**[1]Then I, [John], saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.**
Revelation 21:1

5th Sunday of Easter
April 24, 2016

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires
Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday of the month
Becky Lanzito & Karen Leicht - Organists, Ann Souza - Music Director,
Mandi Stilson – Choir/New Music Accompanist

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We are pleased you chose to be with us in worship today, and pray the Lord blesses you as he has blessed us with your presence. Our goal is to help people find the right place for them to hear God's word and serve His mission. We'd love to support you in that spiritual journey. Please take a moment to complete an attendance card and place it in the Offering plate or give to an usher. This card will help us connect with you.

NURSERY

We have two rooms available for your use. When the service is in the sanctuary, the nursery is down the hall just past the restrooms. If the service is held in the gym, the nursery is in the youth room at the far end of the gym.

SERVING TODAY

	Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Sunday 10:45 a.m.
Elder:	Matt Messmer	*Bob Souza*
Comm./Asst. Elder:	John Kozlik	*Tim Faitsch*
Acolytes:	Nathan Stutzman, Sam Squires	*Hillary Fleming, Lexi Dorner*
Ushers:	Sandy Lahera, Chuck Johnson, Dave Hoffmeister	*Lance Rasmussen, OPEN*
Lay Readers:	Sandy Lahera, Warren Regnier	*Bob & Linda Piepenbrink*
Greeters:	Mark & Kathy Hipsher, Warren & Kathy Regnier	*Robin & Lori Hoornstra, Buttler Family*
Fellowship:	LWML	
April Altar Guild:	Shari Hoppe, Becky Anderson	
April Counters:	Chris Mason, Diane Sanders	

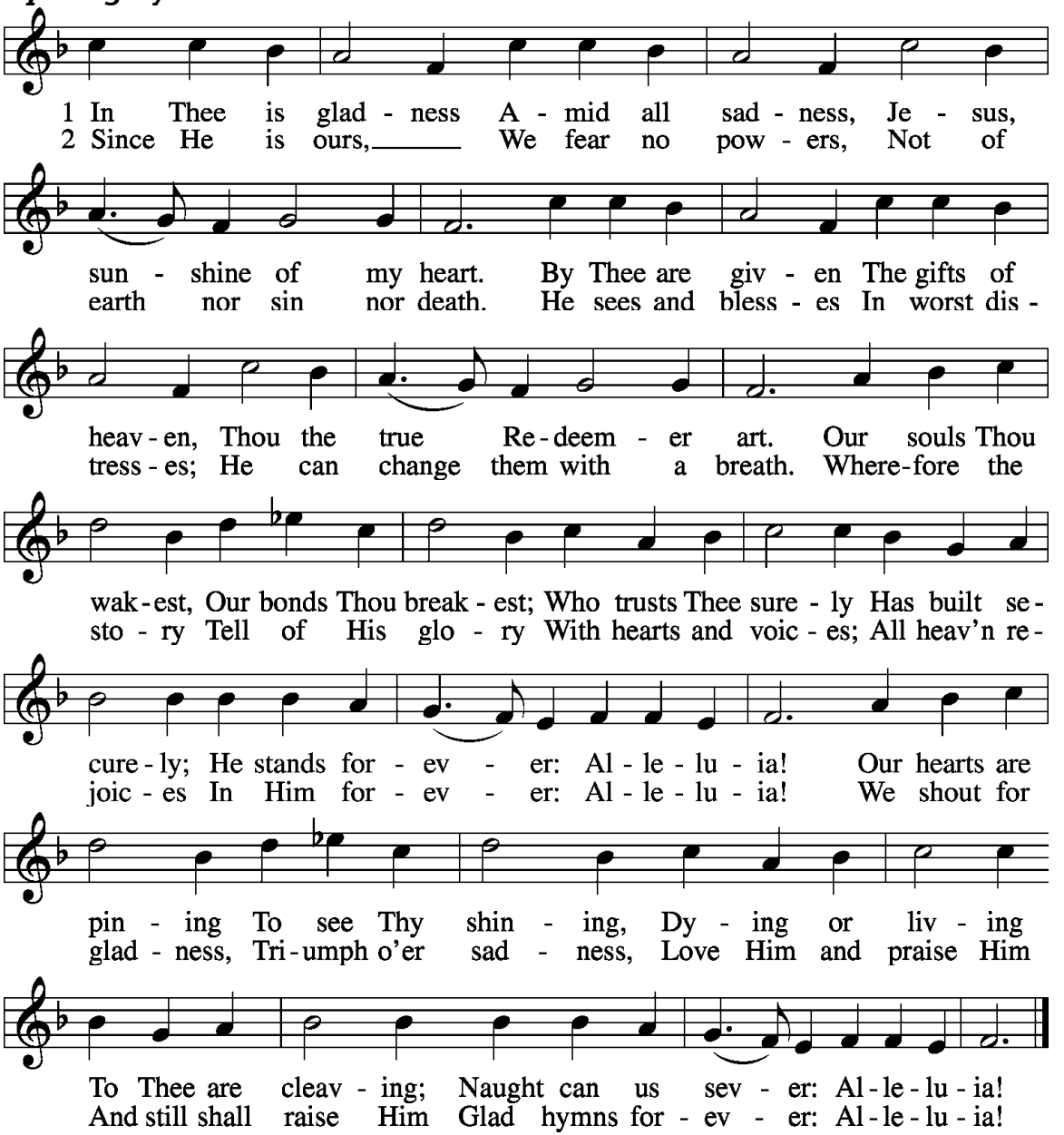
ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:

The Rayos family in celebration of Aubriana's 2nd birthday and
Shannon Swanson in celebration of Lauren's 15th birthday & Tanner's 13th birthday.

DIVINE SERVICE I

This service is from Divine Service, Setting One, in Lutheran Service Book.

Opening Hymn ***In Thee Is Gladness*** *LSB 818*



Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8-9*

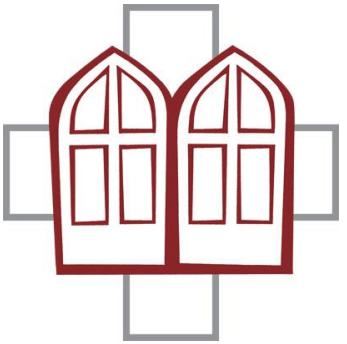
P: We pause in silence to reflect on our personal sins that trouble us.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

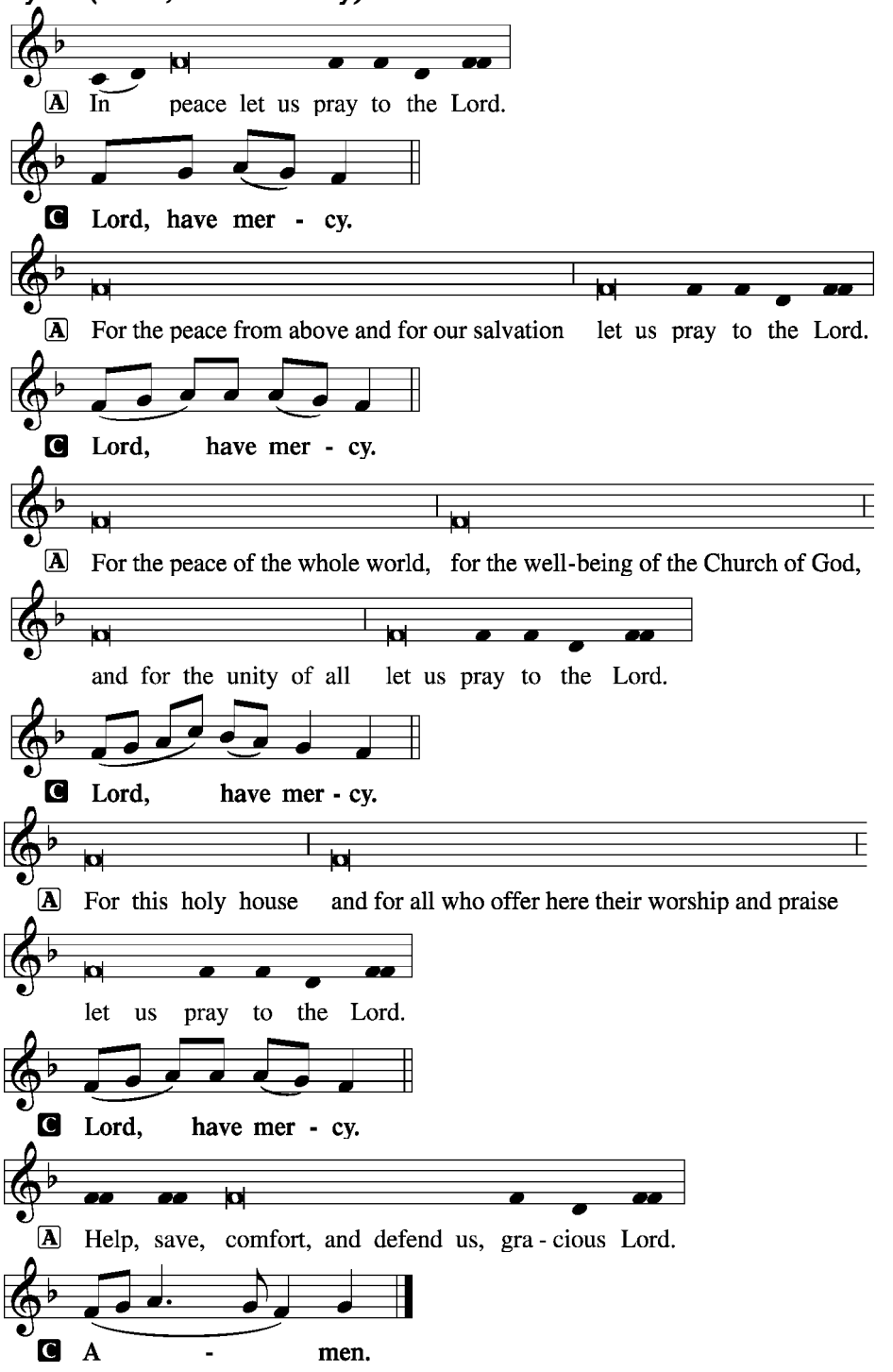
C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

