*Fifth Sunday of Easter*
*Abiding Hope Lutheran Church*
*May 7, 2023*

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As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

**PRELUDE ~** *A Glorious Easter Medley* arr. Rogers Piano/Organ Duet

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~** *Special thank you to Howard Lyon for sharing his musical gifts with us this morning.*

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand*

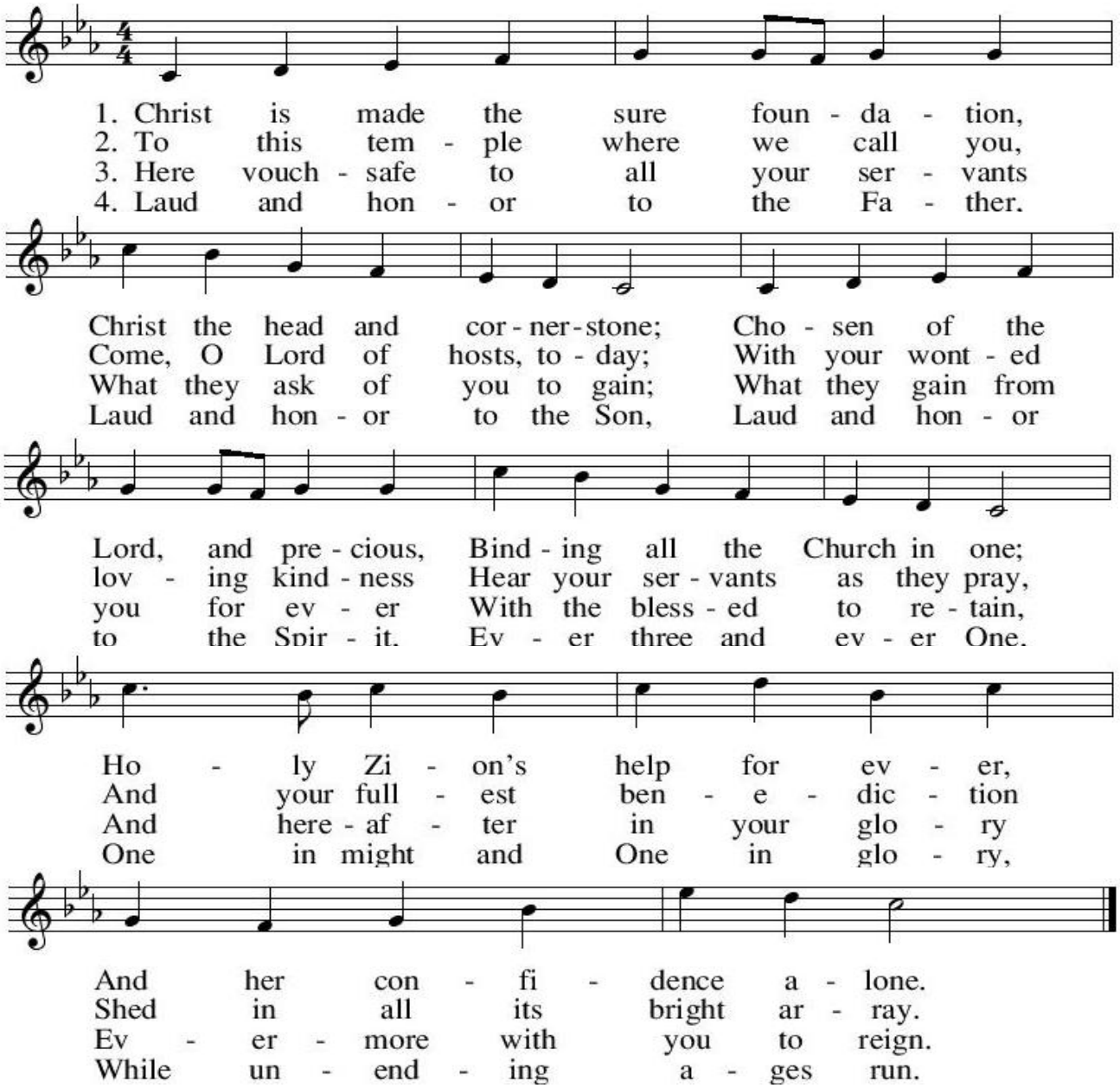
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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.**

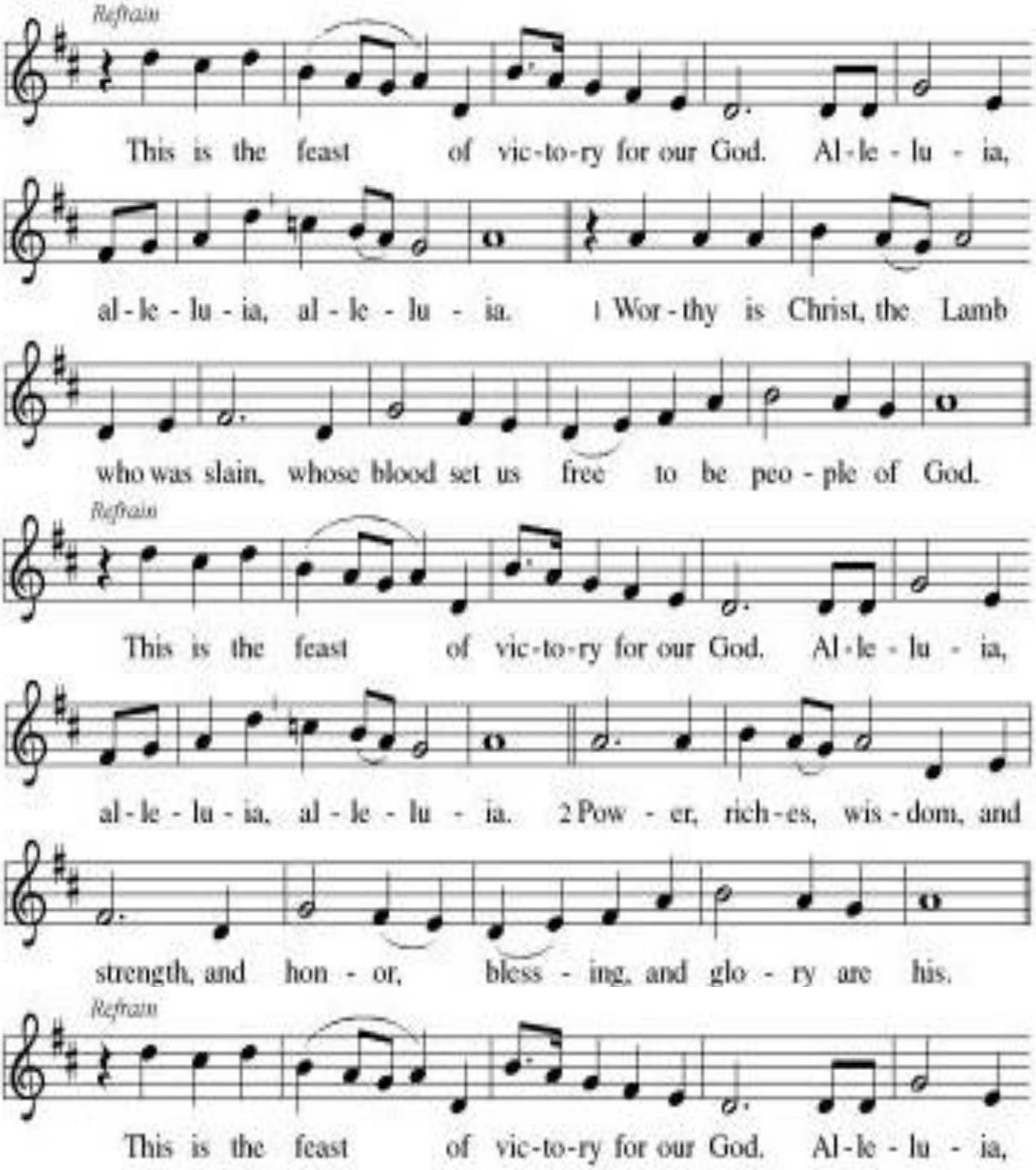
**GATHERING HYMN ~** *Christ Has Made a Sure Foundation*



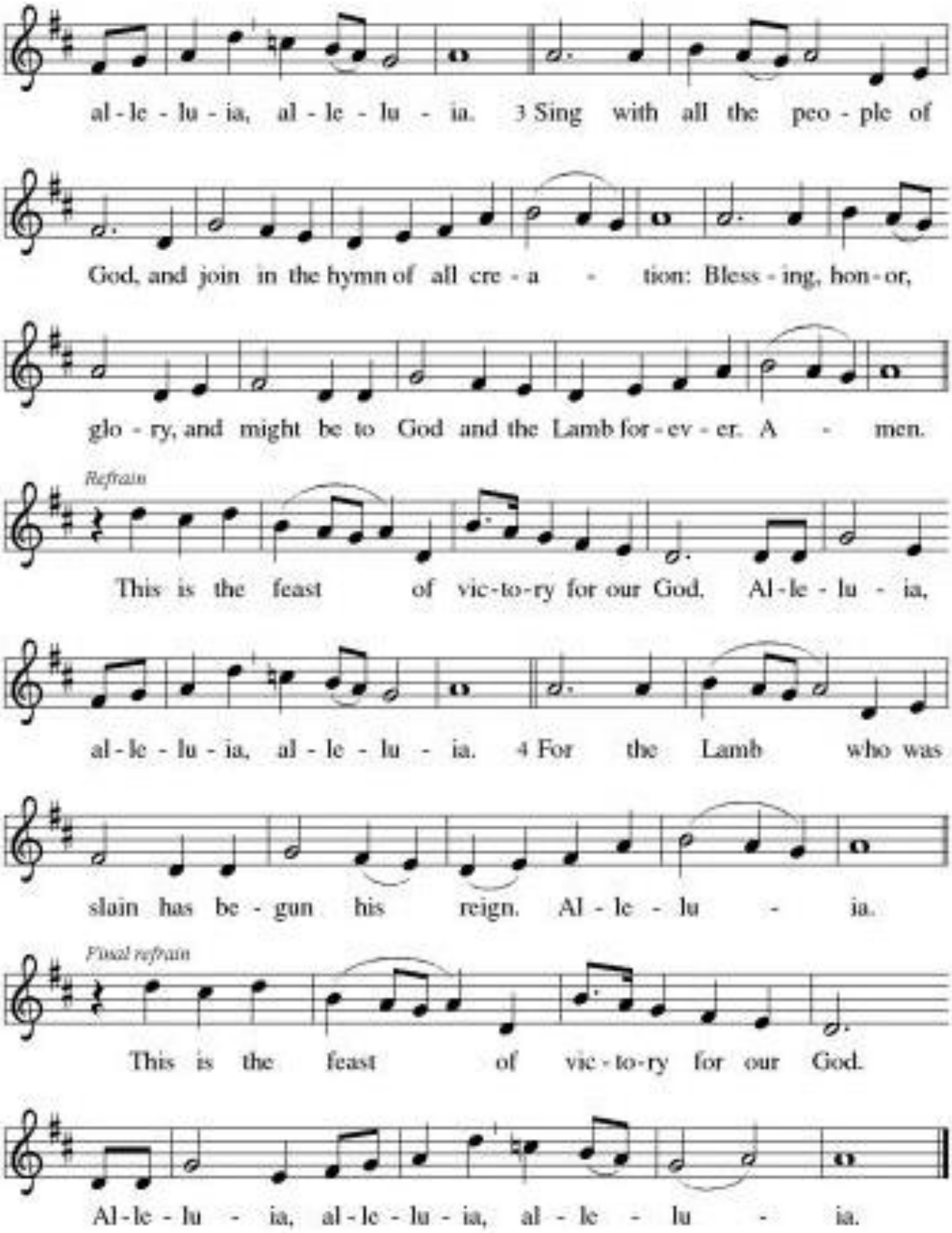

**GREETING**

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.**

**HYMN of PRAISE ~** *This is the Feast  V.1,3 Women ~ V.2,4 Men*



**HYMN of PRAISE** cont'd



**PRAYER of the DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

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

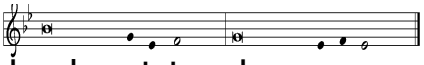
*Please be seated*

**FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60**

55 Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the
glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said,
"I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of
God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed
together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to
stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man
named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus,
receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,
"Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

**PSALM: 31: 1-5,15-16 8:30 Sung in Unison 10:30 Sung Responsively**

**Tone 7** 

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

2 **Incline your | ear to me;**
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my
stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
**for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

5 Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

15 **My times are | in your hand;**
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those**
**who | persecute me.**

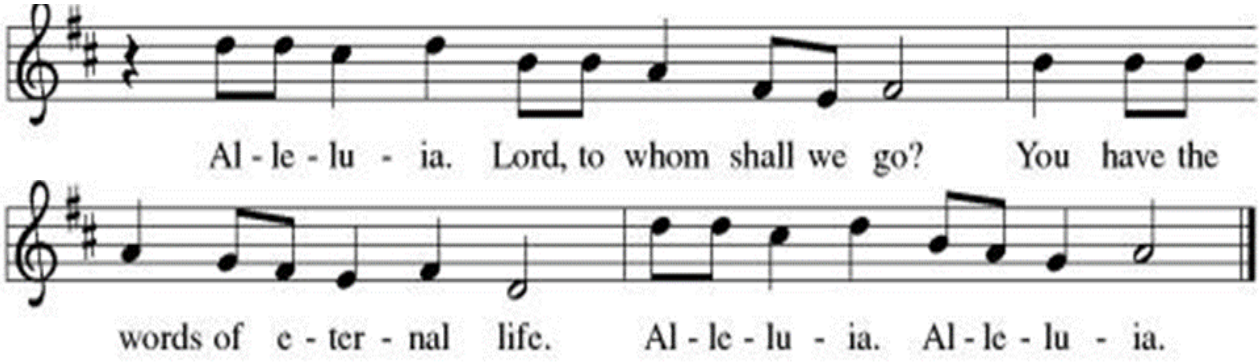
16 **Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**
**save me in your | steadfast love."**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

2Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you
may grow into salvation—3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
4Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and
precious in God's sight, and 5like living stones, let yourselves be built into a
spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices accept-
able to God through Jesus Christ. 6For it stands in scripture: "See, I am
laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever
believes in him will not be put to shame." 7To you then who believe, he is
precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders
rejected has become the very head of the corner," 8and "A stone that
makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble
because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 9But you are a
chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order
that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of dark-
ness into his marvelous light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you
are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have
received mercy. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**




**GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 14. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in
God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house there are many dwelling
places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place
for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will
take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you
know the way to the place where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord,
we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

cont'd

[6]Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [7]If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." [8]Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." [9]Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10]Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. [11]Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. [12]Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. [13]I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14]If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*
**CHILDREN's SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN of DAY ~ ELW 816** *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick, Especially: Cheryl T., Cheryl K., Judy, Harry, Alyssa, Pat K. Carol and Bill, Jane, Marygrace, Zane, Eileen, Peggy, Don and Skip, Sandy, Esther, John, Jo, Sally & Matt, Norma, Nicole & Family, Ruth, Don & Marian, Evelyn, Joyce, Jack & Marjorie, Roger & Irene. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

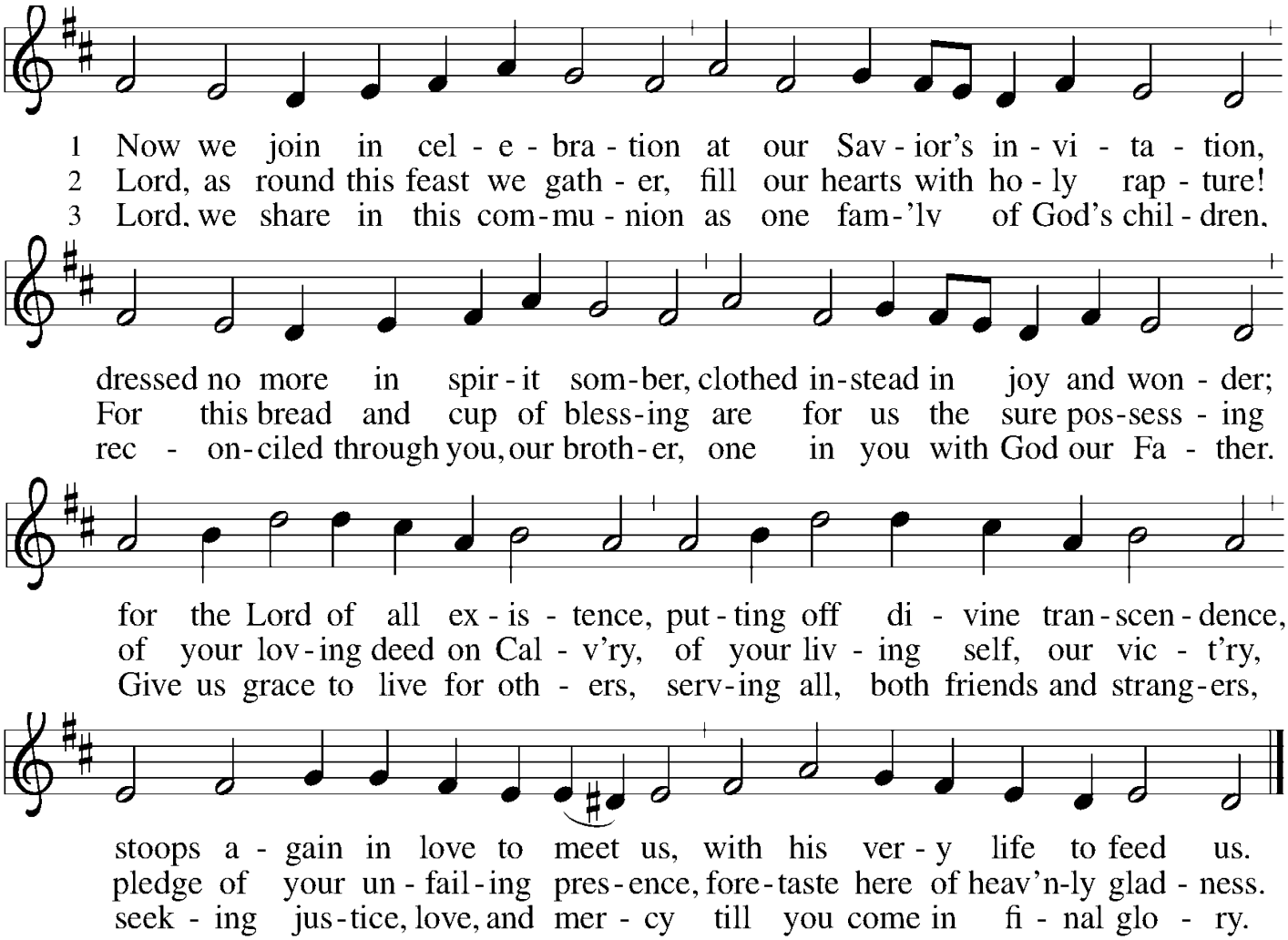
*Please be seated*

**PRESENTATION of GIFTS**

**OFFERING ~ ABIDING HOPE CHOIR:** *Worship the King Medley*

*Please stand*

**OFFERTORY HYMN ~** *Now We Join in Celebration*




**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

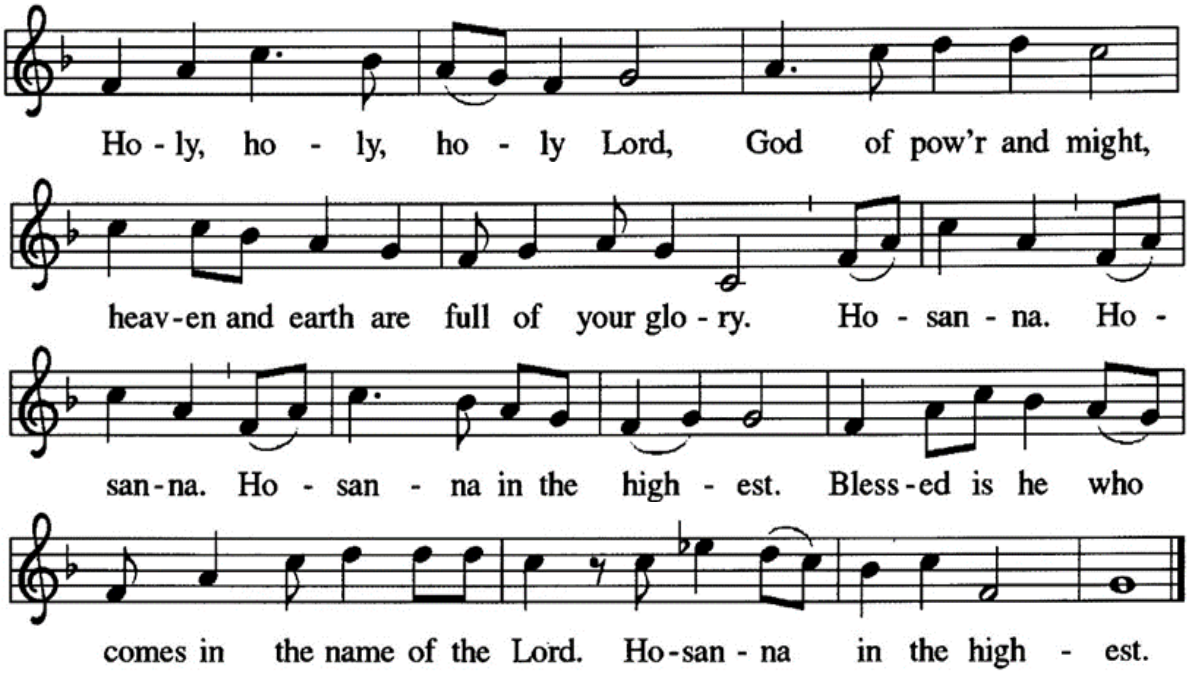
**Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:




**THANKSGIVING at the TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

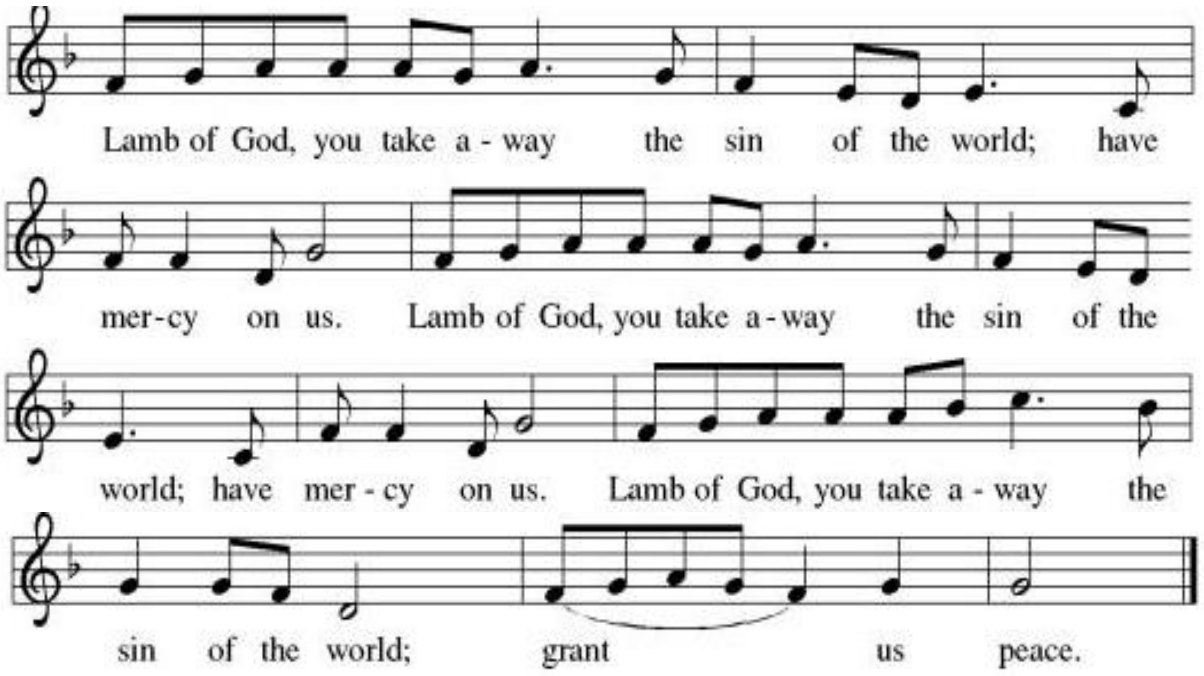
**LORD'S PRAYER**
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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**
Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

*Please be seated*
**COMMUNION**
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
**Amen.**

**LAMB of GOD**



**COMMUNION HYMNS ~ WOV 671** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*
*Cornerstone* pgs. 13,14

*Please be stand*

**PASTORAL BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our ☩ Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together.

**Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 389** *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* vs.1,4,5

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE ~** *Power in the Blood* Piano Duet

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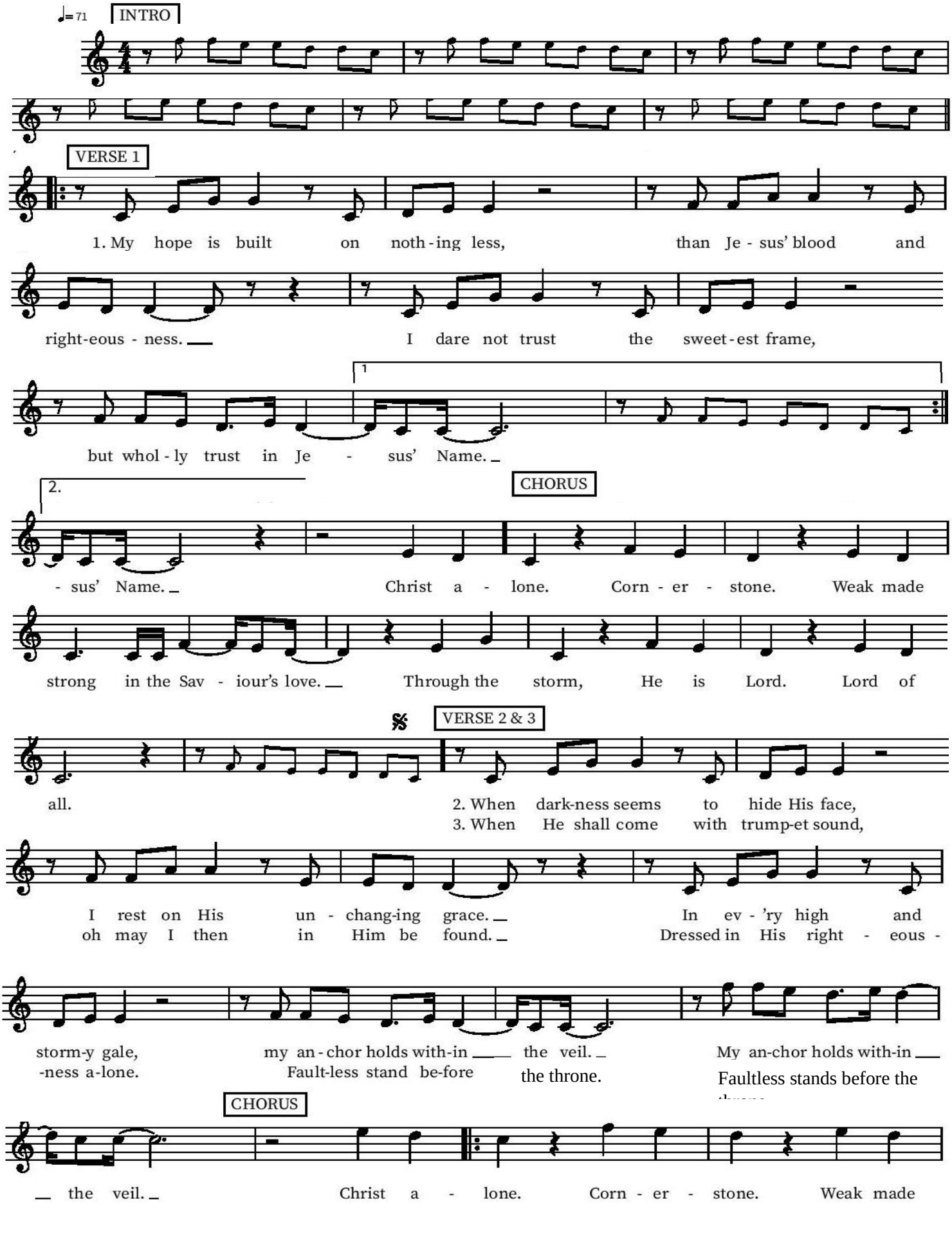
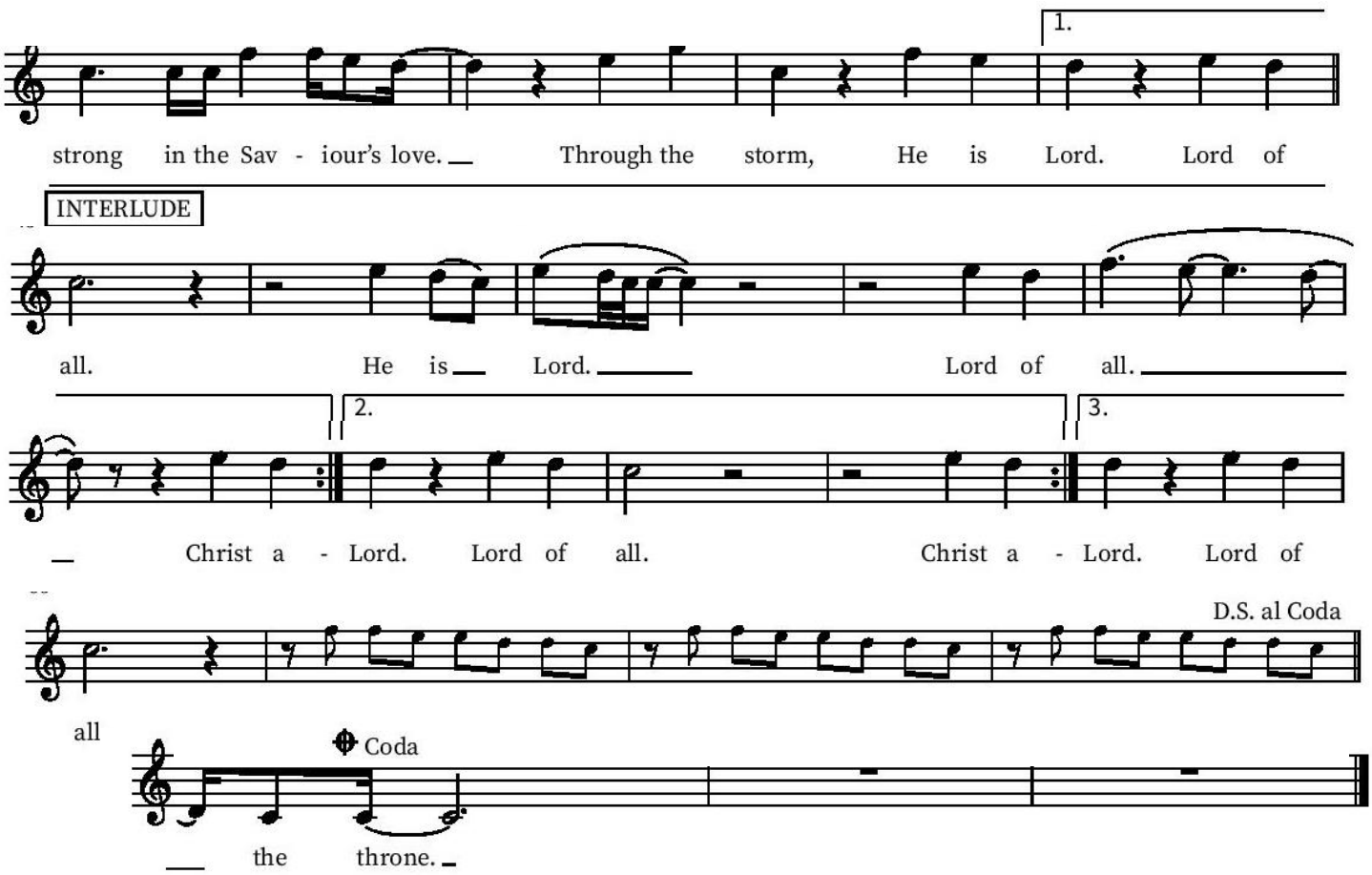
# 2nd COMMUNION HYMN ~ Cornerstone pgs.13.14



*Cornerstone* – cont'd




**PARISH NOTES ~ May 7, 2023**

**Bible Study 9:30am ~ Choir Rehearsal 11:45a**

**Flowers this week given to the Glory of God,**
**In Memory of Pauline Jenkins**
**from Lon Jenkins**

*Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God,*
*In memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch, from Carol Wunch*

**Please pray for**: Cheryl Tufts, Cheryl Kurpiewski, Judy Nordin, Pat Kerr, Harry Speakman, Alyssa, Jane Penna, Carol and Bill Heider, Marygrace Cirilli, Zane Volkman, Eileen Baughman, Peggy Kaeberlein, Don and Skip Kleckner, Beth, Sandy Pacileo, Jo Critchfield, Esther Klakamp, Matt & Sally Zill, John Litzel, Roger & Irene Owens, Norma Squire, Nicole Woomer & Family, Karen Shick, Ruth Hinkson, Don & Marian Fuller, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

**Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday:** If you wish to have a plant placed on the altar, in memory of, to honor or celebrate a loved one, **Monday**, **May 8th** is the **last day** to return your form request & payment. The price for each red geranium is **$3.50**. Deadline for **KAFP donations** is **Monday, May 15**. A form is in the newsletter and also on the table in the narthex.

**Sunday, May 14: Choir warmup @ 10:15a ~ No Rehearsal**

**Sunday, May 14: Mother's Day. Ladies, wear your special hats to church.**

**Wednesday May 10: Our Lunch & Listen Series** continues featuring **Jack Martin, Director of Duskas/Martin Funeral Home** as he presents "A History of Mortuary Science". Brown bag lunch @ 12N. **Speaker @ 12:30p**. Bring your friends & family to enjoy friendly conversation and this interesting presentation. Beverages & cookies offered.

**Saturday, May 13:** FREE! RAIN OR SHINE! **CampBlast! @ Lutherlyn, 11:00a - 4:00p. RSVP not required.** Come for a day of FUN that includes: many indoor & outdoor activities. Additional information in May Newsletter.

**Sunday, May 14: Family Town Hall Meeting following 9:30a worship.** Plan to attend! Enjoy coffee & goodies. **Bring your questions, concerns and ideas for AHLC.**

**Wednesday, May 17: the Prayer Warrior Group, meet in the church @ 1:00pm.** Consider to join in to pray for our nation and the world in crisis, those affected by illness or are grieving the loss of someone, plus any other concerns.

**Thursday, May 18:** A festival service celebrating the Ascension of Our Lord at Luther Memorial Church on Thursday, May 18 at 7:00pm. Preaching: Bishop Michael Lozano, Officiating: Pastor Jay Mitchell. If you would like to sing in the massed choir for this service (hymns, liturgy, psalm), please contact Walt Gaber (WaltGaber@gmail.com) so that sufficient seating and copies of the music can be prepared. Also, please attend the single rehearsal prior to the service at 5:00pm to learn the choral portions of the hymns and psalm.

**Saturday, May 20:** All Men are invited to the **Men Only Breakfast** @ 9:00a Panos' Restaurant on W 38th St. Come and enjoy casual conversation and good food with friends.

**Prayer & Meditation:** the **"Quiet Room"** (formerly the "Cry Room") is ready **to be used as a place for private prayer & meditation.** Any time the church is open, members/associates of AHLC are invited to use this space. A table is decorated with inspirational Bible verses for contemplation, battery operated candles to calm the mind for deeper spiritual connections and our Prayer Box to add your prayer requests. If you wish, a basket of rocks engraved with sacred words is available to use in this space. Sort through the rocks, choose a word that speaks to you or choose your own word to contemplate.

Hold the rock in your hand as a means for remaining focused during your prayer/meditation time. God honors prayer! Our hope is to truly make our church known as a church of prayer, to provide opportunities for silence, prayer, and meditation, away from the world of technology and noise…

**KAFP Project Dignity:** May item ~ Shampoo. Basket is in the "quiet room" (formerly the "cry room").

**Are you on Facebook?** Be sure to "friend" Abiding Hope and when you see an AHLC post, and LIKE and SHARE the post to help promote events at AHLC

**Bethany Outreach** collection of used clothing and household items continues as well as collection of shoes (pairs only) in good condition for **The Chosen.** Drop off in the Heritage Room.

**Office Hours:** Mon and Tues 9:30 to 3:30 and Wed 9:30 to 12:30. If office is not staffed, please leave a message. For immediate pastoral assistance, call Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.

**Altar Flowers:** Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements- **$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

**CURRENT FUND REPORT**

March Income: $ 8,245.00 Year to Date Income: $26,581.05
March Expenses: $11,632.35 Year to Date Expenses: $33,527.16
March Difference: $-3,387.35 Year to date Difference: $-6,946.11
Year to Date Budget: $32,433.87

## Worship Leaders ~ May 7, 2023

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Videographer | X | Penny Gresh |
| Greeter/Coffee | Mary Randall | June Morey |
| Lector/Prayers | Analee Cree | Sally Zill |
| Comm Assist/Cups | Lon Jenkins | Michele Rion |
| Comm. Assist/Wine | Analee Cree | Nancy Cunning |
| Communion Tray | Lois Kuhns | Kayla Miller |
| Presenter | Mary Randall | Carolyn Hayes |
| Presenter | Barb Paris | Cindy Filson |
| Usher | Mike Paris | Andy Saska |
| Usher | X | Rich Filson |
| Counters | Dave Cunning & Rich Filson | |