

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost*

10:00 AM Worship Service • September 24, 2023

### *Setting 2*



*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

**Welcome members and guests** to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Sunday School begins at 8:45 followed by a worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. **A nursery room is available** during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have “activity binders” available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.

**Trinity offers an induction loop** for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to “T.”

### TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607  
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>  
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**REV. TINA MELUSKY** – Pastor ([tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

**GEOFFREY BELL** – Director of Music Ministries ([music@trinitynn.org](mailto:music@trinitynn.org))

**ANNE OBARA** – Administrative Assistant ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org))

**CAROL BESSOM** – Treasurer ([cbessom@trinitynn.com](mailto:cbessom@trinitynn.com))

**THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN** – Ministers of the Word

**FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS:** <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://trinitynn.org>

#### PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free  
to call for an appointment or drop in.

**Pastor's Cell:** (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,  
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

Front page photo credit: Vivian Hill, member

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## CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

Prelude on *Forest Green*

Paul Manz

## GATHERING

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.  
We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.  
For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.  
For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.  
For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.  
Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.****

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **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.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The assembly sits*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: **Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God's mind was changed about the calamity that been promised; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own

country? This is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 145:1-8** (*spoken responsively*)

I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

**Open our | hearts, O Lord,  
to give heed to what is said | by your Son.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And



when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN'S CHAT**

Rev. Michael Burnett

**SERMON**

Rev. Michael Burnett

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*All Who Love and Serve Your City*  
NEW ORLEANS

ELW 724

**APOSTLE'S 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**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

#### **RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*The Servant Song*

arr. David Schwoebel

*If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all.*

*They shall be the last; be the servant of all.*

*We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.*

*Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.  
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.*

*If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all.*

*They shall be the last; be the servant of all.*

*(all join in singing)*

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.  
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

*If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all.  
They shall be the last; be the servant of all.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW 181

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,  
**all things belong to you.**  
**We bring your gifts to the table,**  
**that all might be fed.**  
**Form us into the body of your Beloved,**  
**Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

**MEAL**

**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.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



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.

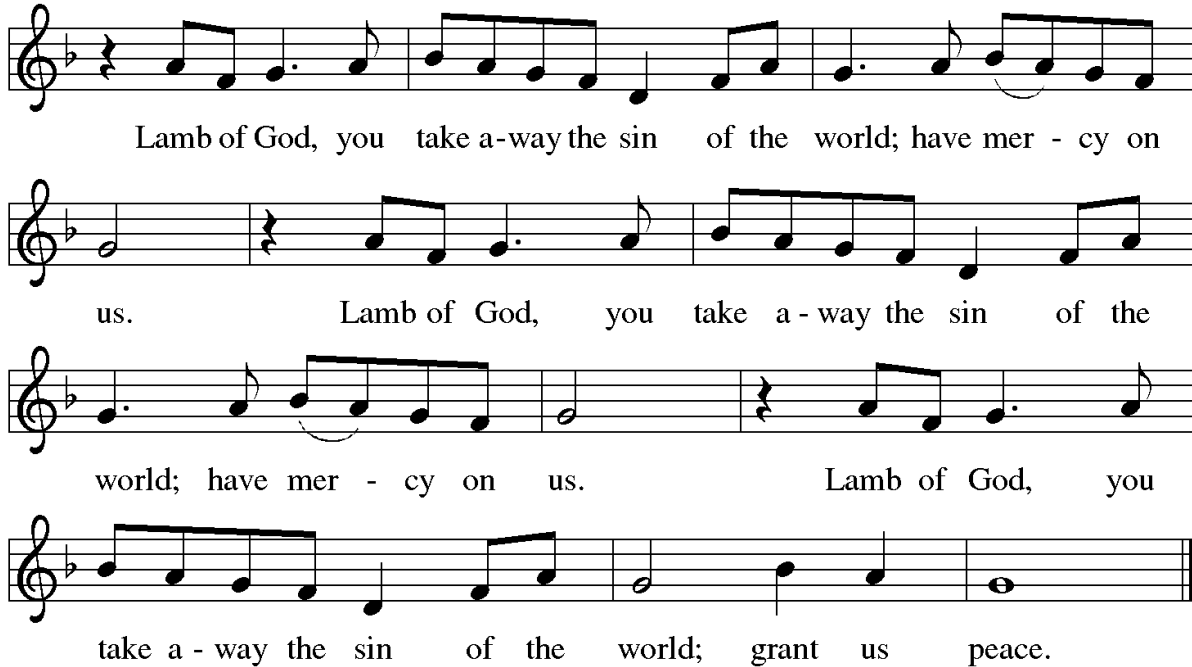
## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*The assembly is seated.*

## AGNUS DEI



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

*Communion is held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.*

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Lord of All Hopefulness*  
SLANE

ELW 765

*The assembly stands.*

## SENDING

## TABLE BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Lord of Light*  
ABBOT'S LEIGH

ELW 688

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare and Chorale on *Abbot's Leigh*

Robert Hobby



### PRAYER LISTS

**ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS:** **Nursing Homes/Assisted Living:** Jeanette Cantrell, Millie Christensen, Lucille Lebold ; **Shut-in at Home:** Peggy Cash, Janet Edwards, Doris Moeser, and Dick Sallade; **Recovery At Home:** Richard Anderson.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** **The Ahlen Family and Bella and Mark Sandlass**, requested by Kathy Stevens; **Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother)**, requested by the Ardis family; **Matt Adamo (Brother-in-law of Patricia)** requested by Patricia Fielding; **Matt Eggars (Sandy's nephew)**, requested by the Sniady family; **Mary Lou Hubble (Jacob's aunt)**, requested by the Wessler family; **Jessica Savage**, requested by the Dail Family; **Susan Koehlinger (Laura's mother)**, requested by Laura Jay; **Harry Hartman and Patrick Soukup**, requested by Anne Obara and **Bill Selby (uncle) and Sherrie Strickland (cousin)**, requested by Wendy Mynoymany.

**Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty:** **James Fielding**, State Dept., Myanmar; **Bryan Hunt**, State Dept., Sierra Leone.; **Eric Lindfors**, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; **Tyler Obara**, Virginia Air National Guard, LAFB; **Josh and Ellen (Davis) Badgley**, State Department, Bangkok, Thailand; **Michael Titus**, US Navy, Naval Shipyard, Washington, DC and wife, **Elisabeth Bruce**.

The flowers today are presented to the Glory of God.

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## **Serving the Assembly**

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**Crucifer**

Karina Stevens

**Acolytes**

Samantha Harry

Andrew Rummel

**Lector**

Charles Robinson

**Ushers/Greeters/Presenters**

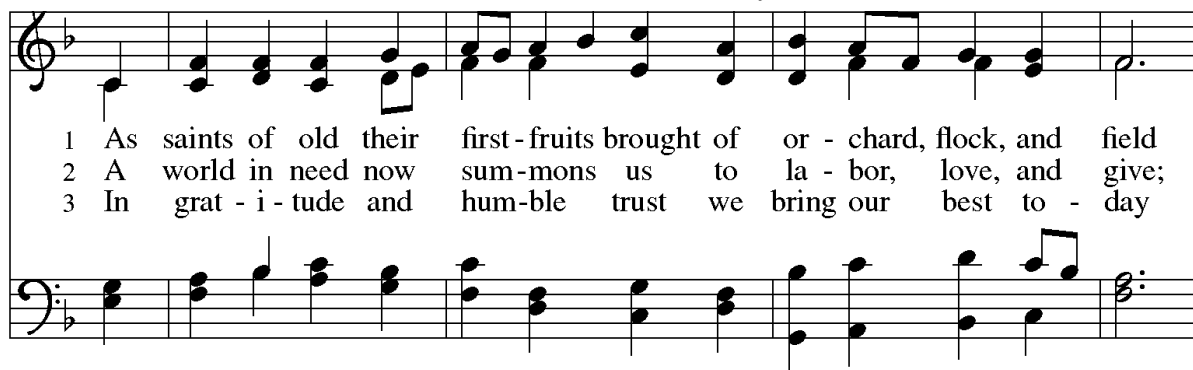
John Lunsford

Karoline Ardis

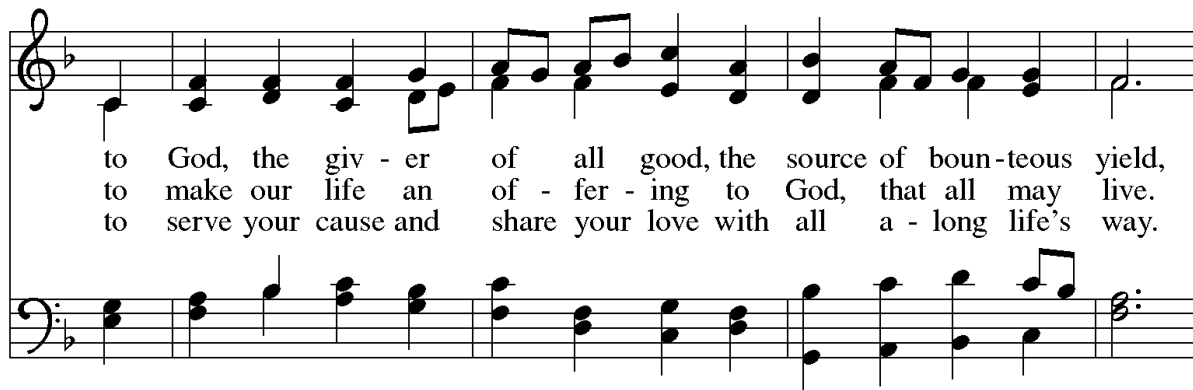
**Camera/Livestream**

Cliff Obara

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1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

