Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia

February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

<u>OUR MISSION STATEMENT</u>
To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke
Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

4th Sunday after Epiphany February 1, 2026

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.
**** Please stand as you are able ****

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: *Amen.*

P: 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.
C: Amen.

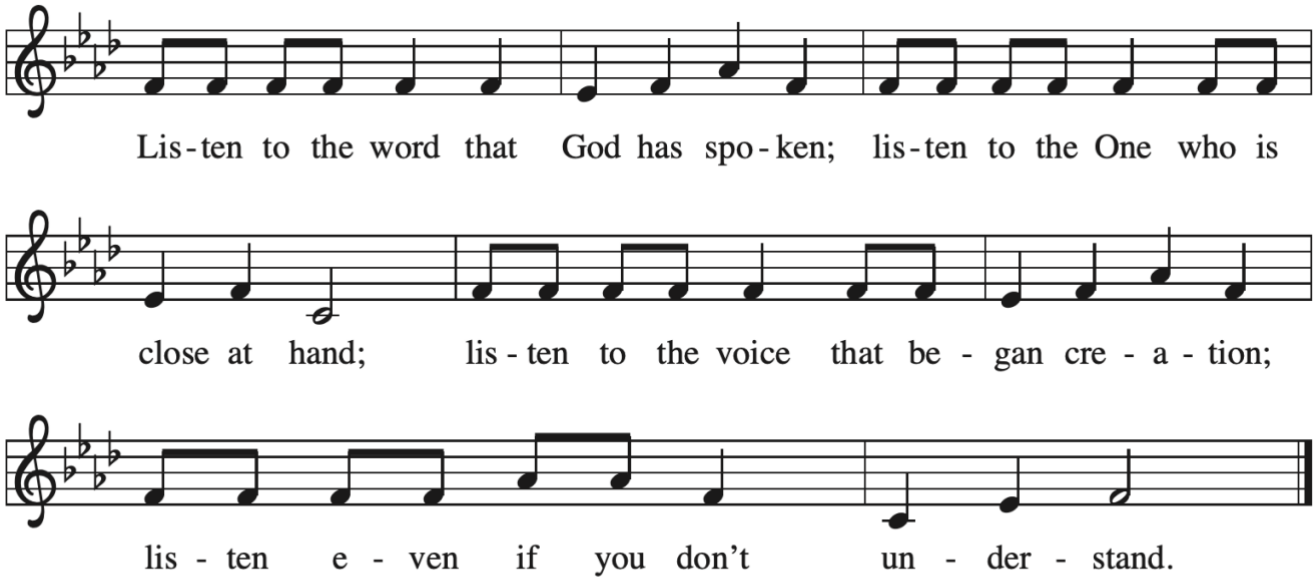
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,
C: *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.*

P: 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.
C: *Amen.*

GATHERING SONG – *Listen to the Word ***ACS 974***



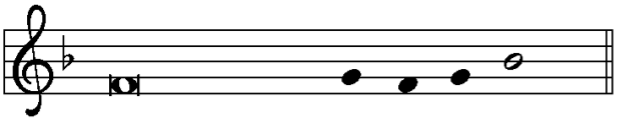
Text: Anonymous, Canada
Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005

***THE GREETING**

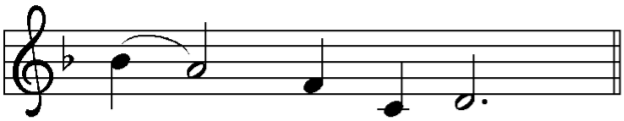
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

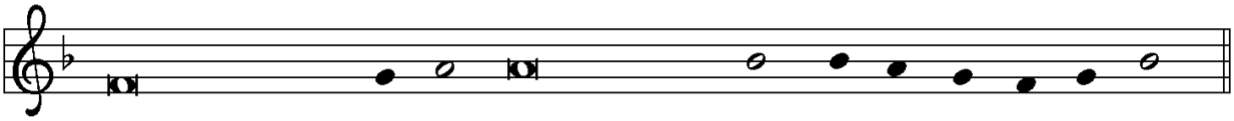
KYRIE **(ELW p. 165)**



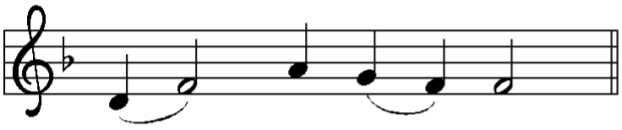
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



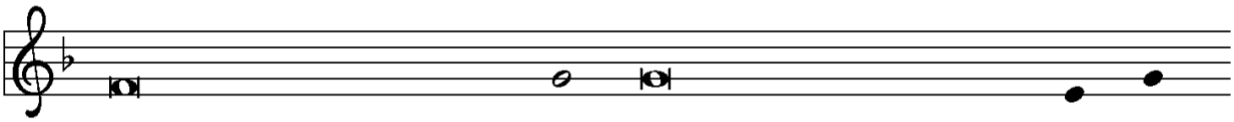
Lord, have mer - cy.



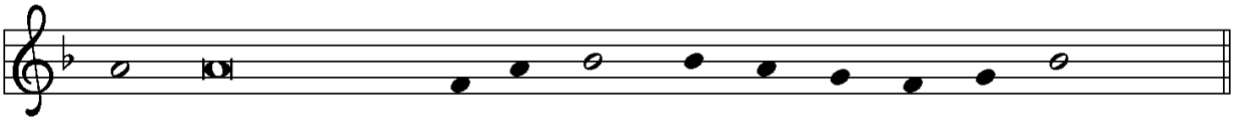
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



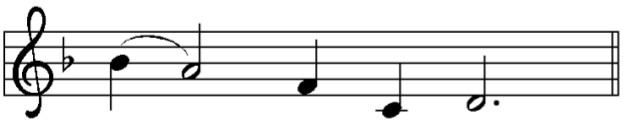
Lord, have mer - cy.



