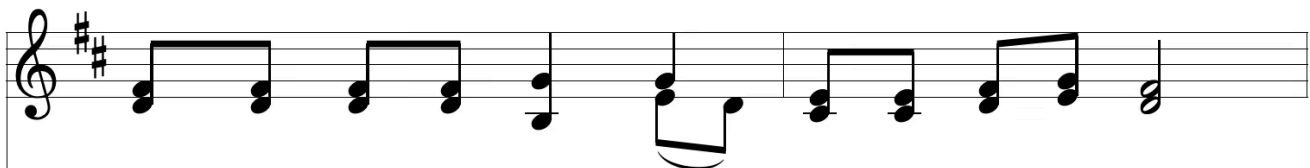
"Hearts on Fire"



1 When you heard the si - lence bro - ken in the square,
 2 When the com - mon fab - ric was torn be - fore your eyes,
 3 When you joined with thou - sands stand - ing side by side,
 4 When you dreamed a feast where ev - 'ry - one was fed,



tell me was your heart on fire?
 tell me was your tongue on fire?
 tell me was your soul on fire?
 tell me was your heart on fire?



When you heard the great dream ring - ing in the air,
 When you watched the plain truth pa - pered o'er with lies,
 When you knew you'd win what so long was de - nied,
 When you dreamed a cit - y where all had a bed,



tell me was your heart on fire? Was your heart on fire like
 tell me was your tongue on fire? Was your tongue on fire like
 tell me was your soul on fire? Was your soul on fire like
 tell me was your heart on fire? Was your heart on fire like



mine? Was your heart on fire like mine? We
 mine? Was your tongue on fire like mine? We
 mine? Was your soul on fire like mine? We
 mine? Was your heart on fire like mine? We

gath - er in the morn - ing to clear the path of peace,
 gath - er in the sun - light and speak the truth to pow'r,
 gath - er at the ta - ble and pass the cup of joy,
 gath - er in the eve - ning and long - ing is our prayer,

we with hearts on fire, we with hearts on fire.
 we with tongues on fire, we with tongues on fire.
 we with souls on fire, we with souls on fire.
 we with hearts on fire, we with hearts on fire.

"Broken in Love"

This is my bod - y, bro - ken in love; take it and
eat and re - mem - ber me. This is my blood,
poured out in love; take it and drink and re - mem - ber
me. For love is will - ing ev - 'ry day to
die in or - der to live, and love is pa - tient
for a way to share the gifts that I give.

The musical score is written on six staves, each with a treble clef. The notes are simple, using quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

** CONFESSION

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**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.**

**** FORGIVENESS**

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. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assisting Minister

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your
life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is
honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and
peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet
portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was
depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The
prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

A reading from Isaiah, the twenty-fifth chapter.

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,

for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

A reading from Philippians, the fourth chapter.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**** GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

The holy gospel, according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pr. Mallory Morris

**** 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.

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

After each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*"Psalm 23" by Stuart Townend
Chancel Choir*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in you alone,
And I will trust in you alone;
For your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And he anoints my head with oil;
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one;
For you are with me, and your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

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. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

** 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

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 ~ We believe that the communion table is not Pr. Mallory's table, Good Shepherd Lutheran's table, or even the ELCA's table. This is God's table. And because this is God's table, we believe that anyone who wishes to receive communion can come forward and do so without condition or qualification.

Please note that we provide a non-alcoholic option (white) for those who do not want to partake of the communion wine (red). We also have gluten-free wafers available for those who need them. Simply let Pr. Mallory and the communion assistants know that you need something different when they come to you.

If anyone wishes to come forward and receive a blessing instead of communion elements, you are welcome to come forward to the communion rails with your arms crossed over your chest in the shape of an "X" instead.

