Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

The Feast of Christ the King

November 22, 2026 10:15 a.m.



I myself will search for my sheep.
I will seek the lost,
and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured,
and I will strengthen the weak.
Ezekiel Ch. 34

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God
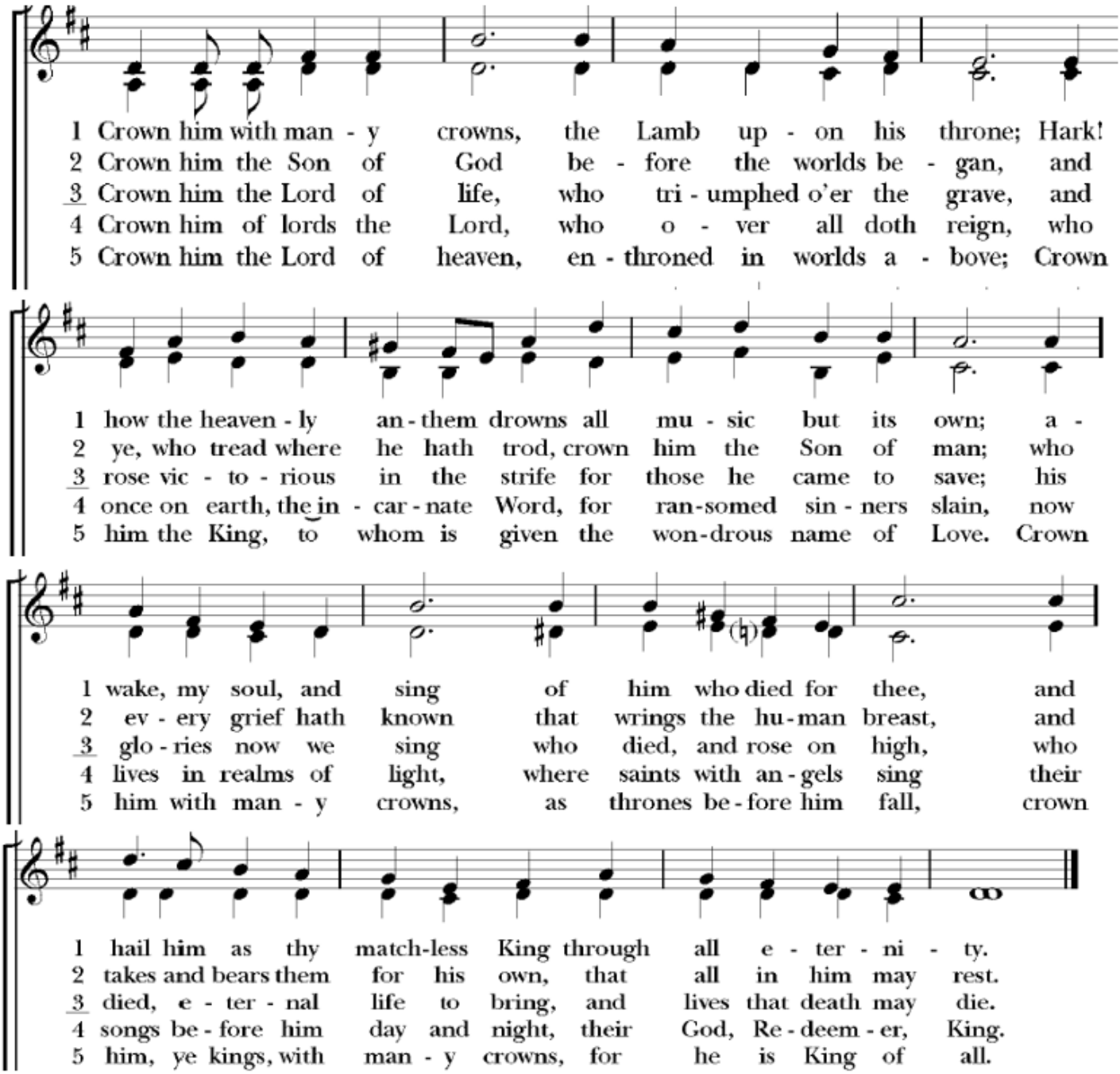
Celebrant: The Reverend Dr. Chip Lee, Interim Rector

