

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Road Trip:

God is With Us When We're Lonely

September 7, 2025

Today's Lay Reader: Jacob Hackett

Welcome

Prelude

Meditation on "St. Crispin"

Jack C. Goode

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: **We come, ready to feel God's presence through the fellowship of believers.**

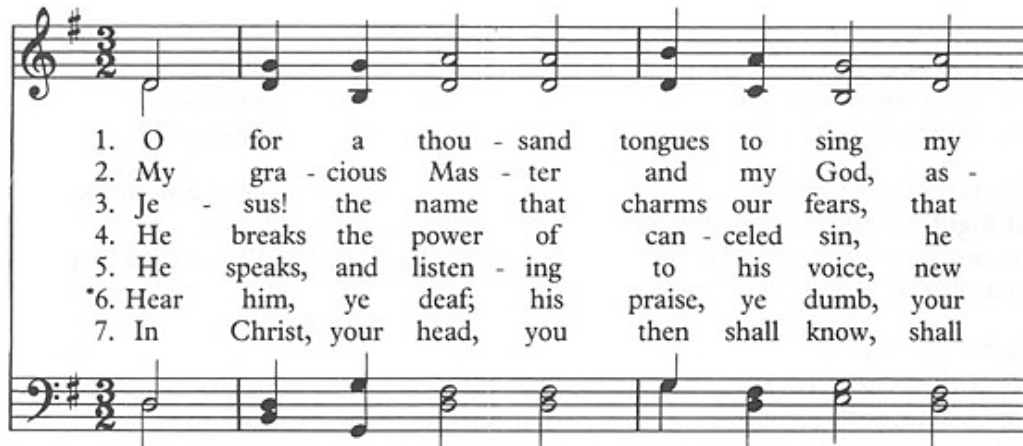
Leader: As Christians, we know that we are never really alone. We've got all of these people here to care for us, love us and pray for us!

People: **Above all else, God is always with us too! As Zacchaeus learned, "what a friend we have in Jesus"!**

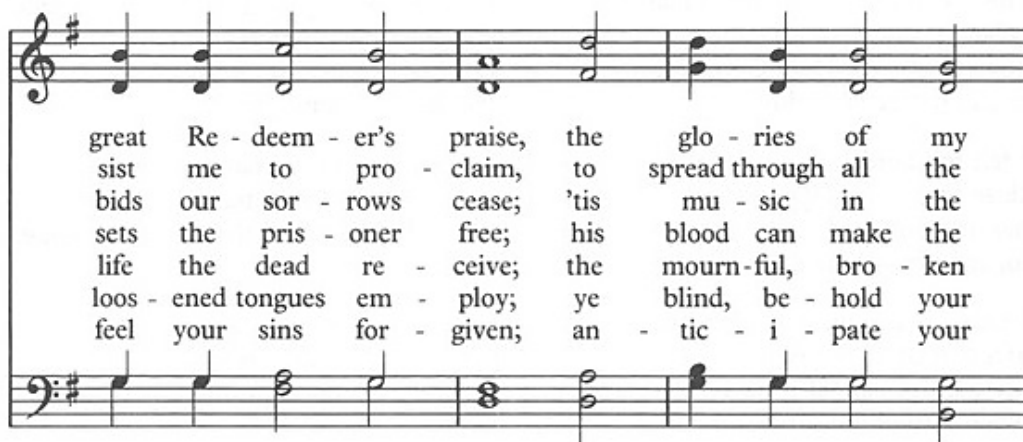
Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

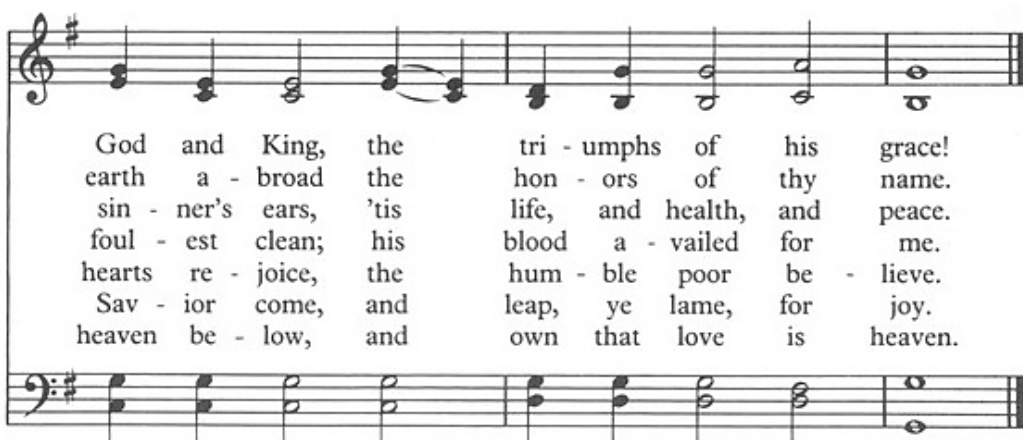
(verses 1 – 4)



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
 4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
 5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new
 *6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your
 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold your
 feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
 heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

Opening Prayer

Lord, when Zacchaeus needed something different in his life, he heard your voice calling his name. You noticed him. You let him know that he matters. Even in a large crowd, you noticed the one who was pushed to the side. You asked him to have dinner with you. You spent time with him. You spent the day with the one whom no one else ever had time for. You are with us, too, when we are lonely. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won-der - ful key
 send - est clear; and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare

Refrain
 that shall un-clasp and set me free.
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si-lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.



