
JOY
IN THE
MAKING

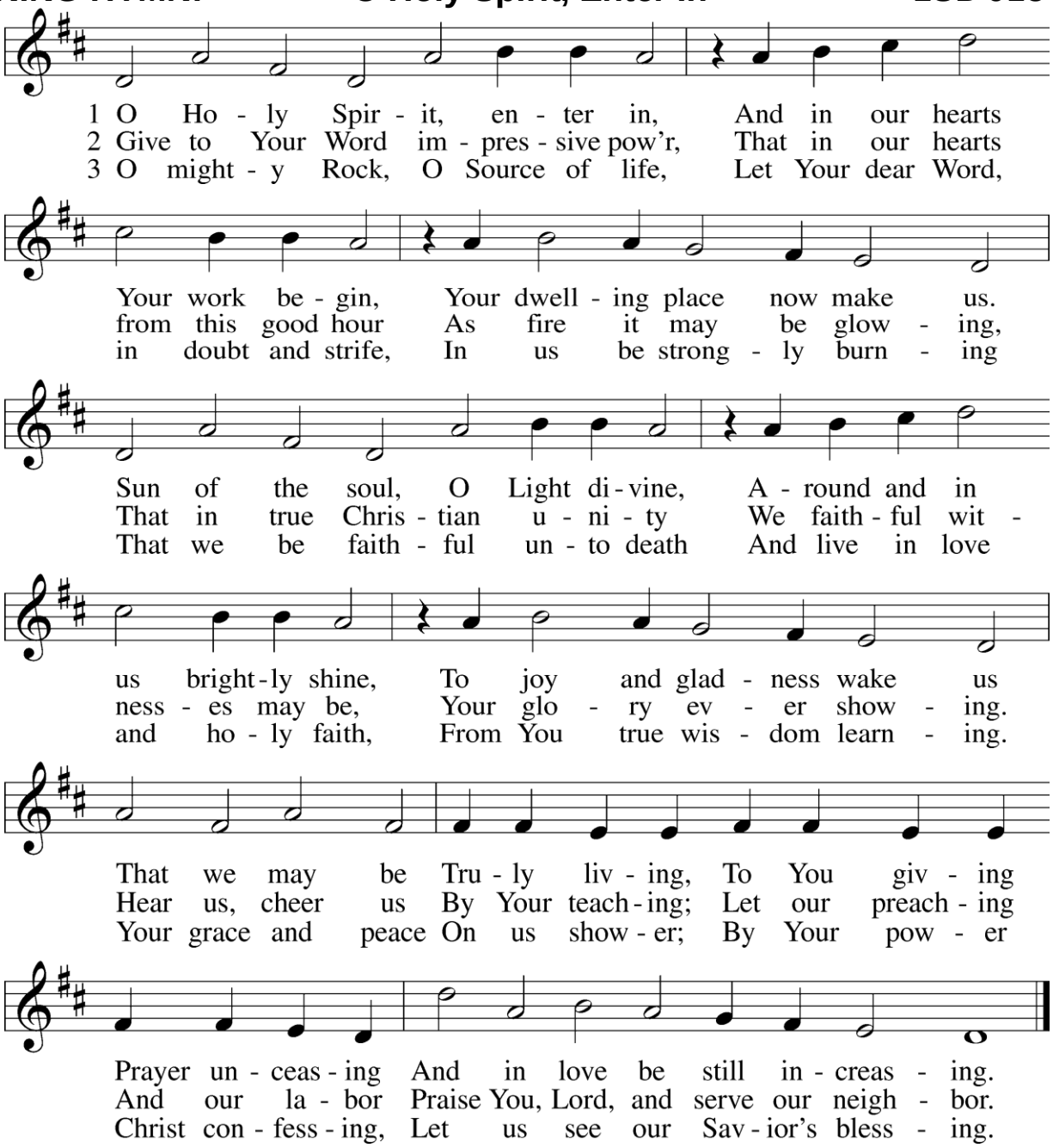
Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach

September 27, 2026 Pentecost 18

PRELUDE: **“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, P.46”** Organ
~Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: **“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”** LSB 913



INVOCATION:

L: Good will and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours! *(Philippians 1:2)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ Jesus.

P: **Glory belongs to our God and Father forever. Amen.** *(Philippians 4:20)*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

L: Dear Lord,

P: **You have called us to do nothing out of selfish ambition, to have the interests of others as forefront in our thoughts, and to in humility think of others as being better than ourselves.**

L: Yet, we confess Lord, that we that we are by nature selfish; and we regularly think more about ourselves than we ought, and less of others than we should.

P: **Dear Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself and put our needs ahead of Your own, for Your sake forgive us our sin, send us Your Spirit, and move us to have an attitude like unto Your own. Amen.**

L: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. For His sake God forgives us all our sins and bestows on us His Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun His good work in us bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **"Laudate Dominum"** Donne di Canto
~Z. Randall Stroope

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Dear Lord, may our love keep on growing, that we may be able to determine what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

P: **Jesus Christ fills our lives with everything that God's approval produces that we may bring glory and praise to God.** *(Philippians 1:9&10)*

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 18:1-4;25-32*

The Lord spoke his word to me. He said, “What do you mean when you use this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘Fathers have eaten sour grapes, and their children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Almighty Lord, you will no longer use this proverb in Israel. The life of every person belongs to me. Fathers and their children belong to me. The person who sins will die.

“But you say, ‘The Lord’s way is unfair.’ Listen, nation of Israel, isn’t my way fair? Isn’t it your ways that are unfair? When a righteous person turns away from doing right and does evil things, he will die. He will die because of the evil things he has done. When a wicked person turns away from the wicked things that he has done and does what is fair and right, he will live. He realized what he was doing and turned away from all the rebellious things that he had done. He will certainly live. He will not die.

“But the nation of Israel says, ‘The Lord’s way is unfair.’ Isn’t my way fair, nation of Israel? Isn’t it your ways that are unfair?

“That is why I will judge each of you by what you have done, people of Israel,” declares the Almighty Lord. “Change the way you think and act. Turn away from all the rebellious things that you have done so that you will not fall into sin. Stop all the rebellious things that you are doing. Get yourselves new hearts and new spirits. Why do you want to die, nation of Israel? I don’t want anyone to die,” declares the Almighty Lord. “Change the way you think and act!” —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **“Festival Sanctus”** Men’s Chorus
~John Leavitt

SECOND READING: *Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30*

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what happened to me has helped to spread the Good News. As a result, it has become clear to all the soldiers who guard the emperor and to everyone else that I am in prison because of Christ. So through my being in prison, the Lord has given most of our brothers and sisters confidence to speak God’s word more boldly and fearlessly than ever.

for another reason. I know that I will be set free through your prayers and through the help that comes from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. I eagerly expect and hope that I will have nothing to be ashamed of. I will speak very boldly and honor Christ in my body, now as always, whether I live or die. Christ means everything to me in this life, and when I die I’ll have even more. If I continue to live in this life, my work will produce more results. I don’t know which I would prefer. I find it hard to choose between the two. I would like to leave this life and be with Christ. That’s by far the better choice. But for your sake it’s better that I remain in this life. Since I’m convinced of this, I know that I will continue to live and be

with all of you. This will help you to grow and be joyful in your faith. So by coming to you again, I want to give you even more reason to have pride in Christ Jesus with me.

Live as citizens who reflect the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come to see you or whether I stay away, I'll hear all about you. I'll hear that you are firmly united in spirit, united in fighting for the faith that the Good News brings. So don't let your opponents intimidate you in any way. This is God's way of showing them that they will be destroyed and that you will be saved. God has given you the privilege not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for him. You are involved in the same struggle that you saw me having. Now you hear that I'm still involved in it. —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Donne di Canto
~arr. Heather Sorenson Men's Chorus, CUI

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:23-27*

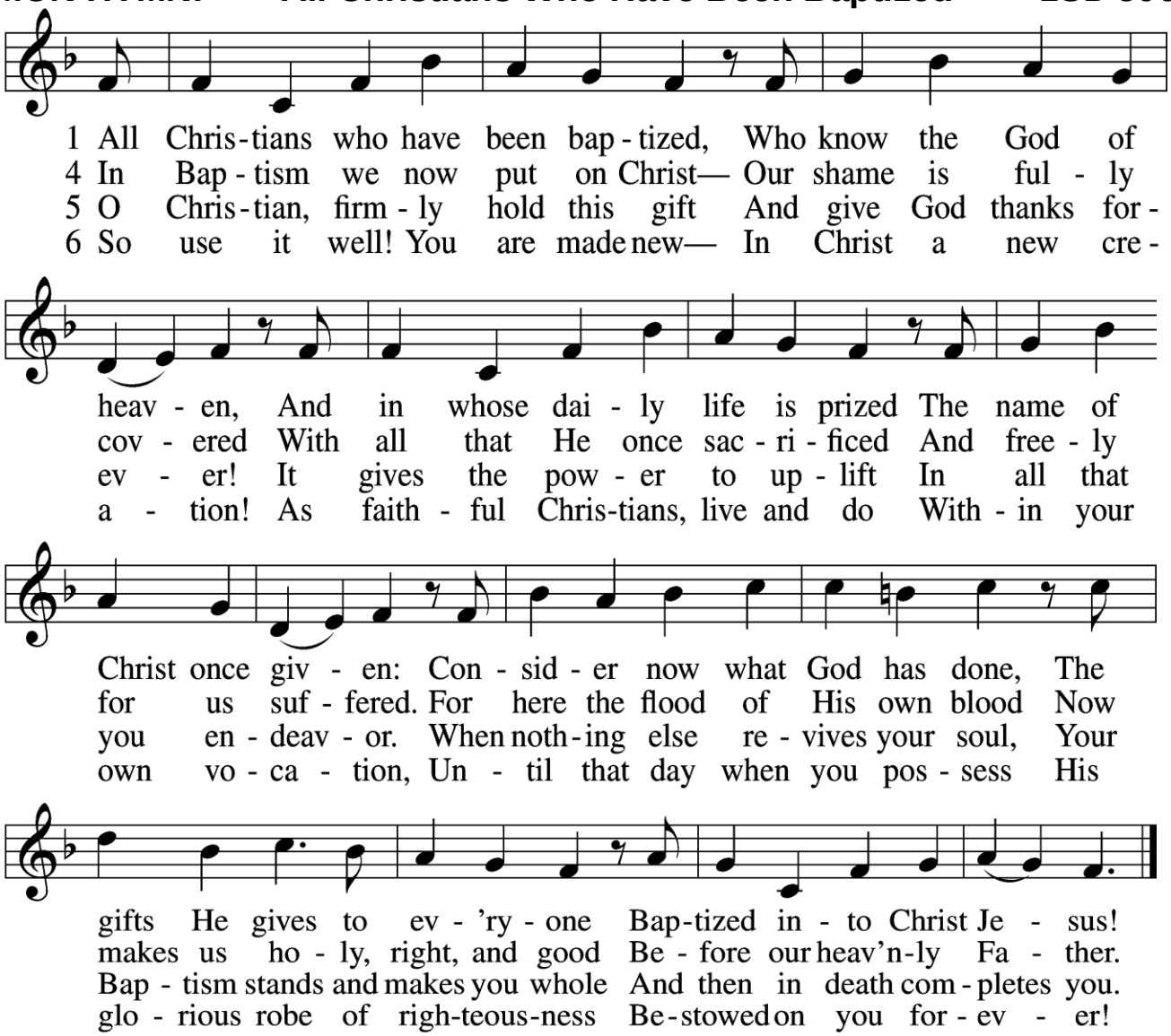
Then Jesus went into the temple courtyard and began to teach. The chief priests and the leaders of the people came to him. They asked, "What gives you the right to do these things? Who told you that you could do this?"

Jesus answered them, "I, too, have a question for you. If you answer it for me, I'll tell you why I have the right to do these things. Did John's right to baptize come from heaven or from humans?"

They discussed this among themselves. They said, "If we say, 'from heaven,' he will ask us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'from humans,' we're afraid of what the crowd might do. All those people think of John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

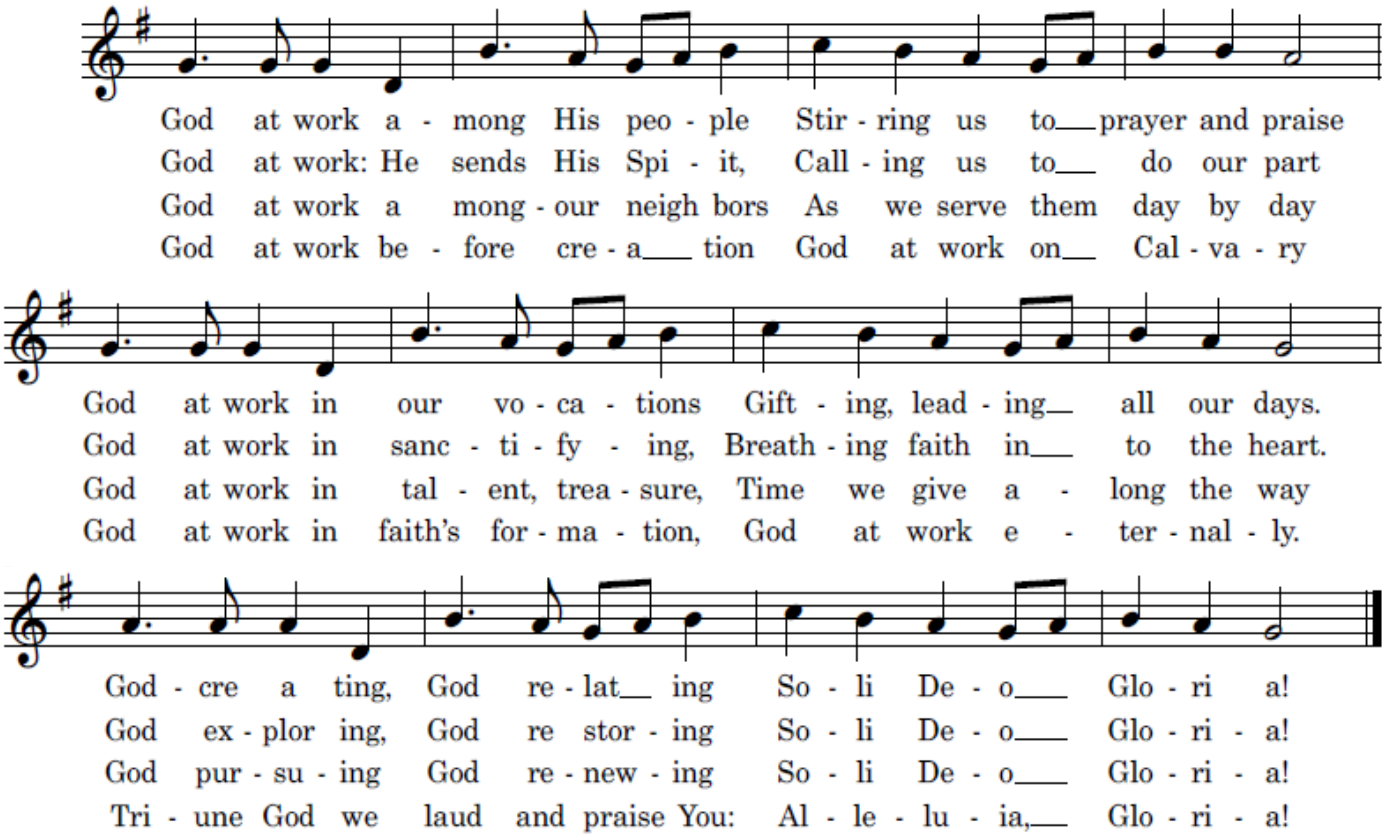
Jesus told them, "Then I won't tell you why I have the right to do these things. —GW®

SERMON HYMN: "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized" LSB 596



MESSAGE: ***"Joy in the Making: God works through you"*** *Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "God at Work"



CONFESSION OF FAITH:

L: Philippians 2, which some have called the hymn of the church, is one of its earliest confessions. We share this confession as we boldly declare that:

P: **Jesus is God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on a cross. This is why God has given Him and exceptional honor, the name honored above all other names. So that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven and on earth and in the world below will kneel and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.** *(Based on Philippians 2:7-11)*

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED: *(*catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

We believe in one God, 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATING THE GIFTS:

L: Your gifts are a soothing aroma, a sacrifice that God accepts and with which He is pleased. *(Based on Philippians 4:18b)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father 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 forever and ever. Amen.

****** At our 8:00 a.m. service, we will continue on page 10 with Announcements.***
****** At our 9:30 a.m. service, we continue with the Celebration of Holy Communion:***

✢ Service of Holy Communion ✢

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

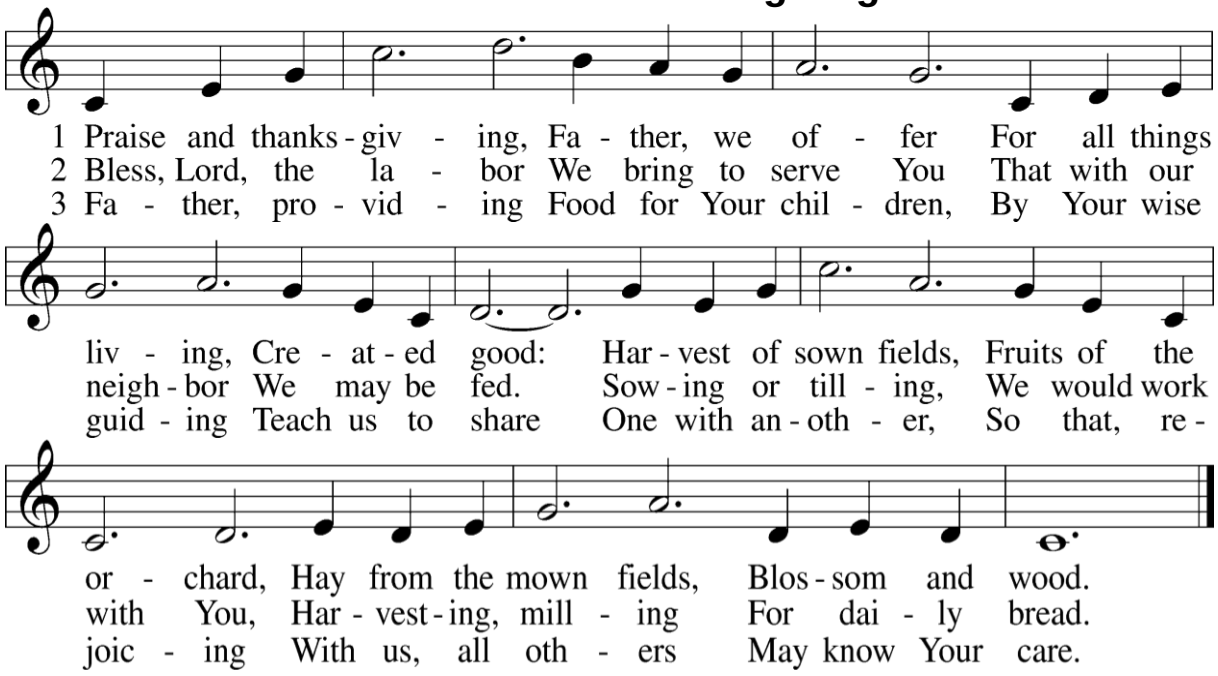
To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the Lutheran Service Book. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."

*For those communing, who so desire, center cups in each tray are **alcohol free.***
*For those with dietary restrictions, the wafers next to the Christ candle are **gluten free;***

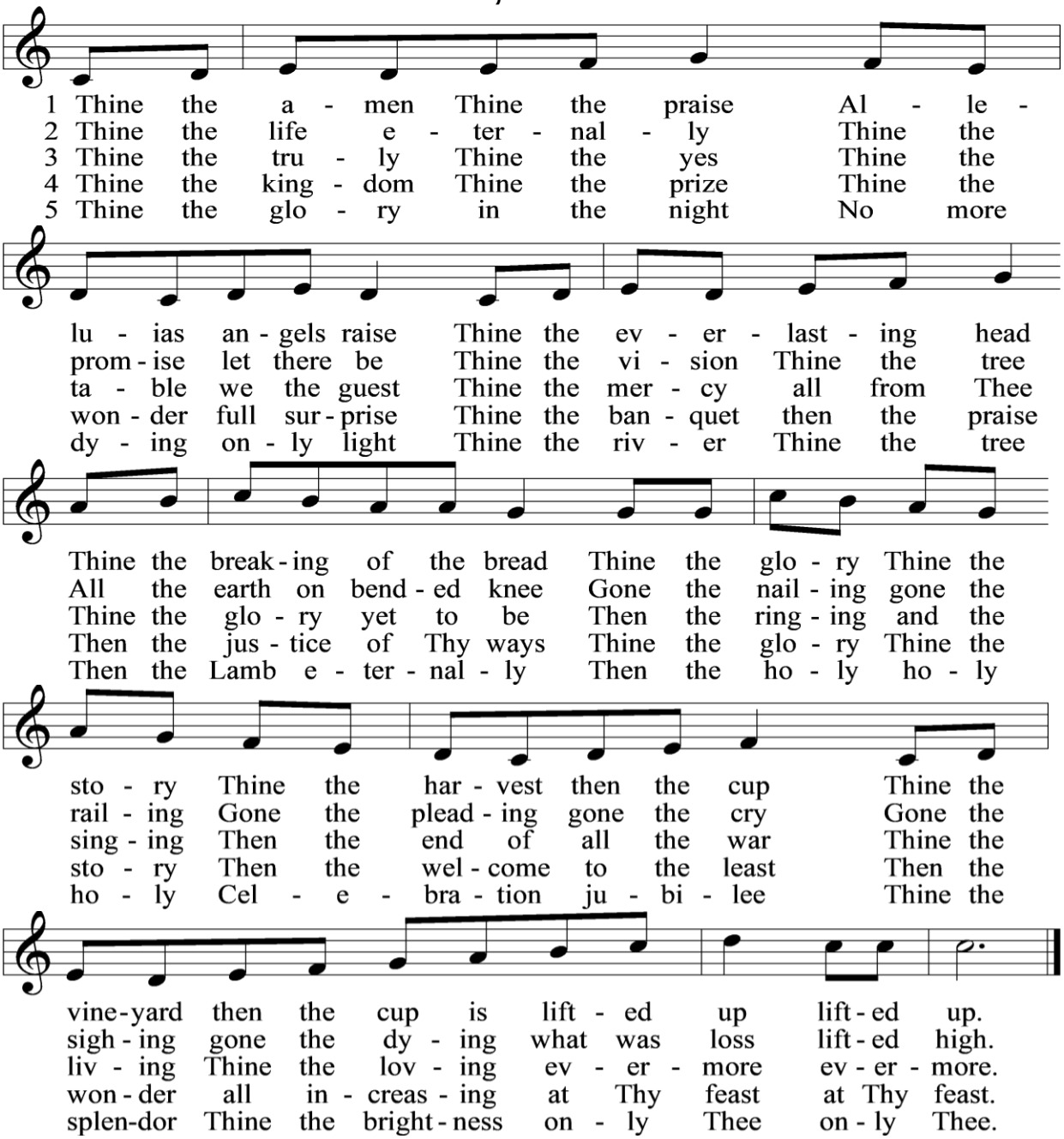
We will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION: **"Praise and Thanksgiving"** LSB 789



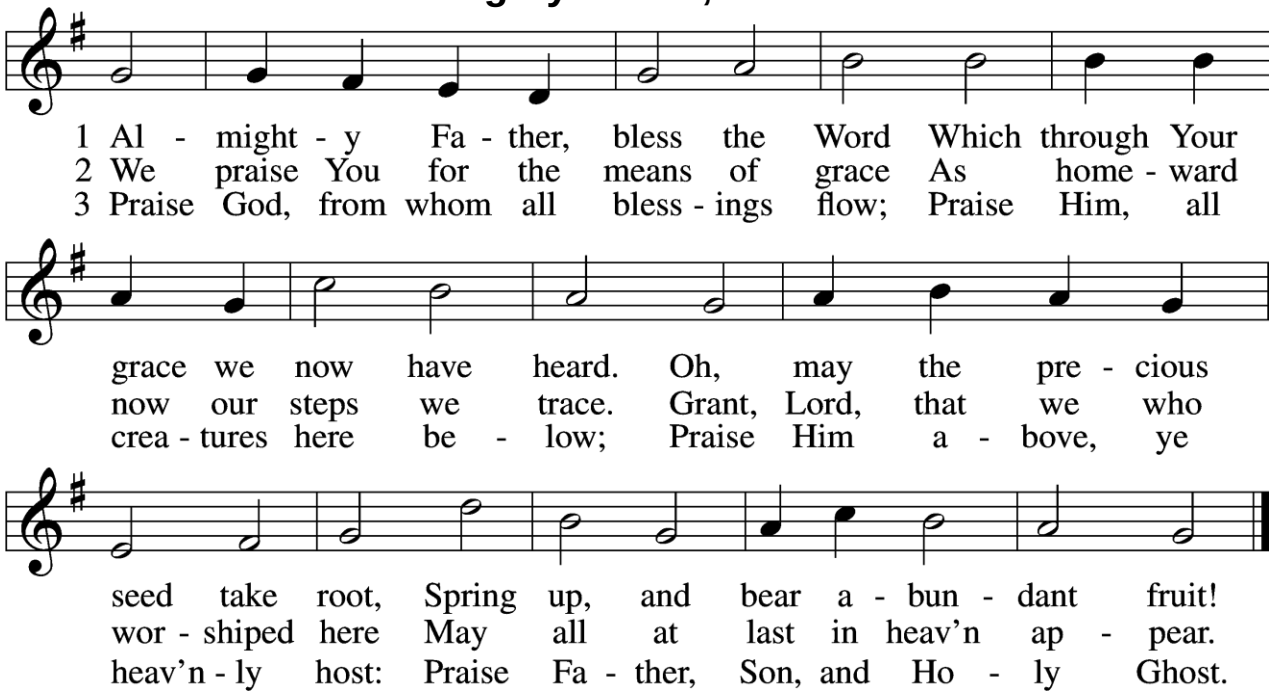
“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" LSB 923



POSTLUDE: "Improvisation on the tune GOTTESWERK by Carol McDaniel"

~Robert Bottoms Organ

✢ ✢ ✢

COPYRIGHTS & STREAMING PERMISSIONS:

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-706149. All rights reserved.

Permission to podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from www.cph.org with license #000012696. All rights reserved.

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book* ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net License #000012696

"O Holy Spirit, Enter In" LSB 913
Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-73, adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, sts. 1, 3, alt.;
tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, st. 2, alt.
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; setting: *Choralbuch zum Evangelischen Kirchengesangbuch*, Berlin, 1955.
Text and music: Public domain.

"Laudate Dominum" CUI Donne di Canto
Z. Randall Stroope

"Festival Sanctus" CUI Men's Chorus
John Leavitt
Streamed by permission under ONE LICENSE with license #A-706149.

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" CUI Combined Choirs
~arr. Heather Sorenson

"All Christians Who Have Been Baptized" LSB 596
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, b. 1961
Tune: *Etlich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg, 1524; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal,* 1941. Tune: Public domain.
Text © 2004 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"God At Work"
Gotteswerk
Text and Tune: ©2014 Carol R.S. McDaniel.
Reprinted and Streamed by permission of composer. 18 Sept. 2026.

"Praise and Thanksgiving" LSB 789
Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84. Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.
Text: © 1987 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Music: Public domain.

"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" LSB 680
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926. Music: Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
Text and music: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word" LSB 923
Text: *Church Poetry*, Philadelphia, 1823, sts. 1-2, alt.; Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, st. 3.
Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

✢ ✢ ✢

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30…Anastasia Kienitz
Lector 8:00…Lily Craft 9:30…John Holmquist
Liturgist…Karl Fink Preacher...Pastor Seth Moorman
Director of Music Ministry & Worship Arts…Noah Freeman Organist…Robert Bottoms
Director, Donne di Canto and Men's Chorus, Concordia University, Irvine…Dan Wessler
Children's Message…Karl Fink Sound…Felix Rivera

✢ ✢ ✢

If You're a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.

✢ ✢ ✢



Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:

~ In loving memory of Florentina Lim Uy ~

~ by the Uy Family



✢ ✢ ✢

Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, "worship bags" are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.