☩ *Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

☩ Processional Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" Hymnal #494

verses 1,2,3,5



Words: Matthew Bridges | Music: *Diademata,* George Jacob Elvey

☩Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
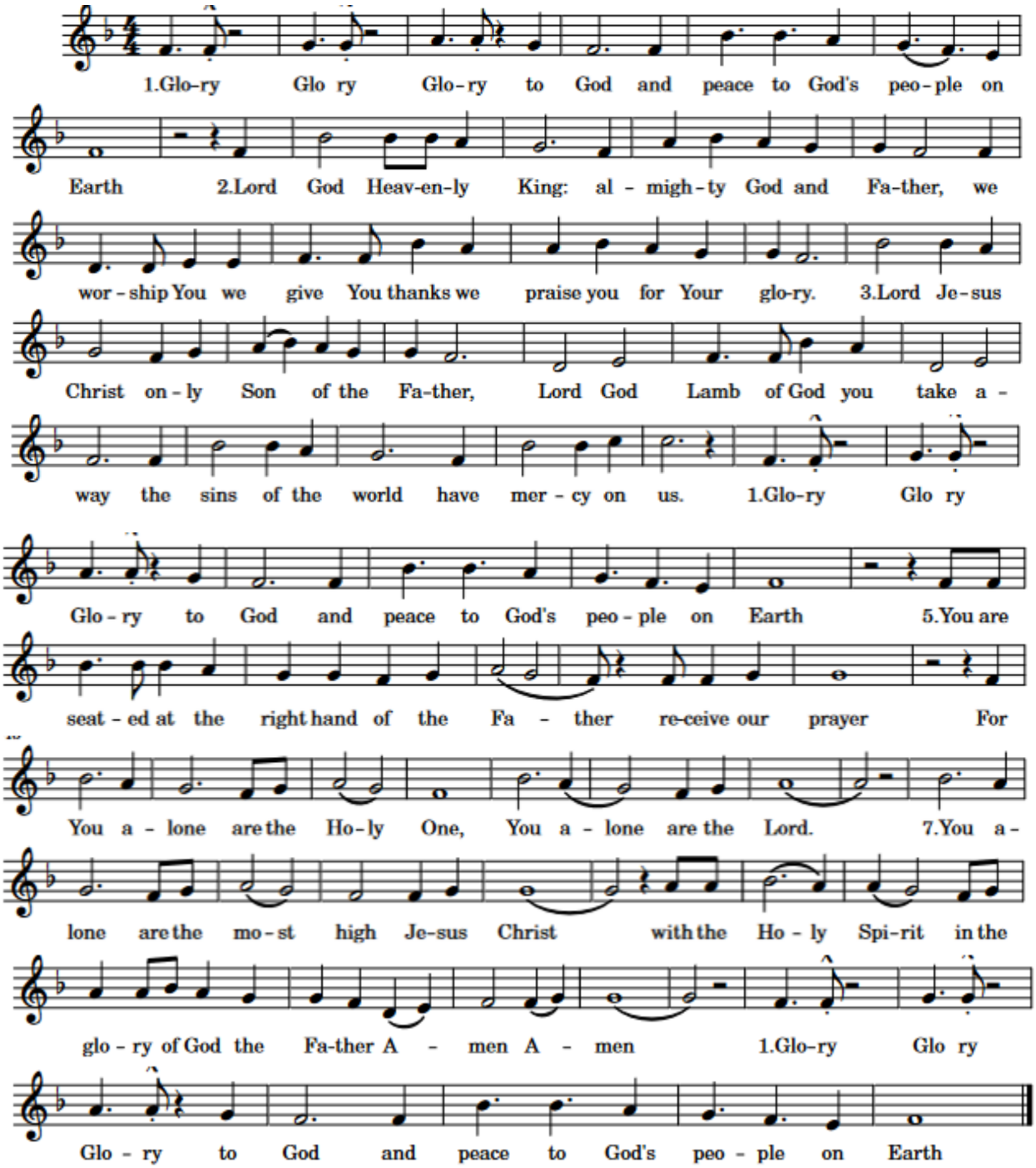
And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

✞The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✞Hymn of Praise

Mass of Ascension – Donna Parker



☩The Collect of the Day:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and

wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; *
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

4 For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Epistle: 1 Ephesians 1:15-23

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians
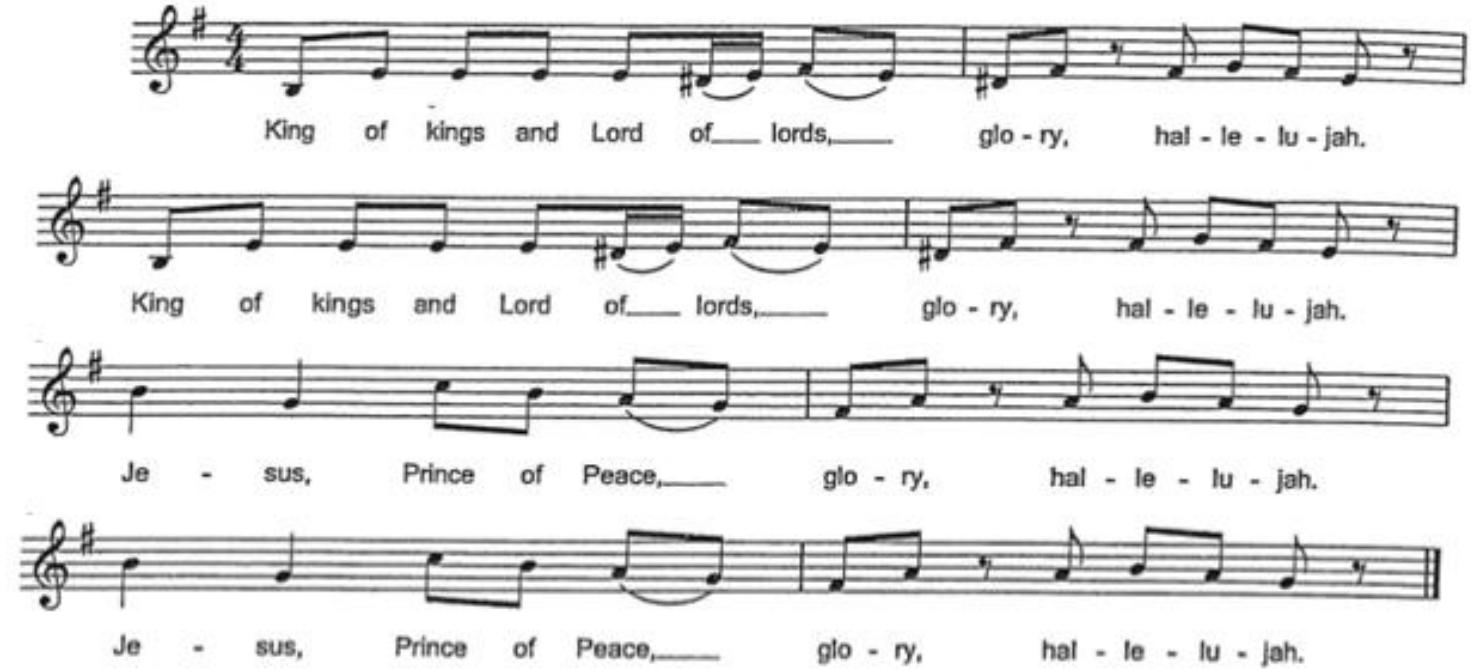
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your

heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

☩Sequence Song "King of Kings"



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☩The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

☩The 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

☩The Prayers of the People: Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *(Silence)*

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**
For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially Naomi, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Rob, Jackie, Erin, Bob. Karen, Scott, Barry, Chris, Debbie,

Jordan, Reed, Diane, Carolyn; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Carrie, our Bishop, Chip, our Interim Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church**.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.)*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever**.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(Silence. The People may add their own petitions.)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

☩Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

✞**The Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

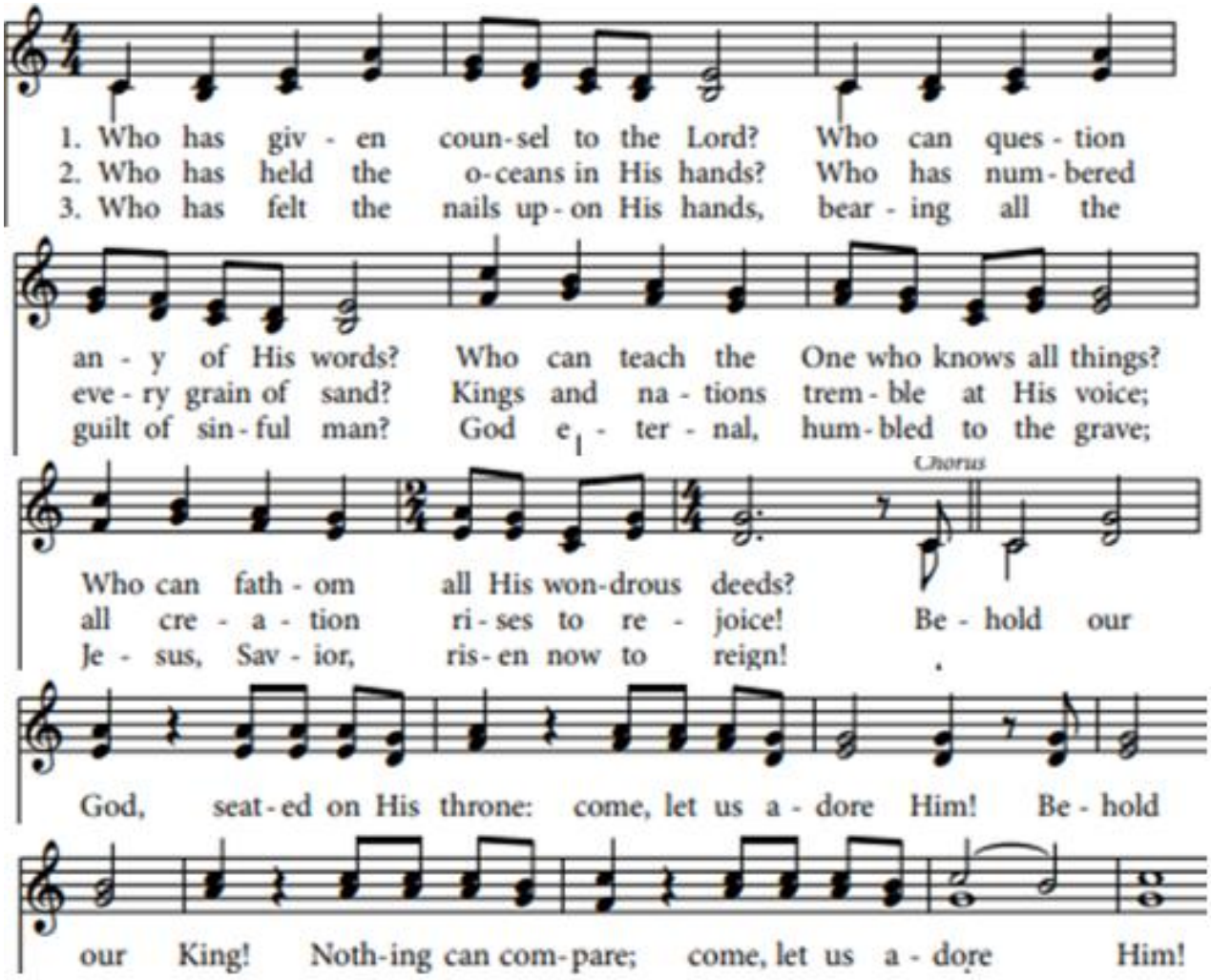
O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) *N.* as *they* begins another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.

The Celebration of the Holy Communion
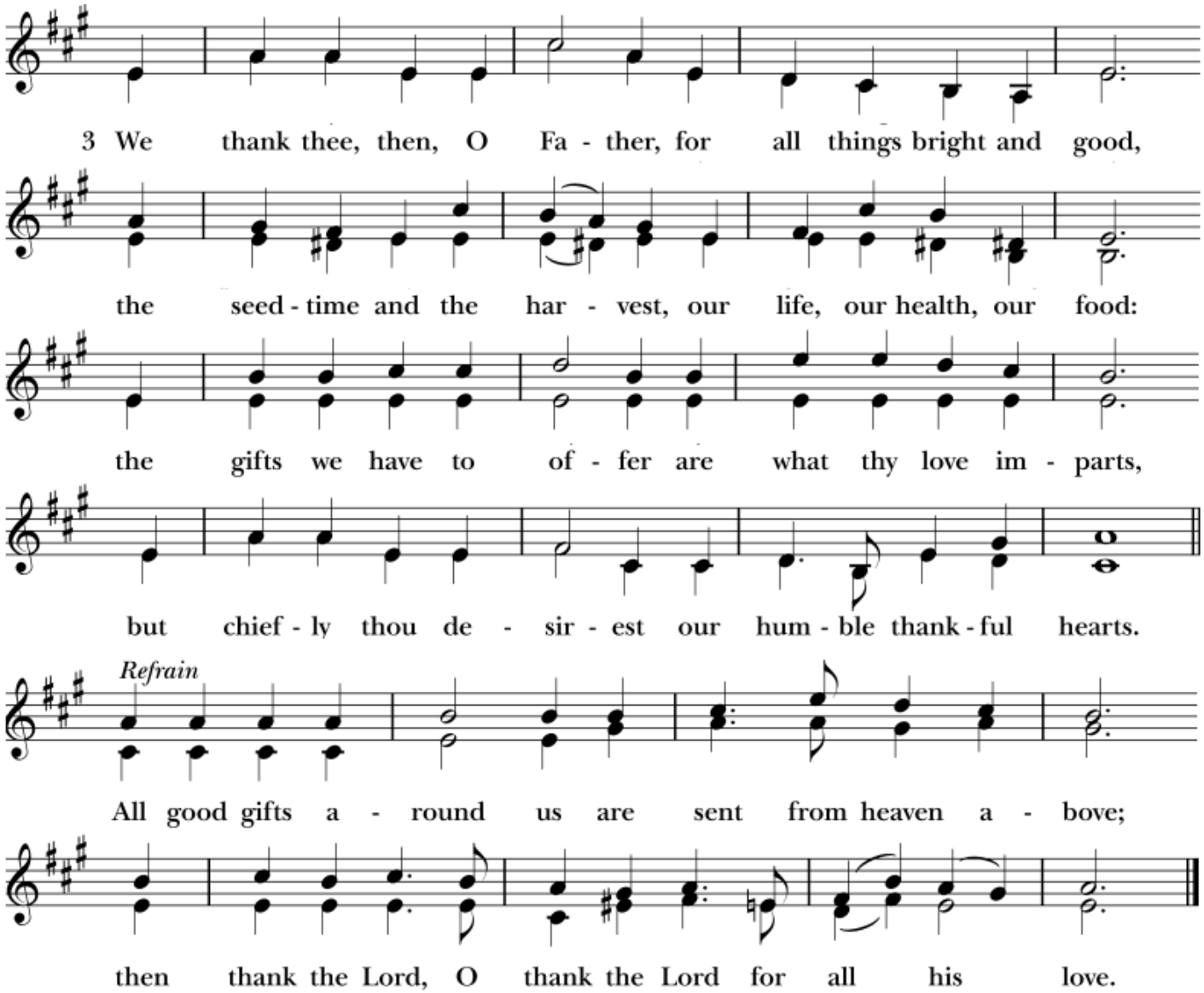
Offertory Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

"Behold Our God"



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✞Presentation Hymn "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"*v.3* Hymnal #291



✞The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

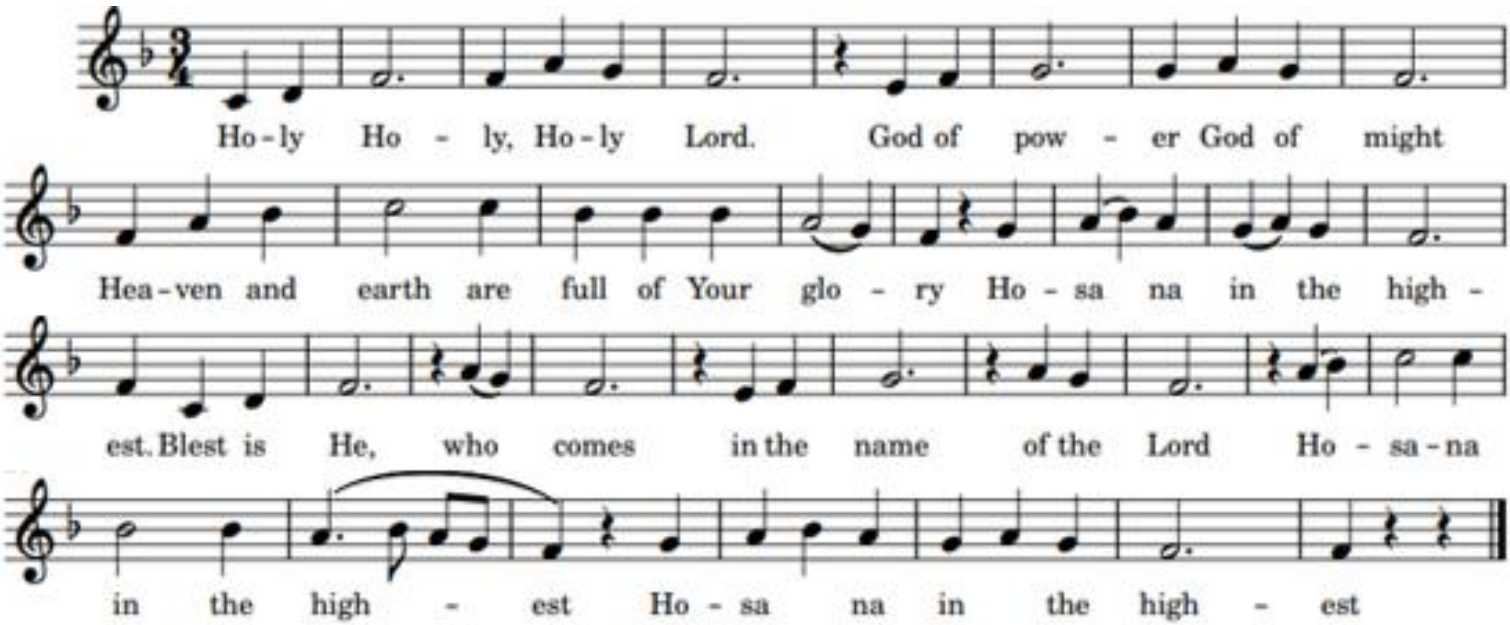
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."
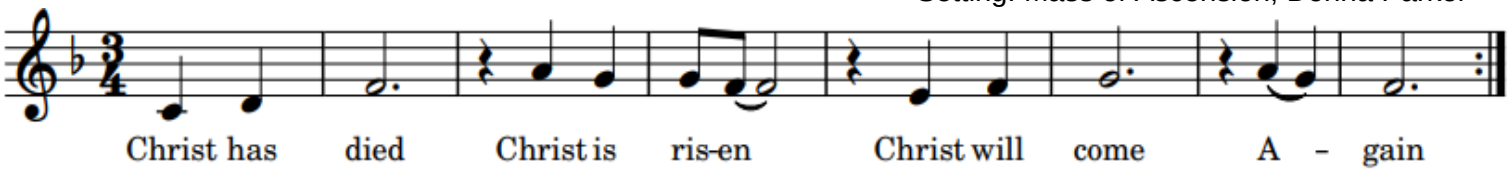
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for

you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

✞Memorial Acclamation

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker



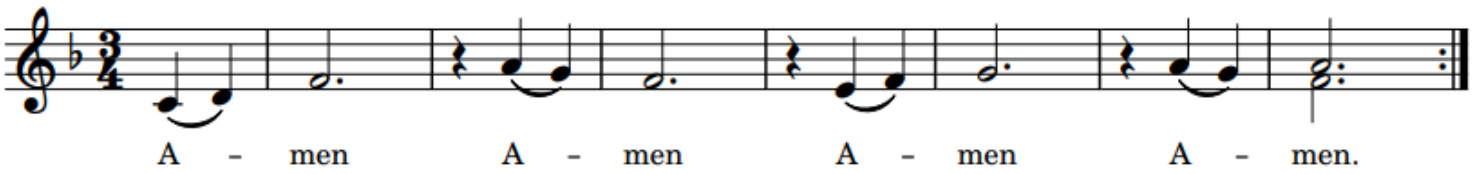
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

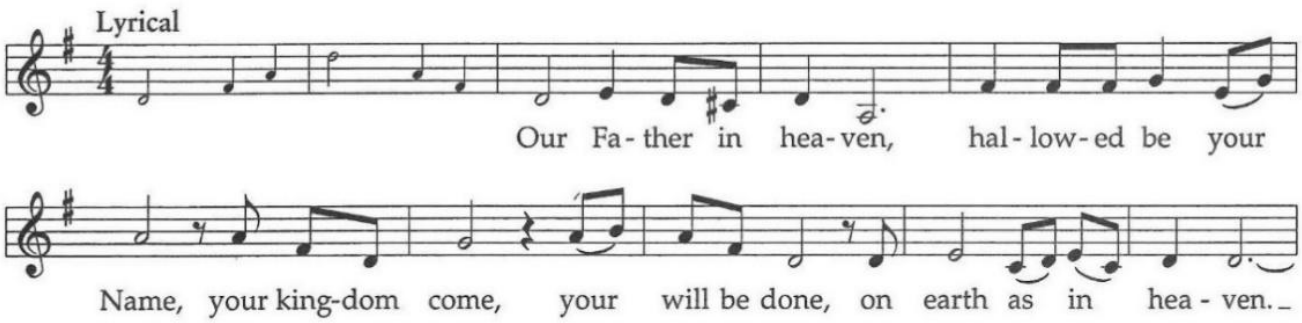
✞The Great Amen
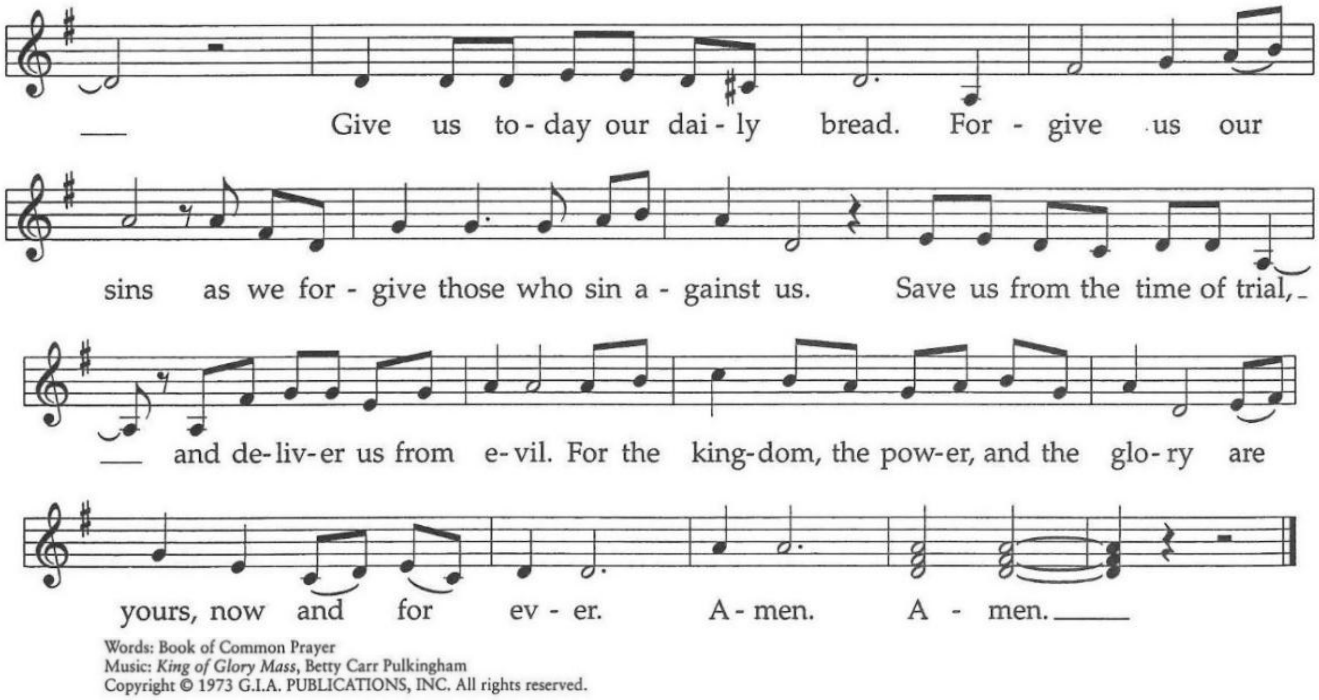
Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker



And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to sing:

✞The Lord's Prayer





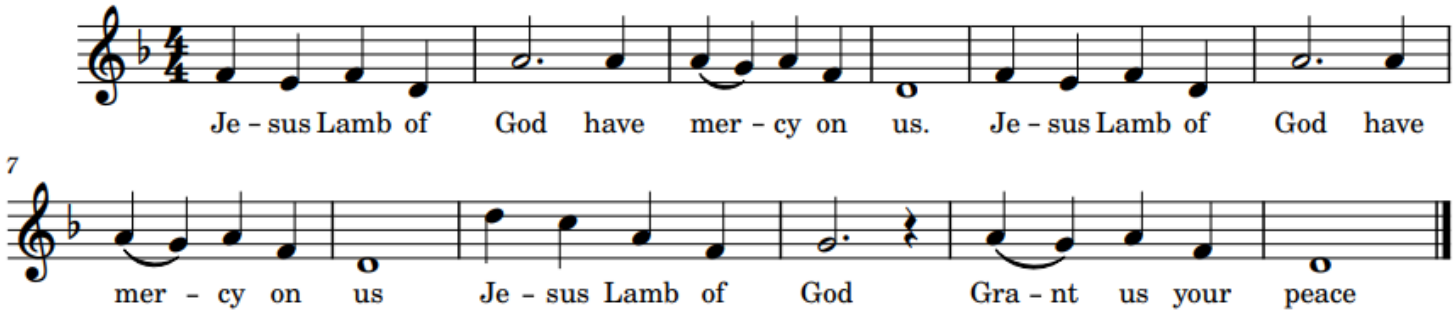
Words: Book of Common Prayer
Music: *King of Glory Mass*, Betty Carr Pulkingham
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The Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

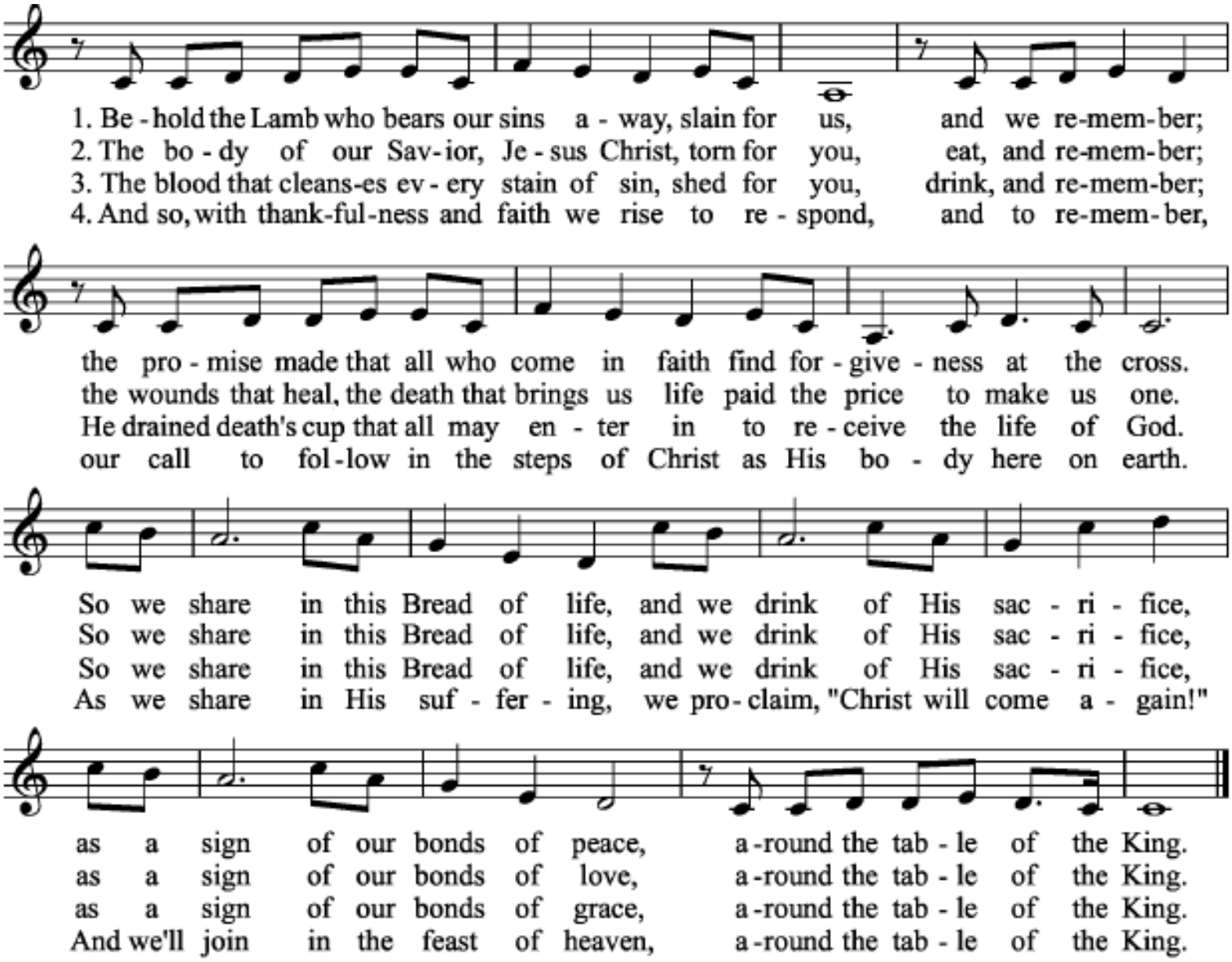
Fraction Anthem "Lamb of God" Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People: *All are welcome to receive Holy Communion as the spirit moves you. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. To receive the wine you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharistic minister on both sides of the priest.*

Communion Music "Behold the Lamb
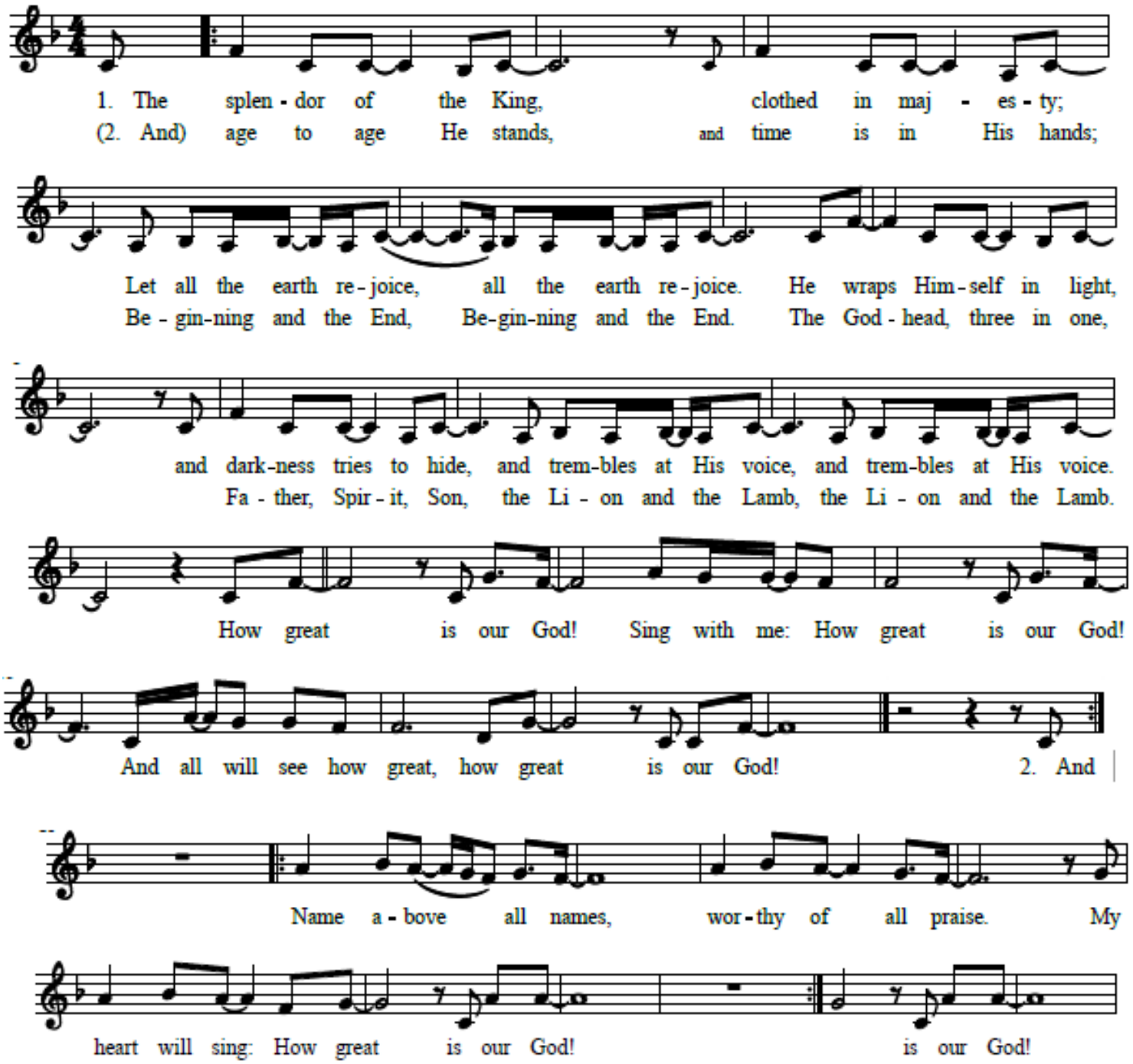


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✙**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Let us pray. **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✙**The Blessing**

✞Recessional Song "How Great Is Our God"



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✞<u>The Dismissal:</u>

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	**November 22**	**November 25** *Thanksgiving Eve*	**November 29**
Organist	Mary Butler	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Choir	Choir	Choir
Ushers	*2 needed*	Roberta Wilhelm	*2 needed*
Lector	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	John Holbert	*1 needed*
Acolyte(s)	Raymond Lui	Ellen Anderson	Kat Dittrich
Chalicists	John Holbert, Helen Lang, Kim Tompkins, *1 needed*		John Holbert, Kim Tompkins, *2 needed*
Worship Slides	Jeanne Cox		*1 needed*
Audio Visual	Travis Collins		Travis Collins

November Altar Guild: Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Jill and David Horn in celebration of the birthdays of both of their daughters, and in thanksgiving for their Ascension Family.

Attendance November 8

8:00 am - 28 **10:15 am In-person –** 36 **YouTube** - 1 **Facebook –** 3 **Total**: **68**

Readings for Next Sunday: The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37


THANKSGIVING
WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 25
7:00 PM
Stone Church
Give Thanks
with a
Grateful Heart


FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Advent
begins
NOVEMBER 29
8:00 AM & 10:15 AM


CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION'S ANNUAL
COOKIE
WALK
Save
THE
Date
December 19, 2026
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall
23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157