

Lord's Day Service



At Church of the King on August 30th, 2026

The 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalms 119:103

Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence

Hear Today's Call to Worship From God's Word: [congregation standing]

Jehovah opens the eyes of the blind; Jehovah raises those who are bowed down; Jehovah loves the righteous. Jehovah watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down. Jehovah shall reign forever— Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise Jehovah! Psalm 146:8-10

God's People Respond With a Hymn of Adoration: [based on Psalm 145:10]

O worship the King all glorious above,	Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
O gratefully sing his power and His love.	It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,	It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.	And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Salutation and Response: [based on Matthew 28:19, Ruth 2:4 and Psalm 95:6-7a]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Jehovah be with you!

And also with you!

Oh, Come let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before Jehovah, our maker.

For He is our God;

And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us In Christ

The Call for Confession from God's Word: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom Jehovah does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to Jehovah," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah. Psalm 32:1-5

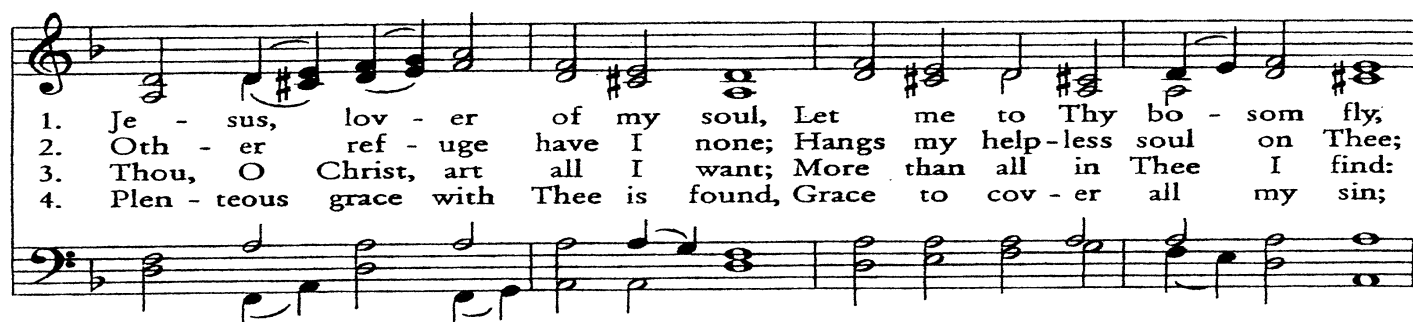
God's People Sing our Hymn of Confession:

[congregation standing]

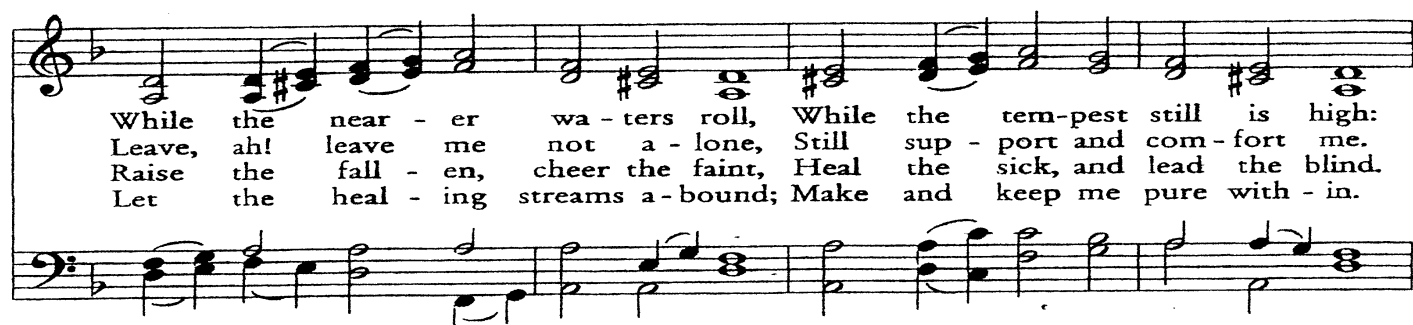
Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH (7 7. 7 7. D.)
Joseph Parry, 1879

Charles Wesley, 1740



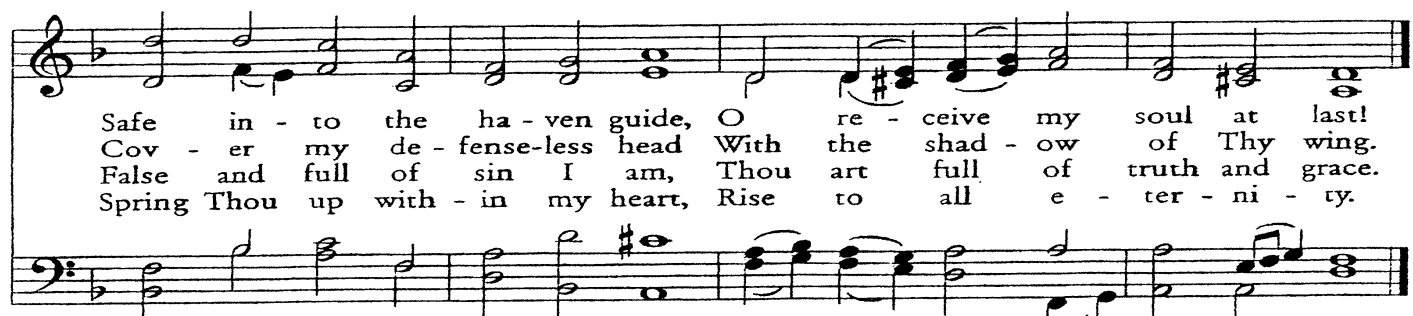
1. Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, Let me to Thy bo - som fly;
2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none; Hangs my help - less soul on Thee;
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find:
4. Plen - teous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cov - er all my sin;



While the near - er wa - ters roll, While the tem - pest still is high:
Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, Still sup - port and com - fort me.
Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; Make and keep me pure with - in.



Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Just and ho - ly is Thy name; I am all un - right - eous - ness;
Thou of life the foun - tain art; Free - ly let me take of Thee;



Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
Cov - er my de - fense - less head With the shad - ow of Thy wing.
False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.
Spring Thou up with - in my heart, Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Silent Confession: *"I cry out with my whole heart; Hear me, O Jehovah! I will keep Your statutes. I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies." Psalms 119:145-146*

Those who are willing and able are invited to kneel for our time of confession.

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come. In your merciful presence we confess that we have broken your Law, both in what we have done and what we have left undone. We confess that these trespasses, apart from your grace, result in our impurity, and also make us liable to receive your just punishments. We confess our sins and ask that you wash us from our impurities through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge our iniquities, and ask that you shield us from punishment through the atoning death of our Savior. From our violations of your just Law, forgive us through the perfect obedience of our Lord, and empower us to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with You. Finally, we ask you to receive our praise and worship, for we speak in the blessed name of Jesus, and seek the visible manifestation of His Kingdom on earth, Amen.

Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness:

"God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-8

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification; and for His sake forgives us all our sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Having confessed our sins with faith in the completed work of Christ on our behalf, we are forgiven; we have been cleansed and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. And not only that, we are now **in Christ** and **in Him** we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity with the Saints of all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

Come Bless the Father:

Three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Come bless the Fath - er, all you ser - vants of the Son, who stand by the Spir - it in the House of the Lord. Lift up your hands to the Ho - ly Place and bless your God. May the Lord _____ bless you from Zi - on, He Who made hea - ven and earth. _____"

Lift up your hearts!

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "We lift them up un - to the Lord!"

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "It is pro - per and right to do so."

Truly it is proper and right that we should at all times and in all places give praise to you O LORD. And so, with the angels and all the company of heaven and with the Church, as she gathers throughout the world this day, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you & singing:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks:

The Lord the Only God, is Great

Psalms 48:1-8

BON ACCORD
Scottish Psalter, 1635

Tate and Brady Psalter, 1735

1. The Lord, the on - ly God, is great, and great - ly to be
2. Her tow'rs, the joy of all the earth, with beaut - eous pros - pect

In On Zi - on north on side whose happ - py mount, In Zi - on north
On her north side the might - y King's, On her north

on side whose happ - py mount, his im - per - ial throne is raised.
On her north side the might - y King's, his im - per - ial throne is raised.
On her north side the might - y King's, his im - per - ial throne is raised.

3. God in her palaces is known;
his presence is her guard:

4. Confed'rate kings withdrew their siege,
and of success despaired.

5. They viewed her walls; admired and fled,
with grief and terror struck;
6. Like women whom the sudden pangs
of travail had o'ertook.

7. No wretched crew of mariners
appear like them forlorn,
When fleets from Tarsish' wealthy coasts
by eastern winds are torn.

