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

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 25, 2026
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 East Stroop Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-0134

Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

"Know God, Know Ourselves"

This is a Sunday packed with beautiful images, deep-seeded ideas, and a rich history. For life-long Lutherans, these things can provoke a sense of pride in our denomination, but Reformation Sunday is not "Lutheran Pride Day." Instead it is a day focused on knowing God truthfully and, in light of God's unbelievable grace, understanding who we are as people of faith and children of God.

Luther spent a great deal of time trying to know who God was and to find ways of expressing what he came to know and believe so that others would know God too. He used coarse language, drank beer, and wrote hymns using tunes people knew and recognized. When he wrote his catechism he used language his small son could understand. He even translated the Bible into the language people spoke. Truth about God and our faith, as complex as it is, should be something we can grasp and wrestle with.

Reformation Sunday is certainly a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. Part of that is recognizing the truth about our inadequacies, our failings, and our sinfulness. The law is like a mirror in a room with intense fluorescent lights; it shows us who we are with every flaw and wrinkle. But God doesn't look at us in that mirror. The truth about God brings us new knowledge about ourselves. God shines a new light on us, forgiving and forgetting our iniquities and sins.

The message of Reformation Sunday is God's love for us. It is a love that frees us and redefines us as people of God and as members of the whole body of Christ. In God's eyes, we are beautiful.

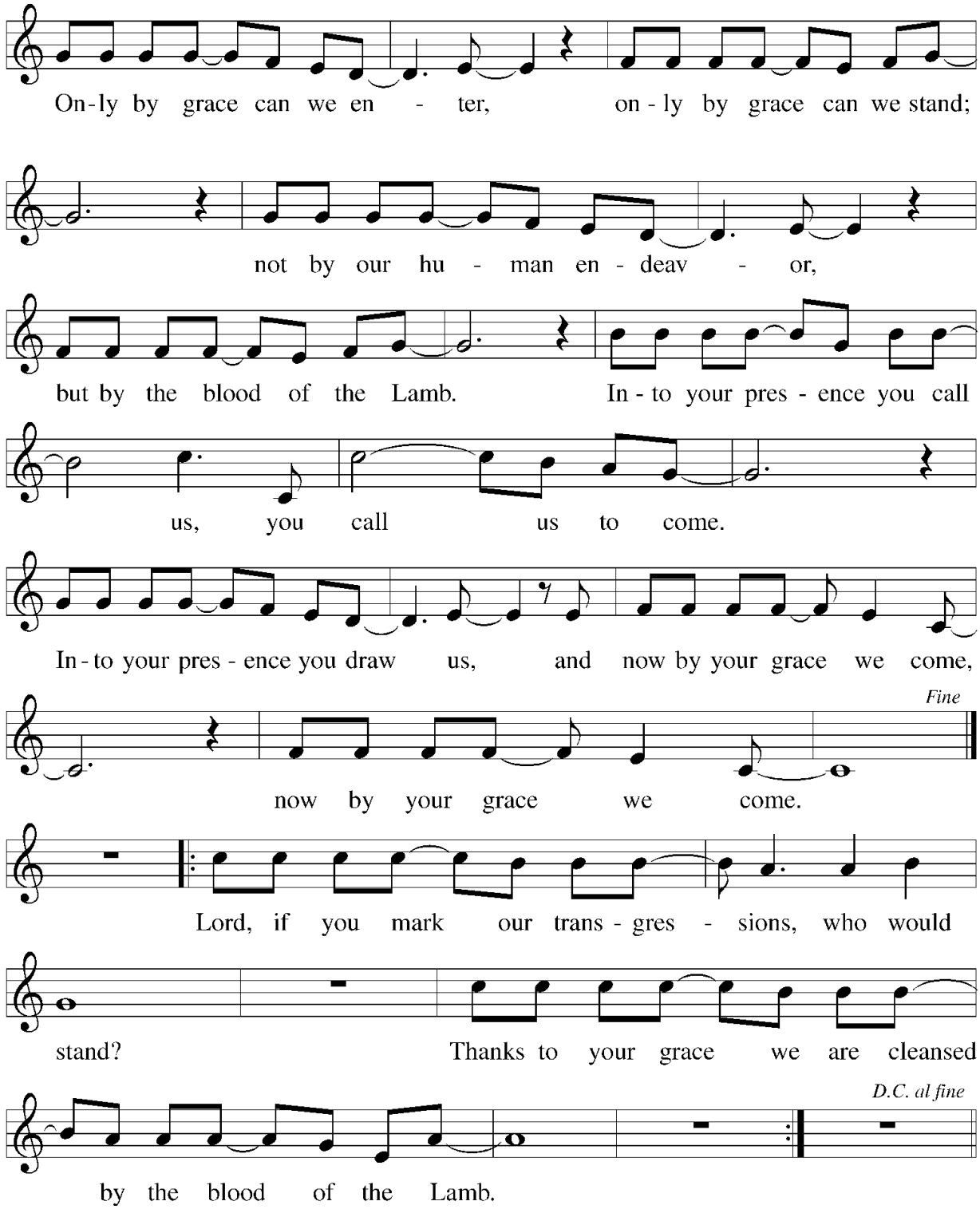
** *indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE "Song without Words: Faith" (Op.102, No 6)
by Felix Mendelssohn
Mark Shoemaker, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Pastor Mallory Morris*