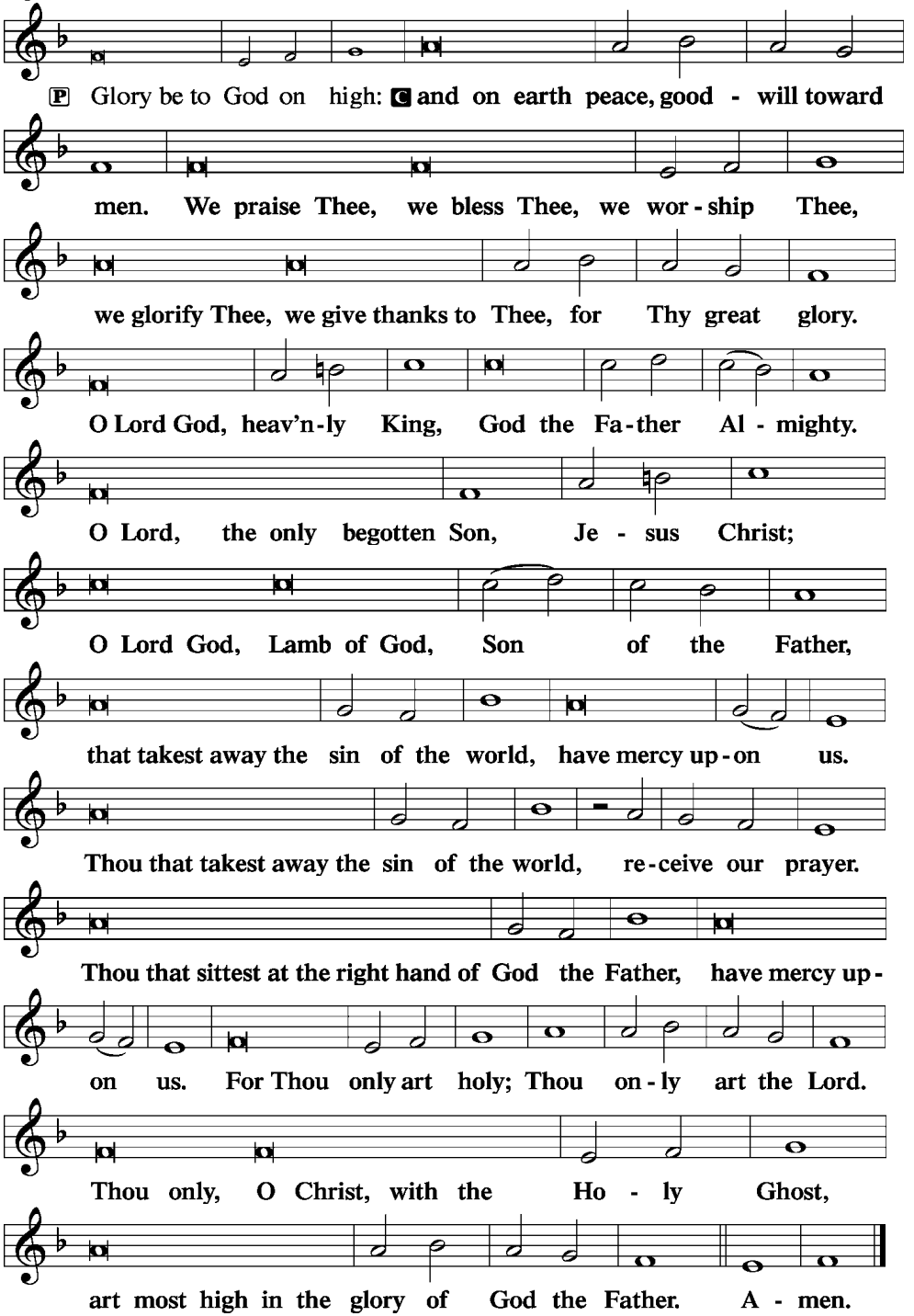


Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy)

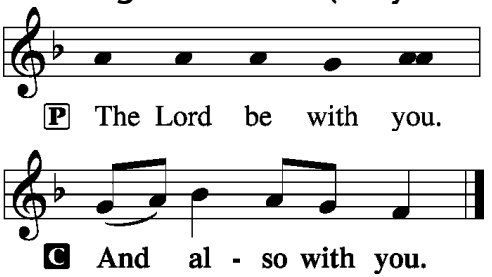


Hymn of Praise *Gloria in Excelsis (Glory in the Highest)*

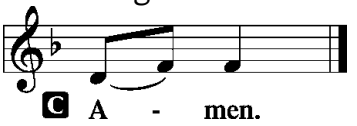
Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 187



Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)



P: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Anthem ***"This Blood"*** ***Adult Choir***

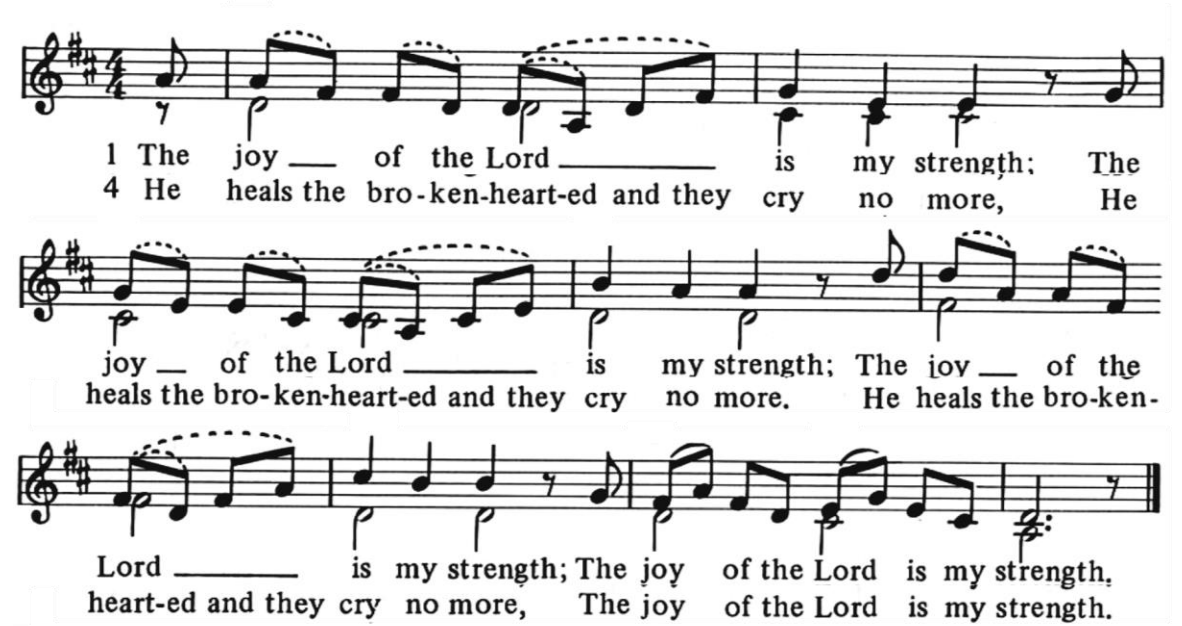
Psalm Reading ***Psalm 146:1–10 (ESV)***

[1]Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
[2]I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
[3]Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
[4]When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.
[5]Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
[6]who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever; [7]who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free; [8]the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
[9]The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
[10]The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Song ***The Joy of the Lord is My Strength***



Repeat 1st stanza

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A Reading of the Eternal Kingdom ***Revelation 21:1–7 (ESV)***

[1]Then I, [John], saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. [2]And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3]And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4]He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

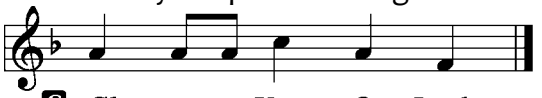
[5]And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [6]And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. [7]The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel ***John 16:12–22 (ESV)***

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16th chapter.

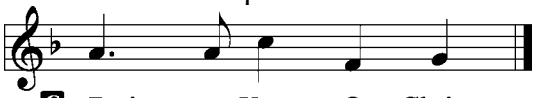


[And Jesus said to His disciples:] 12"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 16A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me."

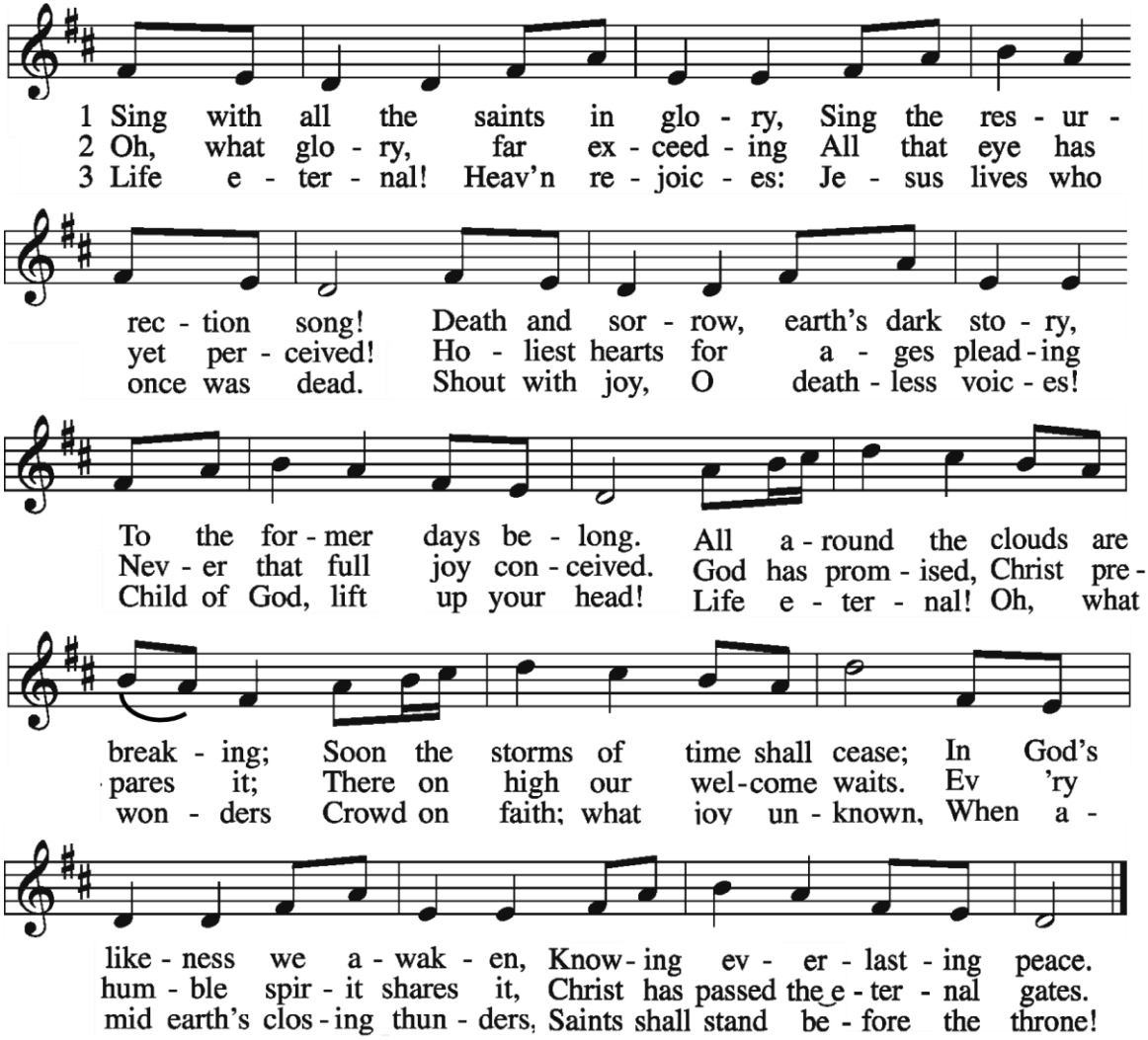
17So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" 18So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."

19Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? 20Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

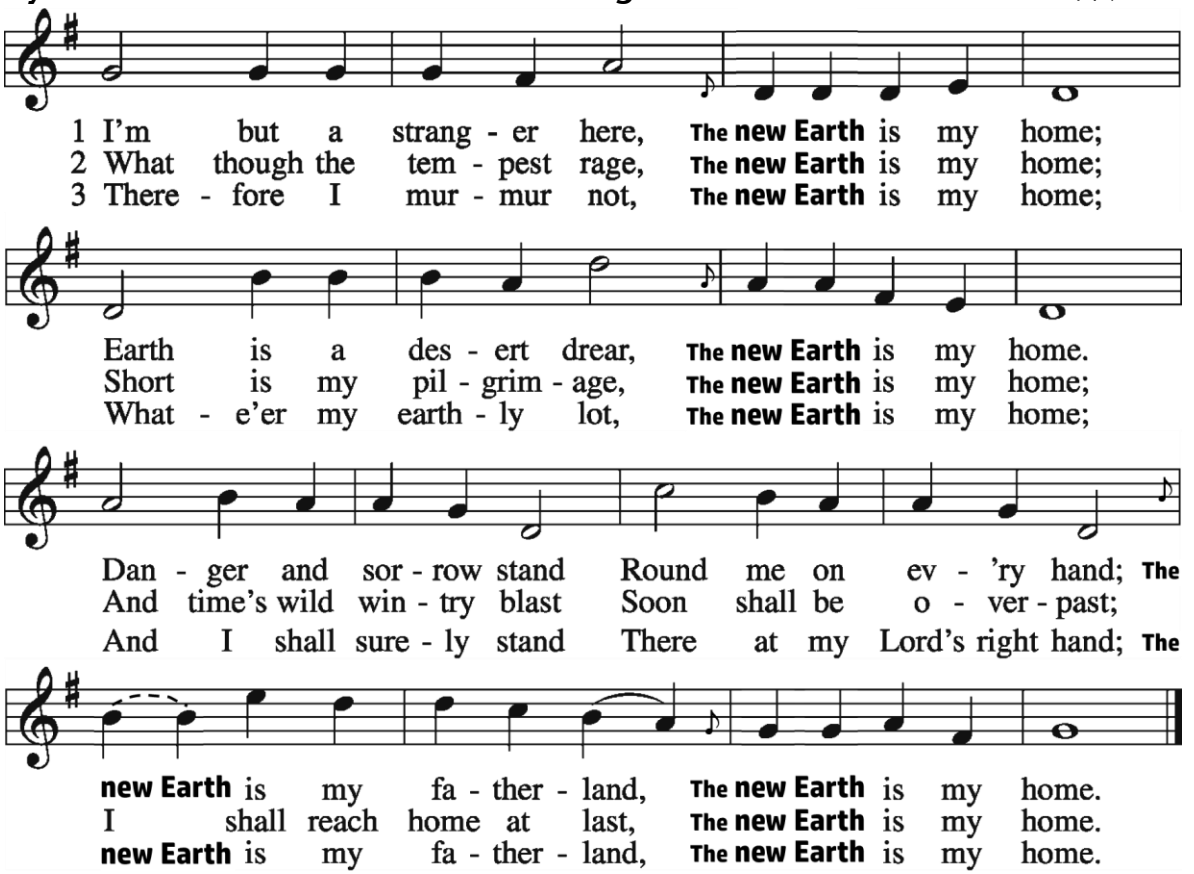


Hymn of the Day ***Sing with All the Saints in Glory*** *LSB 671; tune: 686*



Sermon ***"What is Our True Hope?"*** ***Revelation 21:1-7***

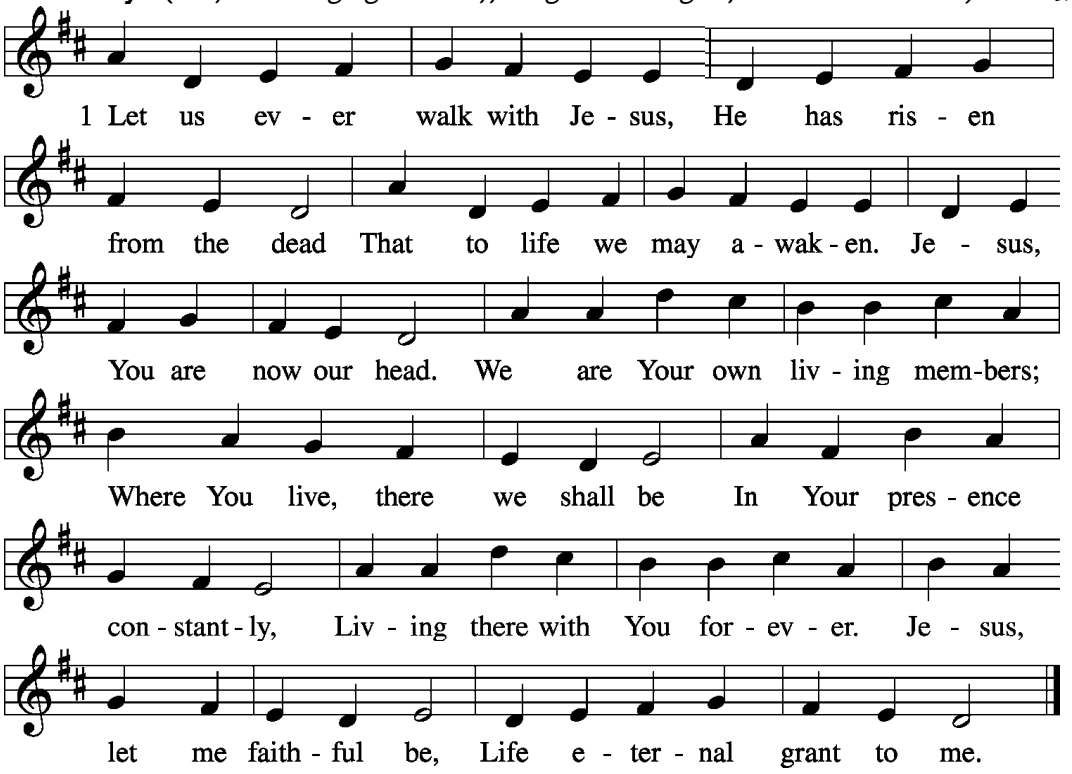