Senior Choir

Praise to God, Immortal Praise

arr. Frances Williams

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

Road Trip:

God is With Us When We're Lonely

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

I Surrender All

Winfield S. Weedon

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

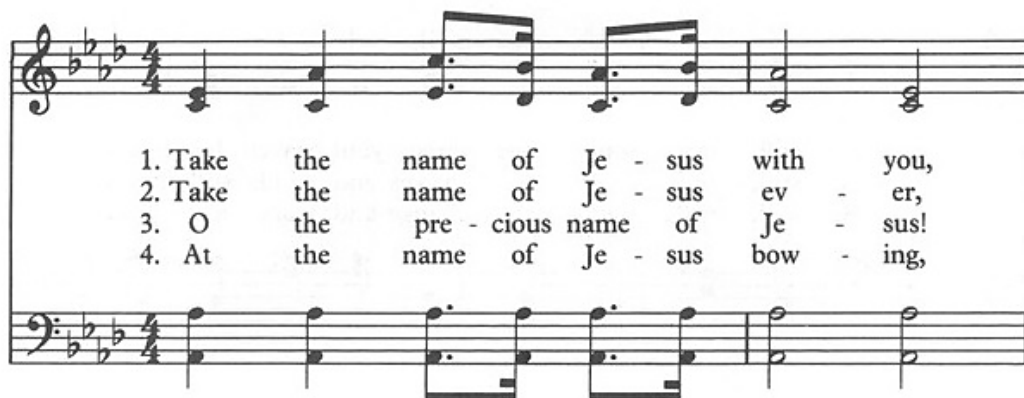
A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 8](#) of this document.

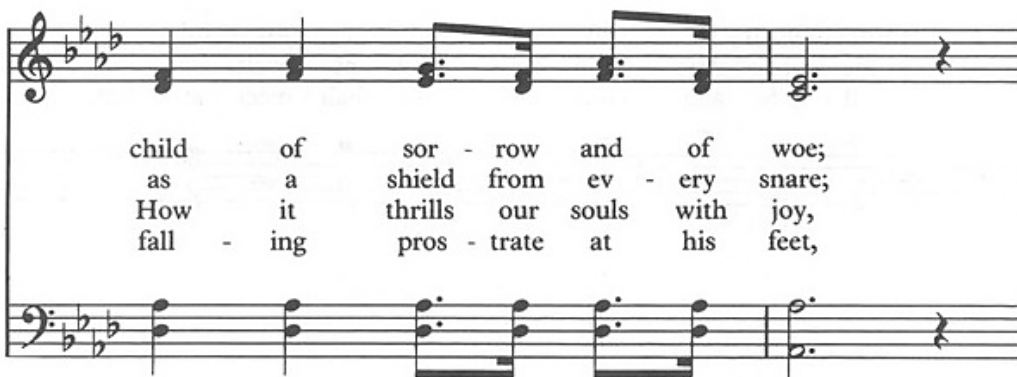
Hymn

Precious Name

(verses 1, 3, and 4)



1. Take the name of Je - sus with you,
2. Take the name of Je - sus ev - er,
3. O the pre - cious name of Je - sus!
4. At the name of Je - sus bow - ing,



child of sor - row and of woe;
as a shield from ev - ery snare;
How it thrills our souls with joy,
fall - ing pros - trate at his feet,

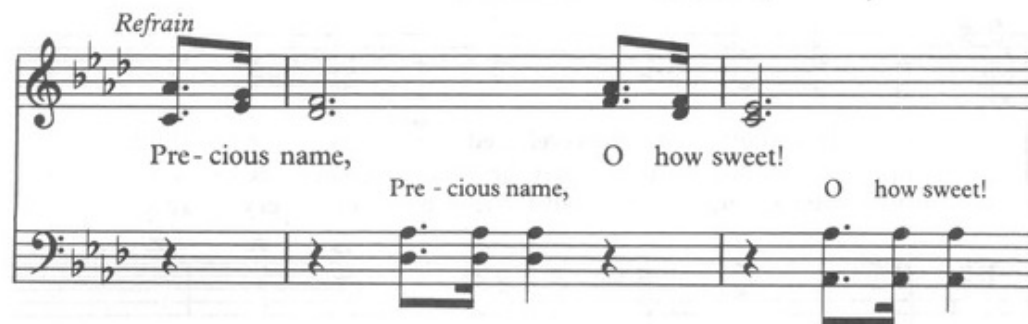


it will joy and com - fort give you;
if temp - ta - tions round you gath - er,
when his lov - ing arms re - ceive us,
King of kings in heaven we'll crown him,