CALL TO WORSHIP "Only by Grace"

** **OPENING LITANY**

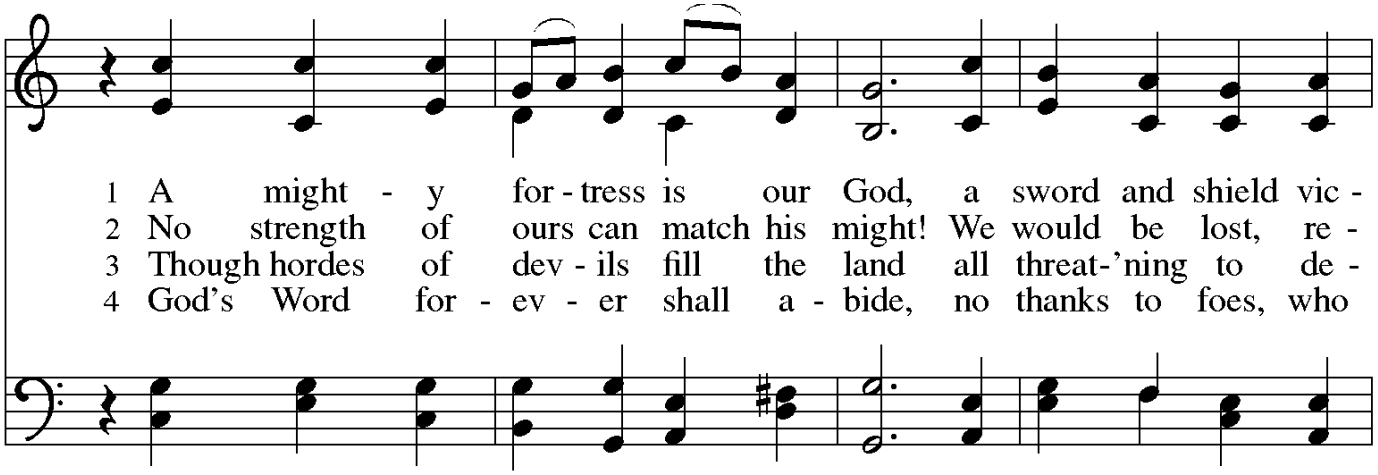
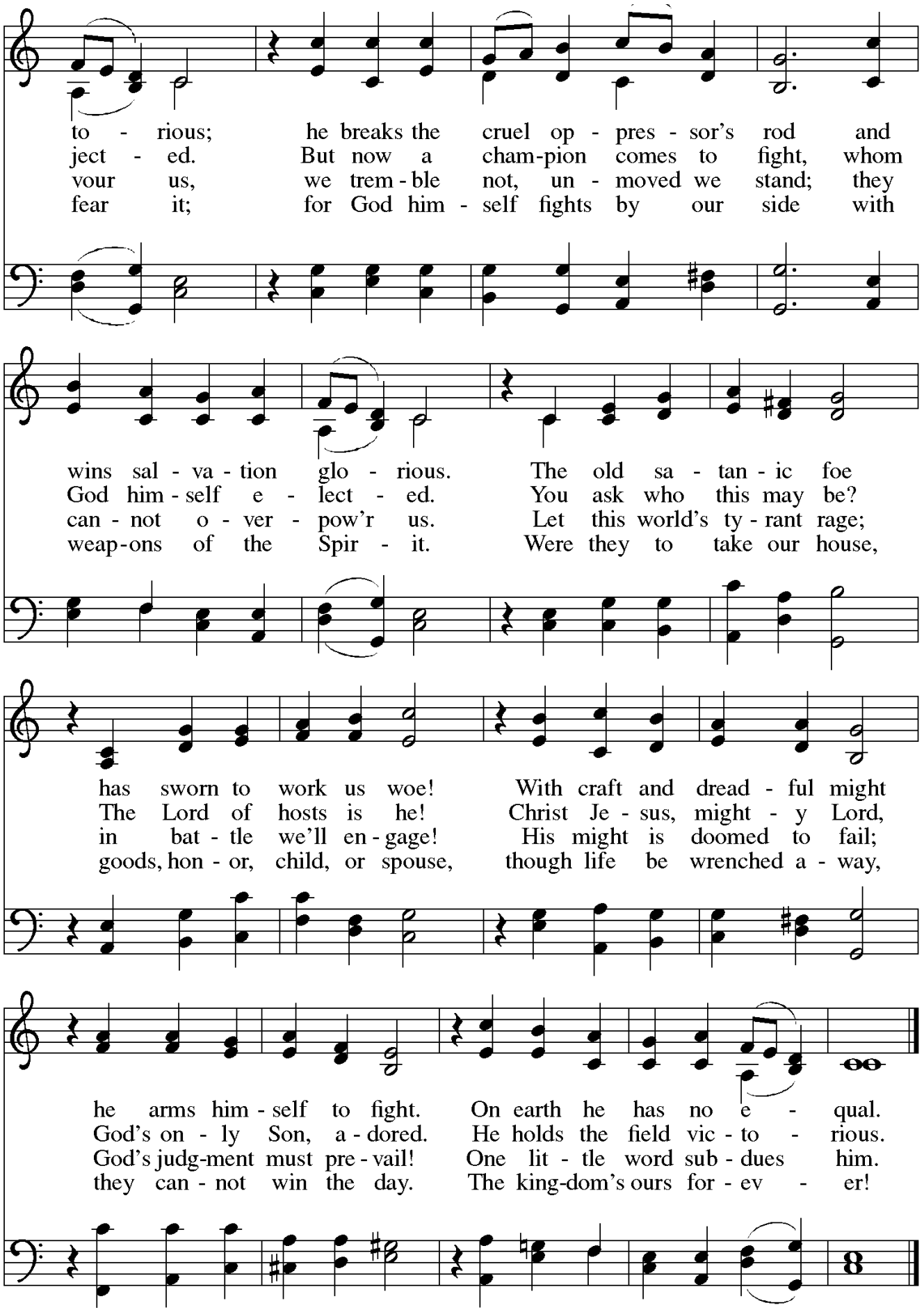
We gather on this holy day to worship God,
whose Spirit has animated the church since the very beginning.
We come as we are: sinners, poor and needy,
and ever-thankful for your grace, free and unearned.

From generation to generation, the Spirit has continually raised up faithful voices—scholars, teachers, and reformers—
to call us back to the heart of the gospel when we have lost our way.
We give thanks for all those who bravely followed the Spirit's leading.

Through their work and witness, the Scriptures were opened anew,
allowing the light of God's word to reach into everyday lives**.**
We are grateful for your Word
and for the Holy Spirit who opens our minds to understand it.

The story of the Reformation reminds us that God is never finished with the church.
The same Spirit that guided the faithful across the centuries is still at work in us today.
Holy Spirit, keep changing our hearts. Keep renewing your people.

Let us worship together, listening for the voice that continues to call us forward.
To God alone be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONGS "A Mighty Fortress"

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with
wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,
has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg-ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

“Lord, I Need You”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)
Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowing here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You’re the one that guides my heart.

(Refrain - All)
Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)
Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.
Where you are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.

(Refrain - All)
Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.

(Music Ministers)
Teach my song to rise to you
When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I’ll fall on you.
Jesus, you’re my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I’ll fall on you.
Jesus, you’re my hope and stay.

(Refrain - All/ Music Ministers**)**
Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.

Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.
Every hour I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.
My one defense, my righteousness;
O God, how I need you.

** **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*

Almighty God, **by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. Amen.**

** **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

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

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 46

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

A reading from Romans, the third chapter.

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

** **GOSPEL READING** John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The holy gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE *Pastor Mallory Morris*

WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER

We welcome God's presence in Word, in Sacrament, and in one another.

** **RECEIVING OF A NEW MEMBER**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this child of God, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of this congregation. Maureen Entremont has come to our congregation from various congregations.

** **APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

** **ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS**

The presiding minister addresses the newest member of our community:
In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Maureen, sister in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Maureen responds:
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The presiding minister addresses the community:
People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Maureen and her life in Christ?

The assembly responds:
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

** **WELCOME**

Let us welcome our sister in Christ to this community of faith.
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

** **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.

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 "Be Thou My Vision"
ancient Irish text versified by Eleanor Hull; tr. Mary Byrne
from the hymn-tune SLANE arr. Marie Pooler
Chancel Choir

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Son!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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.**

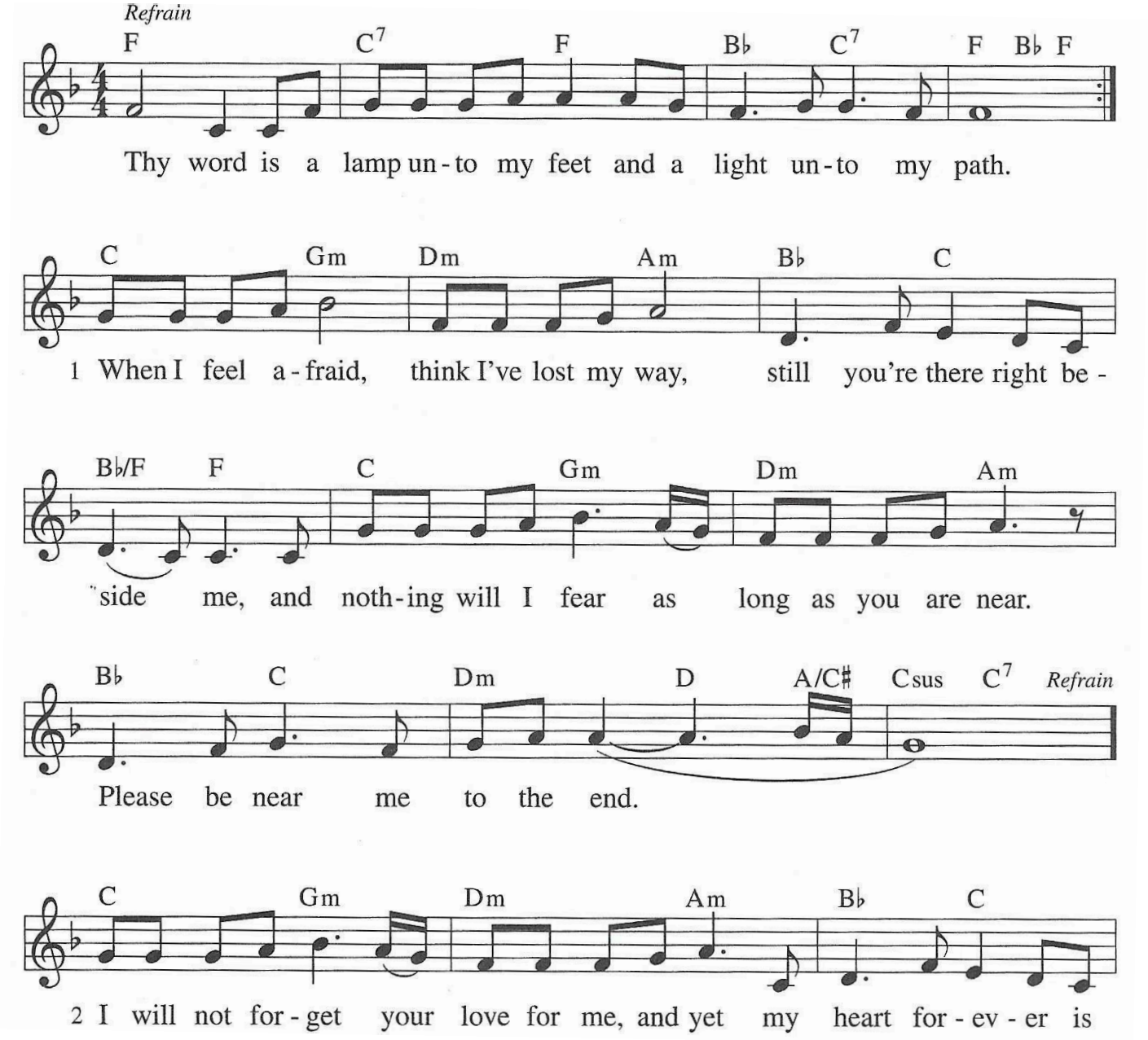
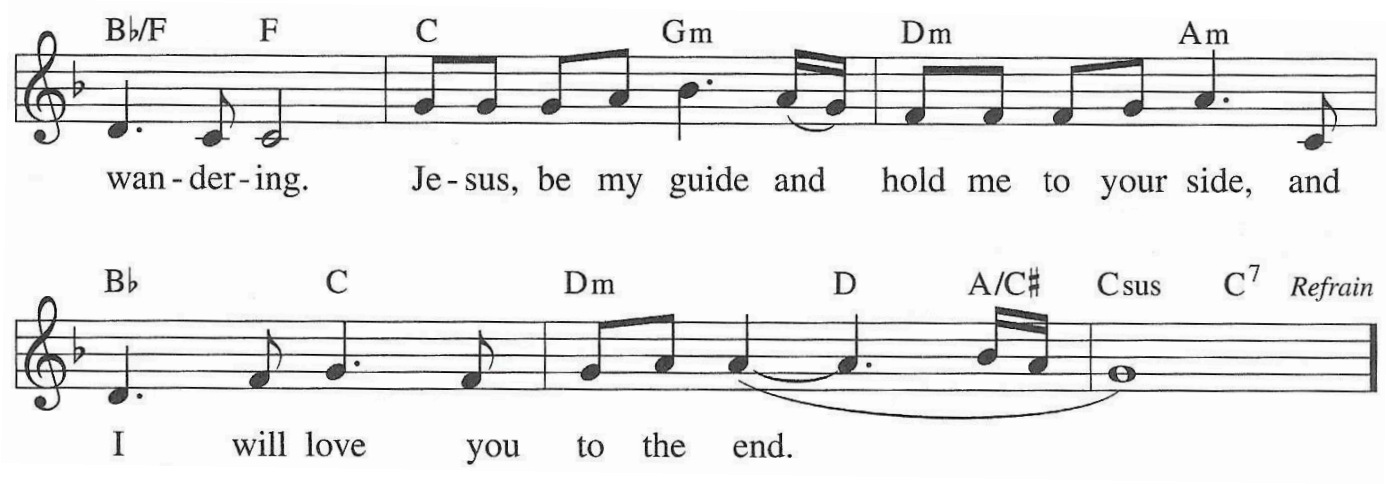
Communion Statement ~ We believe that the communion table is not Pr. Mallory's table, Good Shepherd Lutheran's table, or even the ELCA's table. This is God's table. And because this is God's table, we believe that anyone who wishes to receive communion can come forward and do so without condition or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

** **COMMUNION SONG** "Thy Word"



** **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.

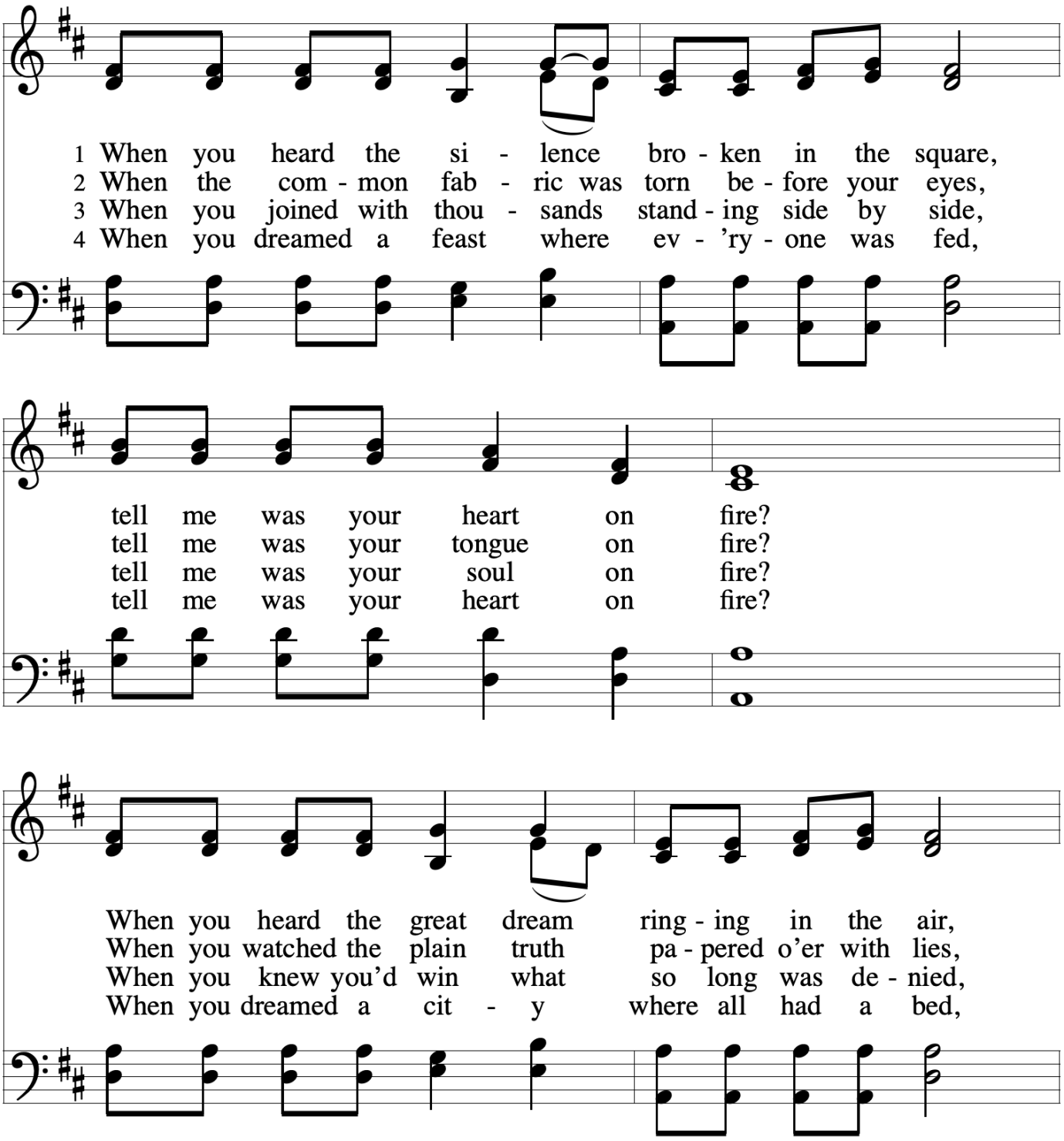
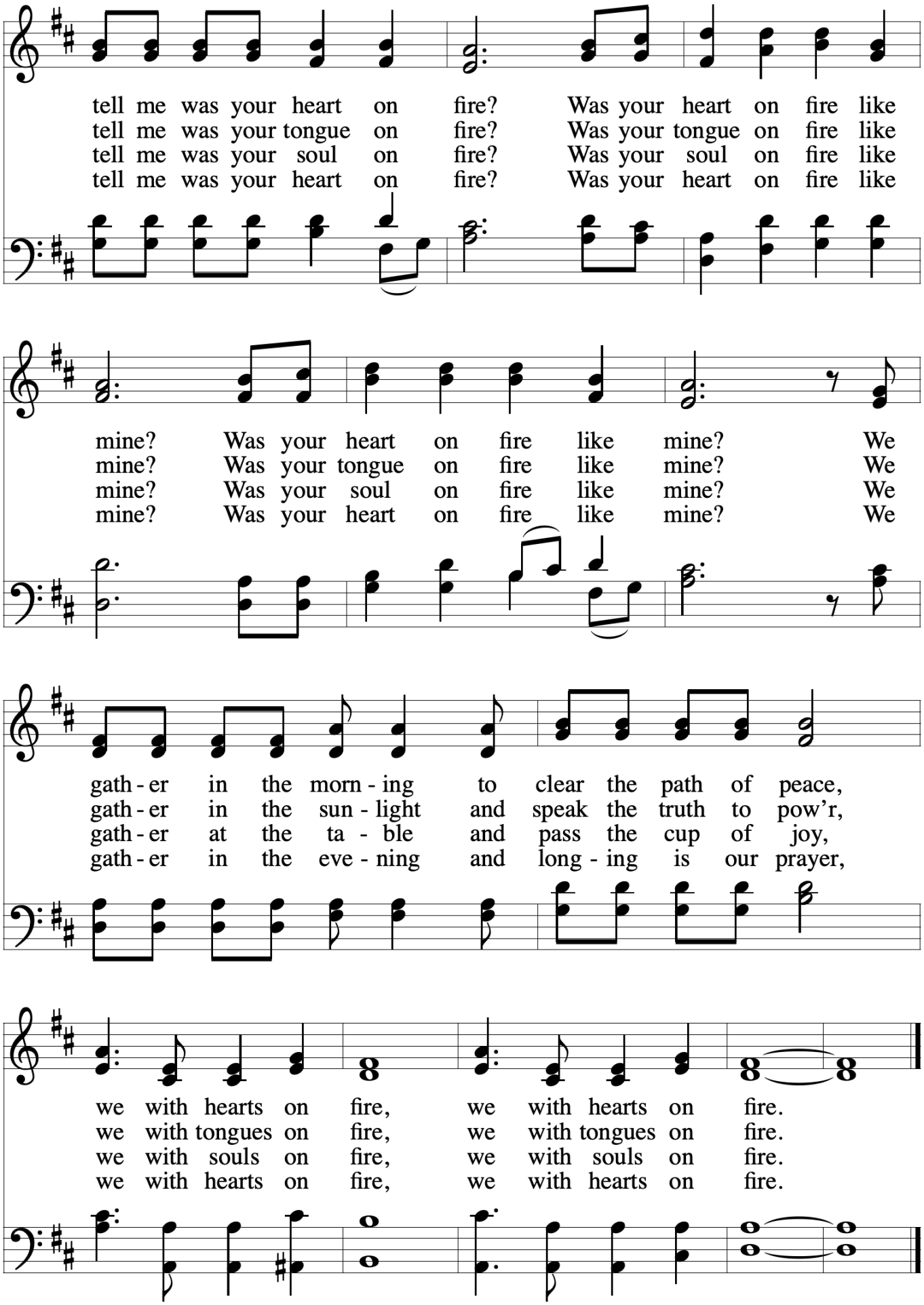
Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive 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** "Hearts on Fire"

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.

** **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

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608
Johann Heermann, died 1647
Paul Gerhardt, died 1676
hymnwriters
Monday, October 26, 2026

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, apostles

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or *Cananean* in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Saturday, October 31, 2026

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.