Hymn ***"I'm But a Stranger Here"*** *LSB 748, alt.*



Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

Offertory *(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)* *LSB 685, st. 4 alt.*



Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

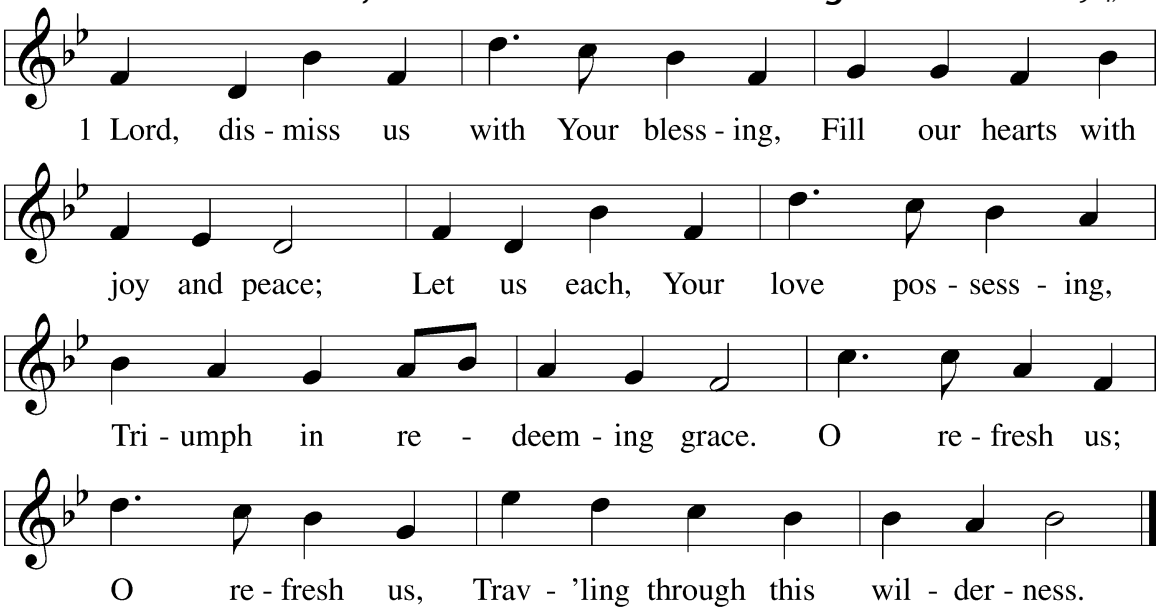
P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

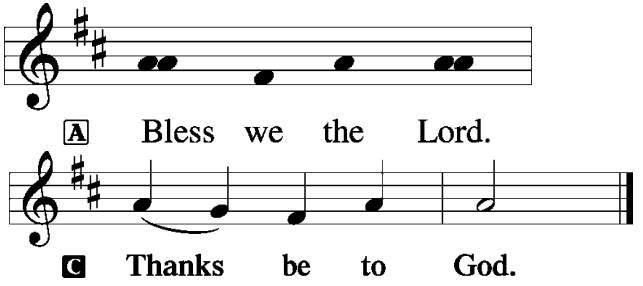
Confession of Faith ***Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.— And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.—I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Canticle ***Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*** *LSB 924, st 1*



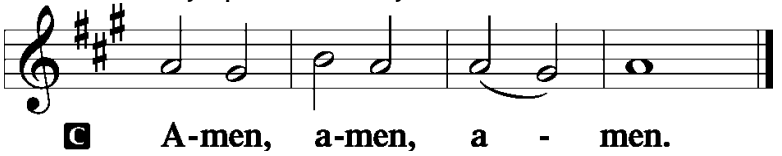
Benedicamus *LSB 202*



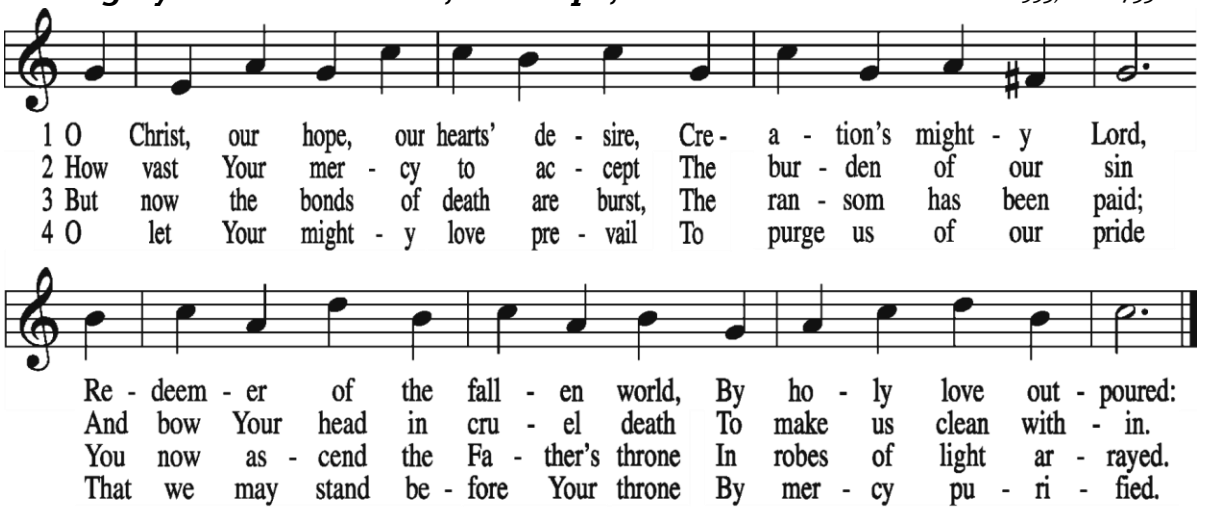
Psalm 103:1

Benediction (Blessing) *2 Corinthians 13:14*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.



Closing Hymn ***O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire*** *LSB 553, tune: 733*



5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be
To glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to You, ascended Lord;
All glory ever be
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Through all eternity!

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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