

**WELCOME**



**PEACE**  
**LUTHERAN**

*come grow with us*

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 28, 2024**

## **Introduction to the day**

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## **PRELUDE**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* (ELW 519)

## Open Your Ears, O Faithful People



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.  
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.  
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

### *Refrain*



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **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.**

## **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Laudate Nomen Domini*

by Christopher Tye

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Holy wisdom, Holy Word

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 111

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with <sup>1</sup> my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the <sup>1</sup> congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your <sup>1</sup> works, O LORD,**  
**pondered by all who de- <sup>1</sup> light in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor<sup>1</sup> mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en-<sup>1</sup>dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to<sup>1</sup> be remembered;  
you are gracious and full<sup>1</sup> of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to<sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
remembering forev-<sup>1</sup>er your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power<sup>1</sup> of your works  
in giving them the lands<sup>1</sup> of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful-<sup>1</sup>ness and justice;  
all of your pre-<sup>1</sup>cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forev-<sup>1</sup>er and ever,  
because they are done in<sup>1</sup> truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove-<sup>1</sup>nant forever;  
holy and awesome<sup>1</sup> is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the begin-<sup>1</sup>ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en-<sup>1</sup>dures  
forever.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your

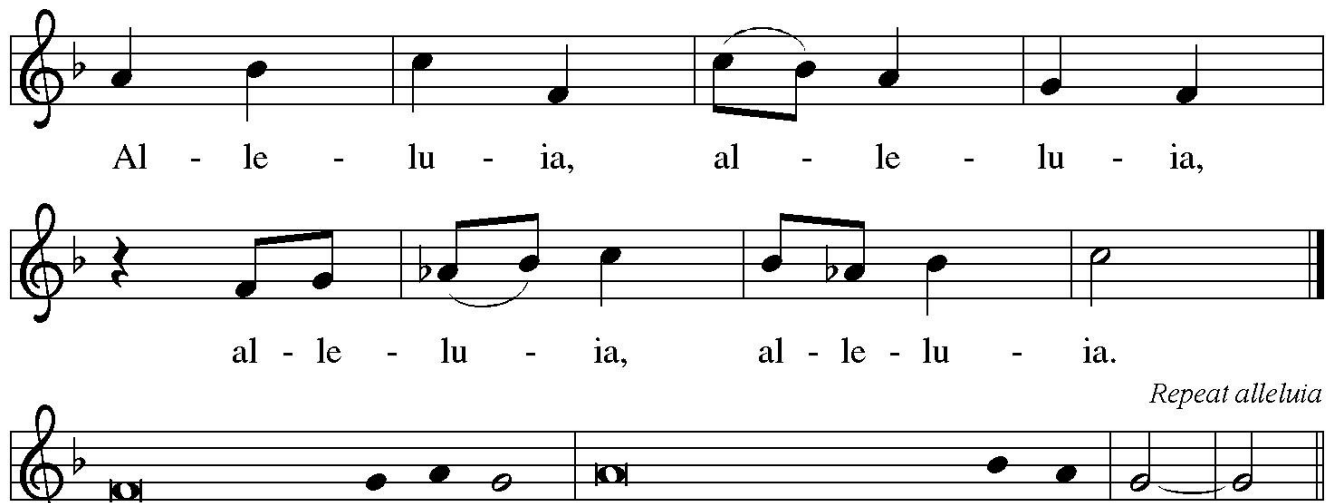
family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Holy wisdom, Holy Word

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE Pastor Neil Brady

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* (ELW 310)

### Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## CREED

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle' 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. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, bless those who are ill and under doctors' care with your continued presence. Grant all your strength, healing, and love. We especially remember in our prayers \_\_\_\_\_ and all who we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Be with your children in their time of need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember in our prayers those who join us in the ministry and in the proclamation of the Word of God, especially our Prayer Partners, Rev. Janice Hite, and the people of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Herron, Michigan. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### OFFERING HYMN *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (Nelson) (ELW 184)*

#### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray,

**Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. 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 our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a whole note, the second with a half note, the third with a half note, and the fourth with a double bar line.

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

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

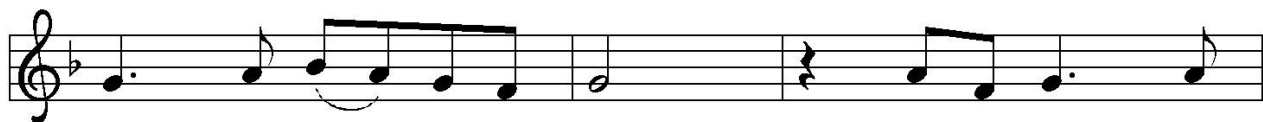
## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you 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; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* (ELW 612)

## Healer of Our Every Ill

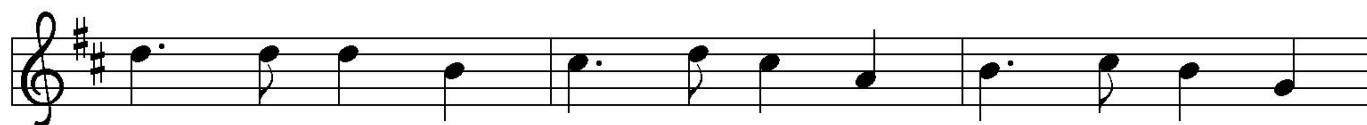
*Refrain*



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- |   |      |     |          |      |         |                 |             |          |            |      |      |
|---|------|-----|----------|------|---------|-----------------|-------------|----------|------------|------|------|
| 1 | You  | who | know     | our  | fears   | and             | sad - ness, | grace    | us         | with | your |
| 2 | In   | the | pain     | and  | joy     | be - hold - ing | how         | your     | grace      | is   |      |
| 3 | Give | us  | strength | to   | love    | each            | oth - er,   | ev - 'ry | sis - ter, |      |      |
| 4 | You  | who | know     | each | thought | and             | feel - ing, | teach    | us         | all  | your |



peace	and	glad - ness;	Spir - it	of	all	com - fort,	fill	our	hearts.
still	un - fold - ing,	give	us	all	your	vi - sion,	God	of	love.
ev - 'ry	broth - er;	Spir - it	of	all	kind - ness,	be	our	guide.	
way	of	heal - ing;	Spir - it	of	com - pas - sion,	fill	each	heart.	

*Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Sisters and brothers, may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray,

**Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **PASTOR'S PRAYER**

Sisters and brothers, we are all invited to teach with authority as Jesus did. I pray God sends his Holy Spirit upon us, to give us the words to proclaim Christ Jesus as the truth, the Good News, the promised fulfilled in our covenant with God.

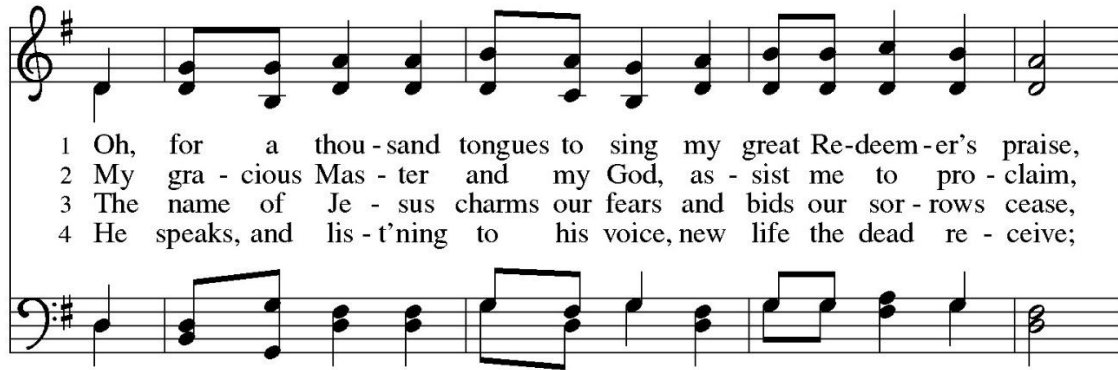
## **BLESSING**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✝ bless you and remain with you always.

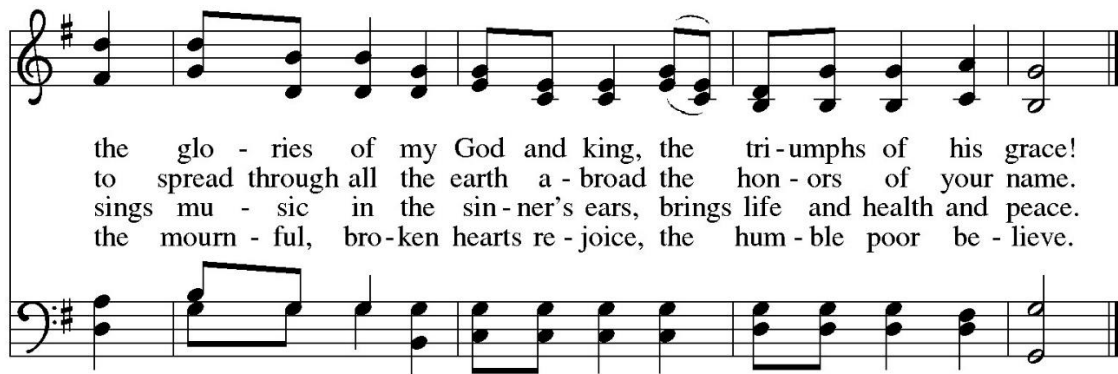
**Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (v. 1-4) (ELW 886)

## Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE