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# Lent

February 18, 2024 † The First Sunday in Lent



**On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.**

Masks are welcomed, especially for those who have not been boosted, cannot be vaccinated, are at higher risk, or simply prefer to do so.



Ebenezer is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

**Welcome** to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

**Welcome** to believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

**Welcome.**



This worship booklet is available in **LARGE PRINT** and may be **recycled** (in the baskets near the Welcome Center) or taken home. It is also online at [ebenezerchurch.org](http://ebenezerchurch.org).



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the liturgy.



A **platform lift** is available to access the Sanctuary, Education Center, and Restrooms. Please see an usher for assistance.



**Restrooms** are located up the stairs under the model ship, or down the stairs on the west side of the narthex entry area.



**Postures** are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



**Children** are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. A nursery is available (the attendant is vaccinated, boosted, and masked). A quiet play area is located in the narthex entry area.



**Holy Communion**, or the Eucharist, is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

**Acknowledgments:** Liturgical Material reprinted from *SundaysandSeasons.com*. *NRSV Bible*, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. [oneline.net](http://oneline.net) A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045.

Cover artwork: *Reminder* by Mike Moyers.

**All are welcome to gather downstairs for refreshments and a time of learning and fellowship. The Nursery remains staffed during this time.**

# Gathering

## Words of Welcome

### Prelude

*Silence follows; then, the ringing of bells.*

*Rise in body or spirit.*

### Call to Worship

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; **God's greatness is unsearchable.**

O Lord, you are just in all your ways, faithful in all your works.

**You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you in truth.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; **God's greatness is unsearchable.**

### Gathering Hymn

### If God My Lord Be For Me



1 If God my Lord be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
2 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood  
3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, my sun, my light, a - lone;  
4 For joy my heart is ring - ing; all sor - row dis - ap - pears;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
a - lone are my sal - va - tion, the true, e - ter - nal good.  
were he not my de - fend - er be - fore the judg - ment throne,  
and full of mirth and sing - ing, it wipes a - way all tears.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,  
With - out him all that pleas - es will vain and emp - ty prove.  
I nev - er should find fa - vor and mer - cy in God's sight,  
The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my king;



what foe or what di - sas - ter can drive me from his love?  
The gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone are worth my love.  
but be de - stroyed for - ev - er as dark - ness by the light.  
the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, adapt.  
Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, English melody, 16th cent.

## Greeting

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. Holy God, heavenly One, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### The First Reading            Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

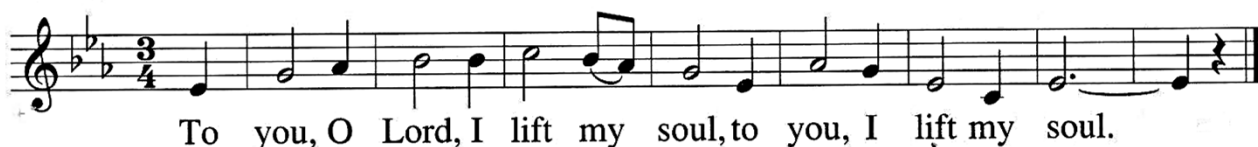
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 25

*The Cantor sings the refrain; all repeat it. The verses are sung by the Cantor/Choir and the refrain by all.*

Setting by Marty Haugen

#### Refrain



Verses

1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.
2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander, gently leading the poor and the humble.
3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love, God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

The Second Reading      First Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Rise in body or spirit.*

Welcoming the Gospel      *The Cantor sings this acclamation, then all repeat it.*



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

The Gospel

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Mark 1:9-15

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

Please be seated.

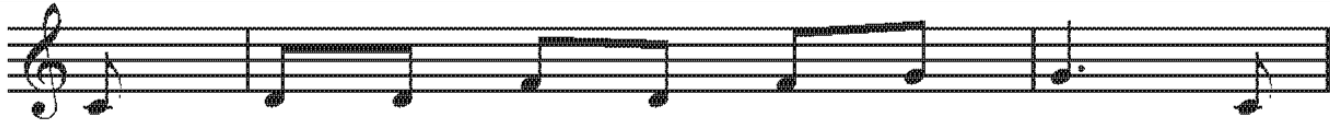
Sermon

Dri Rivera, Minister for Youth and Households

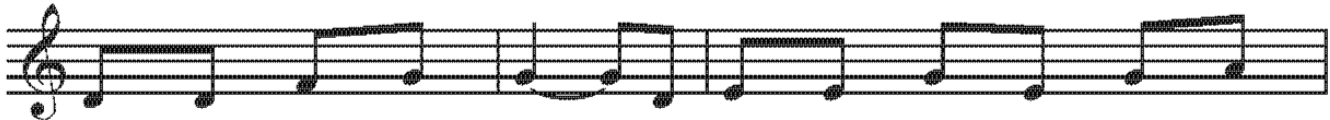
Silence for reflection follows. Rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

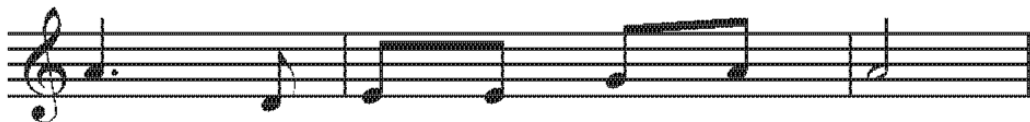
What Ruler Wades through Murky Streams



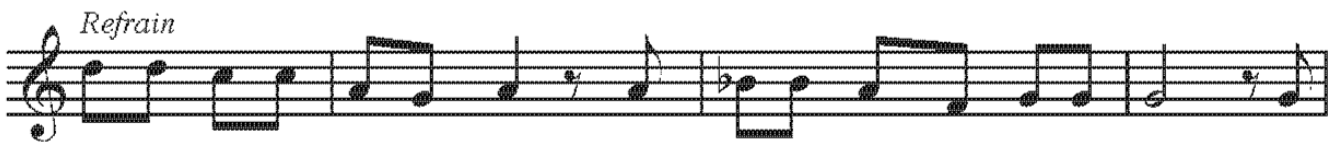
1. What rul - er wades through murk - y streams and  
2. Christ gleams with wa - ter brown with clay from  
3. Come bow be - neath the flow - ing wave. Christ



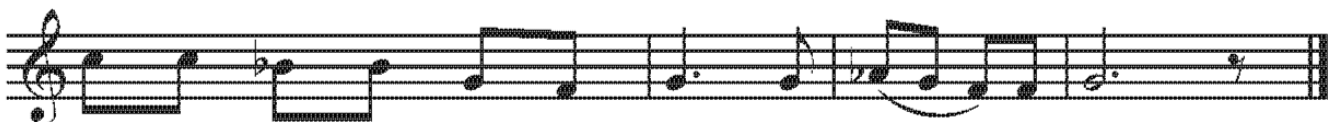
bows be - neath the wave, ig - nor - ing how the world es -  
land the pro - phets trod. A - bove while hea - ven's clouds give  
stands here at your side and rais - es you as from the



teems the pow - er - ful and brave?  
way de - scends the dove of God.  
grave God raised the cru - ci - fied.



*Refrain*  
Wa-ter, Riv-er, Spi-rit, Grace, sweep o-ver me, sweep o-ver me! Re-



carve the depths your fing - ers traced in sculpt - ing me.

text: Thomas H. Troeger  
music: David Hurd

Affirmation of Faith

*Though not an historic Creed, contemporary affirmation can help us express our faith in new ways. This affirmation comes for the Iona community of Scotland.*

**We believe that God is Love, so we commit ourselves to reconciliation. We believe that God is the light of life, so we commit ourselves to bearing God's light in our world.**

**We believe that Jesus took the form of a servant, so we commit ourselves to serve others. We believe that Jesus gives us his Spirit, so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.**

**We believe that the Spirit speaks through us, so we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news of abundant life in the world God loves. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Children's Message

Prayers of Intercession *The response to each intercession is: **Hear our prayer.***

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Meal

Peace                      The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with those around you, being mindful about touch.*

Check your neighbor's name tag:

A **yellow square** indicates a distanced elbow or fist bump is preferred.

A **red circle** indicates your neighbor prefers a verbal, distanced greeting only.



For members of the Ebenezer community, an offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.



*Please be seated.*

Offertory

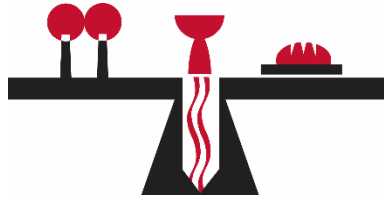
O Son of God

The Ebenezer Choir

Text by John Dunne; music by John Elmquist

O Son of God, who seeing two things,  
 Sin, and death crept in,  
 which were never made,  
 By bearing one, tried'st with what stings  
 The other could thine heritage invade;  
 O be thou nailed unto my heart,

And crucified again,  
 Part not from it,  
 though it from thee would part,  
 But let it be by applying so thy pain,  
 Drowned in thy blood,  
 and in thy passion slain.



*Rise in body or spirit.*

Offering Song

Come to the Table of Mercy



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

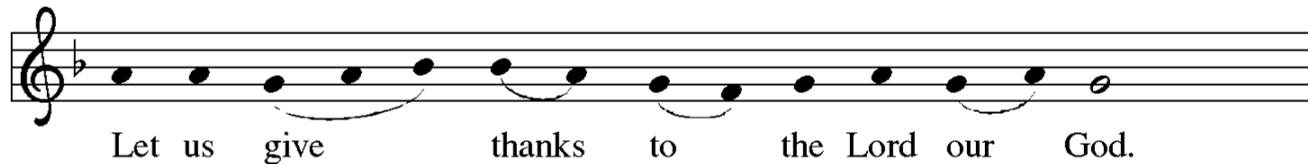
Offering Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

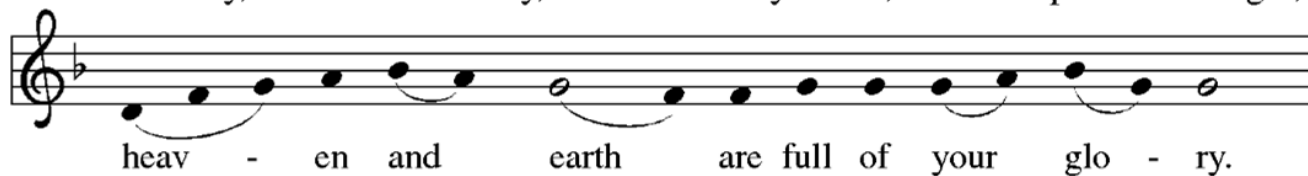
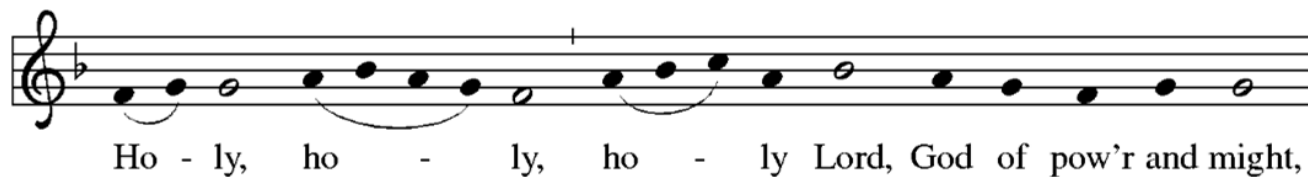


# Great Thanksgiving

## Dialogue



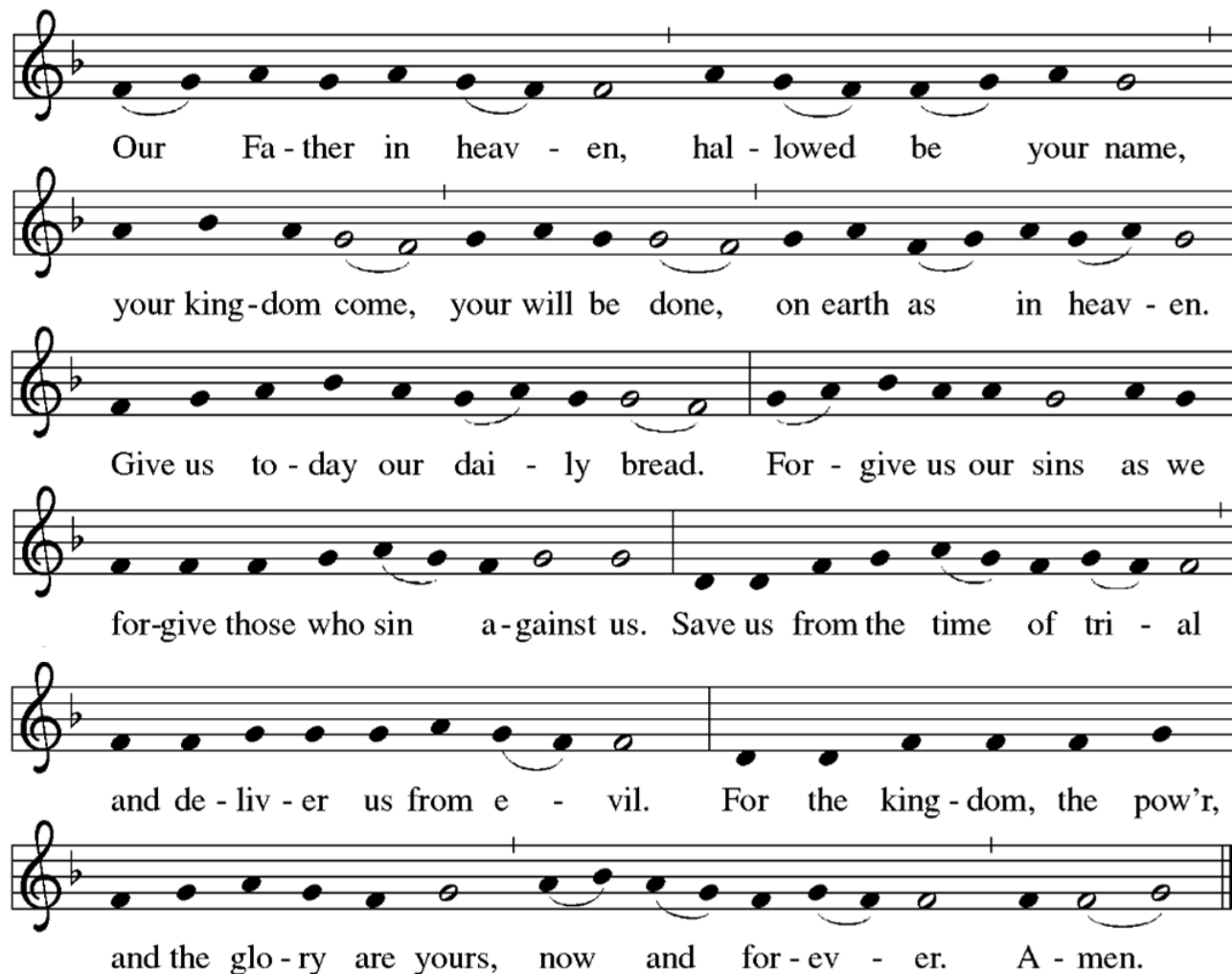
## Preface and Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



## Thanksgiving at the Table

## Lord's Prayer

*You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.*



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## Invitation to the Table

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. All are welcome at God's table.

*Please be seated.*



All who seek Christ's presence in the sacrament are invited. This is a welcome table. At the invitation of the usher, you may come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer. Then, dip the bread in the cup of **red wine** or **white grape juice**, receiving the elements together. If you'd prefer to drink from a chalice, indicate this to the server and one will be made available.



Agnus Dei

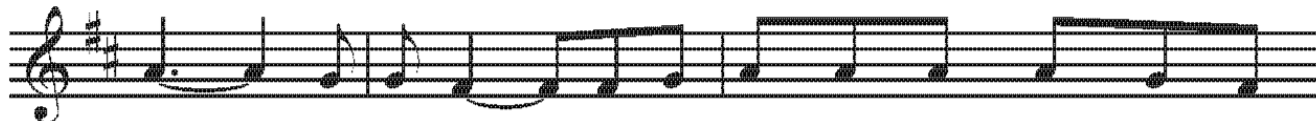
Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.



## Hymn

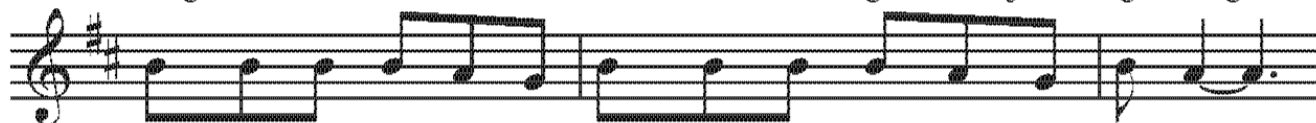
## De Colores



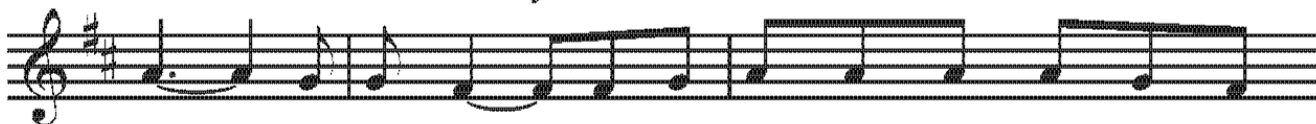
1. De co - lo - res de co - lo - res se vis - ten los  
 1. Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the  
 2. Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - 'ry crea - ture that breathes raise a



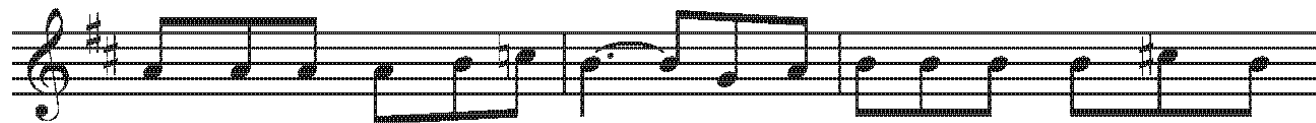
cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -  
 hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing. Sing of col - ors of the  
 song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re - joic - ing! Sing to



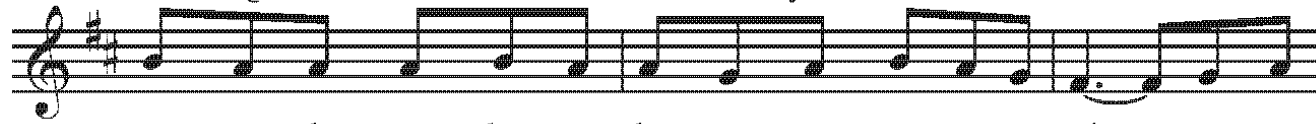
lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a - fue - ra.  
 birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles sing - ing.  
 God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal - va - tion.



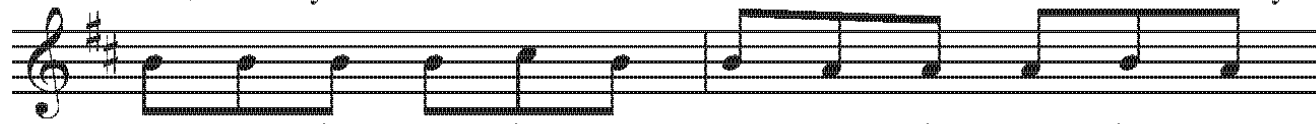
De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res es el ar - co  
 Sing of col - ors, in the rain - bow's bright col - ors God's  
 Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Sav - ior re -



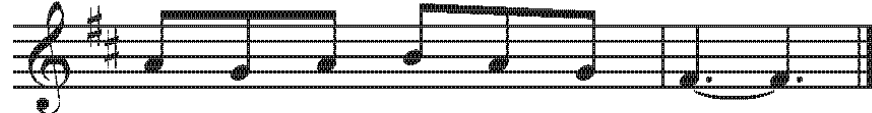
i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, y por e - so lor gran - des a -  
 prom - ise of hope we re - call; sing of col - ors that make up the  
 flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's



mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a mí, y por  
 earth and give thanks to the God who cre - a - ted us all. Sing of  
 face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re - call. Man - y



e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -  
 col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the  
 col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that



lo - res me gus - tan a mí.  
 God who cre - a - ted us all.  
 tell us God's love to re - call.

## Hymn

## Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, star of our  
 2 See round your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing, see how your  
 3 Lord, you can help when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; Lord, you can  
 4 Peace in our hearts, our trou - bled thoughts as - suag - ing, peace in your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: hear and re - ceive your  
 foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing. Lord, while their poi - soned  
 save when dead - ly sin as - sails us; and, in the day when  
 church, where kin - dred souls are rag - ing, peace, when the world its



church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.  
 ar - rows they are hurl - ing, you can pre - serve us.  
 hell it - self ap - palls us, grant us your peace, Lord:  
 end - less war is wag - ing, peace in your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus A. von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.  
 Music: ISTE CONFESSOR, Poitiers *Antiphoner*, 1746

## Hymn

## Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
 Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

*Rise in body or spirit.*

## Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep us in grace. **Amen.**

## Prayer

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**



# Sending

## Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us with grace and mercy.  
May God look upon us with favor, ✠ and give us peace. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

### As Your Spirit in the Desert



1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to  
2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to  
3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may  
4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's  
5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us



dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to  
Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your  
sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing  
pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the  
jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the



cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the  
man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the  
for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the  
thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the  
ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the



wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.  
wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.  
wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.  
wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.  
wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ROSEVILLE, Michael D. Costello, b. 1979

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe in the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God.**

