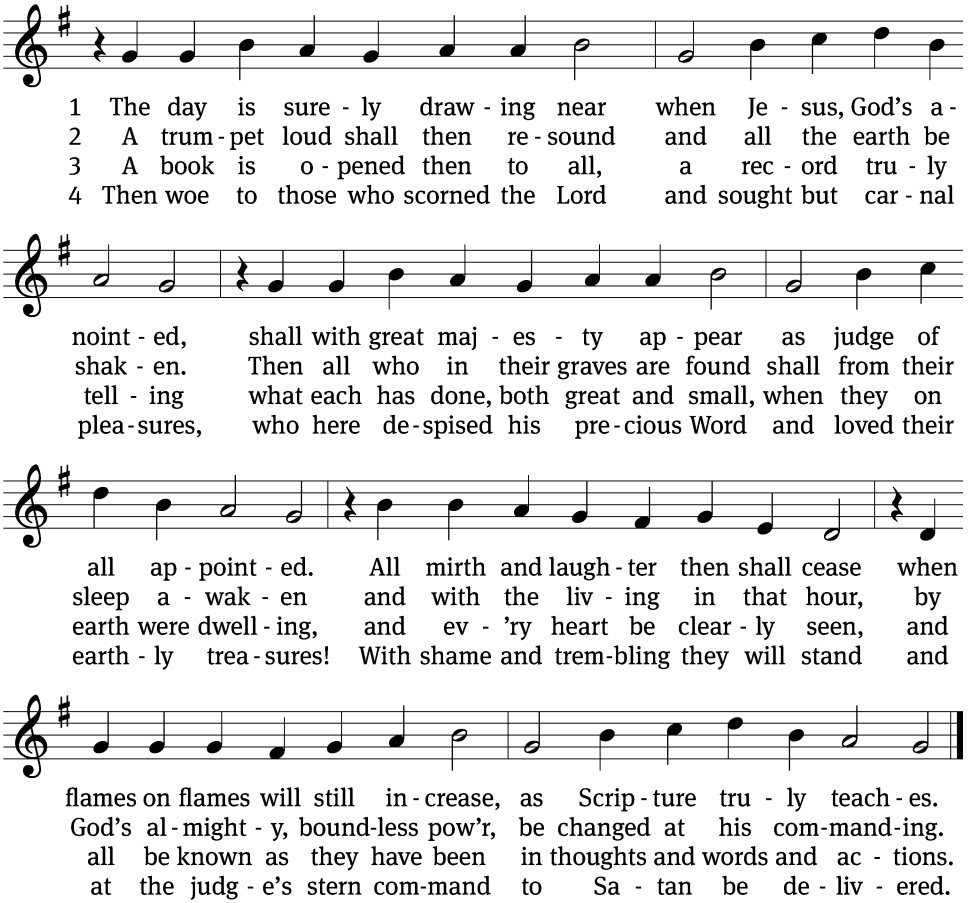Opening Hymn — 488 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near



5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
and for my sin was smitten;
within the Book of Life I know
my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
and Satan cannot threaten me;
there is no condemnation!

6 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
but hasten our salvation;
we often tremble on our way
in fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently;
come soon, Redeemer, make us free
from ev'ry evil. Amen.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–1599, abr.; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug; Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

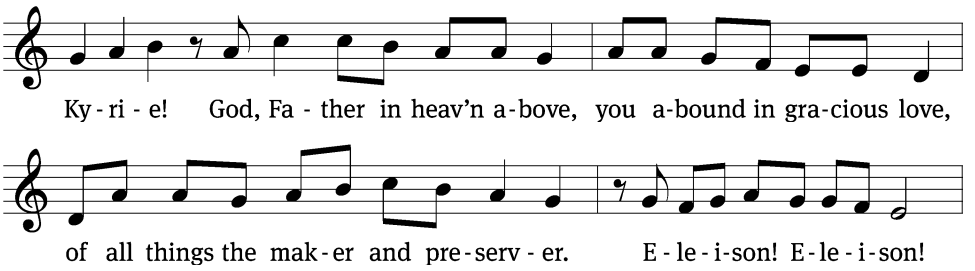
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
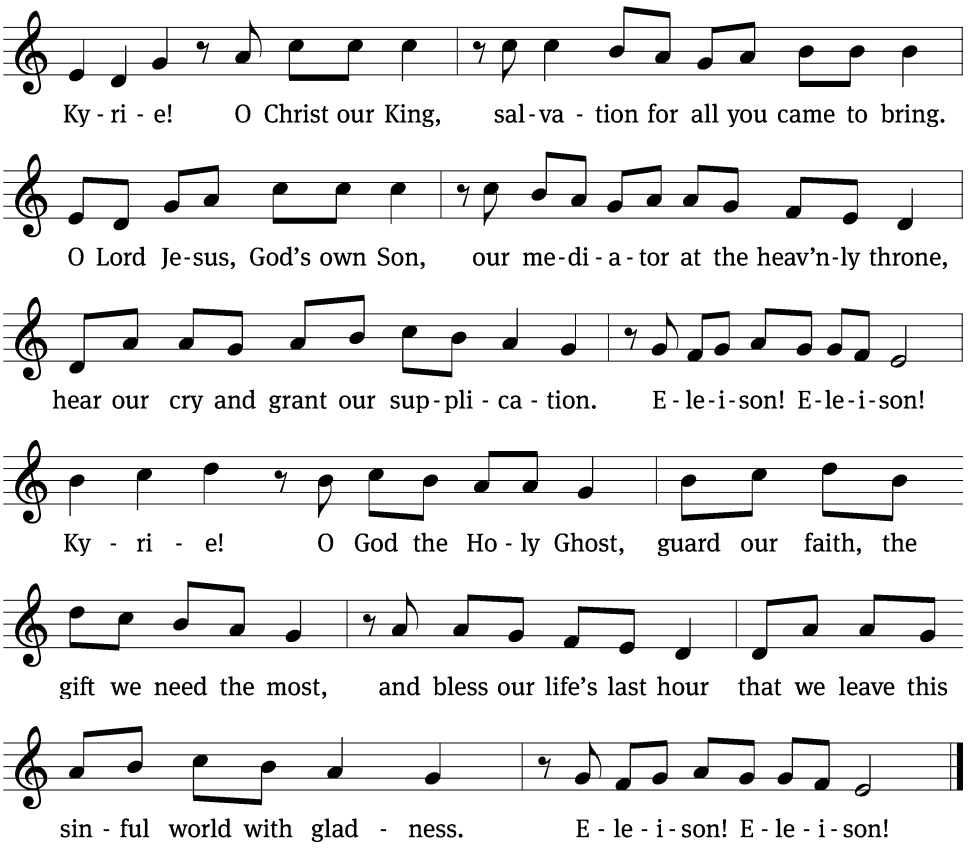
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

934 Kyrie! God, Father

CW 934

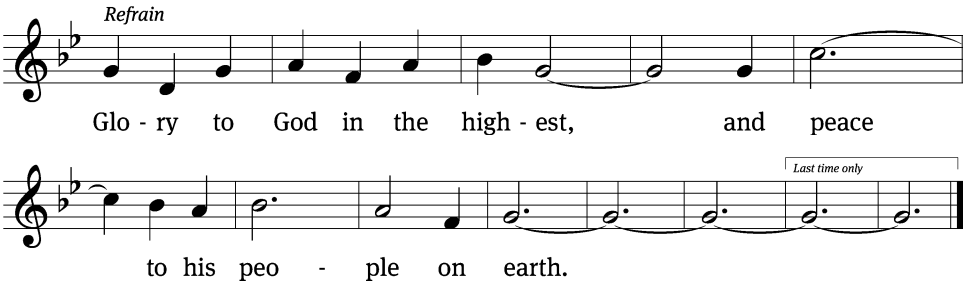




Text: Latin, 9th cent.; German version, Ordenung der ceremonien, Naumburg, 1537/1538; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
Tune: Latin, 9th cent.; adapt. Kirchen ampt Deutsch, Erfurt, 1525; Tune: Public domain
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Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. *Refrain*

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
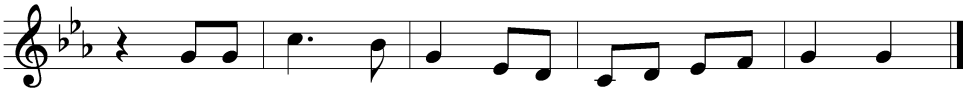
9 I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days
was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like
pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire. 10 A river
of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated,
and books were opened.

13 I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw
one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was
brought before him. 14 To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All
peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal
dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be
destroyed.
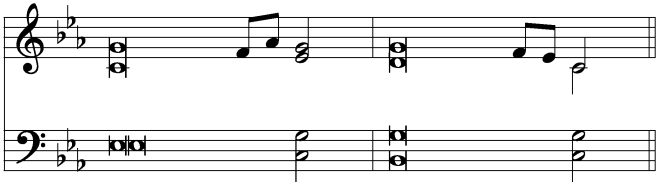
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95 — The Rock of Our Salvation

Refrain



Tone



Come, let us sing for joy / to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the rock of our sal- / vation.
Let us come before him with thanks- / giving
and extol him with mu- / sic and song.
For the LORD is the / great God,
the great King a- / bove all gods.
In his hand are the depths / of the earth,
and the mountain peaks be- / long to him.
The sea is his, for he / made it,
and his hands formed the / dry land. *Refrain*

Come, let us bow down in / worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our / maker;
for he is our God and we are the people of his / pasture,
the flock under / his care.
Today, if only you would / hear his voice,
"Do not hard- / en your hearts
as you did at / Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the / wilderness."
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. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

13We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have
fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have
no hope. 14Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the
same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen
asleep through Jesus.

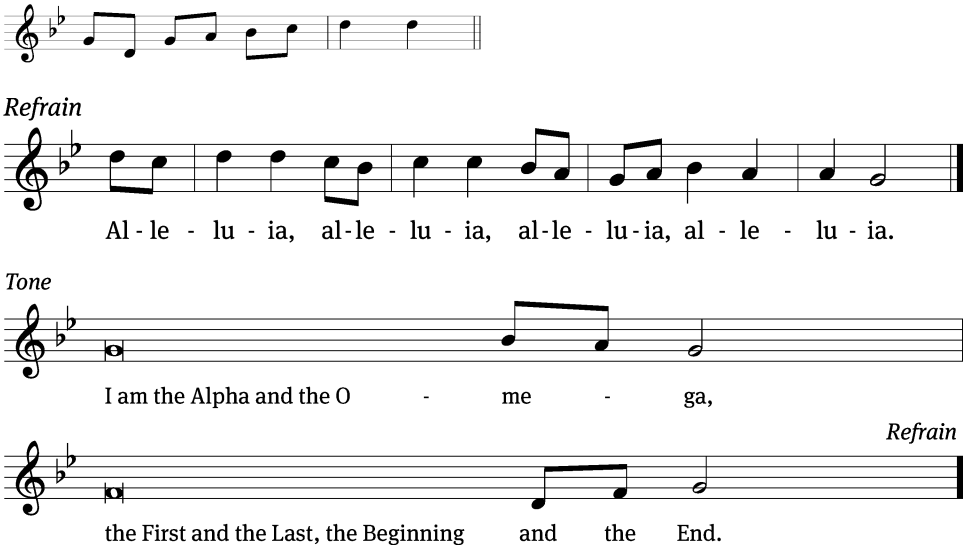
15In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left
until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have
fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud
command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God,
and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will
be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air.
And so we will always be with the Lord. 18Therefore, encourage one another
with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 22:13



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Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

31"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he
will sit on his glorious throne. 32All the nations will be gathered in his
presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates
the sheep from the goats. 33He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on
his left.

34"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed
by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the
world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you
gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. 36I was
lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was
in prison and you visited me.'

37"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry
and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? 38When did we see you a
stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? 39When did we
see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40"The King will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of
the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'

41"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are
cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels.
42For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you
did not give me anything to drink. 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome
me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did
not take care of me.'

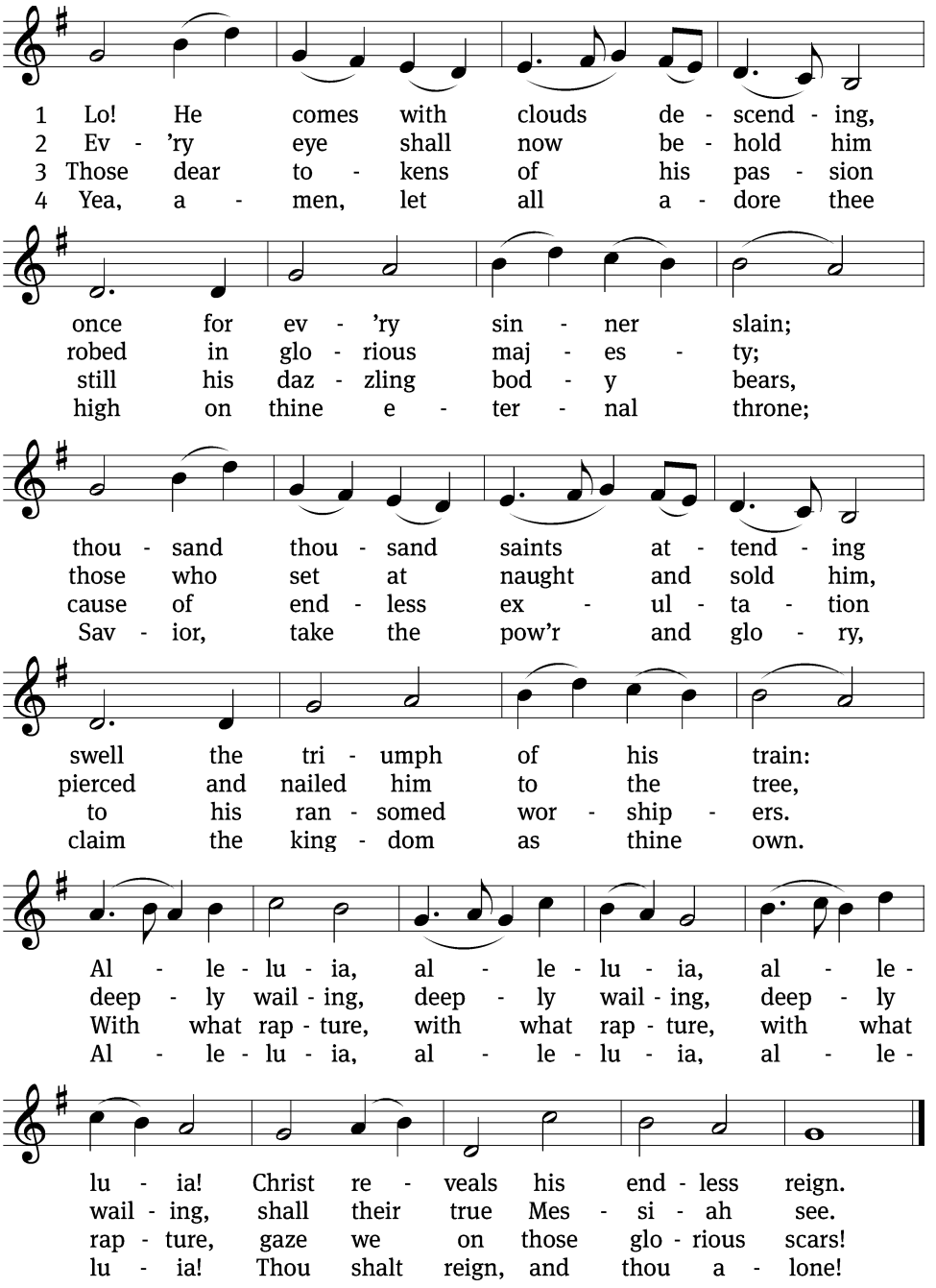
44"Then they will also answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?'

45"At that time he will answer them, 'Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do
it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.' 46And they will go
away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day 487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



Sermon

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

"When the Judge Is Your Savior"

Stand

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

Offering

May be left in the offering box in the entryway or given online

Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in Matthew's Gospel. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.
Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.
Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.
Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.
Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.
Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Special Petitions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

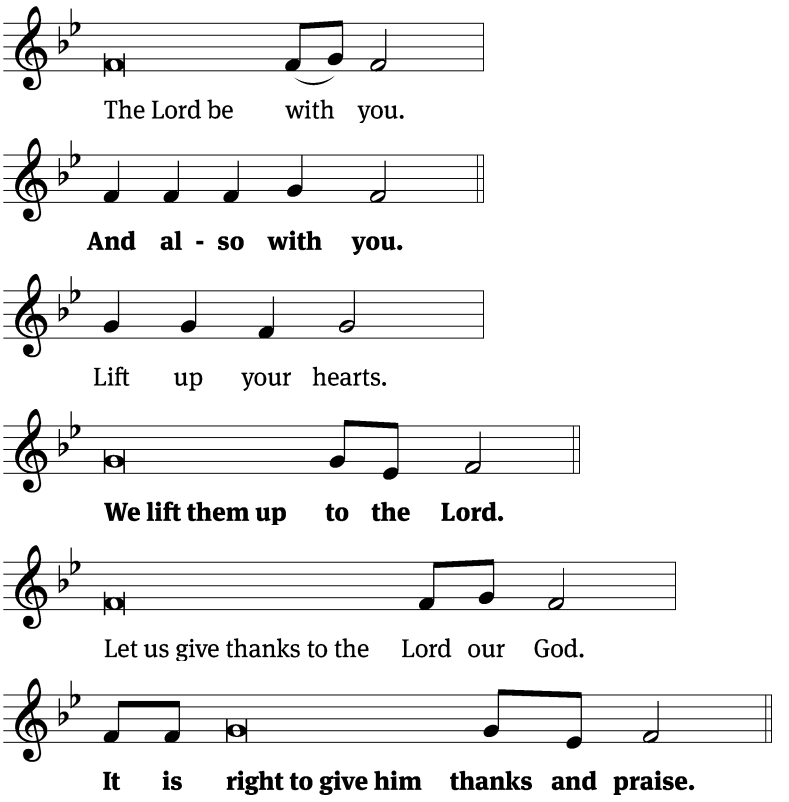
Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.
Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet. Amen.

Stand

The Sacrament

Preface

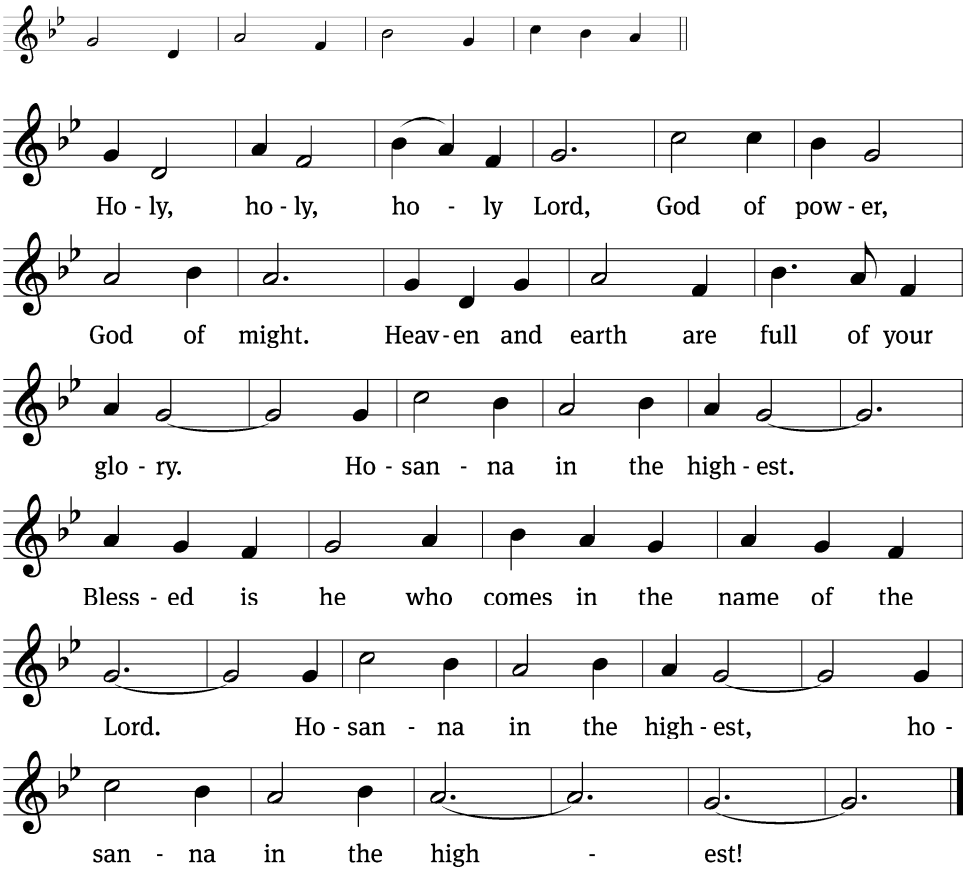
CW 183



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

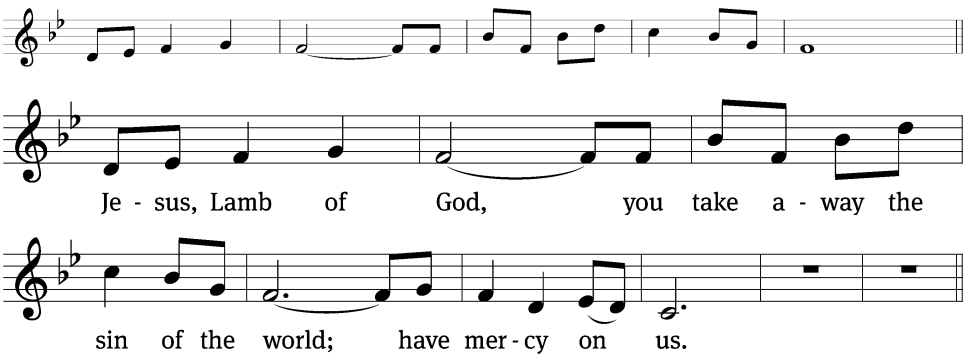
Words of Institution

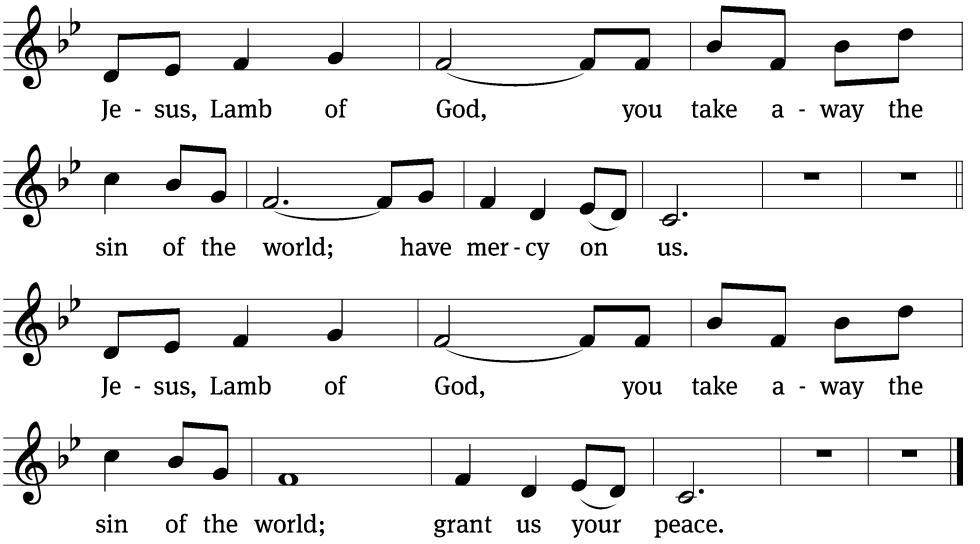
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread.... Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186





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Be seated

To You, Our Dear Guests …



Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church practices "**Close Communion**" as commanded by God's Word (1 Corinthians 11:27; Romans 16:17). Those who are of our ***close*** fellowship—members in good standing of *our congregation* or those churches *in close fellowship with us* (WELS and ELS)—may commune at our altar. **We ask all others to meet with our pastor first before taking communion with us so he may teach you about this.** Please make an appointment to do so! Thank you for respecting our historic and Scriptural practice.

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship
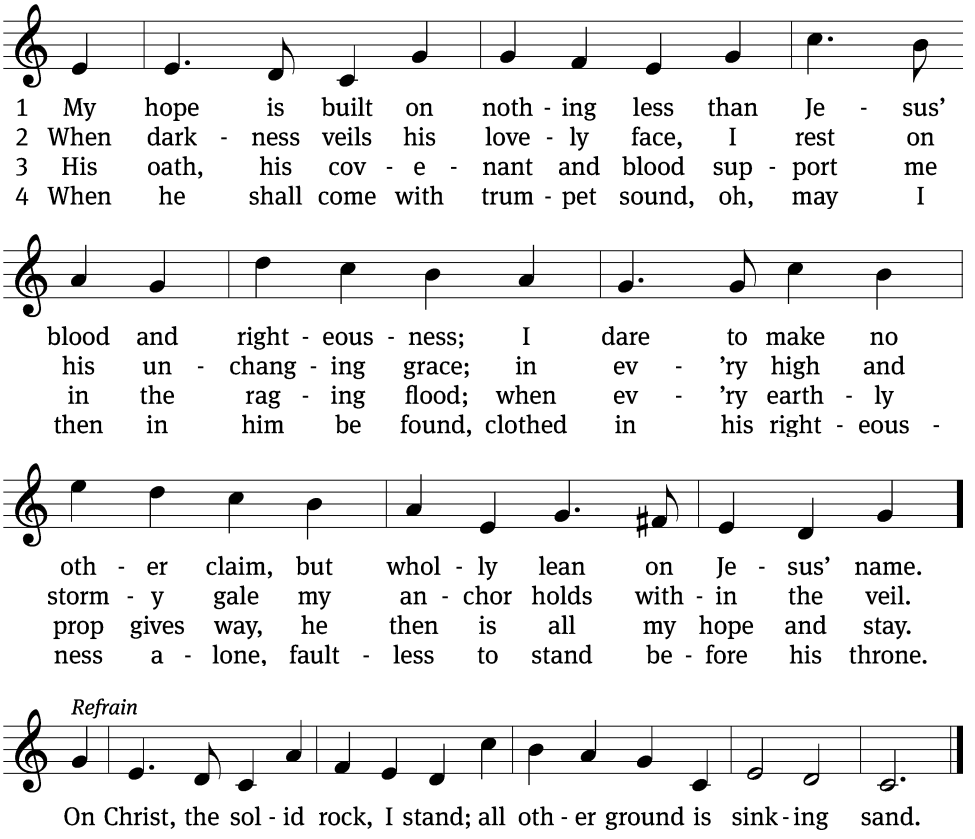
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Distribution Hymn 563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



