

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
Divine Service, Setting 4
10:00 AM

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Charles Bell ~ Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon
Mr. Chris Cuvier ~ Organist

WELCOME TO MESSIAH!

To all who carry a burden of sin and need a Savior; to all who wish to rejoice and give thanks; to all who are strangers and need a Church home; to all who are lonely and long for companionship; to all who worship the Lord, our Creator; to all who hunger for the Word; to all who are weary and need rest, the people of Messiah, in the Spirit and Name of Jesus, say WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, we ask you to please introduce yourself to our pastors (don't worry, they're friendly!) and please sign our Guest Register in the narthex or fill out the yellow card in your bulletin. This will help us to get to know you better!

If you would like us to pray for you (or with you), please see one of our pastors before the church service or write a prayer request on the back of the yellow card.

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church exists in order to lead people to faith in Christ Jesus and Fellowship in His family, to celebrate His presence in worship and the study of His Word, and to use all their God-given Time, Talents, and Treasures according to His Will in the ministry of His church and mission to the world.

PRIVATE PRAYERS FOR BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WORSHIP:

On entering a church
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Before worship
O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for His sake. Amen.

Before confession & absolution
Almighty, everlasting God, for my many sins I justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, who won for me forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant me a true confession that, dead to sin, I may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant me Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Before communing
Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

After communing
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
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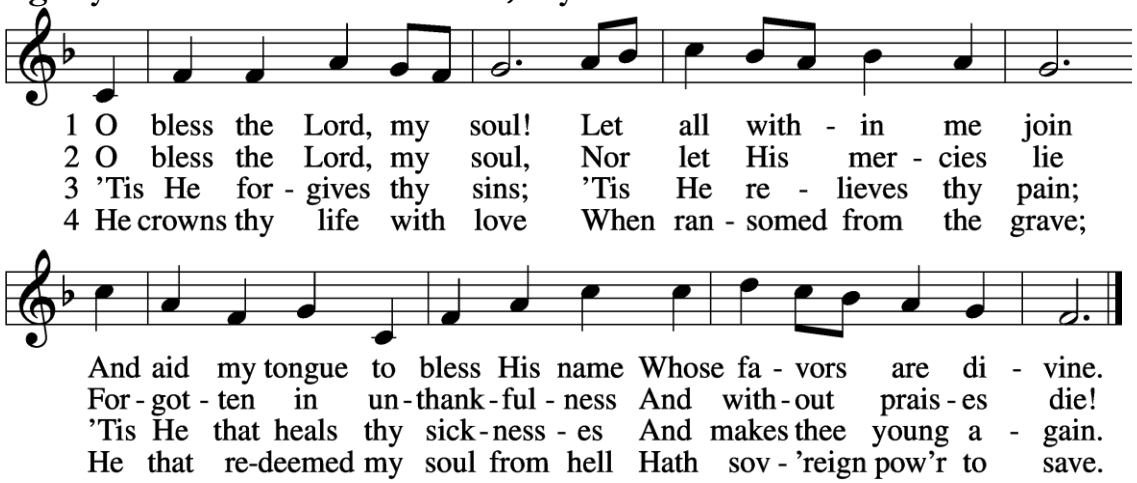
Prelude

Welcome

The order of service for today may be found in the Hymnal, page 203.

Stand

Opening Hymn: 814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'rers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**
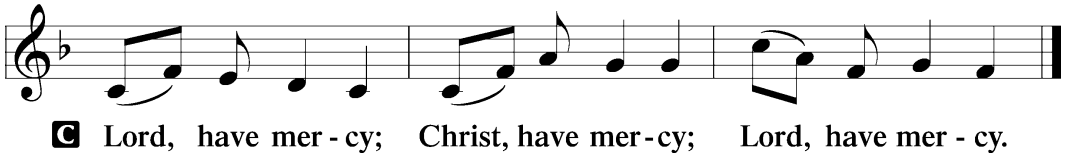
Stand

Service of the Word
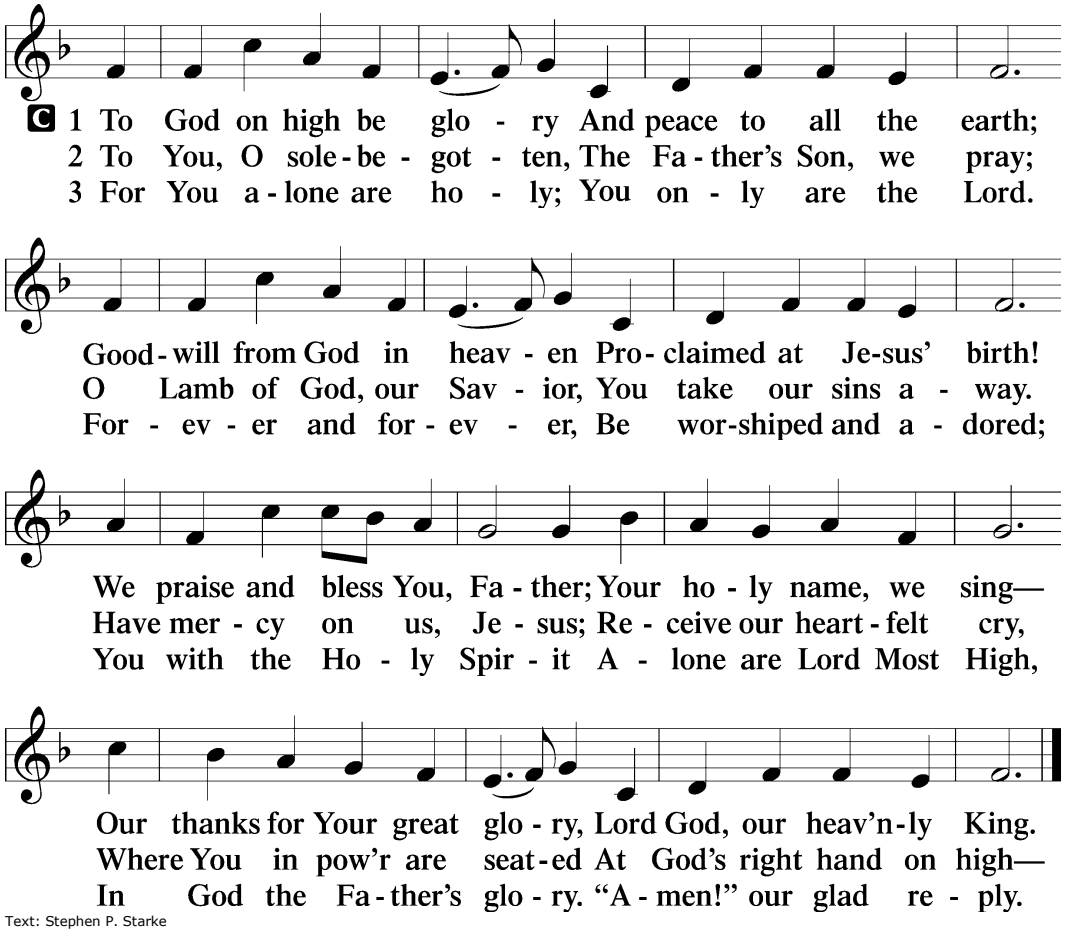
Introit *Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3*

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts,
blessèd is the one who trusts in you!
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.
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Kyrie *LSB 204*



Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

Any children present (and Mom and Dad, too!) are encouraged to come up to the chancel.

Lectionary Summary

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is "darkness, and not light" (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their "burnt offerings and grain offerings," nor will He look upon their "peace offerings" (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us "to the dealers" (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel.

Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we "encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes "with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God," and "we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Old Testament Reading *Amos 5:18–24*

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

C **These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.***
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

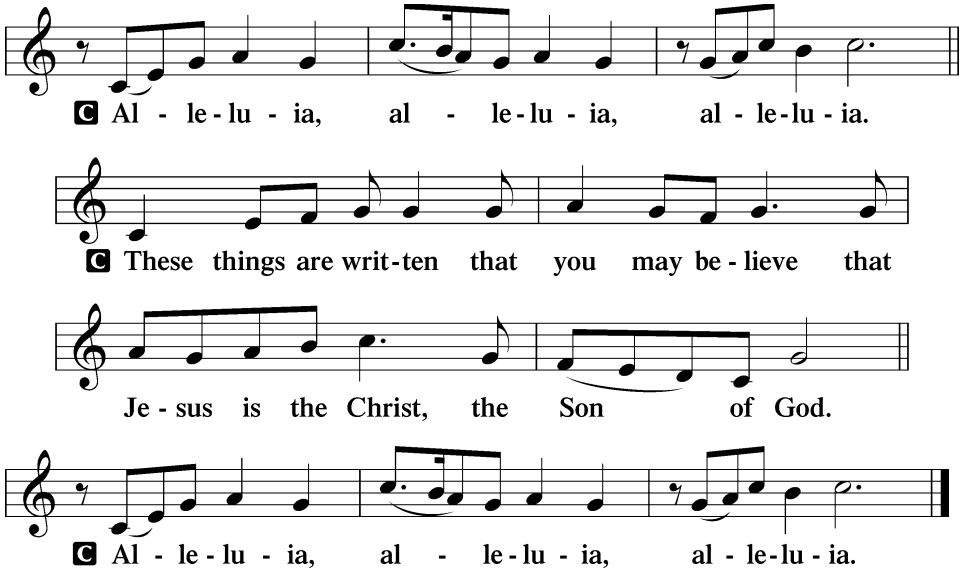
13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:1–13*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and
went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]For when the
foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their
lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there
was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those virgins rose and
trimmed their lamps. [8]And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are
going out.' [9]But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go
rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' [10]And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom
came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.
[11]Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he answered, 'Truly, I
say to you, I do not know you.' [13]Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed
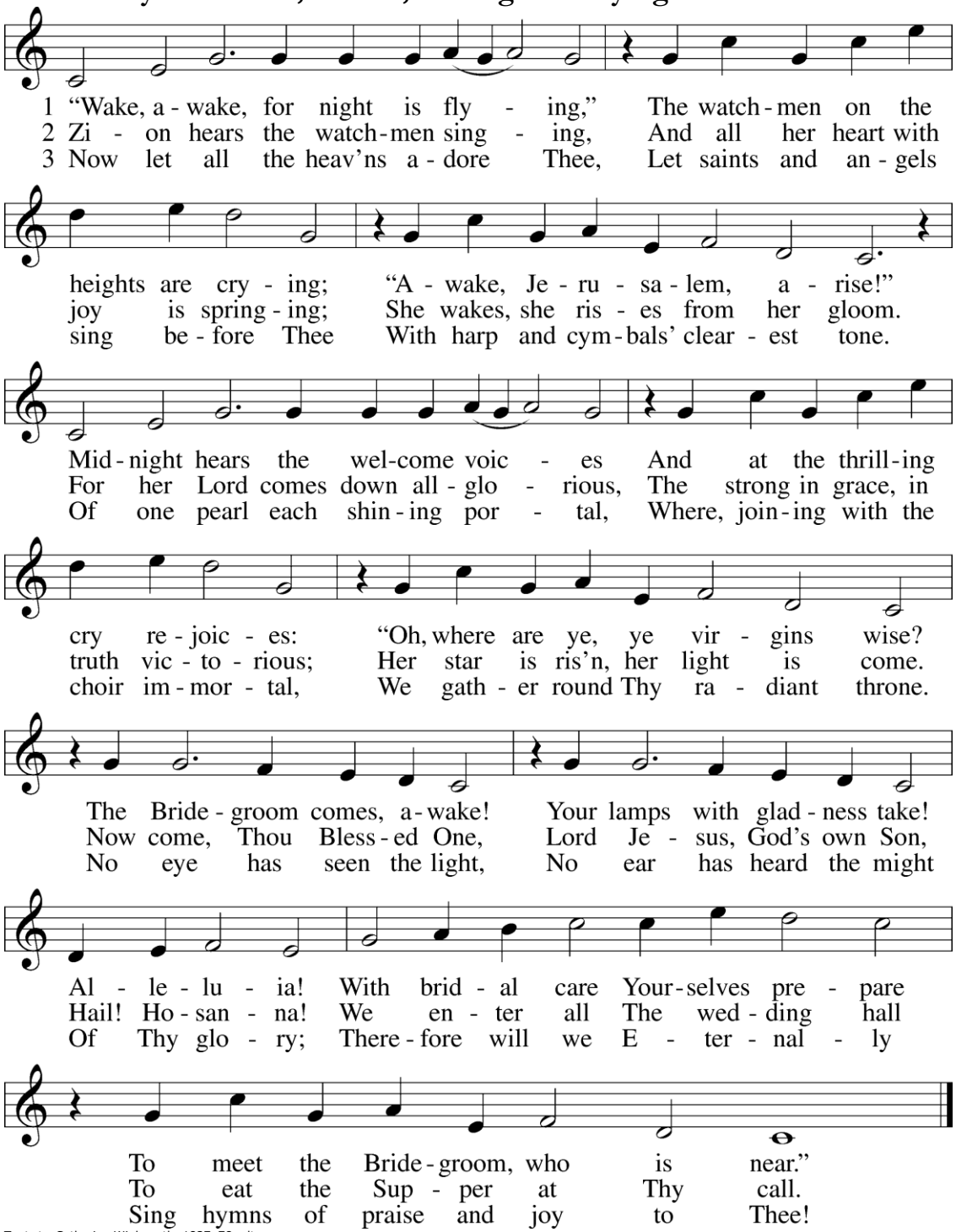
C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

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.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon ~ “”

Stand

Prayer of the Church

The response for the prayers of the church is as follows:

P ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3). You are invited to greet one-another in whichever manner you are comfortable.

Sit

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. Therefore, we invite all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Christian faith and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table. If you have any questions about this, please speak to our pastor. He will be happy to discuss it with you.

If you do not wish to commune or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. When you come forward toward the altar, please ask the pastor if he would bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!

Stand

Preface *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

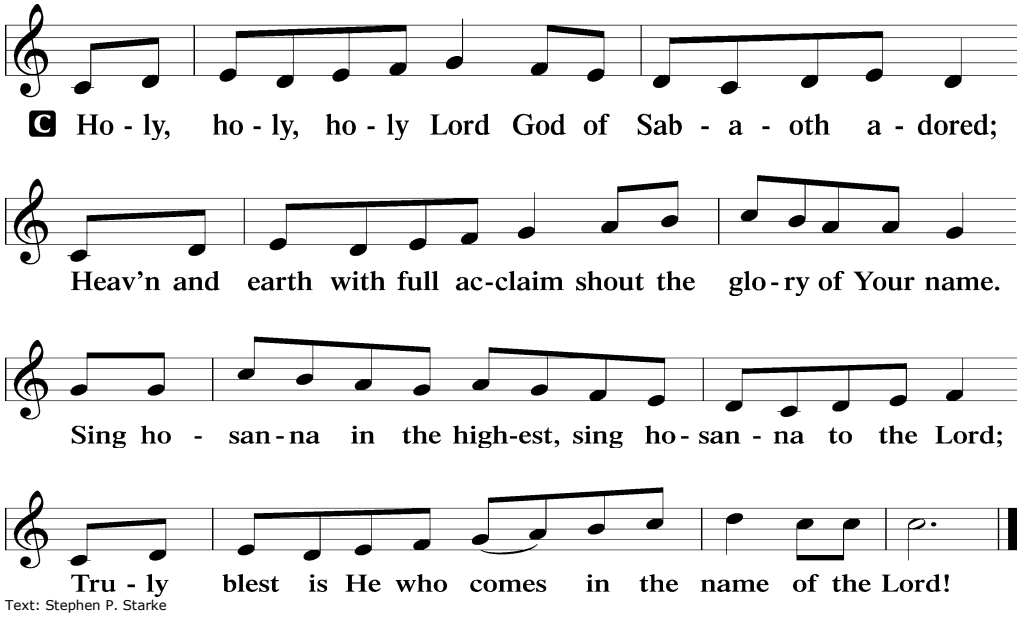
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

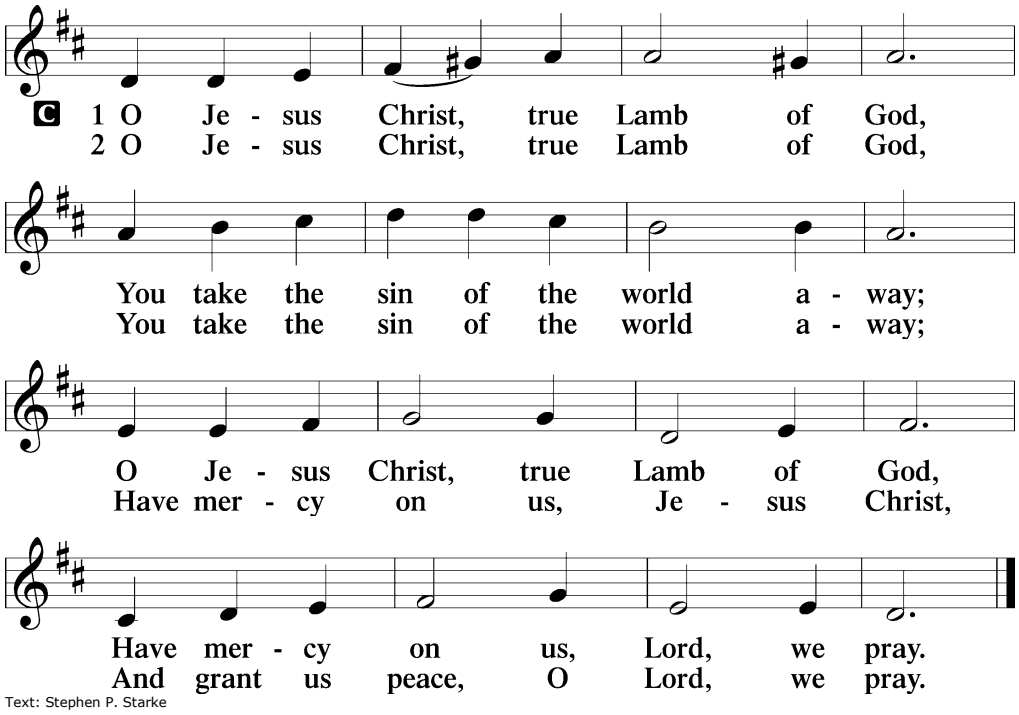
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*
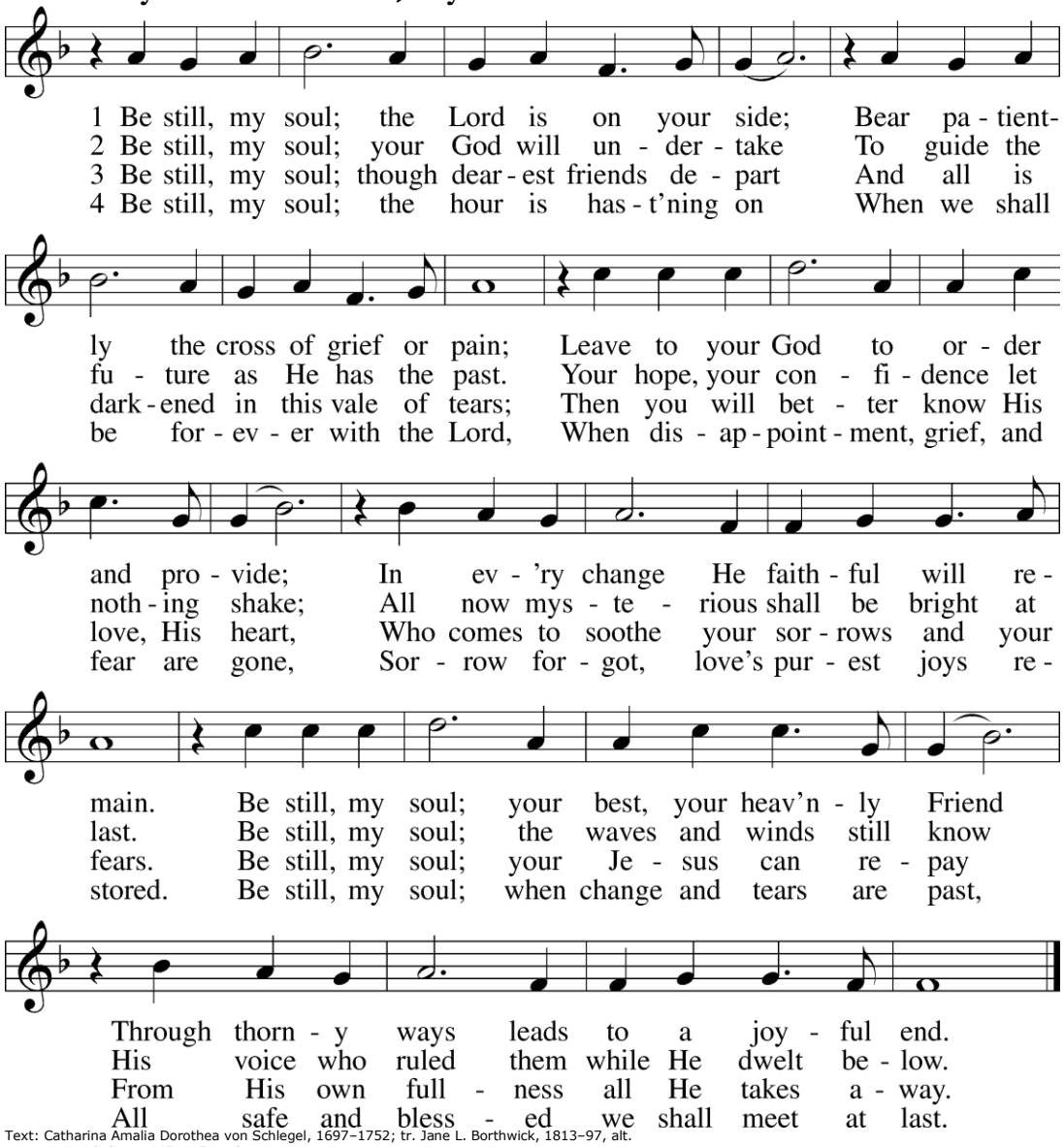


Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Prior to the communion liturgy, we ask that all attendees fill out the yellow attendance card in the pew. ***When the usher dismisses your row to go to the altar, please hand your yellow card to the usher.*** *Thank you!*

Distribution Hymn: 752 Be Still, My Soul



Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.
Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain
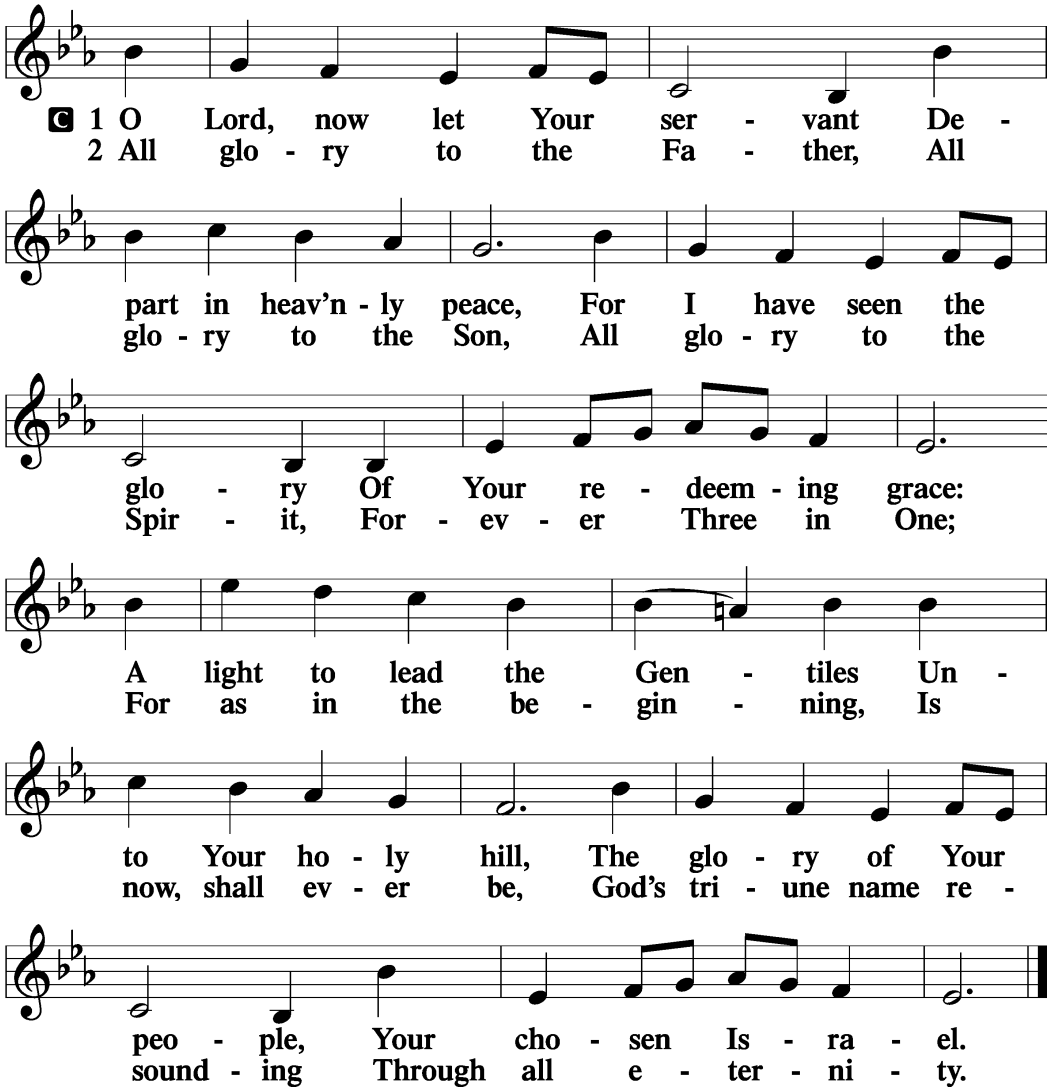
The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.
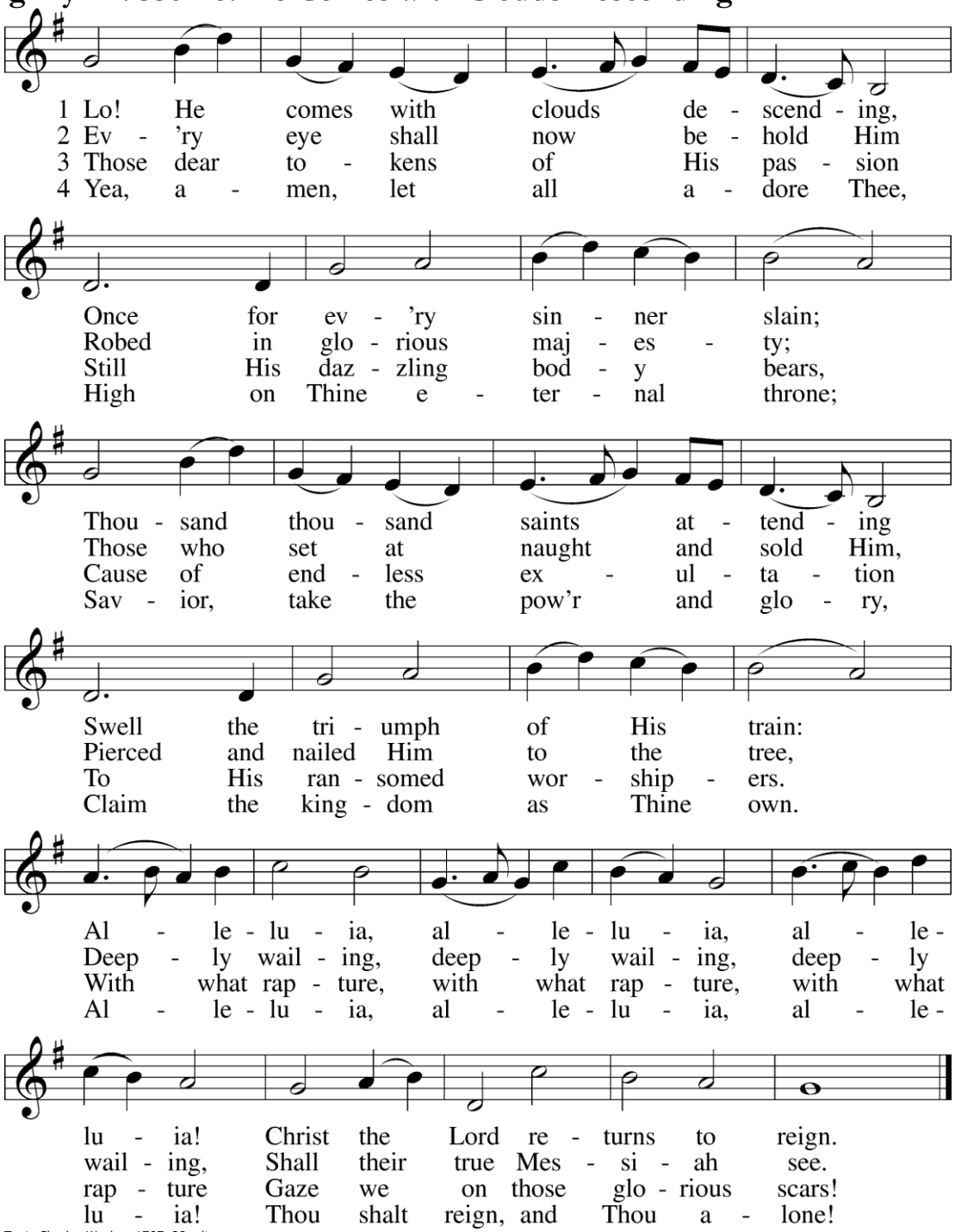
C **Amen.**

Sit

Matters of Importance

Stand

Closing Hymn: 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude