

All Saints Lutheran Church

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
July 26, 2026

Beware of False Prophets

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. *"You will recognize them by their fruits"* (Matt. 7:20). The *"fruits"* of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success, but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father's adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

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17030 Lancaster Hwy, Charlotte, NC 28277 || 704-752-4287
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Rev. Jeffrey Ware, Pastor
Joshua Pauling, Vicar, Headmaster
Dr. Patricia Parker, Director of Music

Communion at All Saints

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. It is important, therefore, that those who come to the Lord's Table trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Scripture also teaches that Holy Communion is a confession of faith. Those who receive the sacrament together show forth their unity in Christ, that is, a unity of heart and mind accomplished when all who commune together believe the same doctrine and are at peace with one another.

Scripture teaches that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and that Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, we, along with the historic Christian church, practice *Closed Communion.* Any who are not communicant members of All Saints, or another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward during communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and bow your head, and the pastor will give you a blessing; and know that we would love to share more with you about our teaching and practice.

Prayers of preparation and thanksgiving for receiving the Lord's Supper are found in the LSB hymnal on p. 308.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; John 17:20–23; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Divine Service 3

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

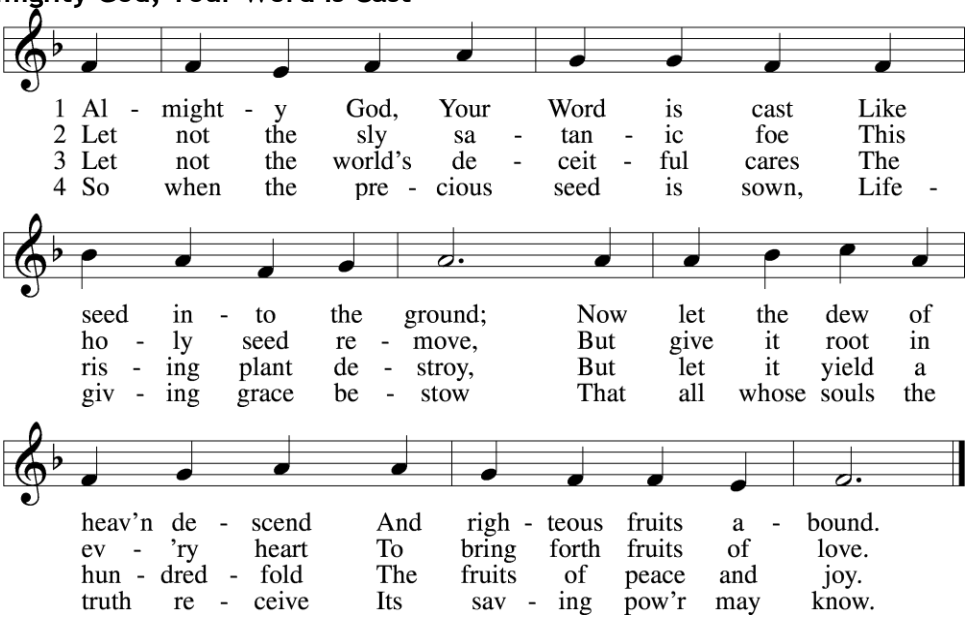
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
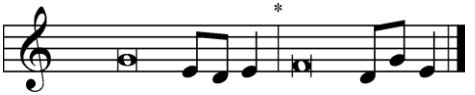
577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

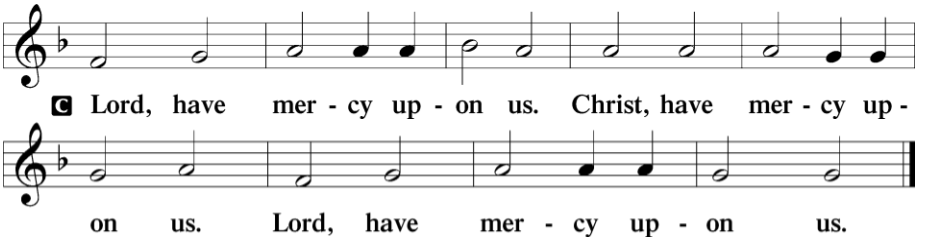
Introit *Psalm 48:1, 3, 11, 14; antiphon: vv. 9–10*
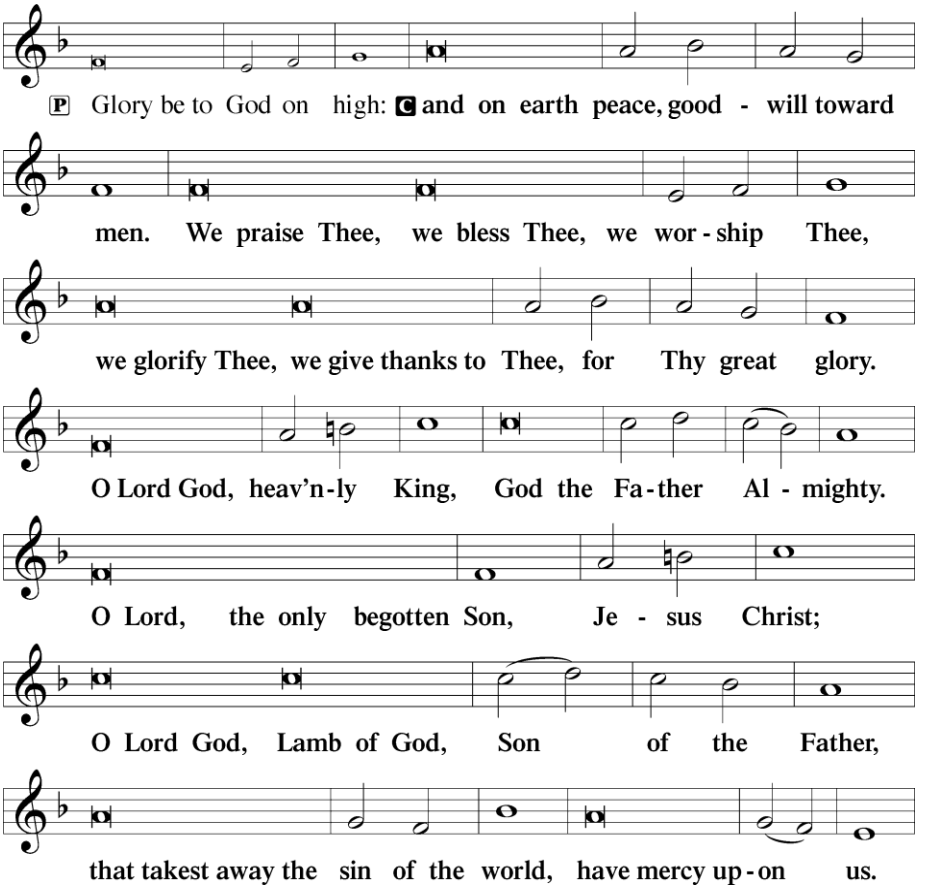


We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,*
in the midst of your | temple.
As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of the earth.*
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.
Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised*
in the city of our God, his holy | mountain.
Within her | citadels*
God has made himself known as a | fortress.
Let Mount Zion | be glad!*
Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your | judgments!
This is God, our God forever and | ever.*
He will guide us for- | ever.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

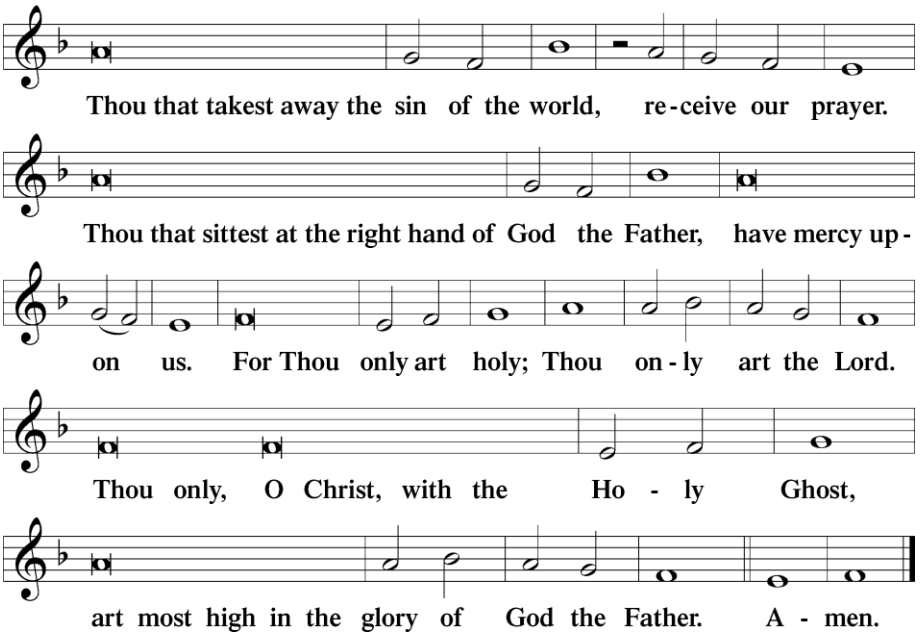
We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,*
in the midst of your | temple.
As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of the earth.*
Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

Kyrie
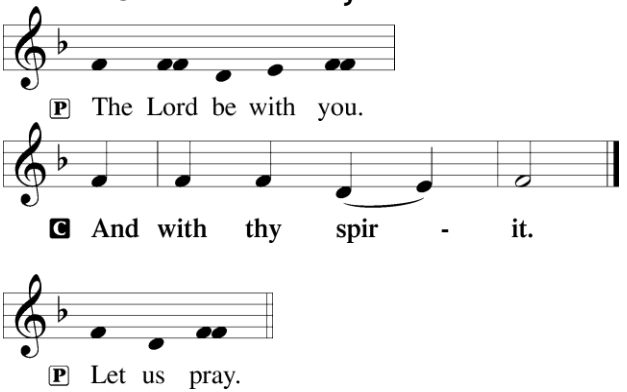


Gloria in Excelsis





Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 23:16–29*

16 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to
you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth
of the LORD. 17 They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be
well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster
shall come upon you.'"

18 For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD
to see and to hear his word,
or who has paid attention to his word and listened?
19 Behold, the storm of the LORD!
Wrath has gone forth,
a whirling tempest;
it will burst upon the head of the wicked.
20 The anger of the LORD will not turn back
until he has executed and accomplished
the intents of his heart.
In the latter days you will understand it clearly.
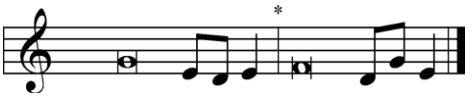
21 "I did not send the prophets,
yet they ran;
I did not speak to them,
yet they prophesied.
22 But if they had stood in my council,
then they would have proclaimed my words to my people,
and they would have turned them from their evil way,
and from the evil of their deeds.

23 "Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? 24 Can a man hide
himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and
earth? declares the LORD. 25 I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my
name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' 26 How long shall there be lies in the heart of
the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, 27 who think
to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their
fathers forgot my name for Baal? 28 Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let
him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat?
declares the LORD. 29 Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that
breaks the rock in pieces?"

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 31:2b, 1a



Be a rock of ref- | uge for me,*
a strong fortress to | save me!
In you, O LORD, do I take | refuge;*
let me never be | put to shame.

Epistle
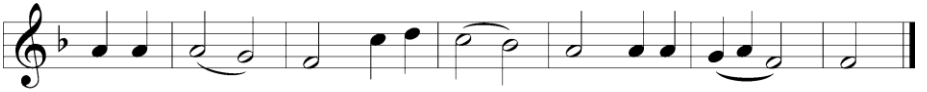
Romans 8:12–17

12So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
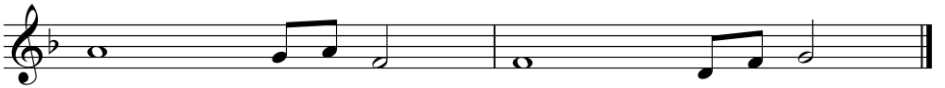
A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse
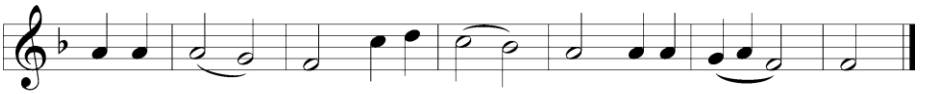
Psalm 78:1



C **Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.**



Give ear, O my people, to my | teaching;*
incline your ears to the words | of my mouth!

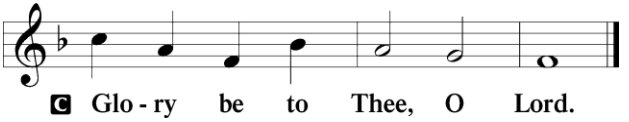


C **Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.**

Holy Gospel

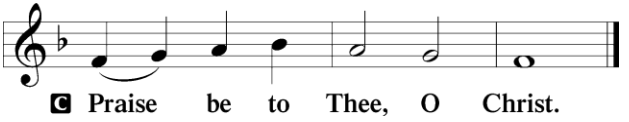
Matthew 7:15–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.



15[Jesus said:] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but
inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered
from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the
diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree
bear good fruit. 19Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
20Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.
21"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the
one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22On that day many will say to me,
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do
many mighty works in your name?' 23And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you;
depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed
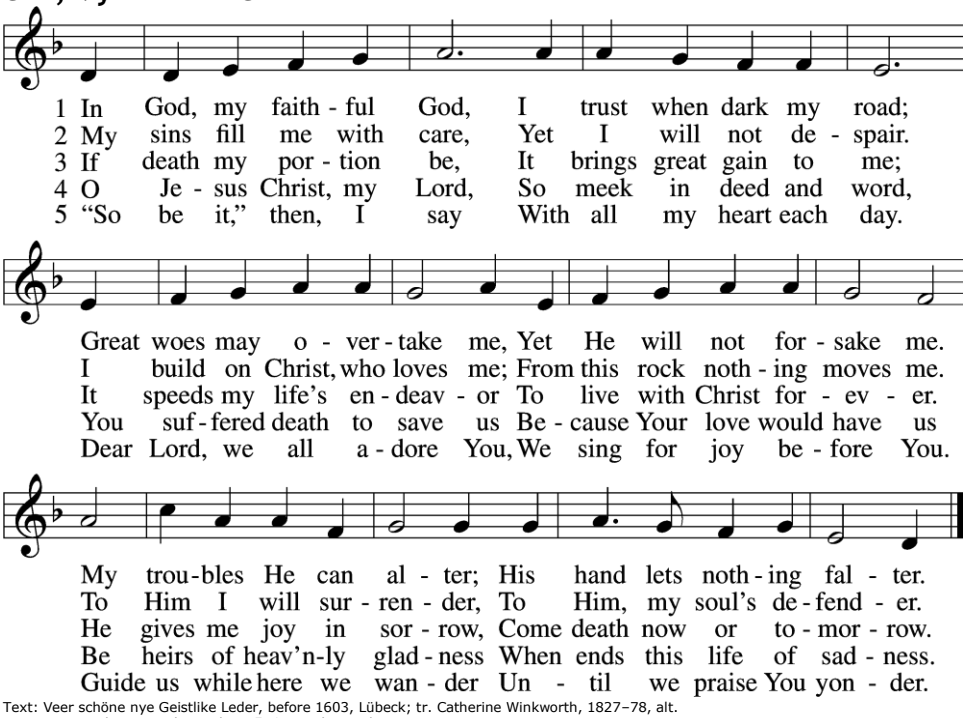
C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

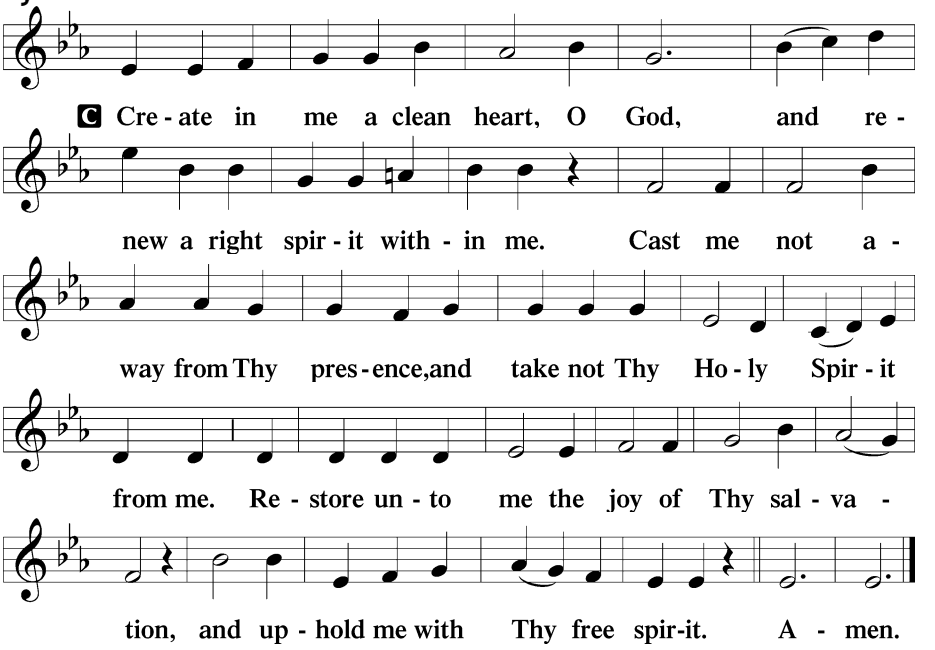
745 In God, My Faithful God



Text: Veer schöne nye Geistlike Leder, before 1603, Lübeck; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Kurtzweilige teutsche Lieder, 1576, Nürnberg, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain
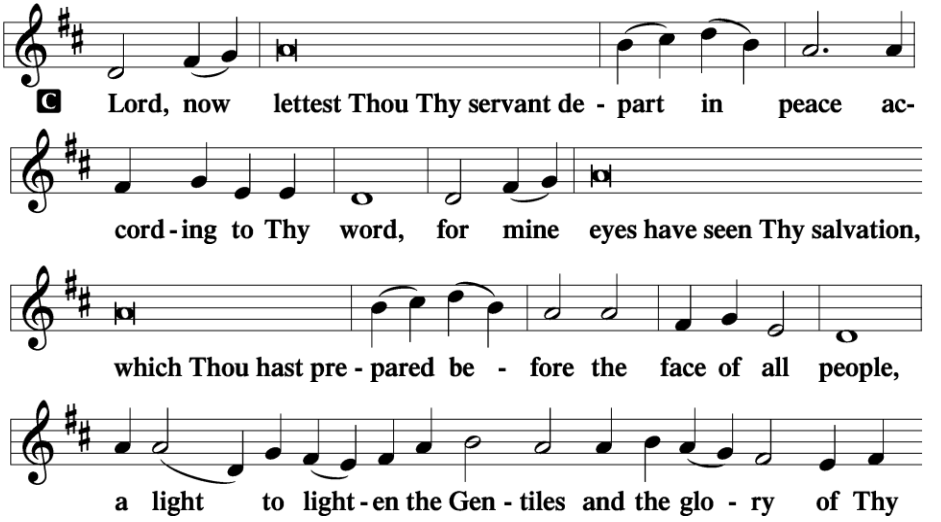
Sermon
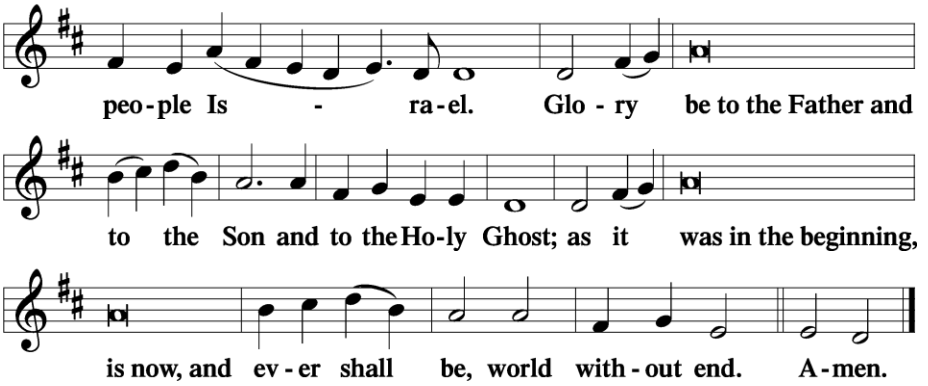
Offertory



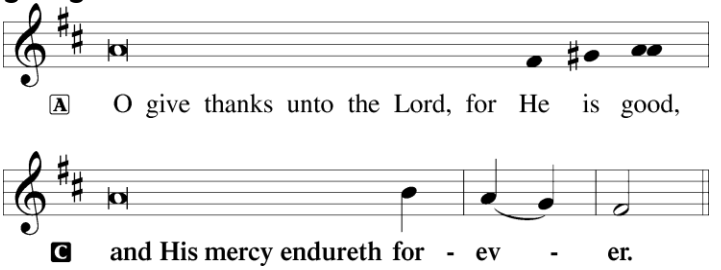
Prayer of the Church

Nunc Dimittis
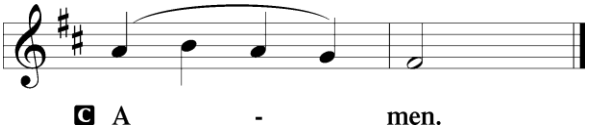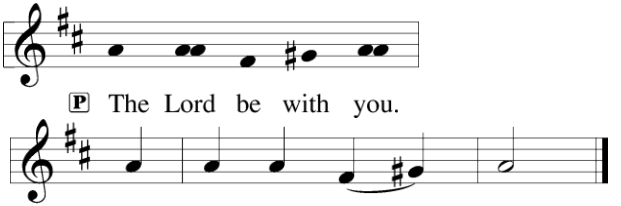




Thanksgiving

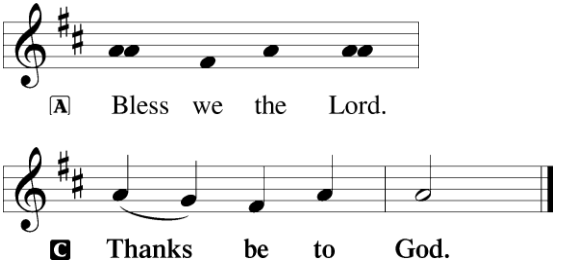


P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and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

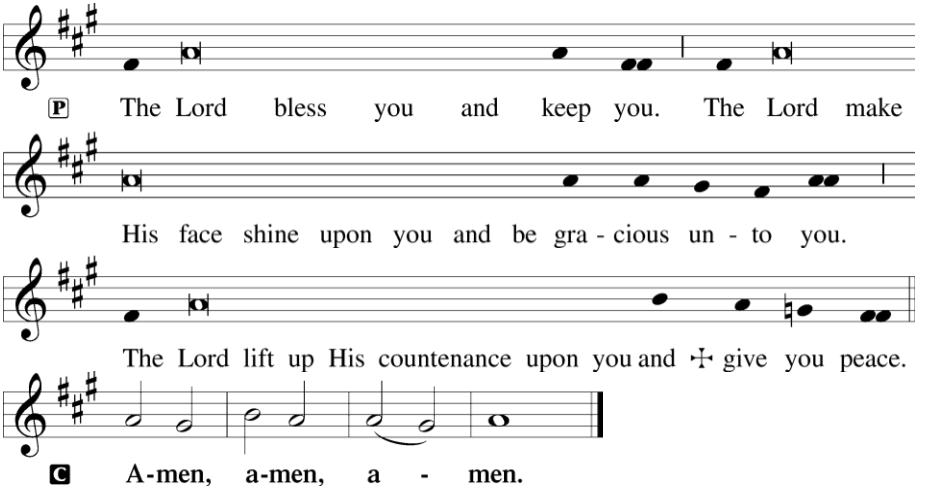




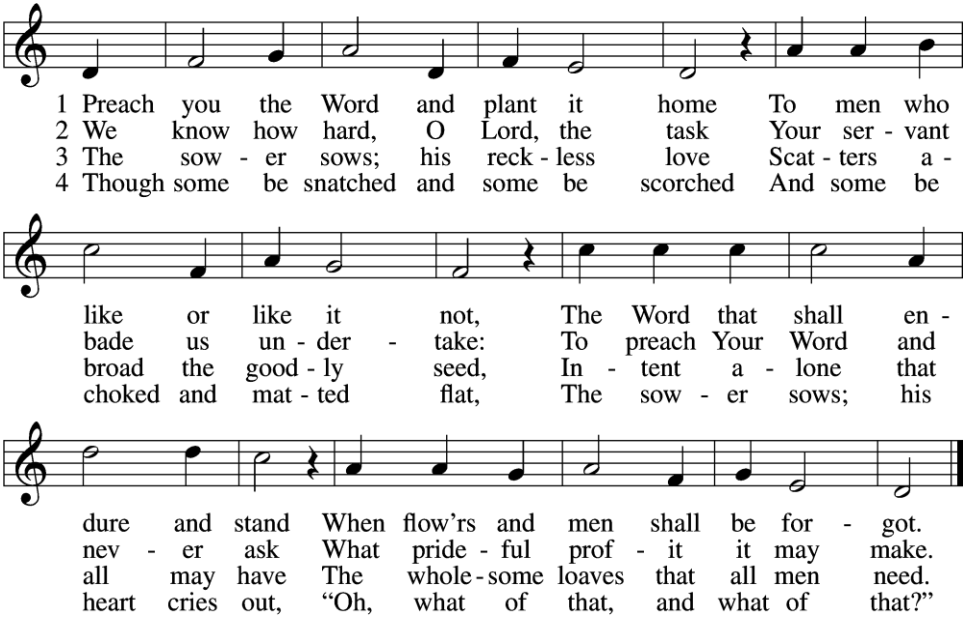
Benedicamus



Benediction



586 Preach You the Word



5 Of all his scattered plenteousness
One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,
And bears a harvest hundredfold:
"Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"

6 Preach you the Word and plant it home
And never faint; the Harvest Lord
Who gave the sower seed to sow
Will watch and tend His planted Word.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt.
Tune: Rheinfelssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg
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