Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service Setting Three

September 27, 2026

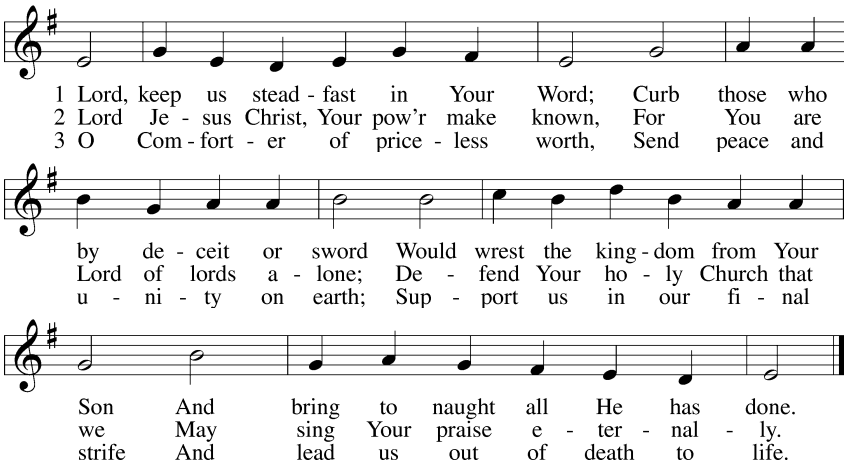


Go and Work in the Vineyard

Confession and Absolution

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655



Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word
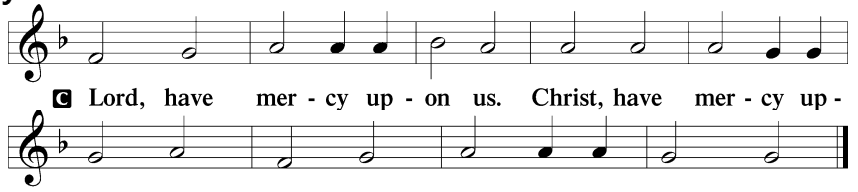
Introit

Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

P The LORD lifts up the humble;
C **he casts the wicked to the ground.**
P Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
C **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**
P The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
C **he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
P He heals the brokenhearted
C **and binds up their wounds.**
P He determines the number of the stars;
C **he gives to all of them their names.**
P Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
C **his understanding is beyond measure.**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P The LORD lifts up the humble;
C **he casts the wicked to the ground.**

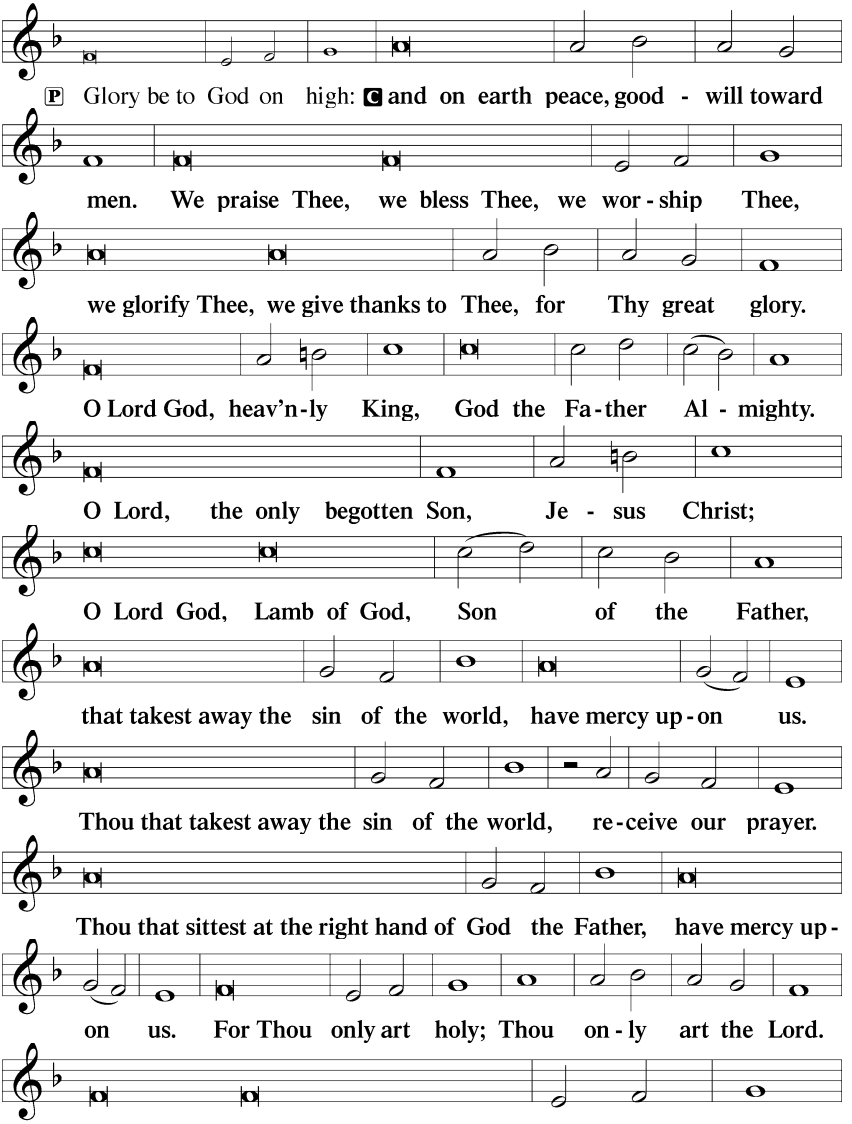
Kyrie
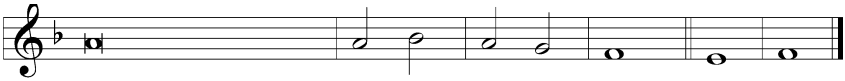
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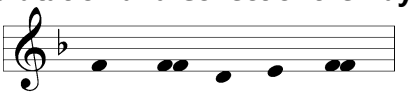


Gloria in Excelsis
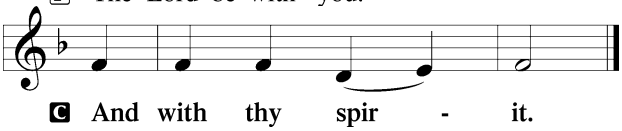
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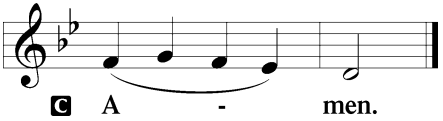




Salutation and Collect of the Day





P Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

[1]The word of the LORD came to me: [2]"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? [3]As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4]Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

[25]"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? [26]When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. [27]Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. [28]Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. [29]Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

[30]"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your

transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. 31Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *Philippians 2:1–18*

1If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
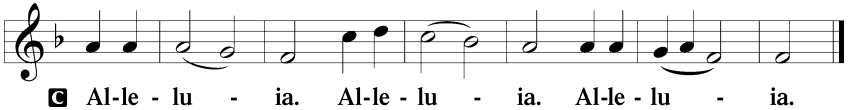
12Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

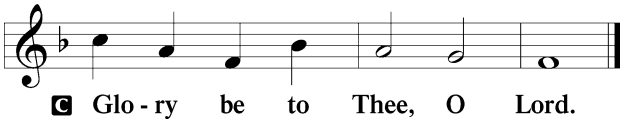
Stand

Alleluia *LSB 190*



Holy Gospel *Matthew 21:23–32*
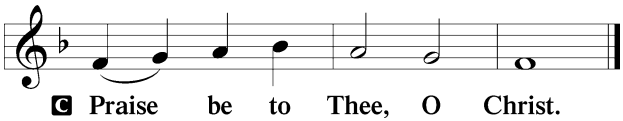
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



[23]When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24]Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. [25]The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [26]But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." [27]So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

