NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Master Strange Love October 4, 2026

"God loves you." It is not like we have never heard that before. We may even have taken that fact for granted, thinking, "Well, of course He does! That's His thing! 1 John 4:8 says that God *is* love." Nevertheless, as our lives and circumstances unfold, through the uncertainties of sin and doubt and failure, many have come up short and been forced to wonder, "How can God love me now?" Love, after all, is always in direct proportion to our worthiness of it, to how lovable we are, right?

The highest love of God, agape, can commonly be defined as the love of intelligence and corresponding purpose. This definition may seem at first to drain the whole idea of the depth of emotion or the value of love. But we discover the power of God's love even more as we are convinced of the greatness of our need—our own sin and unworthiness. That's when the cross of Calvary and the sacrifice of Christ crucified shines forth as the highest, greatest, and almost unbelievable love of God for you—even you. Notice how many of today's hymns examine the depth and, yes, "strangeness" of the fact that God loves you.
Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

(For service today, please use responses on the right hand side of page 151)

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING I

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" *LSB* 545

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His

sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT *(spoken responsively)* Psalm 80

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

2 **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!**

3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

4 **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among** themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

8 **You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

9 You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

10 **The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.**

11 It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

12 **Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

13 The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

14 **Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see;**
have regard for this vine,

15 the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

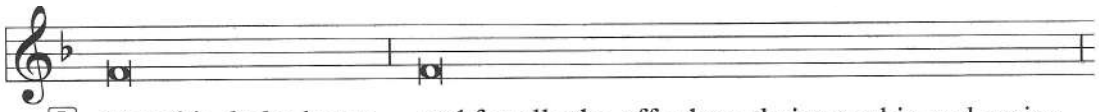
16 **They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**

17 But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

[18] Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!

[19] Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

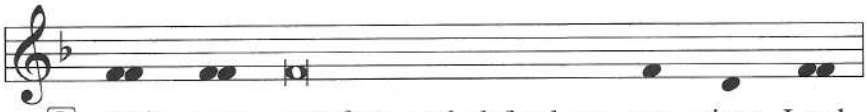
KYRIE



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE This is the Feast

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 5:1–7*

(God's love song for His beloved)

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING *Philippians 3:4b-14*

(The surpassing worth of knowing Christ)

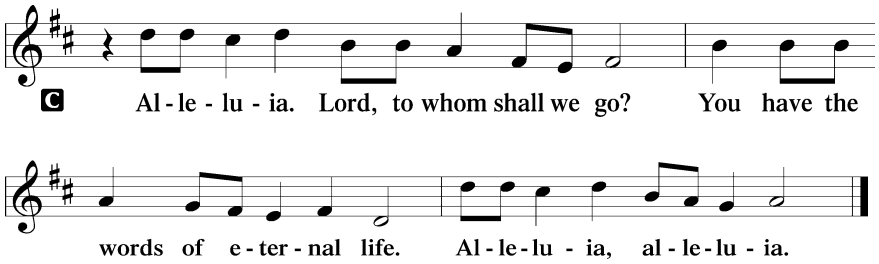
If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any

means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:33–46*

(The parable of the tenants)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY My Song Is Love Unknown" *LSB* 430

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, Your apostle John wrote, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1). As Your children, then, we come before You crying, "Abba! Father!" For the mystery of Your gift of our lives, Your good creation, and Your holy will of love and salvation, we praise You without end. Help us to live in Your love and praise, giving thanks every day for Your provision of life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: By Your goodness, O Lord, keep and preserve Your holy church in the true faith, proclaiming the pure, heavenly doctrine of Your Word and being constantly strengthened in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: By Your Spirit, we pray You to guide all who are in the authority of government in our land and in all the nations of the earth, that we dwell in peace and rely on Your provision of justice and freedom for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for any who are in trouble, doubt, or fear of death. Grant Your healing gifts and merciful presence to save and deliver all who look to You for help in every need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Receive, O God, our bodies and souls and all our talents, together with the offerings we bring, as You have purchased us by the blood of Your Son to be Your own, that we may live under Him in His kingdom. Help us live by true faith to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day. And when our last hour comes, support us by Your power and receive us into Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

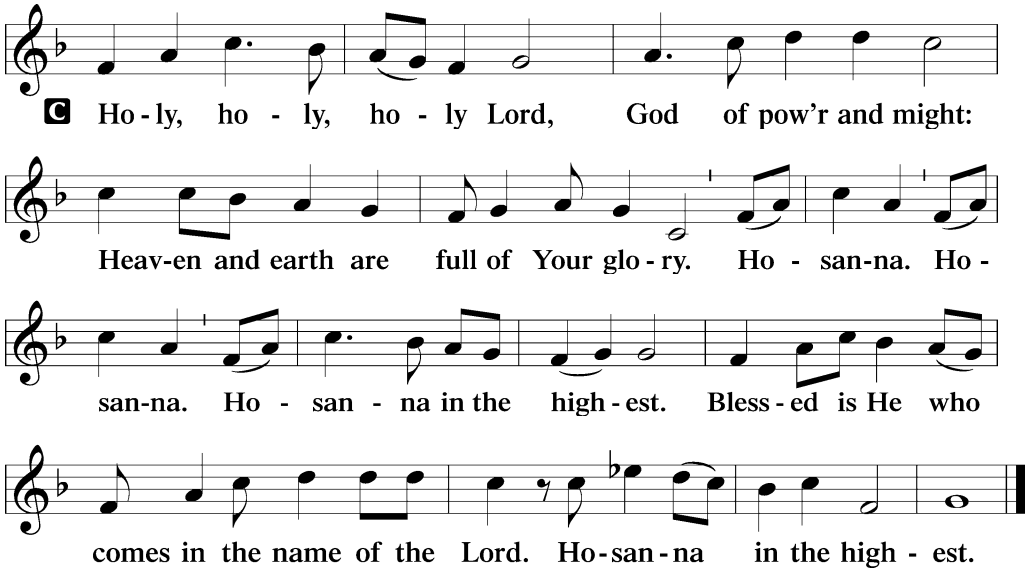
Sit

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Peter, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My +body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My +blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

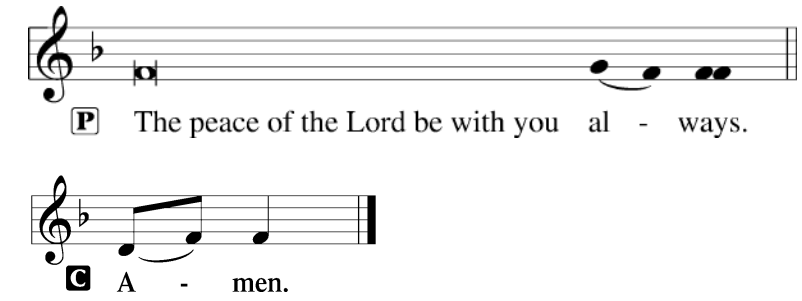
P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

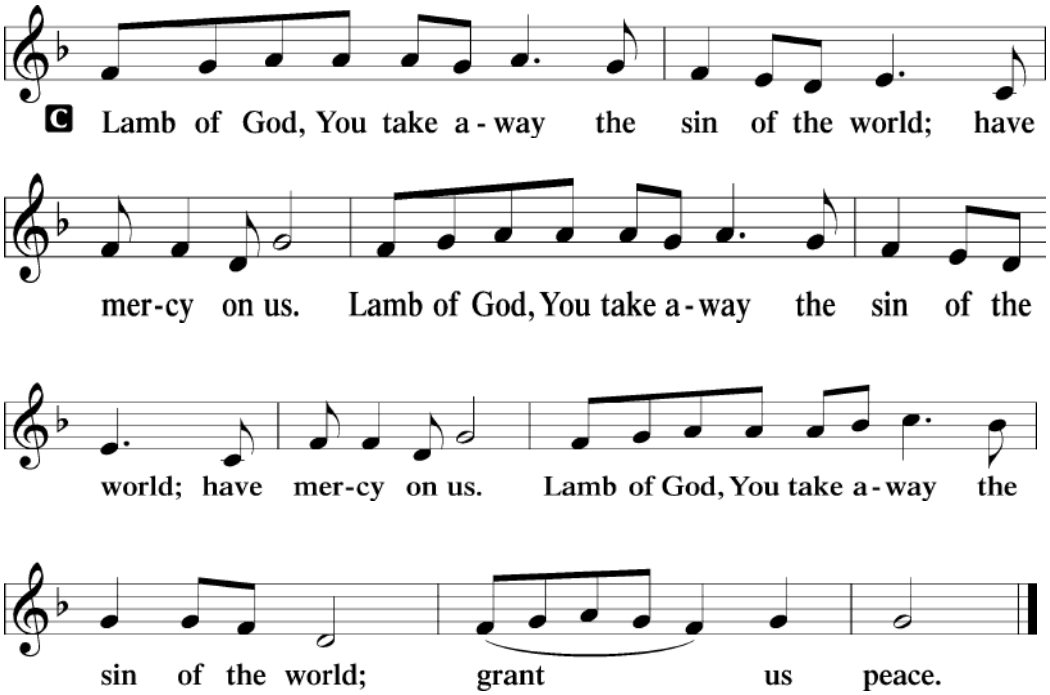
LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

PAX DOMINI



AGNUS DEI



Sit

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.
Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
Amen.

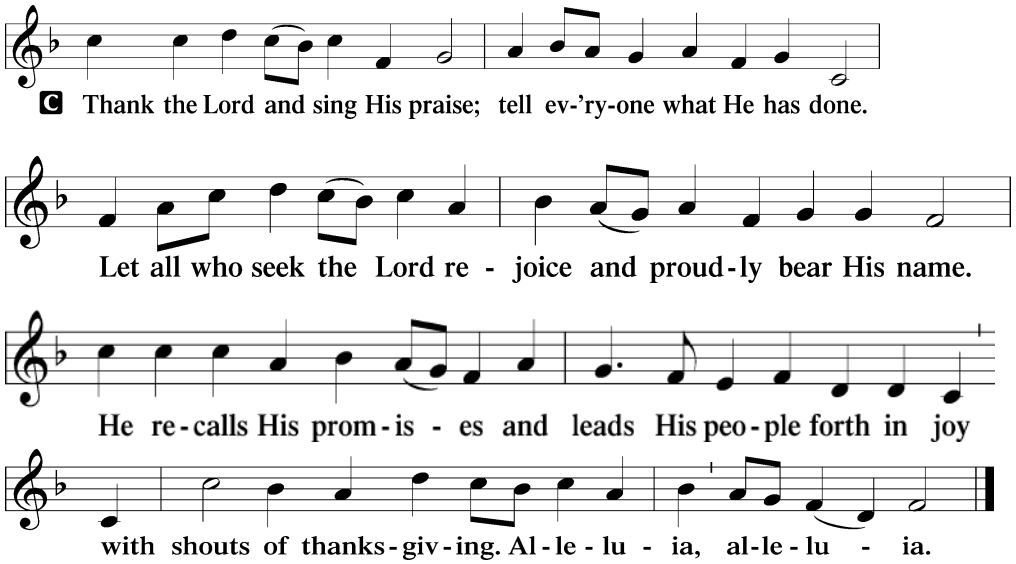
In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.
C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior" *LSB* 619

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE Thank The Lord



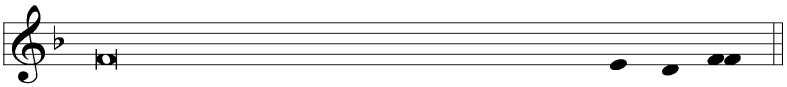
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.
A Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true

faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People:

BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

CLOSING HYMN "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" *LSB* 912

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS for October 4, 2026

Rev. Jeffrey L Schufreider

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY: Please note that masks are now optional and highly encouraged. Masks are required if you will be singing during the service.

HYMN SING & HIGH TEA: Sunday, October 18th at 2:00 pm. All are invited to join in singing of your favorite Christian hymns. High Tea to follow.

LWML ZONE 8 FALL GATHERING: October 10 (10:00 am – 1:00 pm), Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Pacifica. Registration: $15. Ingathering food staples to benefit Bridging Initiatives International. Guest speaker: Yene Wolteji.

LWML MITES contributions fund district and national mission grants.
Please mail in your mites offering to the attention of Lori Fisher.

FOOD PANTRY: needs replenishing as some food items are near expiration. Please donate a few staple (canned soup/fruits/vegetables, grains)

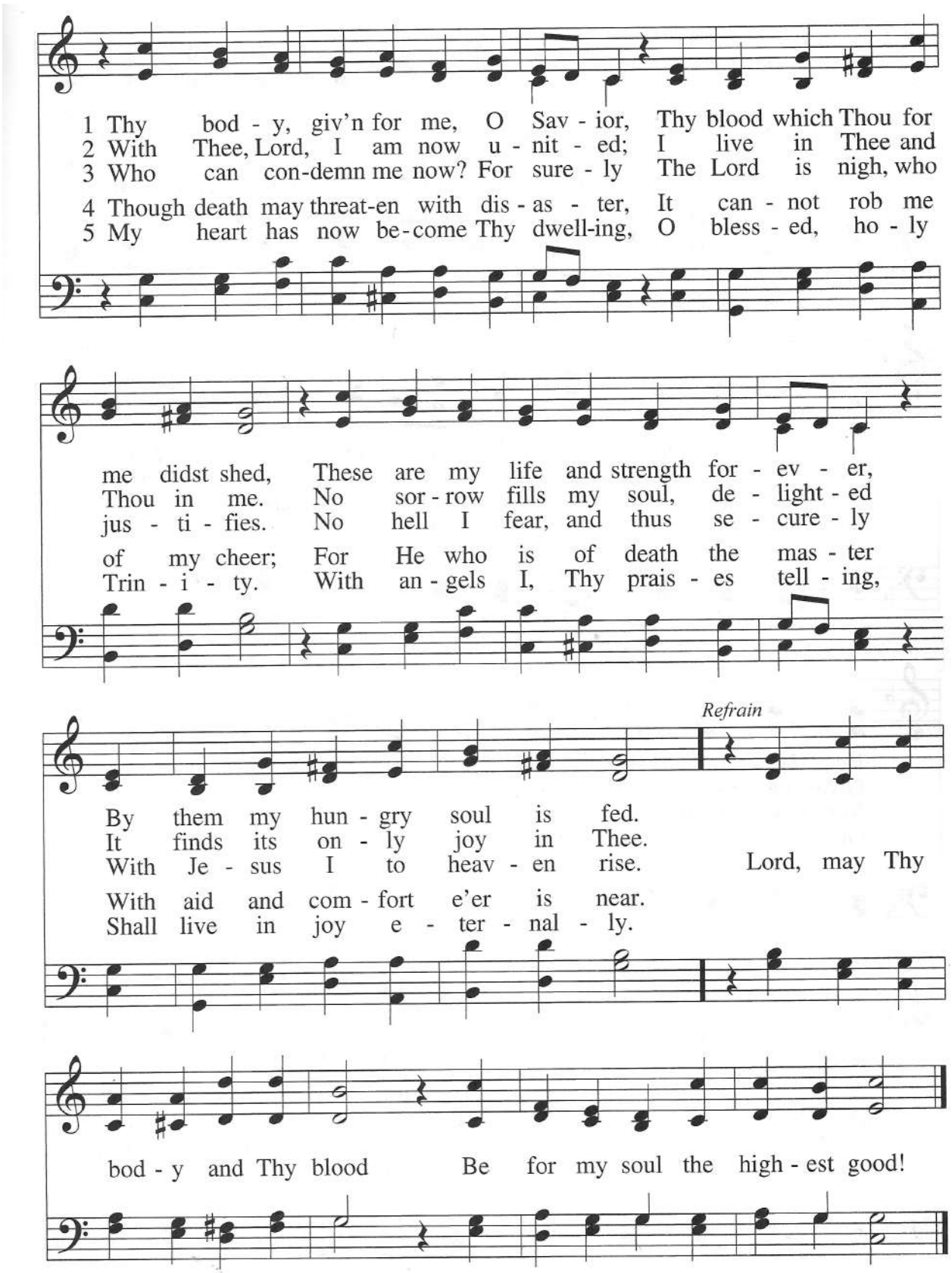
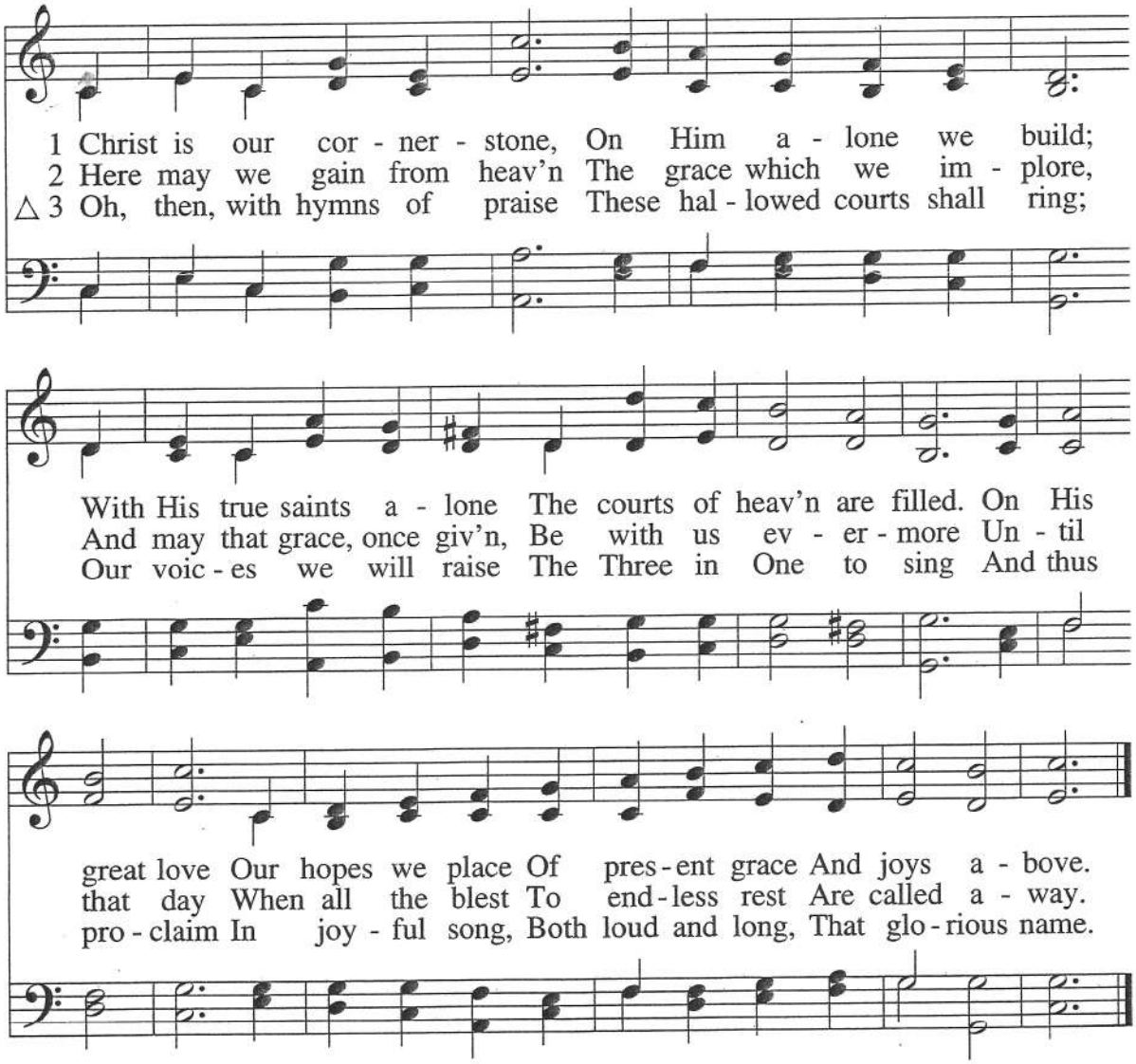
ENTRANCE HYMN "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" *LSB* 545

HYMN OF THE DAY My Song Is Love Unknown" *LSB* 430

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior" *LSB* 619



CLOSING HYMN "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" *LSB* 912