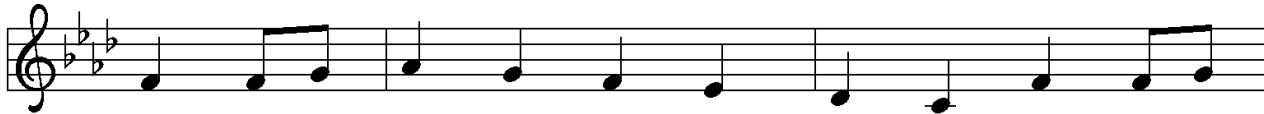
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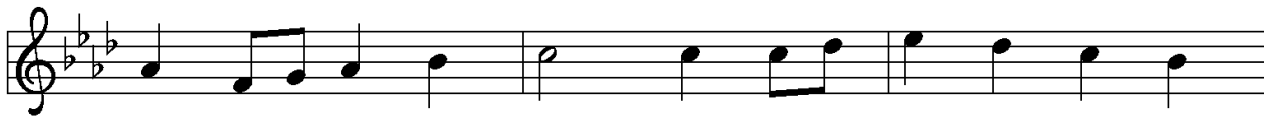
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who  
 2 In your day of loss and sor - row, in your  
 3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed  
 4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the  
 5 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and  
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -  
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of  
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that  
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,  
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.  
 Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."  
 spurns him, of - f'ring peace from Cal - v'ry's hill.  
 glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

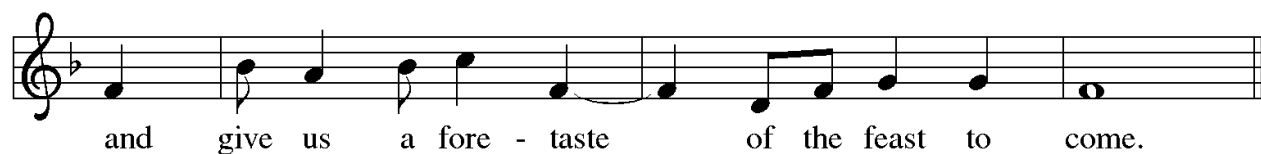
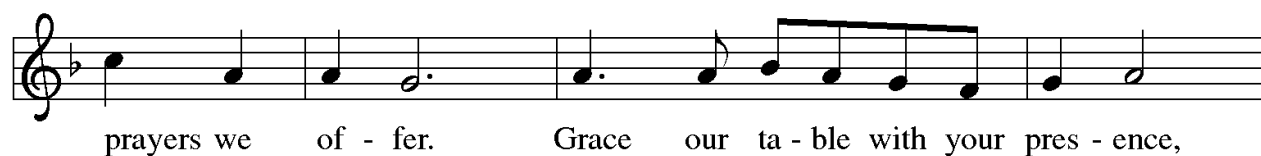
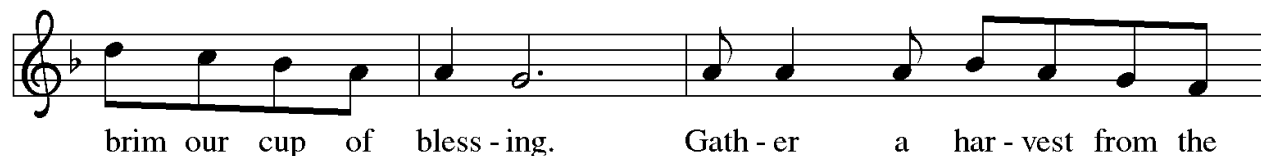
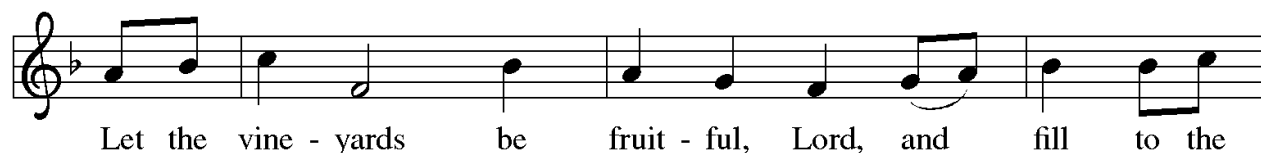
Text: Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: NEW ORLEANS, Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

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Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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# MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

## Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

*Refrain*

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.  
Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991  
Text © Union of Welsh Independents.  
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