[28]"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29]And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. [30]And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. [31]Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. [32]For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
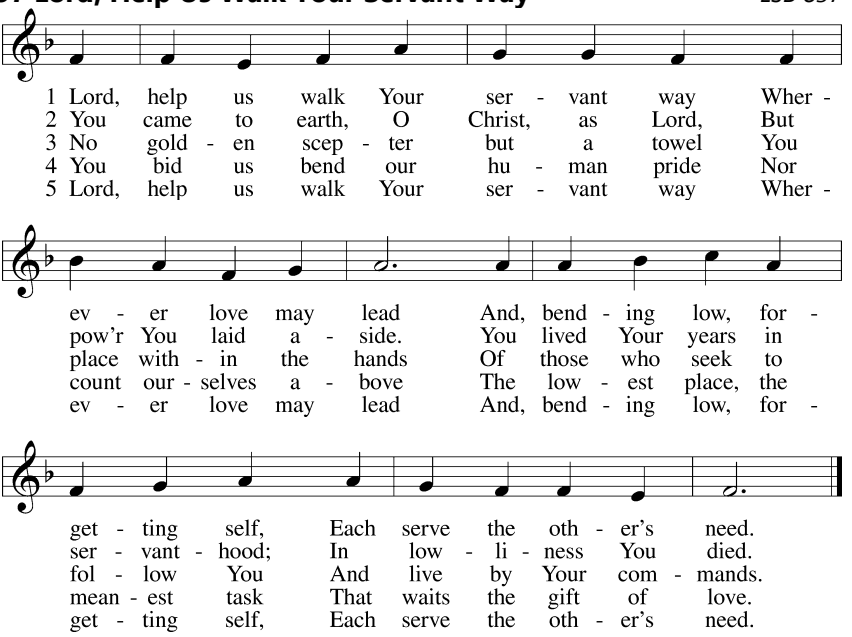
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way
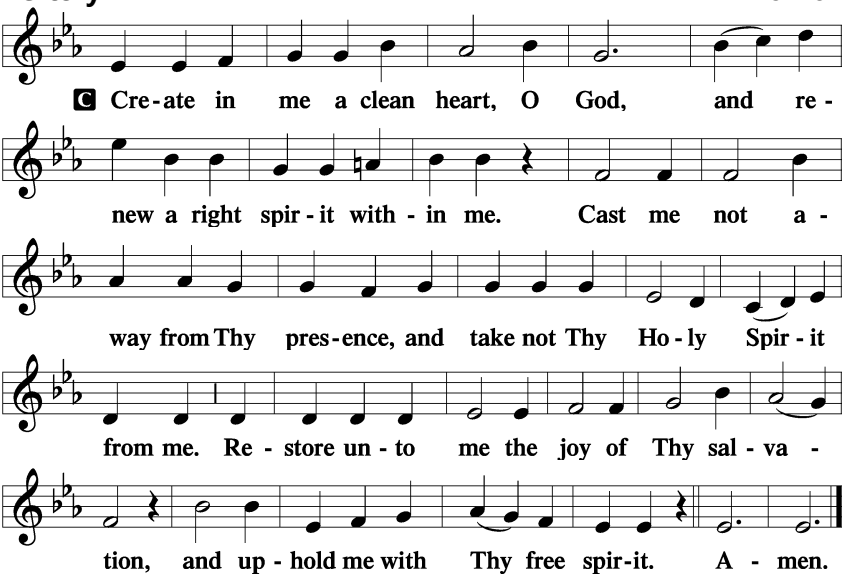
LSB 857



Sermon: Go and Work in the Vineyard

Offertory

LSB 192



Stand
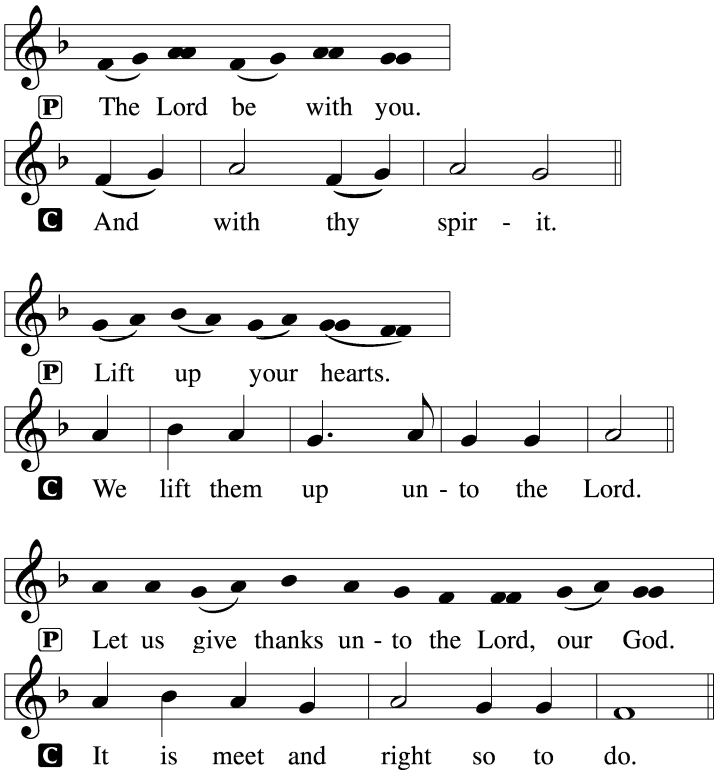
Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

In this congregation, we recognize the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Because those who receive unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith of this altar, those who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor before communing.

Preface

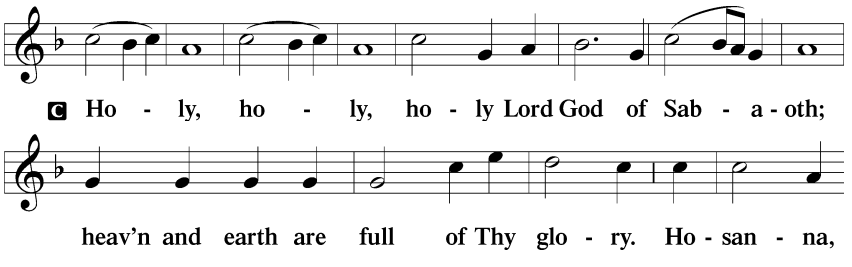
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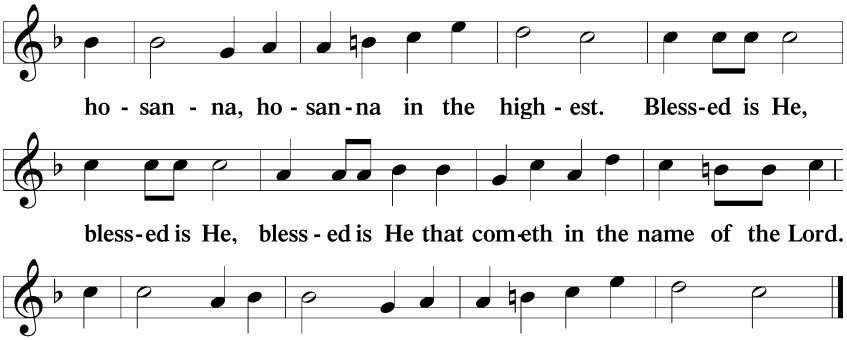


Proper Preface

Sanctus

LSB 195



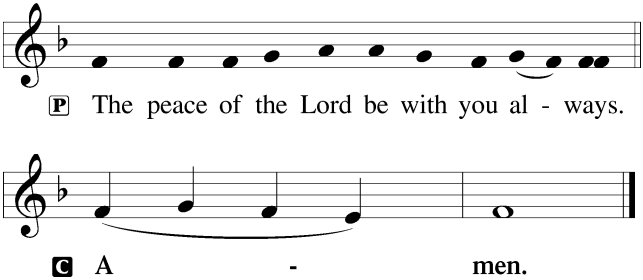


Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

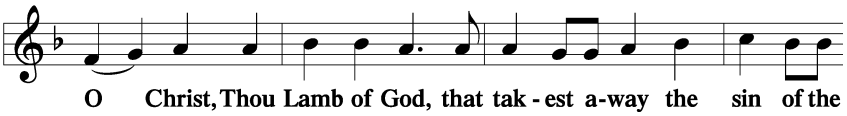
C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

