



God is Calling NC Synod Assembly

May 29-31, 2025 in Greensboro

OPENING WORSHIP

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Congregational participation in bold font.

PRELUDE AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Invited by the minister, we rise in body and spirit as we are able.
We make the sign of the cross, ✠ the sign that is marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water is poured during the thanksgiving.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people
your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and
give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless
love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new
path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

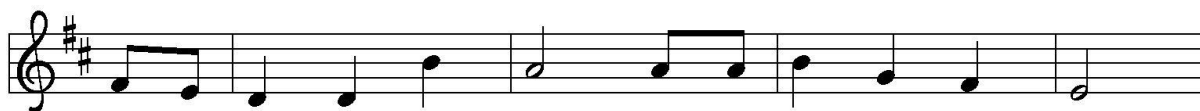
Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be

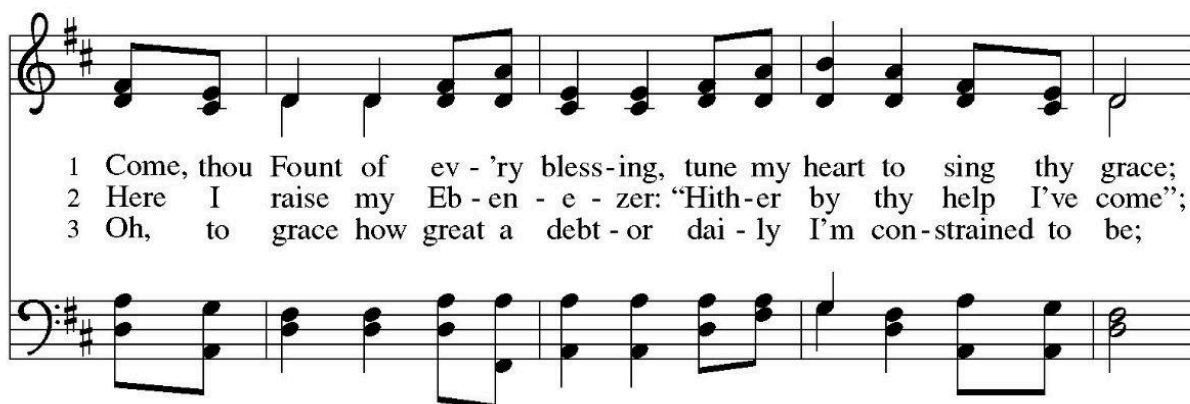


to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

...continue with thanksgiving for baptism...

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us life in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

Stanza 1 (Unison), Stanza 2 (Harmony), Stanza 3 (Unison)



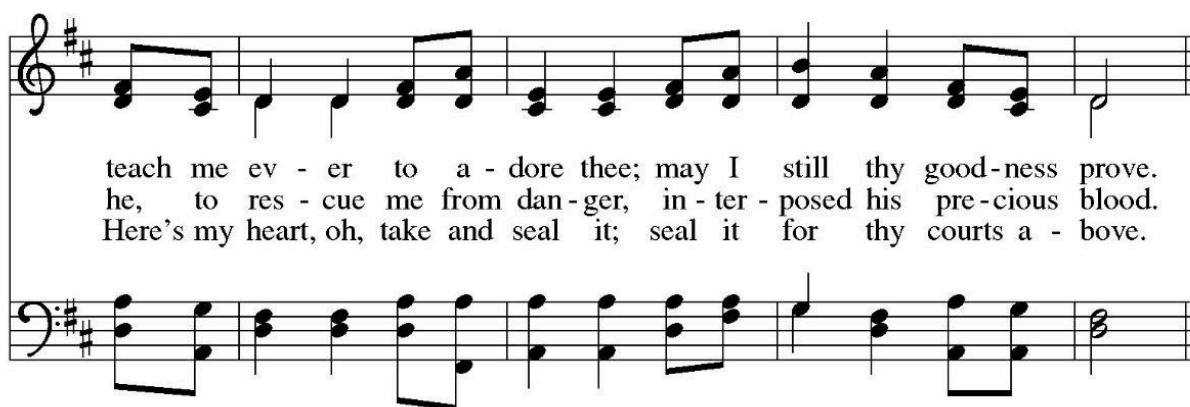
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

GLORY TO GOD

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

READING

Romans 8:24-28

A reading from Romans.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We rise as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

'Listen, God is Calling'

ELW 513

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed:] "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

**The Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith
Bishop of the NC Synod**

We rise as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

'God is Calling Through the Whisper'

GTG 410



1. God is call - ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2. God is call - ing through the voic - es of our neigh - bors' ur - gent prayers,
3. God is call - ing through the mu - sic of sub-lime and hu - man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau - ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long - ing for re - demp-tion and for res - cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an - gels, and the car - ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still - ness, rush of won - der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si - lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing - ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call - ing... can you hear? God is call - ing... can you hear? *Verse 2*
God is call - ing... can you hear? God is call - ing... can you hear? *Refrain*
God is call - ing... and we hear! God is call - ing... and we hear! *Refrain*

REFRAIN

Leader

Assembly



God is call - ing.

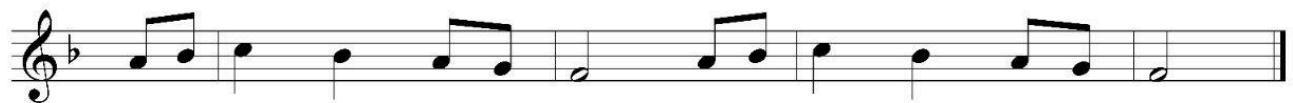
God is call - ing.



God is call - ing.

God is call - ing.

All



God is call - ing... can you hear? God is call - ing... can you hear? *Verse 3*
God is call - ing... and we hear! God is call - ing... and we hear! *Refrain*
God is call - ing... can you hear? God is call - ing... and we hear!

Be seated.

COMMISSIONING OF NC SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS

After prayerful consideration, we certify that: *Walt Allen, Mallory Allen, Tony Lippard, Deanna Deaton* have been prepared to work as Lay Preachers in the NC Synod. Our Lord, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You stand among us as those called to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

A reading from Romans: "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

A reading from 1 Peter: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever."

Will you assume this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God? Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in prayer? Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of God with a godly life?

(Candidate) I will, and I ask God to help me.

Assembly rise as able.

People of God, will you receive these lay preachers into this ministry as those sent to serve in the church of Jesus Christ? Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake, and strive to live together in the unity of Christ in all things?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

With the whole church, we confess our faith: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

I commission you as Lay Preachers in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Grant them joy and a spirit of bold trust, that their work may stir up each of us to a life of faithfulness. Strengthen and bless them that they may boldly proclaim the good news of salvation and reconciliation. Fill them with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that they may with gladness preach, teach, comfort, and guide your people to maturity in Christ Jesus through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

People of God, let us welcome our new Lay Preachers in the name of Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

People of God, we pray for the church, for the world, and for all of God's creation.

Living God, you bind your people together as one body through your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen your people in every place with your Holy Spirit. Enable our lives to bear witness to your reconciling love (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, you called prophets and apostles throughout the ages. Bless all who are discerning your call, serving your church, or resting from their labors. May they each be supported in their discernment, renewed in their vocation, and assured that their work is not in vain (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Energizing God, you breathe holy life into us. Enable us to proclaim good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. Empower your church to speak and act with courage and with compassion. Strengthen our lives to proclaim Christ crucified and risen (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you called the world into being, and you declared it good. Inspire us by your good creation to tend and treasure your land, your waters, and all the creatures you have made, so that future generations may dwell in harmony with all living things (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you judge the nations. Grant wisdom and compassion to all people in authority around your world. Enable all to live their lives with dignity and safety. Enable peace to replace conflict. Fill our souls with a sharing of the cries of anguish from the people who suffer in Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, Myanmar, and so many, many, more (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you took on our flesh and lived among us. You know what it is like to be human. Help us, Lord! Help us to tend to the poor. Help us to serve the imprisoned. Help us to help those without a place to call home. Help us to remember those whom we have forgotten. May we raise up the lowly, support the weak, draw near to the sick, help the dying, and comfort the grieving, that they may know your eternal presence (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you are ever-present with us throughout our lives. We give thanks for your saints who have died over the past year, including these rostered ministers of the NC Synod who have joined your Church Triumphant:

The Rev. Dr. C. Lynn Bailey
The Rev. Carl Fisher
The Rev. Michael Frye
The Rev. Ted Goins, Sr.
Deacon Donna Hanna
The Rev. Michael Hoffmann
The Rev. Charlie Hoyle
The Rev. Charles R. Huggins
The Rev. Gunnard Duane Johnson
The Rev. Karla Lang
The Rev. Robert B. Lineberger

The Rev. Earl McCombs, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Carl McKenzie
The Rev. Charlie McManus
The Rev. David Mielke
The Rev. John C. Misenheimer
The Rev. Thomas E. Nelson, Jr.
The Rev. Henry Rehder, Jr.
The Rev. Glenn Reichley
The Rev. Henry Rendleman
The Rev. Dr. Colonel Ralph S. Spear
The Rev. Theodore Thuesen
The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Walker

We give thanks for their ministry of proclaiming your word, presiding at your table, and serving your church. As you have sustained them, sustain us in the living out of our lives as we share your love in thought, word, and deed (*silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, into your hands we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and in your power to redeem, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Share the peace of Christ with one another.

Be seated.

OFFERING AND SONG

'Here I Am, Lord'

ELW 574

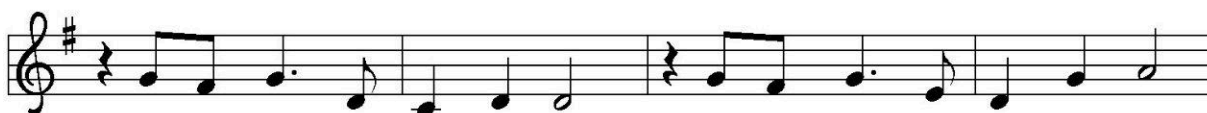
Today's offering, given to the glory of God, is donated to the Lutheran Disaster Relief Carolinas for disaster recovery. You can share your gift either by scanning the QR code provided or placing your offering in the offering plate. Thank you!



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



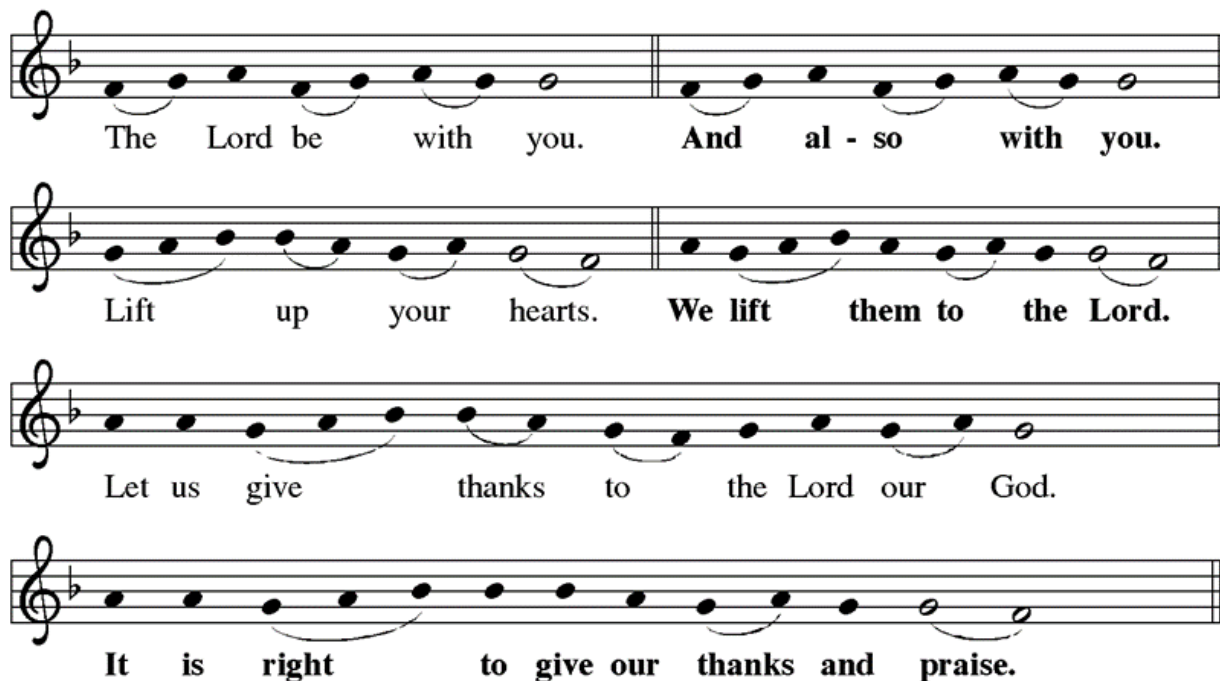
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

We rise as able.

