

Ascension Sunday



June 1st 2025

Portage Lake United Church



Church of the Holy Sepulcher -- Jerusalem

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- Today is Helping Hands Sunday. There is a box next to the offering plate for your gift.
- We are looking for someone to host coffee next Sunday.
- Angel Mission needs: canned vegetables, with no or low sodium
- The flowers in the sanctuary are in memory of Douglas Suart, whose memorial service was yesterday.
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



Liturgical Color: White/Gold
Lectionary Year C

Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Susie Byykkonen
Greeter: Sze Wenn Tiang
Reader: Marla Bohnhoff
Prayer: Jim Northey
Communion: Al Eckhart
Coffee: Ann Campbell, Biruta Lowther
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION



Friendship, character, personal transformation, pregnancy, ripened fruit, and sprouting seeds all take time. Each has its own schedule

(Rueben P. Job)

Ascension
Building Mural
Bristol, England

+ Call to Worship (responsive)

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,
a great ruler over all the earth.**

God chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom God loves.

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Sing praises to our ruler, sing praises!

**For God is the ruler of all the earth;
Let us worship God!**



The Ascension

1350-1400 Niccolo di Giacoma da Bologna
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

PSALM 148

256

Let the Whole Creation Cry

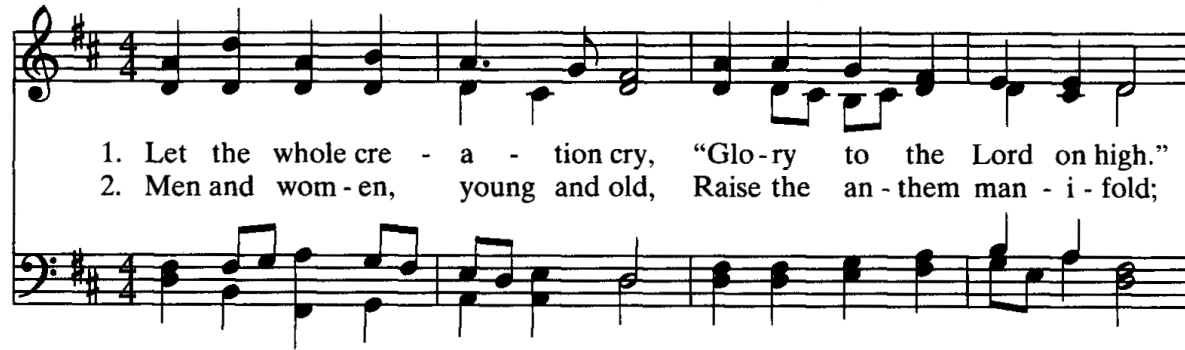
SALZBURG 7.7.7.7 D

Jacob Hintze, 1678

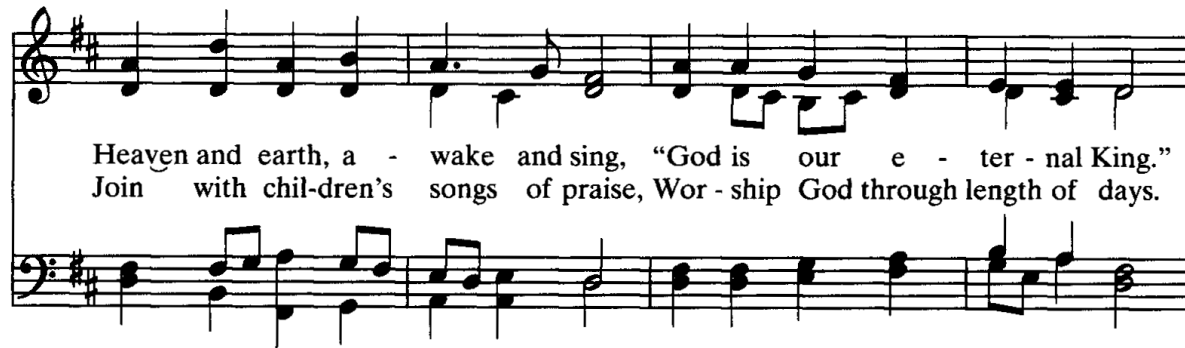
Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

As in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

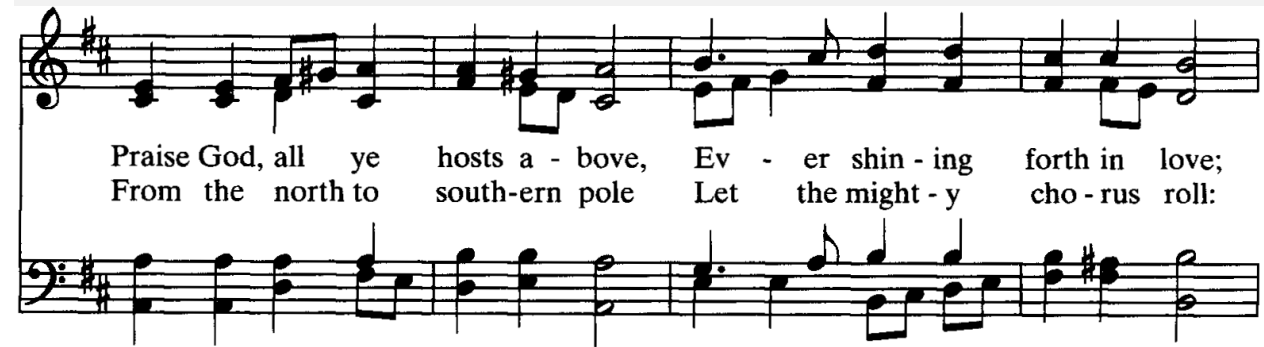
Stopford A. Brooke, 1881



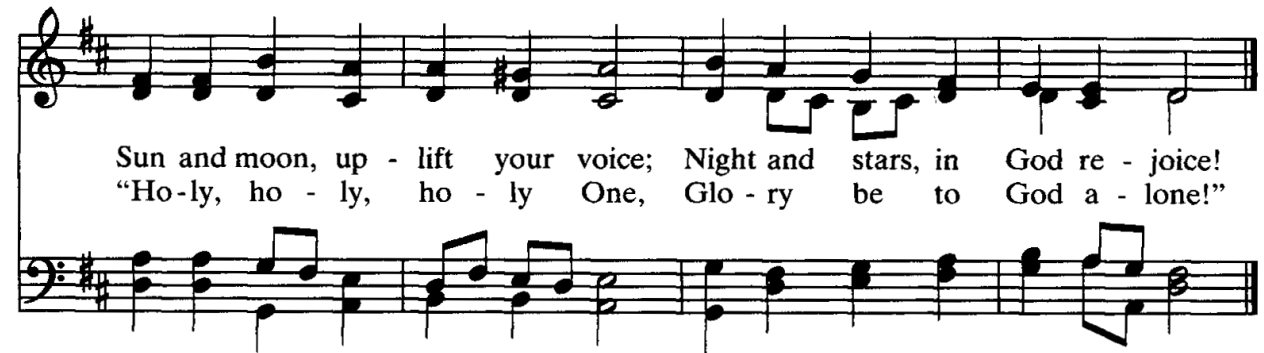
1. Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, “Glo - ry to the Lord on high.”
2. Men and wom - en, young and old, Raise the an - them man - i - fold;



Heaven and earth, a - wake and sing, “God is our e - ter - nal King.”
Join with chil - dren’s songs of praise, Wor - ship God through length of days.



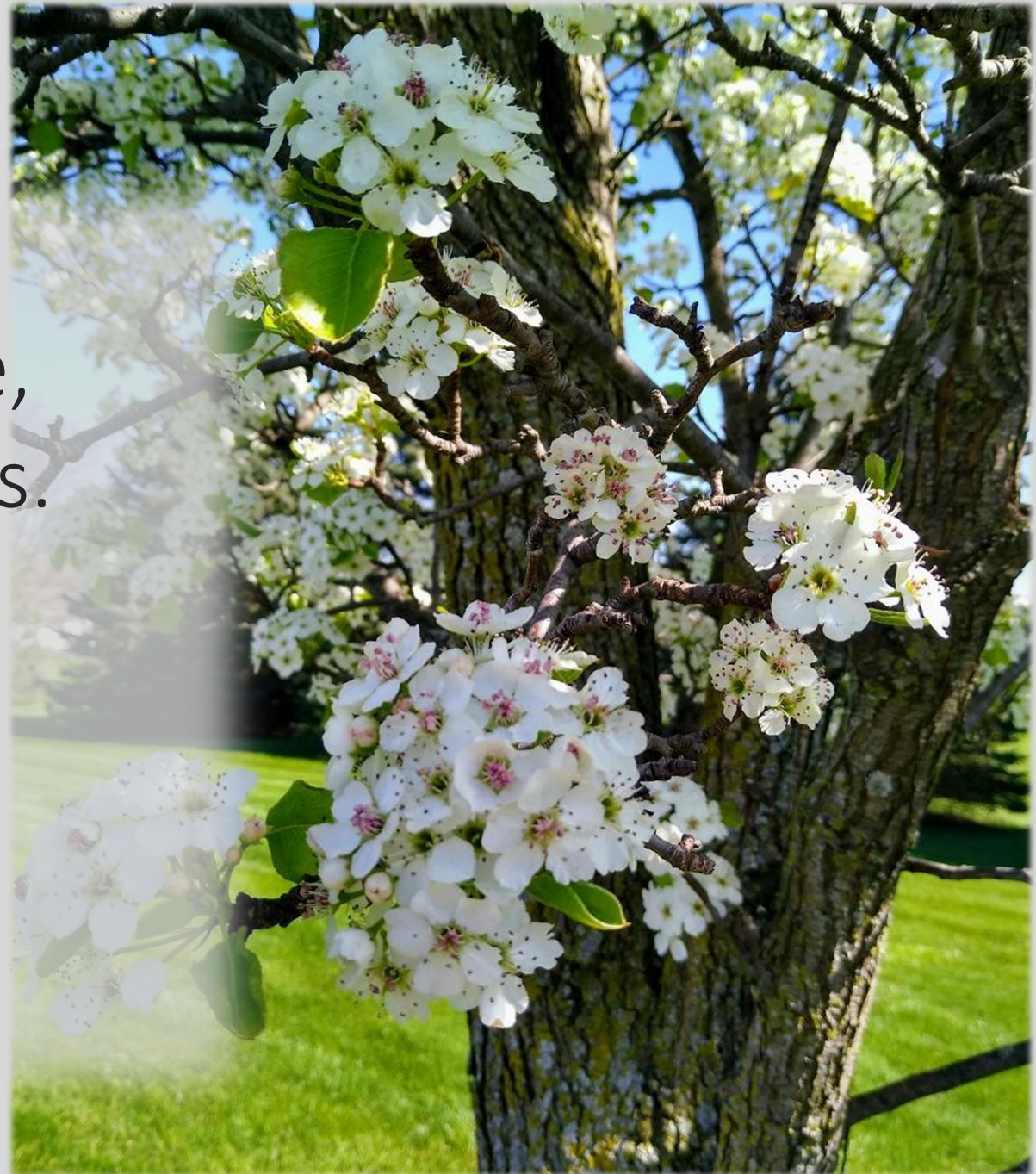
Praise God, all ye hosts a - bove, Ev - er shin - ing forth in love;
From the north to south - ern pole Let the might - y cho - rus roll:



Sun and moon, up - lift your voice; Night and stars, in God re - joice!
“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, Glo - ry be to God a - lone!”

✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God
of every time and every place,
you gather us to hear of Jesus.
Help us see your infinite life
in our own community
and in all of creation,
we pray in your holy name.
Amen.



+ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God of all time and space,
we confess our failure to use well
our time and our space.
We give our hearts to trivial matters.
We struggle to separate truth from clutter.
We neglect the needs of the neighbors
you direct us to love.
We exploit the world you have made
and have failed to care for your creation.
Forgive us.
Reshape our priorities and guide our efforts
that we may live our days to your glory.**

...

This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Ascension
Anish Kapoor
Basilica of San Giorgio Maggiore
Venice, Italy



+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD



Photo by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

BAPTISM

Romans 6:9

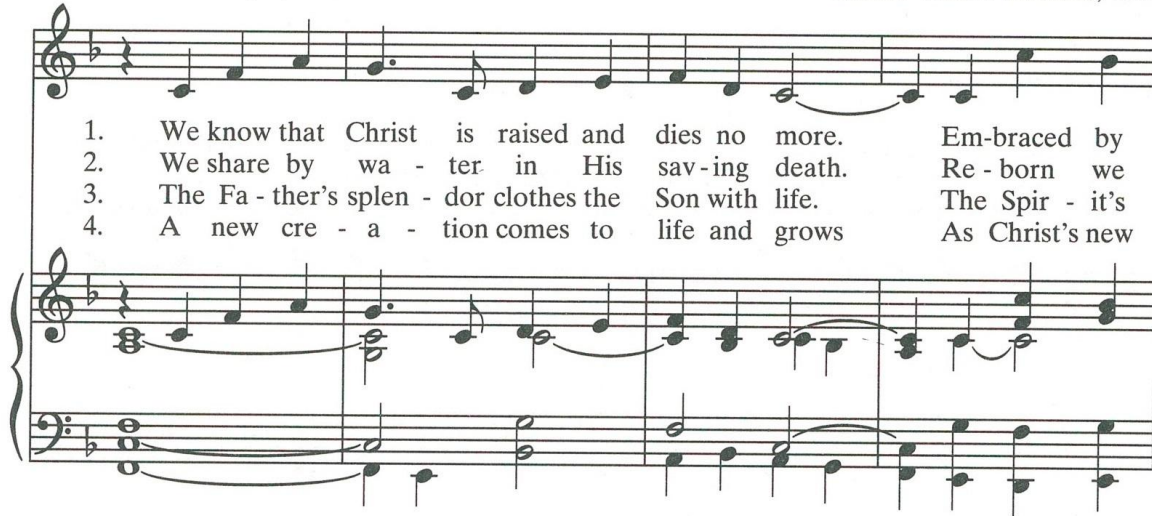
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We Know That Christ Is Raised

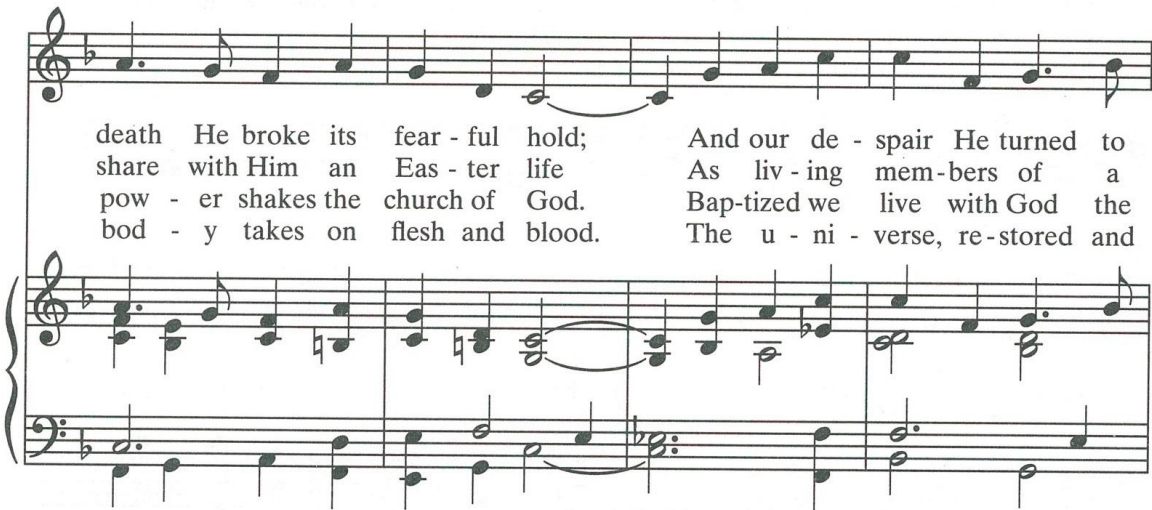
ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4

John Brownlow Geyer, 1969

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904



1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Em-braced by
 2. We share by wa - ter in His sav-ing death. Re - born we
 3. The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. The Spir - it's
 4. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows As Christ's new



death He broke its fear - ful hold; And our de - spair He turned to
 share with Him an Eas - ter life As liv - ing mem - bers of a
 pow - er shakes the church of God. Bap - tized we live with God the
 bod - y takes on flesh and blood. The u - ni - verse, re - stored and



blaz - ing joy.
 liv - ing Christ.
 Three in One. Al - le - lu - ia!
 whole, will sing:



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

✚ GOSPEL READING Luke 24:44-53

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." 50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Sermon



Ascension
Joanna Vaughan
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (unison)

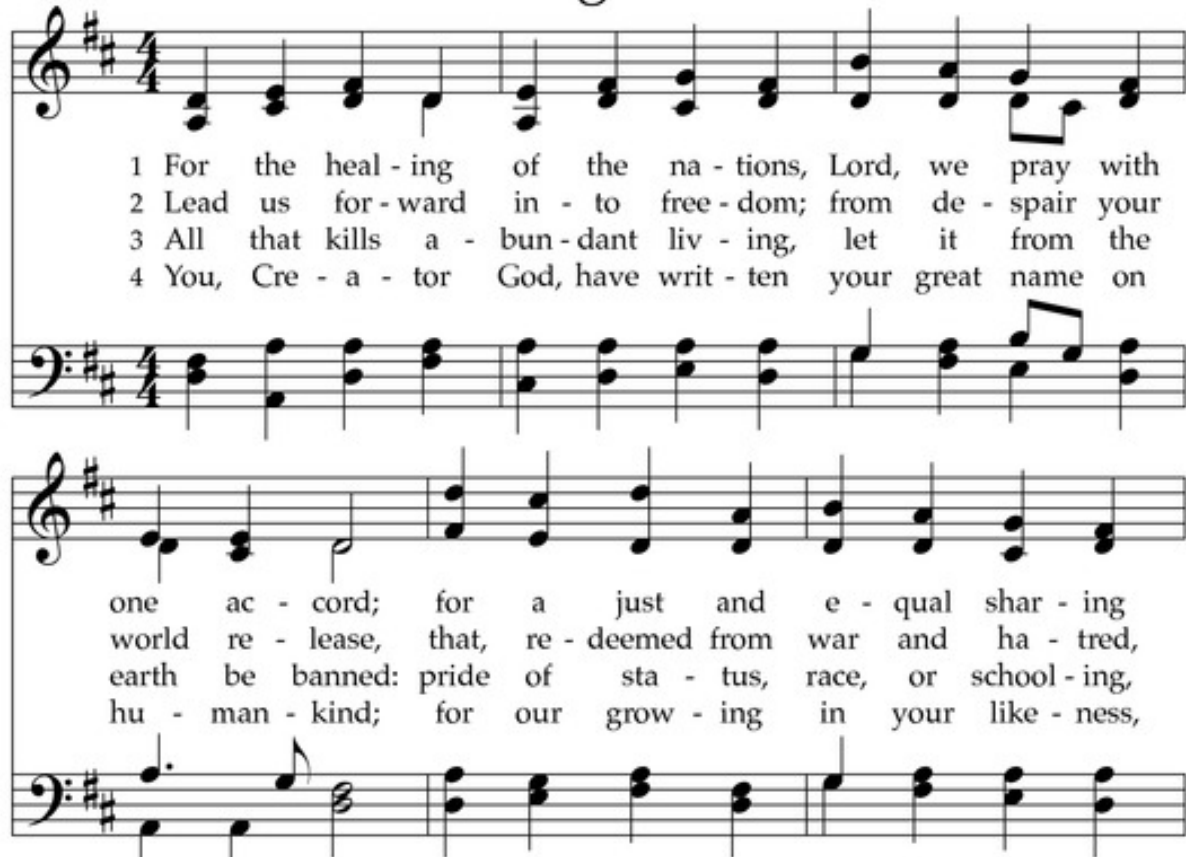
Gracious and giving God,
you are the One who first has given
to us all we need for life.
Guide us to use these gifts we now gather
for the well-being of your church,
for those in need of shelter and food,
for all who suffer for want of your Word,
and for nurturing faith in your people.
In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.



Ann Campbell

THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS

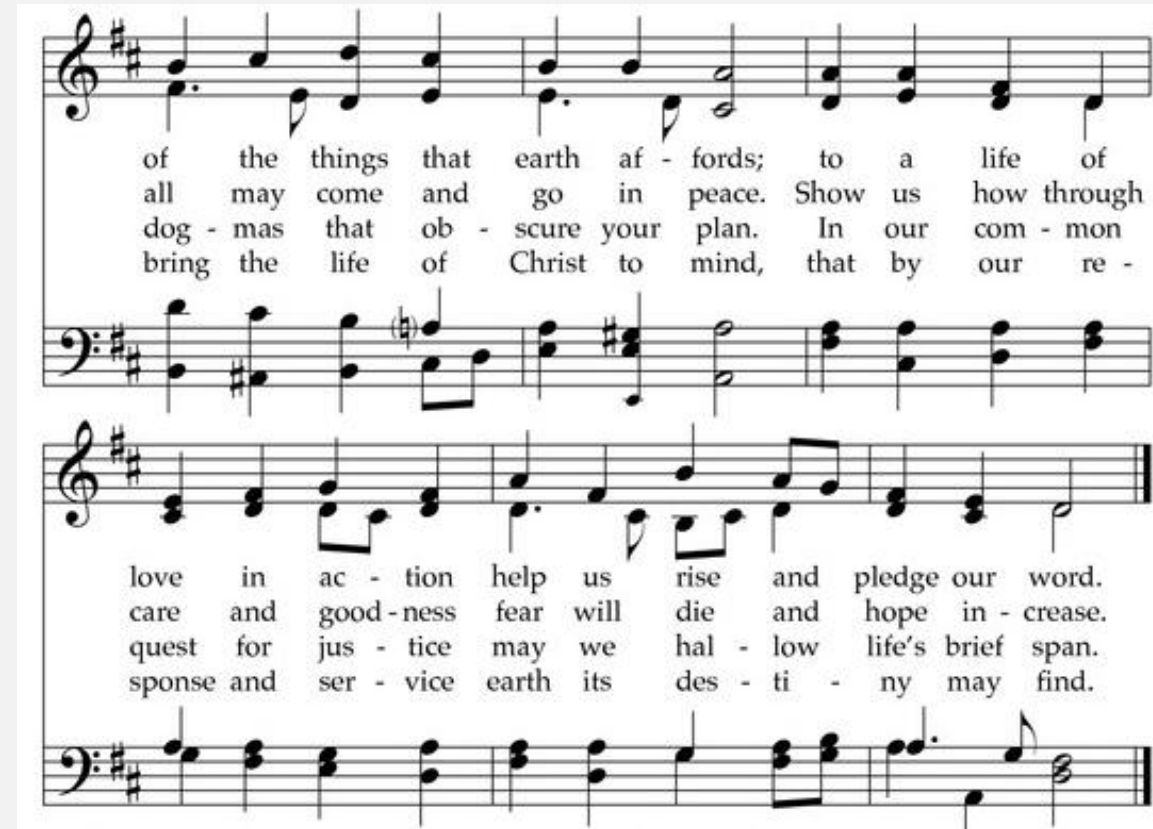
346 For the Healing of the Nations



1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.



of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Ann Campbell

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

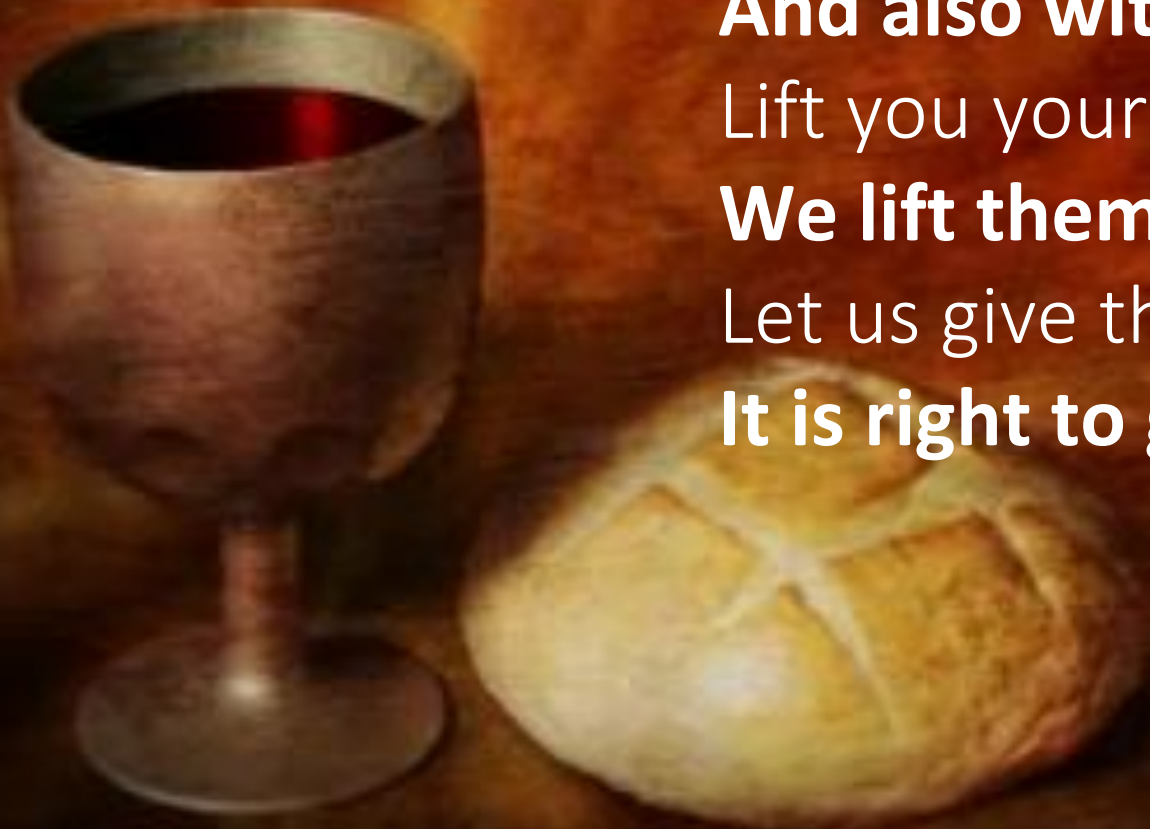
And also with you.

Lift you 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.

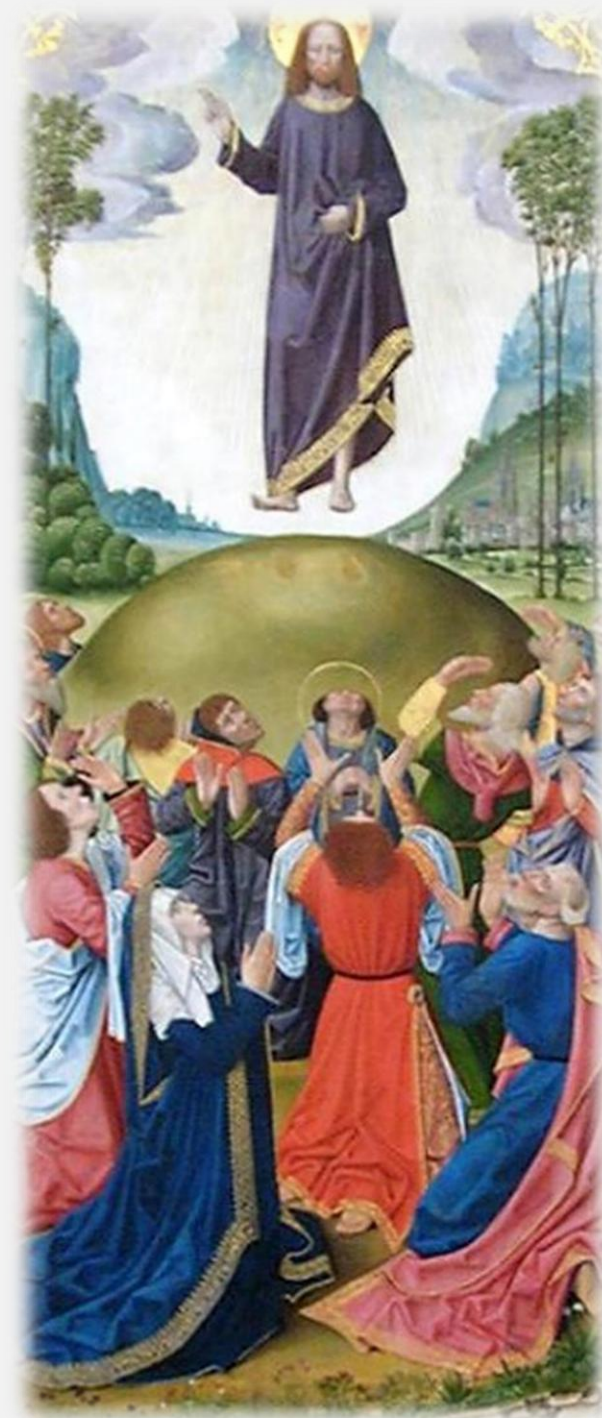


PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

ECUMENICAL

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Photo by Ann Campbell



Ascension
Altarpiece from Thuisson-les-Abbeville
Art Institute of Chicago

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION



COMMUNION HYMN “One Bread, One Body”

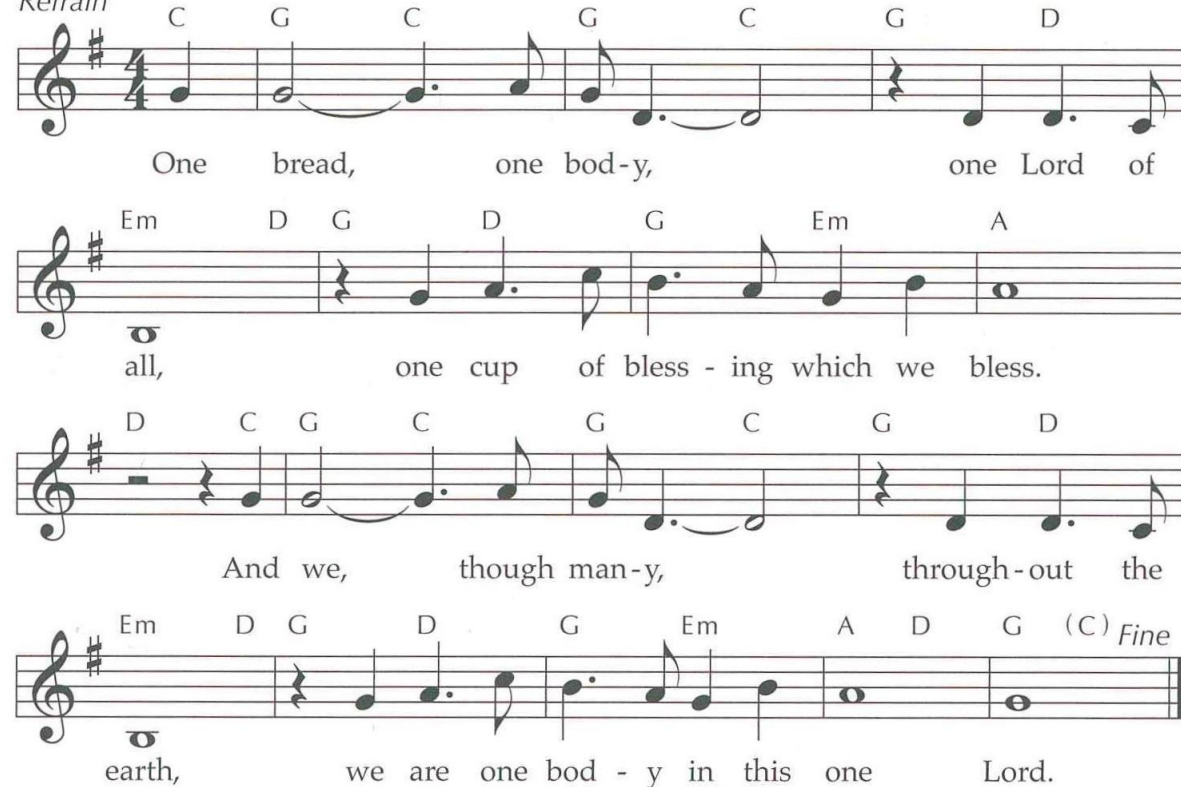
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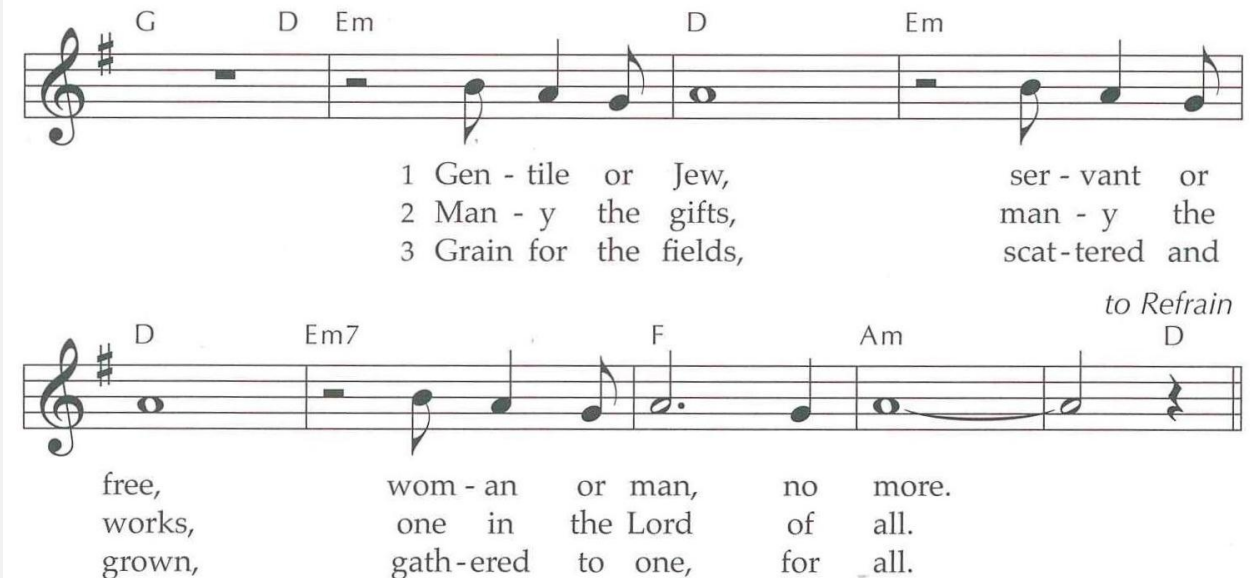
One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of
all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.
And we, though man-y, through-out the
earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Chords: C, G, C, G, C, G, D, Em, D, G, D, G, Em, A, D, C, G, C, G, C, G, D, Em, D, G, D, G, Em, A, D, G, (C) Fine



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and
free, wom - an or man, no more.
works, one in the Lord of all.
grown, gath - ered to one, for all.

Chords: G, D, Em, D, Em, D, Em7, F, Am, D

This Lord's Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1–31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



ADVENT

106

Soon and Very Soon

Capo 3 F(D)

1,4 Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
2 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
3 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

C7(A7)

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King! Hal-le-
No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King! Hal-le-
No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King! Hal-le-

lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King!

SENDING

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

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go forth with the spirit of wisdom and hope,
with eyes enlightened
and minds aroused by the power of Christ.
Be assured that wherever you go,
Christ is with you.
Be kind to all who are sent your way
because of the Holy Spirit
who gives you the power.

Now may the One who gives you all that you are,
strengthen you in faith and hope,
this day and forevermore.



Until the Breath of God Breathes in Me © Jan Richardson

Postlude



Reflection

How is your faith strengthened by knowing that we do not look for Jesus in only one place but find the Risen One everywhere, because he has ascended to the throne of God?

Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Sze Wenn Tiang

Reader: Marla Bohnhoff

Prayer: Jim Northey

Communion: Al Eckhart

Coffee: Ann Campbell, Biruta Lowther

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen



Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1400 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton Michigan 49931
www.PLUC.org office@pluc.org (906)482-5224

Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell

Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Jim Northey

Church of the Holy Sepulcher

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher's long history underscores the importance of the physical place, Golgotha, of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 4th century Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Jerusalem)

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54389>

Ascension Mural of Christ ascending to heaven on a graffiti wall in Bristol, England

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54351>

The Ascension 1350-1400 Niccolo di Giacoma da Bologna Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=50536>

Ascension Created for the 54th Venice Biennale. 2003 Kapoor, Anish Basilica of San Giorgio Maggiore

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56519>

Ascension Altarpiece from Thuisson-les-Abbeville, France. ca. 1490-1500 French (Picardy)
Art Institute of Chicago

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56520>

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Ascension 2007 Photo by Joanna Vaughan Virginia Beach, Virginia

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56521>

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