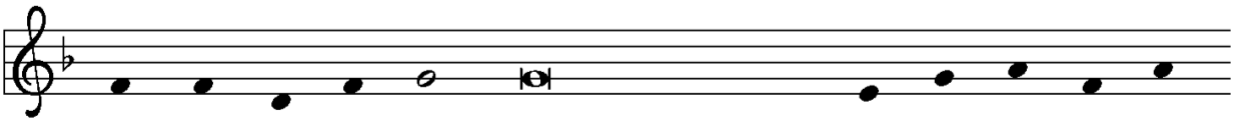
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



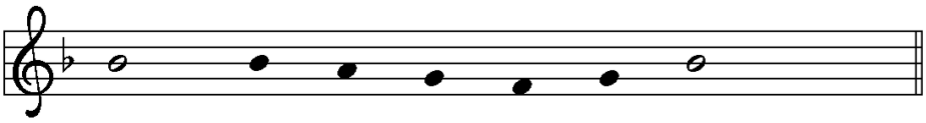
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



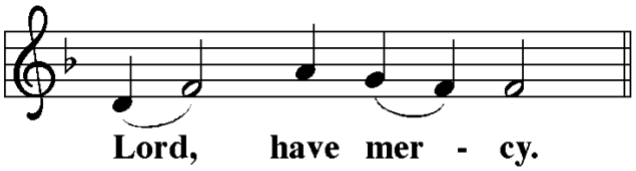
Lord, have mer - cy.

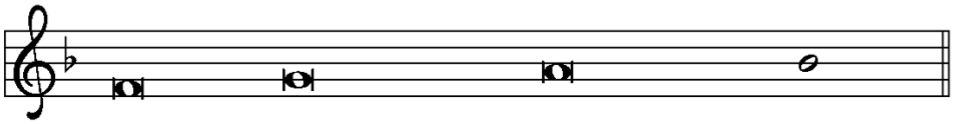


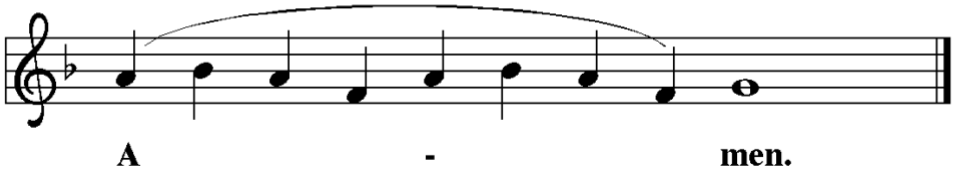
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



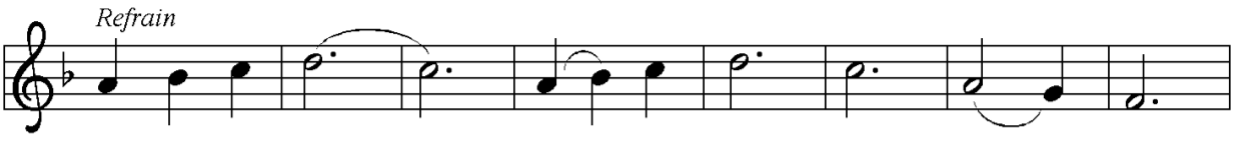
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

