

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026



" A sower went
out to sow."



**Welcome to Valley of Peace.
We are glad you are here.**

We give thanks to God for all people and want all people to feel comfortable participating in worship. If you need any assistance, please let our Ushers know. We are happy to offer hearing assistance devices, move chairs to make worship feel more accessible for you, and offer any other support that would be meaningful for you in this space.

All ages are welcome to worship at Valley of Peace and we give thanks for the voices of our littlest ones. If you feel that your little one is wiggly, you are welcome to go with them to stretch their legs in the Narthex where there is a small area with books and toys and you can hear the worship service. There are also bags available for you to put toys and books in and bring them into the sanctuary space.

And again, welcome to worship this day. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Interested in becoming a Member? Let Pastor Ashley know by **September 21, 2026.**

Our next New Member Class is: Sunday, September 27, 2026 after worship.



valley of peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

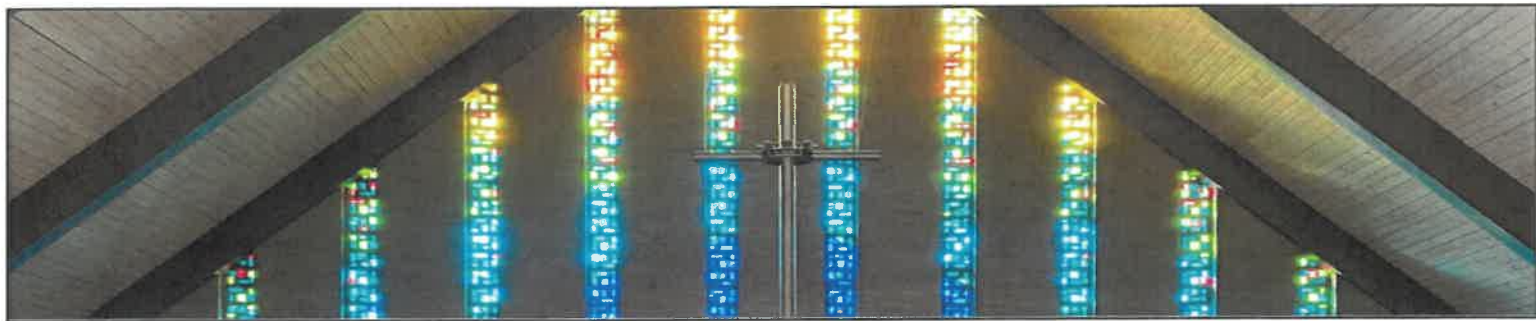
ORGANIST/PIANIST/ ACCOMPANIST Beth Brandt organist@valleyofpeace.org she/her/hers	PASTOR Ashley Osborn aosborn@valleyofpeace.org she/her/hers	MINISTRY SUPPORT COORDINATOR Kelsey Pierson office@valleyofpeace.org she/her/hers
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Christine Weatherman music@valleyofpeace.org she/her/hers	FINANCIAL CONSULTANT Deb Groth	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN YOUTH & FAMILY Dan Miller cyf@valleyofpeace.org he/him/his

Valley of Peace Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we live and worship near waters and on land taken from the Wahpekute band of the Santee Dakota Nation, who were the original inhabitants of this area. We honor their wise stewardship of this place and the recognition that we are all part of the same creation.

The injustice and trauma experienced by Native civilizations, with the arrival of the Europeans in America, have had a lasting impact on these nations. We are responsible to recognize and counter the historical and contemporary injustices that continue in our time.

We honor with gratitude the spirit of the peoples from long ago, the spirit of the Native people who live among us today, and the spirit filled people of Valley of Peace, united in this place.



Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

August 23, 2026

9:30 am

*You are invited to participate in worship by reading the **BOLD** print. When you see +, please stand in body or in spirit.
ELW is the red hymnal and ACS is the purple hymnal, both located in the bottom of the pew in front of you.
If you need any assistance, please ask an usher.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Brethren We Have Met to Worship

arr. Lari Goss

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Friendly Greeting

Seldon N. Heaps

+GATHERING WORDS & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
**who calls us into community, walks beside us in our neighborhoods,
and teaches us to recognize the sacred in daily life. Amen.**

We gather today on the ancestral and current homelands of the Dakota people, especially the Wahpekute band of the Dakota Nation, who have cared for this land through generations. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to truth-telling, healing, hospitality, and right relationship with our neighbors and with creation.

Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
So we gather: **with our stories and questions, with our joys and burdens, with our hopes for
our neighborhoods and communities.**

We come to worship the God who is already at work among us. **Amen.**

+OPENING HYMN

RED ELW #512 *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

+CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Sometimes God's love feels like it is growing really well.
Sometimes it doesn't.
Sometimes we are kind and patient.
Sometimes we are cranky.
Sometimes we help someone.
Sometimes we think only about ourselves.
Sometimes we feel like good soil.
And sometimes we feel a little more like rocks or thorns!
But God doesn't give up on us.
God keeps planting love in us.

Let us pray.

Loving God, **thank you for planting your love.**
When we are worried, **help us remember your love.**
When we are hurt, **help us remember your love.**
When we make mistakes, **help us remember your love.**
When we don't know what to do, **help us remember your love.**
Thank you for loving us every day. **Amen.**

Hear this good news: God's love is bigger than our mistakes. God's love keeps growing.
We are forgiven, loved, and welcomed +. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

+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. Loving God, you plant your love. Help your love take root in our hearts. Help us grow in kindness, courage, and joy. When life feels hard, remind us that you are with us. And help us share your love with the people around us. Make us good soil where your love can grow and help us grow together and make the world a little more loving. We pray in the name of Jesus, who shows us your love. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING.....Parable of the Sower from the Spark Story Bible
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

INTERACTIVE MESSAGE

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY

We believe in God above us,
Maker and Sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all people and animals.

We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;
he descended into the earth
to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb;
he ascended into heaven
to be everywhere present;
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the church,
spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response- God of grace, hear our prayer.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY

Bind Us Together

arr. Mark Hayes

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, receive these gifts we bring today. Use them to plant seeds of kindness, to help people grow, to care for our neighbors, and to make our world more loving. Help us remember that everything we have is a gift from you, and teach us to share it generously. May these gifts help your love take root and grow here at Valley fo Peace and wherever we go. Amen.

+HOLY COMMUNION

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 good to give you thanks, loving God. You created this beautiful world. You planted seeds. You made things grow. You gave us one another. And you sent Jesus to show us what your love looks like. So we thank you for your love that grows in us and among us.

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered around a table with his friends..... do this in remembrance of me.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember Jesus. We remember his love. And we remember that we belong to one another.

+LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together as God's beloved children, let us pray the prayer 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.

+COMMUNION INVITATION

Come to this table. Come with your questions. Come with your joys. Come with your worries. Come with your whole heart. There is enough love here for everyone.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

All are welcome to receive communion at Valley of Peace. We serve communion every Sunday by intinction. After the pastor speaks the words of distribution to online worshipers, the ushers will then invite worshipers physically present to receive communion.

If you are receiving communion by intinction, there will be bread and gluten-free wafers available. As you come forward to receive communion, a communion server will serve you your preference. Please take the bread or wafer and dip it into your preference or either wine or juice. The first chalice will contain red wine and the second chalice will contain white grape juice.

If you prefer to not receive communion by intinction there are pre-packaged communion kits with a gluten-free wafer and grape juice. You may pick this up on your way to communion. If you prefer not to receive communion at all, please come forward with your hands across your chest and you will receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward or do not want to be visible on the live-stream, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

RED ELW #462 *Now We Join in Celebration*

RED ELW #522 *As We Gather at Your Table*

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of grace, in this meal you have met us again in bread, wine, and community. Send us now into our neighborhoods and daily lives to listen with compassion, serve with joy, walk with humility, and recognize Christ in our neighborhoods. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

+SENDING

Let us remember our VBS journey one more time.

God's love is a seed we help to grow. **God's love is a seed we help to grow.**

God's love takes root in me. **God's love takes root in me.**

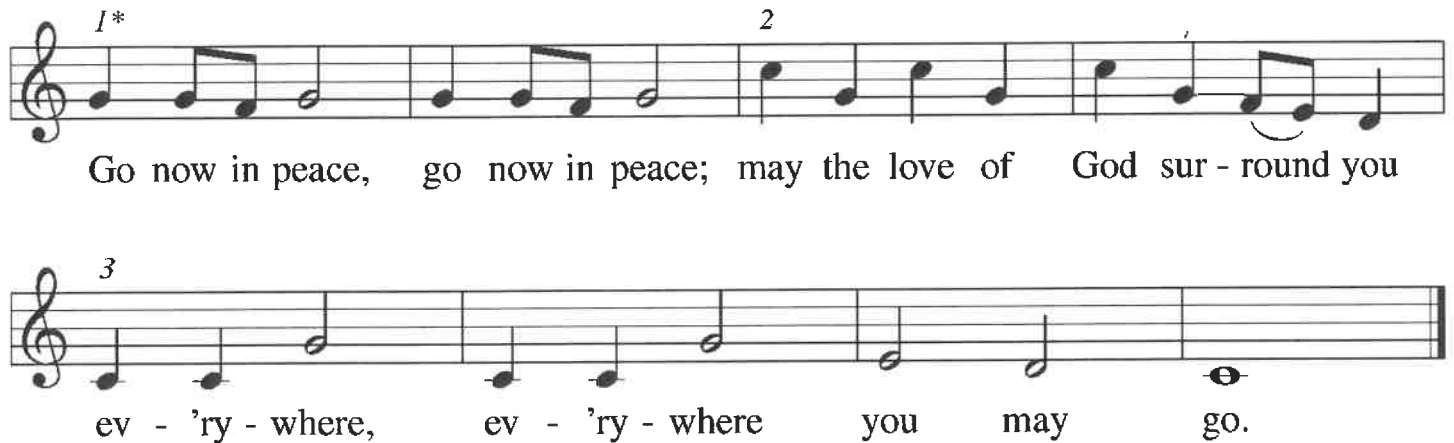
God's love is growing in me. **God's love is growing in me.**

We live together in God's love. **We live together in God's love.**

+BLESSING

+SENDING HYMN

Go Now in Peace



The hymn is written on two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music, each marked with a '1' and an asterisk. The second staff continues the melody, marked with a '2'. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Go now in peace, go now in peace; may the love of God sur - round you'. The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains two measures of music, each marked with a '3'. The lyrics are: 'ev - 'ry - where, ev - 'ry - where you may go.' The final note is a whole note on the G line of the staff.

Go now in peace, go now in peace; may the love of God sur - round you

ev - 'ry - where, ev - 'ry - where you may go.

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbors. Practice Compassion. Walk with Christ.

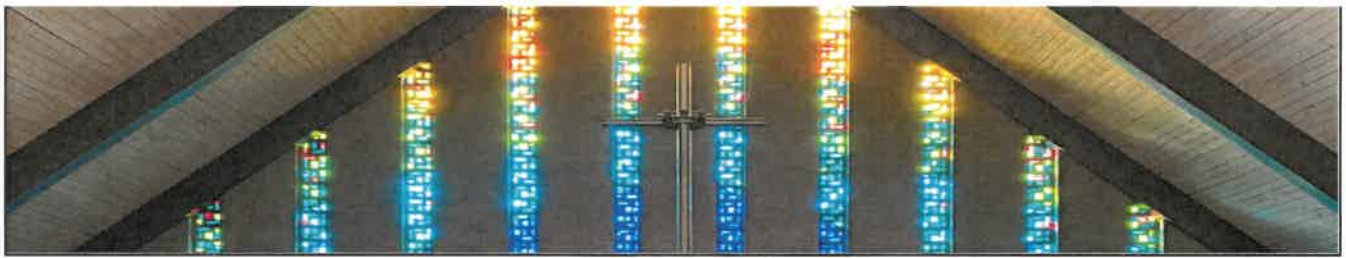
Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

