Traditional Worship

November 15, 2026
Time after Pentecost
Lectionary 33

Celebrating God's Abundance

This month we're celebrating God's lavish generosity!
Our sermon series, "There's a Wideness in God's Generosity," invites our faithful stewardship of the gifts of ourselves, our time, our skillful talents, and our resources as we seek to live in the abundance of God's realm here on earth. Today, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Today's Focus: As stewards of our skillful talents, we experience fulfillment as we seek God's will to create, bless, and redeem the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *All Creatures Worship God on High* – arr. Donald Busarow & Janet Linker

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.
*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
Assembly: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN #695 * *As Saints of Old*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose goodness is beyond measure and whose generosity knows no end.
Assembly: Amen.

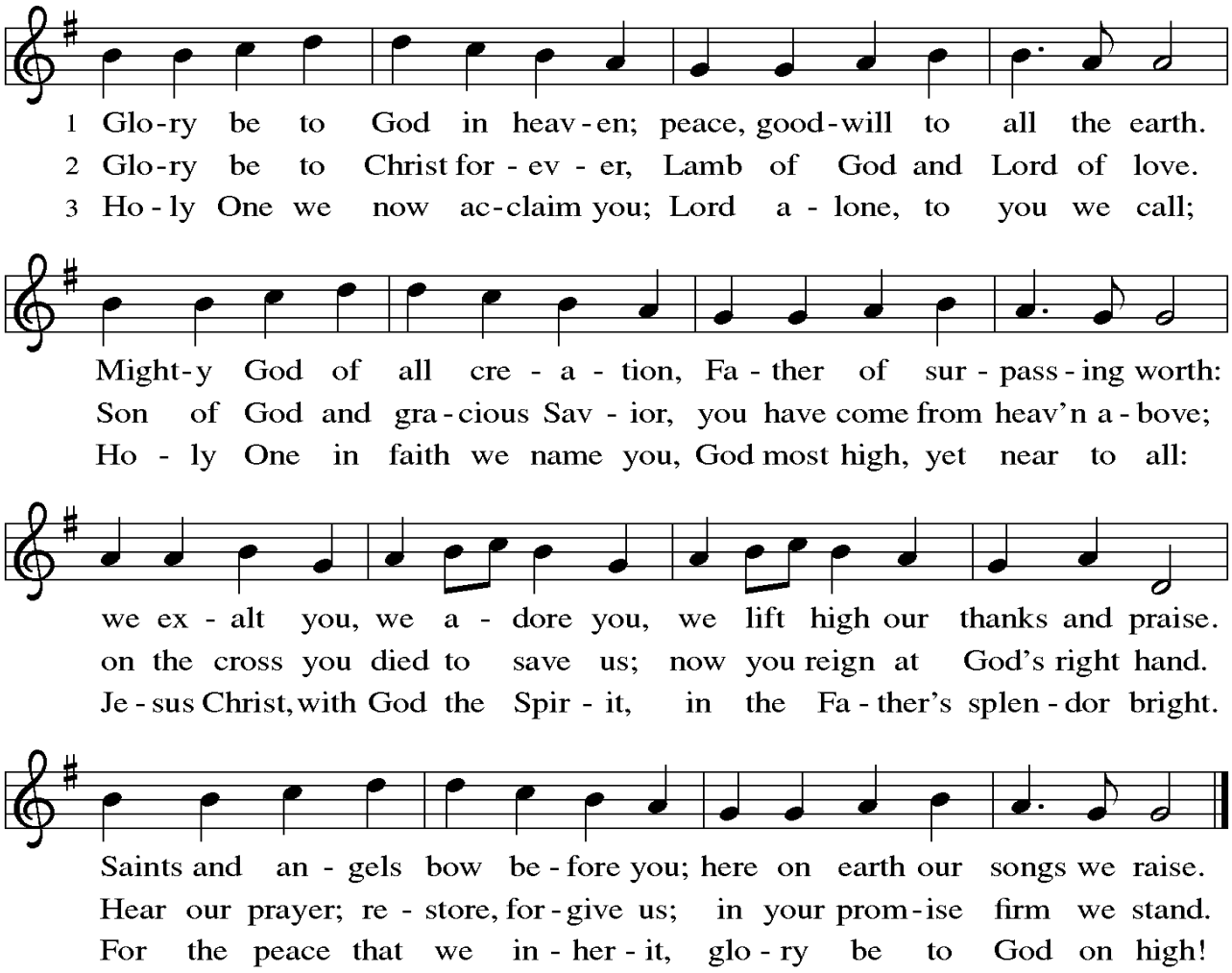
Leader: Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Generous and gracious God,
you have blessed us with so much,
Assembly: yet we confess that we do not always live with grateful and generous hearts.
We sometimes hold tightly to what we have,
afraid there will not be enough.
We overlook the gifts you have given us
and fail to use them for the good of others.
We choose comfort over compassion,
security over generosity,
and fear over faith.
Forgive us when we bury our gifts instead of sharing them.
Forgive us when we fail to recognize that all we have is entrusted to us by you.
Open our hearts to your abundance.
Give us courage to share freely,
wisdom to serve faithfully,
and joy in giving of ourselves
for the sake of our neighbors and the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news:
God's generosity is greater than our fear,
and God's mercy is greater than our failures.
Through Jesus Christ, God forgives us,
renews our spirits, and calls us into new life.
We are freed from the burden of holding on
and invited into the joy of giving.
We are loved, forgiven, and entrusted
with gifts to share for the sake of the world.
Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE * *Glory Be to God in Heaven*



PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious and generous God,
you entrust us with gifts beyond measure
and call us to be faithful stewards of all that you have given.
Free us from fear and complacency, that we may use our time, talents,
and resources boldly in service to your kingdom.
Open our hearts to the needs of our neighbors, deepen our generosity,
and help us recognize that all we have is a gift from you.
Through our faithful giving and loving service,
may others experience your abundant grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,

their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN #632

Psalm 90: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

The assembly remains seated and joins the cantor in singing the hymn.

SECOND READING
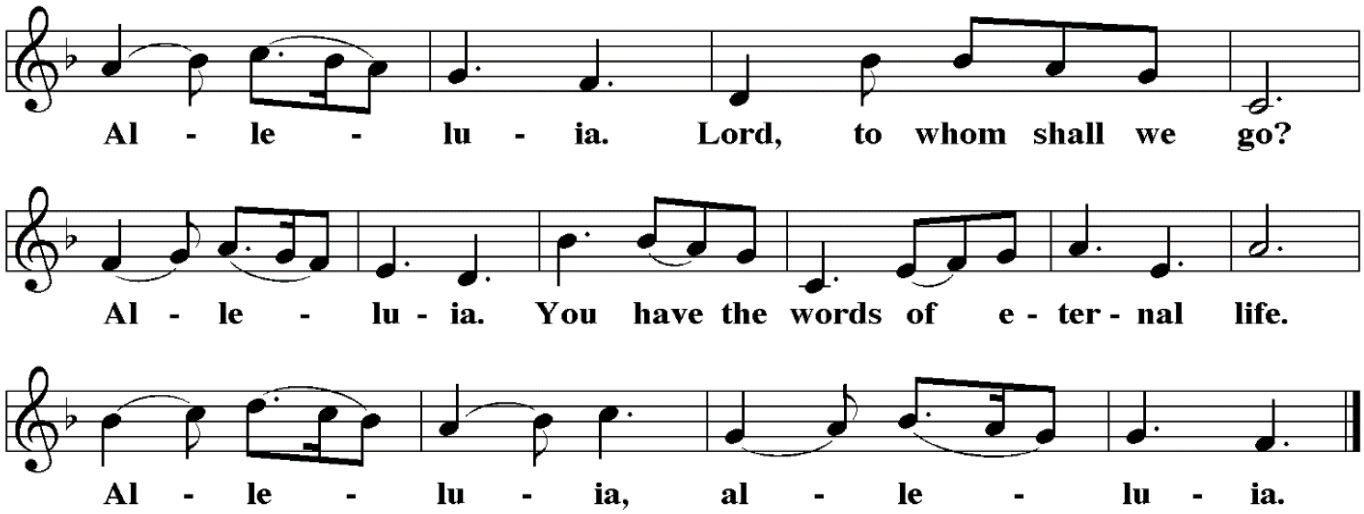
I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will
be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you
like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or
of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober,
7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we
belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet
the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we
may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you
are doing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL* Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.
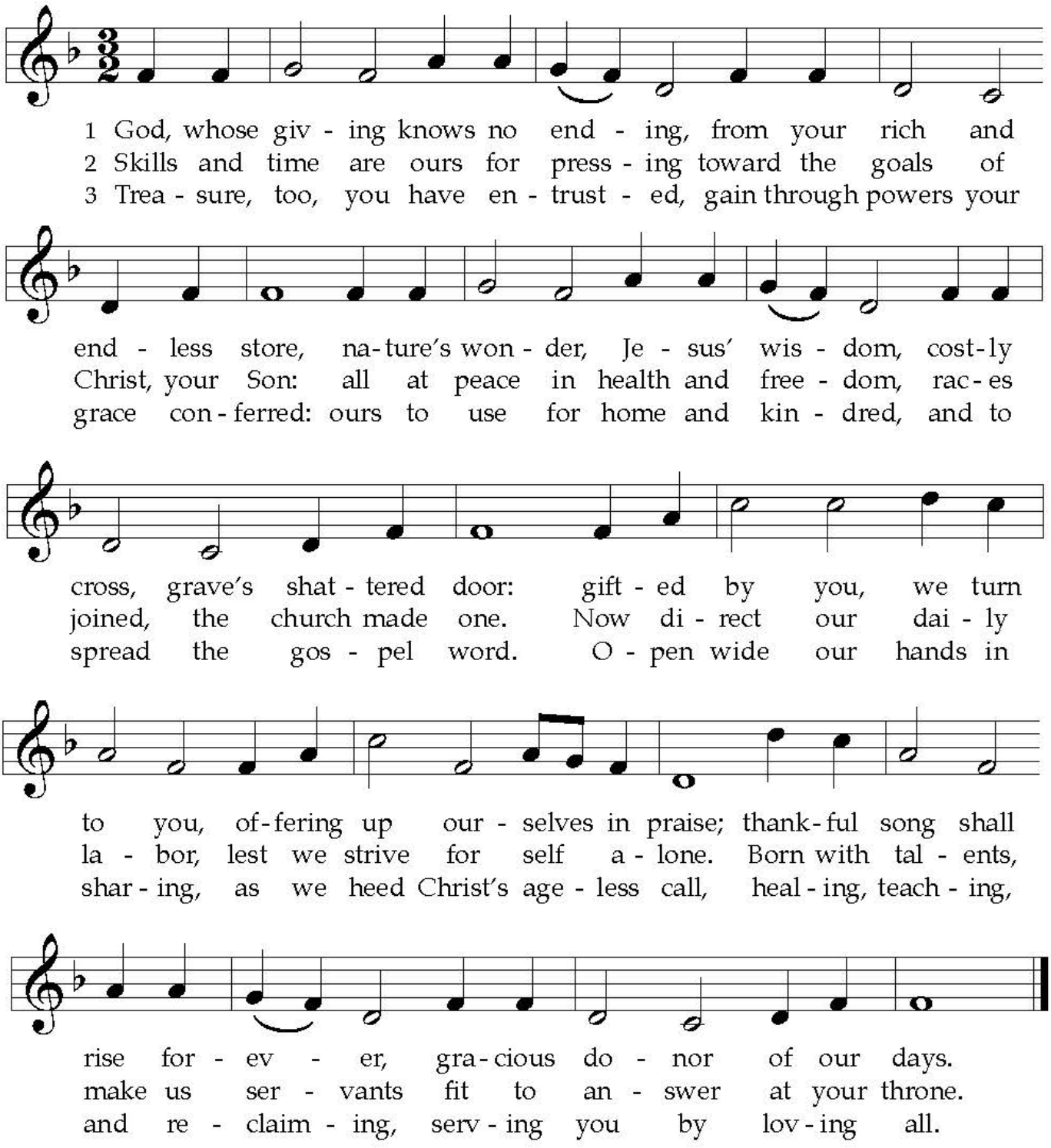
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another
one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received
the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way,
the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the
one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long
time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who
had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two
talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have
made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into
the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward,
saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and
gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the
ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave!
You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?

[27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY * *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*



TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958
BEACH SPRING
8.7.8.7.D

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)
Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

APOSTLE'S CREED *

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God, in your mercy,"
Assembly: hear our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "in the name of Jesus, your beloved."
Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
Assembly: And also with you!

The assembly greets each other with "peace be with you…and also with you."

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.
If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING *Offertory* – John Ness Beck

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.
Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.
Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.
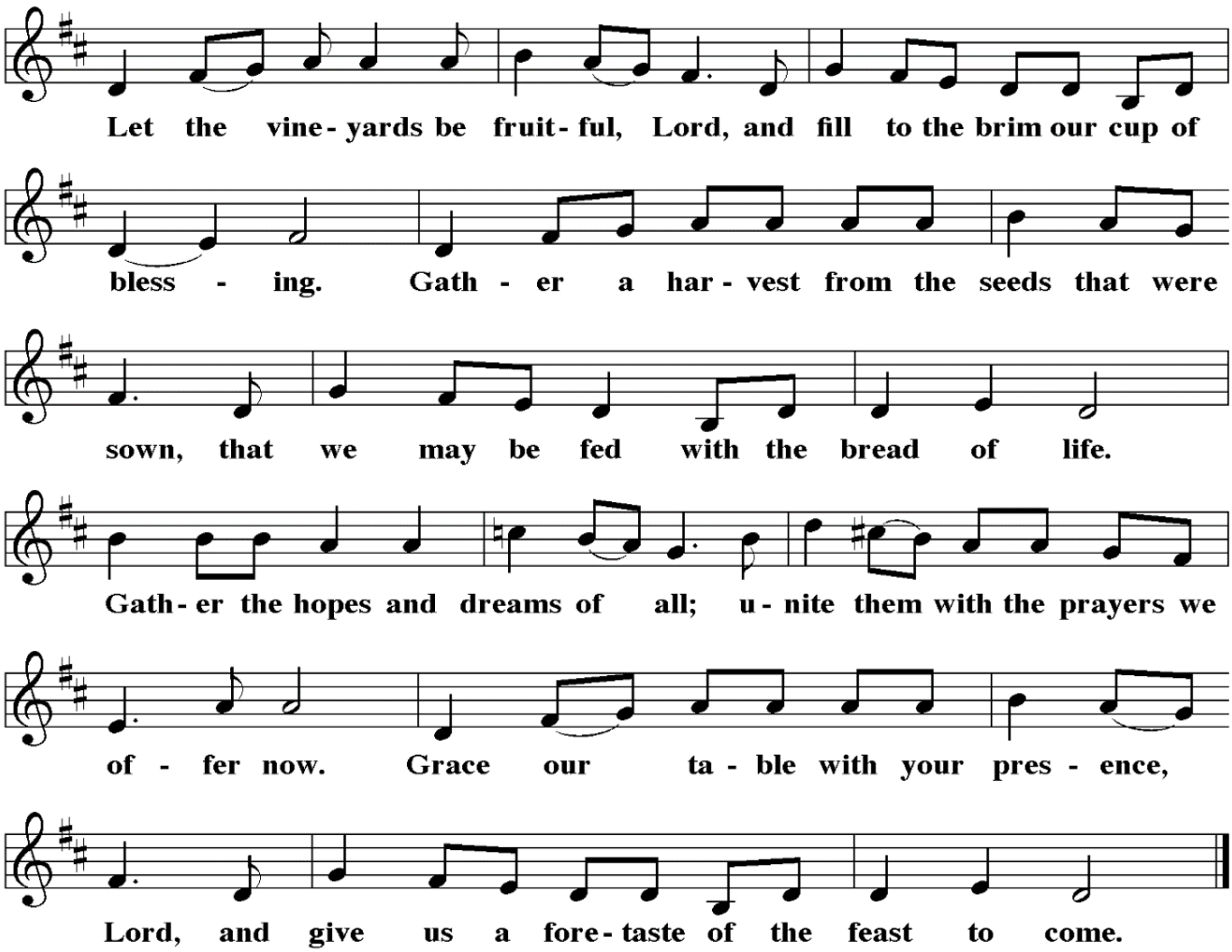
With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man; He has shown you 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?

OFFERTORY * *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord*



GREAT THANKSGIVING *

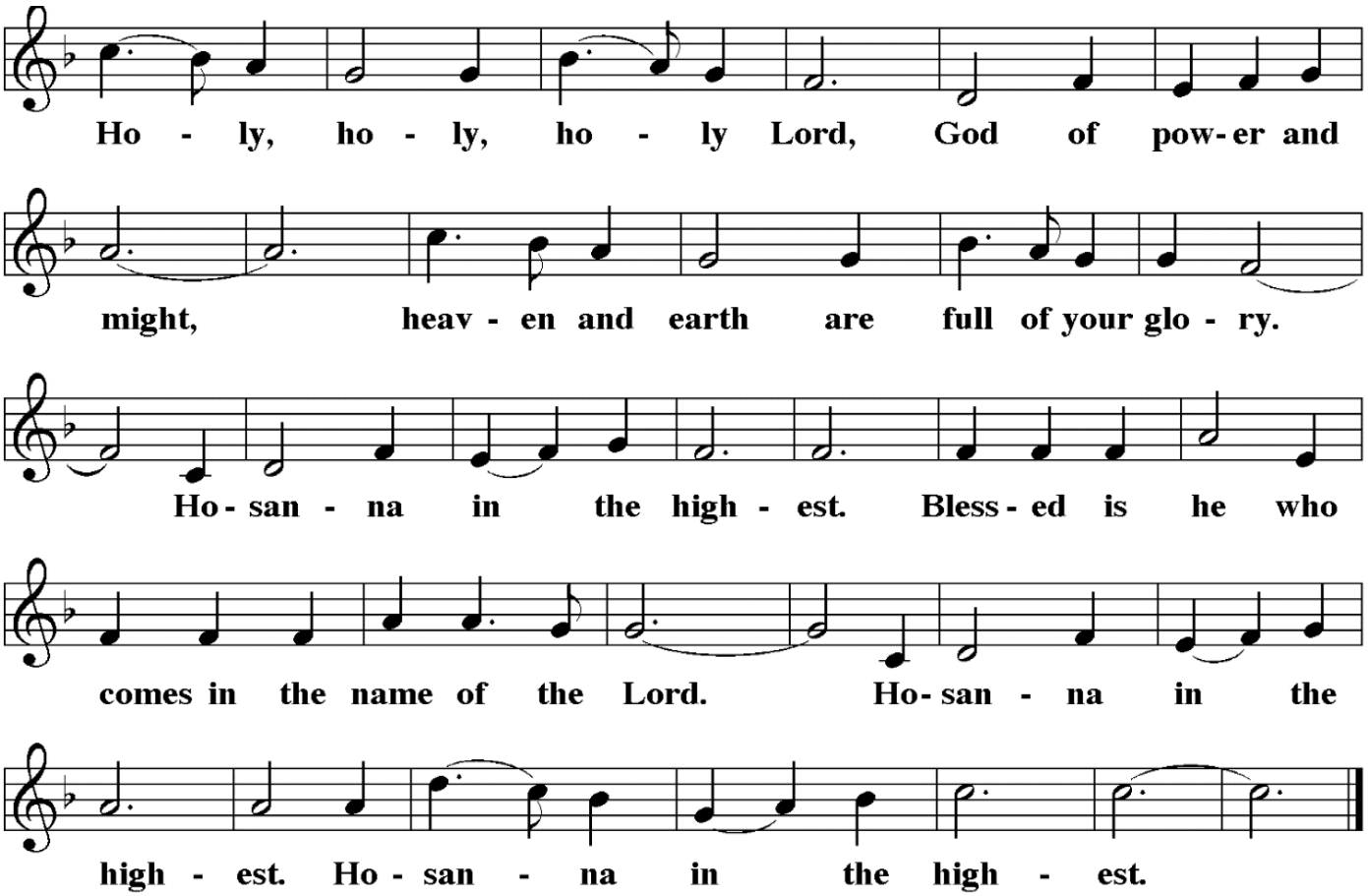
Leader: The Lord be with you.
Assembly: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: 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.
You are the giver of every good gift,
entrusting us with blessings beyond measure
and calling us to lives of faithful generosity.

In your abundant love, you have given us not only the gifts of creation,
but also the gift of your Son,
who poured himself out for the life of the world.
Through his death and resurrection,
you have shown us the abundance of your grace
and the depth of your love.
Gathered at this table, we receive the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.
Nourished by Christ's presence,
strengthen us to share what we have received,
to serve our neighbors with joy,
and to use all that you have entrusted to us for the sake of your kingdom.
And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

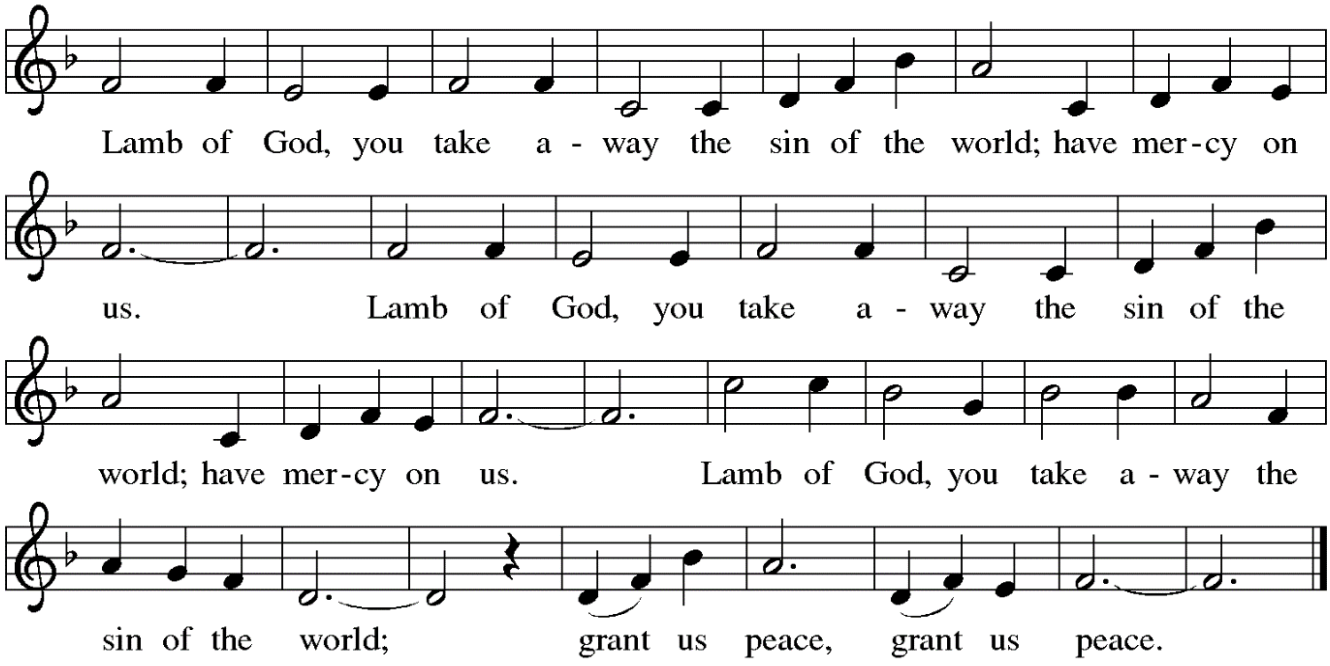
Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.
We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.
You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.
Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.
You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.
"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: Christ extends the invitation to all people to come and feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution: *Meditation on BEACH SPRING* – arr. Janet Linker

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Generous God,
we give you thanks for nourishing us at this holy table
with the gift of your Son.
Filled with Christ's presence and strengthened by his grace,
send us into the world with grateful hearts and open hands.
Help us use the gifts you have entrusted to us with courage,
sharing generously with those in need,
and serving our neighbors with joy.
May our lives reflect the abundance of your love,
that all may know the goodness of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go forth,
blessed by God's abundance and strengthened by Christ's love.
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.
Share generously the gifts entrusted to you, and let your lives reflect God's grace.
May the Lord bless you and keep you, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #685 * *Take My Life, That I May Be*

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace,
sharing of yourself to make a better world for all.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE * *All Glory Be to God on High* – arr. Michael Burkhardt

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Joe Weaver, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Jane Baldwin, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10
Jane McFadden, Organist
Ruth Peart, Cantor
Robin Terschak, Chancel Choir Director
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in honor of their 52nd wedding anniversary tomorrow, November 16, by Kermit and Victoria Almos.

The organ flowers are given in memory of her son, Gilbert, by Karen Jenei

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