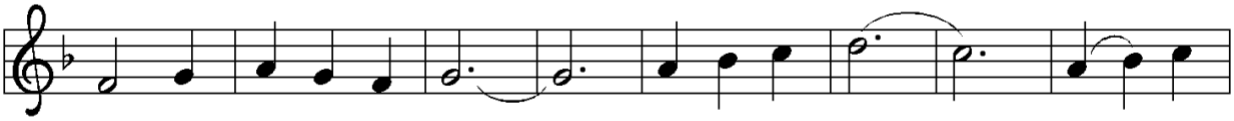


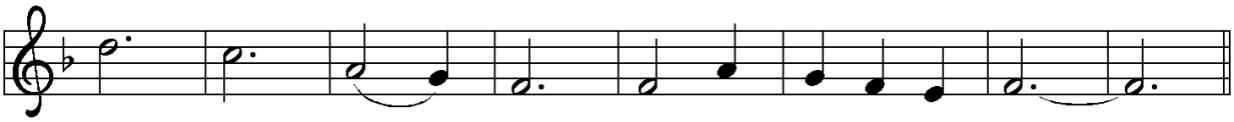


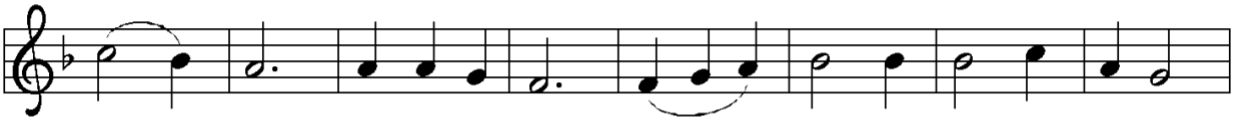


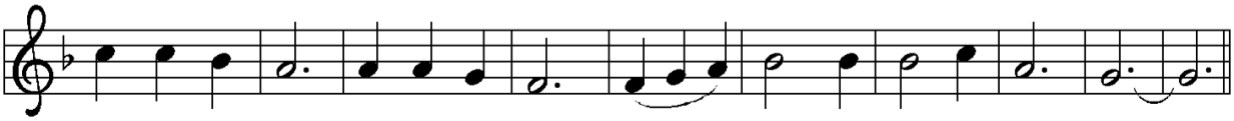
CANTICLE OF PRAISE **(ELW p.167)**

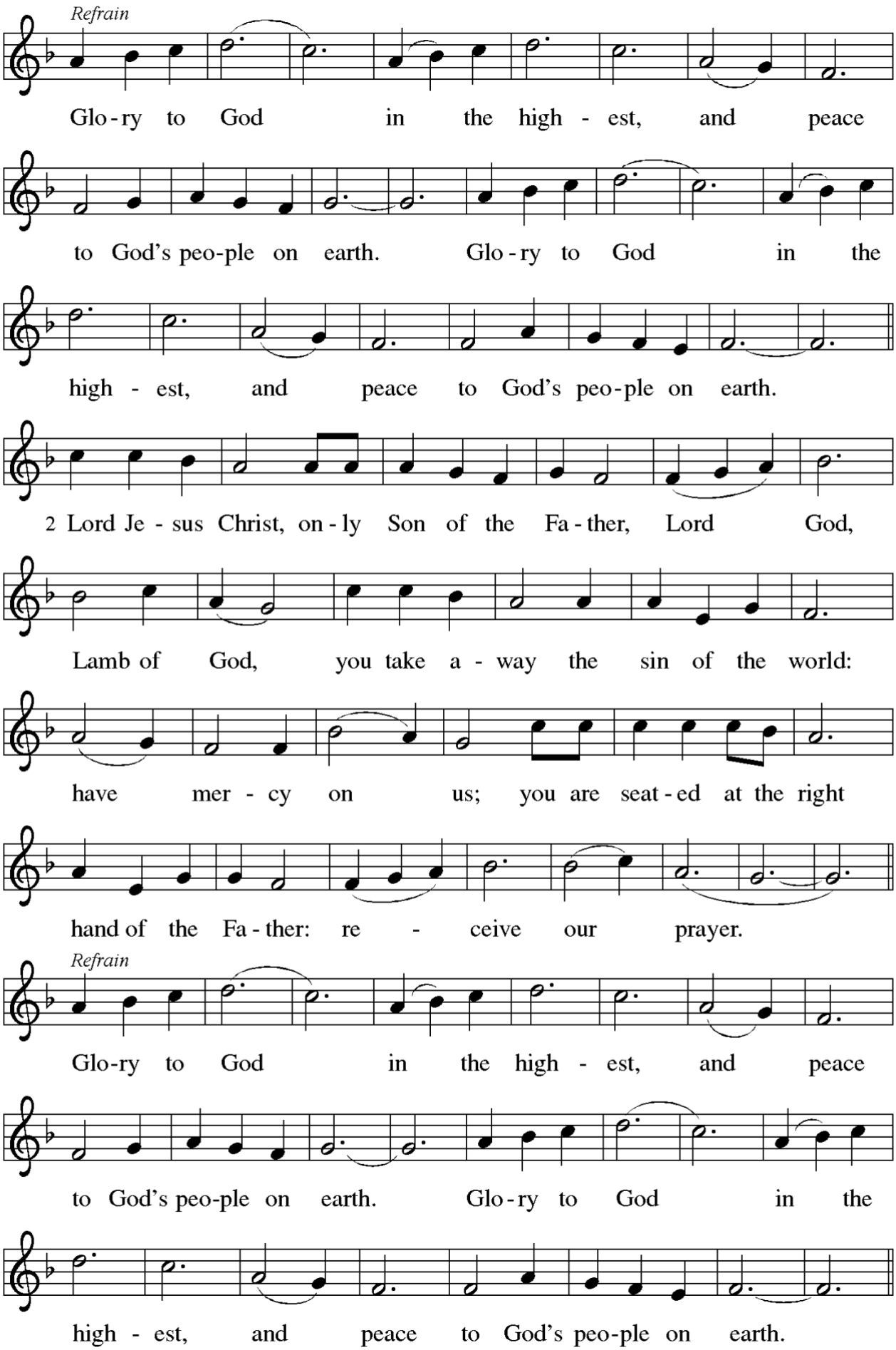


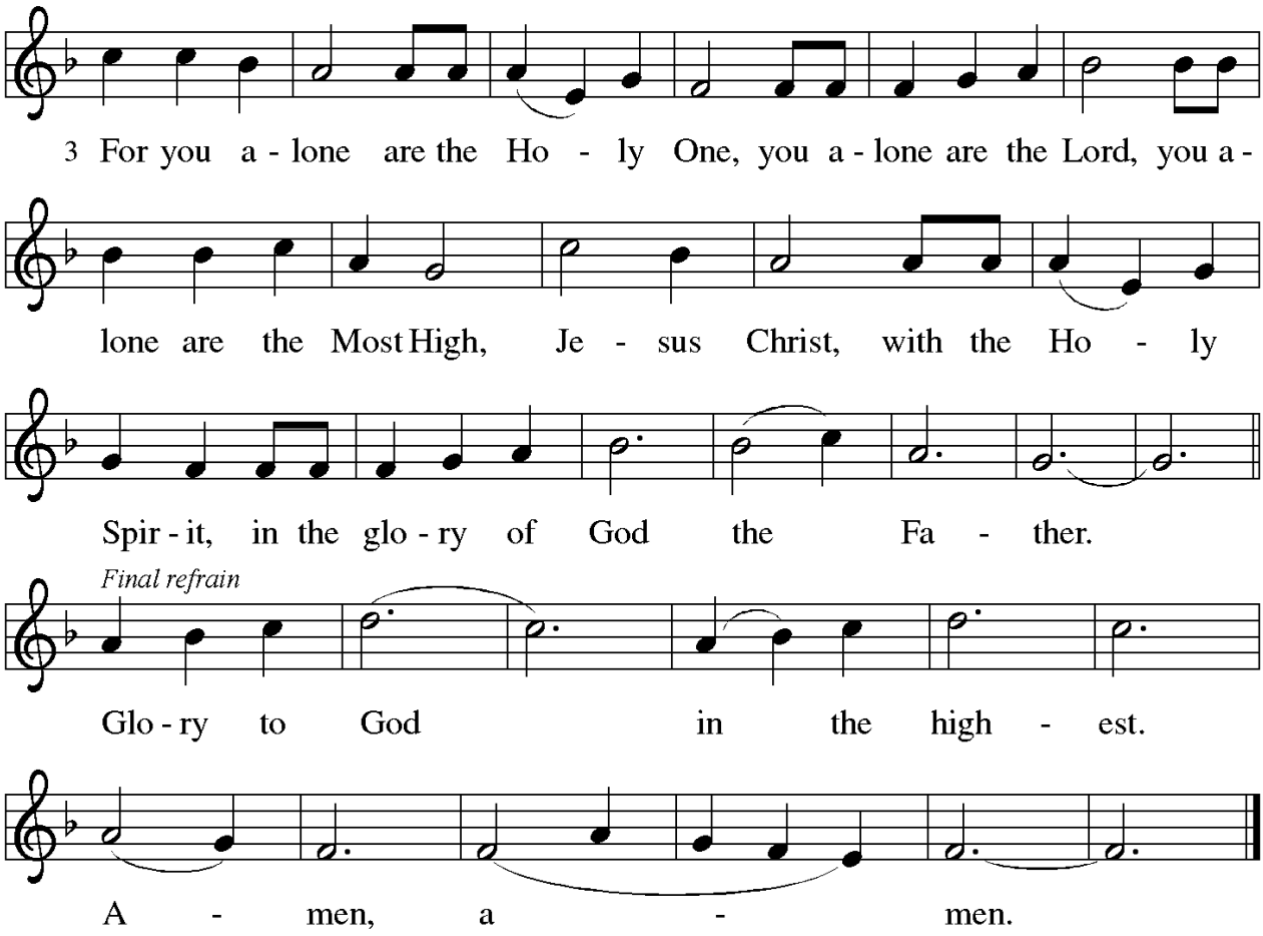









Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right
hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8 **Lector**

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

A reading from Micah.

1 Hear what the LORD says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

3 "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

6 "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

L: The word of the Lord.
C: *Thanks be to God*.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 **Lector**

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

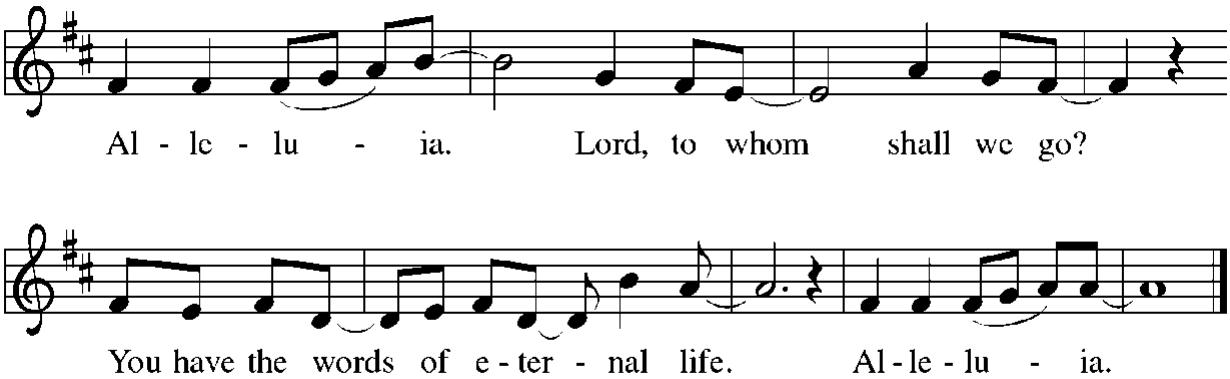
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

18 The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us
who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this
age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the
wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided,
through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For
Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the
called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is
stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by
human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But
God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is
weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in
the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, 29 so that no one might
boast in the presence of God. 30 In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and
redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the
Lord."

L: The word of the Lord.
C: *Thanks be to God.*

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** **(ELW p. 171)**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

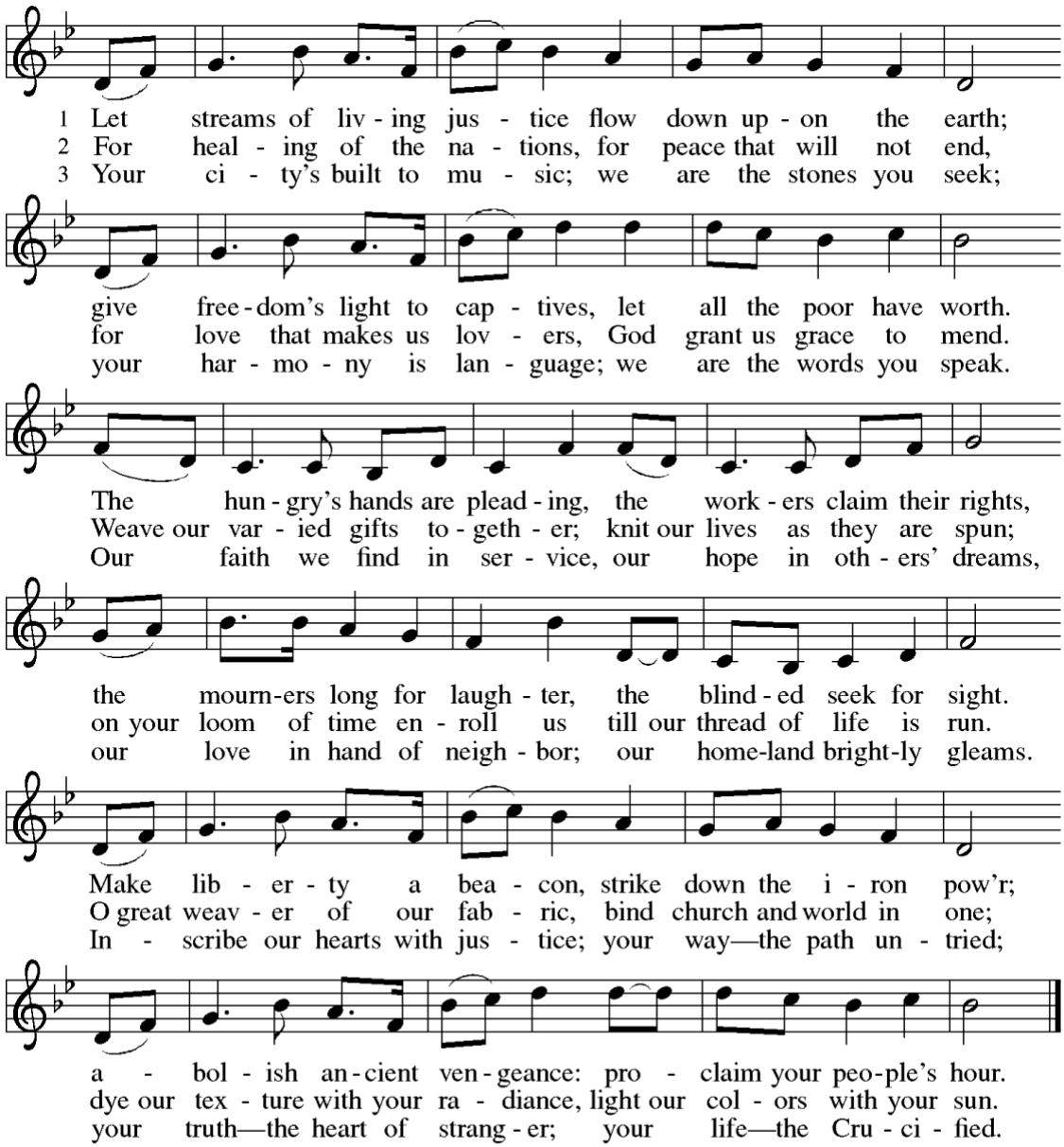
P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.
C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down,
his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be
filled.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all
kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your

reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON **Pastor Ryan Radtke**

HYMN OF THE DAY- *Let Streams of Living Justice ***ELW 710***



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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***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 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 INTERCESSION**

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A: God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way *(especially)*. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

A: God of all relationships, bless this branch of the body of Christ that is Messiah Lutheran Church. Strengthen all its relationships and weave your love and grace into each family and household. We especially pray this week for the Hubert, Jones, and Jung families. Make us your people. Merciful God,

C: *receive our prayer.*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: *Amen.*

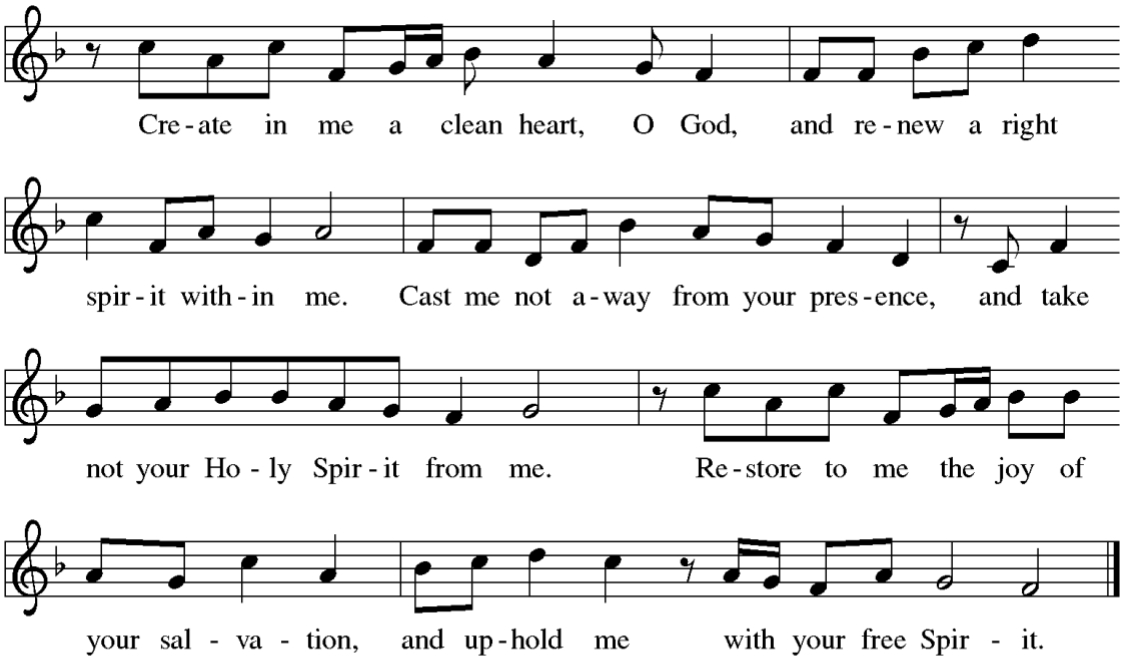
***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

OFFERING – *You may place an "I give online" card in the plate as a physical offering*

OFFERING SONG – *Create in Me a Clean Heart



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: *God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 152)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

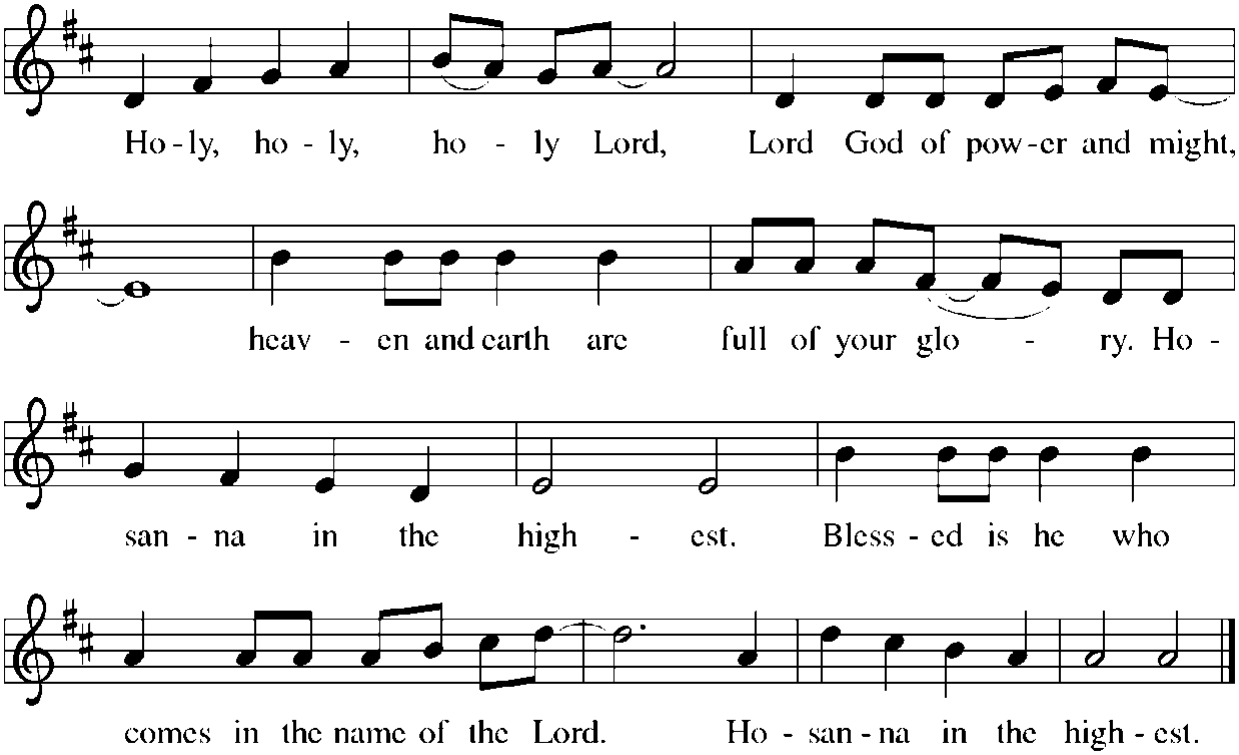
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 173)**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: ***Amen.***

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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.

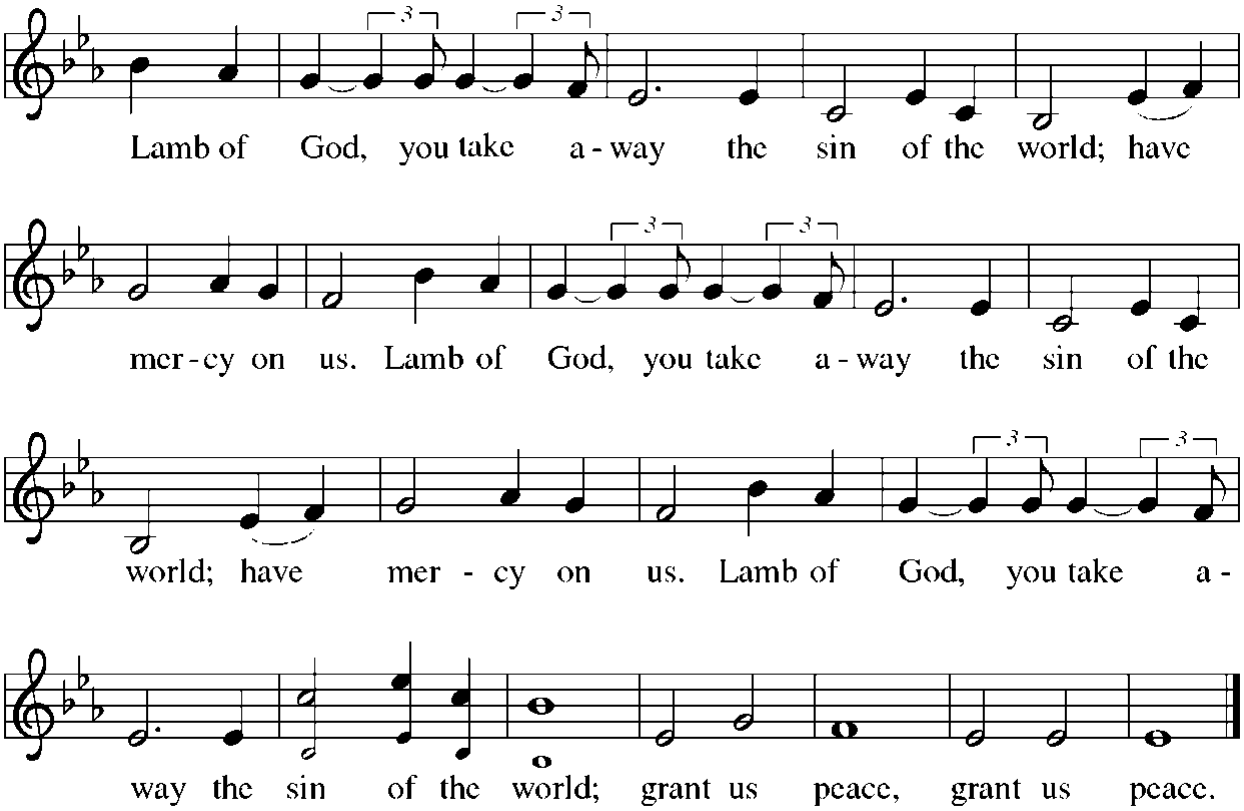
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – *Lamb of God* **(ELW p. 174)**

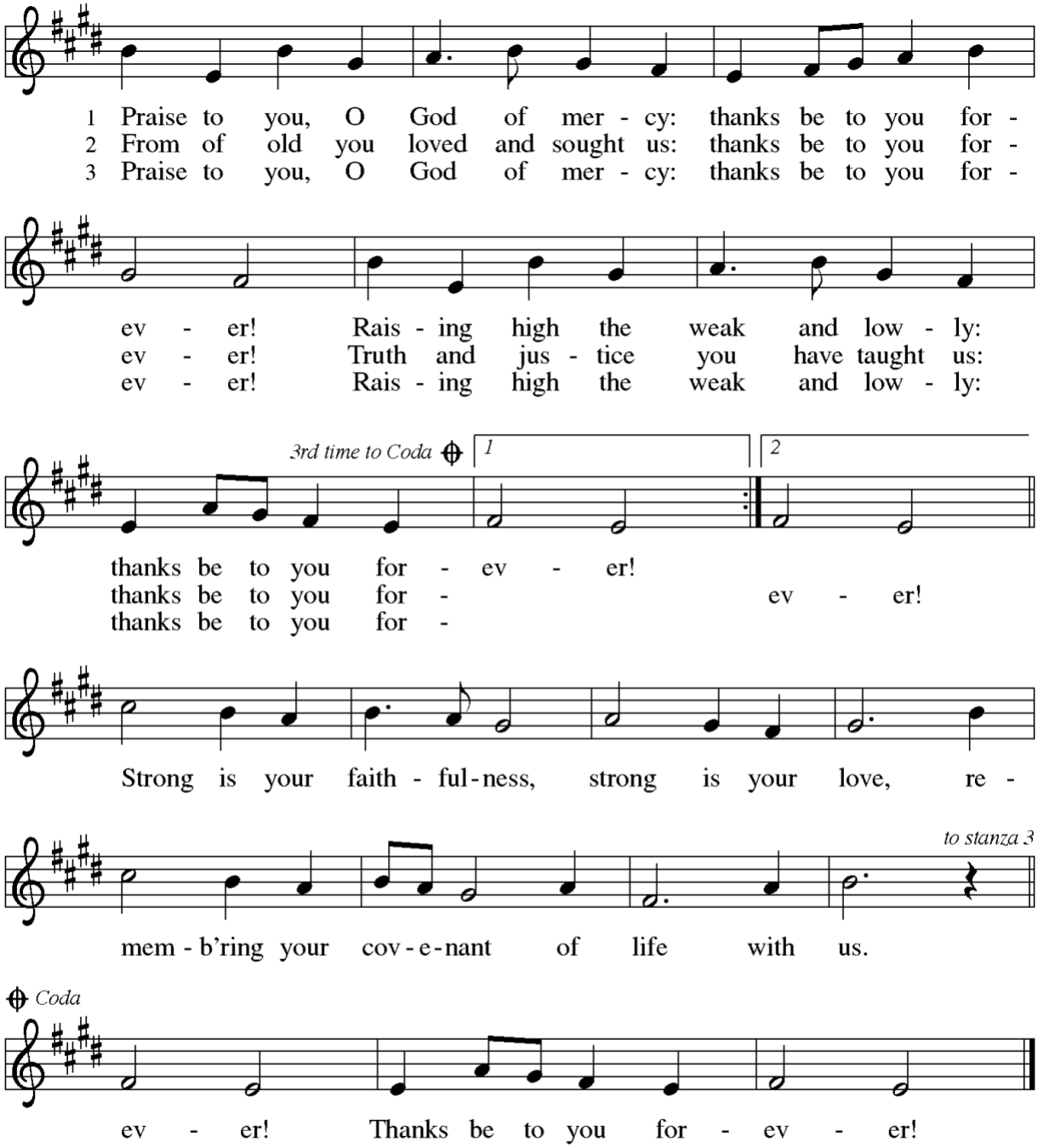


***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: *Amen*

*SONG AFTER COMMUNION – *Praise to You, O God of Mercy* *ELW 208*



Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

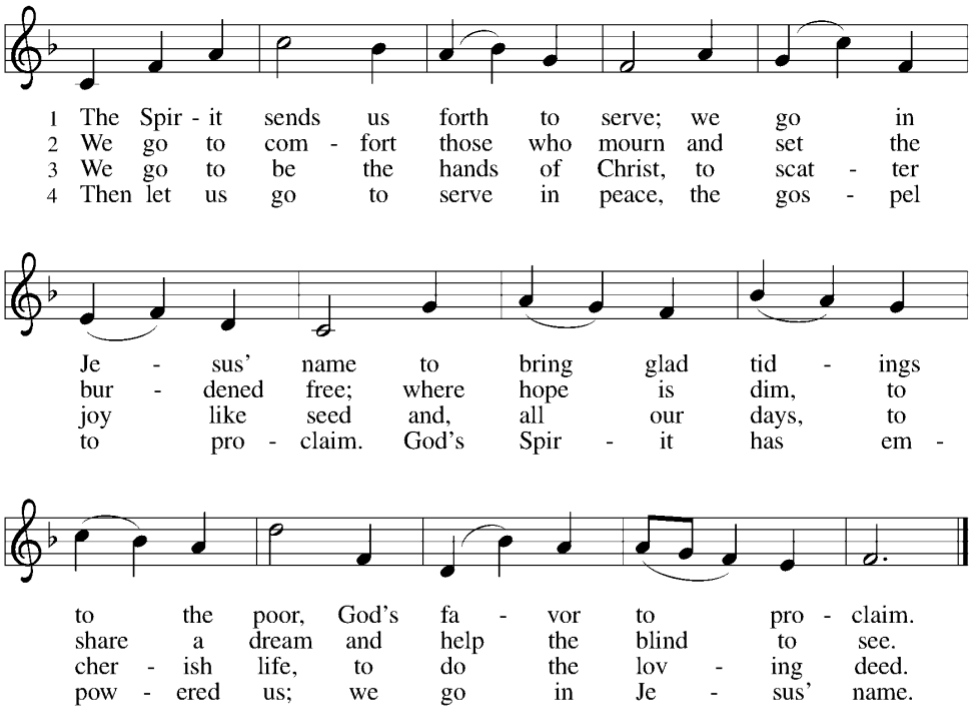
C: ***Amen***

***BLESSING**

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: *Amen*

SENDING SONG – *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ***ELW 551***



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Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
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***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

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<u>SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – February 1, 2026</u>

Pianist:	Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants:	(1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Diana Sondor
Lector:	Doug Duke
Acolyte:	Abby Schroeder
Greeter:	Rosalee Duke
Ushers:	Roger Schroeder & Chris Sondor
Altar Guild:	Becky Collie & Linda Mahovtas
Counters:	Gordon & Marilyn Gunn
Live Streamer:	Heather Williams

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

February 1	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	All Souls Annual Meeting	10:45 AM
February 3	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	AA	5:30 PM
February 4	PAL	9:00 AM
February 5	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
February 8	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Chili Cookoff	12:00 PM
February 10	AA	5:30 PM
February 11	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
February 12	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
February 13-15	Winter Celebration (Rescheduled)	All Day
February 15	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week but aims to be in on Tuesday and Wednesday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 3rd Sunday of 2026:

- Average Contributions to current were $3,755.67
- Contributions for current January 18th were $1,640.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is $11,267.00
- For comparison, current YTD 2025 was $22,223.42
- Designated giving for the 2nd Sunday was $95.00

WINTER CELEBRATION RESCHEDULED

Due to the extreme cold and heavy snow, for safety reasons Winter Celebration has been rescheduled to February 13-15. Which means: if you couldn't make it originally, you have another chance! If you'd like to register, please let Pastor Ryan know.

MCEF NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SENIORS IN MECHANICSVILLE

MCEF needs volunteers to help our seniors and disabled persons by providing the rides they need to live independently. We also need volunteer ride coordinators to help them schedule rides for medical appointments, to their grocery store or to do personal business. If you can share a few hours each month and have a desire to help in our ministry to seniors please contact MCEF Senior Rides at (804) 357-9360, or by email at: Office@4mcef.com

SYNOD TAPESTRY TEAM – WEAVING OUR STORIES ZOOM GATHERINGS

In 2026, the Tapestry Team invites you to storytelling Zoom gatherings. Weaving Our Stories invites us to tell stories and listen deeply to one another. Each of the five Tapestry Threads will host a series of three Zooms to explore participant experiences about the focus Thread. The third of the three Zooms takes place on February 9th, at 7:00 pm. Please visit https://vasynod.org/ministries/tapestry/ to register and for more information.

Y.O.U.T.H. IN ACTION (YOUTHFUL OUTREACH TO UPLIFT AND THRIVE IN HOLINESS)

SAVE THE DATE! The Youth Group will be holding its 3rd annual Craft Fair and Yard Sale event on **MARCH 7th** from 8am-2pm. Got stuff? The youth group will be collecting donations for their yard sale spot on March 1st. This is a great time for spring cleaning and decluttering! If you need help getting any items to the church, please contact a youth leader or email mlcyardsale@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study groups meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month . This month we will meet on February 11th and 25th. One group meets at 10:00 a.m. and one group meets at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet in the church fellowship hall. We are currently reading A Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers. We are going to be covering the 6th and 7th chapters about Rahab on Wednesday the 11th and the 25th we will be reading the opening and chapter 1 and 2 about Ruth. The women we are reading about are all brave women in the Bible who changed eternity by being in the lineage of Jesus. Please join us! If you need a ride to the meetings please call Marilyn Gunn, Donna Combs, or Nancy Berg.

MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Registration is open for the Midwinter Power in the Spirit, an online gathering February 2-4, 2026. We will learn how the words of 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline," relate to the foundations of Lutheran faith. The event will feature Bible study leaders from around the Synod. Visit https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/ for more information, registration, and an event flyer.

BANNER TEAM

The Banner Team will be meeting on Mondays February 3rd and 17th at 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We are very close to finishing the first part of the banner set we are currently working on. Hopefully we will be dedicating it this month. The other two parts should follow shortly after. If you are interested in helping out you are welcome to join us. Questions? Talk to Nancy Berg.