



Season of Creation 4

September 27, 2026

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Congregational Life Event, Saturday, October 3 in Red Deer— Special speaker is Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, plus the introduction of a beautiful new Healing Rite by Rev. Erin Thomas and Ben & Caitlyn Urey. Sign up sheet in place of welcome – with options for car pooling and staying in Red Deer Friday night.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Exodus, we encounter the creative power of God who provides water from a rock for God's thirsty people. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

We take a moment to center our hearts and minds for worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
And God called them good.

Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me . . .
Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

"O Living Breath of God" ELW #407



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call
to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

"Like a Healing Stream" ACS 993

D G D A D G Asus4 A

Like a heal - ing
Like a gen - tle
Like a ri - ver
Like a migh - ty

5 D G D G

stream in a bar - ren des - ert, Spi - rit wat - er bring - ing life to dus - ty
rain on a thirs - ty gar - den, Spi - rit wat - er come to nour - ish ti - ny
strong with a rest - less cur - rent, Spi - rit wat - er rush - ing on to dis - tant
sea reach - ing far hor - i - zons, Spi - rit wat - er with a love both deep and

8 D G D D/C# Bm Bm/A

earth, God is trick - ling through our lives as in a dream un - fold - ing,
seed, God is bub - bling through the soil to coax a new cre - a - tion,
shore, God is carv - ing out a chan - nel in a new dir - ec - tion,
wide, God is work - ing in our hearts to shape a new to - mor - row:

11 Em D/F# G A7

pro - mis - ing re - viv - all and re - birth... like a heal - ing
yeam - ing for an end to want and need... like a gen - tle
call - ing for an end to hate and war... like a riv - er
God will al - ways chal - lenge and pro - vide! Like a migh - ty

13 D G D G D G

1-3 4

stream.
rain. sea, like a ri - ver strong, like a gen - tle
strong.

16 D G D

rain, like a heal - ing stream.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. God of mercy, you heard your people's cry in the wilderness and brought forth water from the rock. Quench our thirst with your justice and peace. Forgive our grumbling and teach us to trust your care, that we may protect the earth's precious resources. Let streams of compassion flow from our lives, as we honour your creation with wisdom and love. Through Christ, the Living Water. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

May the Word, as living water,
renew our lives and our world.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

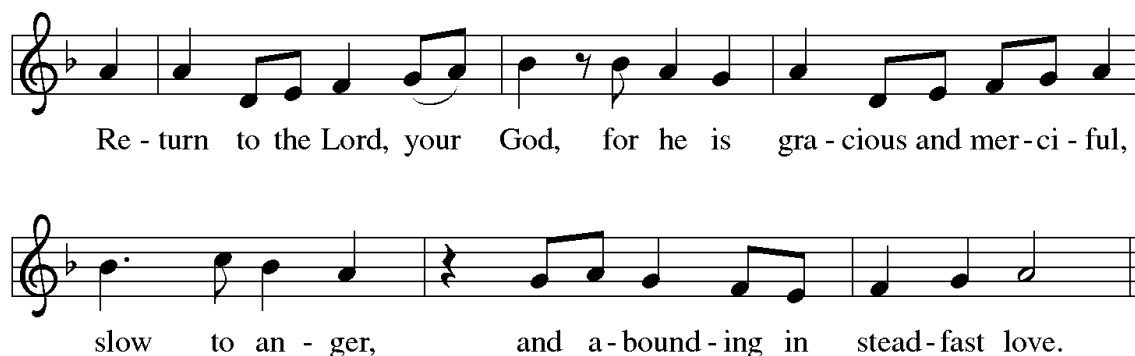
who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

May the Word, as living water,
renew our lives and our world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Return to the Lord Your God" from ELW Setting 4 – piano only



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" ELW 510



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray that you center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Make us people who protect dignity and who are willing to stand up for your truth. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us to protect and restore the earth through sustainable practices. May we preserve the beauty of the planet and honour the gift of your creation. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we pray for all those in positions of authority that you would inspire them to act honorably. Remind them of their call to work for the good of all people. Grace them with humility and compassion.

Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

Loving God, reassure those who come before you that you hear their cries. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. We join our prayers with all those in need especially Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Janet D, Dave, Austin, Tiffany, Patrick, Linda H, Carol, Murray, Jill, Shirley J., Mo, Jim N., Clayton P, Marlene and Darcy, Clayton and Margaret, Sheila, Ray, Nancy, Alan T, Cherylee, Elda, and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for our congregation that we be open to your call to serve you through serving others. Bless those who pray for others, that their time with you will encourage their hearts. Hold in your care Ruby Coyle and Victor and Judy Cursons, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans. Show us all your love and grace. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Source of life, **your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you,

MEAL

"God of the Fertile Fields" ACS 1063 v.1 & 2

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: We thank you for the gift of water — the waters on the Earth, and under the Earth, the waters above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's waters, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us. Accept the first fruits we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things:
our Savior, Jesus Christ.

You laid the foundations of the world.

You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing;
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey.

And so as the morning stars sing your praises,
with the heavenly beings and all creation,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW Setting 8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you

COMMUNION VIDEO : "Touch the Earth Gently"

COMMUNION SONGS

"Let us go now to the Banquet" ELW 523

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



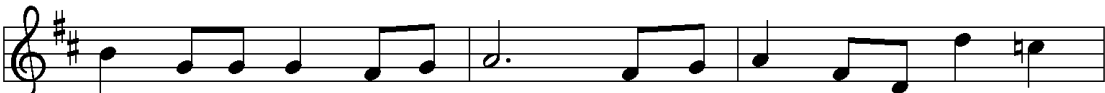
me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.

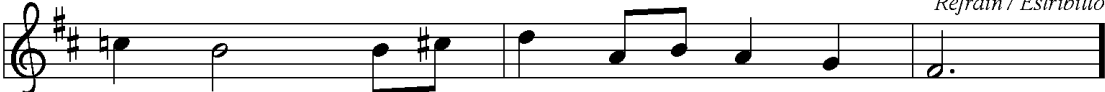


1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain / Estribillo



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

"Here is Bread" W&P 58



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,



he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
 he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
 he is with us. We'll pro-claim till he comes



Christ is with us here.
 feast on Je - sus here.
 Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

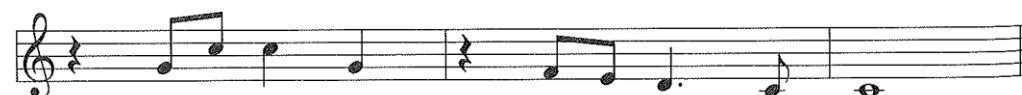
Refrain



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is



life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,



by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Just as the Samaritan woman at the well discovered living water in her encounter with Jesus, so, too, have we been refreshed and transformed by our encounter and remembrance. Elevate our faith, O God, to meet you in one another and carry your living water into the dry places of the world, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

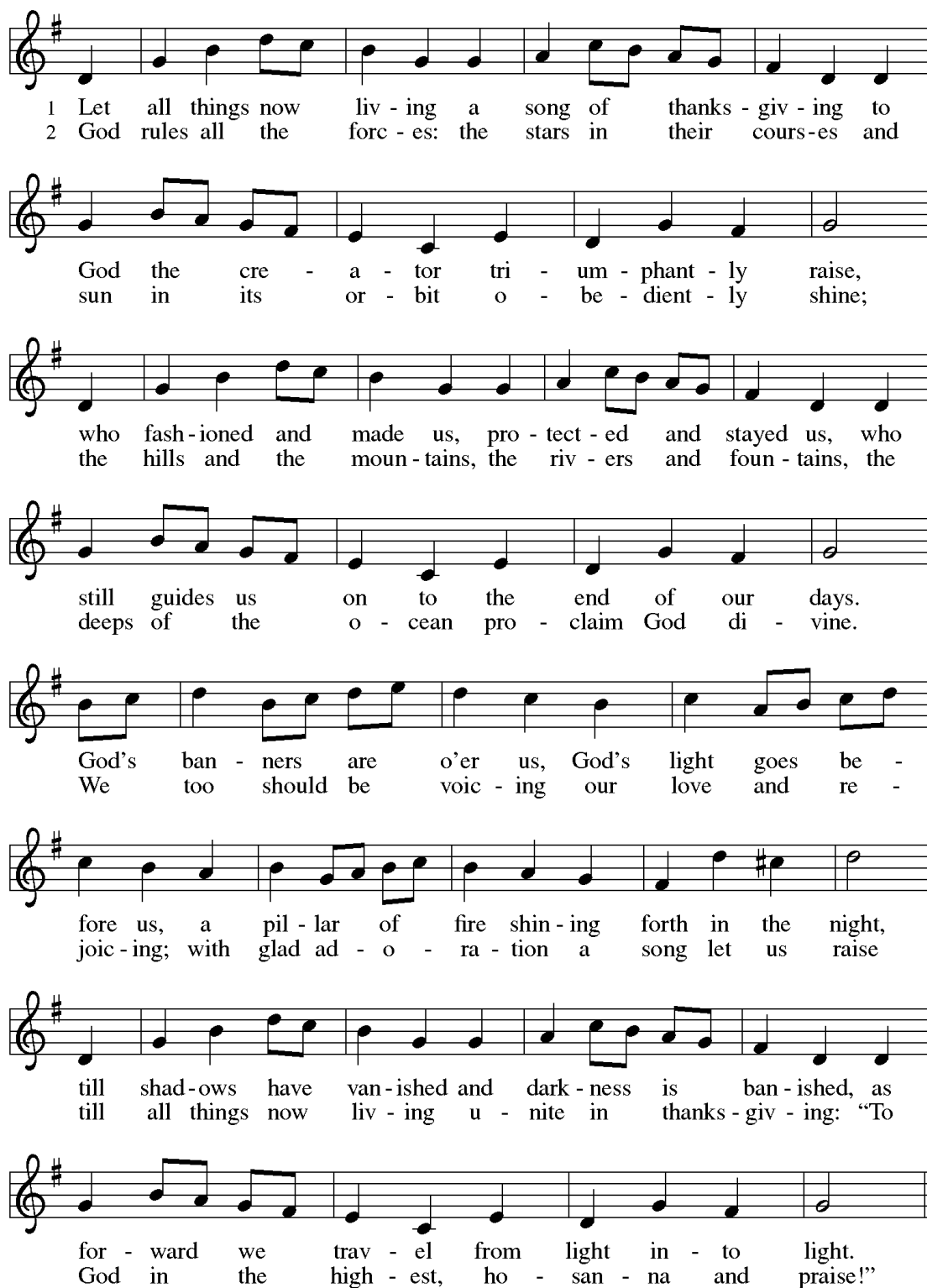
SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING

May God, who brought water from the rock, refresh your spirit. May Christ, who calls us from empty promises to faithful action, strengthen your resolve. May the Holy Spirit flow through you like a life-giving river, bringing hope, healing, and renewal to every community and every corner of creation. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Let All Things Now Living" ACS 881



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

SENDING

Go in peace, as people of God made Christ's own through the waters of baptism.
In the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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