FALL 2026 BULLETIN
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Grace Lutheran Church

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Our Mission Statement:
We are a community of believers in Christ
called to be servants to all people.

Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses.**
'+' Please stand as you are able.

+ Gathering +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

+ Gathering Song

+ Gathering Song—ELW #526 "God Is Here!"

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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+ Greeting ELW p.193

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.

+ Prayer of the Day

+Word+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Psalmody

Second Reading

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading—Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel:

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 What do you mean by
repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents
have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on
edge"? 3 As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be
used by you in Israel. 4 Know that all lives are mine; the life of the
parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person
who sins who shall die.

25 Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house
of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?
26 When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and
commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have
committed, they shall die. 27 Again, when the wicked turn away
from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful
and right, they shall save their life. 28 Because they considered and
turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed,
they shall surely live; they shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel
says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways
unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?
30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according
to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. 31 Cast away
from you all the transgressions that you have committed against
me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you
die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of
anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9—ELW #25

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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1 To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
2 **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
3 Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
4 **Show me your | ways, O LORD,**
and teach | me your paths.
5 Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
6 **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,**
for they are from | everlasting.
7 Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
8 **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;**
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
9 You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

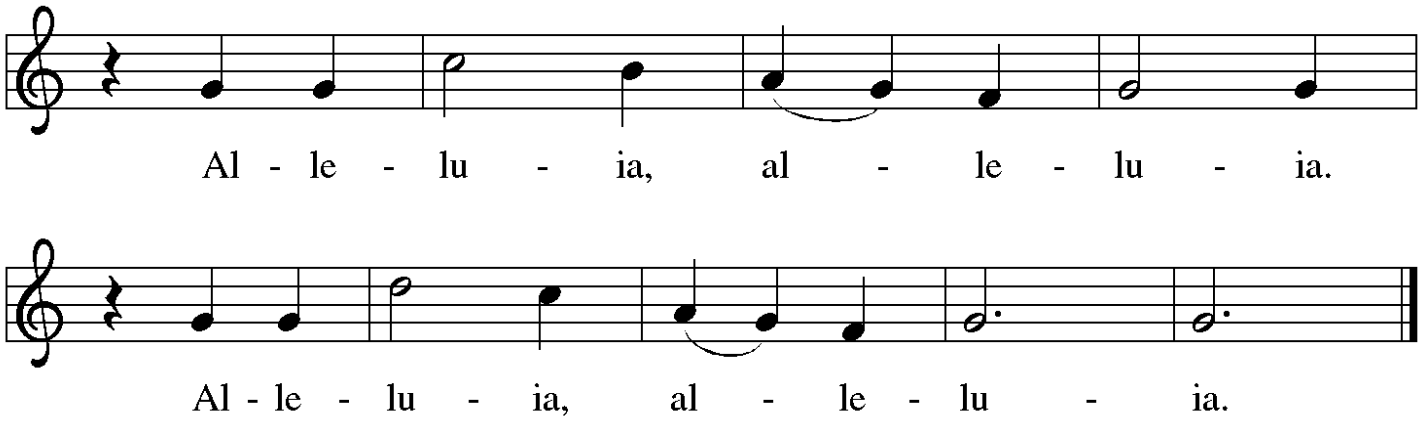
Second Reading—Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

1 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation
from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender
affection and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of
the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord
and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or
empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than
yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests
but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he existed in the
form of God, did not regard equality with God as
something to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the
form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being
found in appearance as a human, 8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death
on a cross. 9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should
bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and
every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, just as
you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but
much more now in my absence, work on your own
salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at
work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his
good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

+ Gospel Acclamation ELW p.198



+ Gospel Reading

Young at Heart Message & Sermon

+ Song of the Day

Gospel Reading—Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

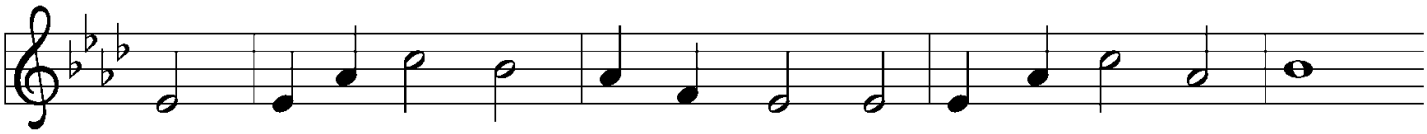
23 When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the
elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and
said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who
gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask
you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell
you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of
John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they
argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will
say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say,
'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard
John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not
know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what
authority I am doing these things. 28 "What do you think? A
man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and
work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,' but
later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the
second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but
he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?"
They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax
collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of
God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of
righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax
collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after
you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Preacher—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

Song of the Day—ELW #772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

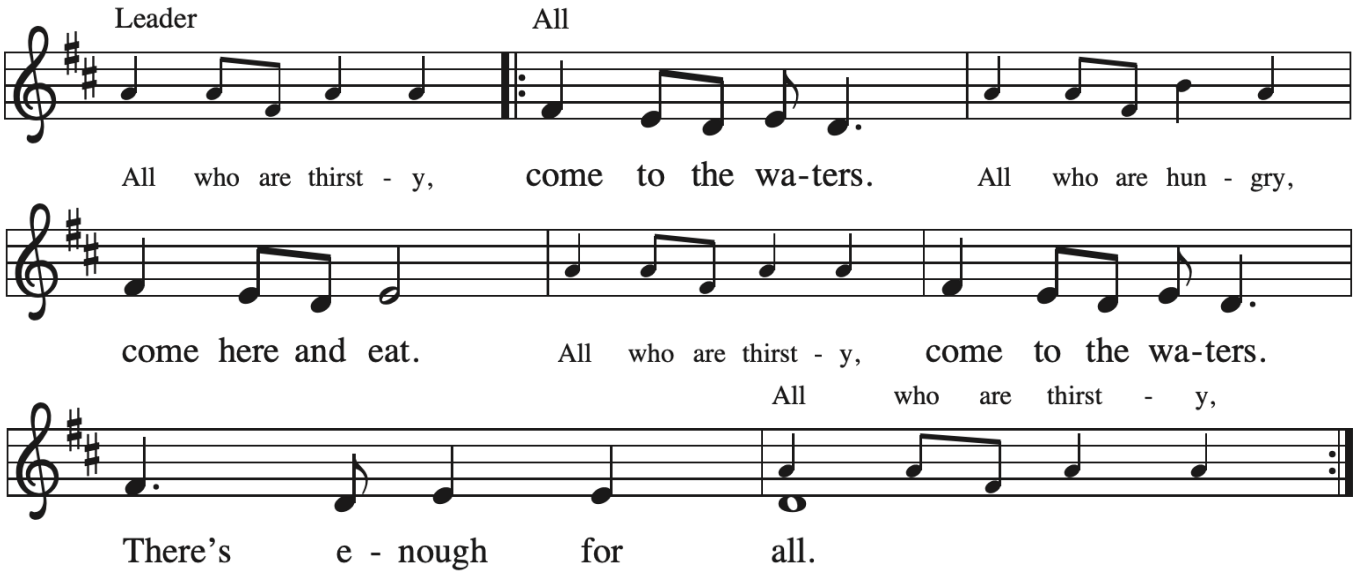
+ Apostles' Creed

ELW p.105

With the whole church, let us 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.

+ Prayers of Intercession—sung response: ACS #981



Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979
Music: ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY, Brian Wentzel
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+ Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. ***sung response***

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. ***sung response***

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. ***sung response***

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially for those listed on our prayer lists and those we name now aloud or silently *(pause)*. Grant us your salvation. ***sung response***

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. ***sung response***

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+ Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Thank you for supporting the mission of Grace Lutheran Church as you are able! Electronic donations can be made at https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=622d08be-6865-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11.