8. In Zion we have seen performed
a work that was foretold;
In pledge that God, for times to come,
his city will uphold.

Member Covenant Signing:

The Hubert Household

"Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers." II Chronicles 34:31,32

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." Acts 2:42

The Sacrament of Baptism:

The Hubert Household presents **Sarah** and **Henry** ;
For Baptism into the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:38, 39

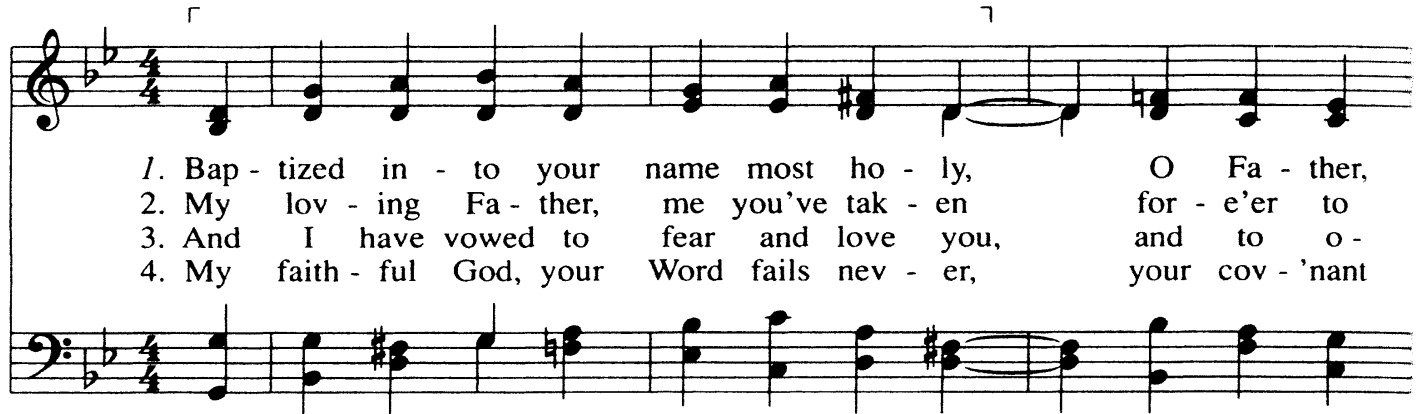
"Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Luke 18:15-17

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. I Corinthians 10:1-4

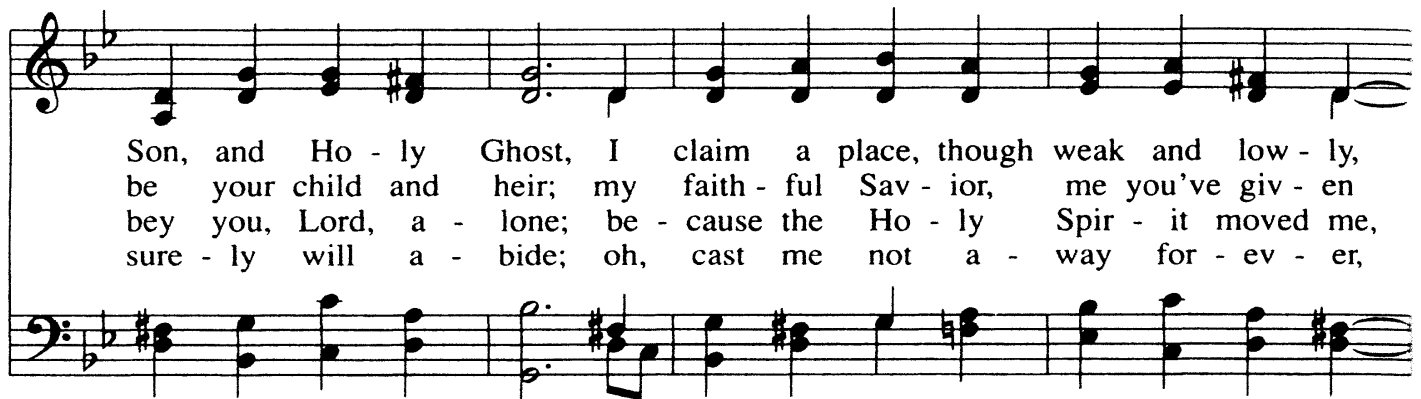
Hymn of Thanks: Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

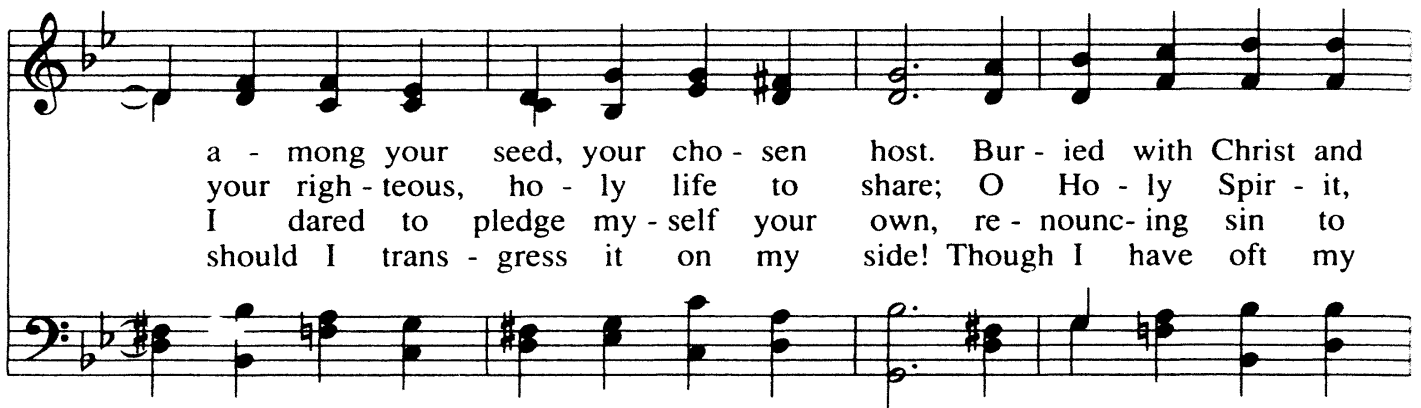
We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that ... we too may live a new life. Rom. 6:4



1. Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
2. My lov - ing Fa - ther, me you've tak - en for - e'er to
3. And I have vowed to fear and love you, and to o -
4. My faith - ful God, your Word fails nev - er, your cov - 'nant



Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
be your child and heir; my faith - ful Sav - ior, me you've giv - en
bey you, Lord, a - lone; be - cause the Ho - ly Spir - it moved me,
sure - ly will a - bide; oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er,



a - mong your seed, your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
your righ - teous, ho - ly life to share; O Ho - ly Spir - it,
I dared to pledge my - self your own, re - nounc - ing sin to
should I trans - gress it on my side! Though I have oft my



dead to sin: your Spir - it e'er shall live with - in.
you will be a com - fort, guide, and help to me.
keep the faith and war with e - vil un - to death.
soul de - filed, in love for - give, re - store your child.

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:3-6

THE LORD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD:

PSALM 91

Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High

Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of Jehovah,

“He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.”

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *and* from the perilous pestilence.

He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge;

His truth *shall be* your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day, *nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you.

Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made Jehovah, *who is* my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place,

No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;

I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

God's People Respond With a Hymn of Preparation:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103: 2

Joachim Neander, 1680

Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN 14. 14. 4. 7. 8.

Stralsund *Gesangbuch*, 1665

Arr. in *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, 1668



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might - y, the King of cre - a - - tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth,
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee!
4. Praise thou the Lord, who with mar - vel - ous wis-dom hath made thee,
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - - tion!
Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gen - tly sus - tain - eth!
Sure - ly his good-ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee;
Decked thee with health, and with lov - ing hand guid - ed and stayed thee.
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be - fore him!



All ye who hear, Now to his tem - ple draw near,
Hast thou not seen How thy de - sires e'er have been
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y will do,
How oft in grief Hath not he brought thee re - lief,
Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a - gain;



Join me in glad ad - o - ra - - - tion.
Grant - ed in what he or - dain - - - eth?
If with his love he be - friend thee!
Spread - ing his wings to o'er - shade thee!
Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him. A - MEN.



God Speaks to Us Through His Word: Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon
“The Discerner of Hearts”

From **Pastor Paul Liberati**

Based on **John 2:23-25**

John 2:13-25 (NKJV)

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. **15** When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. **16** And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" **17** Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "*Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.*" **18** So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" **19** Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" **21** But He was speaking of the temple of His body. **22** Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. **24** But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, **25** and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

Notes:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Response:

[congregation standing]

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

UNION (C.M.)

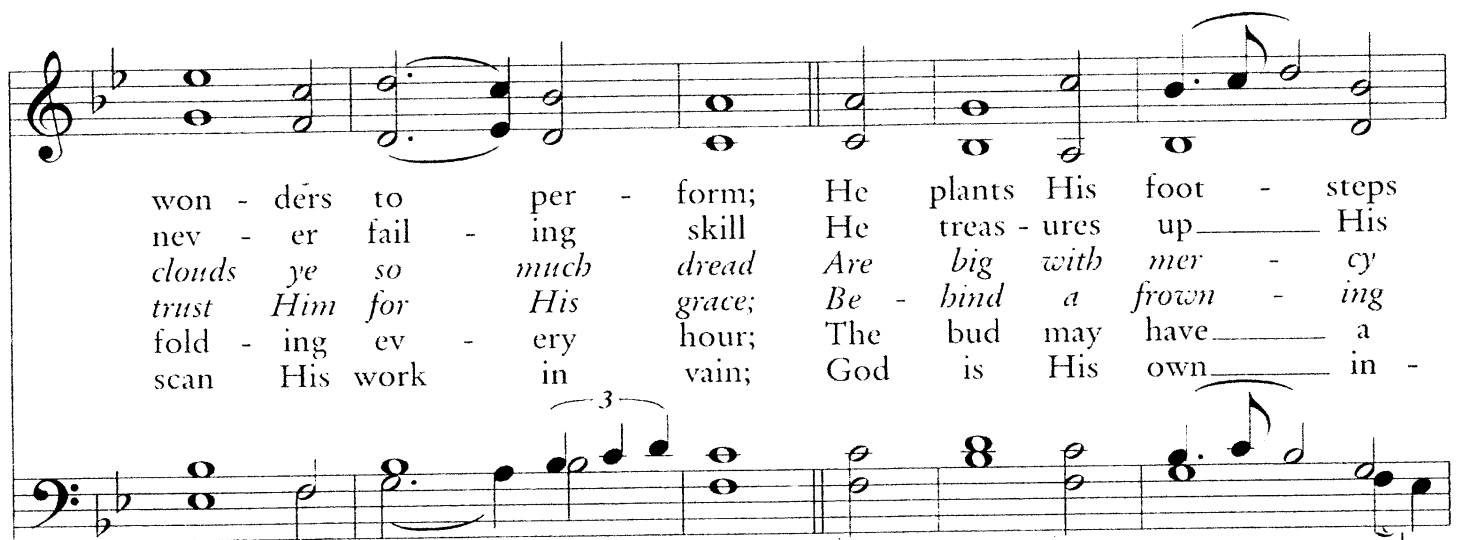
William Cowper, 1774

Alexander Gillet, *Harmonia Sacra*, 1867

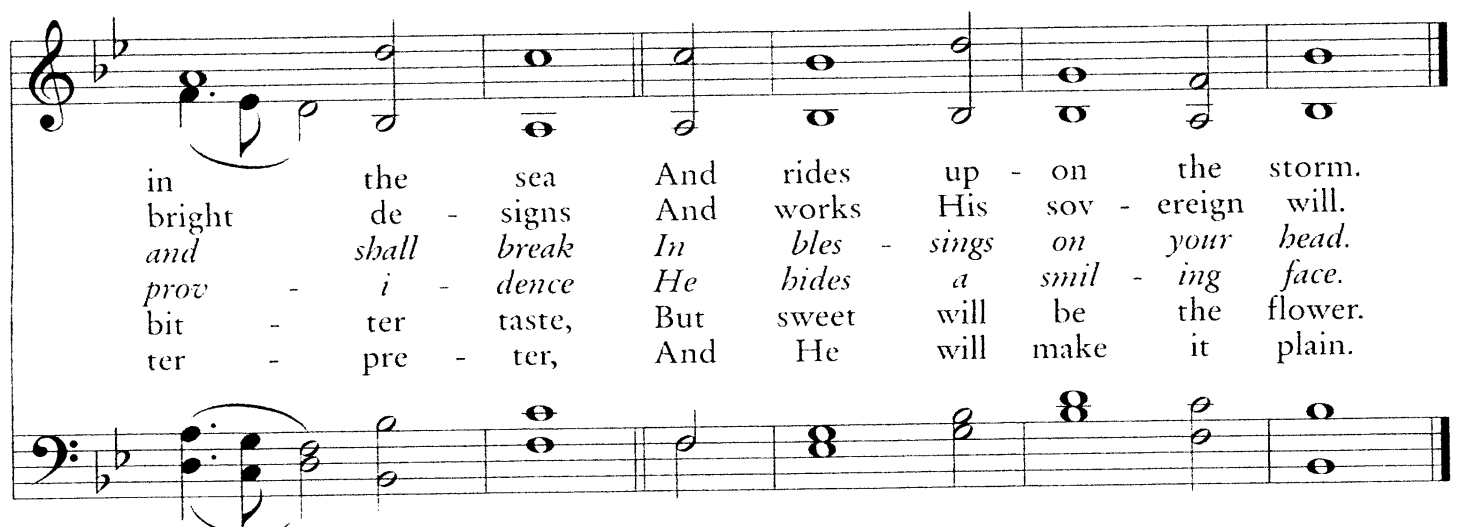


1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
2. Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines Of
3. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The
4. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
5. His pur - pos - es will rip - en fast, Un -
6. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err And

Melody



won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
nev - er fail - ing skill He treas - ures up His
clouds ye so much dread Are big with mer - cy
trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing
fold - ing ev - ery hour; The bud may have a
scan His work in vain; God is His own in -



in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
bright de - signs And works His sov - ereign will.
and shall break In bles - sings on your head.
prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
bit - ter taste, But sweet will be the flower.
ter - pre - ter, And He will make it plain.

God Receives Our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering: [congregation standing]

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” Ephesians 4:11-13

With the Singing of Psalm 24:3-6 & the Doxology

Words composed by Brenda Fisher

1: Who may stand in God's Holy place?	2: He shall have blessing from the Lord.
Who may ascend before His face?	Righteousness is his sure reward.
He has a pure heart and clean hands.	Jacob you are who seek God's place.
He worships God, keeps His commands.	True sons are you who seek God's face.

**3: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

Pat Garner

“Jehovah has heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer.” Psalm 6:9

**Our Father,
Which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one,
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN** [Matthew 6:9-13]

Communion: Where God Communes With His People

Preparation for Communion:

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, and are not under discipline from Christ's Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call

Our Confession of Faith - The Apostle's Creed [sung with music by Amber Bartels]

Piano

I be-lieve in God the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth;

And in Je-sus Christ, His on-ly be-got-ten Son, our Lord; Who was con-ceived by the

Ho-ly Spi-rit, born of the vir-gin Ma-ry, Suf-fered un-der Pon-tius

Pi-late, was cru-ci-fied, dead and bur-ied; He de-scend-ed in-to

hell, the third day He rose a-gain from the dead; He as-cend-ed in-to

heav-en and sit-teth at the right hand of God the Fath-er Al-might-ty; From

thence He shall come to judge the liv-ing and the dead. I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit,

I be-lieve a ho-ly cath-olic Church, the com-mun-ion of saints, the for-give-ness of sins; the

re-sur-rec-tion of the bo-dy, and the life ey-er-last-ing. A-men.

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE: (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A Word of Encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the Bread

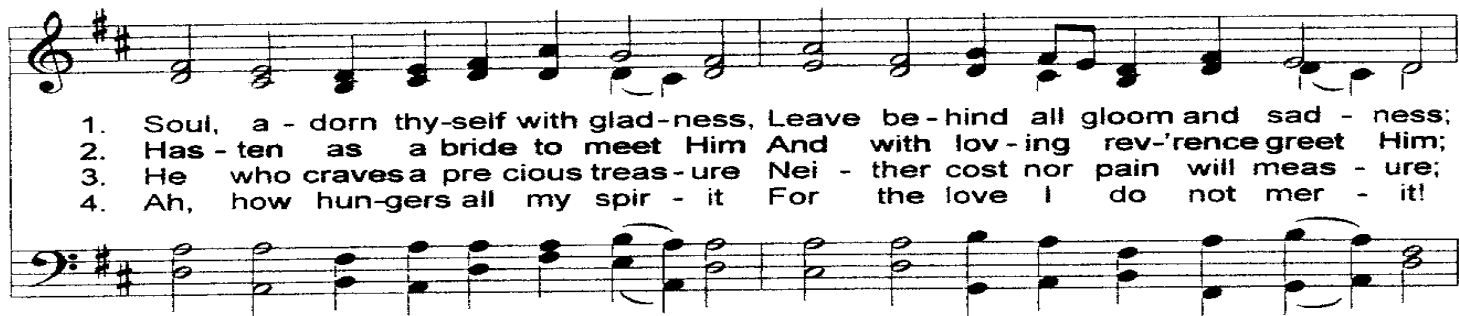
God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

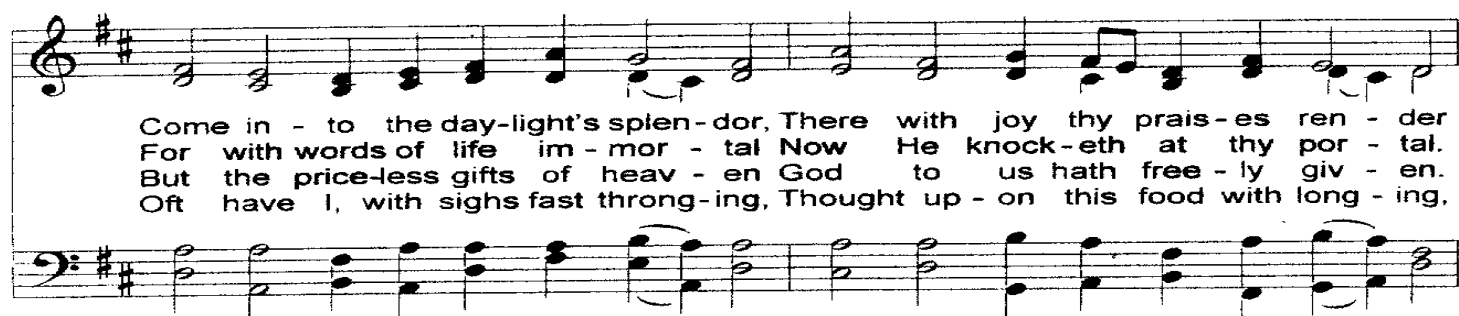
Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness

SCHMÜCKE DICH (L.M.D.)
Johann Crüger, 1649

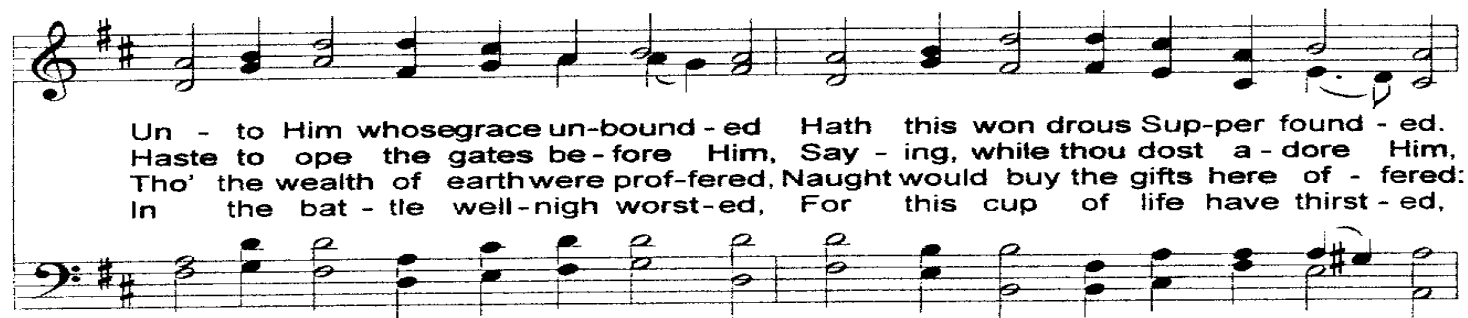
Johann Franck, 1649
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.



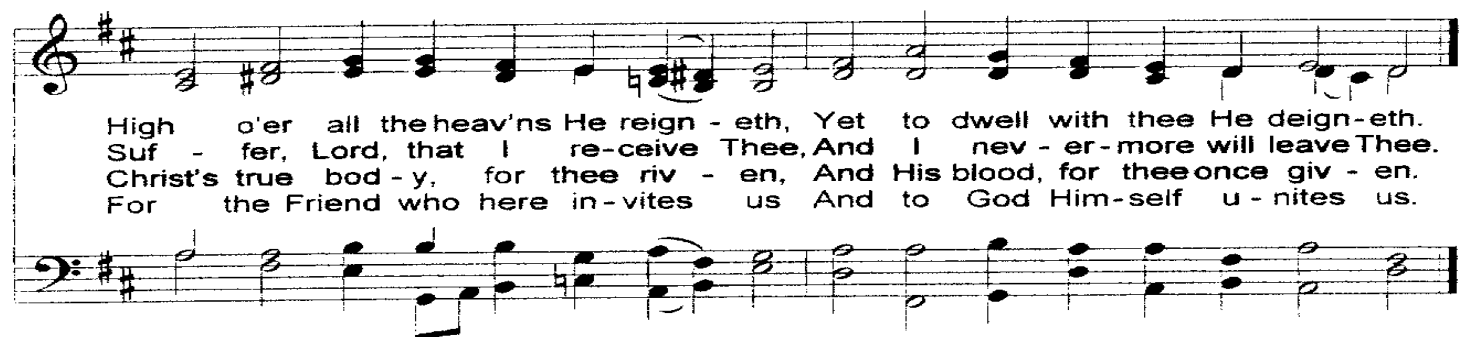
1. Soul, a - dorn thy-self with glad-ness, Leave be-hind all gloom and sad - ness;
2. Has - ten as a bride to meet Him And with lov - ing rev-'rence greet Him;
3. He who craves a pre cious treas - ure Nei - ther cost nor pain will meas - ure;
4. Ah, how hun-gers all my spir - it For the love I do not mer - it!



Come in - to the day-light's splen-dor, There with joy thy prais-es ren - der
For with words of life im - mor - tal Now He knock-eth at thy por - tal.
But the price-less gifts of heav - en God to us hath free - ly giv - en.
Oft have I, with sighs fast throng-ing, Thought up - on this food with long - ing,



Un - to Him whose grace un-bound - ed Hath this won drous Sup-per found - ed.
Haste to ope the gates be-fore Him, Say - ing, while thou dost a - dore Him,
Tho' the wealth of earth were prof-ered, Naught would buy the gifts here of - fered:
In the bat - tle well-nigh worst-ed, For this cup of life have thirst - ed,



High o'er all the heav'ns He reign - eth, Yet to dwell with thee He deign-eth.
Suf - fer, Lord, that I re-ceive Thee, And I nev - er-more will leave Thee.
Christ's true bod - y, for thee riv - en, And His blood, for thee once giv - en.
For the Friend who here in-vides us And to God Him-self u - nites us.

Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new week

Partaking of the Bread Together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the Wine

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26

Commissioning: Where God Sends Out His People

"When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen" Matthew 28:17-20

God's People Respond With Singing

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

I know that my Re - deem - er lives, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives to crush the fiends of hell, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives to bless me with His love, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives, all glo - ry to His name, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives, my ev - er - last - ing head, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives and doth with - in me dwell, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives to plead for me a - bove, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
He lives, my Je - sus, still the same, Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

Shout on, pray on, we're gain - ing ground, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah!

