

Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church

Houston, Texas

Bringing the peace of Jesus
to the whole world

Covenant Sunday
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:
Choral Eucharist: Rite II

10:00 am
November 15, 2026

6221 Main Street | Houston, Texas 77030 | 713.529.6196

PalmerChurch.org



Welcome to Palmer during this Season after Pentecost!

We are a community of Christians worshiping in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus here this morning. Scan the QR code to the left or visit palmerchurch.org/connect to fill out a welcome card or a request for prayer.

Receiving Holy Communion

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The consecrated bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should join in the line on the left side of the church and let the minister of communion know. When the chalice of consecrated wine comes to you, you may sip from the chalice, or carefully dip part of the consecrated bread into the wine, or decline it. Rest assured that you will have made a full communion if you choose to receive the consecrated bread only, with nothing lacking in your experience of God's grace today.

Receiving a Blessing

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service.

Receiving Prayer

If you would like someone to pray for you, members of the Order of St. Luke will be available for that in the narthex (i.e., the entryway near the front doors of the church) during the administration of communion.

Seeking Baptism

If you have never been baptized and desire to be immersed in grace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus, please speak with a member of the clergy listed below or someone at the Welcome Table after this hour of worship. It would be a joy to baptize you as a Christian here at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

Medical Center Guests

If you or a family member are here for care at the Texas Medical Center, please let us know how we can support you while you are in Houston by stopping at the Welcome Table by the front doors of the church or contacting Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org.

Caring for the Wellness of our Parish and Community

We strongly encourage everyone to be up to date on vaccinations and boosters. Masking is optional.

Clergy and Liturgical Church Staff

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Rev'd Allen M. Junek, *Associate Rector*

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, *Director of Parish Life*

The Rev'd Mary Reddick, *Deacon*

The Rev'd Beth Anne Nelson, *The Diocese of Texas Missioner to Rice University*

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Valentina Huang, *Associate Organist*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

Courtney Daniell-Knapp, *Children's Choirs*

Free parking is available every Sunday across Cambridge Street from the church in the Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza parking garage (6400 Fannin Street), with entrances on both Fannin Street and Main Street. Palmer has purchased this convenient parking and absorbed the cost to provide it to parishioners and guests. Simply bring the ticket you receive when entering the parking garage to the Welcome Table by the front entrance of the church. Then validate your parking ticket by using a machine located on that table. If you do not receive a parking ticket, or happen to misplace your ticket, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine as you exit. Upon exiting the parking garage, if the ticket machine indicates that you owe a fee, press the cancel button, and then insert your validated parking ticket into the machine. The gate will go up right away. Again, if you need assistance, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine.

Our Mission

To know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ through deep understanding of our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors, in a joyfully engaged and welcoming community, dedicated to thoughtful and focused service, and inspired by worship that renews curiosity about all of creation.

Our Values And Guiding Principles

Liturgical Excellence

We believe in sharing God's unconditional love in Jesus, which we call grace, with all who come through our church doors. The beauty and power of our liturgy drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and our music drawn from the Anglican choral tradition are the beginning, not the end, of our weekly Christian journey. Like a flourishing tree, they root us in the past, shelter us in the present, and reach out to the future with the strength and confidence of God's promises to all.

Joyful Companionship

We believe spending time together and connecting across the generations fosters our spiritual growth. Palmers accompany each other on our pilgrimage with God, toward God. We are an ever-growing household, for the youngest child and each of us through the end of life, built with grace, love, acceptance, laughter, tears, service, singing, and Jesus as our cornerstone.

Bold Curiosity

We believe the gift of inquiry, curiosity, and profound conversation leads to a greater understanding of our place in God's creation and our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus is experienced in our worship and also through artistic expression, intellectual generosity, and spiritual teaching.

Spiritual Sanctuary

We believe God loves each of us, no exceptions. As human beings created in God's image, we should have a place where the love of Jesus is made real, a place where we can experience the celebration of who we are and an acceptance of where we are on life's journey. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith and a beacon of hope for those seeking spiritual refuge.
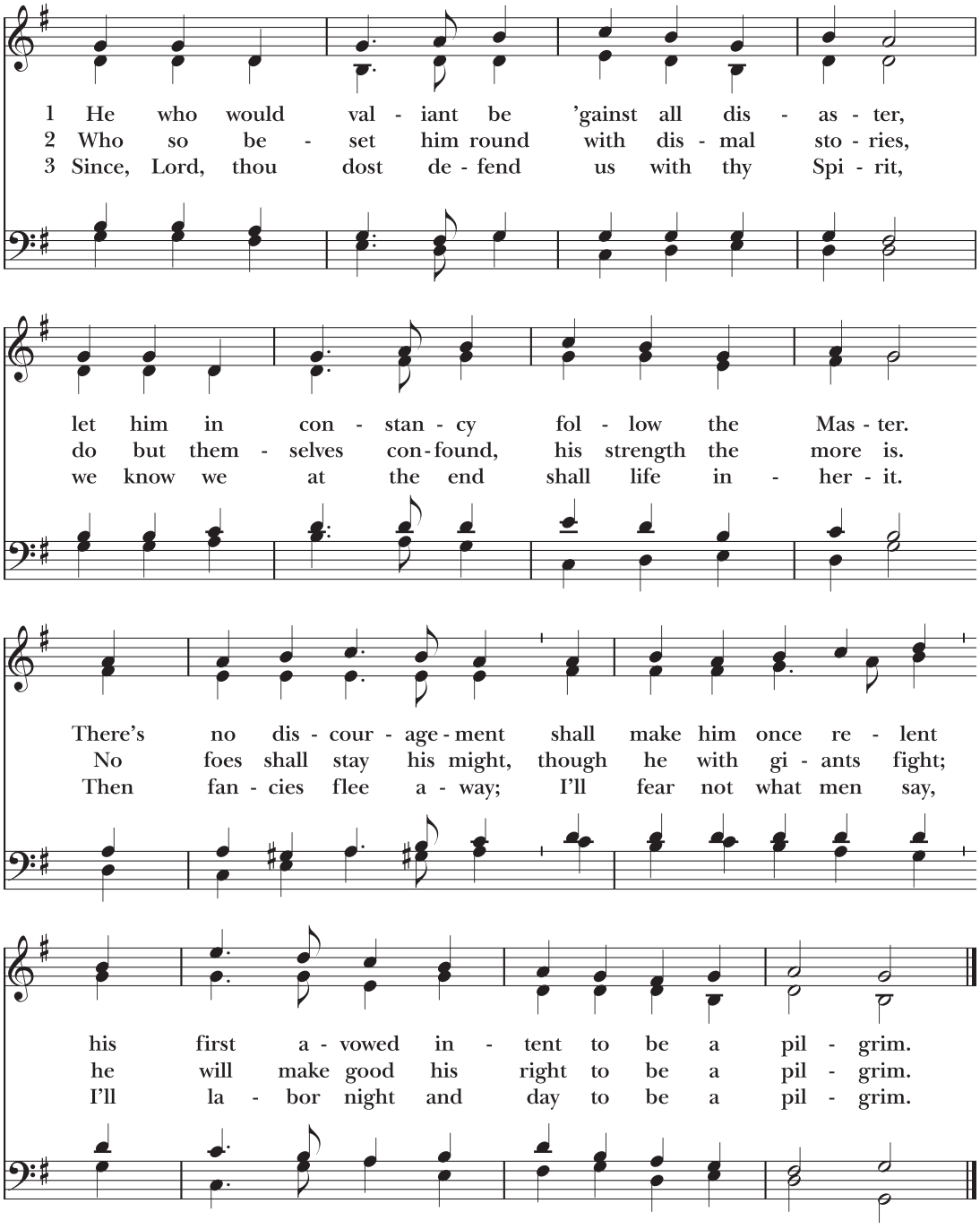
Loving Service

We believe following Jesus, as we are called to do, involves caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves, joining in God's mission to connect with and work alongside an extraordinary array of people, institutions, and communities, and bearing witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around us.

Prelude: Organ Voluntary: Toccata on a Theme by Melchior Vulpius Pamela Decker

The Word of God

Processional Hymn 564 "He who would valiant be" St. Dunstan's
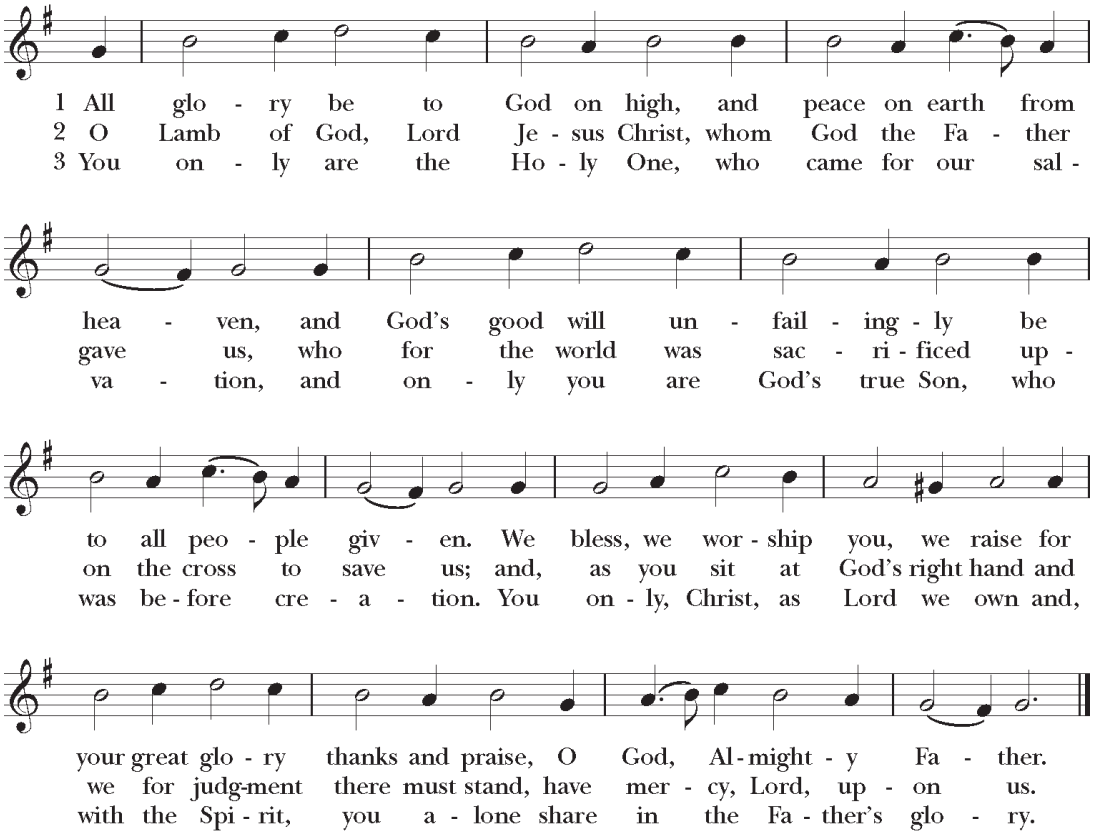


Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymnal 421 "All glory be to God on high" Allein Gott in der Höh



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salva-

tion. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
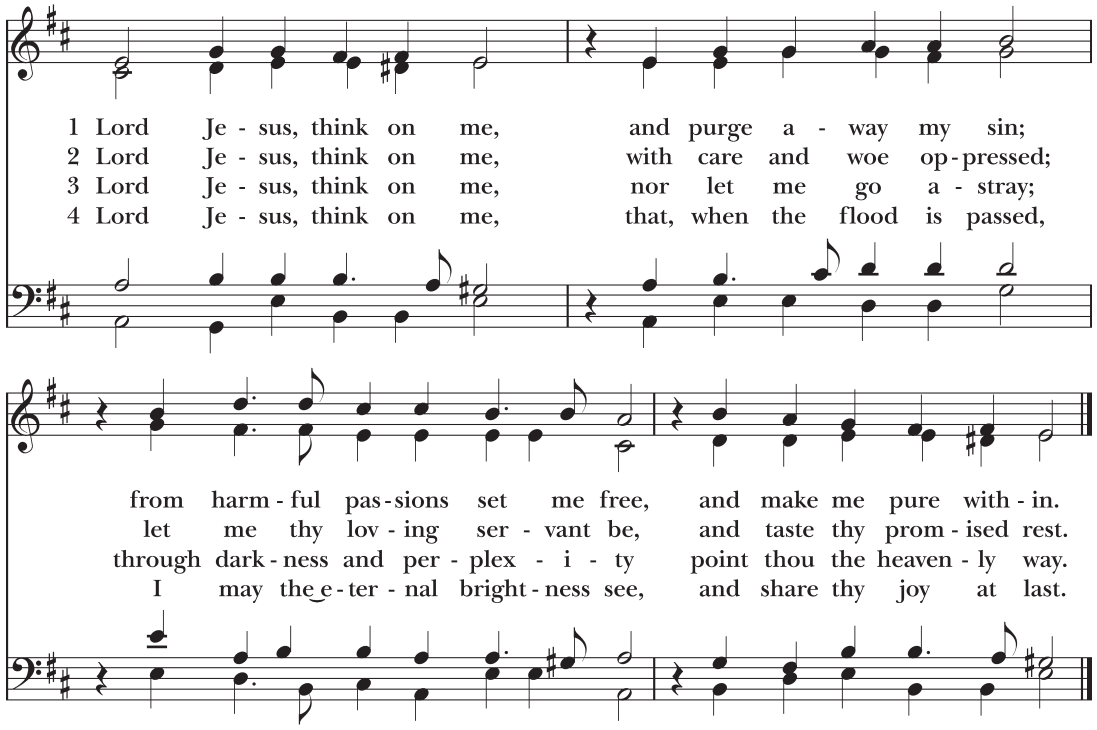
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-8, 12 *Plainchant*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

During this liturgy, children of all ages are invited at the beginning of the Sequence Hymn to follow the children's cross to Holy Cross Children's Room for Liturgy Preparation. After learning, praying, and singing together in Holy Cross, the children return to the Church at the Peace to receive communion with their families.

Sequence Hymn 641 "Lord Jesus, think on me" Southwell



Gospel Reading Matthew 25:14-30

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Allen M. Junek, *Associate Rector*

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We believe in one God,
People **the Father, the Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Donald, President of the United States, Greg, Governor of Texas, and John, Mayor of Houston;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

On this Covenant Sunday, as we express our gratitude for the blessings we have received from you, we give thanks for those who will support this congregation;
That the Body of Christ may be strengthened through our presence, our prayers, and our financial offerings in the coming year.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with this bidding or a sentence of Scripture.

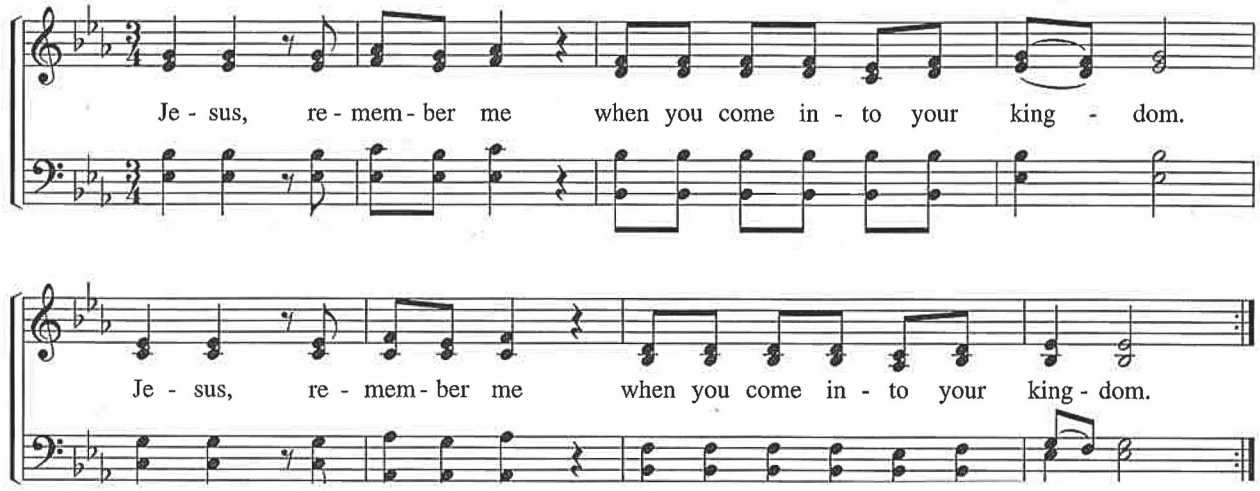
Let us with gladness bring to the Lord the first of the fruit of everything God has given us.

Today is Covenant Sunday, when Palmers have been invited not only to worship together but also to bring to the altar their completed estimated giving cards, which is a spiritual practice to indicate their commitment of time, talent, and treasure to this congregation for the next calendar year. In the pew racks are blank cards for 2027 that can be used to make this commitment by those who are not yet on our mailing list or who may have forgotten to bring a completed card with them. Those who turned in their estimated giving cards early may also use the same blank cards as an outward sign of the commitment they have already made, simply writing on them, "I/We have already pledged."

On this particular Sunday, those who have brought with them a financial offering for this week are also invited to come forward to place those offerings on the altar. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by using this QR code. If what you have to offer God in the coming year, here or elsewhere, is only yourself, then come forward with one of the blank cards as an outward sign of that commitment. If you're not able to walk up the stairs, simply ask a neighbor in the pews to take your card or your offering for you. We are here to help each other.

If you're a guest with us today, perhaps visiting us for the first time, or friends with people in our congregation, or just someone who is curious about Jesus, do not be anxious about watching those around you make this commitment. If you belong to another church, allow yourself to be inspired to make a similar commitment to that community of faith. If you've never given much back to God out of your blessings, consider what it would be like to participate in something larger than your own needs, something that is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ and shares that love with the world around you.

Offertory Anthem: Jesus remember me — Taizé



Offertory Anthem: Never weather a beaten sail — Charles Wood

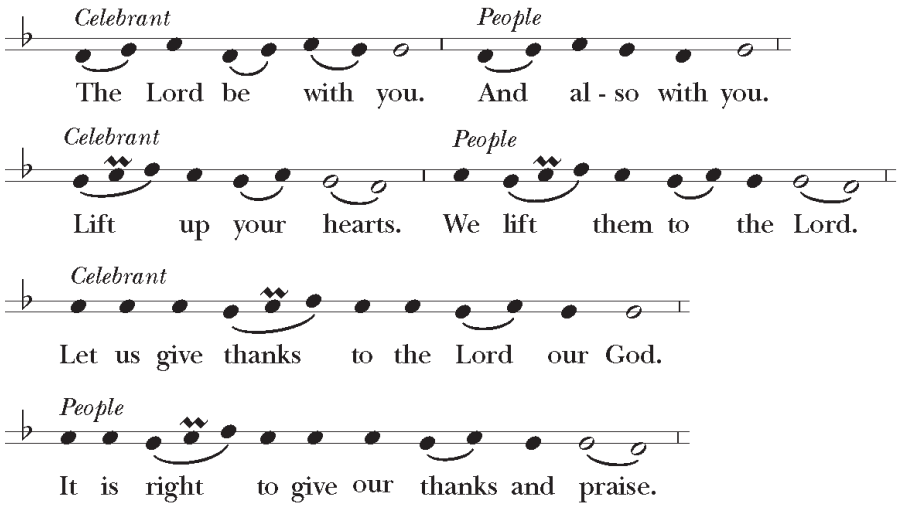
Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore. Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more, Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast: O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise. Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes: Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see: O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

The Doxology *(Hymn 380, verse 3)* — *Old 100th*

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. Amen.
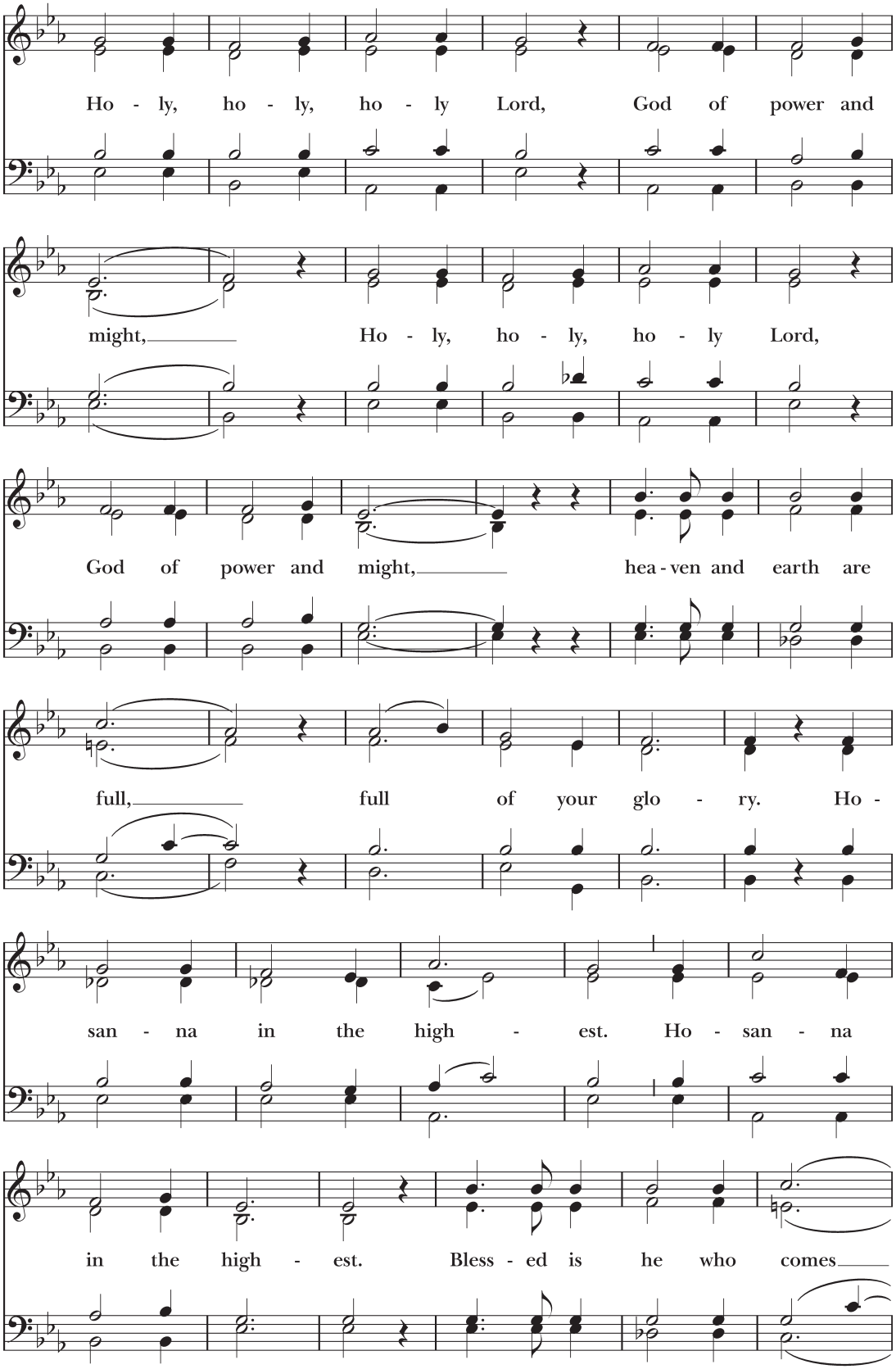
The Great Thanksgiving

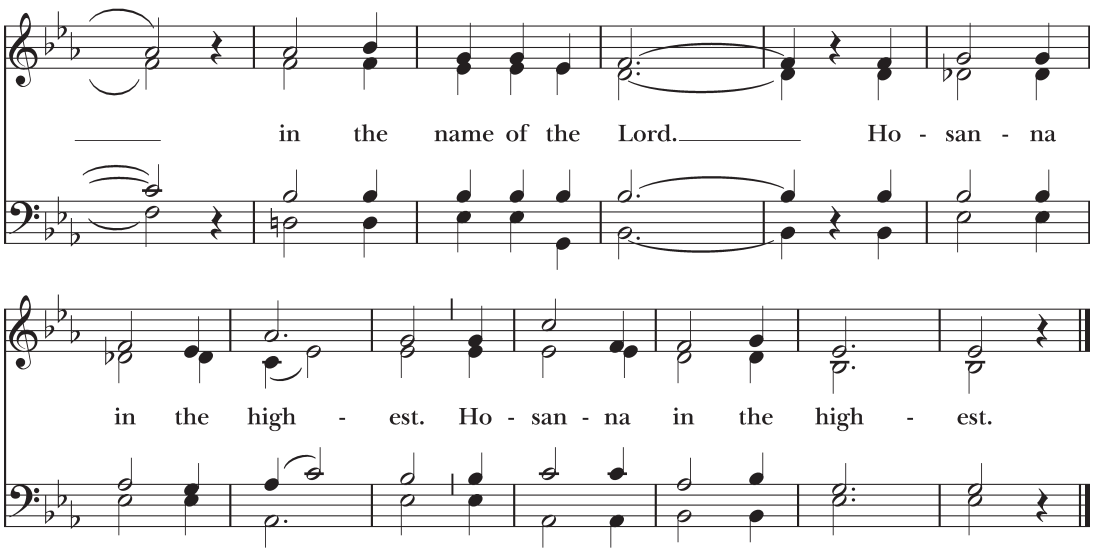


It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (*Hymnal S 130)* Schubert/Proulx





We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**
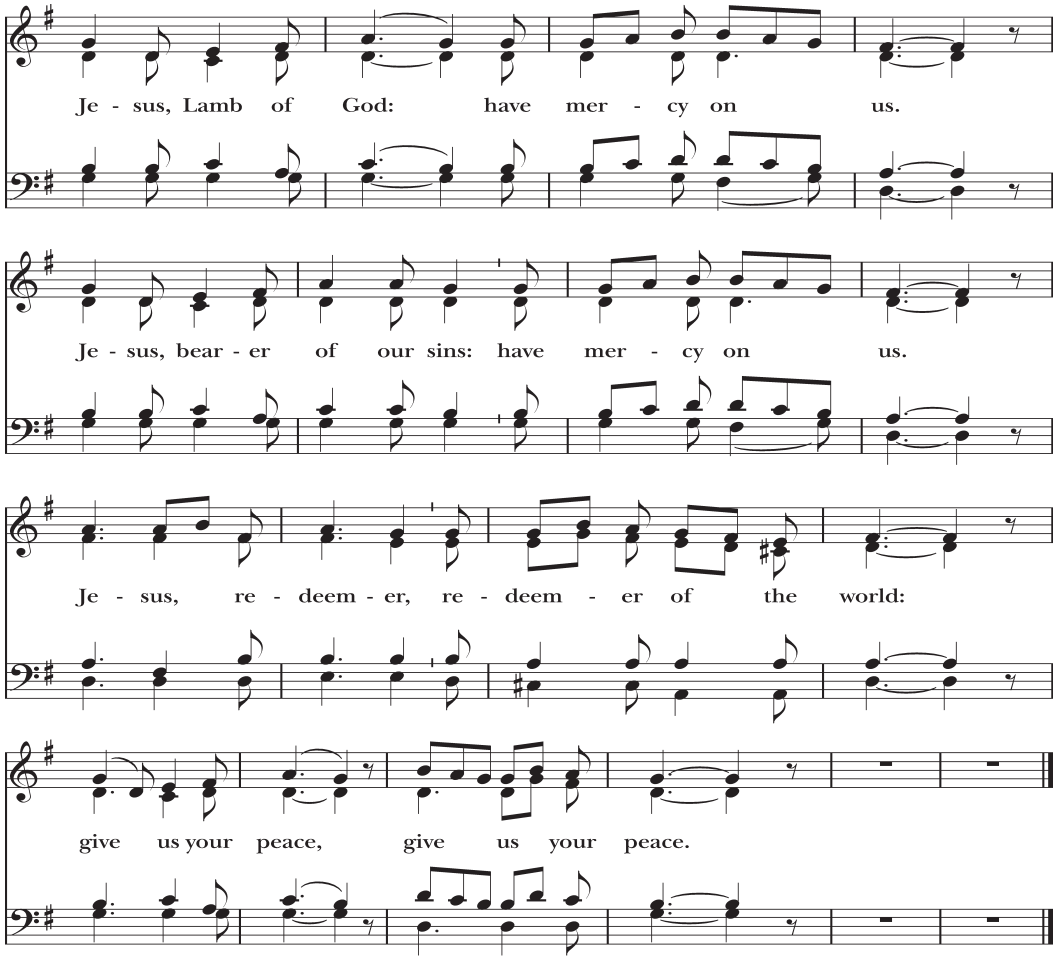
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant Our Father,
People **who 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God (Hymnal S 164) Schubert/Proulx



The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music: My Lord, what a morning — arr. Harry Burleigh

Refrain: My Lord, what a morning;
My Lord, what a morning;
Oh, my Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.

1 You'll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

2 You'll hear the sinner cry,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

3 You'll hear the Christian shout,
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand,
When the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*
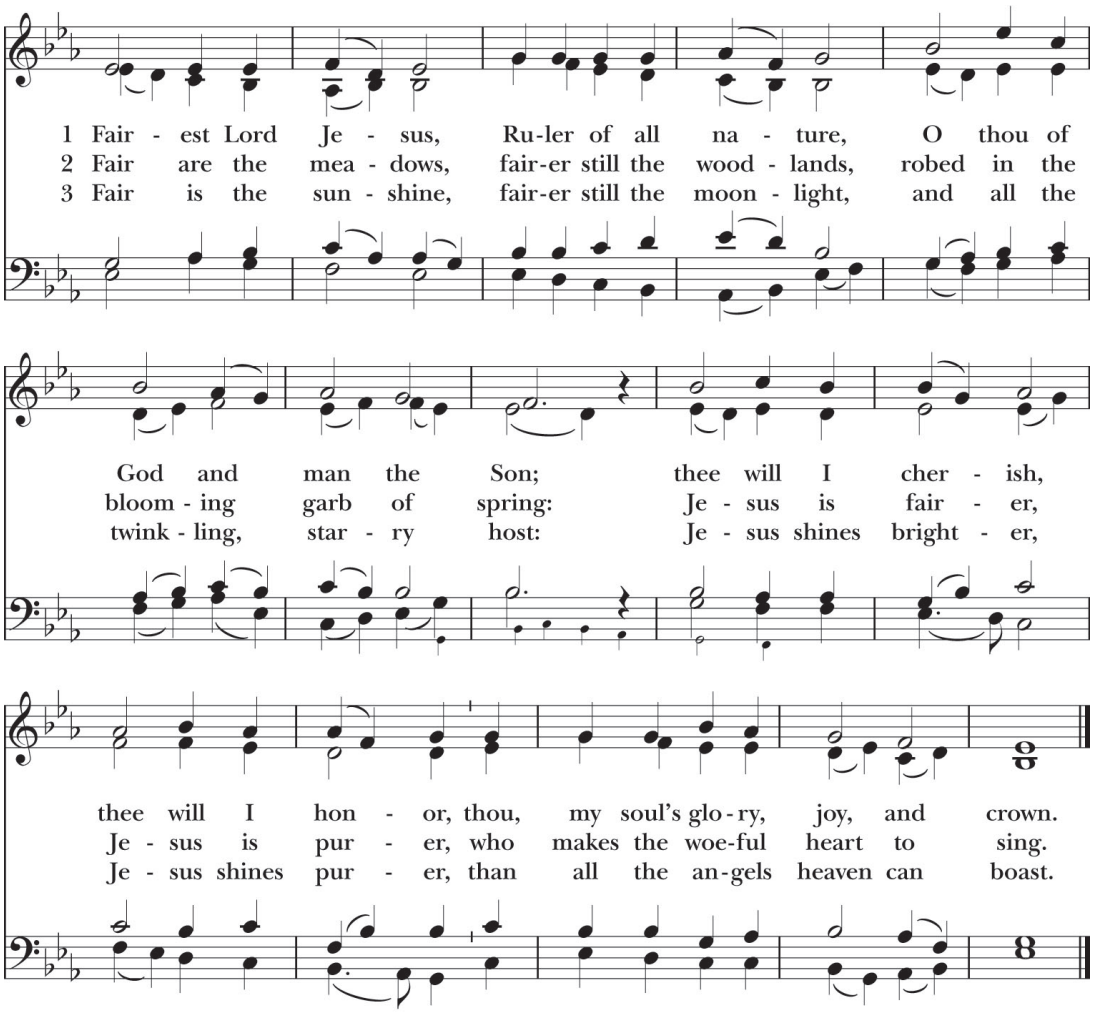
Communion Solo: This little light of mine — arr. Margaret Bonds

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
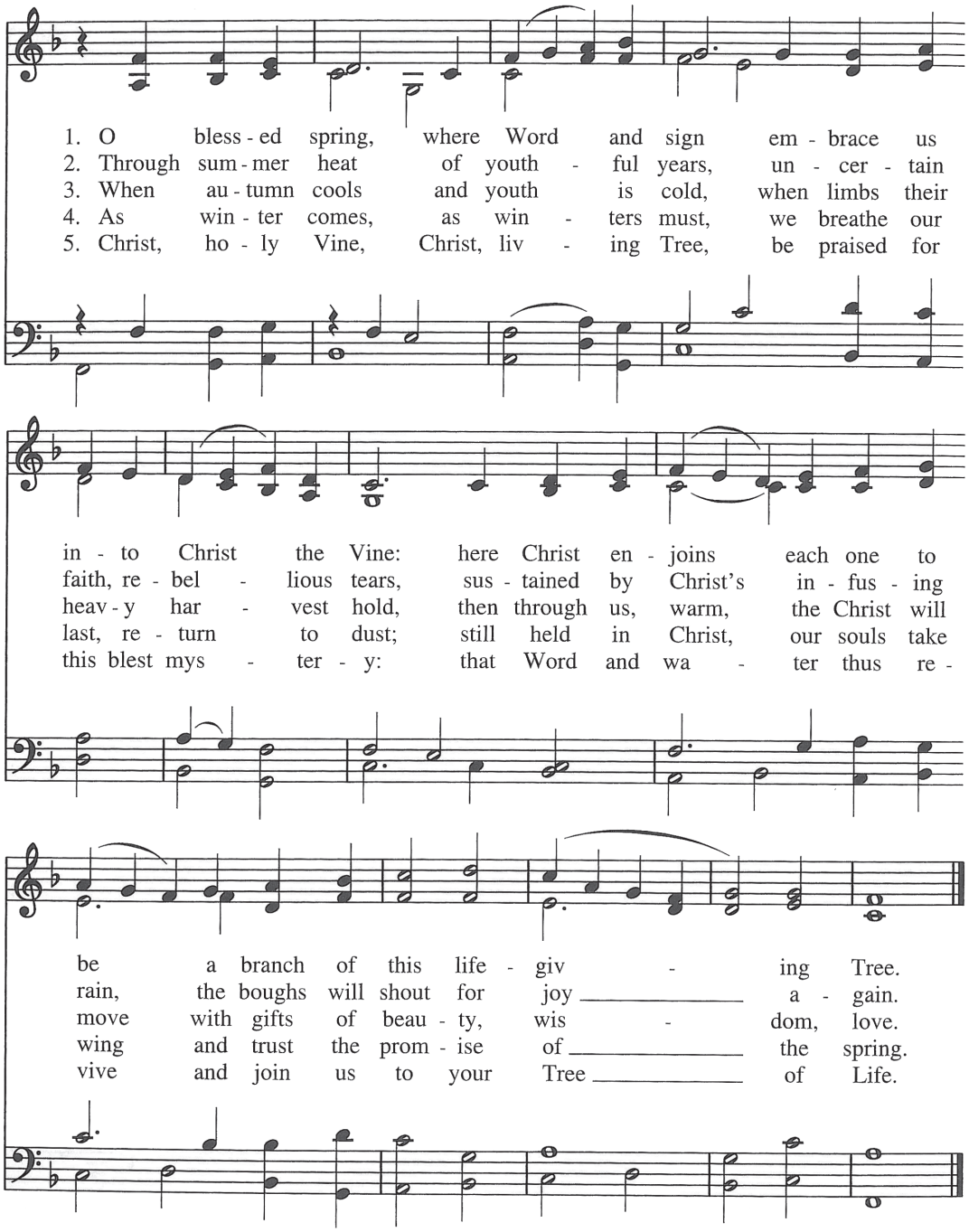
All through the nighttime,
I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the nighttime,
I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the nighttime,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

When I get to heaven,
I'm gonna let it shine.
When I get to heaven,
I'm gonna let it shine.
When I get to heaven,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine.

Communion Hymn 383 "Fairest Lord Jesus" St. Elizabeth



Communion Hymn "O blessed spring"



When Eucharistic Visitors take communion to the shut-in and infirm:

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

People **we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Priest gives the blessing.
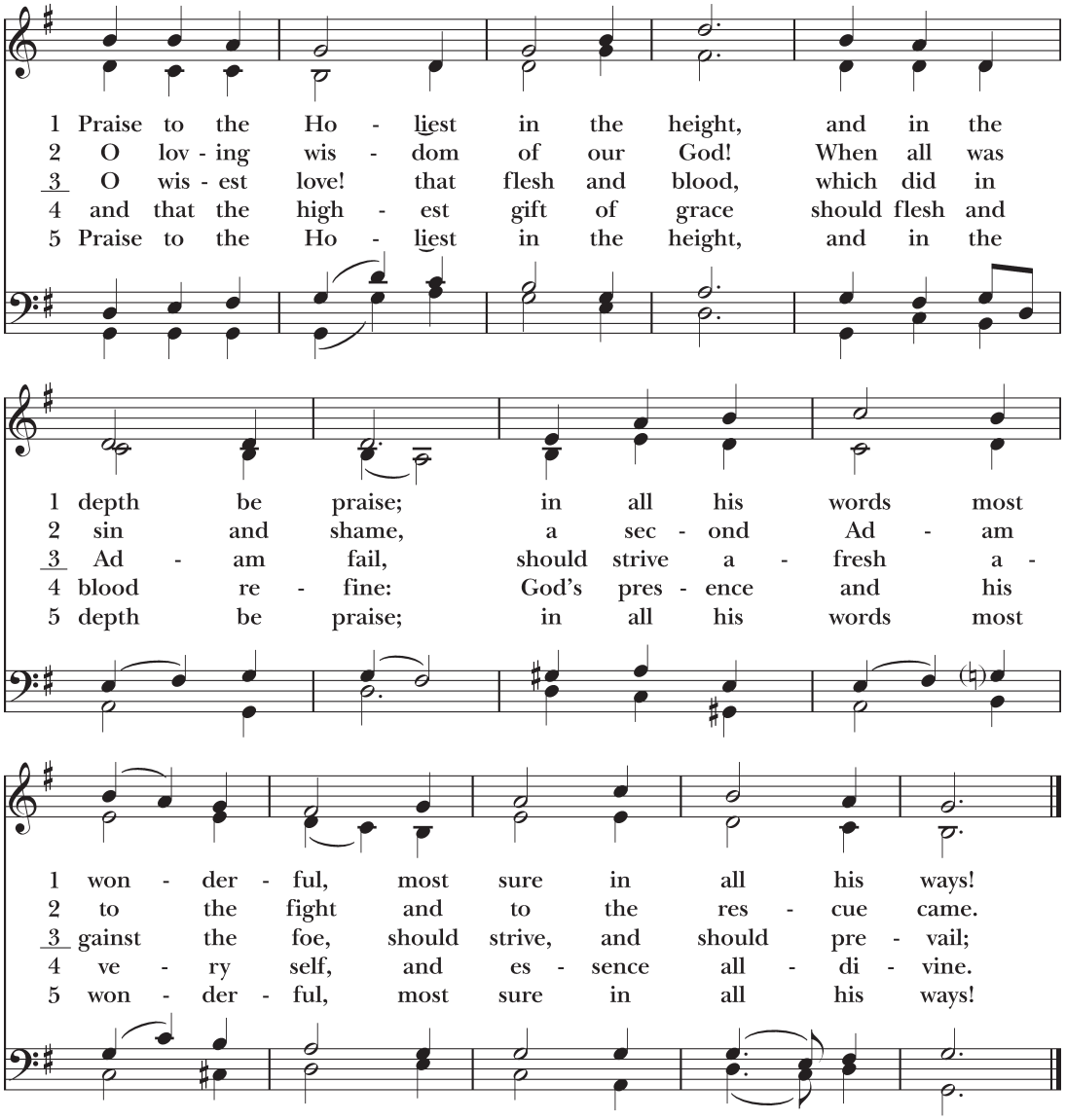
The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon dismisses the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn 445 "Praise to the Holiest in the height" Gerontius



Postlude: Toccata on *Great Day* Adolphus Hailstork

Together, we pray

Please pray for these people:

James Armstrong
Roger Beebe
Leigh Anderson Burdette
Jeff Carowitz
Dan Cromack
Patricia Hinojosa
Linda Ittner
Jo Lyday
Terri McCauley
Graham Norwood
The Rev'd Liz Parker
Jane Richardson
Bill Robertson
Don Robinson
Linda Sylvan
Bill Tilney
Eleanor Viebig
Fran Wallis
David Ashley White
Lewis Williams
Marie Woodward
Audrey Worthing
Donna Yacoe
Beth
The Ryan Family
Luisa Tse Wing
Ryder Shaw
Katarina Carlson
Clarence Hulin
Jessica Migues
Sam Byrd
Eden Inoway-Ronnie
Georgian Whitenight
Alex Carrillo
Francisco and Allison Torres
Cheryl Brier
Jill Spicer-Ellis
Philip Berquist
Diane Martin
Catherine Troisi
Don and Marcia May
Tonette Ts Wing
Gretta and Bob Boshara
Dr. Lee White
Derek Lucas
Christine
Larry Stanley
Kate Fritzgerald

Names remain on the list for two Sundays unless the request is renewed by contacting the Rev'd Allen M. Junek at associaterector@palmerchurch.org.

Please pray for the departed:

John Duval
Louis Madrigal, Jr.
Dan O'Connor
Grace Ann Inskeep
Sheila Ryan
Sue Lotz
Jon Hildebrand

Please pray for expectant households or families with newborns:

Cameron and Hannah McFarland
Kevin and Noelle Murphy
Travis and Sarah Jordan
Laura and Ian Everhart
Paul and Sara Zwicker
Jill and Robert Carmical

Those expecting a child by birth or adoption are encouraged to contact The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle at parishlife@palmerchurch.org.

Please pray for those in the armed forces:

Evan Adams
Nathan Adam
Michael Anderson
Gaston Baza
Travis Chambers
Owen Green
John Harrison
Connor Hurt
Jarrett Johnson
Christopher Kent
James King
Mike Martinez
Nate Miller
Andrew Nesom
Harrison Power
Jim Rosenbach
Adam Salvati
Alec Swartz
Emily Swartz
Matthew Van Arsdale
Ashley Waddle
Alex Walker
Taylor Wilby
Travis Jordan
Matthew Phillip