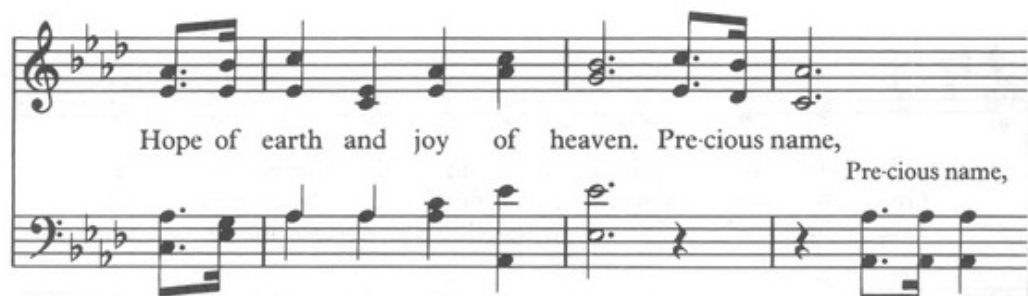


take it then, wher - e'er you go.
breathe that ho - ly name in prayer.
and his songs our tongues em - ploy!
when our jour - ney is com - plete.

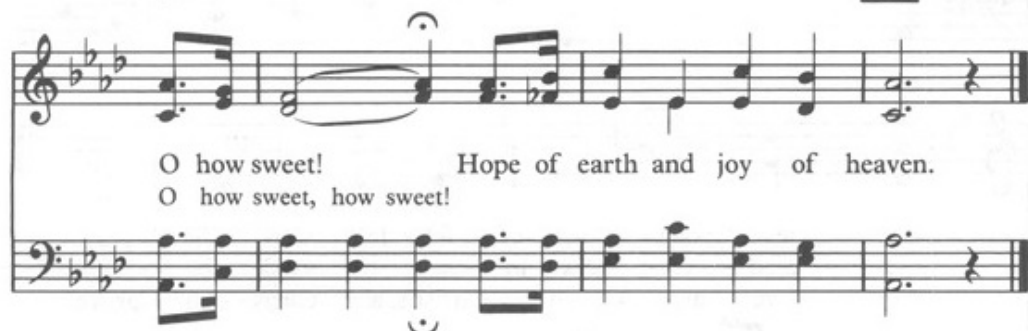
Refrain



Pre - cious name, O how sweet!
Pre - cious name, O how sweet!



Hope of earth and joy of heaven. Pre - cious name,
Pre - cious name,



O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven.
O how sweet, how sweet!

Benediction

Postlude

Hymn to Joy

Beethoven

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
 power and might. Heav - en and earth are
 full of your glo - - -
 - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
 est! Blest is the one who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

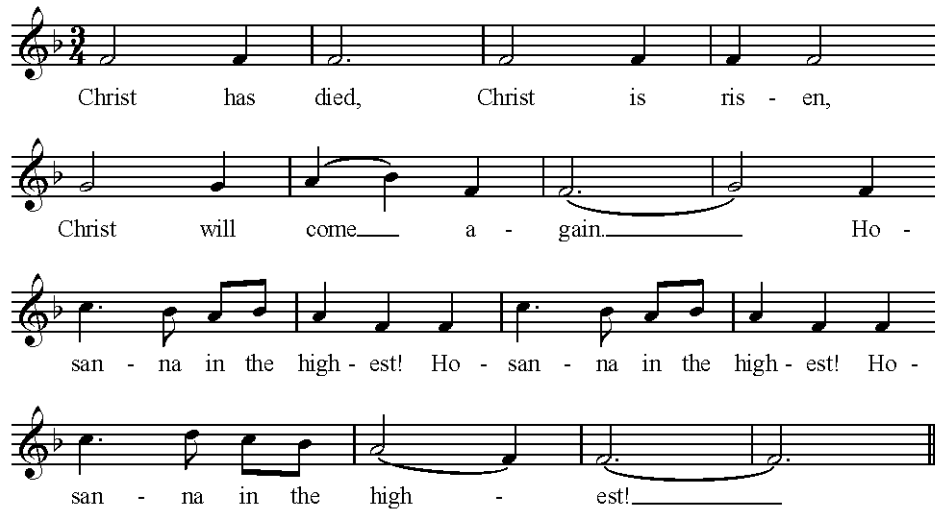
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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup