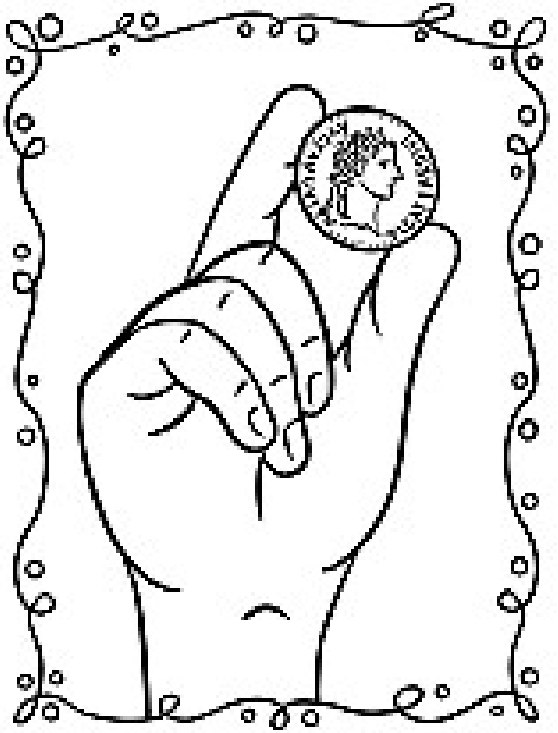
# ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
## Saturday, October 17, 2026 5:00pm
## Sunday, October 18, 2026 9:30am



*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

***Please note:*** *Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.*

***ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship***

**SSM is equipped with hearing assistance devices. If you would like more information on how to gain access please see an usher for the instructions and assistance.**

**PRELUDE:** **(5:00)** "Praise and Thanksgiving" -arr. D. Wagner
**(9:30)** "Pastorale" -Percy Whitlock

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**A:** Spirit of Love, we are children of your delight.
**C: We who are born of your love sing your praise.**
**A:** Spirit of Love, you enfold us in your blessing.
**C: We who are healed by your love give you thanks.**
**A:** Spirit of Love, you, you flow through us into the world.
**C: Alleluia! We who bear your love bless you. Come, Spirit of Love, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!**

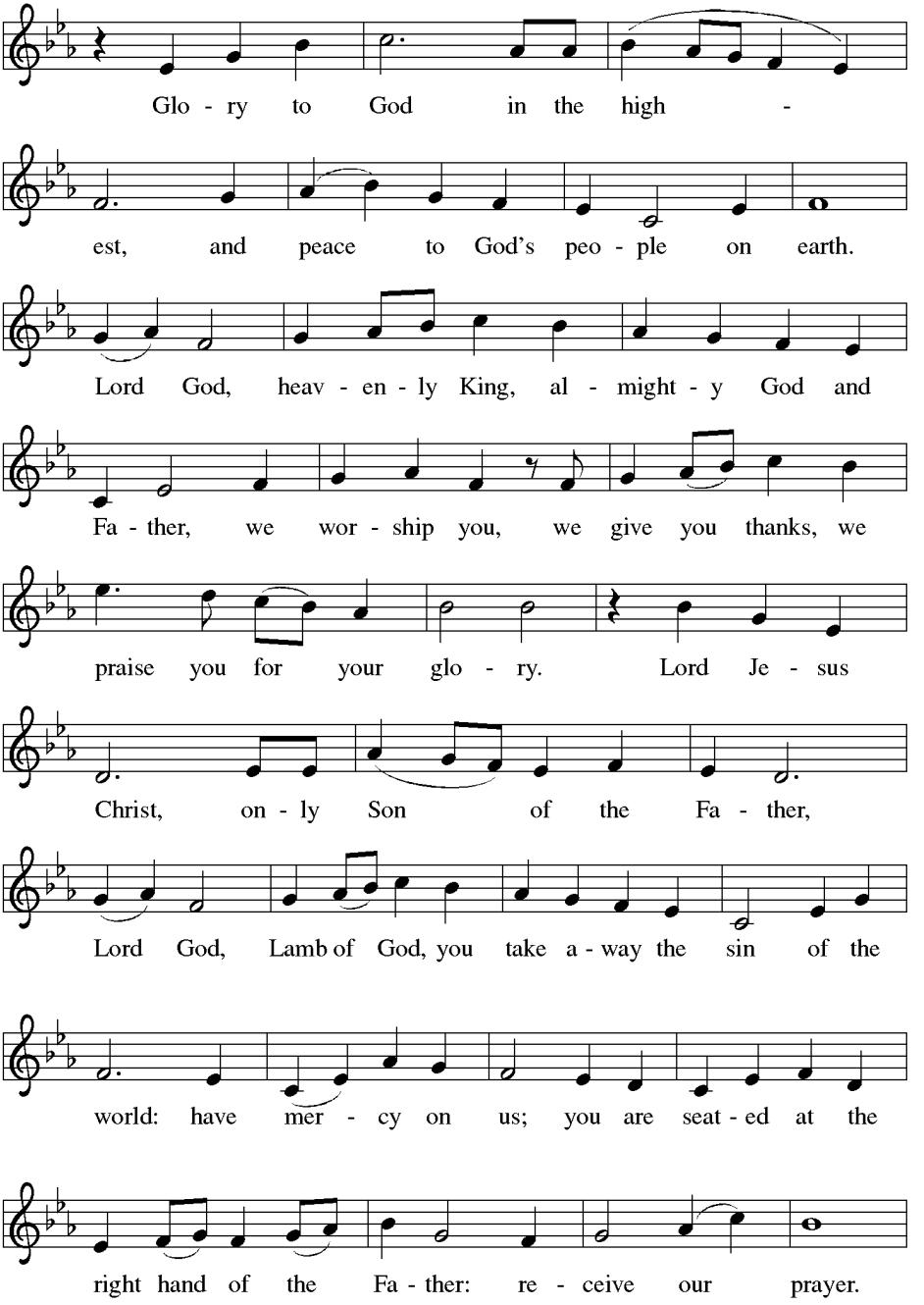
**GATHERING HYMN: ELW #731 Earth and All Stars!**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**A:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
**C: Amen.**
**A:** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
*Silence is kept for reflection.*
**A:** Compassionate God,
**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**
**A:** Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
**C: Amen.**

**GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
**C: And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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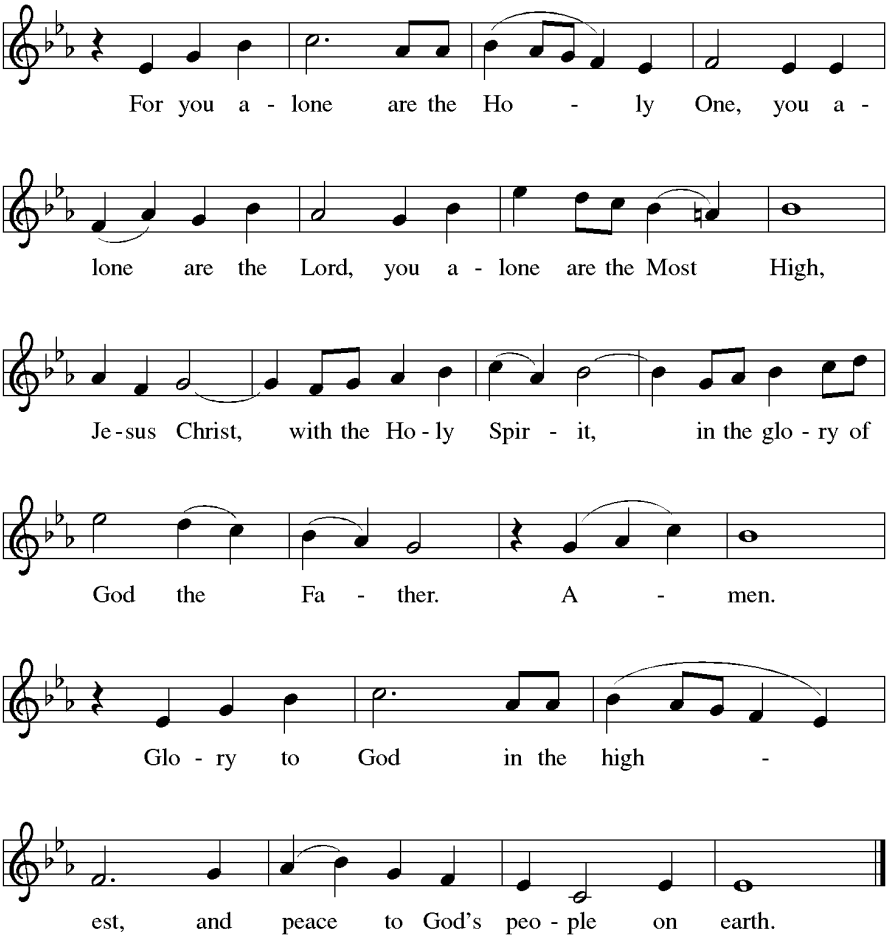

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**C: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (9:30)** Kristy Knipple

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7**

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*[1] O Lord, you are my God;

[1] Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
[2] I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
[3] I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
[4] For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
[5] I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
[7] I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

**L:** The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

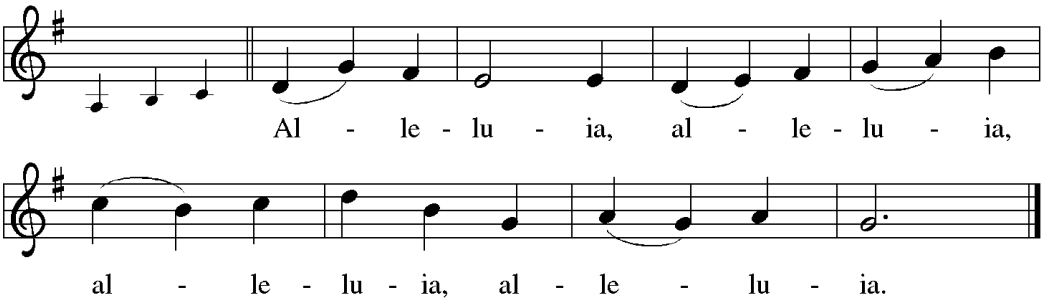
[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love

and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

**L:** The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(please stand as you are able)*




**GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[15] The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. [16] So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. [17] Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" [18] But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? [19] Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. [20] Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" [21] They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the

things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." [22] When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

**MESSAGE: (5:00)** Rev. Dr. Kipp W. Zimmermann
**(9:30)** "Whose Image?" Rev. Brian Hooper

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

**APOSTLES' CREED** *(Please stand as you are able)*

**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**
*Each petition will end with the words, "Hear us, O God," After each petition the congregation will respond, "**your mercy is great**."*

**SHARING OF THE PEACE** *(please be seated after sharing the peace)*
**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.
**C: And also with you.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: (9:30)** "Sing unto the Lord a New Song" -Smith

**OFFERINGS**
*Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. More information can be found on our website ssmelca.org or use the QR codes listed here:*

*for Google* *for iPhone*

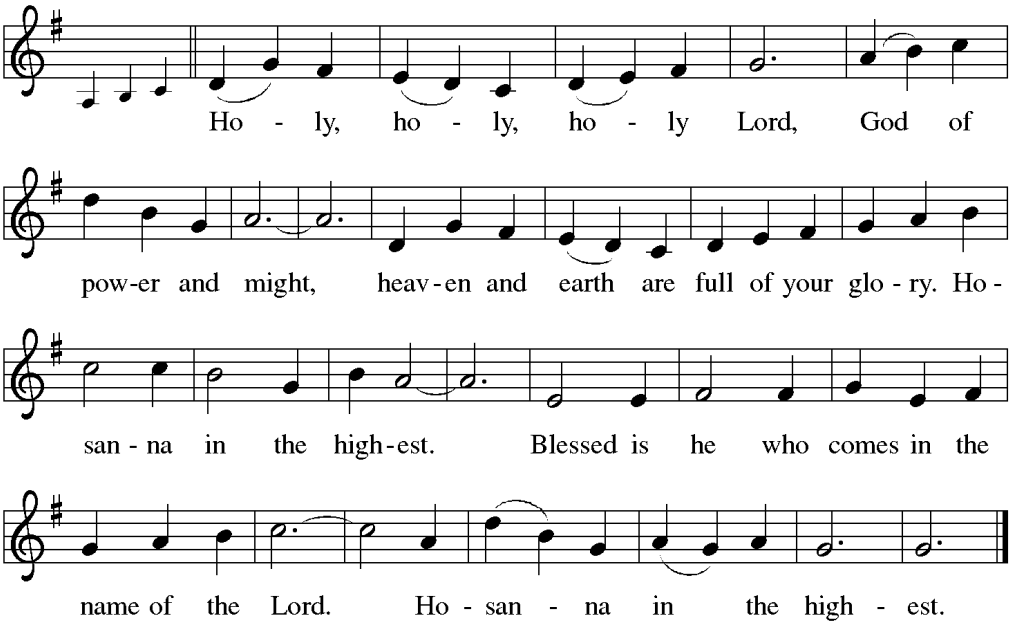
**OFFERTORY HYMN (9:30) ELW #583 Take My Life, That I May Be**
***verse 2***

**OFFERING PRAYER**
**A:** God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
**C: Amen**

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P:** The Lord be with you.
**C: And also with you.**
**P:** Lift up your hearts.
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

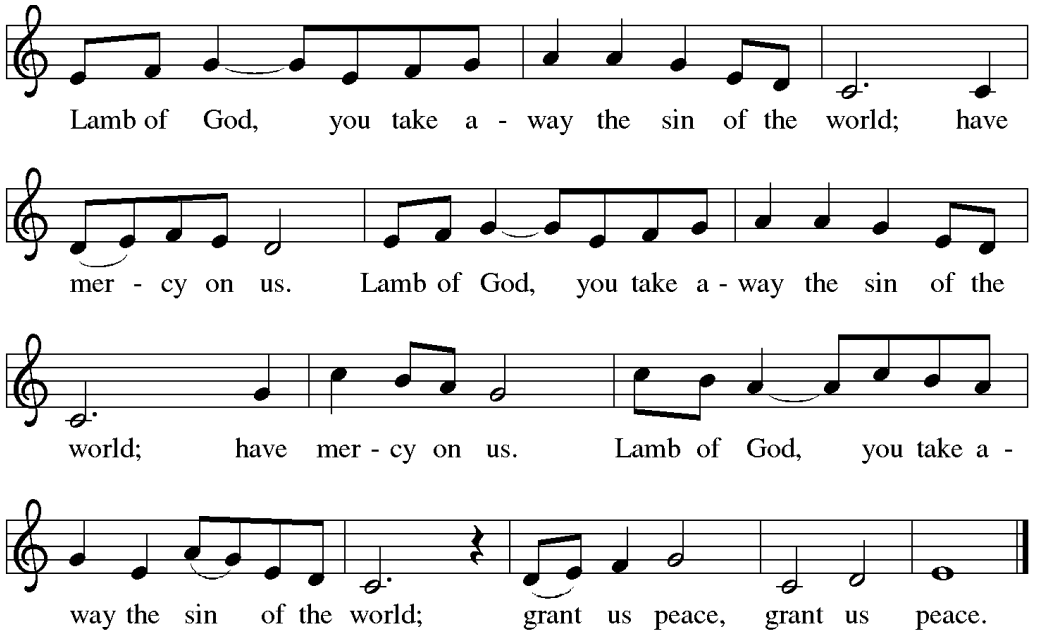



**WORDS OF INSTITUTION:** "In the night…"

**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.**

**LAMB OF GOD**




**COMMUNION HYMN ELW #871 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Please be sure to read the printed announcements.)*

**BLESSING**

**P:** The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW #834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

**DISMISSAL**
**A:** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: (5:00)** "Postludium" -G. Young
**(9:30)** "Toccata in E Minor" -Johann Pachelbel

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## *THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP*

**Assisting Minister (5:00)** Bonnie Zimmermann
**Ushers: (5:00)** Herb Lepien, Patti Nelson
**(9:30)** Dennis Lucchesi, Cheryl & Dan Stefanski
**Acolyte (9:30)** Audrey Kelroy
**Reader: (5:00)** Patti Nelson **(9:30)** Bonnie Daleness
**Communion: (5:00) Set Up-** Bonnie Court **Server-** Patti Nelson
**(9:30) Set Up-** Faith O'Connell, Shelly Rosenstock
**Servers-** Faith O'Connell, Kipp Zimmermann
**Streaming Technician:** Eric Sanders
**Coffee Hour (9:30):** Robyn, Lorin & Quinn Schuchardt

## ***Announcements***

**Meru Teen Mother Education** Program - A new program provides 1 year of training for teen mothers in the areas of food preparation, tailoring or hair dressing at a Diocese of Meru supported vocational school. Cost is $460/person. The program begins in January. Donations received NOW can be sent in a November wire transfer in time for next year's group. There are 60 girls on the waiting list! Contact Julie Starks for more information, jastarks39@gmail.com, 414-254-253.

**Join Pastor Brian for the first Brewed Theology** gathering as we explore **"Listening 101."** Over a beverage and good conversation, we'll consider listening as a spiritual practice—and ask what it might look like to become better listeners to one another, to our communities, and to God. Our first gathering will take place at **The Explorium Brewpub in Greendale on Tuesday night, October 20 at 6pm.**

**October food donations** will go to our partners at Unity for their food pantry. Please place your food donations in the bins located under the "Giving Station" in the Narthex. Monetary donations are always welcome, mark them "Food Ministry" or use an envelope found on the Giving Station Board.
**Human Concerns** is collaborating with our partner congregations to support their ministries

throughout the summer. **Tippecanoe** is collecting quarters and one-dollar bills and laundry detergent to assist the people they serve with getting their laundry done. **Unity** is looking for specific items to distribute to their guests. There is a blue bin with more information in the Narthex for each of these programs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Sunday, October 25th is Reformation** – we will celebrate Affirmation of Baptism for four young people from SSM, Andre Dean, Adalyn Kopplin, Maddie Miller and Molly Myszkowski. Additionally 3rd graders will receive bibles and several young people will receive First Communion. Please join in the celebration of these special events.

**Lutherdale:** We are planning a High School Youth retreat, *"Embodied: Faith That Shows up."* Dates are November 6-8 and it takes place Friday night at 7pm to Sunday at 10am. Cost is $125.

**High School Pizza, Pumpkins and Halloween Movie on Saturday, October 24 at 6pm at SSM:**: Bring your pumpkin to be carved. We will have some pizza and watch a scary movie together.

**Trunk or Trest** will take place Saturday, October 24th from 2 to 3pm. All kiddos are welcome to come and trunk or treat – grown ups too. There will be treats for those who have allergies. The day will include games, treats, crafts and lots to do.

**Ascension Lutheran Church will host a presentation by Nadia Bolz-Weber about Christian Nationalism** titled "Red State Revival" on October 30th. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board between the offices,

| ***This Week at SSM*** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Monday, 10/19** | **1:00pm** | Quilting – Layering – until 3pm | |
| **Wednesday, 10/21** | **9:30am** | Men's Bible Study | |
| | **5:45pm** | Handbell Rehearsal | |
| | **7:00pm** | Choir Rehearsal | |
| ***Reformation Weekend*** | | | |
| **Saturday, 10/24** | **2:00pm** | Trunk or Treat – until 3pm | |
| | **5:00pm** | Worship | Ushers: Cheryl & Dan Stefanski |
| | | | Reader: John Rech |
| | | | Communion: Cheryl & Dan Stefanski |
| | **6:00pm** | Youth Pizza & Halloween Movie Night at SSM | |
| **Sunday, 10/25** | **9:30am** | Worship | Ushers: Chris Dollar, Diane Moraza, Shelly Rosenstock |
| | | | Acolyte: Audrey Kelroy |
| | | | Reader: Mary Luedtke |
| | | | Communion: Julie Starks, Cathy Peterson |
| | | Sunday School | |

## KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Sharon Behling, Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Jay Chadwick, Diana Gastrau, Sue Jarchow, Carolyn Kahl, Joy Kilimann, Sally Kowalewski, Carol Kucharski, Billie Jo Kunesh, Shirley Lieske, Carol Mueller, Larry Petricek, Joan Retzlaff, Eleanor Salb, Richard Sontvedt

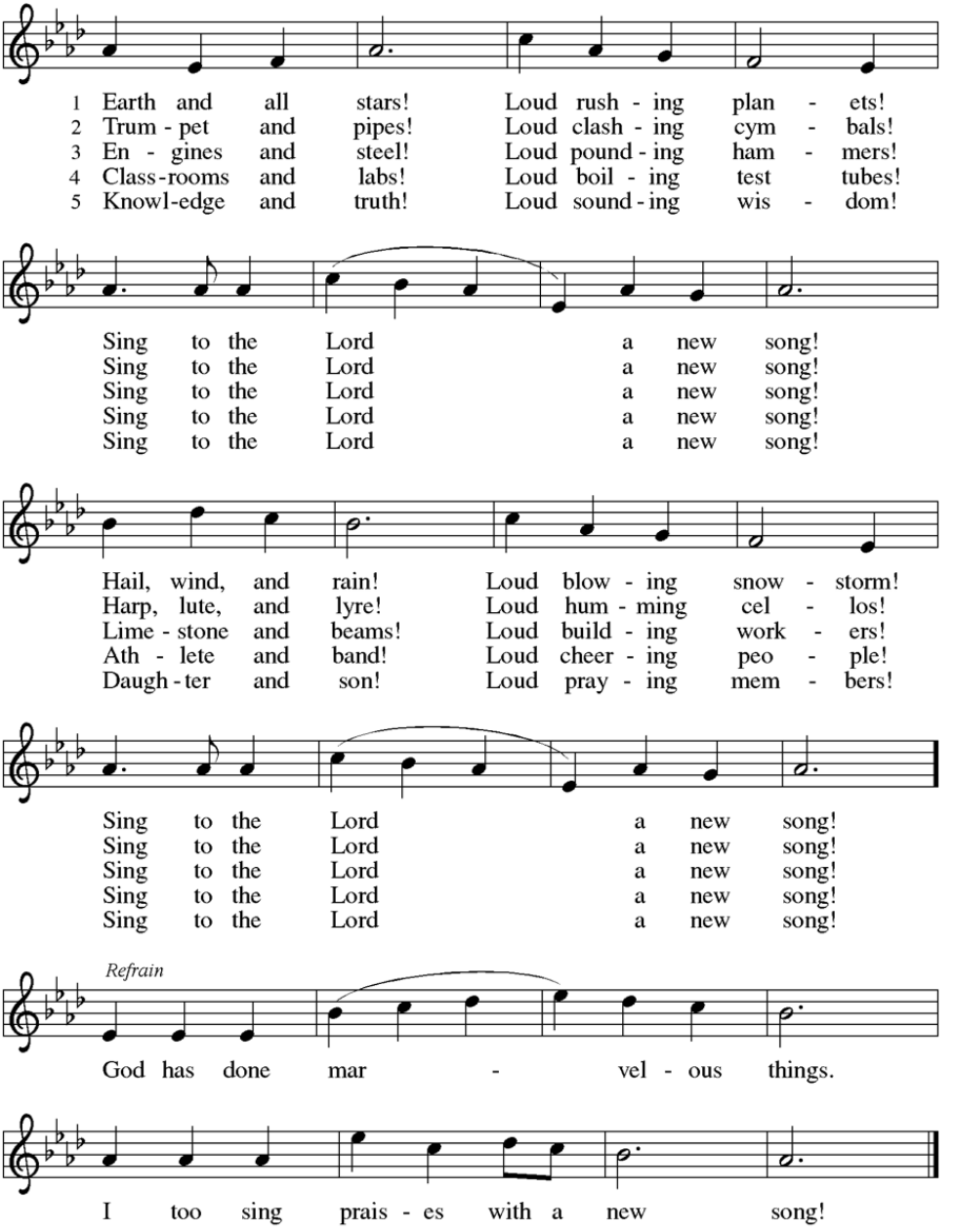
## PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Brent, grandson of Dennis & Geri Lucchesi
Carol, sister of Heidi Hennessy
Cheryl, sister-in-law of Larry & Sue Stasiewski
Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff
Pam Baranowski, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Evelyn Buck, cousin of Pastor Maren
Arlene Cich, cousin of Don Manning
Grace Court,
Corstan Court, son of Bonnie Court
Jennifer F and her family, friends of Kelly Sachse
Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally Kowalewski
Marcia Gabriel, friend of Nancy Mineau & Marion Walton
Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana Gastrau
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel
Lise James, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
Robert Koenen, friend of Don & Carol Manning
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally Kowalewski
Kristine Klugiewicz, sister of Nancy Mineau
Tim Lingen, nephew of Nancy & Bruce Mineau
Christine Lymne, sister of Deb Perl
Linda Oberbrunner, niece of Marion Walton
Ted & Ellen P., family of Gail Jakus
Paul R, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Deb Rusch, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
Jakob Sachse, nephew of Greg and Kelly Sachse
Scott & Pam Sawicki, brother & sister-in-law of Sandy Wesolowski
Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann Simley
Richard Sorenson, friend of Jim & Heidi Hennessy
Barb Starks, mother of Julie Starks
Lynne Turnquist, friend of Carol Manning
David Vento, friend of Al Behling
Billy Waters, Stepdad of Lori Salas
Chrissy White, daughter of Sue Herman
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Cohen Zettle, family of Pam Young

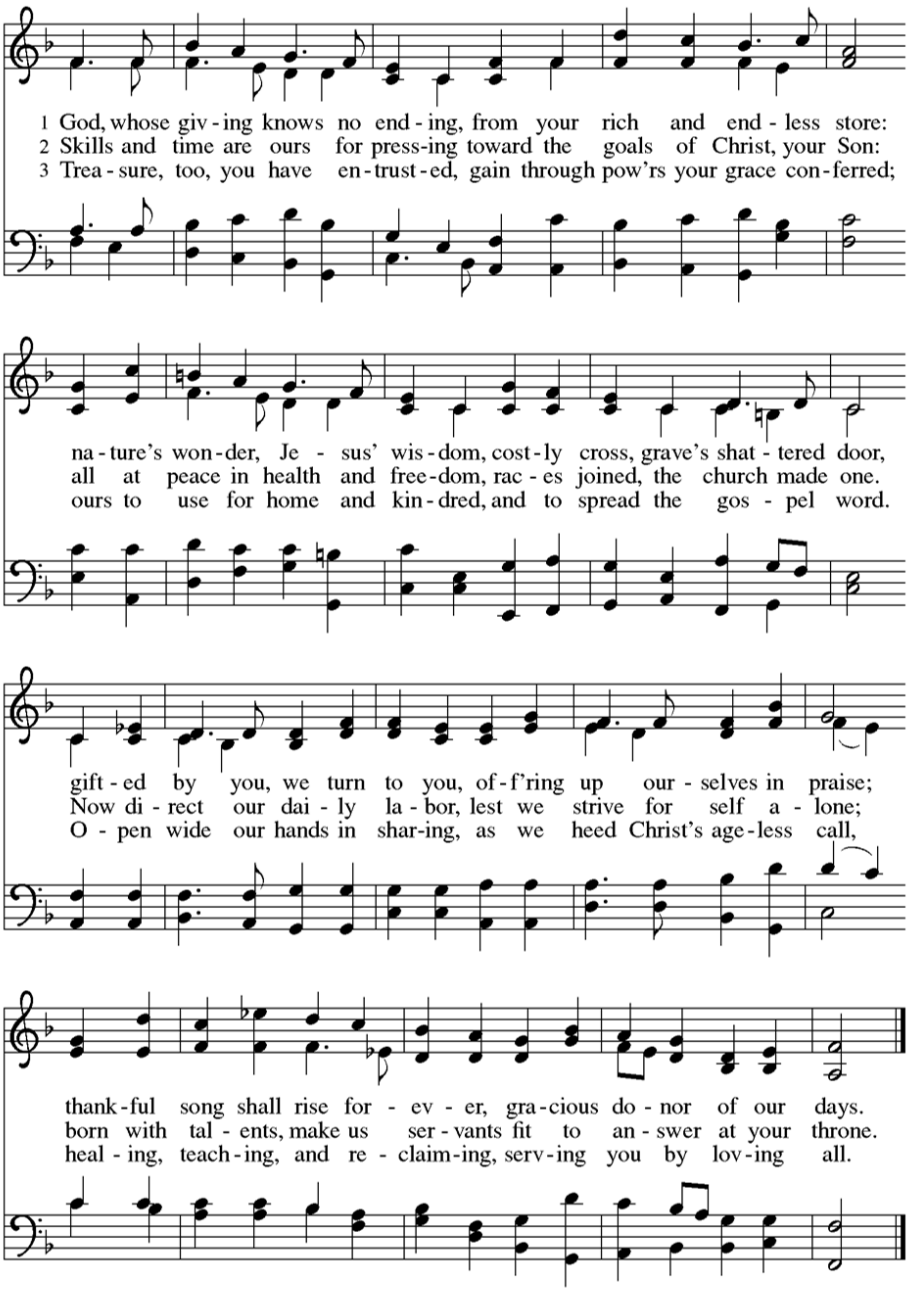

Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor
Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director
Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician
Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
email - office@ssmelca.org
Website – www.ssmelca.org
Facebook - https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/

# HYMN ELW #731 Earth and All Stars!




Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# HYMN ELW #678 God, Whose Giving Knows No End

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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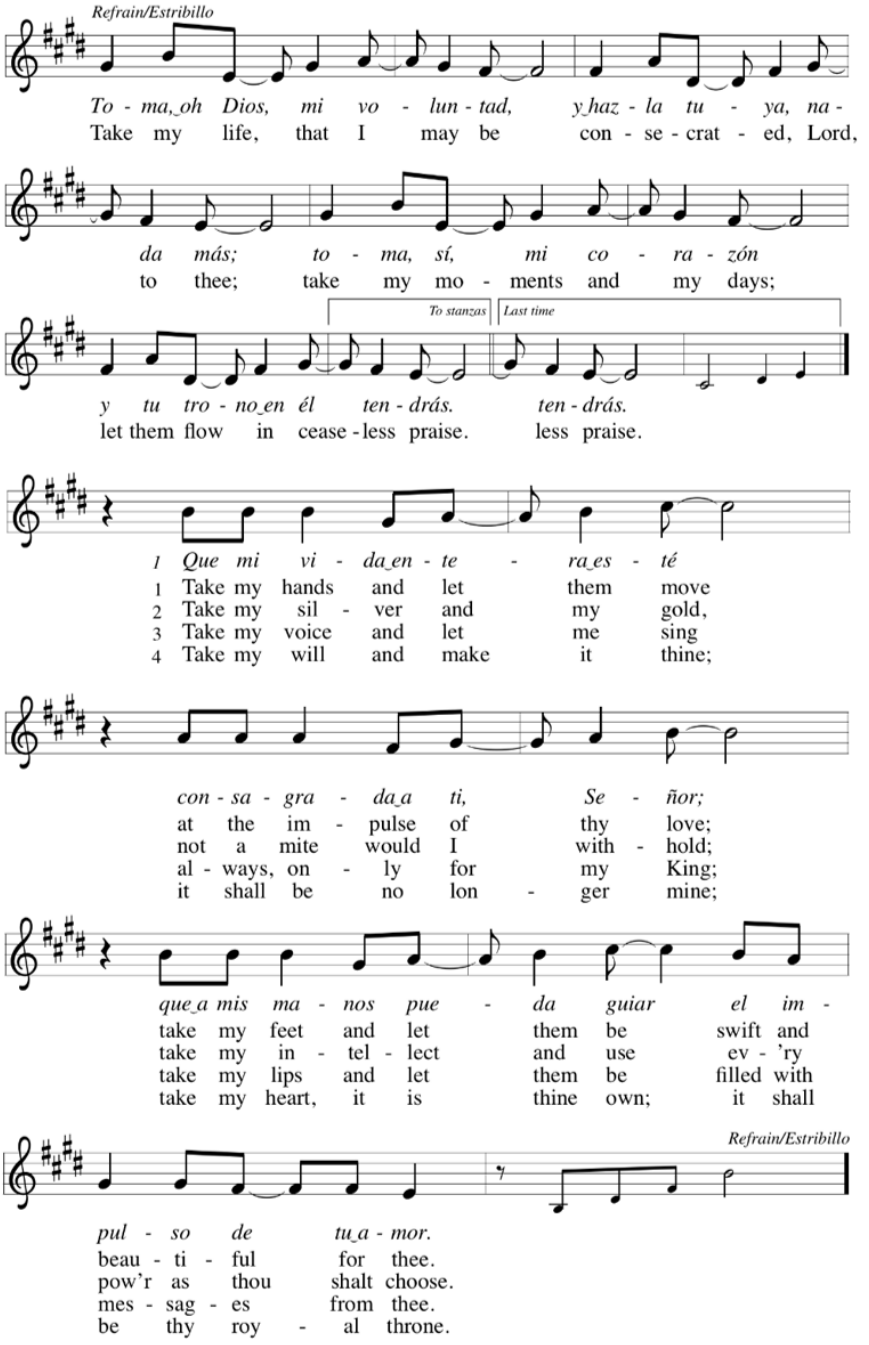
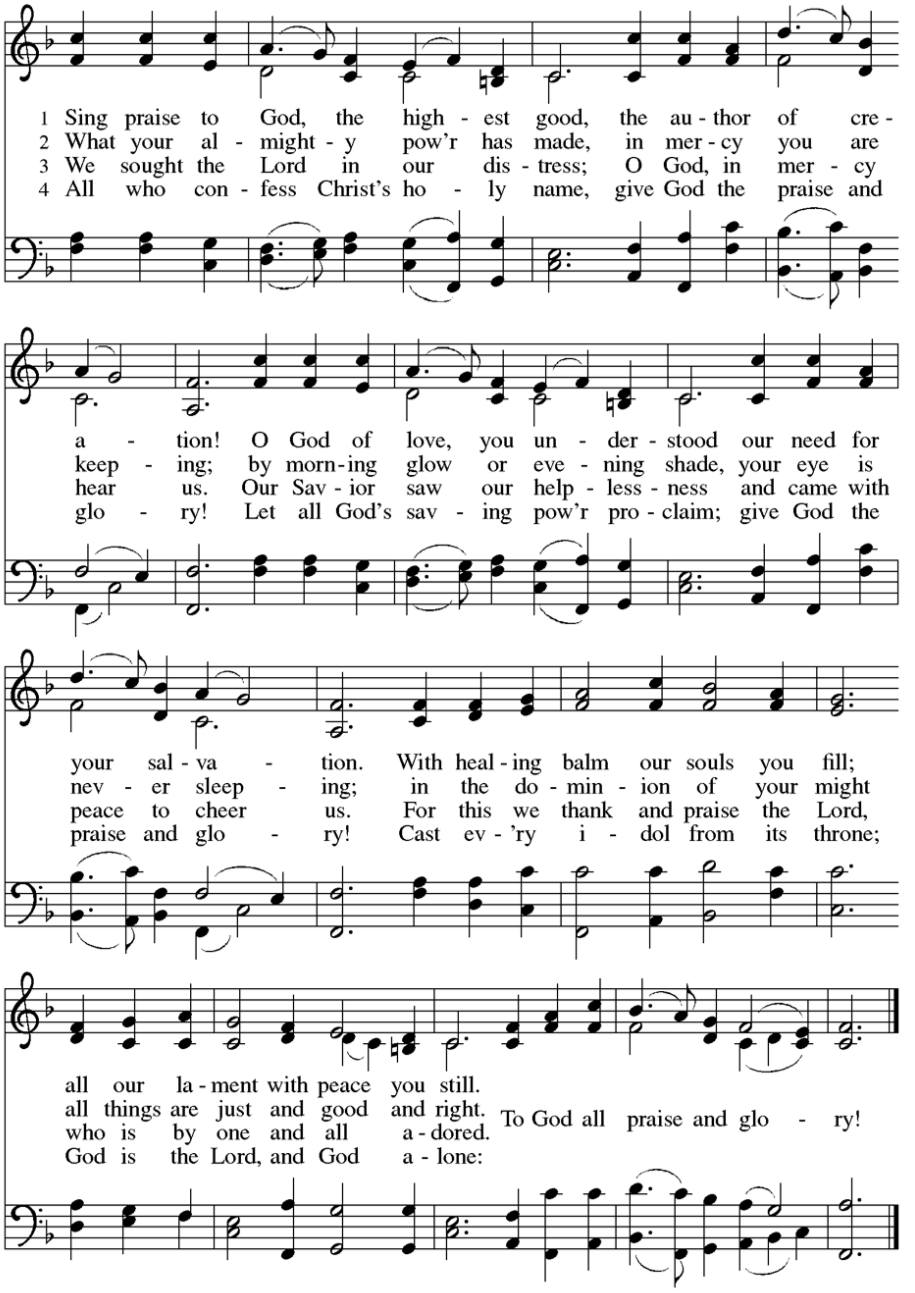
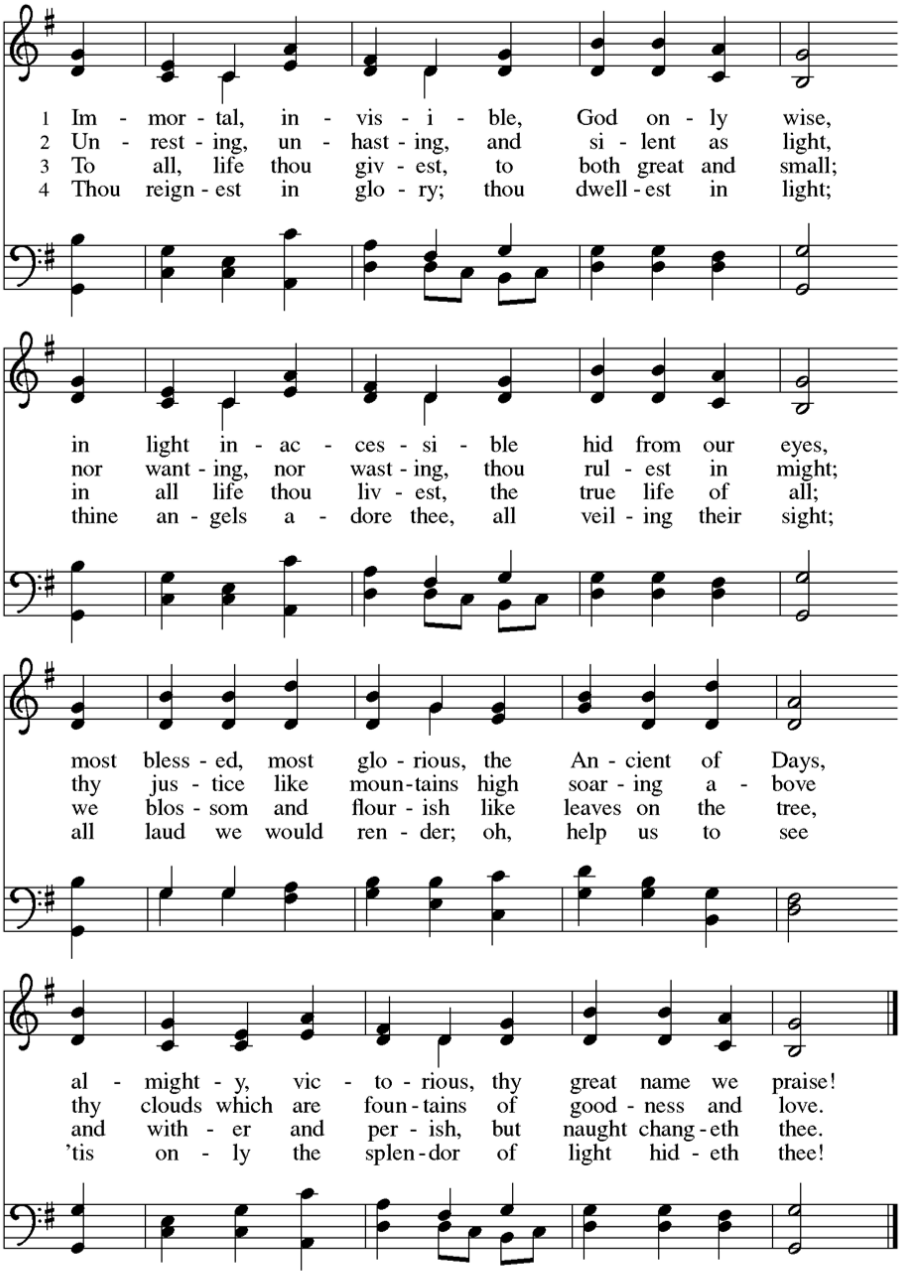
# HYMN ELW #583 Take My Life, That I May Be *verse 2*

# HYMN ELW #871 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640–1690; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–1897, adapt.
Music: LOBT GOTT DEN HERREN, IHR, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

# HYMN ELW #834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876