Worship Leader Guide for Sunday, September 13, 2026
Lectionary 24
Proper 19
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

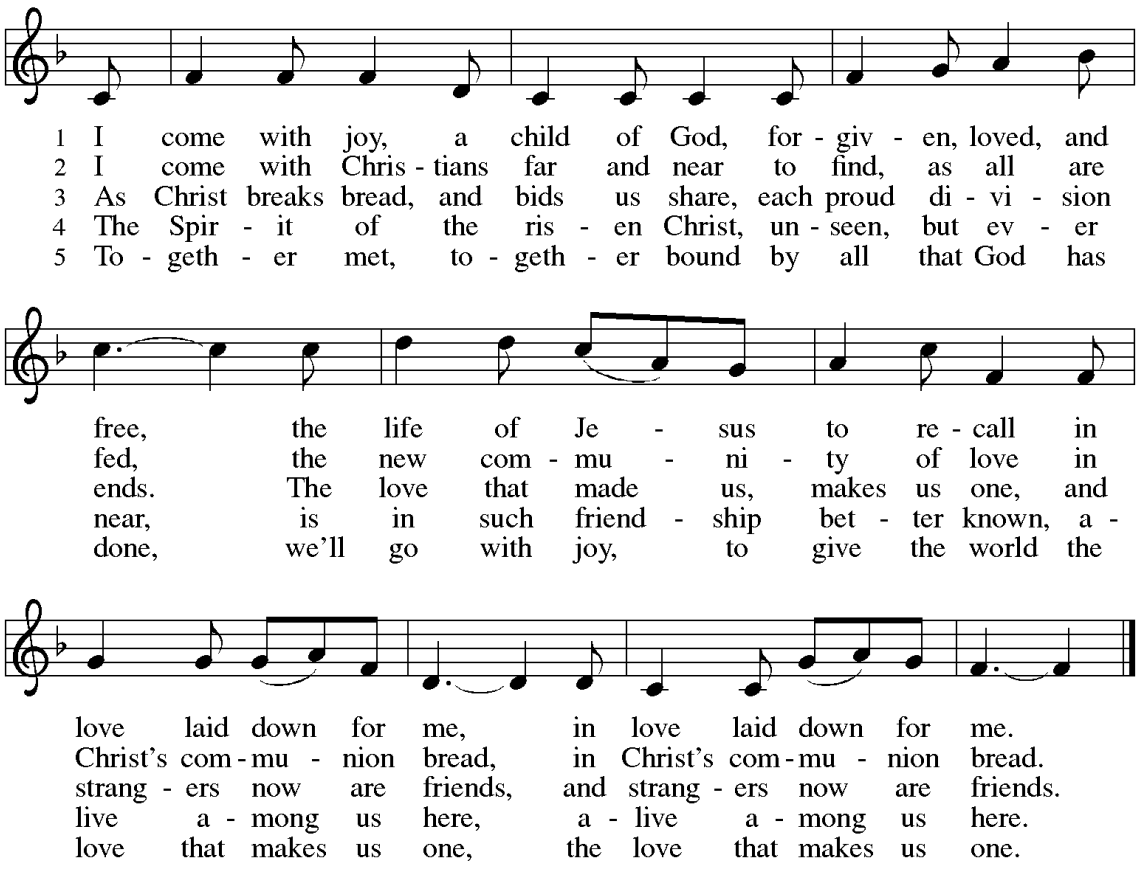
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS **ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,
We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ***I Come with Joy*** **ELW 482**

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
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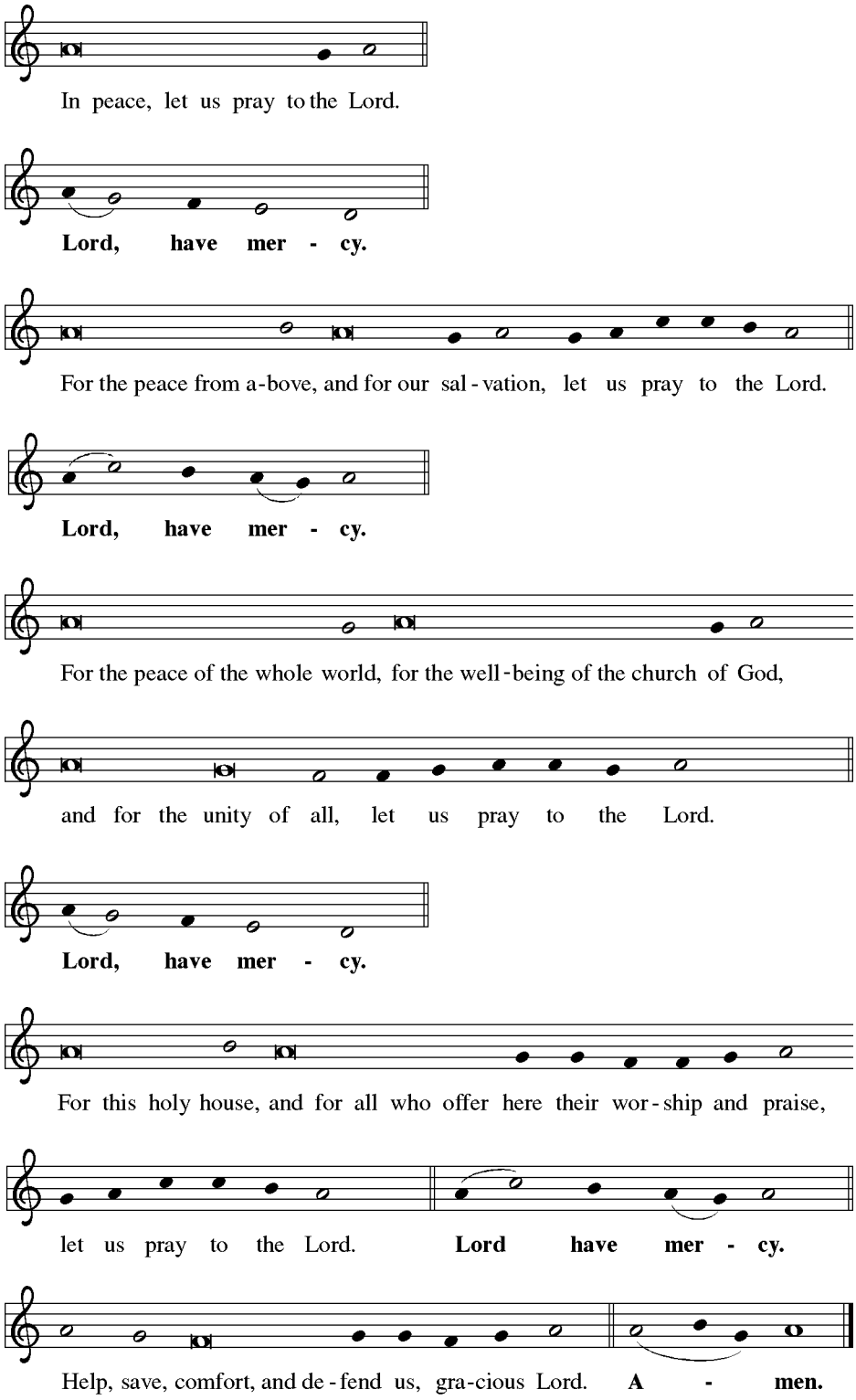
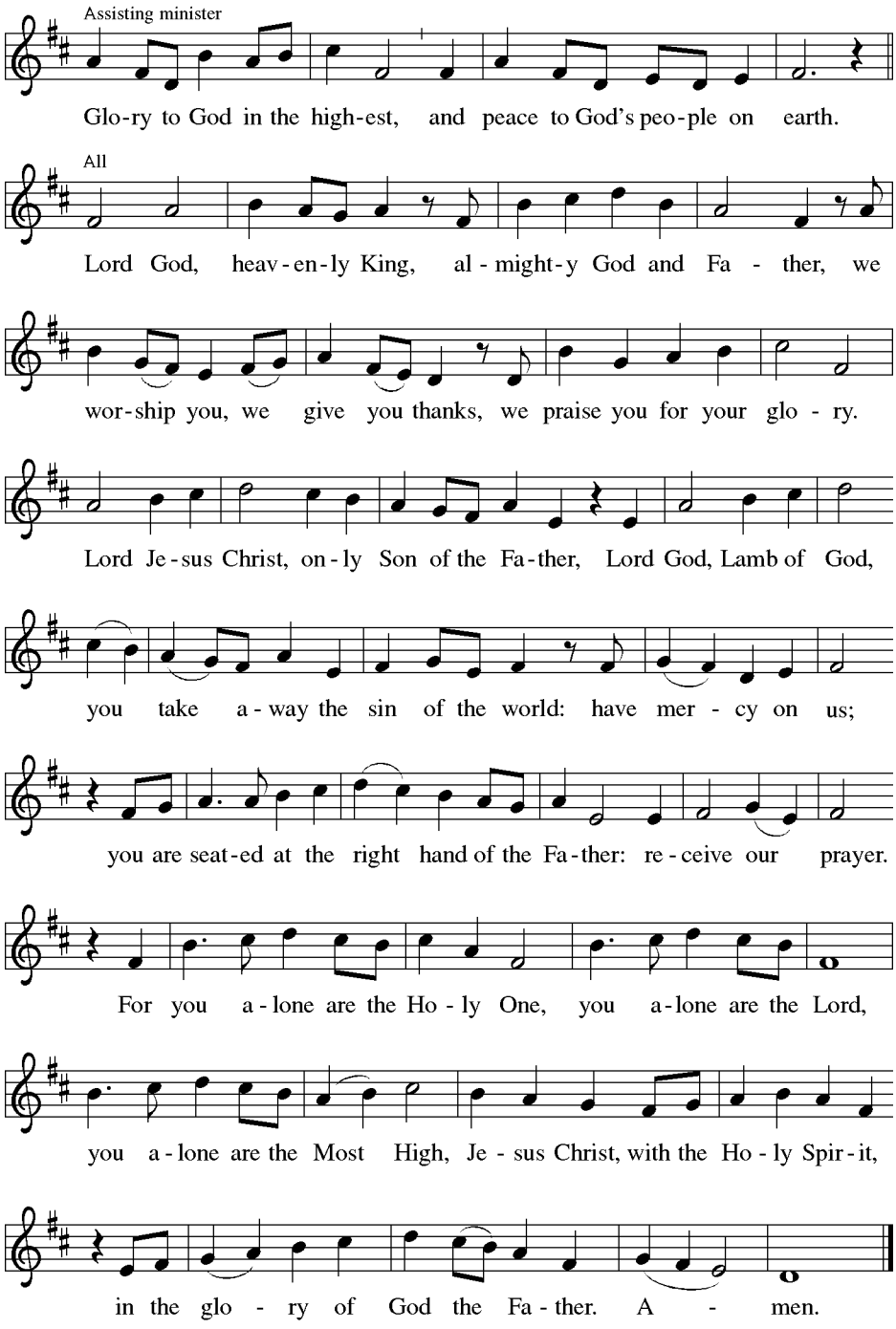
GREETING **ELW p. 147**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also, with you.


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE **ELW p. 148**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANTHEM ***Resurrexit*** **HOSANNA HANDBELLS**

by Jonathan Strommen Campbell

This is an arrangement of favorite hymns commissioned by the Hosanna Handbells for director, Linda Mellon, for her years of service, her love of music, commitment to handbells and friendship. The bell choir is beginning our 39th year of ringing. Soli Deo Gloria!

FIRST READING **Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from Genesis.

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a
grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" 16 So they
approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 17 'Say to Joseph:
I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now
therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept
when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We
are here as your slaves." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of
God? 20 Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to
preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21 So have no fear; I myself will provide for
you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

SECOND READING **Romans 14:1-12**

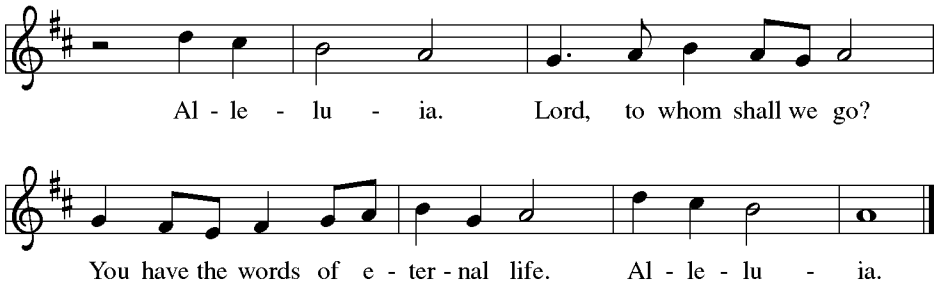
A reading from Romans.

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3 Those who eat must
not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who
eat, for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is
before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to
make them stand.
5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all
be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who observe the day observe it for the Lord.
Also, those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain,
abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.
7 For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the

Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
[10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. [11] For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." [12] So then, each one of us will be held accountable.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE **KRISTY WICKLUND**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW p. 151**



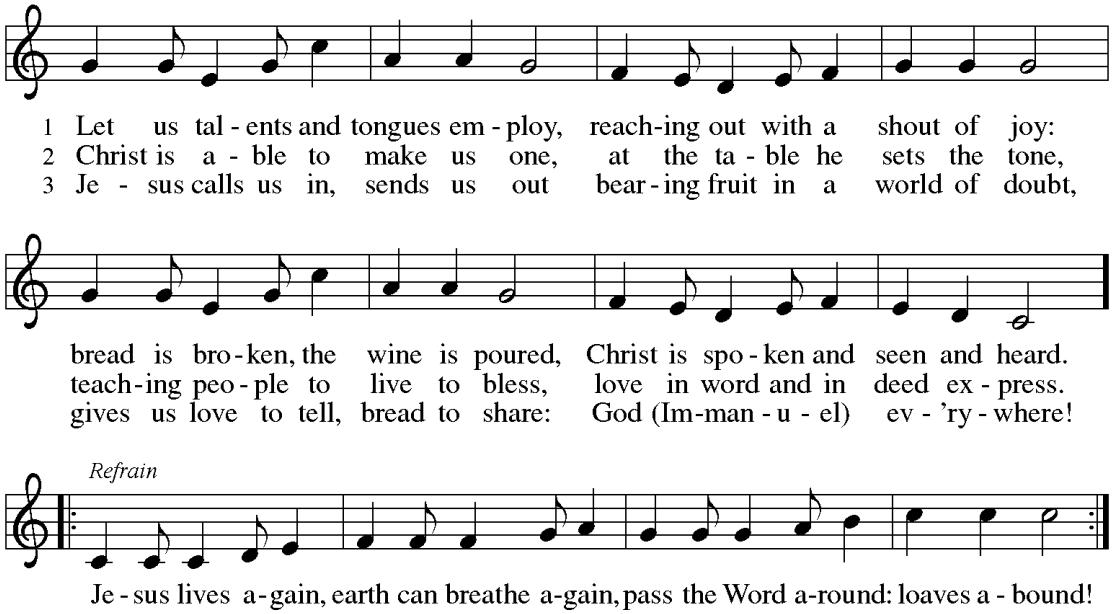
GOSPEL **Matthew 18:21-35**
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.
[21] Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" [22] Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.
[23] "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. [24] When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, [25] and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. [26] So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' [27] And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. [28] But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' [29] Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' [30] But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. [31] When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. [32] Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. [33] Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' [34] And in anger his lord handed

him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. [35] So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE **PASTOR RUTH HETLAND**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*** **ELW 674**

The Offering will be collected during the Hymn of the Day



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
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OFFERING PRAYER **ELW p. 152**

Let us pray.
Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED **ELW p. 105**

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 the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
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 THE PEOPLE

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need and who are ill (*especially*); **Luke, Larisa, Jim, Rick, Joe, Lorie, Dawson, Roy & Sheila, Greg, Denise, Dani, Jane, Call Committee, Jack & Judy, Dick & Kathy, Blaine, Nancy, Marvin, School Staff & students.** Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember (*name/s, and*) all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

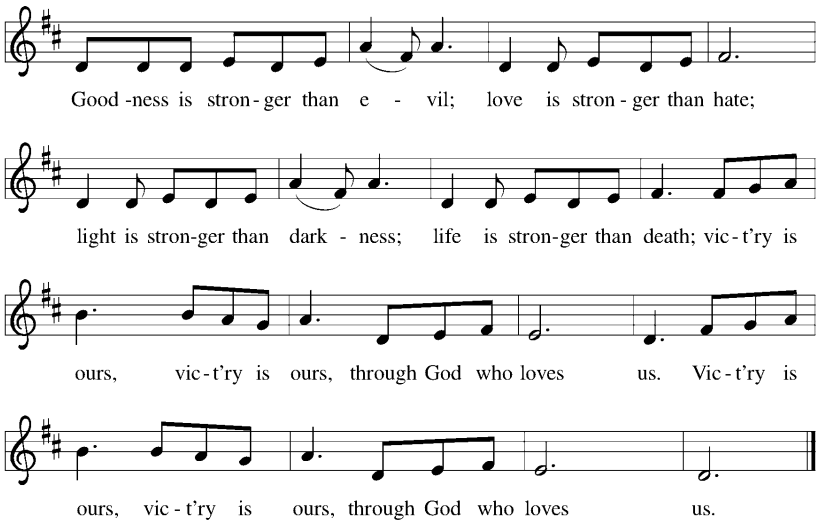
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
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.

