

Zion Lutheran

**Mission: Creating Community Through
God's Love and Guidance**



Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
February 23, 2025

ORDER OF SERVICE

(The assembly speaks the bold print)

PRELUDE

Please respect this time before worship for those who want to pray quietly in the sanctuary. Once the prelude begins, please use that time to listen to the music and prepare for worship. Thank you for your cooperation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN#658 "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, One God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;**

we assume the worst about one another.

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

PSALM 37:1-11, 37-40

sung to the melody from
"He Leadeth Me"

- 1 Don't fret because of evil men—of wicked ones, don't envious be;
- 2 For they, like grass, will fade away; like plants they'll wilt and die quickly.
- 3 But trust the Lord and do what's good; dwell in the land, safe days transpire.
- 4 Delight yourself in God the Lord, and He will give your heart's desire.

- 5 Commit your way unto the Lord; put trust in Him for all you do;
- 6 "He'll make your righteousness shine bright, your justice like the sun at noon.
- 7 Be still before the Lord and wait; don't fret when evil ones succeed;
- 8 Refrain from anger, turn from wrath; to fret will just to evil lead.

- 9 For evil ones will be cut off, but not those who hope in the Lord;
They will the land inherit while the wicked soon will be no more.
- 10 You'll look for them—they won't be found, though you may search and never cease;
- 11 Instead, the meek will find great joy, inherit land and know great peace.

- 37 Consider blameless, upright ones—they have a future, full of peace,
- 38 But sinners all will be destroyed; their future cut off, soon to cease.
- 39 Salvation comes from God the Lord; in troubled times, a refuge sure.
- 40 The Lord delivers righteous ones from wicked hands, safe evermore.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting 5



GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Jan LaVake

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Build a Longer Table"
see insert

APOSTLES' 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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

CHOIR

"Spirit Open My Heart"

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

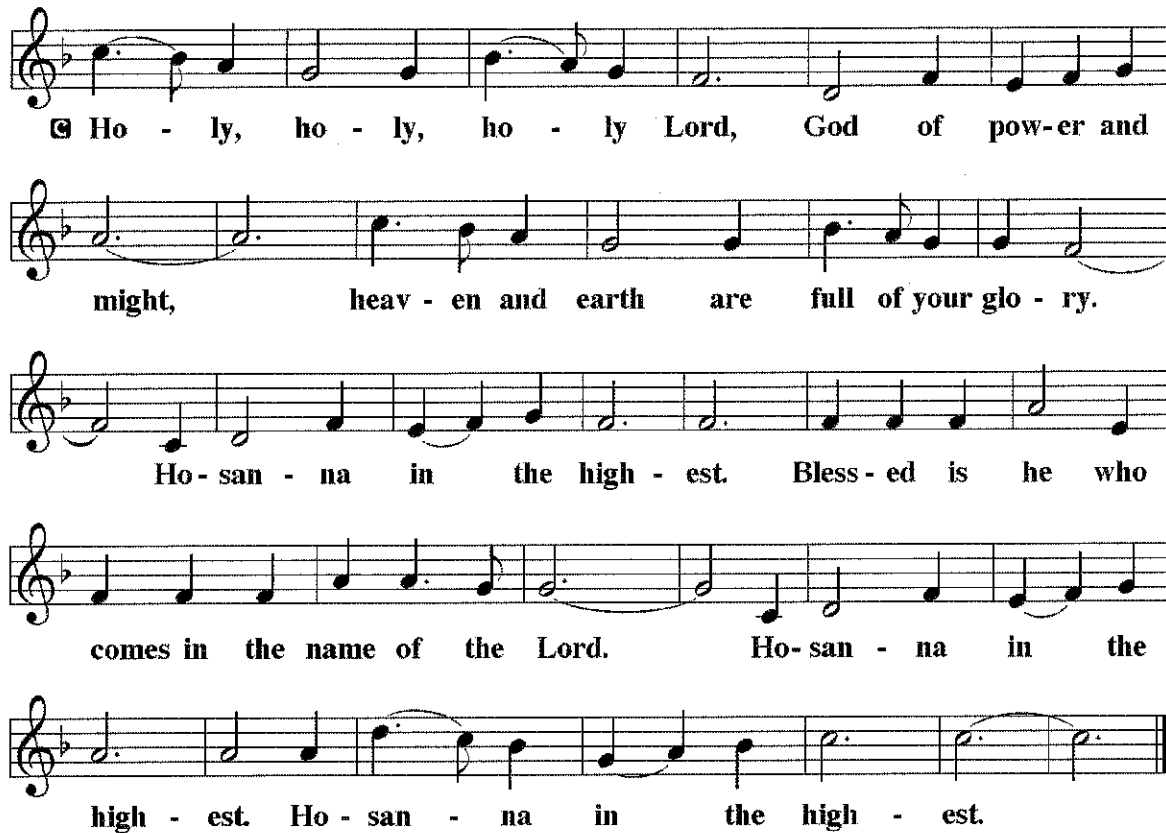
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Setting 5