The Family of God

arr. Phillip Keveren

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Worship Volunteers

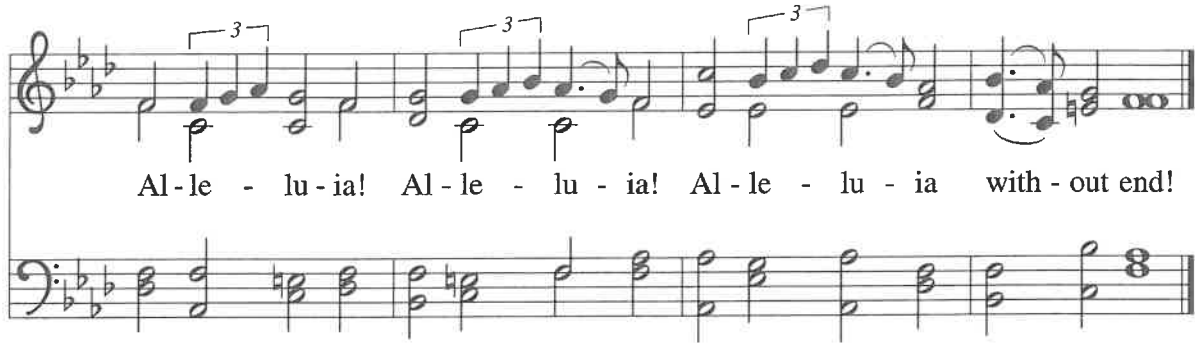
	<u>Sun. August 23, 2026 at 9:30 am</u>	<u>Sun. August 30, 2026 at 9:30 am</u>
Presider	Pastor Ashley Osborn	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Preacher	Pastor Ashley Osborn	Pastor Ashley Osborn
Opener/Closer	Paul Mikelson	Jim Jasper
Greeter	Leslie Gilyard	Chrys Johnson
Welcome Center	Lisa Rothschild	Sally Daniels Herron
Ushers	Nelson Queitzsch & August Radel-Moore	Lisa Thanghe, Kirsten Styer, Shennon Jay & Barry Terrass
Worship Assistant	Dan Weatherman	Barb Stadie
Reader	<i>Assigned at Worship</i>	Dottie Fergus
Communion Servers	Diane Hinderlie, Dee Kendall, Laurie Eaton & Dave Gilyard	Barb Mikelson, Paul Mikelson, Dan Miller & Dan Johnson
Faith Moment	Dan Miller	Jon Larson
Musicians	Beth Brandt	Beth Brandt
Technology	Chuck Rudolph	Matt Dellwo
Coffee Cart	Nancy Rogness	Jim Jasper
Altar Care	Kathy Boesen	Kathy Boesen
Altar Flowers Sponsor	Linda & Craig Franz	Leslie & Dave Gilyard



Reconciling In Christ Statement

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.

For more information and a calendar of activities visit www.valleyofpeace.org

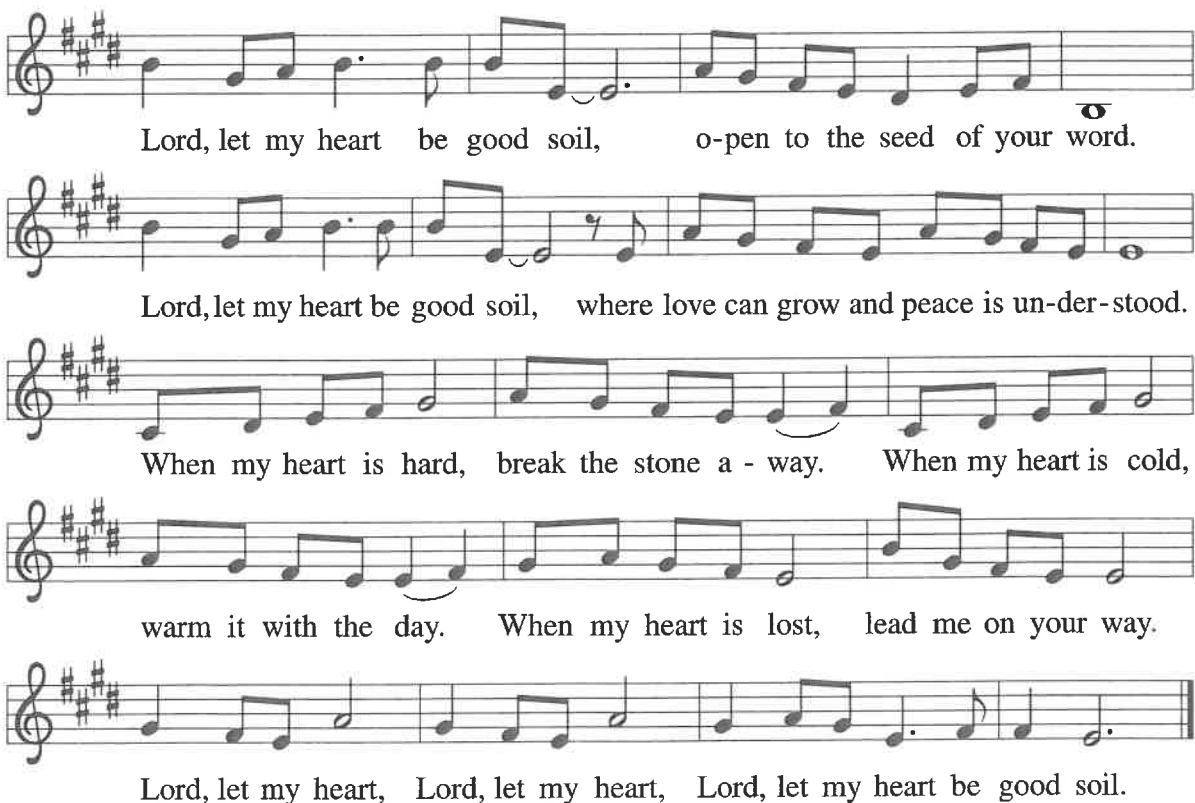


5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats that shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
May the light which thou dost send
fill our songs with alleluias,
alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
to thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
praise the holy Trinity!

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

512



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

GOOD SOIL

P M

681

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
 2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
 You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
 the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

To God Our Thanks We Give

Reamo leboga

682

Re - a - mo le - bo - ga, re - a - mo le - bo - ga,
To God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give,

re - a - mo le - bo - ga mo - di - mo wa ro - na.
to God our thanks we give, our thanks to God we give.

Text: Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936

Music: Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe

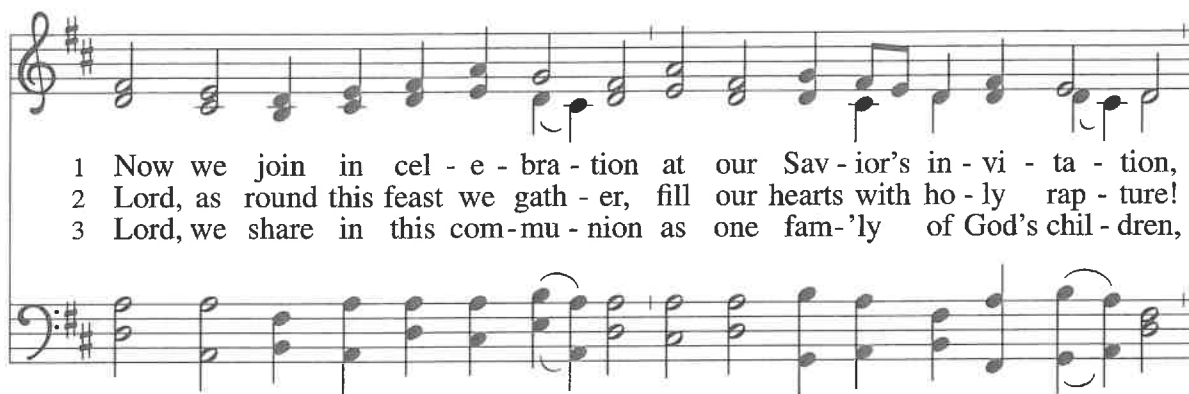
Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music

REAMO LEBOGA

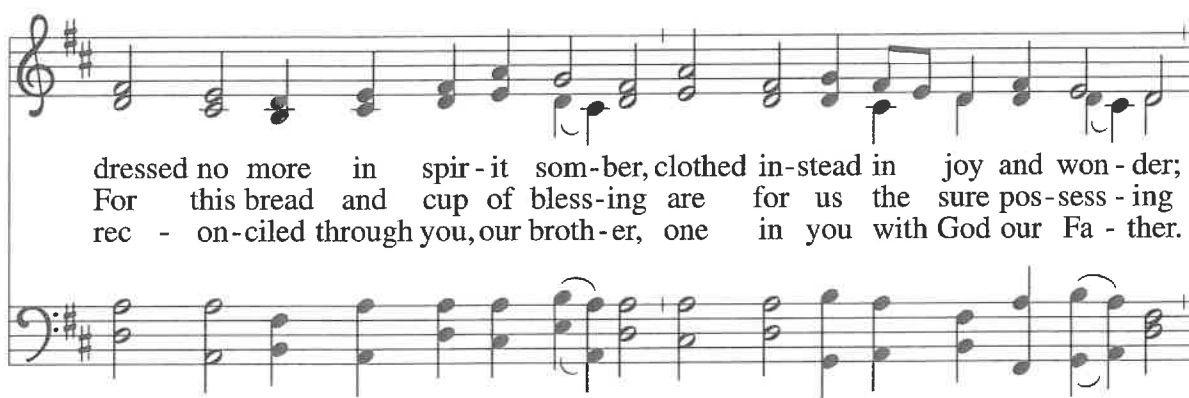
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Now We Join in Celebration

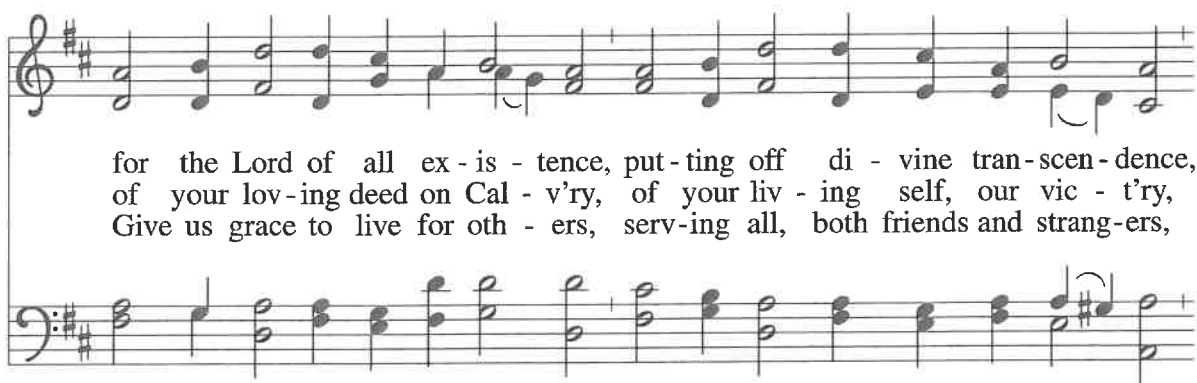
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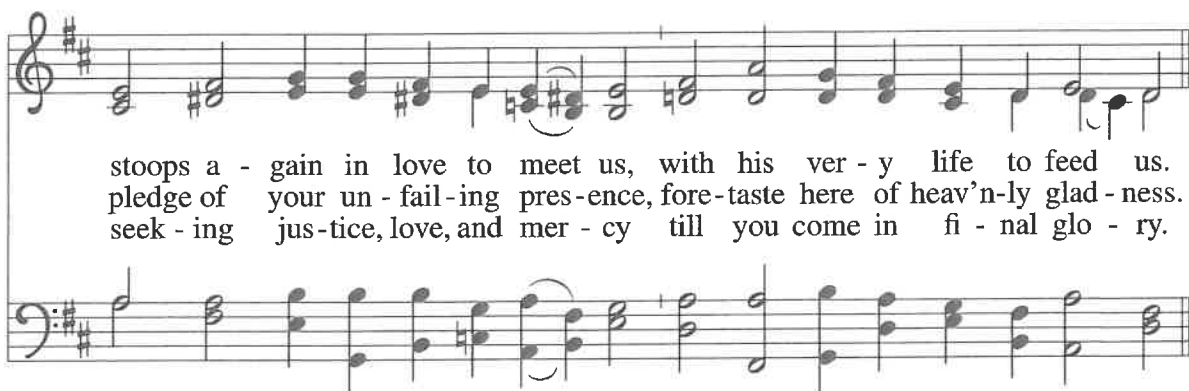
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.

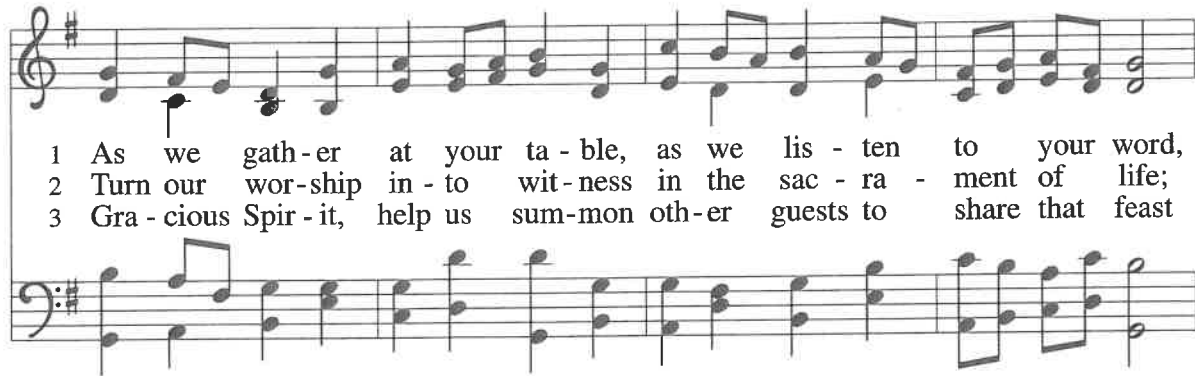


for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,

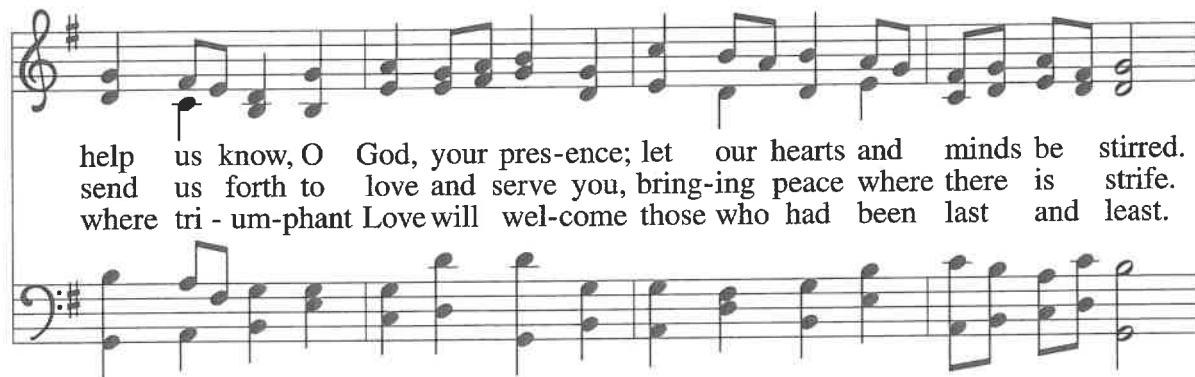


stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

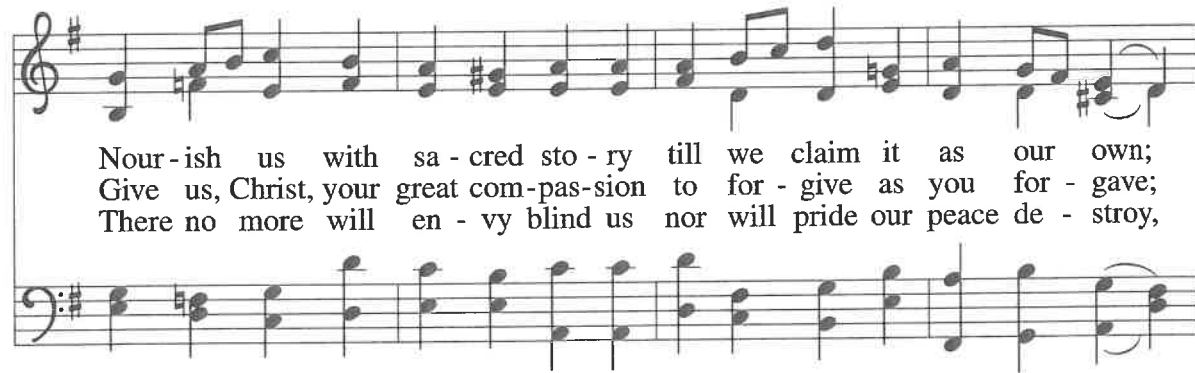
As We Gather at Your Table



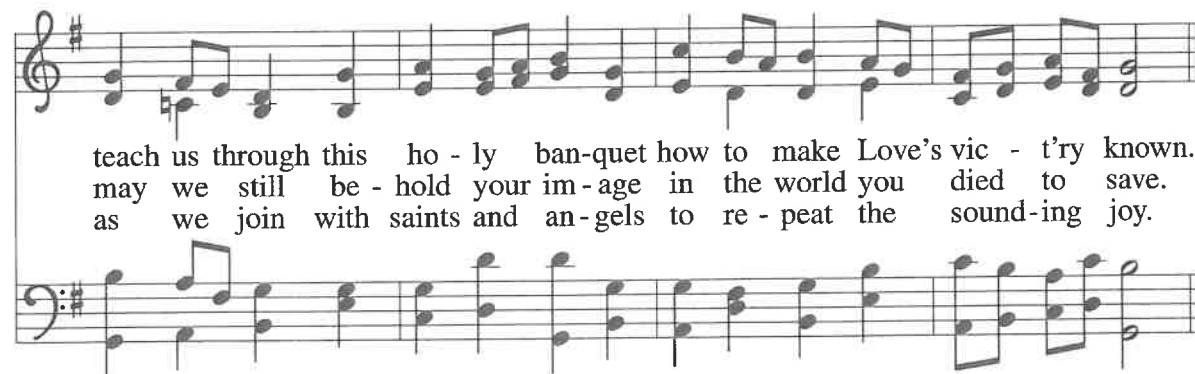
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phiant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