+ Offering Prayer

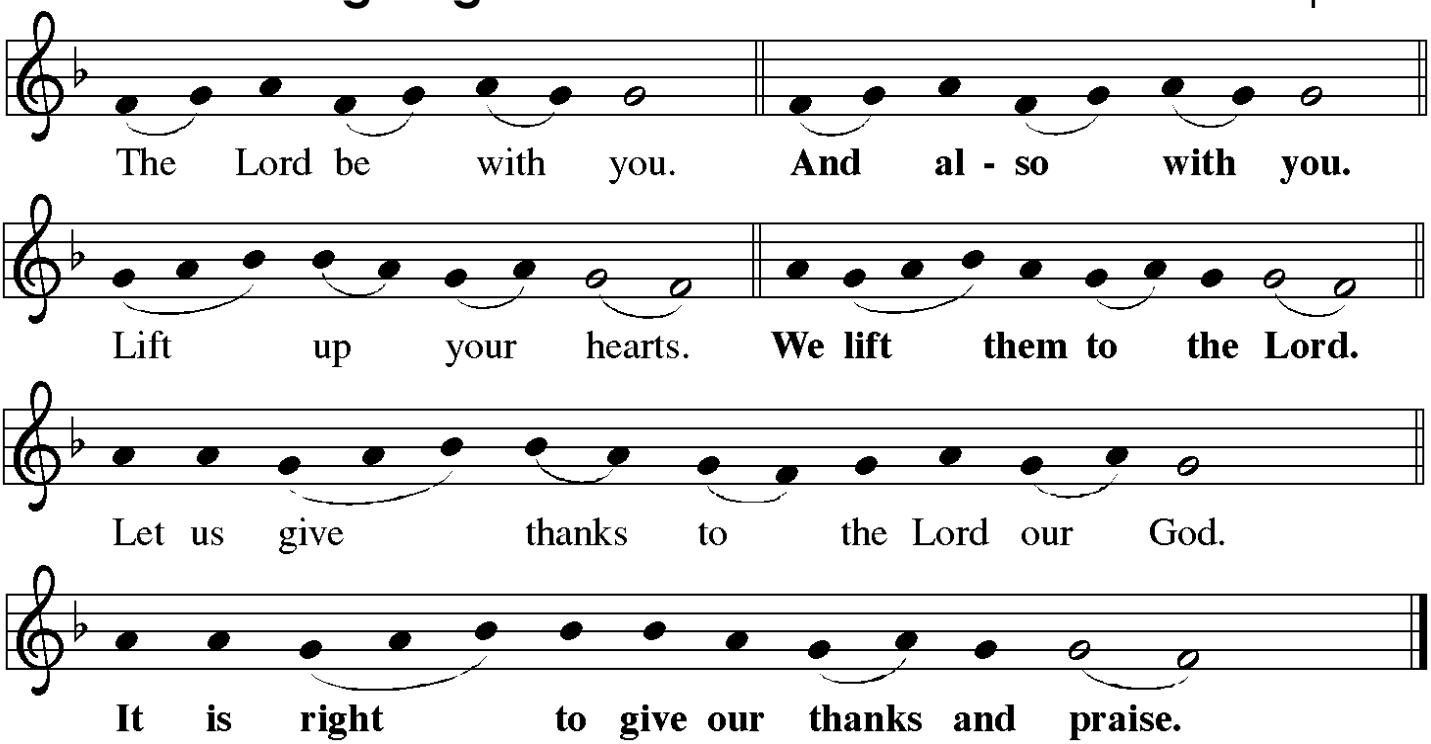
Let us pray.

A brief silence.

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

+ Great Thanksgiving

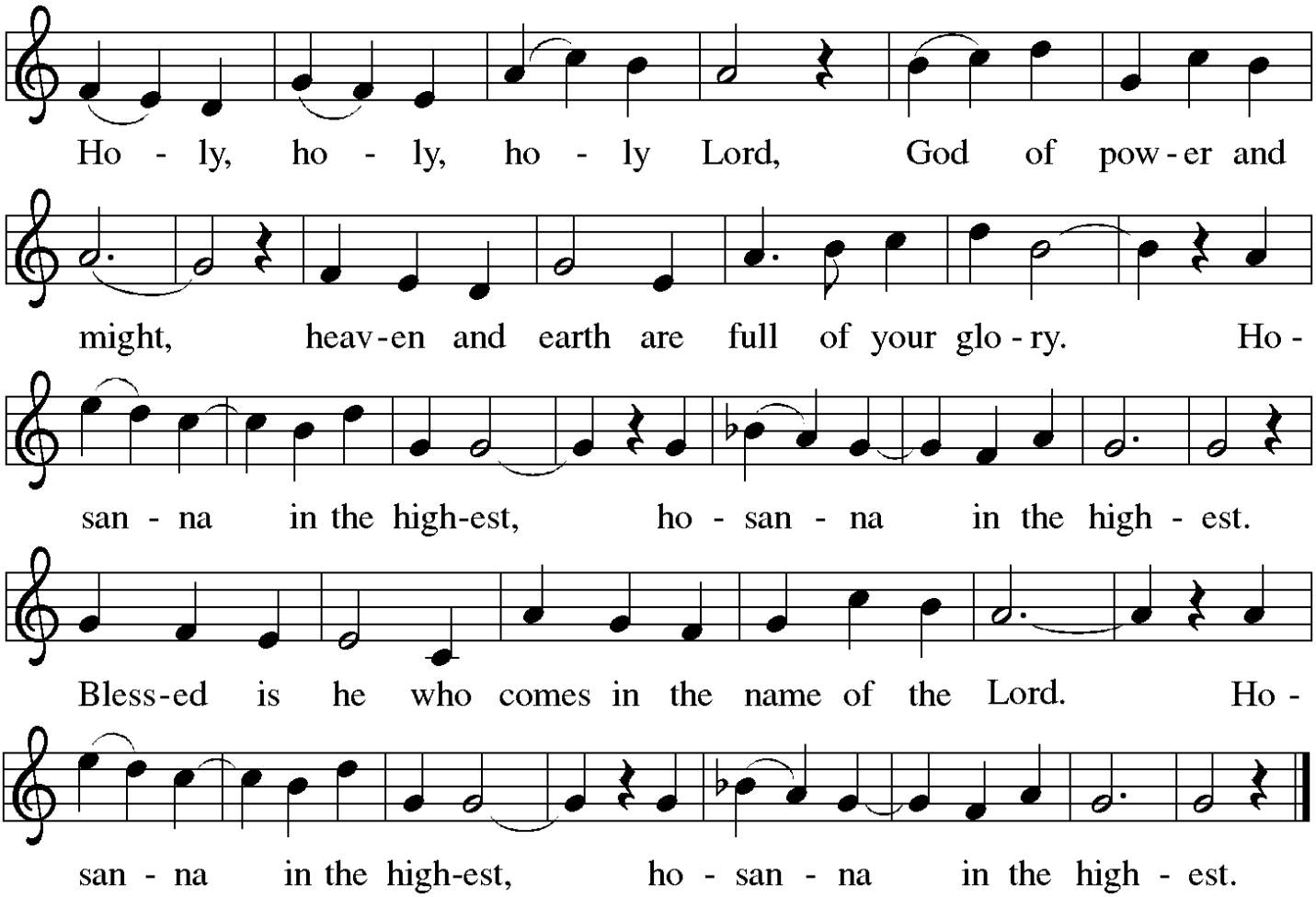
ELW p.199



+ Proper Preface

+ Sanctus

ELW p.200



+ Thanksgiving at the Table (X) ELW p.69

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **[Amen.]**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **[Amen.]**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **[Amen.]**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,

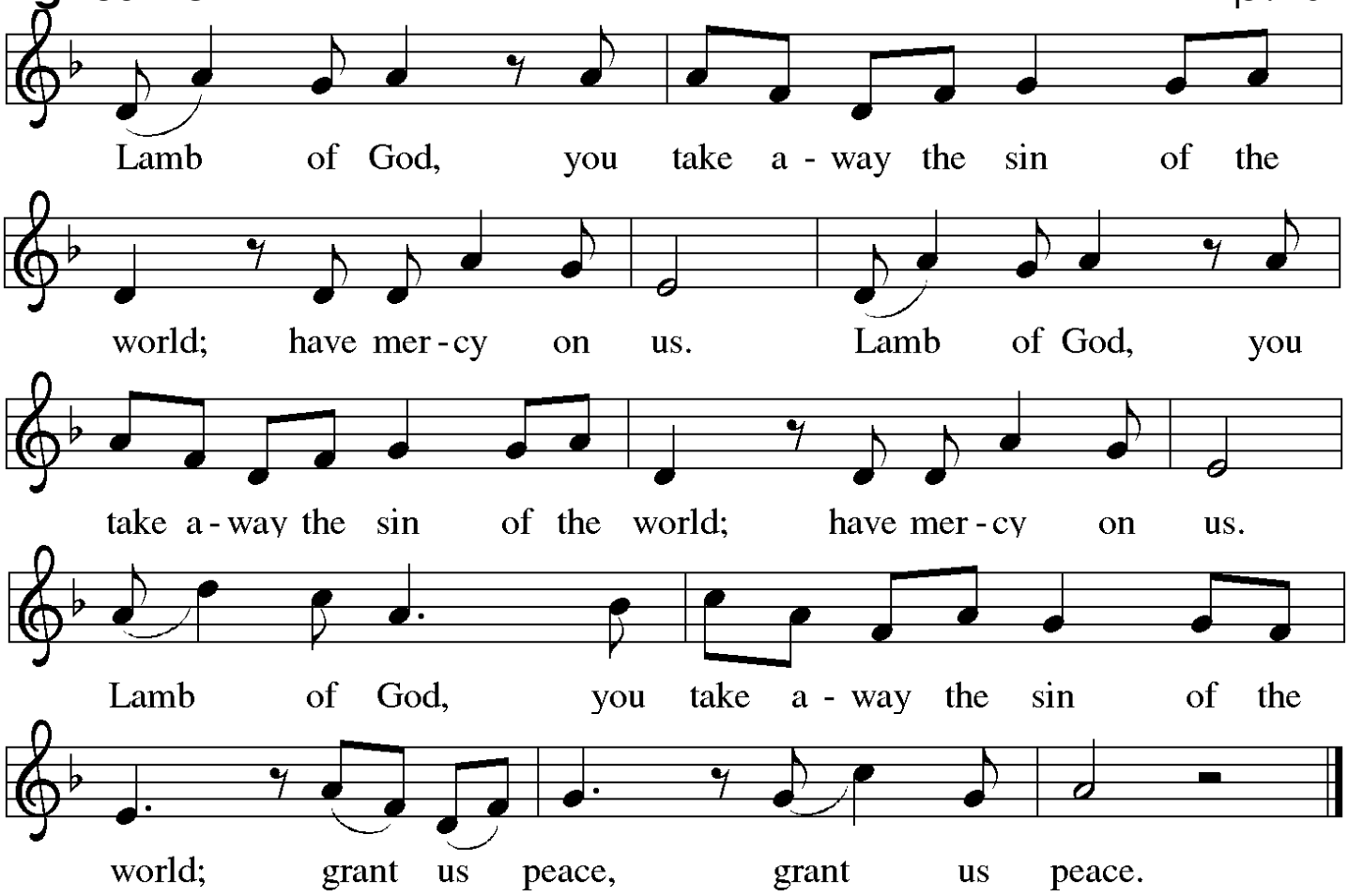
O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ Lord's Prayer *(sins)* ELW p.201

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

Agnus Dei ELW p.201



Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace

When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.

Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.

Distribution Song

Distribution Song—ELW #496

One Bread, One Body

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ
Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

+ Table Blessing

Please rise as you are able.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

+ Sending +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

+ Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.
Amen.

Announcements

+ Sending Song

+ Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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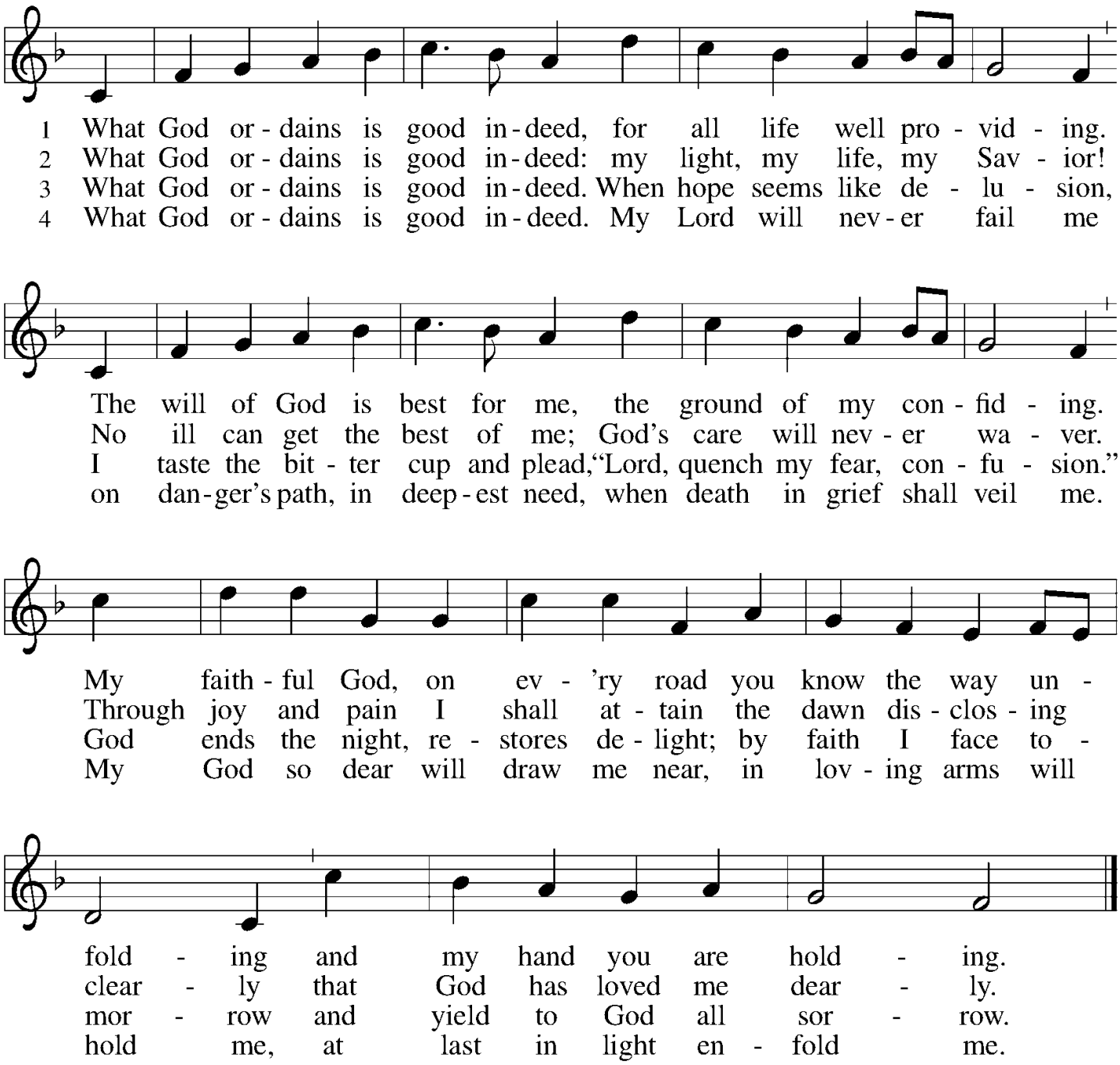
+ Sending Song—ELW#776

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed



Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress