SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WELCOME

Saint James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcomes you to our online worship on the Second Sunday after Epiphany.

As Saint James continues to address the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic spike, we gather for worship online. We confidently trust that the Holy Spirit of God makes us one even when we are at a distance from one another.

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Pastor Denise M. Grant	Preaching and Presiding
Kurt Heyer	Minister of Music
Joel Humphries	Lector
Julie Humphries	Intercessor
Noah Humphries	Lector

PRELUDE *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* Michael Burkhardt

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

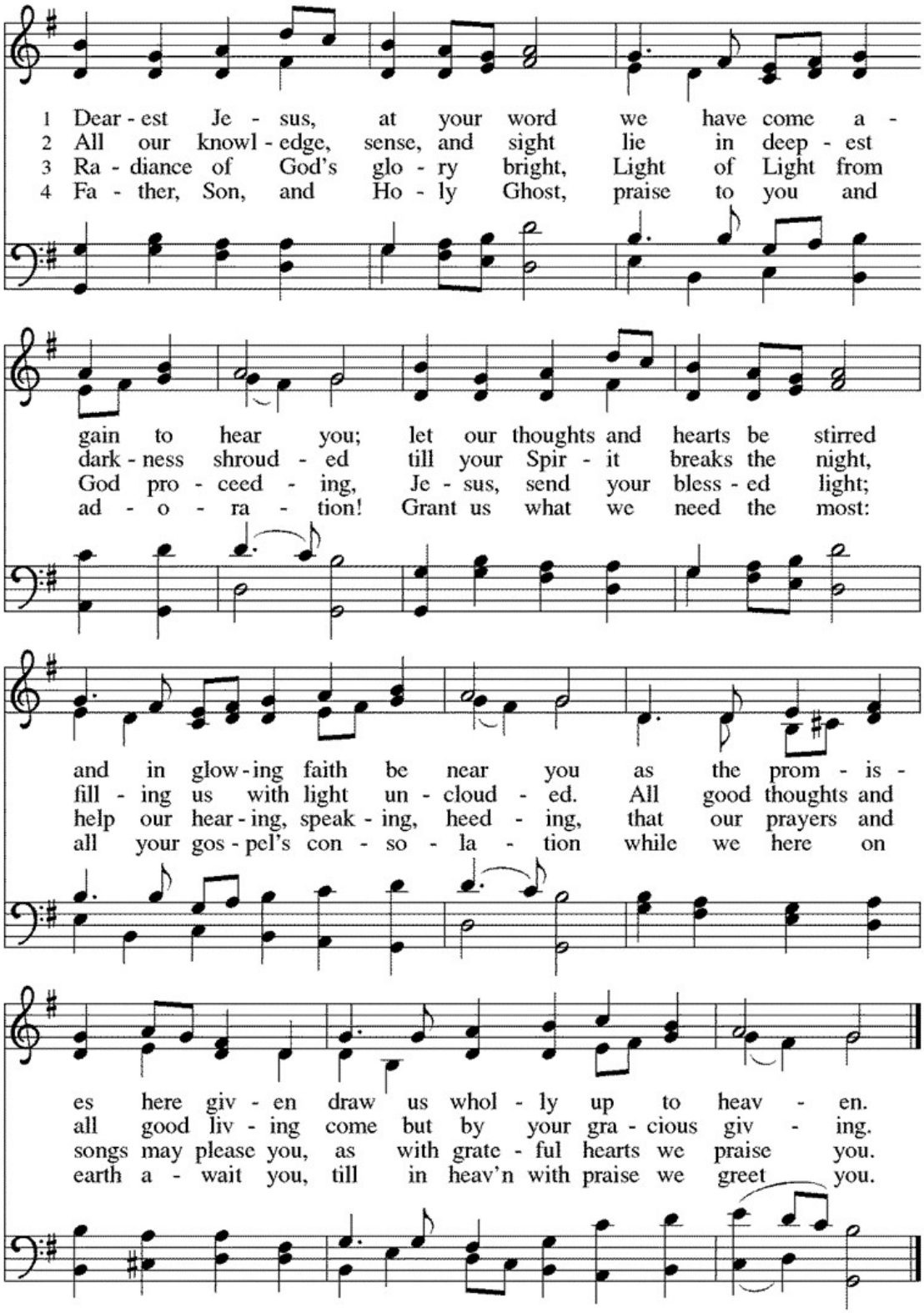
Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus,
you are claimed as God's own beloved,
your sins are washed away,
you are forgiven.

Live then by the power of the Spirit:
forgive as you have been forgiven,
follow the way of Christ,
strive for justice and peace,
and live with intentionality within God's beloved community.

Amen.

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



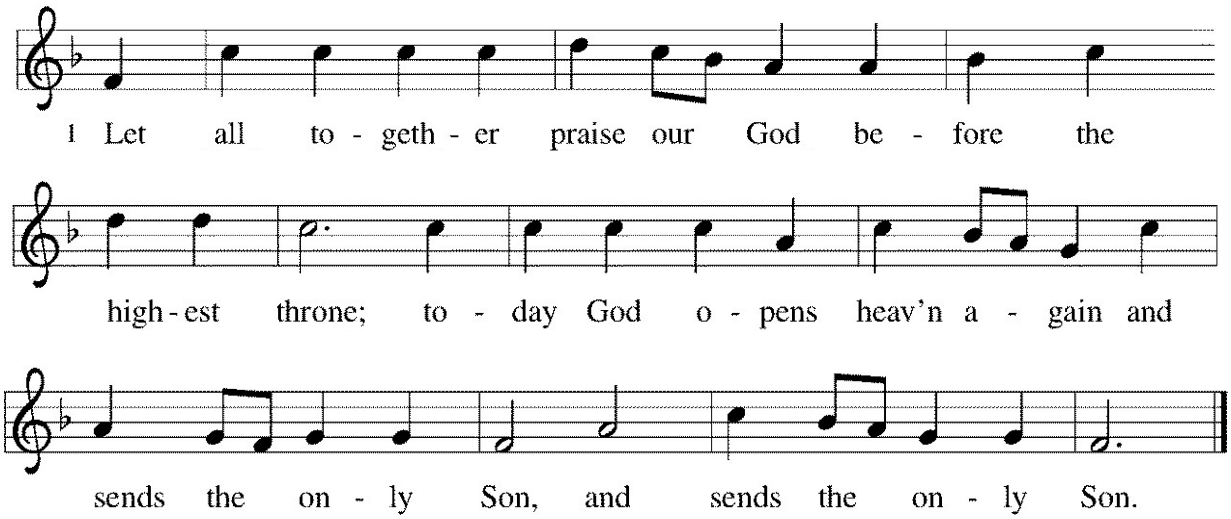
Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Let All Together Praise Our God



5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version
Music: Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, Nikolaus Herman
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of grace and glory, reveal yourself to those who long to know your presence. Draw us to you that with you we may hear your voice, follow your way, and always remain faithful to you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

FIRST LESSON **1 SAMUEL 3:1-20**

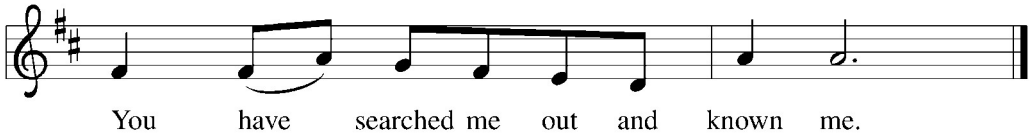
At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

A reading from First Samuel.

[1]Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was
rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
[2]At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see,
was lying down in his room; [3]the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was
lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. [4]Then the LORD called,
"Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" [5]and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for
you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.
[6]The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am,
for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." [7]Now Samuel
did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
[8]The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said,
"Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
[9]Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak,
LORD, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
[10]Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And
Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [11]Then the LORD said to Samuel,
"See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who
hears of it tingle. [12]On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning
his house, from beginning to end. [13]For I have told him that I am about to punish his
house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God,
and he did not restrain them. [14]Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of
Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."
[15]Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the
LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. [16]But Eli called Samuel and said,
"Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." [17]Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do
not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me
of all that he told you." [18]So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.
Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."
[19]As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the
ground. [20]And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy
prophet of the LORD.

The Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1–6, 13–18



Psalm 139:1
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress
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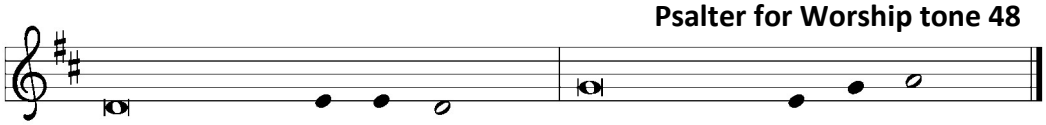
Psalter for Worship tone 48



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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1 LORD, you have | searched me out;
O LORD, | you have known me.
2 **You know my sitting down and my | rising up;**
you discern my thoughts | from afar.
3 You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.
4 **Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,**
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether. R
5 You encompass me, behind | and before,
and lay your | hand upon me.
6 **Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;**
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.
13 For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
you knit me together in my | mother's womb.
14 **I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;**
your works are wonderful, and I | know it well. R
15 My body was not hid- | den from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths | of the earth.
16 **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;**
all of them were written | in your book;
my days were fashioned before they | came to be.
17 How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!
How great is the | sum of them!
18 **If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;**
to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours. R

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SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

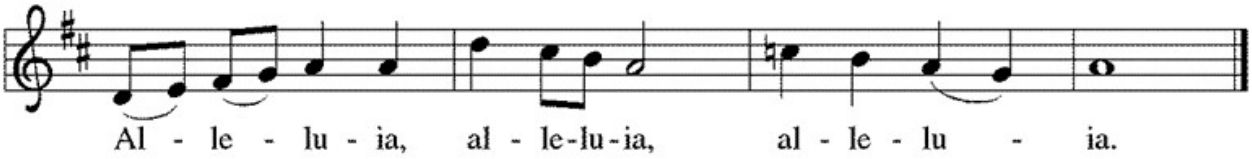
Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

A reading from First Corinthians.

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful
for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the stomach
and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is
meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised
the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are
members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them
members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that whoever is united to a
prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh."
17 But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18 Shun fornication!
Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the
body itself. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within
you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you were bought
with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION



Cantor: We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us grace and truth.

Music: Bob Moore, b. 1962
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HOLY GOSPEL **John 1:43-51**

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

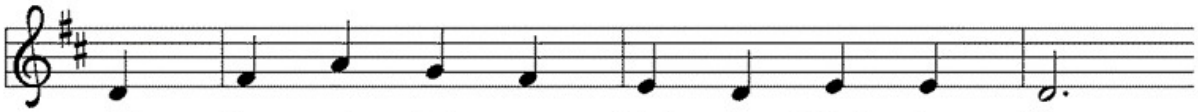
The Holy Gospel according to Saint John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow
me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found
Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and
also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 Nathanael said to him,
"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an
Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to
know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."
49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50
Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree?
You will see greater things than these." 51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you
will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the
Son of Man."

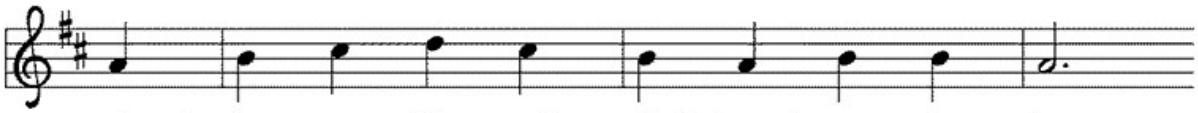
The Gospel of our LORD.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

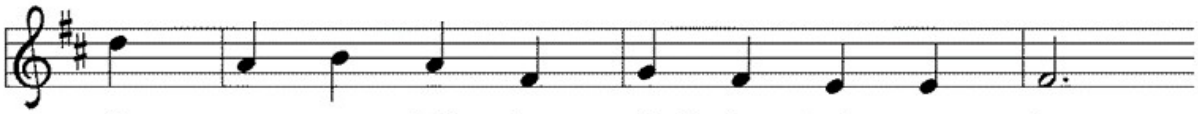
The Son of God, Our Christ



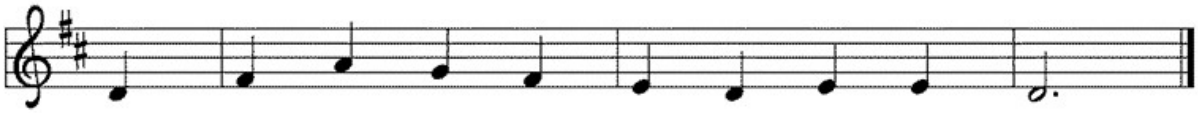
1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,
3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare
4 In cit - y street, in town, or on the soil,
5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,
what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,
that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt.
Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971
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APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day,
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of the Earth,
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, including the President of the United States who will be inaugurated this week. Give wisdom and patience to all who serve.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, for those who are vulnerable, for those who are afflicted by COVID and those who care for them, and especially for those we name silently or aloud…. May God console and strengthen all who suffer,
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For visitors near and far joining us online for worship, that all who seek to know God recognize God's presence. Guide Saint James to share the Good News of Jesus in new and innovative ways while we continue to be distanced from one another.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, especially those most dear to us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action,
Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

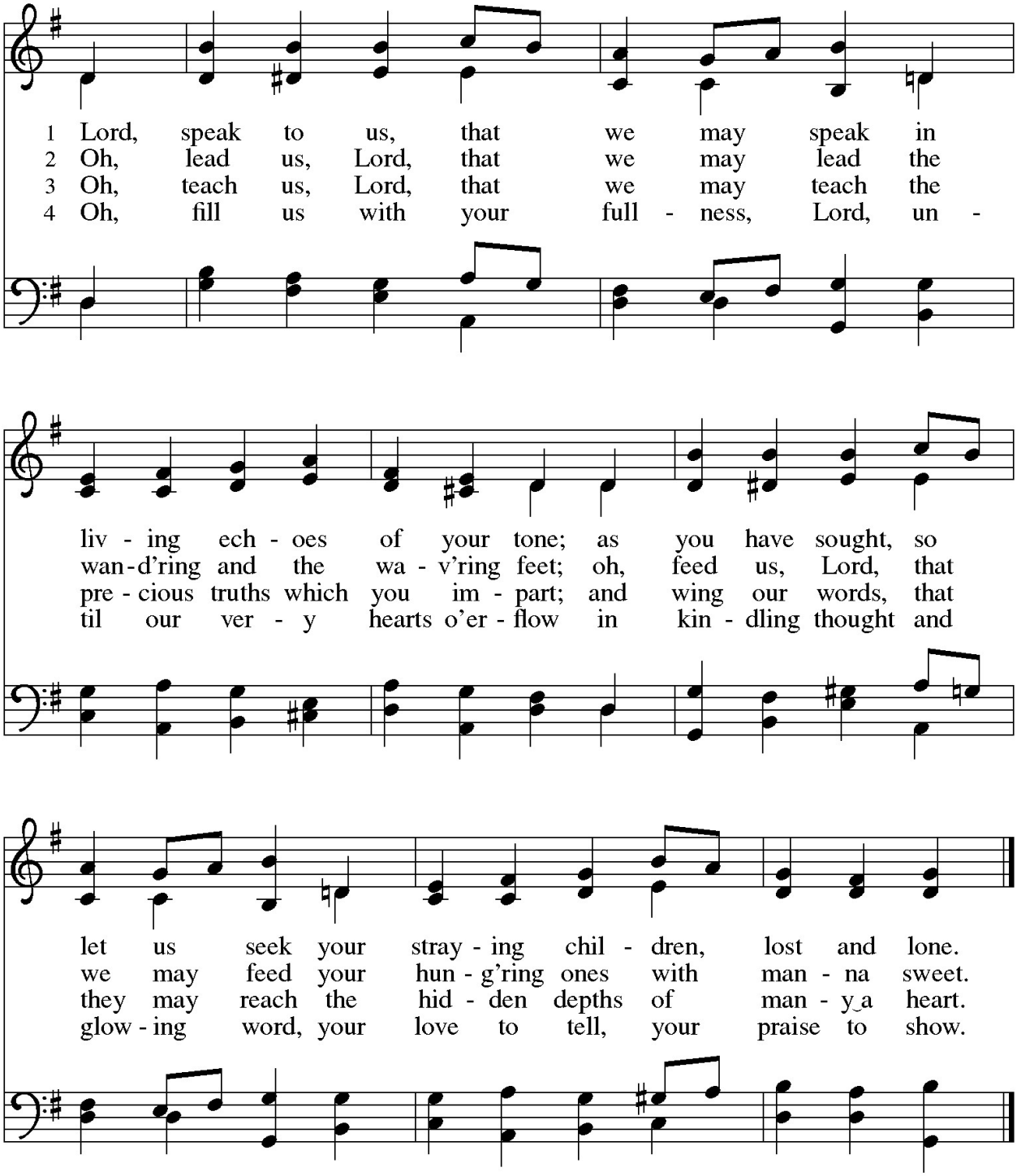
Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

DISMISSAL

As witnesses of God's glory and heralds of God's grace, go forth in joy and gladness to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Praeludium in C* Johann Ludwig Krebs

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