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Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.
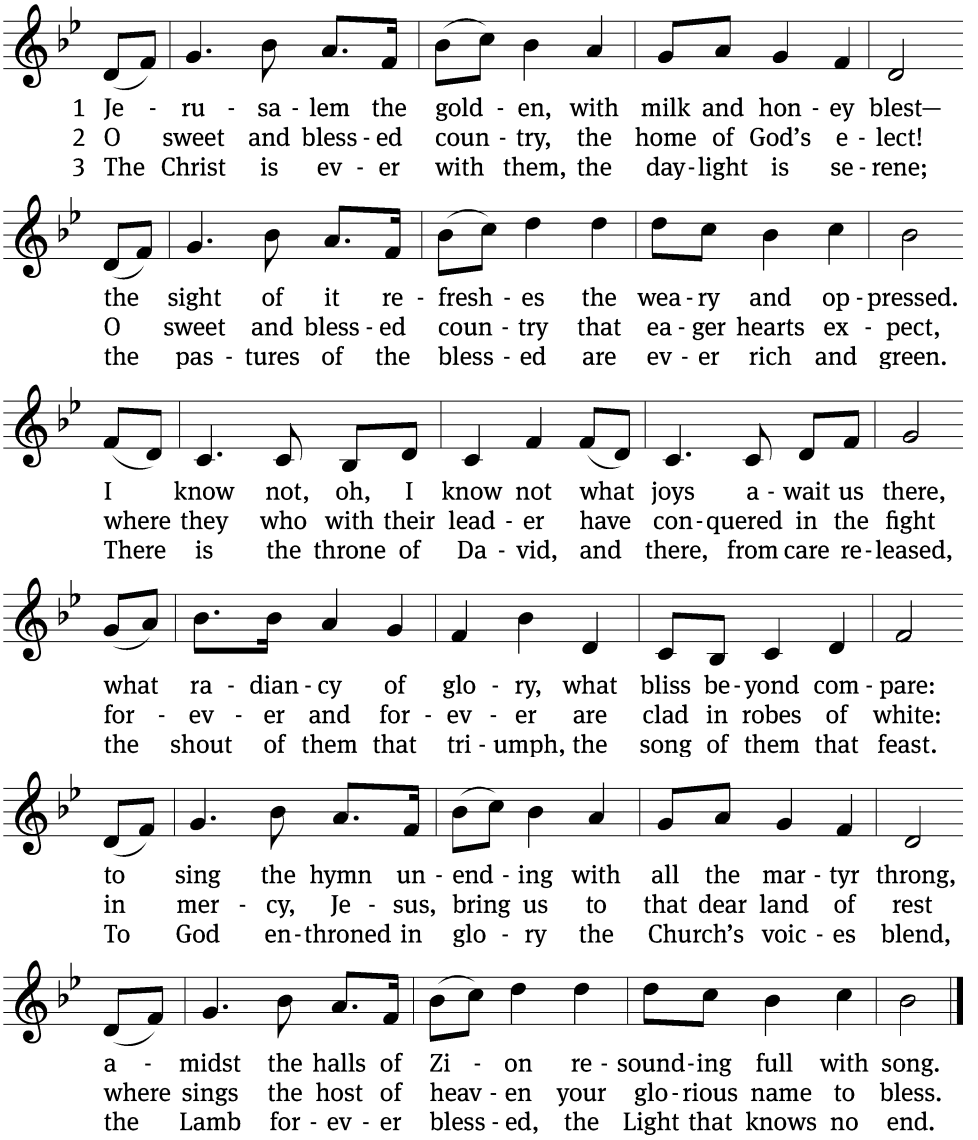
Closing Hymn — 889 Jerusalem the Golden

