EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Thanksgiving
November 24, 2026, 7 PM
Far Hills Campus Traditional Worship *(not livestreamed)*

Gather

PASTOR *(in front of chancel) (this starts @ 7:00)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are so glad that you are in worship with us today.
  All are welcome here at Epiphany.
  Everything you need to participate in worship is projected onto the screens behind me. If you are unfamiliar with a hymn, you can use the red hymnal and turn to the hymn number shown in the corner of the slide.
  If you are a visitor with us, we would love to get to know you. We encourage you to fill out a **Connect Card** so that we can reach out to you, answer any questions you have, and find out how you might want to get involved in the life of the church. You can fill it out online by scanning the QR code in front of you. You can also fill out a paper connect card in our lobby and hand it to the campus coordinator Jennifer.
- Everyone is invited to the **Pie Fest** in the Celebration Center after worship.
- **Advent** begins Sunday! Our Advent and Christmas Eve schedule is available on a flyer in the lobby and on our website. You can also find advent devotional booklets at the welcome station in the Gathering Space.
- Our **Mid-Week Advent Services** begin next Wednesday here in the Far Hills Sanctuary. There are 2 opportunities, either at 10 AM at Far Hills or 6 PM at Austin. These quiet and reflective 30-minute services will be led this week by Pastor Julie.

P: Let us now prepare our hearts for worship with the prelude.

(pastor stays up front)

PRELUDE

PULPIT **PASTOR**

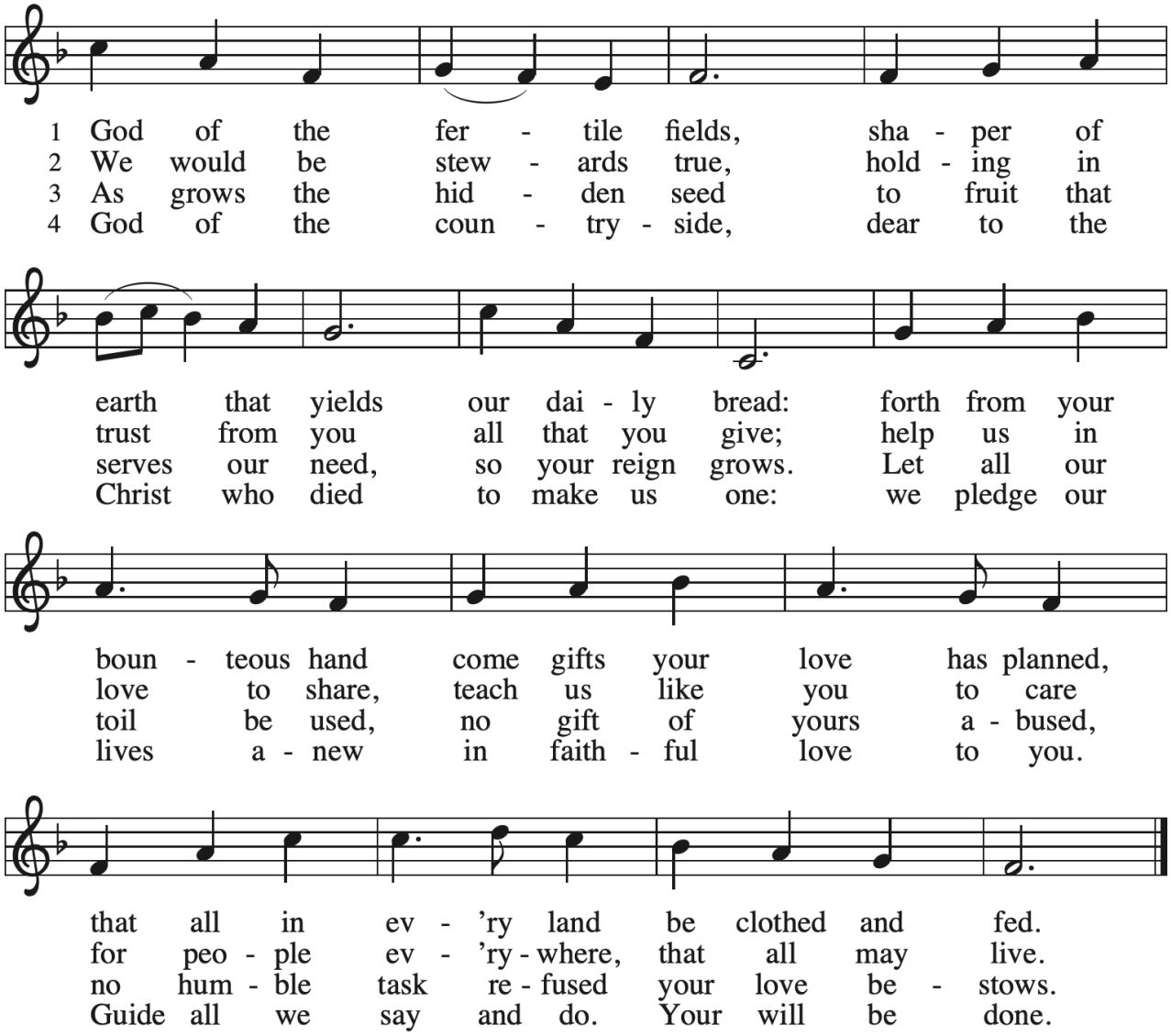
APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: Please stand as you are able.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTOR

OPENING HYMN: *GOD OF THE FERTILE FIELDS* *(vv. 1,2,4)* *ACS 1063*



Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796
Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

PULPIT **PASTOR**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit, lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

PULPIT ASST MIN.

FIRST READING: *DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11*

A: A reading from Deuteronomy.

1 "When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as
an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, 2 you shall take
some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land
that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to
the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.
3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him,
'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the
Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' 4 When the priest takes the basket
from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God,
5 you shall make this response before the Lord your God:
'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived
there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty
and populous. 6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us,
by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors;
the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.
8 The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched
arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9 and he
brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and
honey. 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord,
have given me.'

(continued)

ASST MIN.

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. 11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house."

A: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: *PSALM 100*

A: Please join me in reading Psalm 100.

A: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands

C: Serve the Lord with gladness
Come into God's presence with a song

A: Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong

C: We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture

A: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise

C: Give thanks and bless God's holy name

A: Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting

C: God's faithfulness endures from age to age

ASST MIN.

SECOND READING: *PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9*

A: A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

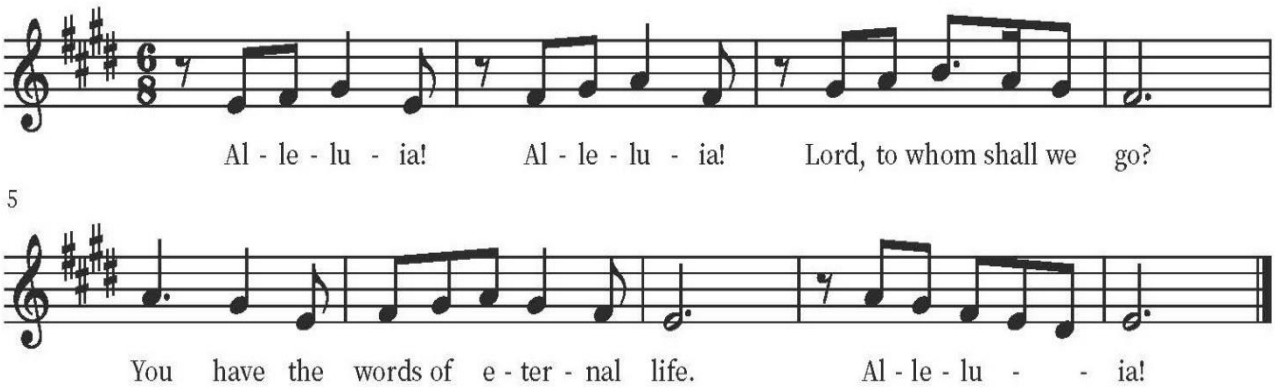
A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: Please stand as you are able for the gospel.

CANTOR

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *NOW THE FEAST OF CELEBRATION*



PULPIT PASTOR

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: *JOHN 6:25-35*

25 When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." 28 Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

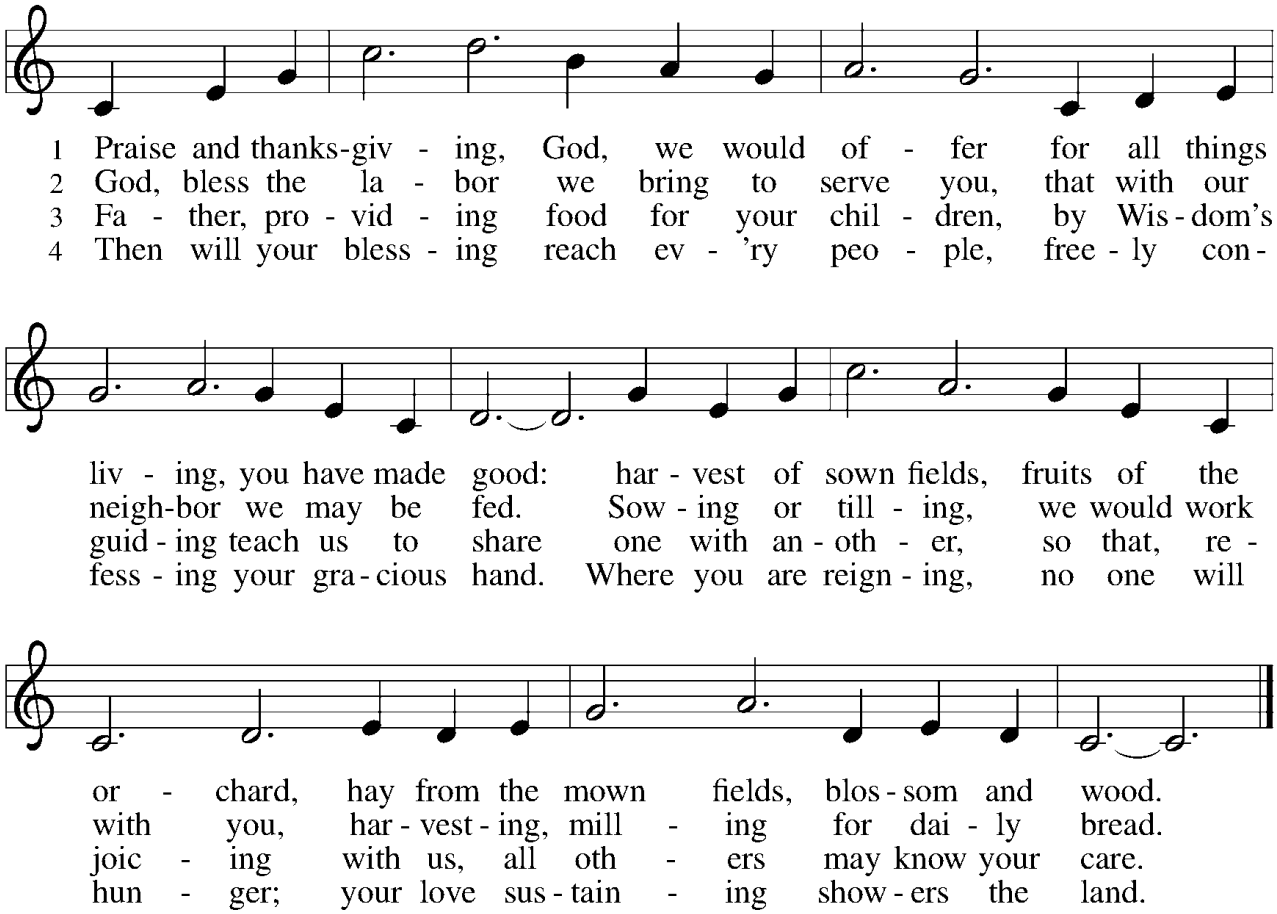
35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.
P: The congregation may be seated.

SERMON

CANTOR

HYMN OF THE DAY: *PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING (vv. 1,2,4)* #689



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

ASST MIN. *(at the altar)*

Acknowledging Our Faith

A: Let us affirm our faith using Martin Luther's explanation to the first article of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe that God has created me and all that exists.

He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers.

He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day.

God also protects me in times of danger and guards me from every evil.

All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it.

Therefore, I ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

A: Please kneel or be seated for the prayers of the church.

ASST MIN. *(at the altar)*

Prayers of the Church

A: Lord, we have set aside this day to remember the many good gifts that you give to sustain life, and the abundance of gifts that you give to make life full and rich.

C: Accept our thanks for your many good gifts.

A: Lord, you have given us your Son so that we may know the true meaning of love. Because we have experienced your love, we can mirror that love back to you, to our family, to our friends, to our colleagues, and to our fellow church members.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the love that you give to us.

(continued)

ASST MIN.

A: Lord, you have given us meaning and purpose in life. You have given us the responsibility to spread your love through word and deed. We give you special thanks for all who serve food in your name to those who are hungry and homeless. We give you special thanks for those who care in your name for the sick and hurting in hospitals, nursing homes, or through home visits. We know, Lord, that as we serve others in your name, our lives are full of meaning and purpose.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the meaning and purpose that you give through our service to others.

A: Lord, one of the great needs of life is to know and feel that we belong to a caring and nurturing community. We give you thanks for the community of family and friends who laugh with us, cry with us, celebrate with us, and commiserate with us. We thank you for the community called your Church, where we are nurtured in your word and fed with your food.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the communities that you give to us.

A: Lord, we thank you for the land in which we live. Thank you for the privilege to worship you, to gather with our friends and neighbors, and to speak our minds when necessary. We often overlook the bounty of our land and the freedoms we enjoy. Make us mindful of these blessings and ready to extend them to others.

C: Accept our thanks and praise for the country in which you allow us to live.

A: We thank you for all these gifts in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

(AM: Please step back so the pastor can step up to the altar for the Peace.)

PASTOR *(at the altar)*

SHARING THE PEACE

P: Please stand as you're able.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please greet your neighbor with a sign of the peace.

Meal

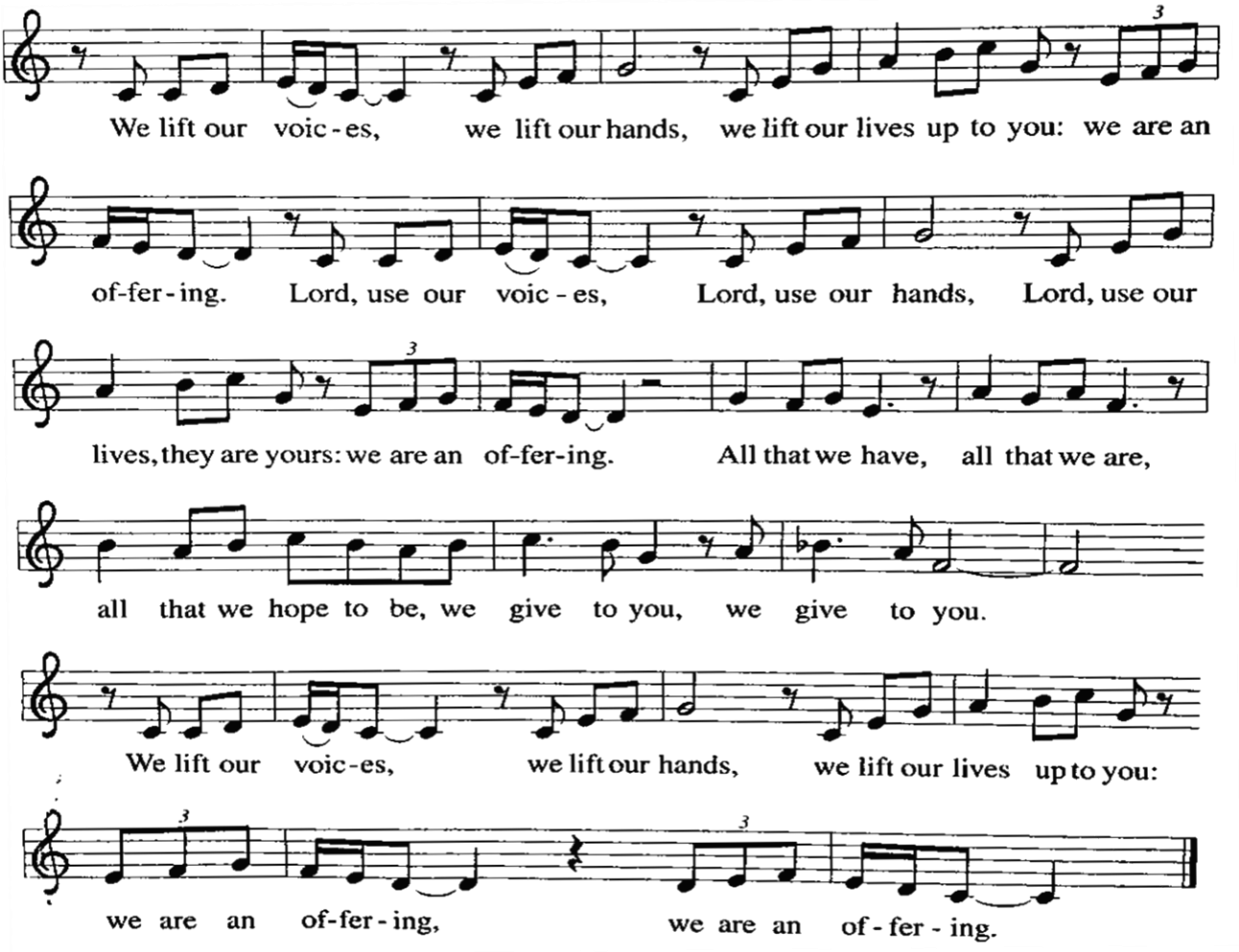
(asst. min. sets the table – please use hand sanitizer)

OFFERING: *ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL* *MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER*
WORDS BY MRS. C.F. ALEXANDER

(usher brings offering plate to AM who faces altar and presents it to the cross)

CANTOR

OFFERTORY: *WE ARE AN OFFERING* *#692*



ASST MIN. *(at the altar – after this place offering on credence table)*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

PASTOR

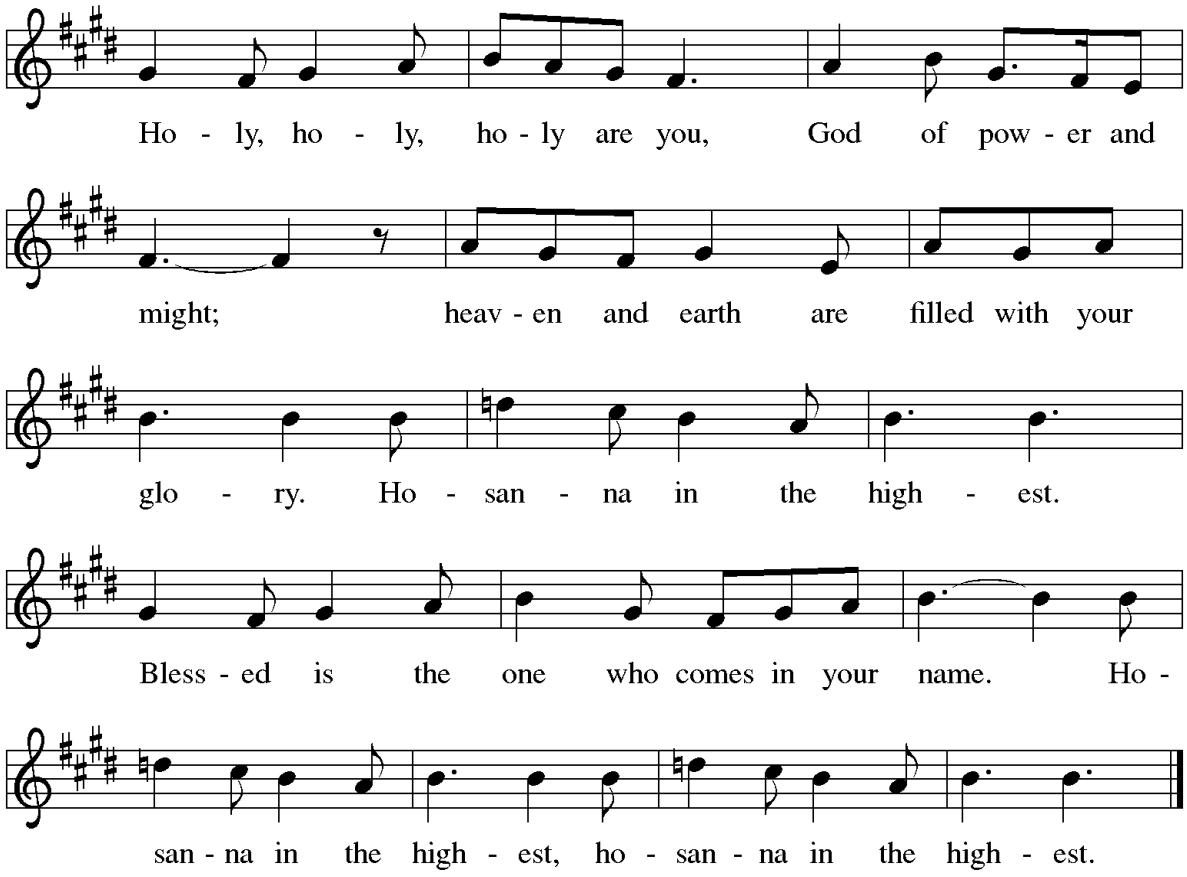
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

CANTOR

SANCTUS: *NOW THE FEAST OF CELEBRATION*



PASTOR

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.
The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water;
by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: 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.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

PASTOR

THE 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.**

P: You may be seated.
Everyone is welcome at Christ's table. Come down a diagonal aisle, and you'll receive a wafer to dip in either the red wine or white grape juice.
Gluten free wafers are available at the front of the center aisle.
If you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.

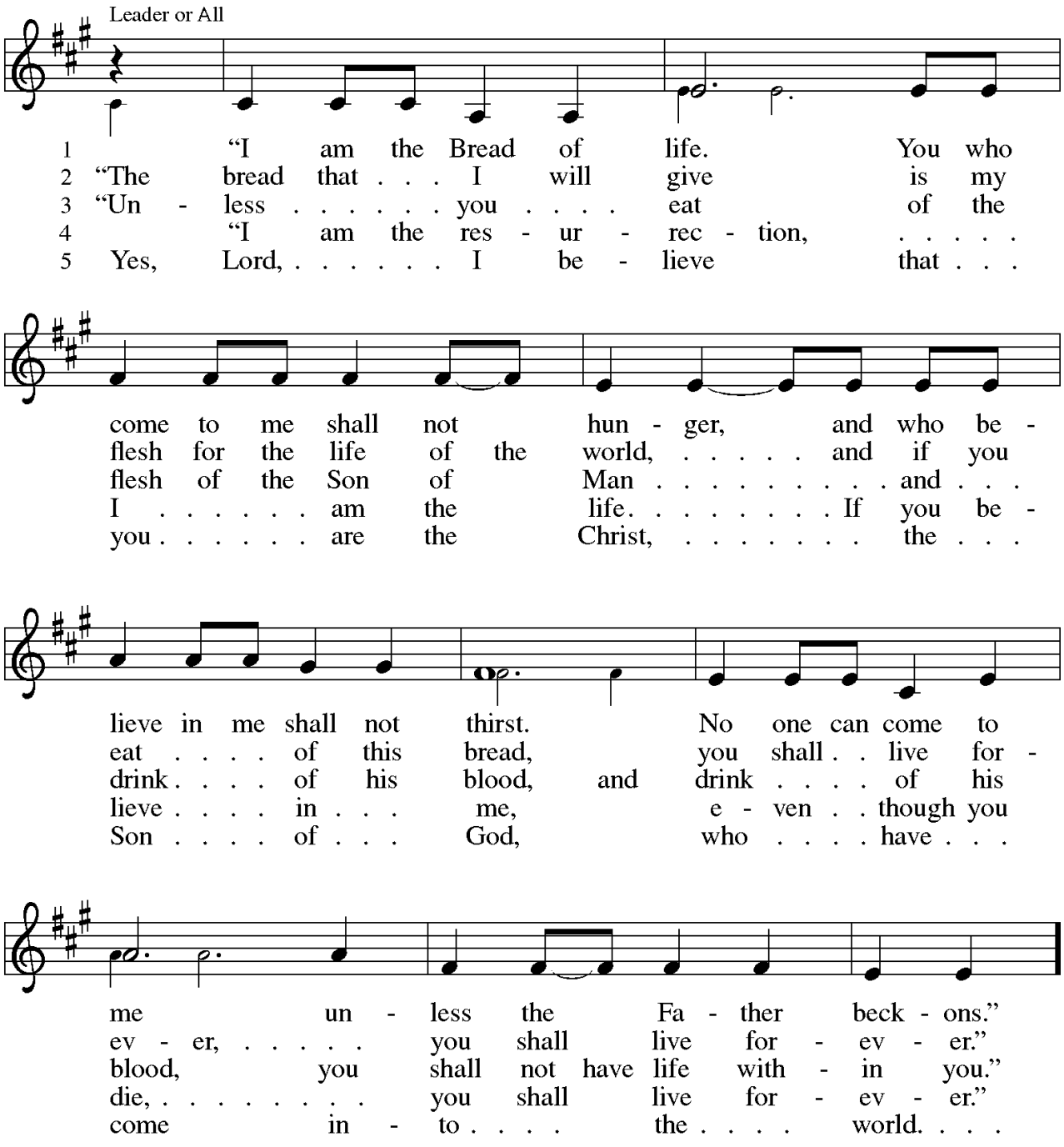
There is a place for you at the table of God.
Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

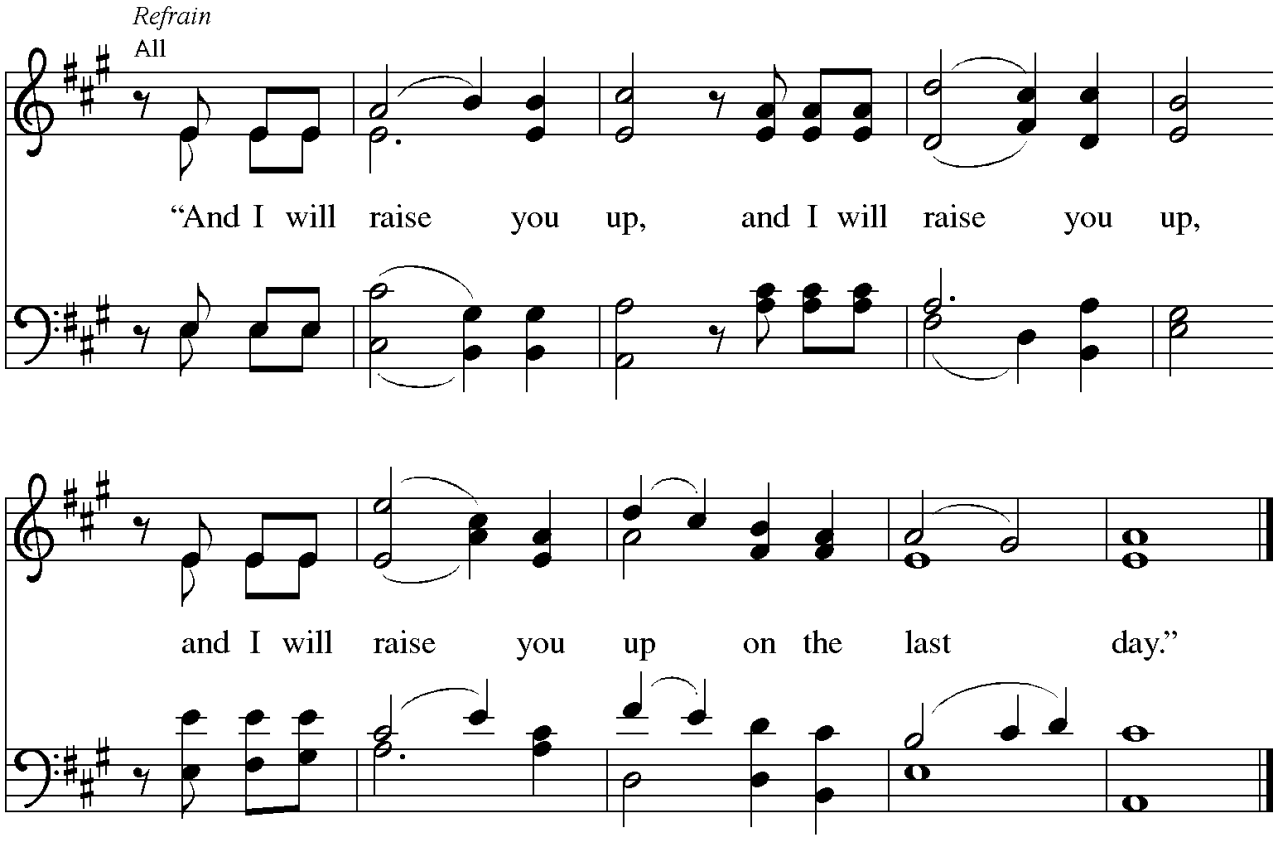
(everyone please use hand sanitizer
pastor communes AM at altar using host/chalice;
next commune organist/servers – pastor has wafers and AM follows with cup;
AFTER communion AM communes pastor at altar using host/chalice;
then AM resets the table while pastor has a moment for prayer)

CANTOR

COMMUNION HYMN: *I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE* #485



CANTOR



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
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PASTOR *(at the altar)*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Please stand as you are able.
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C: Amen.

ASST MIN. *(at the altar)*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. Amen.

Send

PASTOR

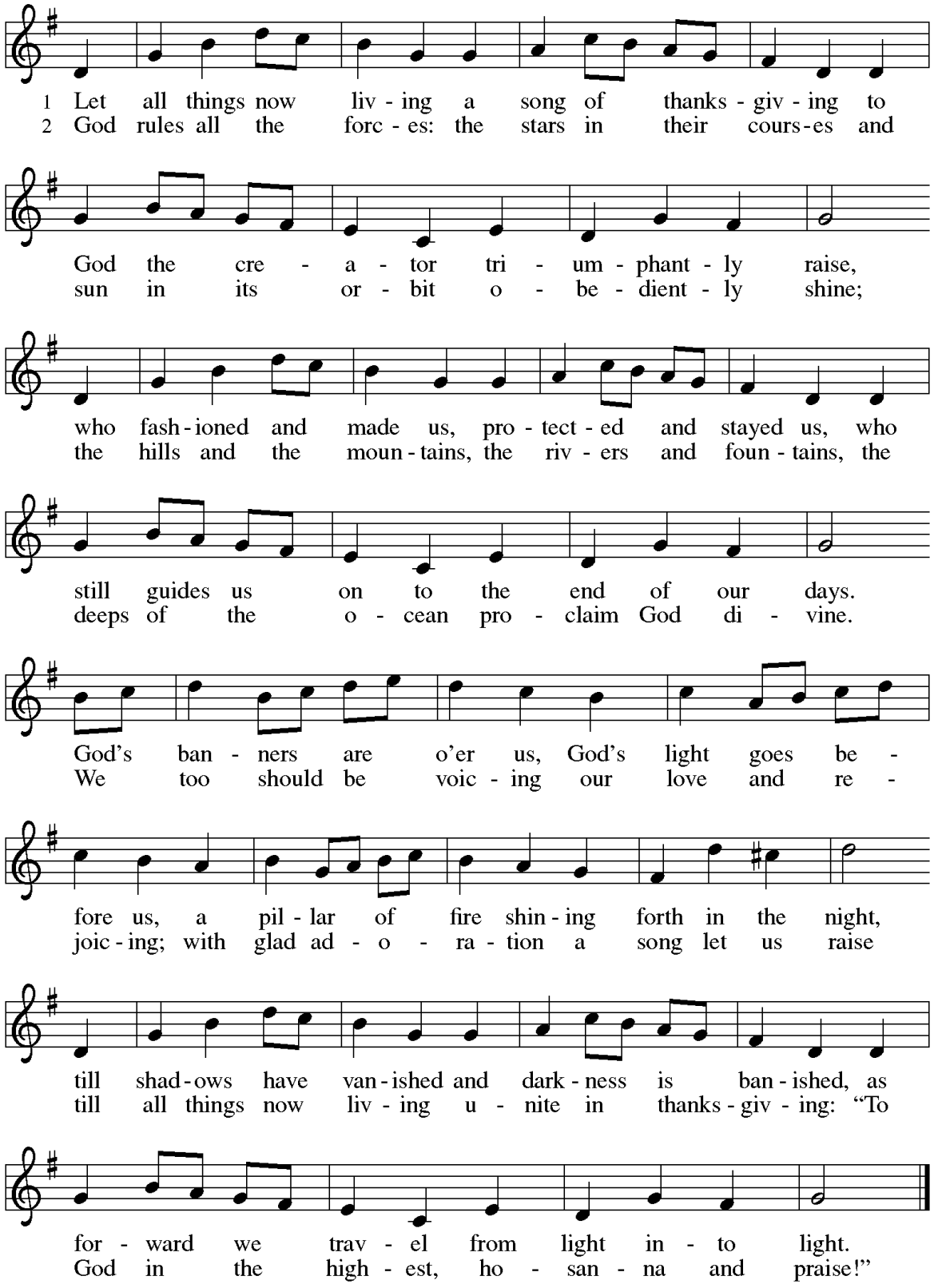
BENEDICTION

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. Amen.

(pastor recesses)

CANTOR

CLOSING HYMN: *LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING* #881



Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

ASST MIN. *(at the altar)*

SENDING

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Julie Reuning-Scherer
Assisting Minister:	Steve Lubbers
Organist:	Linda Snyder
Ushers:	Kevin Carlson, George Downs
Communion:	Michelle Carlson, Mary Downs, Pam Lubbers