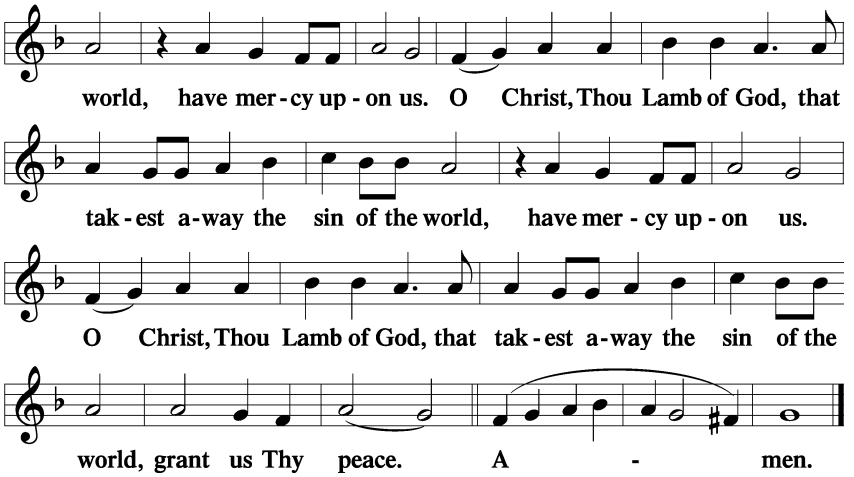
The Words of Our Lord *LSB 197*

Pax Domini *LSB 197*



Agnus Dei *LSB 198*
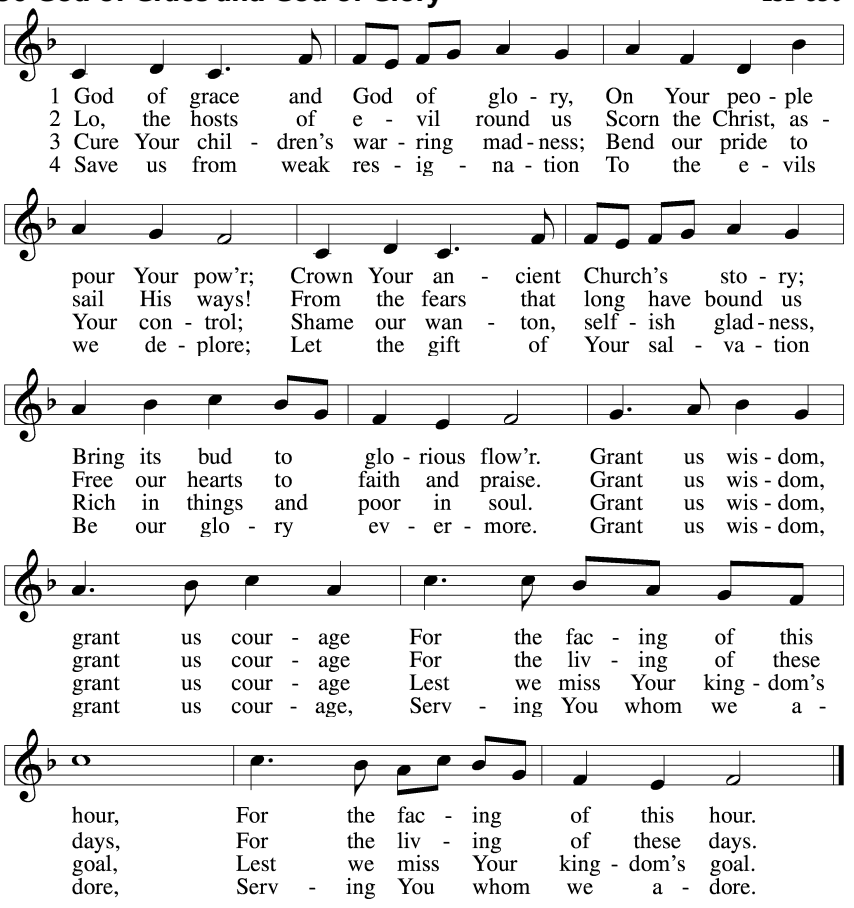




Sit