If mobility concerns make it difficult to come forward for communion, you can alert the ushers, and they will let Pr. Mallory know to come to you.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder 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.**

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister

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. **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.**

SENDING

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

**** BLESSING**

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

**** SENDING SONG**

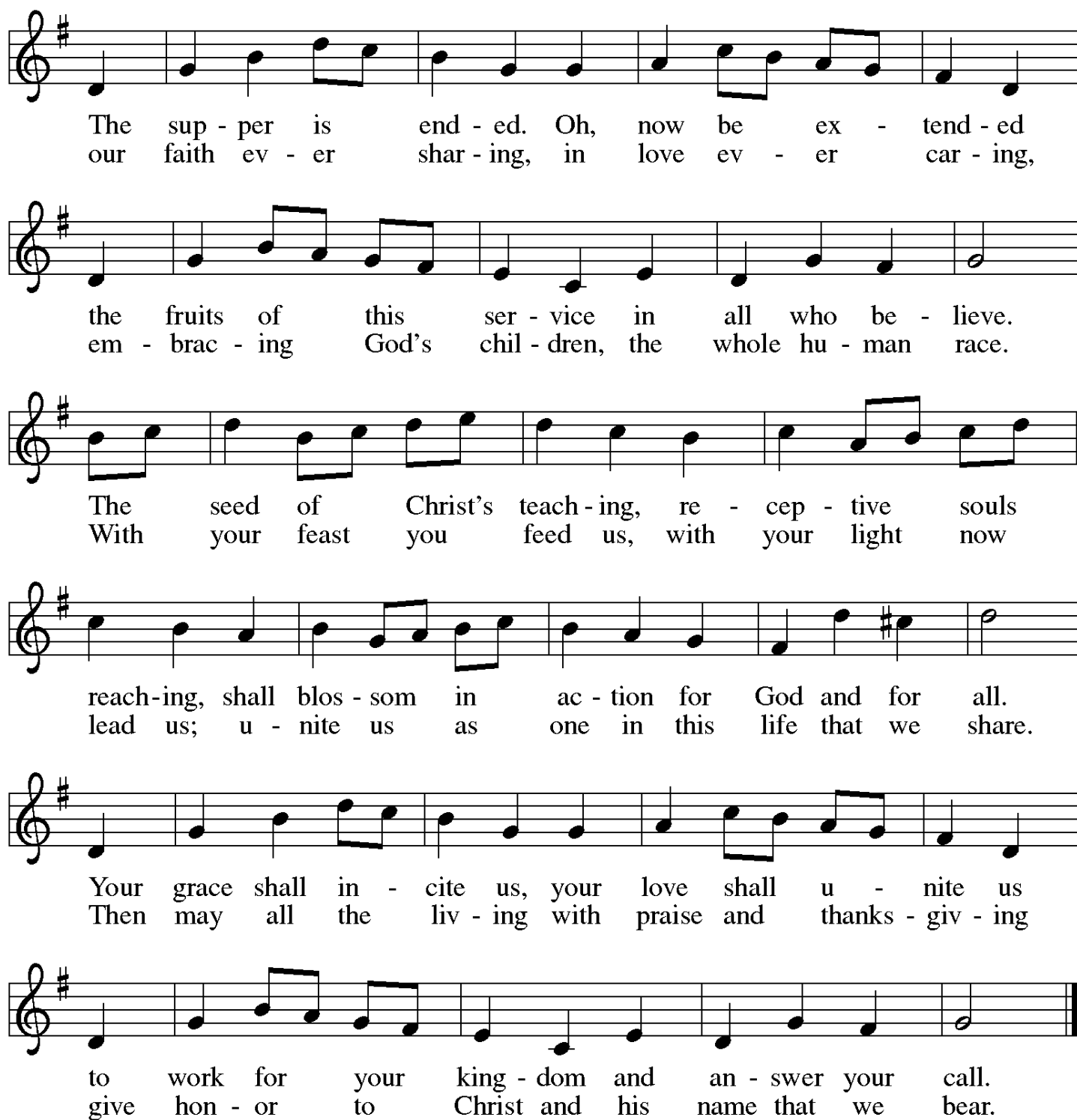
"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

**** DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Created, saved and gifted by God,

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

“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

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1986 (TFF)

Saturday, October 10, 2026

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

Marmaduke N. Carter, pastor, 1961 (TFF)

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

In 1916 Marmaduke Carter became the principal of the Christian Day School (formerly called the Rosebud School) and the first pastor of Christ Church, Rosebud, Alabama, a pioneering congregation in African American ministry among Lutherans in the South.

Teresa of Ávila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582

Thursday, October 15, 2026

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.