

WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

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Pastor Jeff Hackler (314)378-1330

WE WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.

ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Oct. 18, 2026

9:00 AM

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 96:1-9

Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,**

more to be feared than all gods.

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

GATHERING HYMN *ELW 841 "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" VS. 1 & 3*



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P 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.**

PASTORAL GREETING

P 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

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[Congregation is seated.]

The Word

1ST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

I Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

2 I will go before you
and level the mountains;

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

4 For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name;

I give you a title, though you do not know me.

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

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

2ND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved
by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in
word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you
know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became
imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy
from the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia
and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in
Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we
have no need to speak about it. 9 For they report about us what kind of welcome we had
among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God 10 and to
wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from
the coming wrath.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: WOV 791 "ALABARE"

Alabare alabare alabare ami Senor
Alabare alabare alabare ami Senor

Sing with the people, the people of God,
and join creation in a joyful hymn
blessing and honor and glory and might
to God and to the Lamb be without end.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

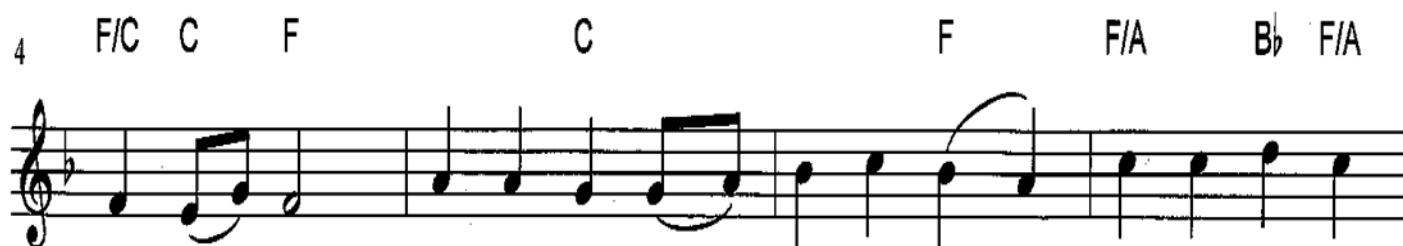
The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: PASTOR JEFF

SONG OF THE DAY "TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE" VS. 1, 3, 5, & 6



1. Take my life ___ and ___ let it be con - se - crat - ed, ___
2. Take my hands ___ and ___ let them move at the im - pulse ___
3. Take my voice ___ and ___ let me sing al - ways, on - ly ___
4. Take my sil - ver ___ and my gold— Not a mite ___ would ___
5. Take my will ___ and ___ make it Thine— It shall be ___ no ___
6. Take my love— my ___ Lord, I pour at Thy feet ___ its ___



Lord, to ___ Thee;	Take my mo - ments ___ and my days—	Let them flow in
of Thy ___ love;	Take my feet and ___ let them be ___	swift and beau - ti -
for my ___ King;	Take my lips and ___ let them be ___	filled with mes - sag -
I with - hold;	Take my in - tel - lect and use ___	ev - 'ry pow'r as
long - er ___ mine;	Take my heart— It ___ is Thine own; ___	It shall be Thy
treas - ure ___ store;	Take my - self, and ___ I will be ___	ev - er, on - ly



cease - less ___ praise, ___	let them flow in ___	cease - less praise.
-ful ___ for ___ Thee, ___	swift and beau - ti -	ful for Thee.
-es ___ from ___ Thee, ___	filled with mes - sag -	es from Thee.
Thou ___ shalt ___ choose, ___	ev - 'ry pow'r as ___	Thou shalt choose.
roy - al ___ throne, ___	it shall be Thy ___	roy - al throne.
all ___ for ___ Thee, ___	ev - er, on - ly, ___	all for Thee.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*especially our Evangelism Ministry, Health Ministry and Fellowship Ministry*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC *"GOD AND GOD ALONE"*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A

Let us pray.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,..

We praise your name and join their unending hymn...

The musical notation is written on two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a half note and a quarter rest. The bass line consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final measure containing a half note and a quarter rest. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]

P

on the night before he died...

Again, after supper ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
His life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all of your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

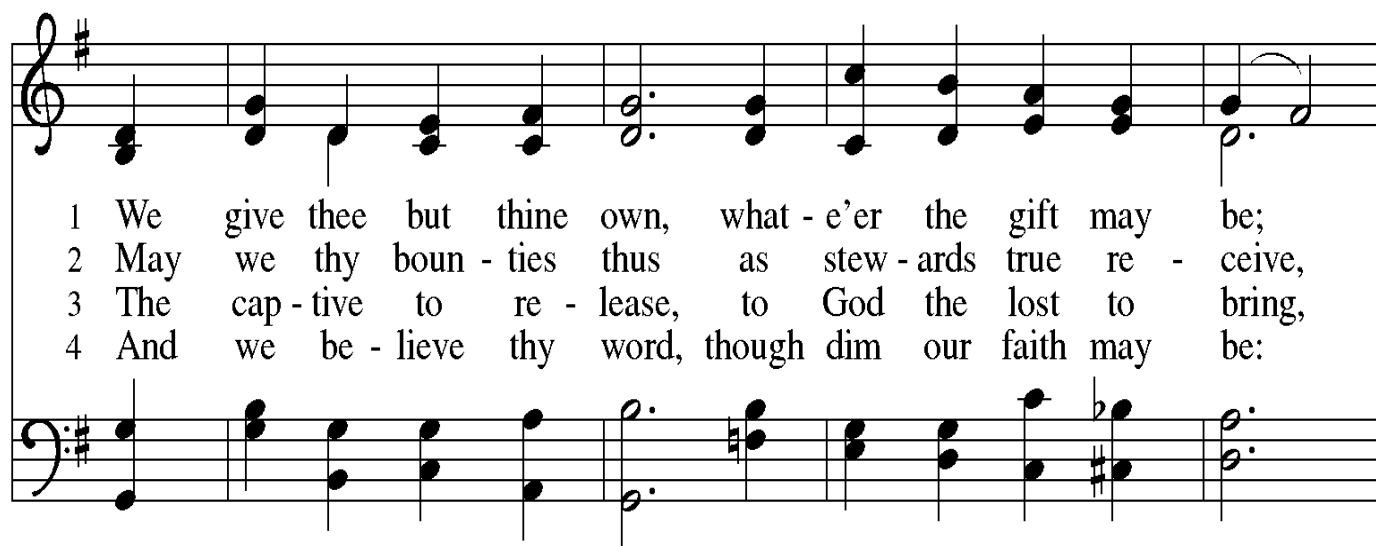
LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**

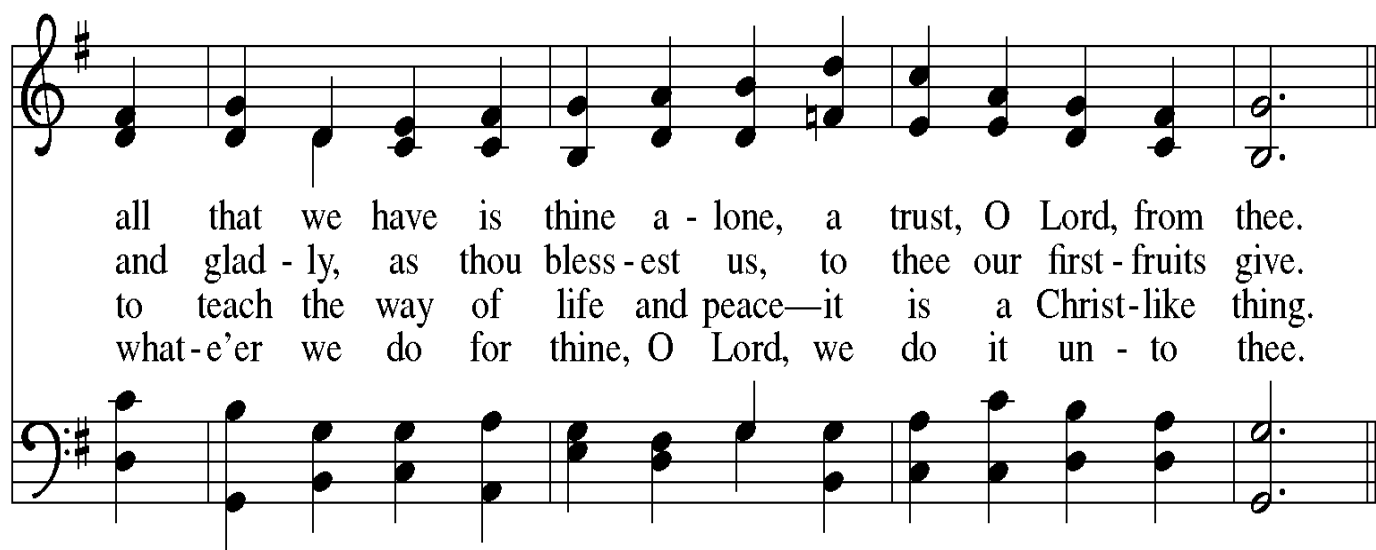
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **Grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 686 “*WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN*”

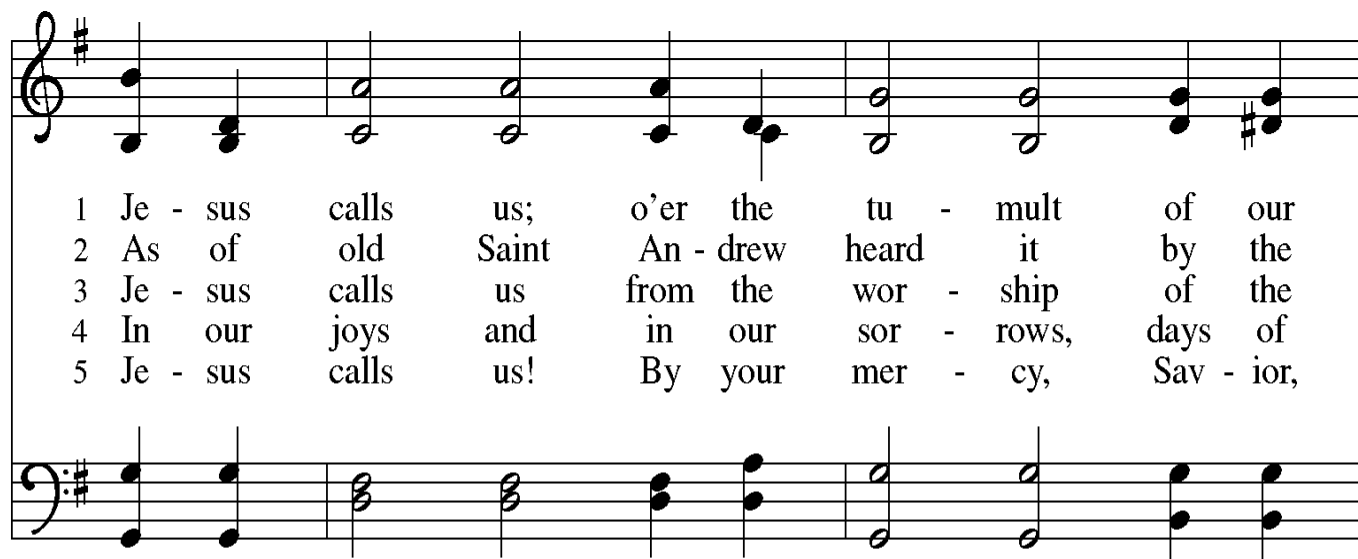


1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

ELW 696 “*JESUS CALLS US; O’ER THE TUMULT*”



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

The Sending

BENEDICTION:

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW 575 “IN CHRIST CALLED TO BAPTIZE”

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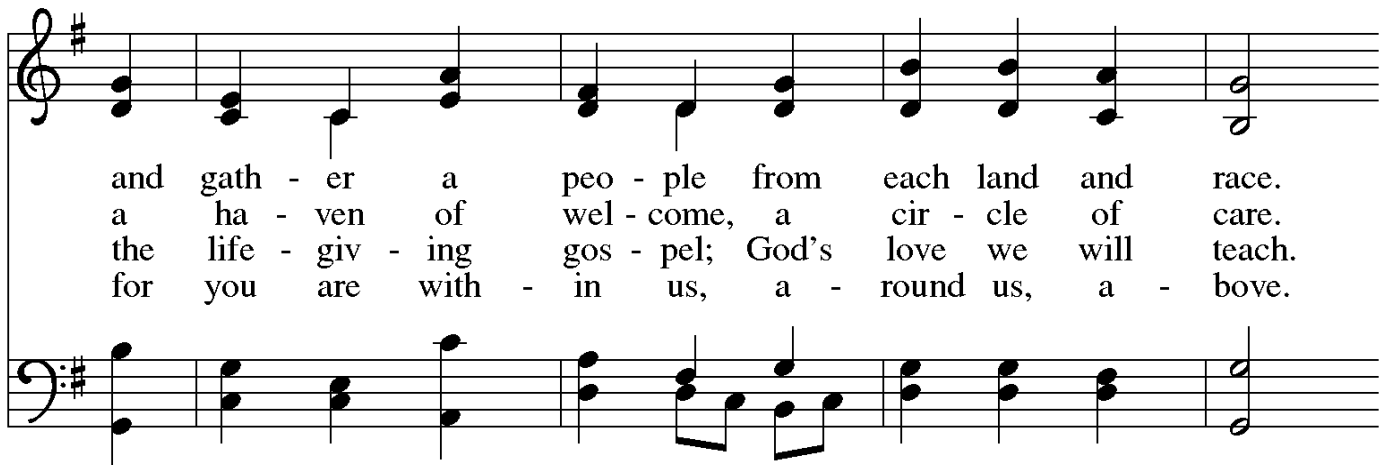
P Go out in joy and be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

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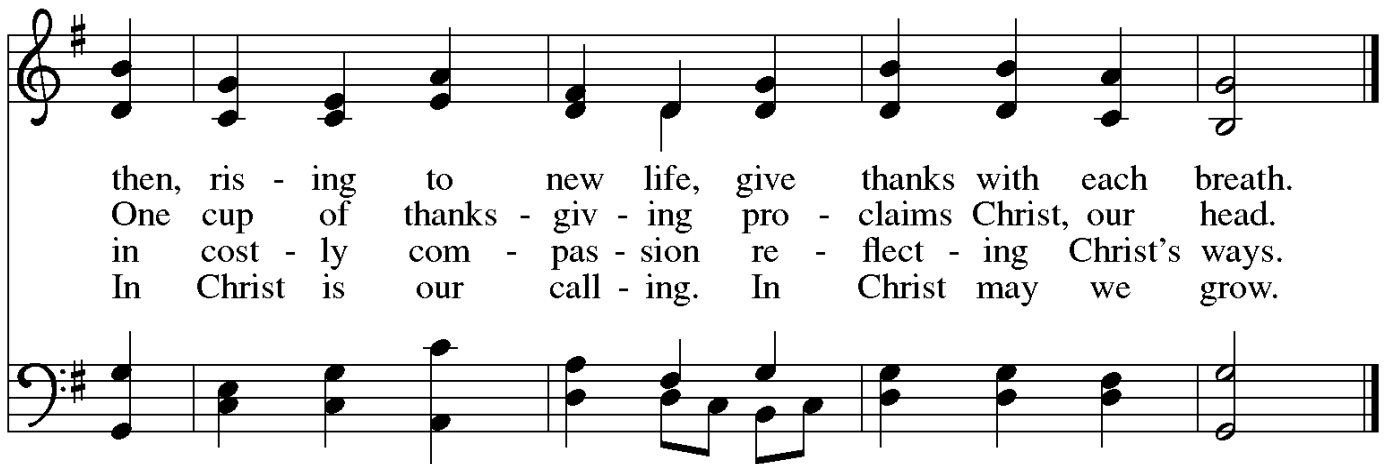
1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,



and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.



In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.



then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.