ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO
October 24 and 25, 2026
4 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

REFORMATION DAY

BE STILLED AND BE GLADDENED

As We Gather

In our fallen humanity, we resist the reality that God is our mighty fortress, “our refuge and strength” (Psalm 46:1). We allow our fears to cause us to freeze when nations rage, mountains are moved, and waters roar and foam. We become afraid when life is not playing out the way we had planned. Our fears do not change the fact that “the LORD of hosts is with us.” Our God baptizes us in the river of life and promises us a place where “there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.” This paradise and God’s ever presence are ours because of Jesus.

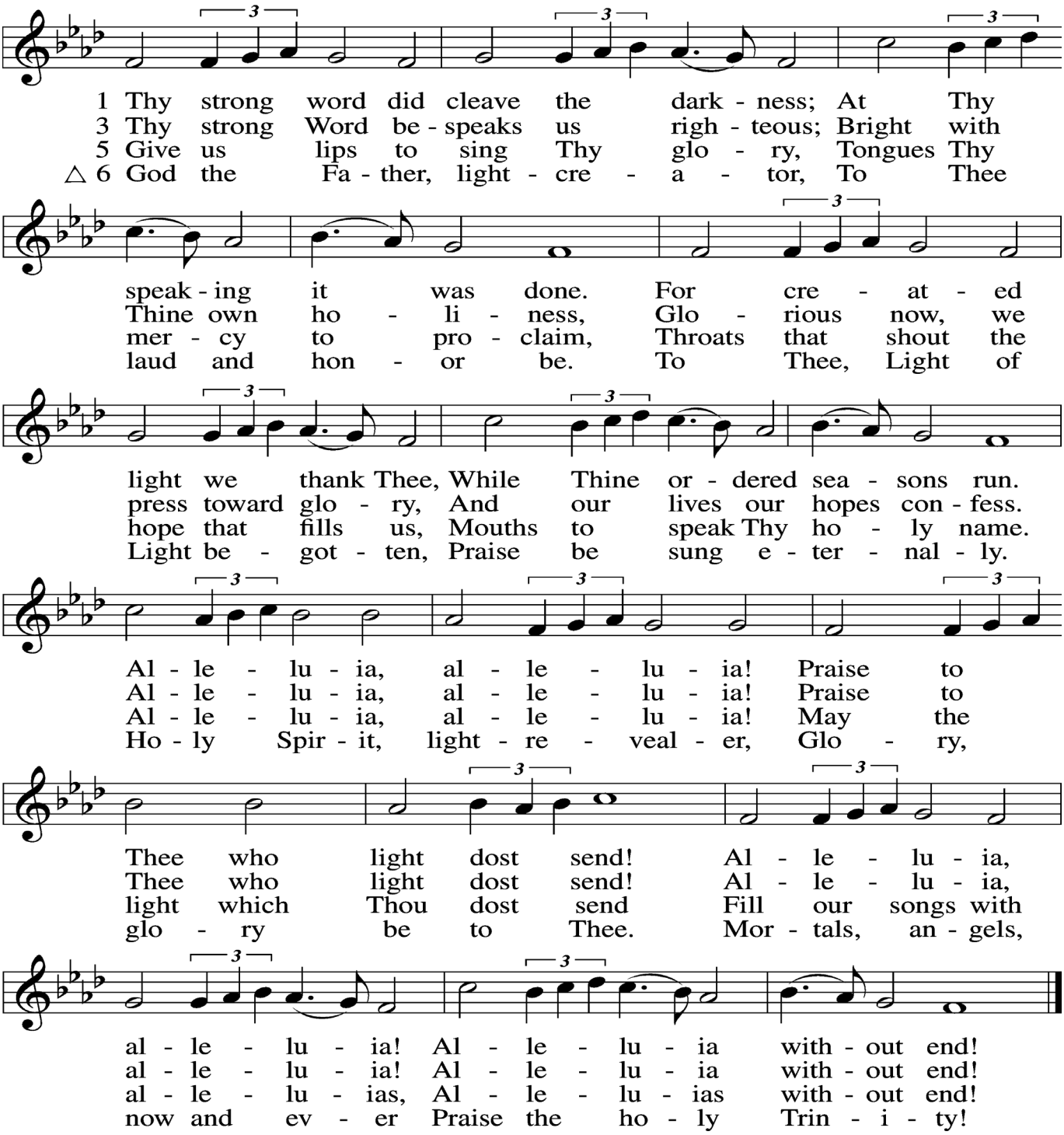
✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "A Mighty Fortress" Vaclav Nelhybel

Pastoral Greeting

Processional Hymn "Thy Strong Word" *LSB* 578

(Sunday with Ascension Chorale descants on Verses 3 & 6, by Carl Schalk) (Verses 1,3, 5-6)



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Invocation

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
People: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
People: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 35:10*

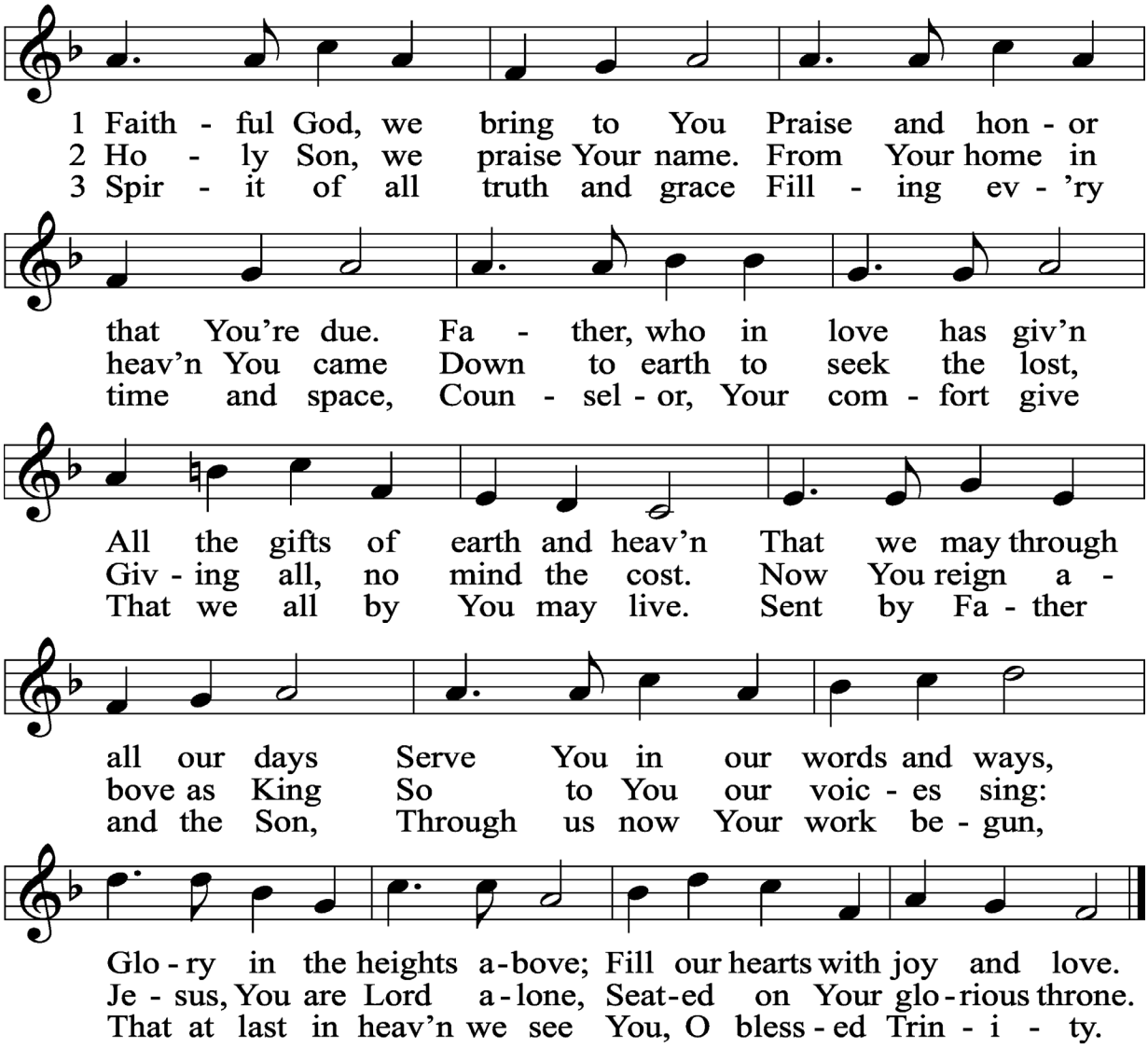
Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
People: Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.
Pastor: The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Spoken Kyrie (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace of the whole world for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "Faithful God We Bring to You" *Text by Jeff Alexander*
Tune: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"
CW Reformation B 2021



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THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Today we commemorate the great Reformation and lay claim to this legacy of pure doctrine and the zeal for the proclamation of this Gospel that grew out of this movement. We give thanks to God for His Gospel, for the doctrine that flows from that Gospel, and for Martin Luther, who recalled the Church to its truth with such clarity and conviction. In the First Reading from Revelation, we hear the message the Church is given to proclaim until Christ comes again. In Romans, Paul gives clear explanation of what it

means to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John, we are taught that we are His disciples and free because we abide in His life-giving Word.

FIRST READING: Revelation 14:6–7
("Fear God and give Him glory.")

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
People: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

Pastor: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

Pastor: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.
People: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.
People: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

People: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC (8:00 and 10:30) "Oh, Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord"
David W. Music
Ascension Chorale
(Timpanist: Eli Faulk)

EPISTLE: Romans 3:19–28
(All have sinned; all are justified by His grace.)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

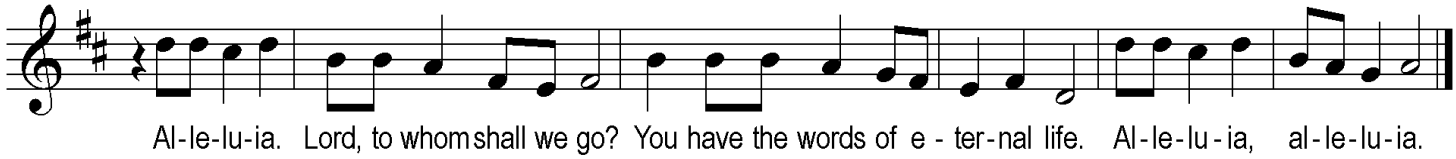
This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Alleluia Verse and the Holy Gospel.

Alleluia Verse *John 6:68*



Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th Chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
People: They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”
Pastor: Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message (10:30) Christa Kirschner

Hymn of the Day "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" *LSB* 657
(Sunday – with Ascension Chorale descant on Verse 4, arr. by Michael Burkhardt)

Sermon "Propitiation: What Does It Mean?" Rev. Kelly Crabbe
Text: Romans 3:19-28

Apostles' Creed *(Text found in the back of the hymnal)*

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy …
People: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...**Peace be with you!**

Offering (collected in the back at 4:00 and 10:30)

Offering Music (8:00 and 10:30) "Built on the Rock" arr. Kevin McChesney
Gloria Dei Ringers

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.

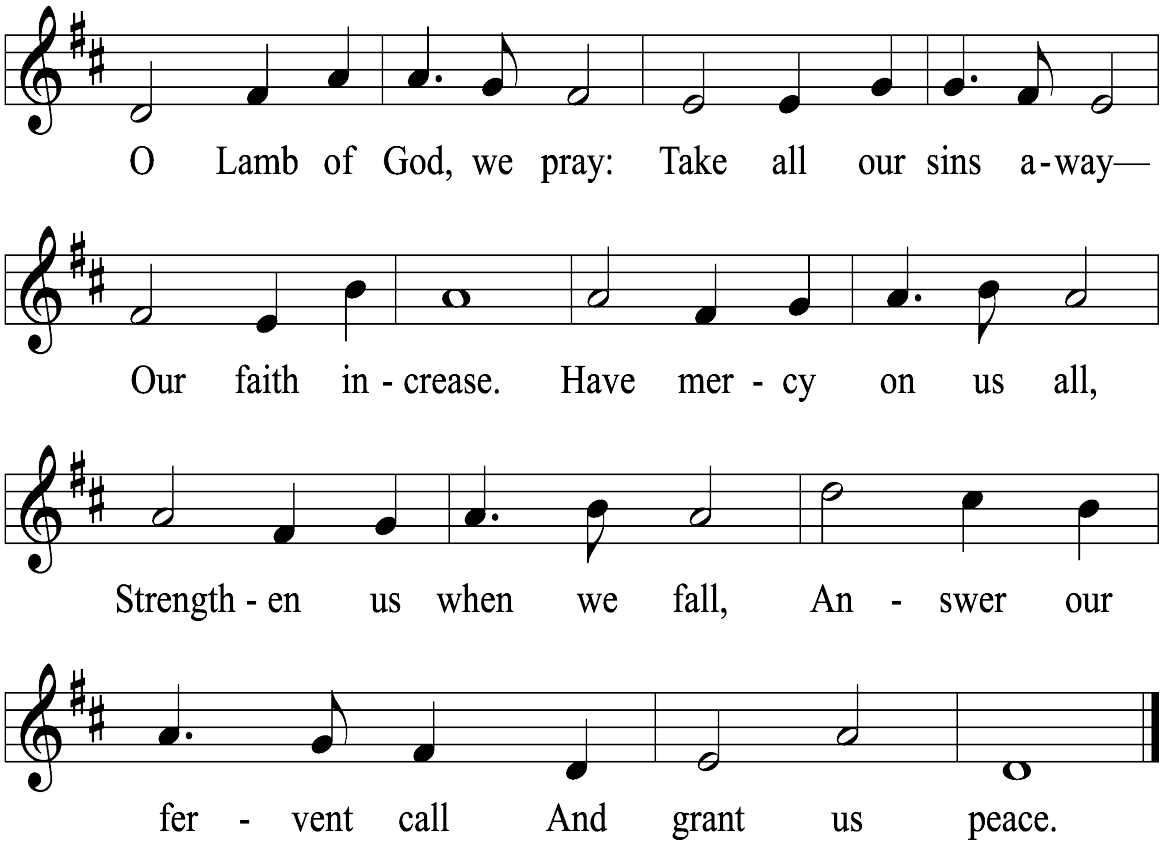
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: **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.

Agnus Dei O Lamb of God, We Pray" (tune: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee") Schulz



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DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Piano Music "Built on a Rock" Ovid Young
Diana Gaide, pianist

Hymn "The Church's One Foundation" *LSB* 644

General Communion Blessing

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God, our refuge and our strength, You raised up Your servant Martin Luther to reform and renew Your Church in the light of Your living Word, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Defend and purify the Church in our own day, and grant that we may boldly proclaim Christ's faithfulness unto death and His vindicating resurrection, which You made known to those in every age who have renewed Your Church by recalling us to this eternal Gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Reformation

BENEDICTION *Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

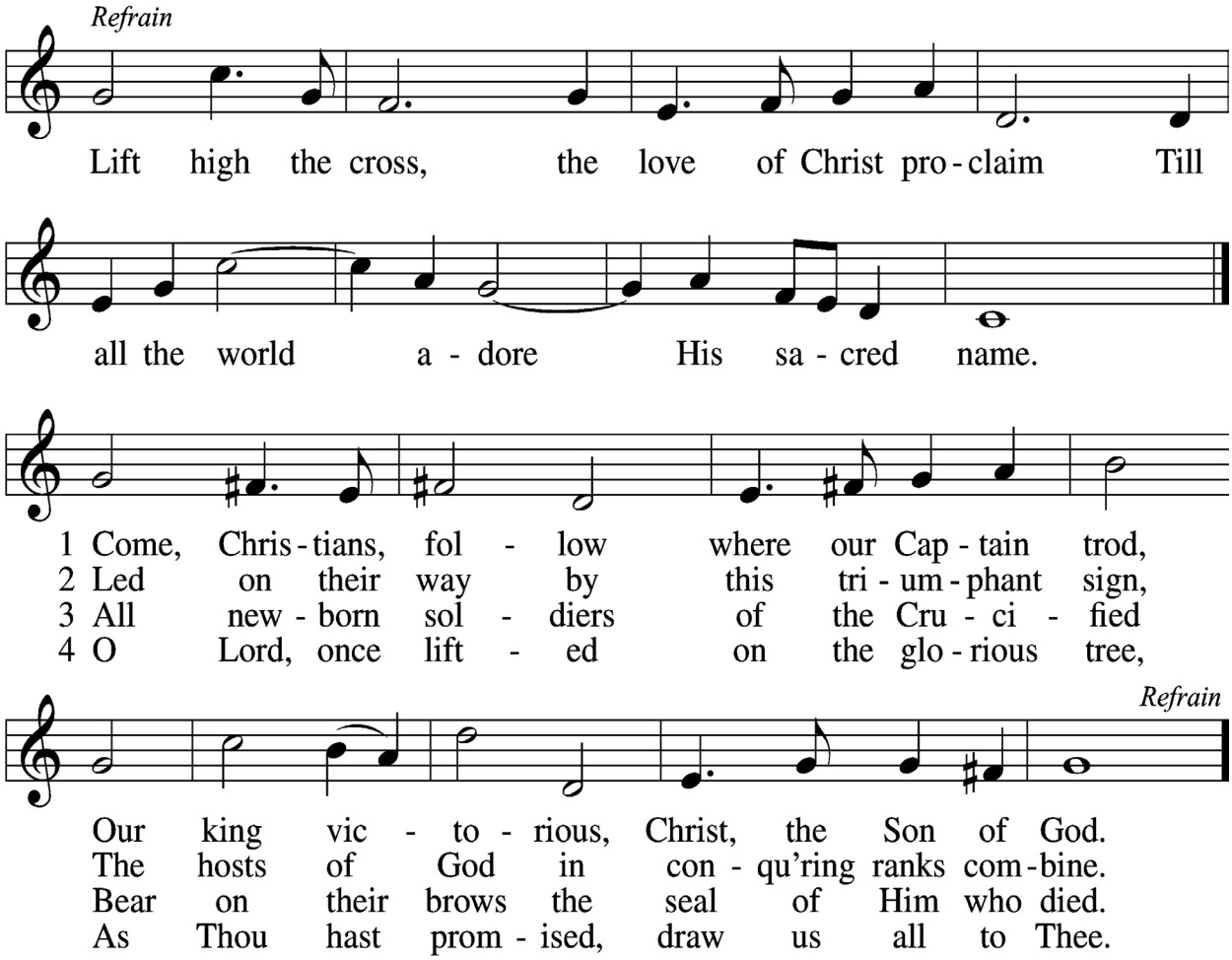
People: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Lift High the Cross"

Verses 1-2 All
Verse 3 – Men; Women join on Refrain
Verse 4 – All
Verse 5 – Women; Men join on Refrain
Verse 6 – All



5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Lift High the Cross" John Leavitt

Serving in Worship

PASTOR Pastor John Larson
PREACHER and CELEBRANT Rev. Kelly Crabbe
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP Michael Zehnder
ORGANIST / PIANIST Diana Gaide
CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR Stephanie Roettjer
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER Cody Knapp
ELDERS 4 p.m. Jeff Dunker; 8 a.m. Bob Olsen; 10:30 am. David Pearman
ACOLYTES 8 a.m. Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 Tobin Lawrenz
LECTORS 4 p.m. Dave Olsson; 8 a.m.Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 a.m. Jude Donovan
COMMUNION SERVER 4 p.m. Dave Olsson; 10:30 a.m. Jude Donovan

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