The Episcopal Diocese *of* Vermont

Cathedral Church of Saint Paul
Burlington

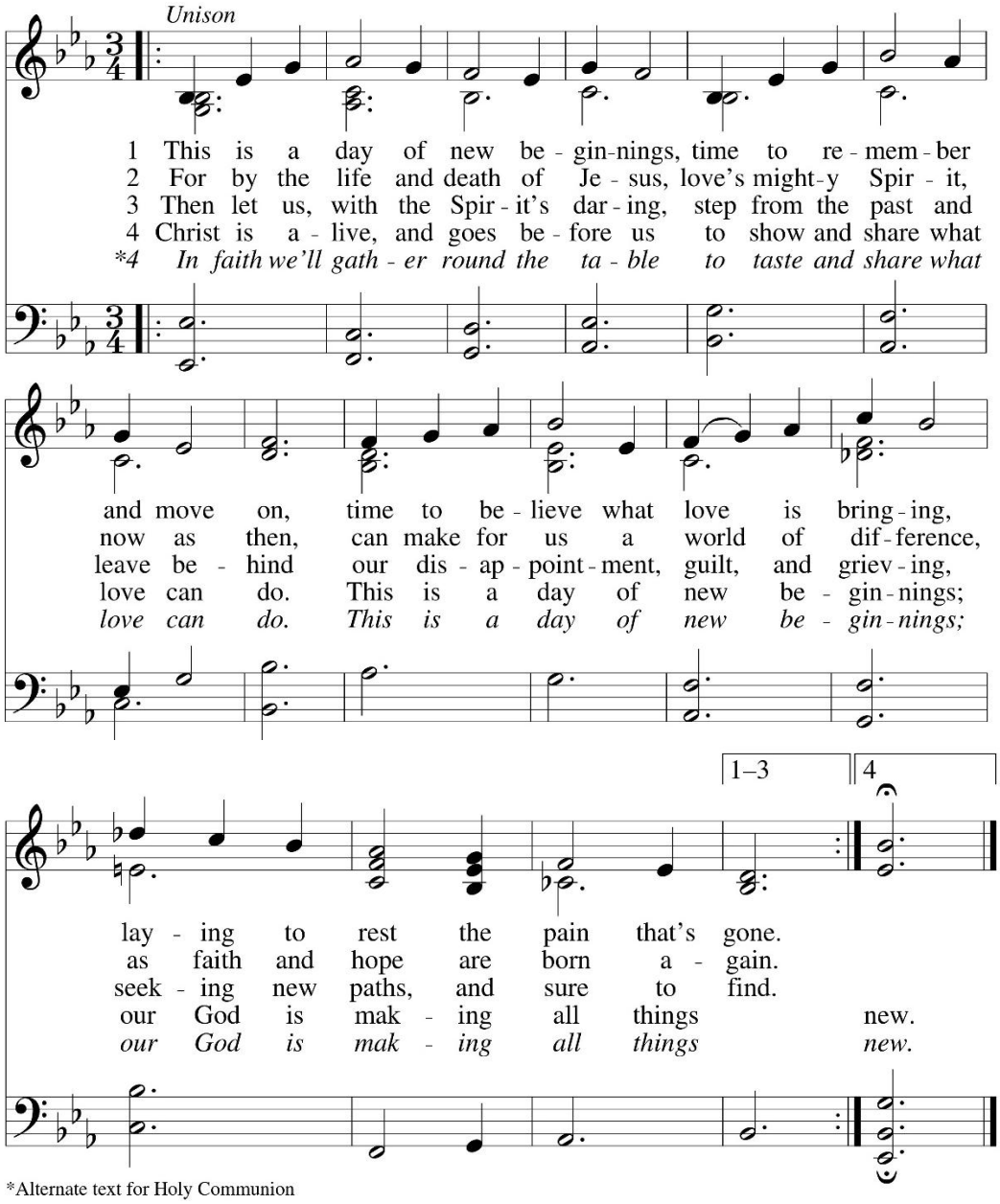
Optimizing to Thrive and Flourish

Eucharist for the 193rd Convention
Saturday, November 7, 2026

Opening Voluntary: *Wondrous Love* Craig Phillips (b.1961)

The Word of God

All stand for the Opening Hymn.
We will sing the alternate words to verse 4.
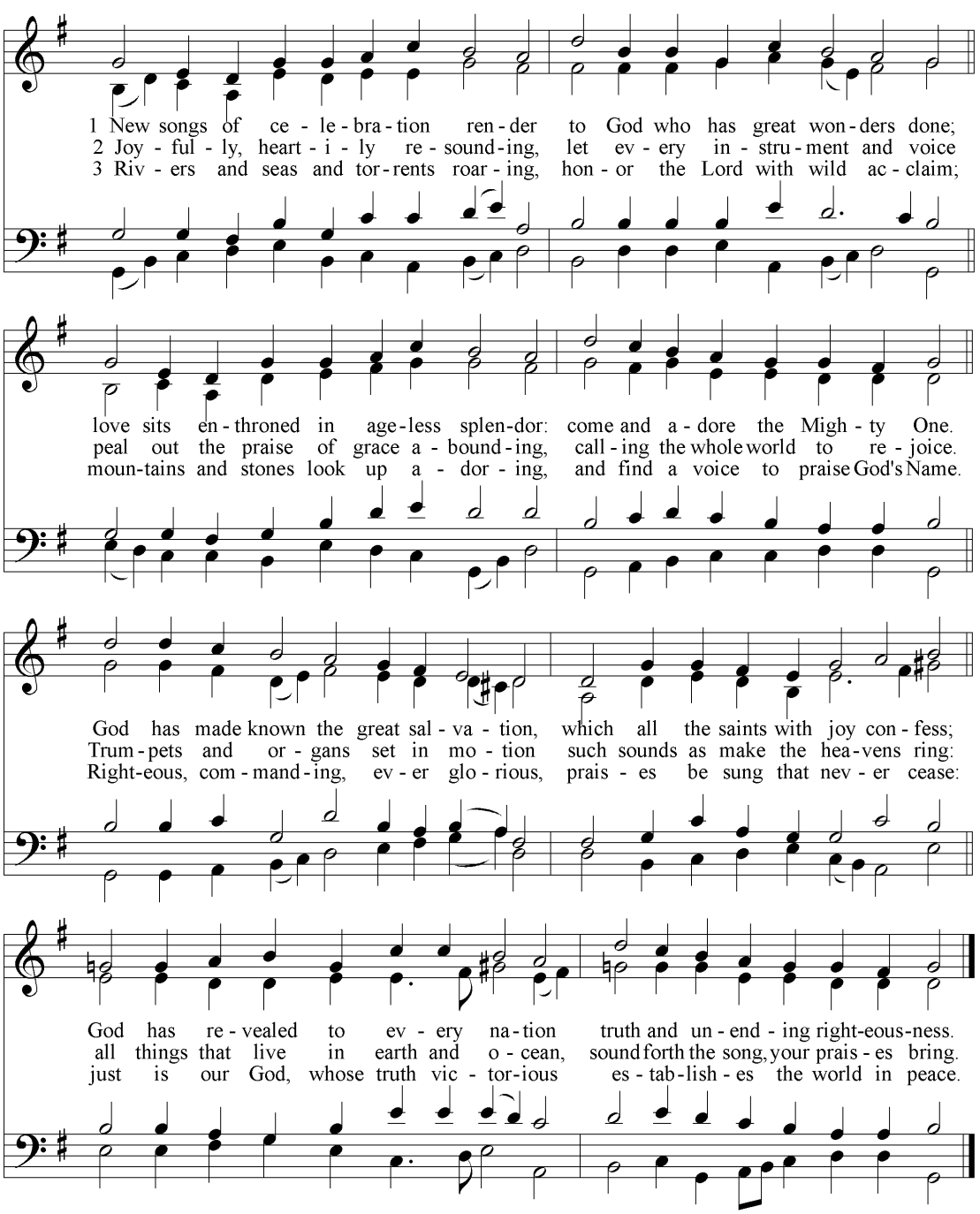


*Alternate text for Holy Communion

Words Brian Wren (b. 1936) • *Music* Carlton R. Young (1926-2023)

Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider & People **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We sing a Song of Praise found on the next page:



Words Erik Routley (1917-1982), alt.; para. of Psalm 98 • *Music* RENDEZ À DIEU, att. Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

The Presider says the Collect of the Day, a short prayer to bring focus to the community's worship:

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. *Stillness*

Creating God, your reign of love makes all things new: Plant seeds of confidence and gladness in our hearts so that, trusting in your work, we may live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and was raised for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

We sit to hear a reading from the Old Testament:

Reader A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

Isaiah 43:18-21

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People **Thanks be to God.** *Stillness follows.*

We remain seated to recite a portion of Psalm 104 antiphonally by odd and even circle numbers breaking at the asterisk.

Presider 1 *Bless the Holy One, O my soul; **

Odd O God, how excellent is your greatness; you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Even 10 You send the springs into the valleys; *

Odd They flow between the mountains.

Even 11 All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, *
and the wild asses quench their thirst.
12 Beside them the birds of the air make their nests *
and sing among the branches.
13 You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; *
the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.
14 You make grass grow for flocks and herds *
and plants to serve all people.
15 That they may bring forth food from the earth, *
and wine to gladden our hearts,
16 Oil to make a cheerful countenance,
and bread to strengthen the heart.
17 The trees of the Holy One are full of sap, *
the cedars of Lebanon which God planted,
18 In which the birds build their nests, *
and in whose tops the storks make their dwellings.
19 The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, *
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.
20 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, *
and the sun knows the time of its setting.
21 You make darkness that it may be night, *
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.
22 The lions roar after their prey *
and seek their food from God.
23 The sun rises, and they slip away *
and lay themselves down in their dens.
24 We go forth to our work, *
and to our labor until the evening.
25 O Holy One, how manifold are your works; *
in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
26 Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number *
creatures both small and great.
27 There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.
28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.
29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *
and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of God endure for ever; *
may the Holy One rejoice in all creation.
34 I will sing to God as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.
37 Bless the Holy One, O my soul. *
Alleluia!

We remain seated to hear a reading from the New Testament:

Reader A reading from the book of Acts
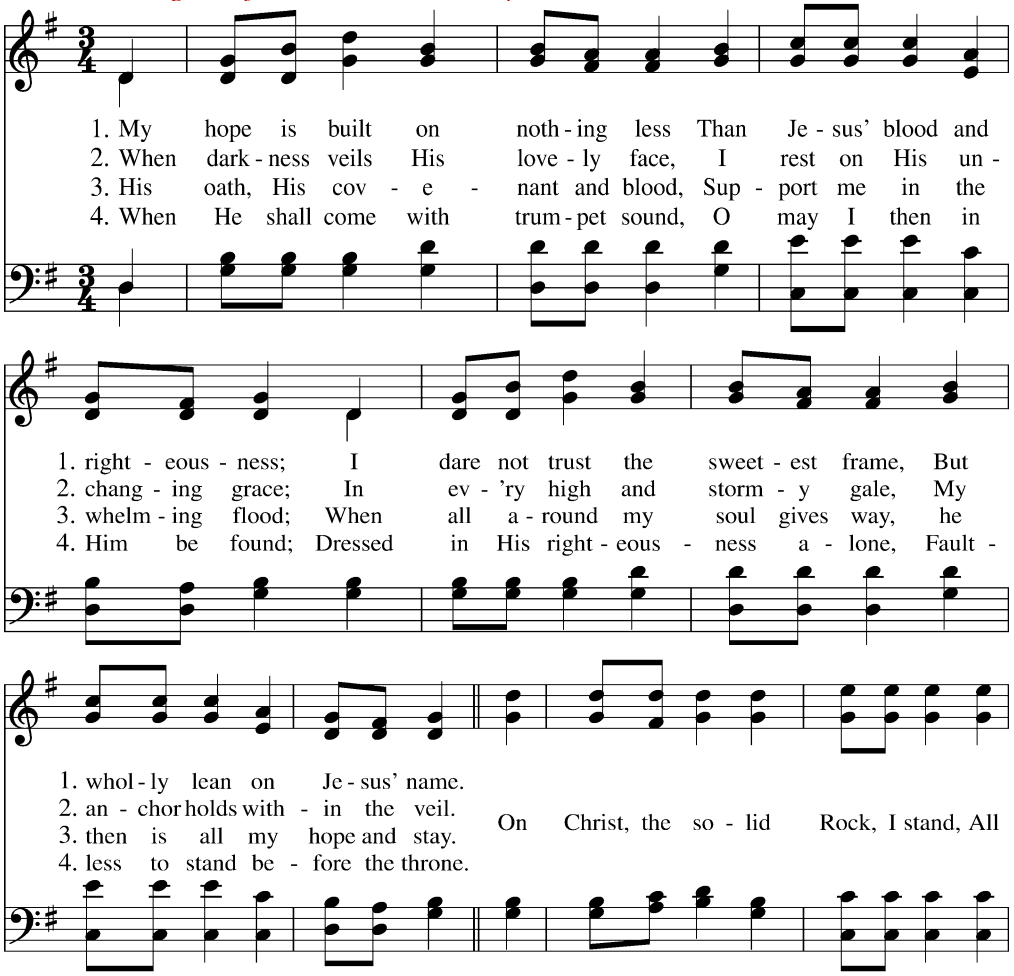
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day be day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
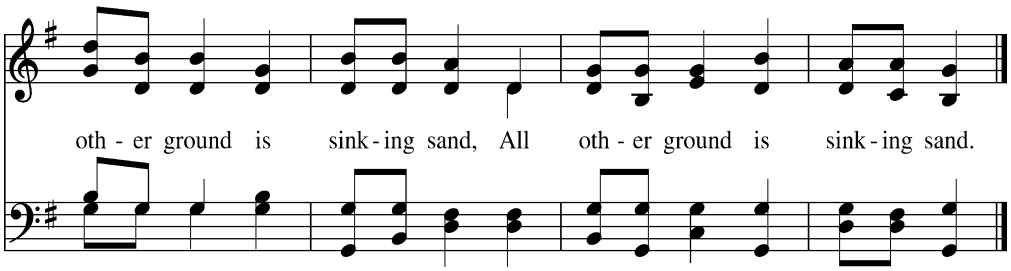
Acts 2:42-47

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We stand to sing the hymn and to hear the Gospel.





Words Edard Mote (1797-1874) • *Music* William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Deacon Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.

"Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell – and great was its fall."

Matthew 7:13-20. 24-27

Presider The Gospel of the Lord;

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Reflection Communities for Spiritual Vitality

After the Reflection stillness is held. Then all stand for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Presider Dear friends in Christ,
The Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit.
The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the good news of God in Jesus Christ.

Every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Creator, through the power of the Holy Spirt. This ministry we share is the honor of representing Christ by our words and actions; the ways we work together; and our engagement with the world. Affirming these duties, we are invited to reaffirm our Baptismal Covenant.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**
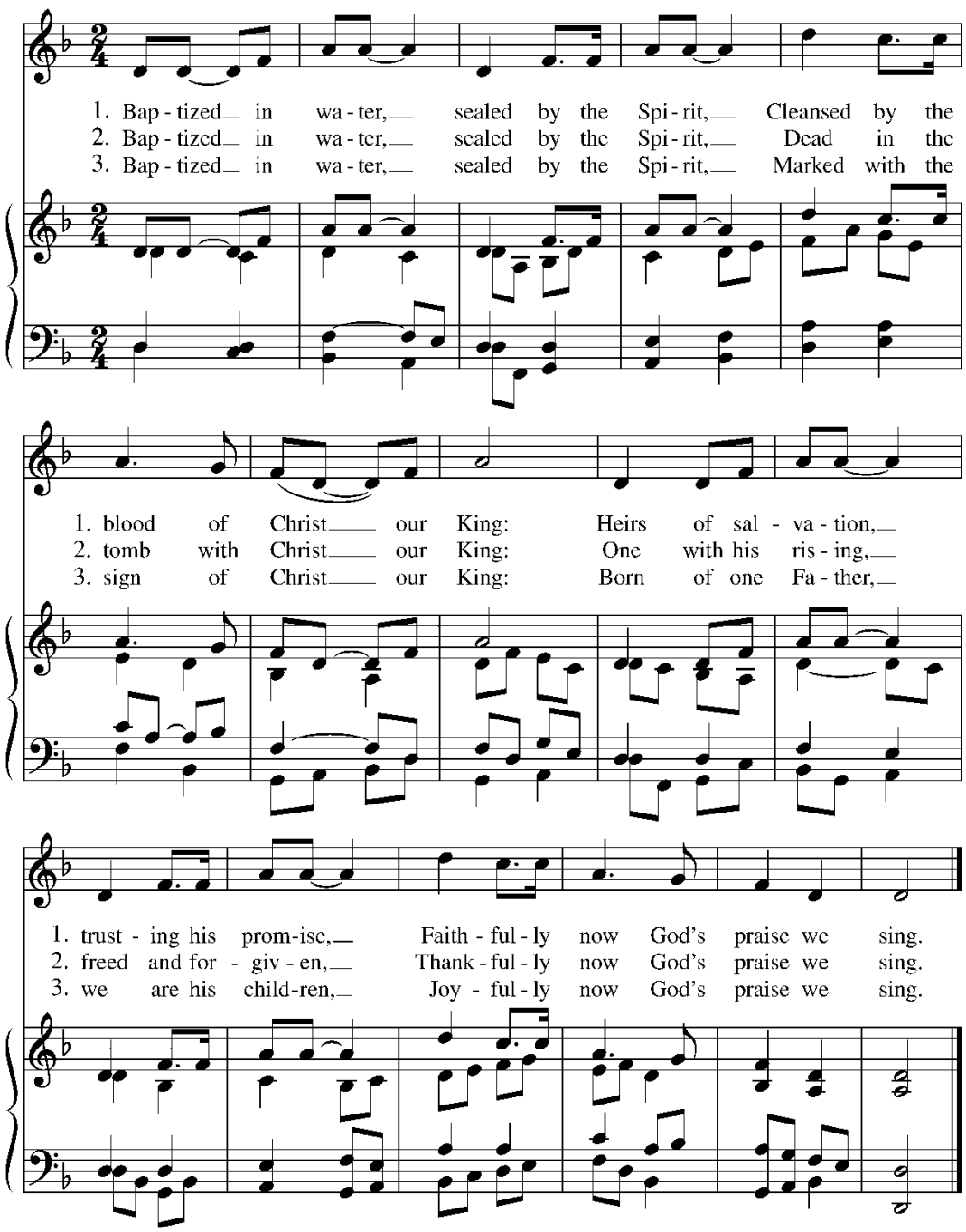
Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider In that we have all renewed our solemn baptismal vows before God and one another this day,
may the Lord who has given us the will to do these things, give us the grace and power to
perform them.
All **Amen.**

Hymn during Asperges *(on next page)*



Words Michael Saward (1932-2015) • *Music* Eugene Hancock (1929-1993)

We remain standing for the Prayers of the People.

The Deacon introduces the prayers, saying,

Deacon Hear now our prayers most holy God and throw open the doors of our hearts as we say, "Holy One, in your mercy, Hear our prayer."

Intercessor Guide your church into courageous witness on behalf of Christ, whose example shows us the only path that can lead us away from our fears and hatred and into the land of love and reconciliation.

Holy One, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Grant wisdom to leaders and open their hearts that they might, in confidence and courage, make decisions that lead to mutual flourishing and true peace.

Holy One, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open our eyes to injustice in our midst, enliven us so that we may never become numb to the suffering of our neighbors.

Holy One, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Grant us the perseverance and commitment to make difficult choices and to choose sustainable ways of life that honor your creation, provide safety for all people, and lead us into understanding and reconciliation.

Holy One, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Be present and bring your healing power to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

I invite you to add your own prayers either silently or aloud.

Holy One, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Welcome the dying into your loving presence and grant them growth in your love. Comfort the grieving and show us how to honor the legacy of your saints and live into the promise granted us in Christ's death.

I invite you to add your own prayers either silently or aloud.

Holy One, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Holy One, Source of life and blessing, of garden, orchard, and field: Root us in obedience to you and nourish us by your ever-flowing Spirit that, perceiving only the good we might do, our lives may be fruitful, our labor productive, and our service useful, in communion with Jesus, our brother.

All **Amen.**

All stand for the exchange of the Peace.
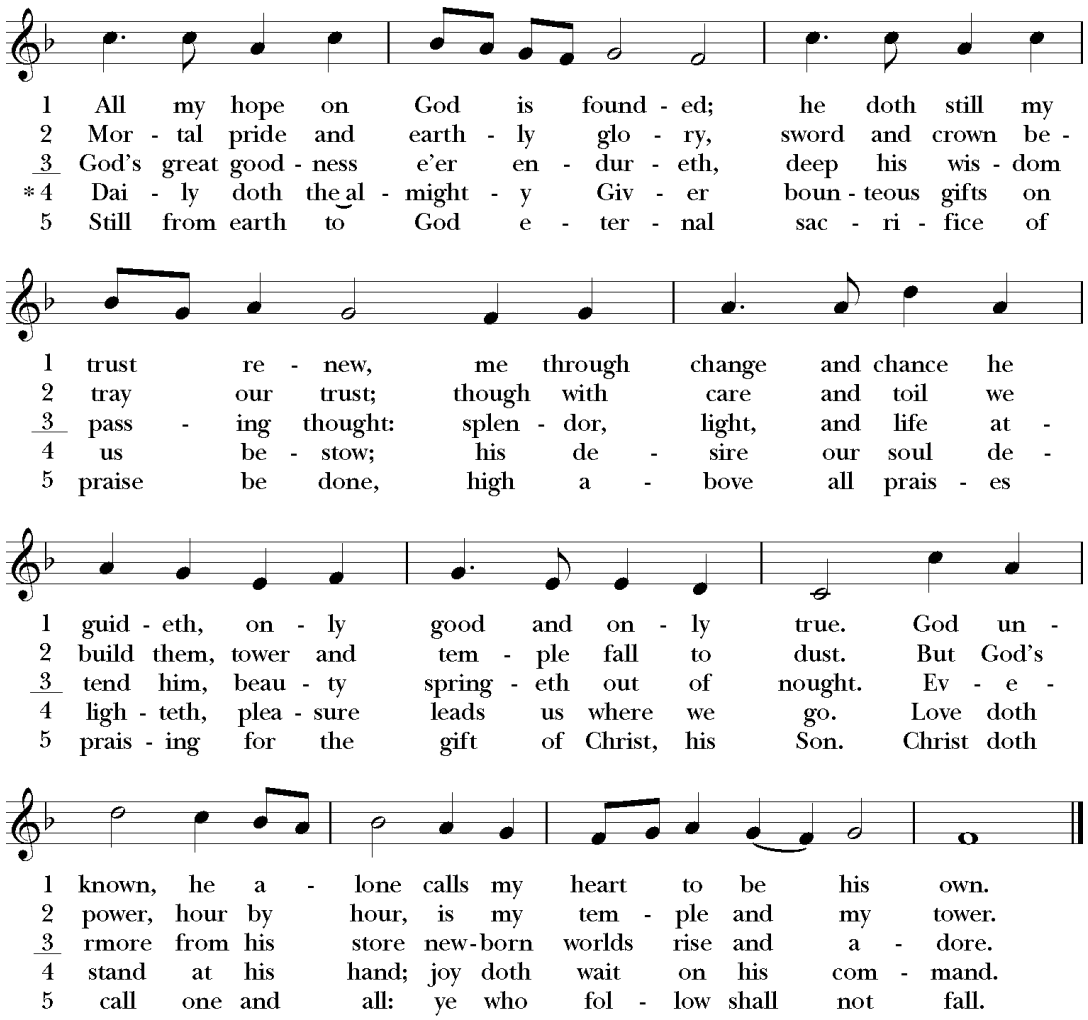
Presider The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *We greet those nearest us with a sign of God's peace.*

We sit for a word of welcome and announcements.

The Holy Communion

The Presider offers a sentence of encouragement as we consider the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord. Today's offering is designated for the Province One School for Deacons. Please give as generously as you are able.
The Table is set and we sing an Offertory Hymn.



Words Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt., after Joachim Neander (1650-1680) • *Music* MICHAEL, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

We remain standing for the Great Thanksgiving.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer Creation

Presider God is with us.

People **God is present here.**

Presider Rejoice! Lift up your hearts.

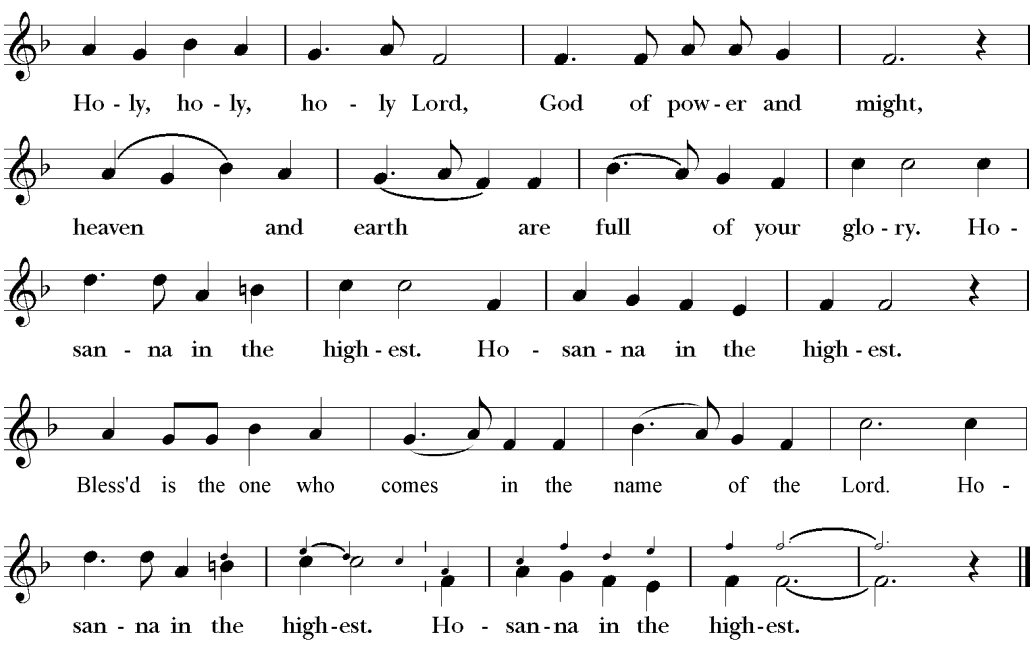
People **We lift our hearts to the Most High.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you, Creator of all. We praise you here where the summit of Mansfield and the depths of Quechee Gorge mark this land, where towns and farms are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again. We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tent and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens. Together with angels and ancestors, sugar maple and highbush cranberry, moose and loon, wood frogs and brook trout, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:

All



Setting Richard Proulx (1937-2010), from *A Community Mass*

Presider We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan and tested in the wilderness. He traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me." Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends, saying: "This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me."

Creating God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Remembering Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension to your righthand, awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

People **We praise you, we bless you,**
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Our Creator

Presider Holy One, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with Mary, the God Bearer, and all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar, which is both now and yet to come.

All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever.

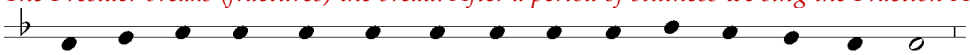
People **AMEN.**

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

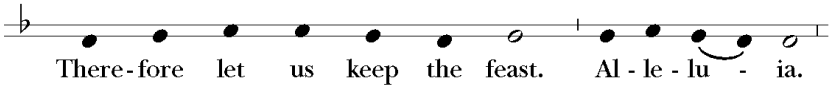
All
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory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

The Presider breaks (fractures) the bread. After a period of stillness we sing the Fraction Anthem.

Presider

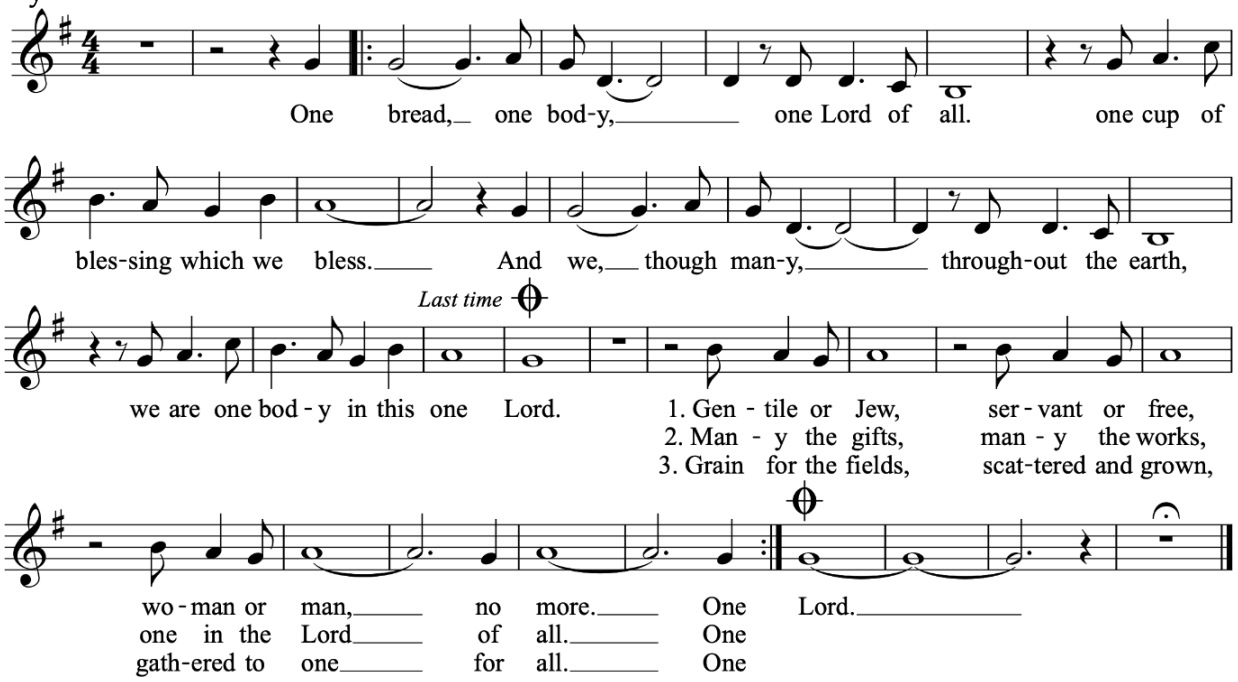


People
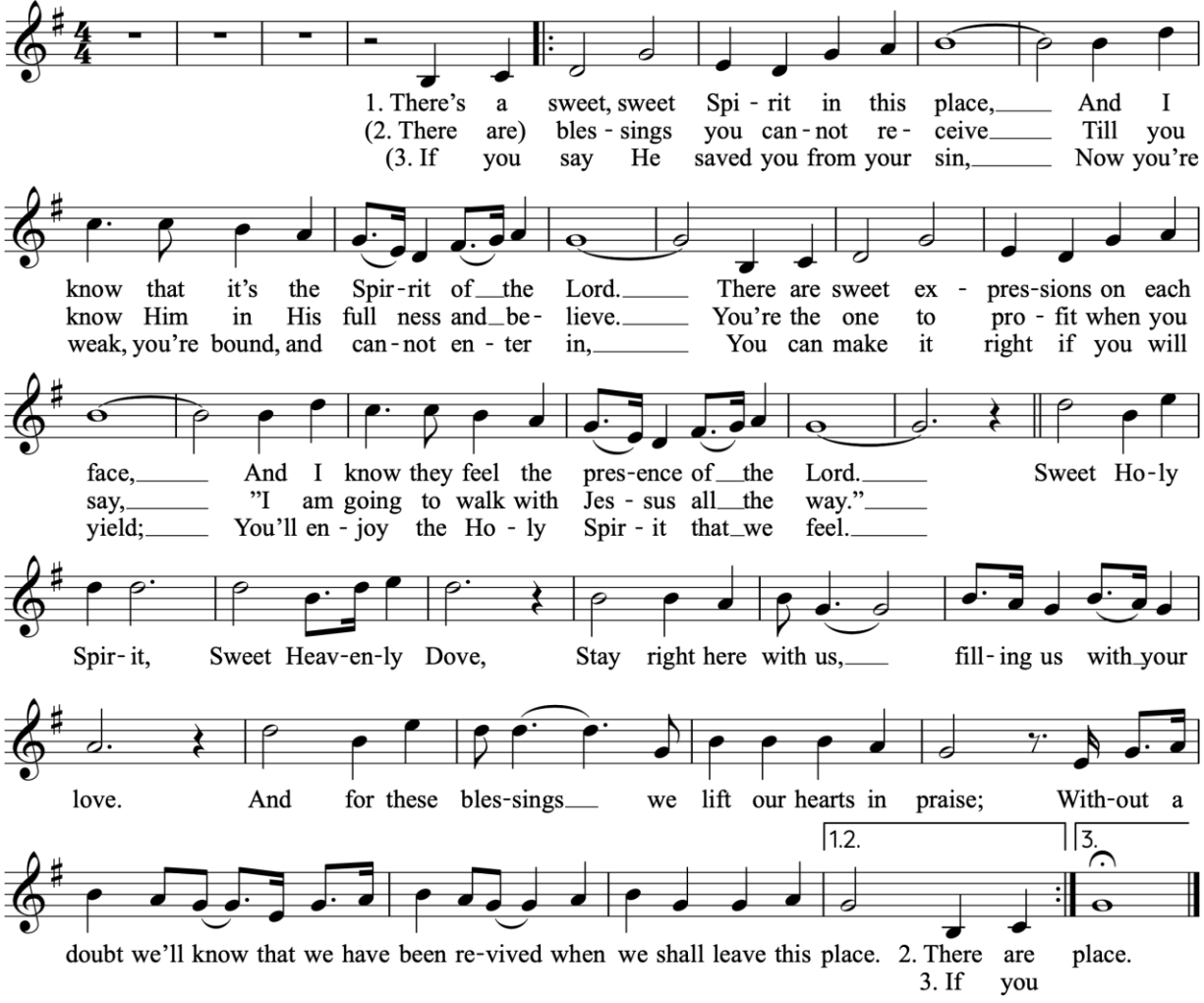


The Presider invites us to share in the Eucharistic feast; The table fellowship we experience together is for everyone. The bread may be received directly into your hand, one palm crossed over the other. The wine may be taken by sipping from the cup or touching the bread to the cup or by using the small bowl to dip the bread into the wine (this is called intinction). Gluten-free wafers are available; please indicate your need at the time you receive Communion.
Those who prefer not to receive the sacrament may ask for a blessing, crossing arms, fingertips touching the shoulders.
During Communion we sing:

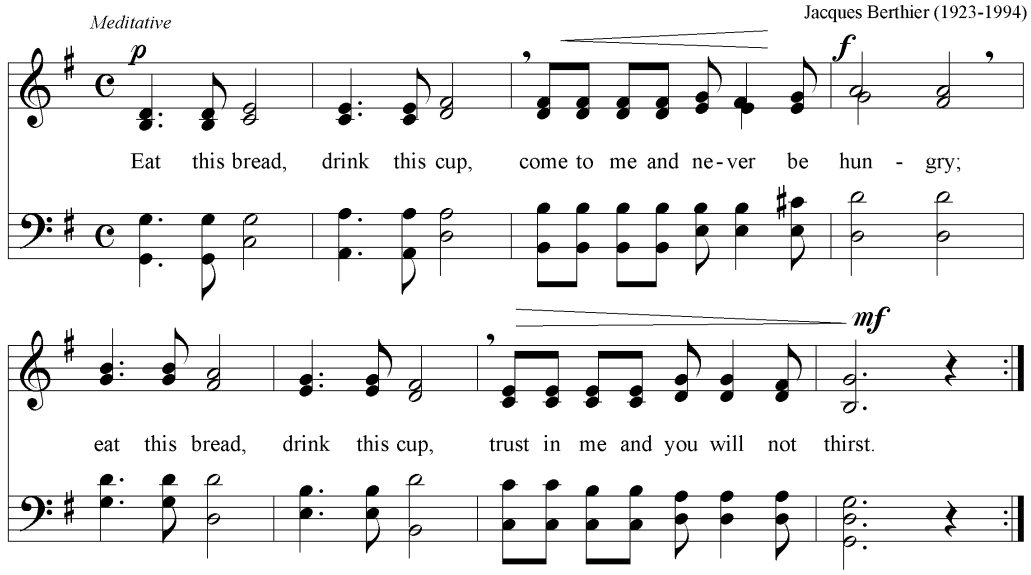
Hymn



Hymn



Ostinato



When all have received and the table is cleared a period of stillness is observed.

All then stand for the Prayer after Communion:

Presider Let us pray. *Stillness*

All **Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God,**
that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us
and renew the face of the earth.
May we be one with you
so that our work is yours and your work is ours.
Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation;
through Jesus Christ our Savior
who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

The Presider offers a blessing over the People who respond,

People **Amen.**
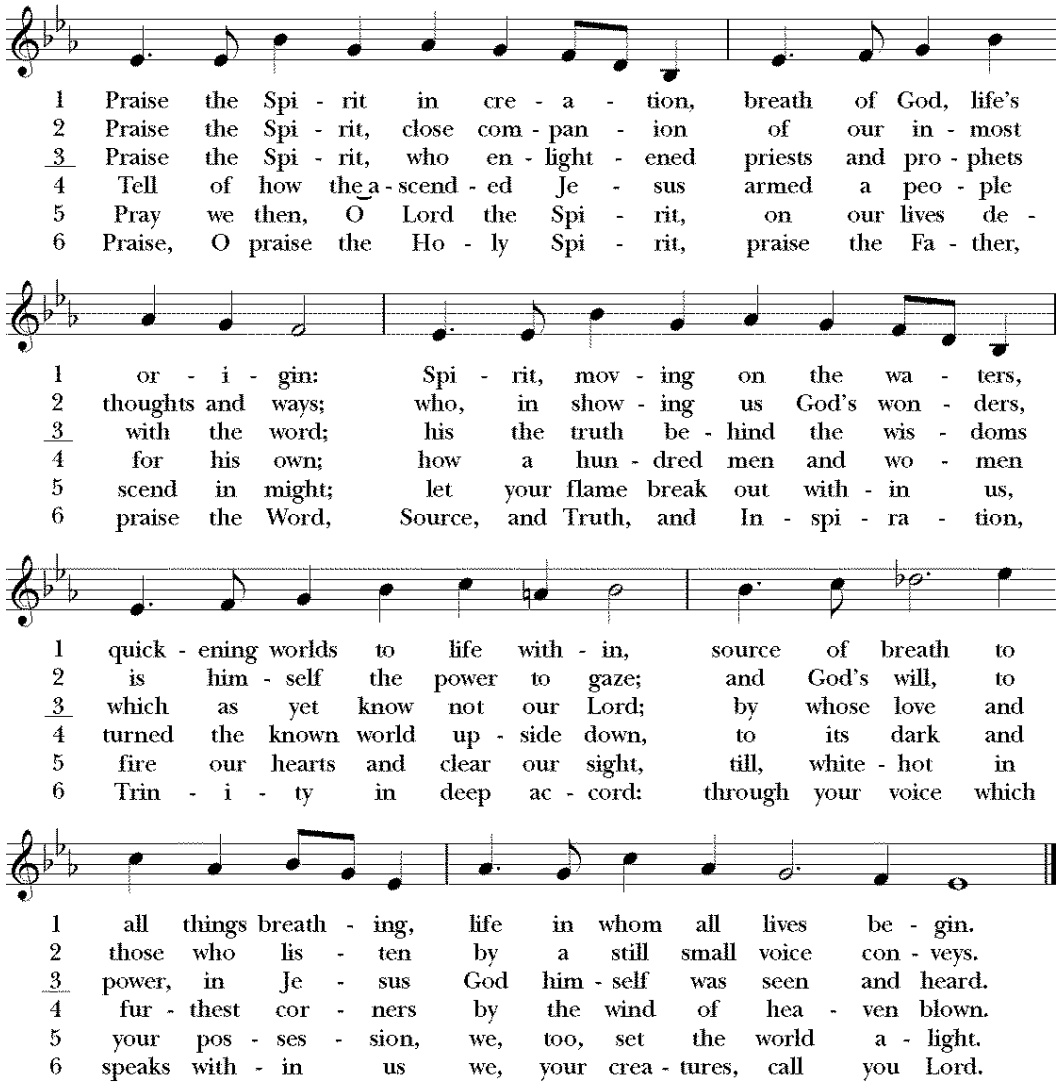
A motion to adjourn the Convention is made.

The Deacon sends us forth with these words:

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Hymn



Words Michael Hewlett (b. 1916), alt. • *Music* FINNIAN, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

Closing Voluntary: Toccata, *Tu es petra* Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

✠ ✠ ✠

MUSIC NOTES

The best-known organ work of the French composer Henri Mulet is from a set of "Byzantine sketches" inspired by the church of Sacré-Coeur in Paris. Written in 1918, this brilliant toccata (closing voluntary) pays tribute to the refuge which the famous hilltop church provided during the shelling of the city during the First World War. It bears an inscription (Matthew 16:18) of courage and strength in the face of adversity: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." This sentiment from today's Gospel is also reflected in several of today's hymns.

LITURGICAL SOURCES & CREDITS

- Collect of the Day: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons.* Slightly altered from *Canticles of the Earth: Celebrating the Presence of God in Nature,* F. Lynn Bachleda, ed. (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2004), p. 13.
- Psalm 104: *Saint Helena Psalter*
- *This is a day of new beginnings* Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1987 Hope Publishing Company; Tune: © 1987 Hope Publishing Company Text: © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
- Prayers of the People: *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*
- *All my hope on God is founded* Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt., after Joachim Neander (1650-1680) Music: MICHAEL, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
- Eucharistic Prayer: *Eucharistic Prayer Creation II*, Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes, adapt. from Salal+Cedar, https://www.salalandcedar. com/liturgical-resources
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We are on the land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples for thousands of years and is the home of the Western Abenaki People. Our Cathedral community honors, recognizes and respects these peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we gather. Once taken from the Abenaki people by the people of the United States, this land was taken again, during the period of Urban Renewal in the 1970s, from the Italian immigrants who had found a welcome on these shores. We acknowledge that we are guests in this land, and pledge to respect and protect the land and waters within our use.

THE Cathedral Church OF St. Paul

LOVING | EXPLORING | SERVING

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The Very Reverend Greta Getlein | *Dean and Rector*
Peter Stoltzfus Berton | *Director of Music and Cathedral Arts*
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