MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander

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Joliet, IL 60431

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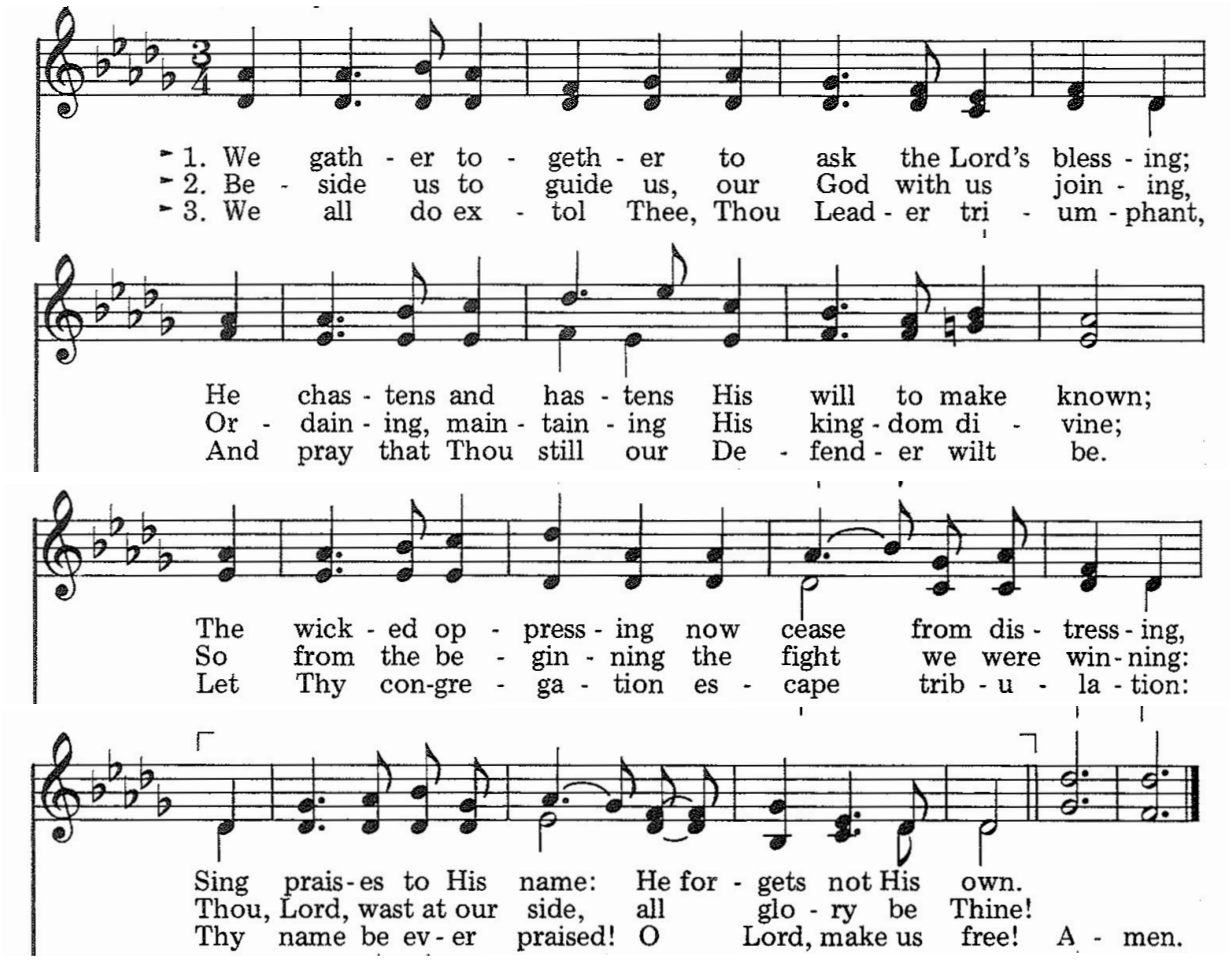
Welcome to Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

PRELUDE Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN **"**We Gather Together," #561 v. 1-3



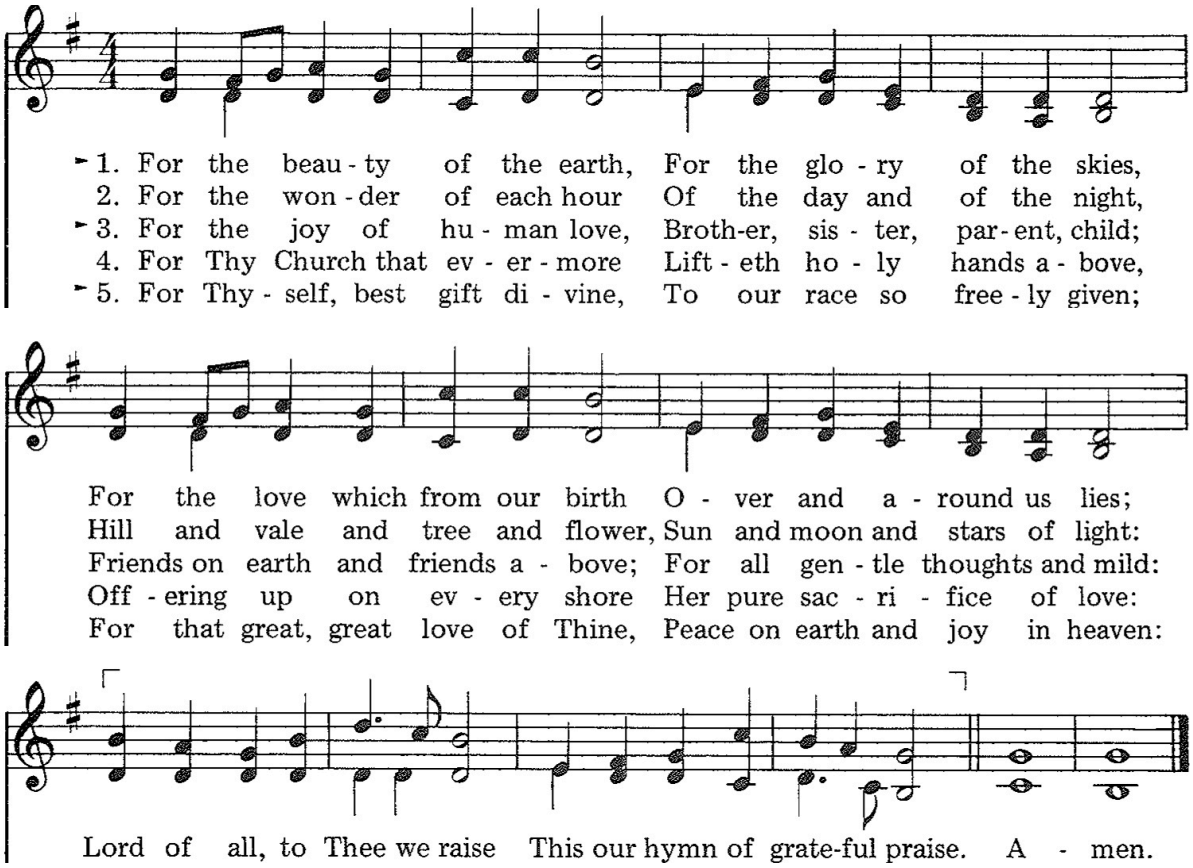
LITANY OF GRATITUDE ADAPTED FROM PSALM 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness.
All: Come before him with joyful songs.
Leader: Know that the Lord is God.
All: It is he who made us, and we are his.
Leader: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

Leader Give thanks to him and praise his name.
All: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
Leader: We worship you Lord, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

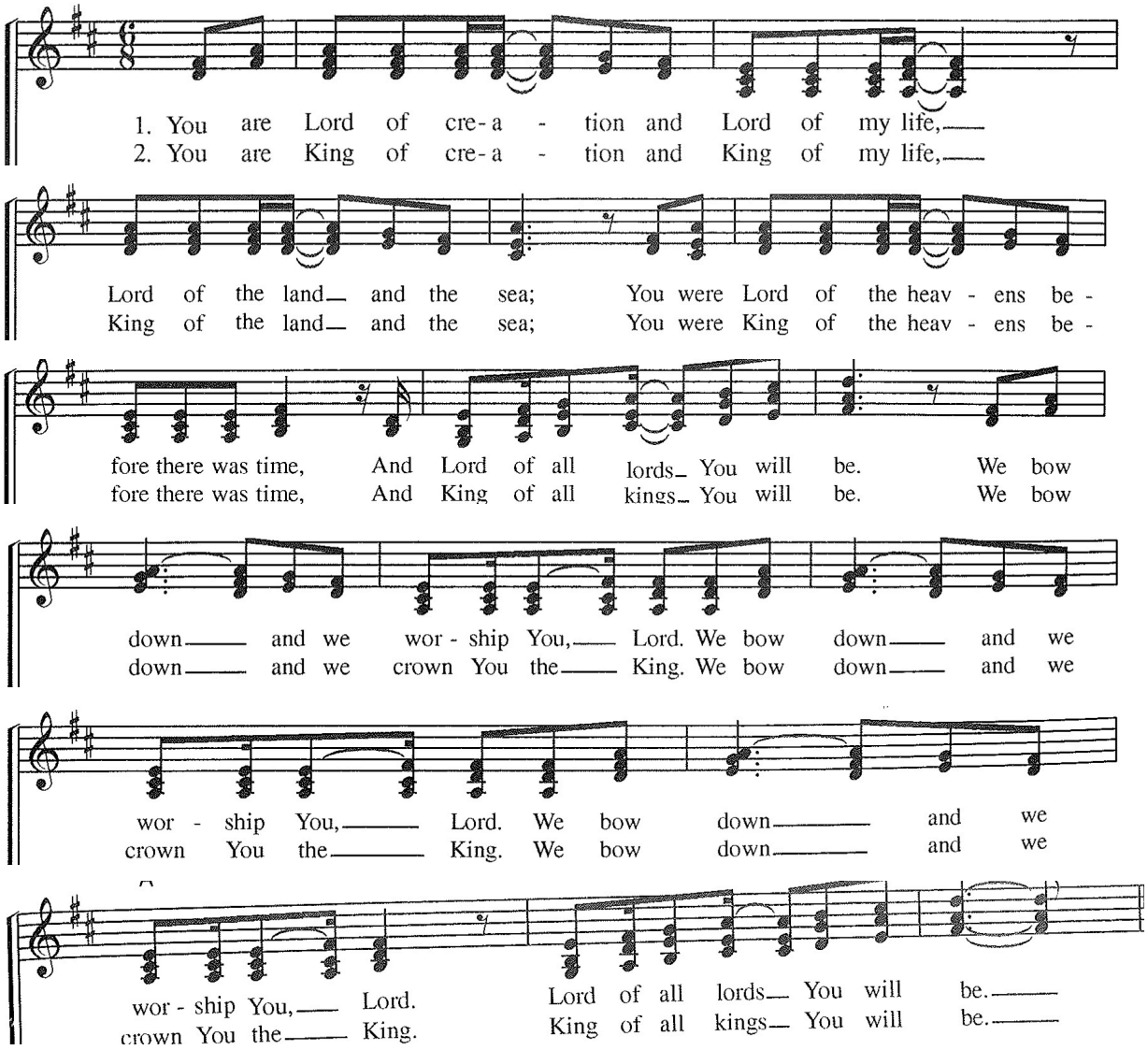
WELCOME

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING "For the Beauty of the Earth," #560 v. 1-5





HYMN OF THANKSGIVING "We Bow Down," #97 v. 1-2, *Maranatha*

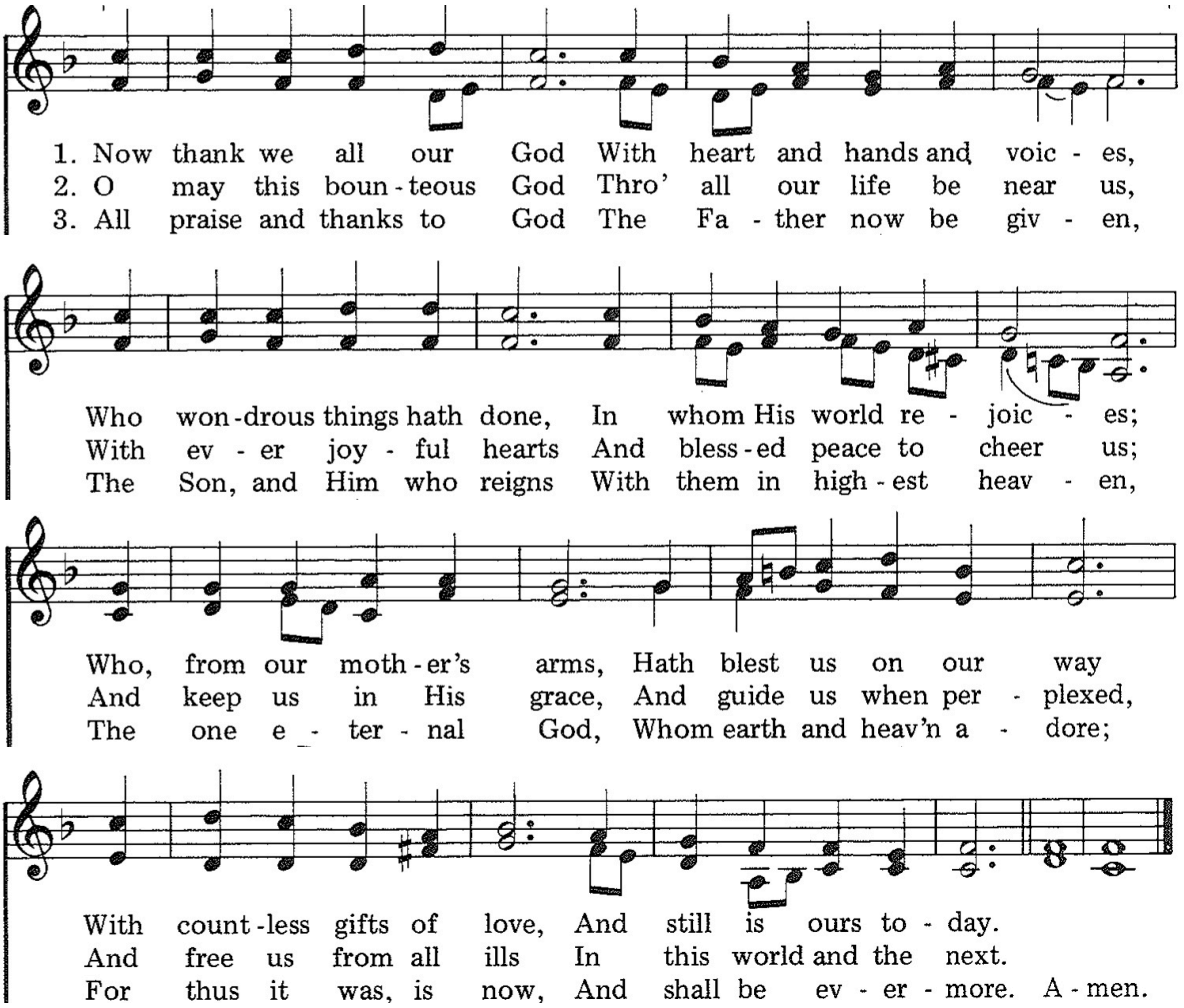


GIVE THANKS!

We invite you to share in a sentence what you are thankful for in your life. You can give someone's name or share a blessing in your life such as an answer to prayer or a happy marriage. If someone starts to speak just as you speak, just wait, listen to that person, and then begin your short statement. How would you answer this statement:

I'm thankful to God for _____.

HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God," #556 v. 1-3

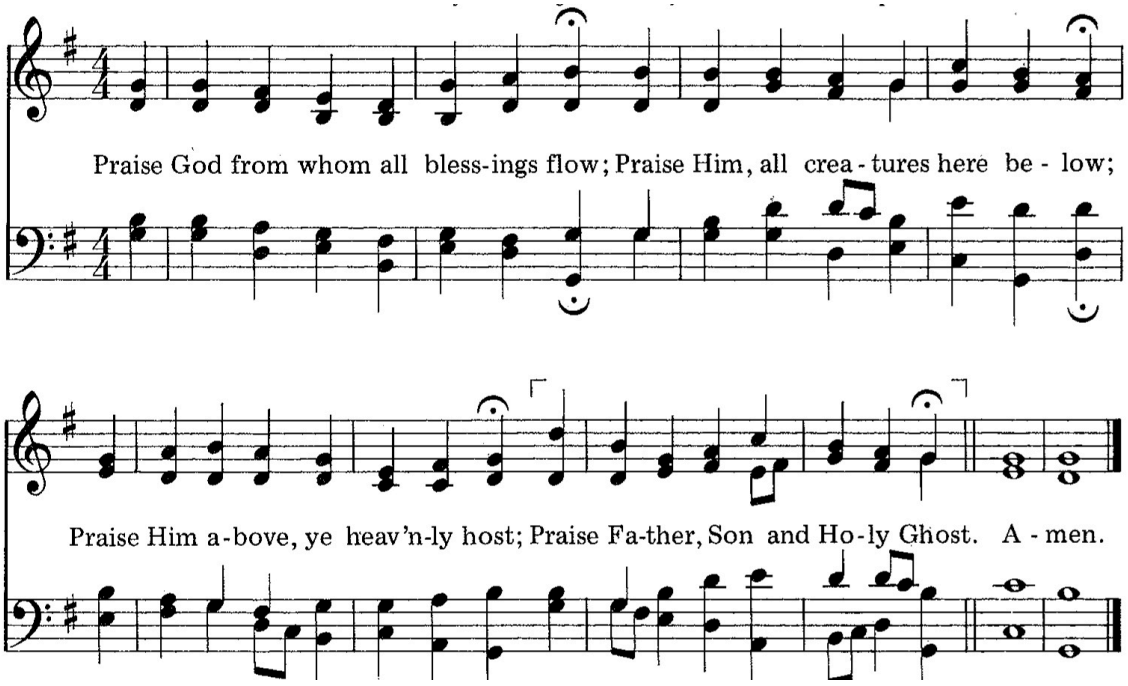


PRAYER FOR THOSE IN NEED

Leader: Dear Lord, we pray for the homeless and the hungry.
All: Please provide them with shelter, food and faith.
Leader: We pray for the immigrants trying to find freedom and provision for their families.
All: Help them to enter our country legally and to feel welcome here.
Leader: Please be with the sick, the lonely and the abused.
All: Give them health, friendship and protection.
Leader: We pray for everyone who struggles with doubt and unbelief.
All: Create faith in their hearts and trust in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help our congregation to be a loving, welcoming, faith building ministry.
Leader: In Jesus' name,
All: Amen.

THE OFFERING Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE Doxology #625



FIRST LESSON Judges 7:1-8 (ESV)

1 Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the
spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of
Moreh. 2 The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian
into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' 3
Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave
Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

4 But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the
water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he
shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, "Separate
those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel
down to drink." 6 Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like
dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

7 The Lord said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you
and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home." 8 So Gideon
sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the
provisions and trumpets of the others.

GOSPEL LESSON John 12:23-26 (ESV)

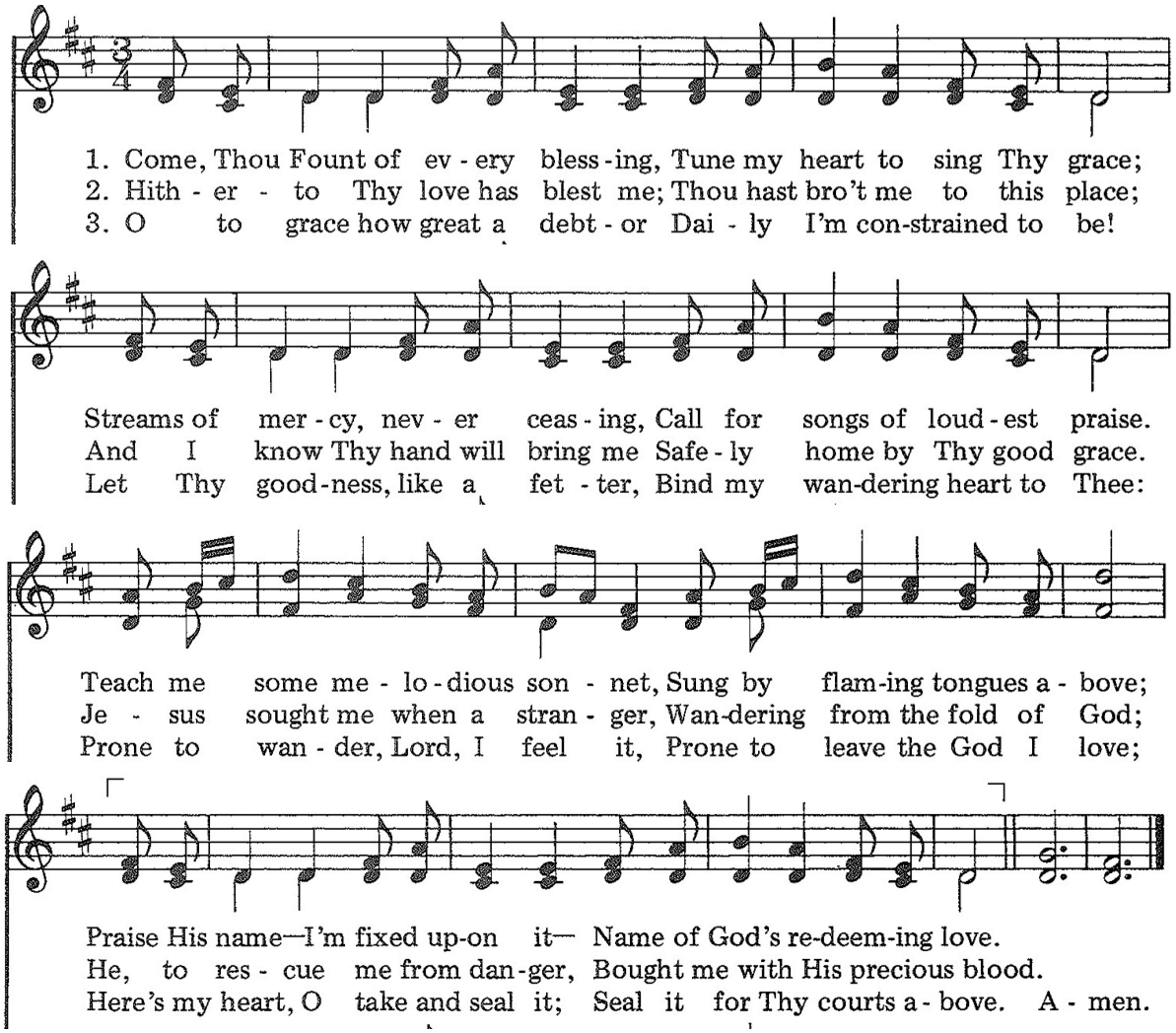
23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly I
tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single
seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it,
while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever
serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will
honor the one who serves me.

SANCTUARY CHOIR "Our Many Hymns of Thanks," arr. David Lantz III, led by Herb Alexander

SERMON **"Unintentional Sacrifice"**
Pastor Kurt Hoover

A manuscript of this sermon and those previous can be found in the Narthex.

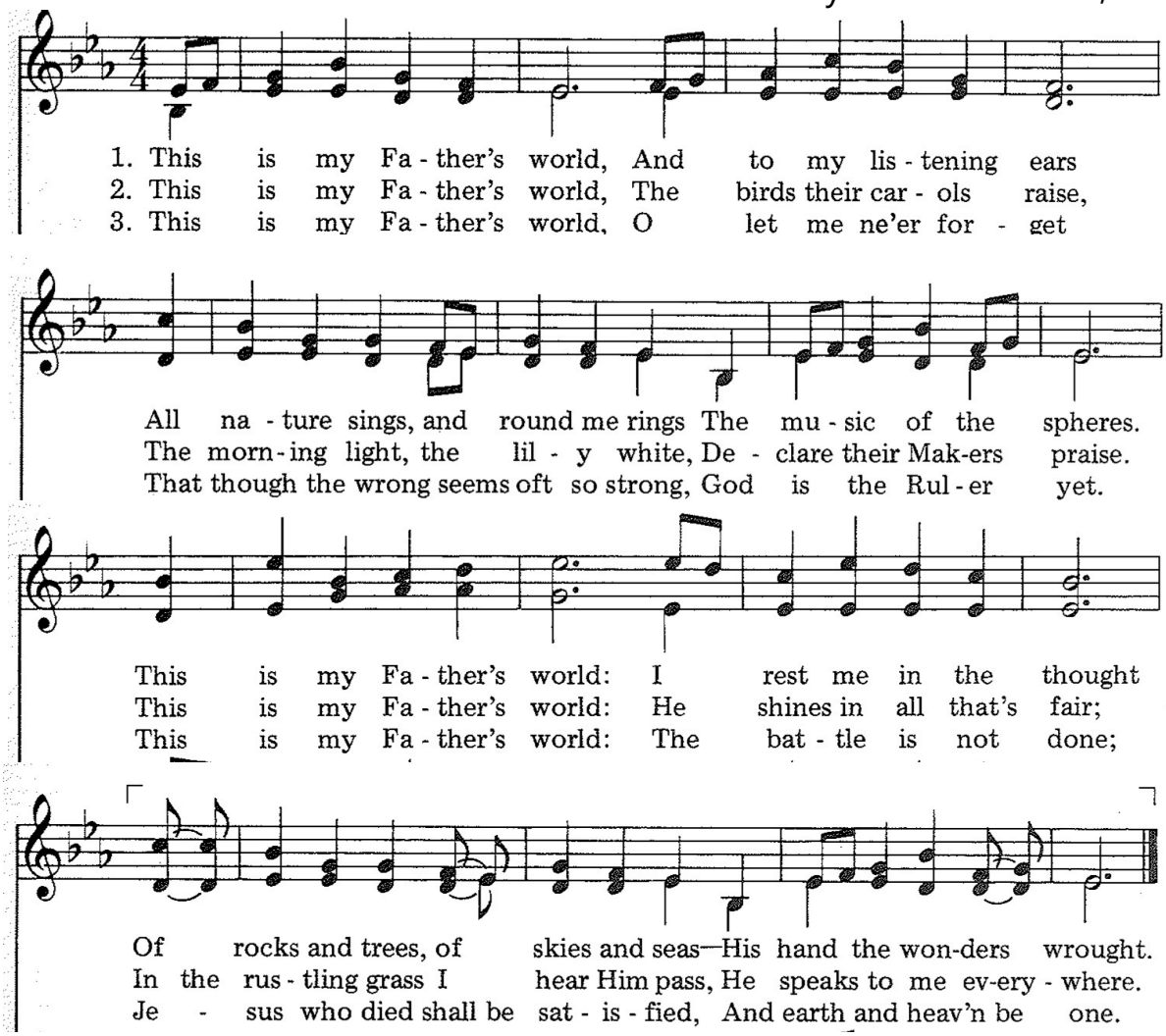
HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," #2 v. 1-3



THE 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN "This Is My Father's World", #58 v. 1-3



POSTLUDE Rose Ann Sochan

God will never lead you to a place where His grace cannot keep you.

Thank you for sharing worship with us this evening.
We hope to see you on Sunday, and throughout this blessed season.
This is a great time to bring family and friends!

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