LORD'S PRAYER **ELW p. 154**

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN *Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil* ELW 721



Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931
Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949
Text © 1995 Desmond Tutu, admin. Random House, Inc. and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd.
Music © 1996 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
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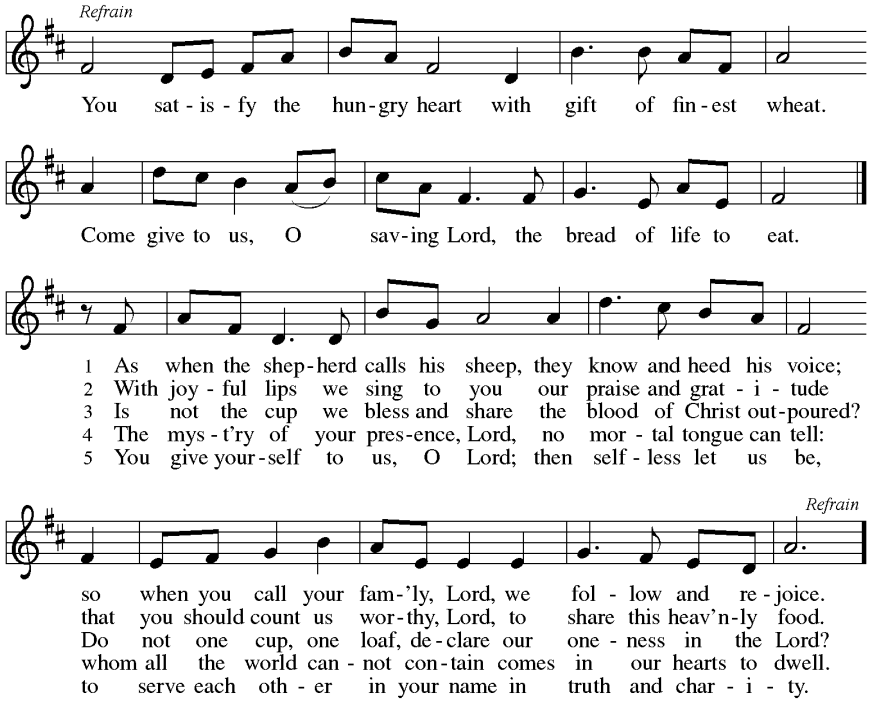
COMMUNION HYMN *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* ELW 484



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
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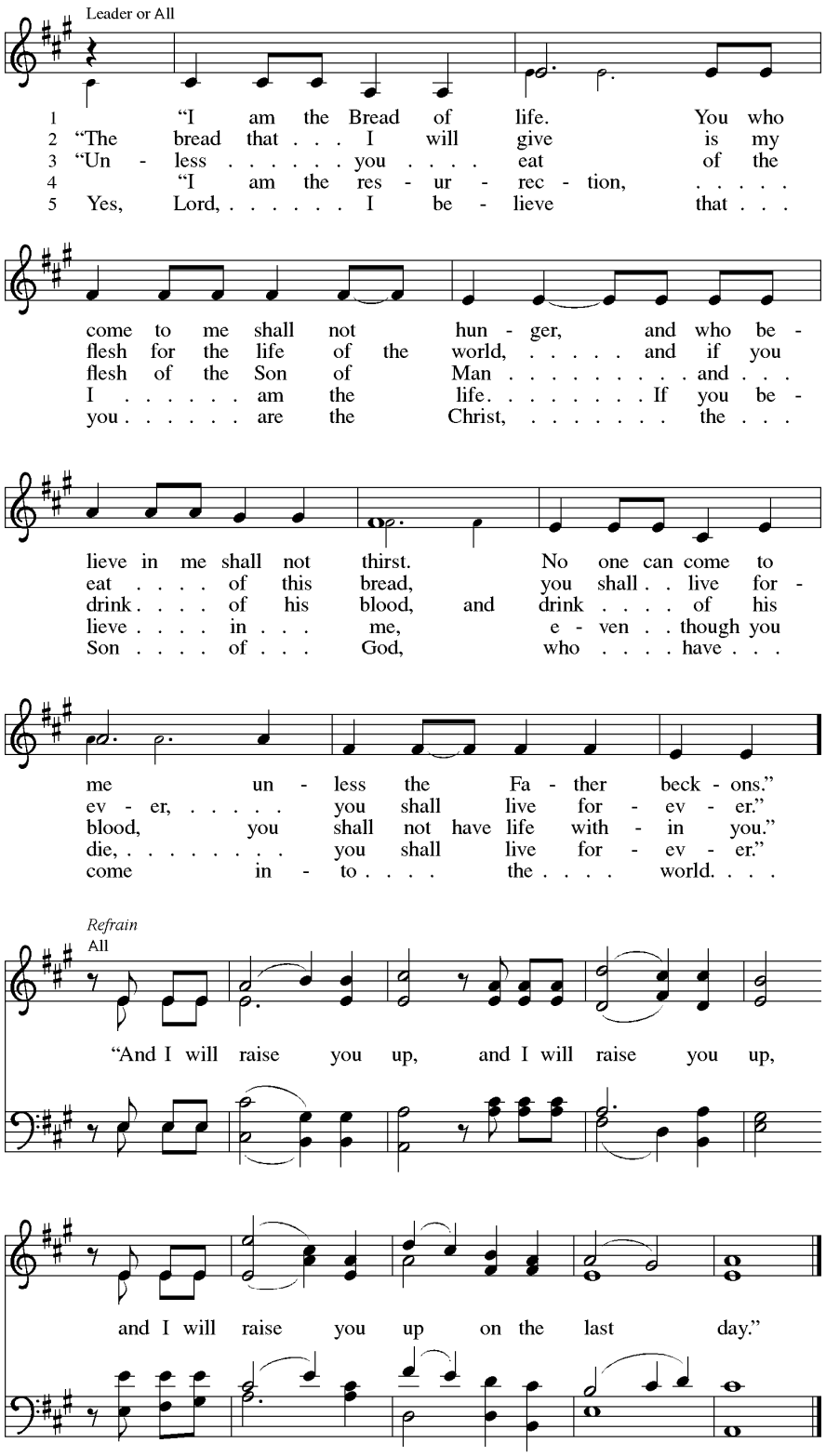
COMMUNION HYMN ***I Am the Bread of Life*** **ELW 485**



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
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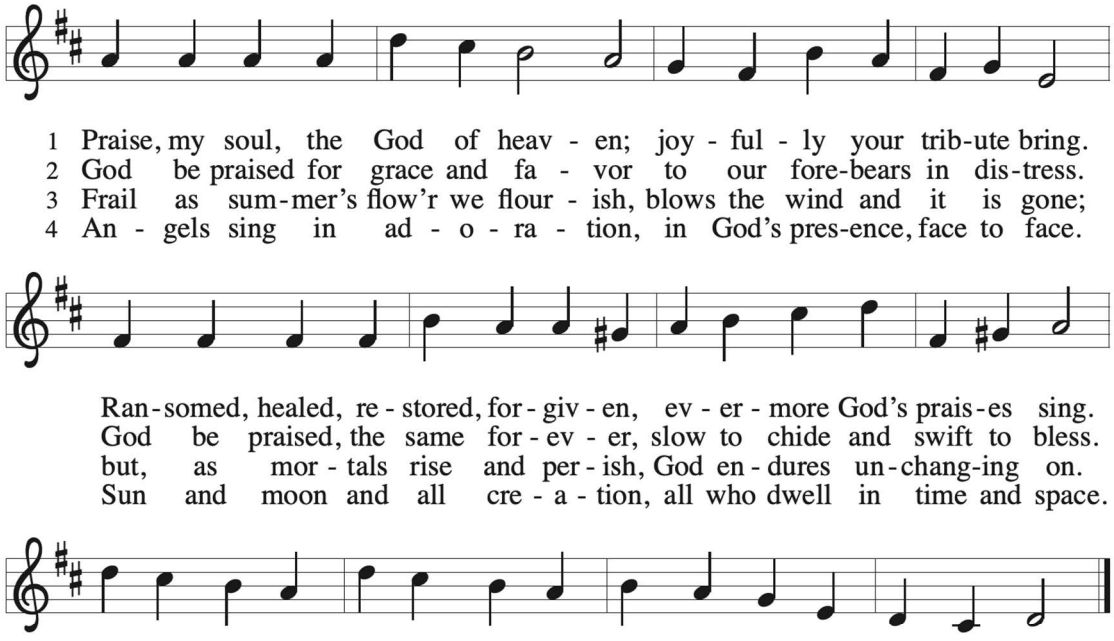
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN ***Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*** **ELW 864**



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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