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

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, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Setting 5

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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN#462

“Now We Join in Celebration”

TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
 at this table you have refreshed us
 with holy gifts of food and drink.
 Strengthen us for service,
 and send us out to embody your good news
 of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
 In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God
 bless you with joy,
 anoint you with compassion,
 and send you in love.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN#722 "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Creating Community through God's Love and Guidance —
thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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Handbells: Paula Staedt

Song Leaders: Cheryl Meyer, Wendy Sachs

Hospitality Coordinator: Lynn Walter lynn@zionappleton.org

Outreach Coordinator: Brianne Connelly bconnelly26@gmail.com

Zion Lutheran 920-739-3104

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30--2:00 pm

zion@zionappleton.org • www.zionappleton.org

For Pastoral emergencies contact the office.

Welcome!

We invite visitors to complete the card in the pew and put it in the collection basket. Thank You!

Attendance:

Last Week: 50

Last Year: 102

Announcements!

Each week a Daily Discipleship, which is a take home Bible Study, will be on the tables at the back of sanctuary for you to take with you. It will also be on the website in the section where the weekly bulletin is.

We will have an Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 6:30pm. We will also have Lenten Soup Suppers starting March 12 with a service to follow at 6:30pm. See future bulletins for more information.

If you are interested in being a greeter contact Lynn Walter.

We are planning on having some educational sessions on March 2, March 9 & March 16 after the service from 10:15-11:00. Jean from Linwood Community will be leading the sessions. See future bulletins for subjects to be discussed.

If you always received the messenger by email you need to go to our website, zionappleton.org to find it. It is listed under Ministries. There are past messenger if you want to read them.

Columbus school is having open gym at Zion on Thursdays from Feb. 20 through March 20. It is from 6pm-7pm. The bowling alley, ark & gym will be open. All are welcome. The only thing they ask is if you are bringing a child an adult needs to accompany them.

From Linwood Community: A Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

March 2025 Programming

Worship & Fellowship Opportunities

Join us in the Linwood Commons for worship services during Lent.

Wednesday, March 5, 1:30 PM, Pastor Eric Roth leading us in worship. (No Lunch)

Wednesday, March 12, 1:30 PM, Pastor Eric Roth leading us in worship. (Lunch served at 12:30. Please RSVP to

lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com if you would like to join us for food and fellowship before worship.)

Wednesday, March 26, 1:00 PM, Pastor Amy Engebose leading us in worship. (Lunch served at 12:00. Please RSVP to

lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com if you would like to join us for food and fellowship before worship.)

Educational Opportunities at Linwood:

Memory Loss

On Thursday, March 6th, at 11:00, our Wellness Coordinator Yon will share information about Memory Loss and Dementia. Yon will cover lifestyle changes that may help slow down memory problems and resources available to you in our community.

Are You Safe Driver?

An important heads up! On Thursday, April 10th, we will be hosting Refresh Your Driving Skills from 10:00-2:45. This is also known as the AARP Smart Driver Course and is designed to refresh your driving skills. Advanced registration is required and the cost will be \$10 per person. You can register by calling Yon Abel, Wellness Coordinator, at 920-850-3623 or by emailing our resource advocate Jean George at Resource.fvlhomes@gmail.com. Space is limited. Lunch will be provided. Some insurance companies give a discount to people who have successfully completed this course.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday, February 23

Gen 45:3-11, 15; Ps 37:1-11, 37-40

1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

7th Week of Epiphany

Pastor Jan LaVake

Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt

Acolyte: Alexa Rusch

Musician: William Surtees

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Wednesday, February 26

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, March 2

Exod 34:29-35, Ps 99,

2 Cor 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Pastor Karen Jewell

Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt

Reader: JoAnn Salm

Acolyte:

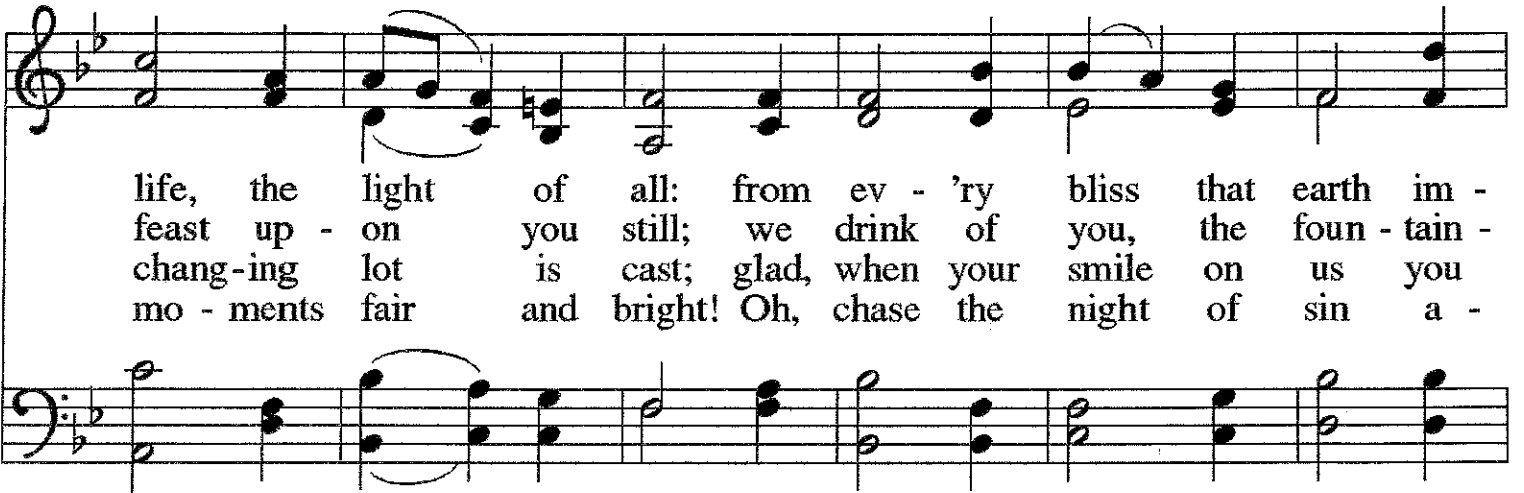
Musician: William Surtees

Opens and Closes: Jim Schley

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

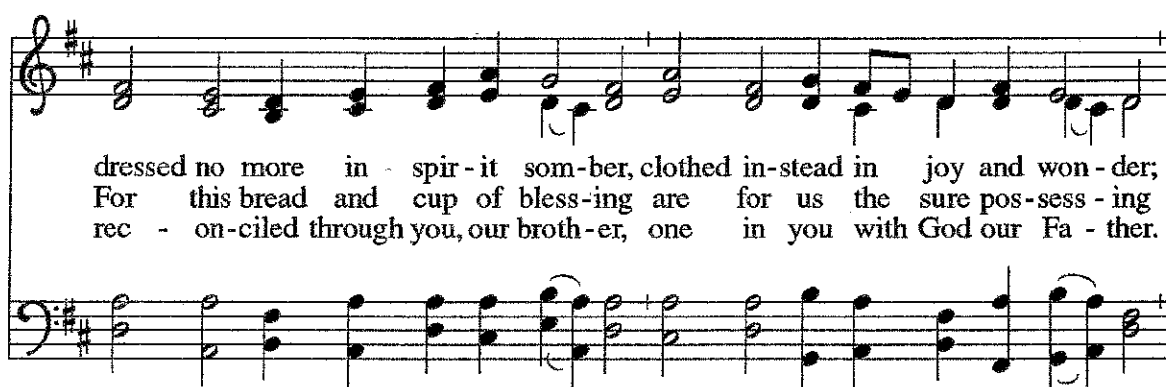
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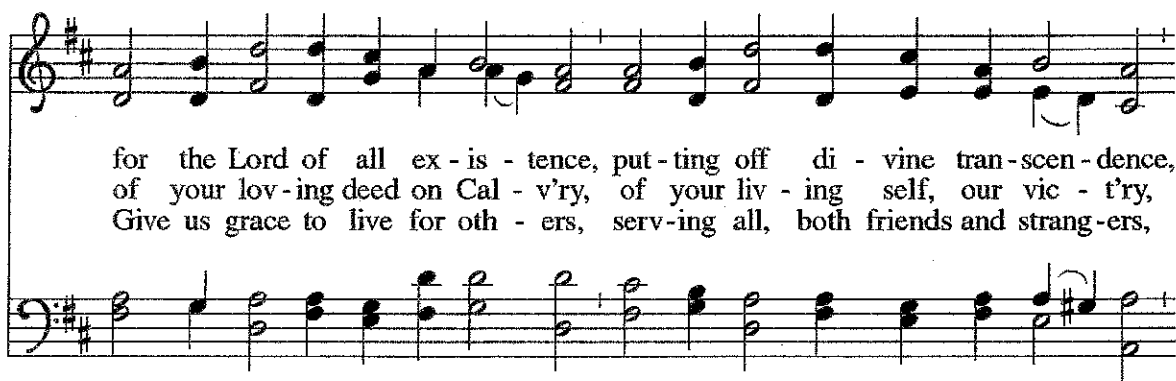
Now We Join in Celebration