OFFERING PRAYER

We pray: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

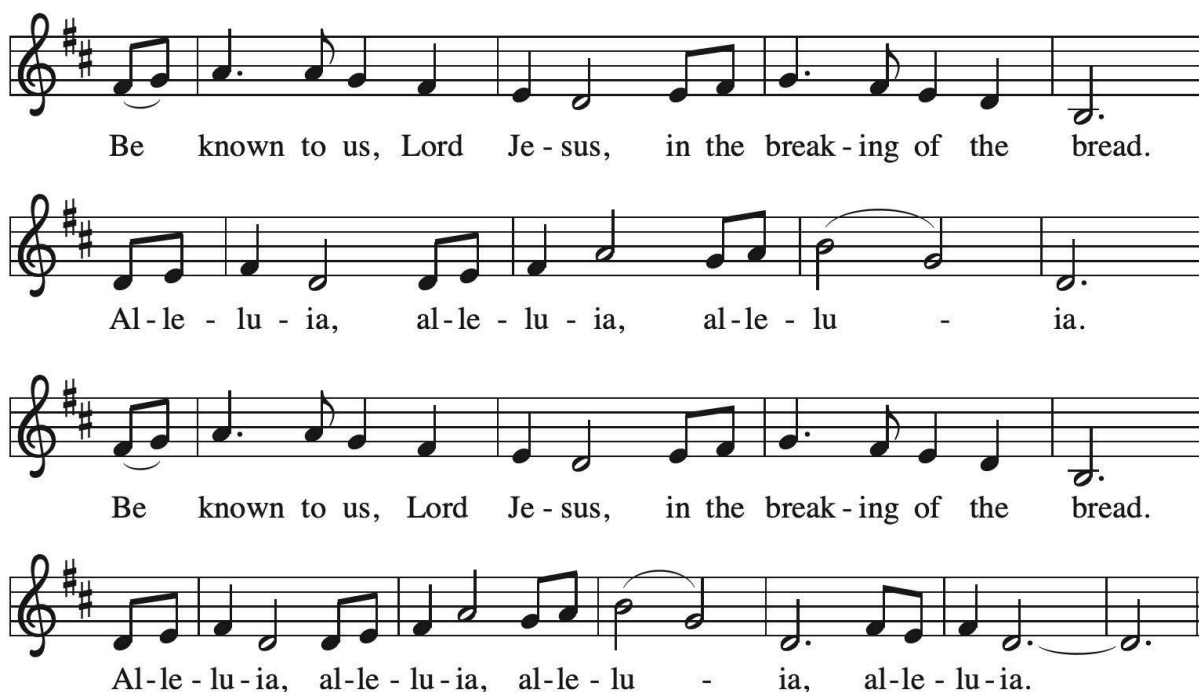
Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND LAMB OF GOD

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. **Thanks be to God!**



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Please be seated. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Christ's table. Communion is distributed by intinction. At the direction of the ushers, you are invited to come forward, receive a piece of gluten-free bread, and dip it into either the wine or grape juice. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher so that communion may be brought to you. As you return to your seat, we kindly ask that you keep the aisle clear to ensure the communion assistance may serve those who remain seated.

[Verse 1]

*In my longing, in my waiting, will Your presence be enough?
When I'm fearful, when I'm doubting, will I have the strength to trust?*

[Chorus]

*You're the first, You're the last, You're forever
You're the one who brings spring out of winter
You're the promise and You are the keeper
You're the one who holds all things together*

[Verse 2]

*In my grieving, in my sorrow, will Your goodness steady me?
When I'm blinded, when I'm hopeless, will I have the eyes to see?*

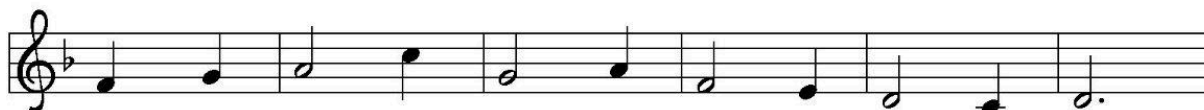
[Chorus]

*You're the first, You're the last, You're forever
You're the one who brings spring out of winter
You're the promise and You are the keeper
You're the one who holds all things together (x2)*

*Together, together
You're the one who holds all things together
Together, together
You're the one who holds all things together*

[Verse 3]

*In my serving, when I'm hidden, will I trust the Father sees?
When You call me, God, will I listen? Will I follow where You lead?
I will follow where You lead
Where You lead*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



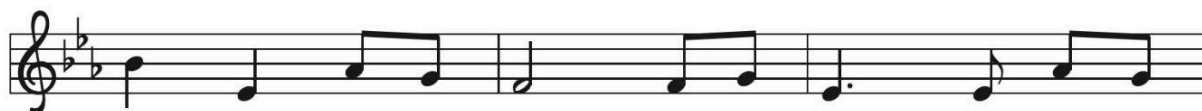
name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



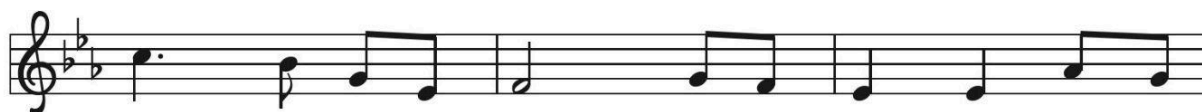
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

We rise as able.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

May the precious and true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

We pray: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

'The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve'

ELW 551

1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel

Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Sundays and Seasons. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. CCLI #11534973. OneLicense #A-735307. Commissioned Artwork: Artist: Amelia Osborne. Date: 2024. Title: Earthen Vessels. Description: Watercolor pencil, gouache, liquid gold on Bristol parchment 19"x 24." Artist Statement: Formed from clay, inspired by divine breath and delivered in grace. Uniquely created to carry and pour out love; still fragile in our humanness. God Is Calling. Calling us to healing. Calling us to relationship. Calling us to one another. Calling us to LOVE. God is Calling . . . Can you Hear?