The dead's a - live and the lost is found, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah! _____

God Blesses His People – The Benediction:

[congregation standing]

*Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them,
and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. Leviticus 9:22*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

God’s People Depart to Serve the Risen & Reigning Savior by singing:

Simeon’s Prayer & the Gloria Patri

Lord, now let- test Thou Thy ser- vant de- part in peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word:

For mine eyes have seen Thy sal-va- tion, Which Thou hast pre- pared be- fore the face of all peo-ple;

A light to ligh- ten the Gen- tiles, and the glo- ry of Thy peo-ple is - ra- el.

-- With Lifted Hands --

Glo- ry be to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost;

as it was in the be- gin-ning, is now and ev- er shall be, world with- out end. A- men.

The Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 35

96. What does God require in the second commandment? **That we in no way make any image of God,1 nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded us in His Word.2** [1] Deut. 4:15–19; Isa. 40:18, 25. Rom. 1:22–24; Acts 17:29. [2] 1 Sam. 15:23; Deut. 12:30–32; Matt. 15:9; *Deut. 4:23–24; *Jn. 4:24.
97. May we not make any image at all? **God may not and cannot be imaged in any way; as for creatures, though they may indeed be imaged, yet God forbids the making or keeping of any likeness of them, either to worship them or to serve God by them.1** [1] Ex. 23:24–25; 34:13–14; Deut. 7:5; 12:3; 16:22; 2 Kgs. 18:4; *Jn. 1:18.
98. But may not pictures be tolerated in churches as books for the people? **No, for we should not be wiser than God, who will not have His people taught by dumb idols,1 but by the lively preaching of His Word.2** [1] Jer. 10:8; Hab. 2:18–19. [2] 2 Pet. 1:19; 2 Tim. 3:16–17; Rom. 10:17.

The Heidelberg Catechism – Questions 1–9

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death? **That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,[1] am not my own,[2] but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,[3] who with His precious blood [4] has fully satisfied for all my sins,[5] and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;[6] and so preserves me [7] that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head;[8] indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.[9] Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,[10] and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.[11]**[1] Rom. 14:7–8. [2] 1Cor. 6:19. [3] 1Cor. 3:23. [4] 1Pet. 1:18–19. [5] 1Jn. 1:7; 2:2. [6] 1Jn. 3:8. [7] Jn. 6:39. [8] Matt. 10:29–30; Lk. 21:18. [9] Rom. 8:28. [10] 2Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 1:13–14; Rom. 8:16. [11] Rom. 8:1
2. How many things are necessary for you to know, that in this comfort you may live and die happily? **Three things:[1] First, the greatness of my sin and misery.[2] Second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery.[3] Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.[4]** [1] Lk. 24:46–47; 1 Cor. 6:11; Tit. 3:3–7. [2] Jn. 9:41; 15:22. [3] Jn. 17:3. [4] Eph. 5:8–11; 1 Pet. 2:9–12; Rom. 6:11–14; *Rom. 7:24–25; *Gal. 3:13; *Col. 3:17.
3. From where do you know your misery? **From the Law of God.[1]** [1] Rom. 3:20; *Rom. 7:7.
4. What does the Law of God require of us? **Christ teaches us in sum, Matthew 22, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”[1]** [1] Matt. 22:37–40; Lk. 10:27. *Deut. 6:5. *Gal. 5:14.
5. Can you keep all this perfectly? **No,[1] for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor.[2]** [1] Rom. 3:10–12, 23; 1 Jn. 1:8, 10. [2] Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:3.
6. Did God create man thus, wicked and perverse? **No,[1] but God created man good and after His own image,[2] that is, in righteousness and true holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love Him, and live with Him in eternal blessedness, to praise and glorify Him.[3]** [1] Gen. 1:31. [2] Gen. 1:26–27. [3] 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24.
7. From where, then, does this depraved nature of man come? **From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise,[1] whereby our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.[2]** [1] Gen. 3 (The whole chapter). Rom. 5:12, 18–19. [2] Ps. 51:5; *Ps. 14:2–3.
8. But are we so depraved that we are completely incapable of any good and prone to all evil? **Yes,[1] unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.[2]** [1] Jn. 3:6; Gen. 6:5; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6. [2] Jn. 3:5; *Gen. 8:21; *2 Cor. 3:5; *Rom. 7:18; *Jer. 17:9.
9. Does not God, then, do injustice to man by requiring of him in His Law that which he cannot perform? **No, for God so made man that he could perform it;[1] but man, through the instigation of the devil, by willful disobedience deprived himself and all his descendants of those divine gifts.[2]** [1] Eph. 4:24. [2] Rom. 5:12.