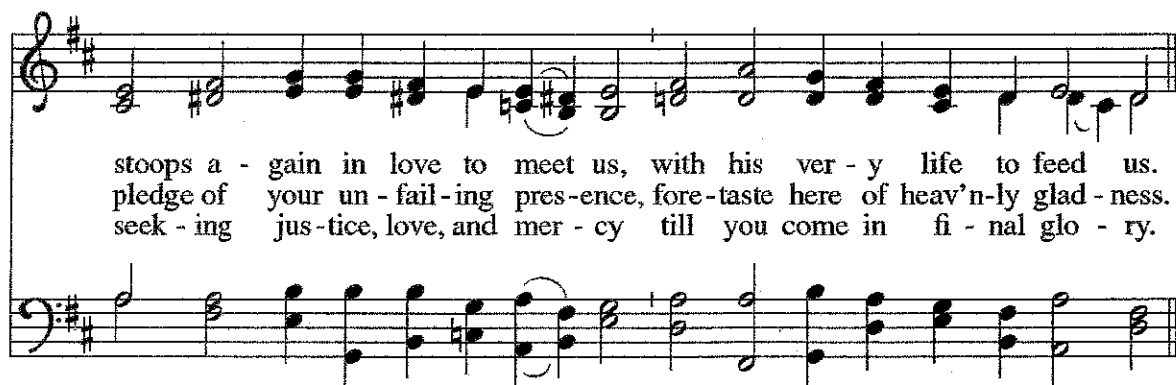
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in - spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,

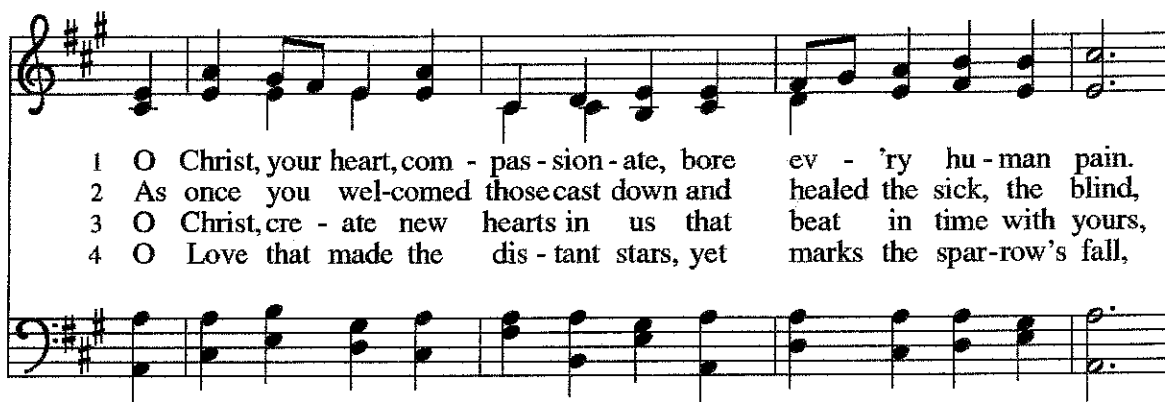


stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

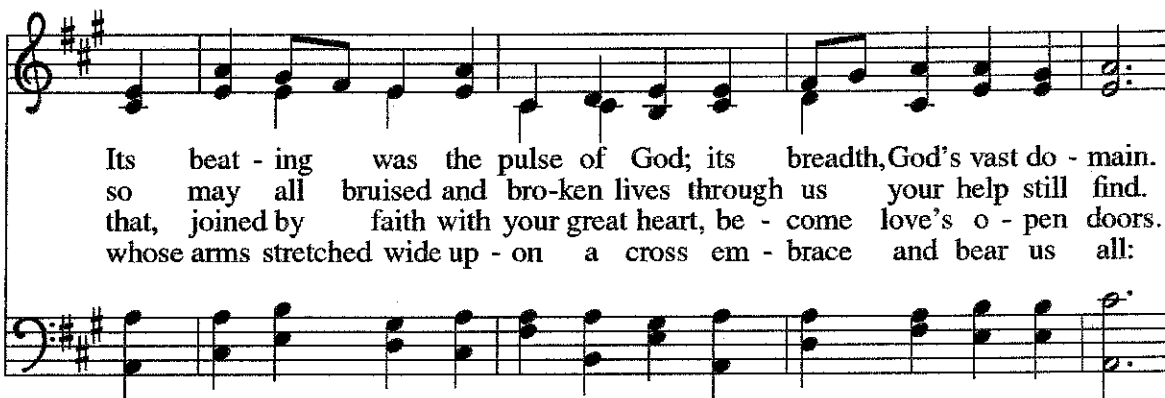
Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990
Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
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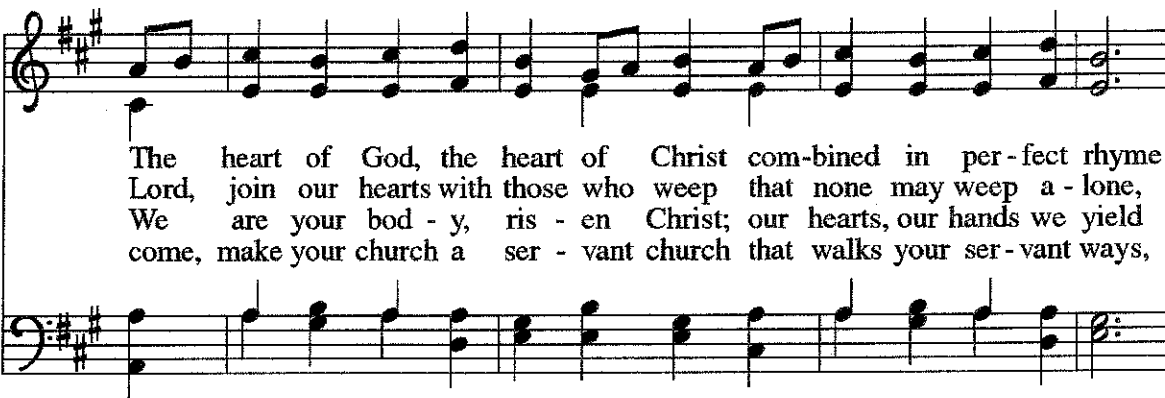
O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



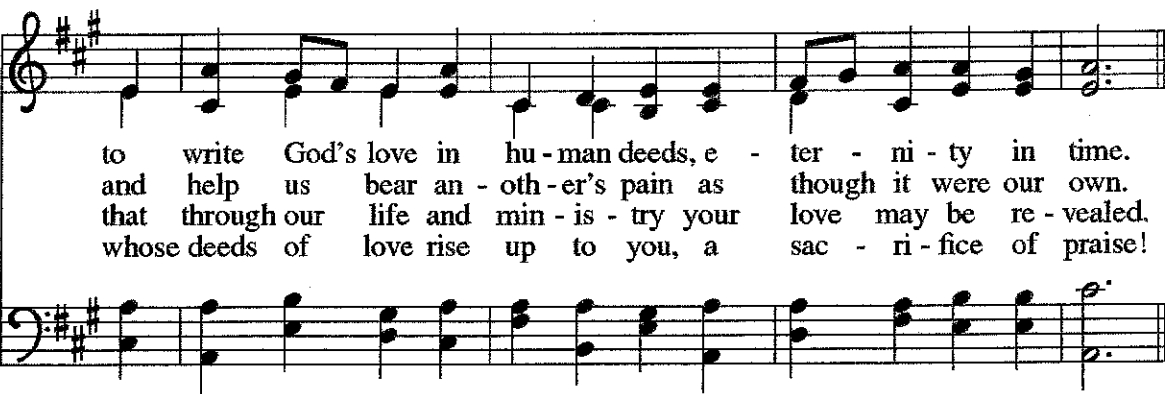
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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