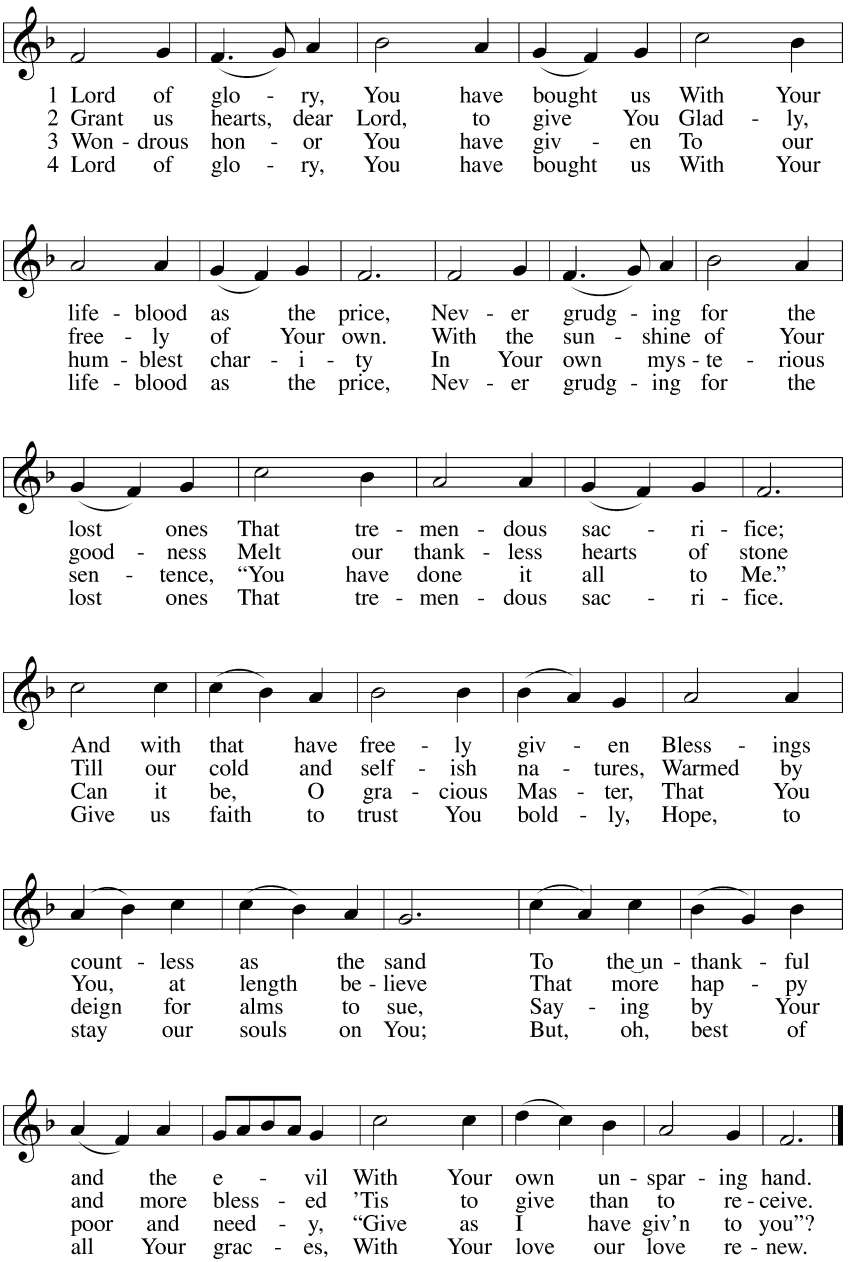
850 God of Grace and God of Glory

LSB 850



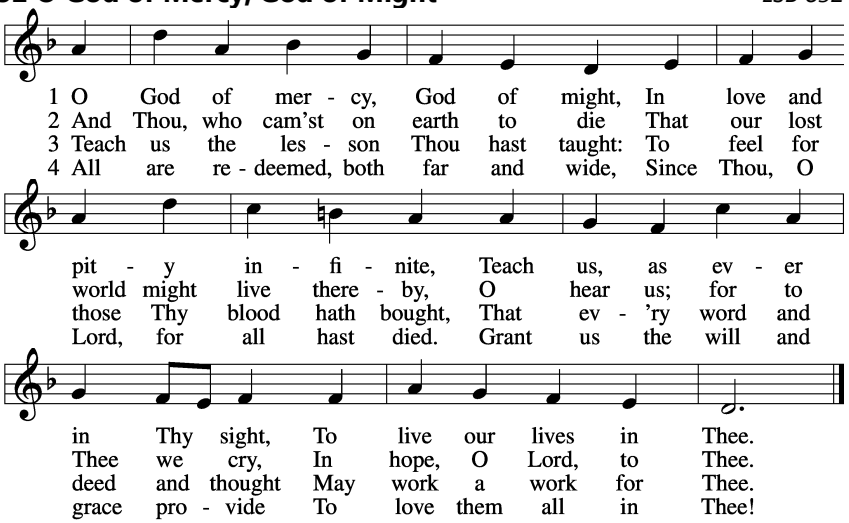
851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851



852 O God of Mercy, God of Might

LSB 852
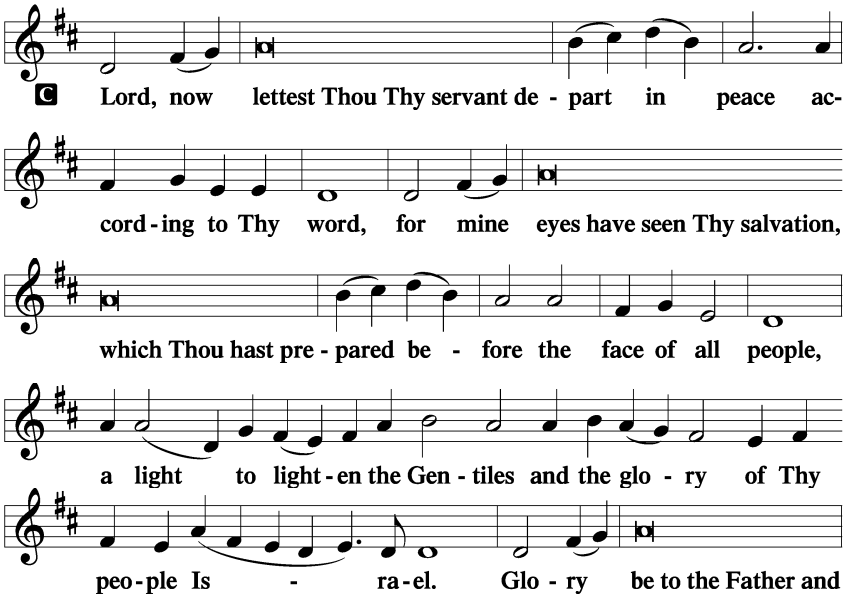


5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
May we each other's burdens share;
May we, where help is needed, there Give help as unto Thee!
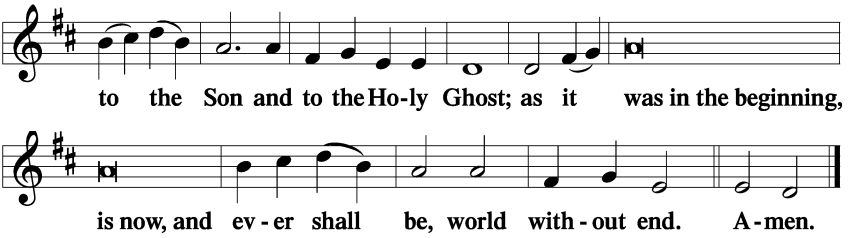
6 And may Thy Holy Spirit move
All those who live to live in love
Till Thou shalt greet in heav'n above All those who live in Thee.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

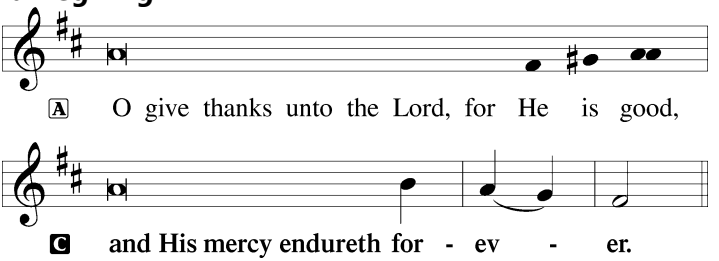
LSB 199



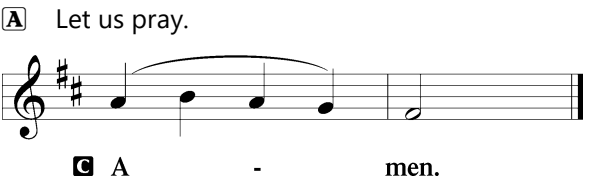


Thanksgiving

LSB 200

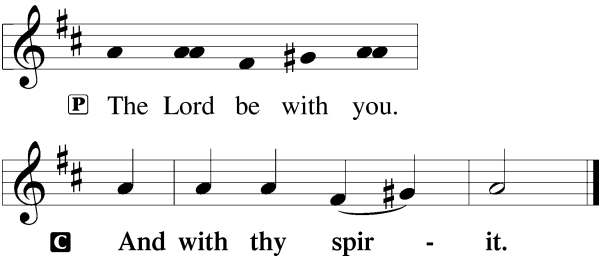


Post-Communion Collect



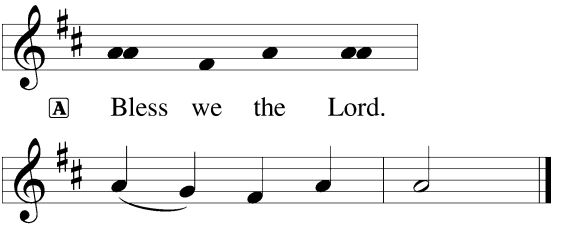
Salutation

LSB 201



Benedicamus
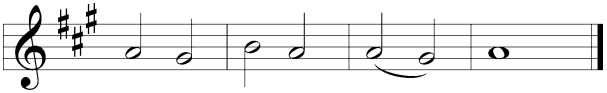
LSB 202



Benediction

LSB 202
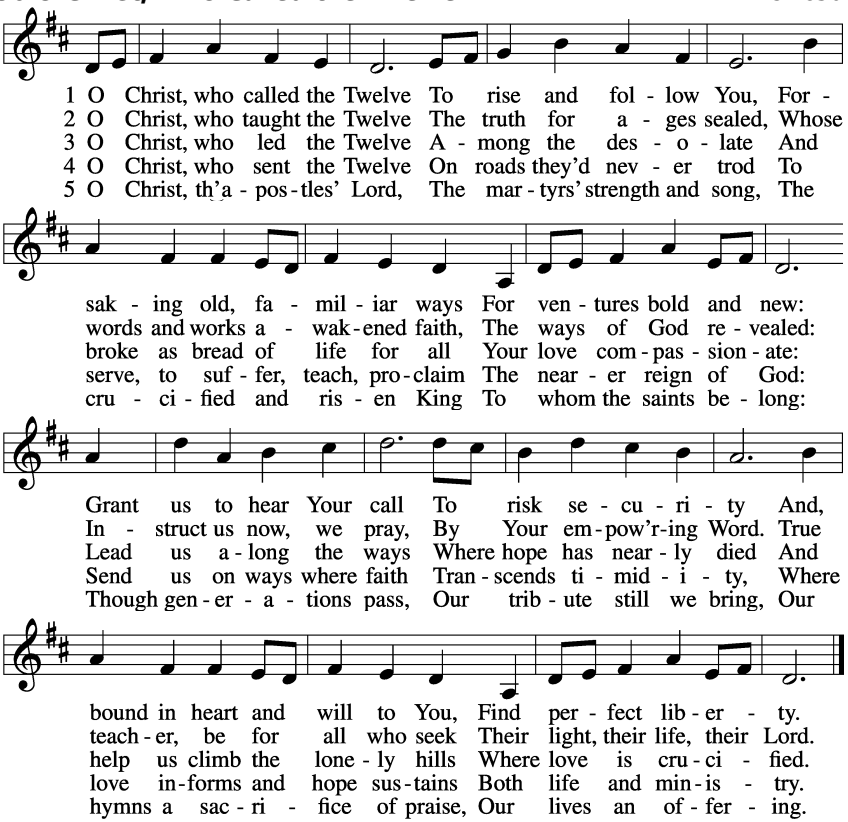
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



Sit

856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

LSB 856



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