

***Welcome, visitors! Welcome members and friends of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church.
Thank you for joining us in church and on our online service today.***

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our service this morning. +Guests who are baptized Christians, who acknowledge and confess their sinfulness, who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, and who believe that He is really present in Holy Communion to bring us His forgiveness and life, are welcome to the Lord's Table.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS and GRAPE JUICE. We are pleased to offer gluten-free wafers; please speak to one of the ushers who will inform the pastor. In addition grape juice is available in the center circle of the Communion tray.

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 3 pg. 138

September 13, 2026

Prelude – “Morning Has Broken” – setting, Lani Smith
Piano/Organ duet

WELCOME

(Please rise)

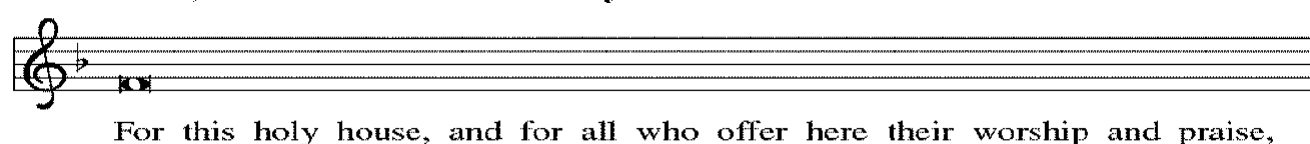
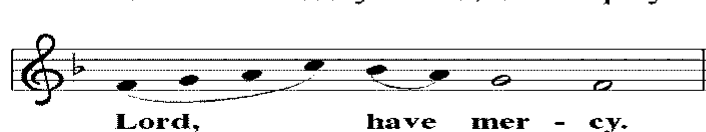
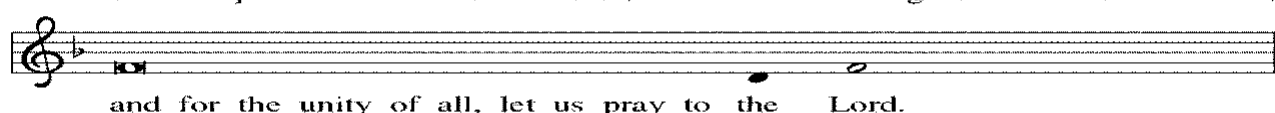
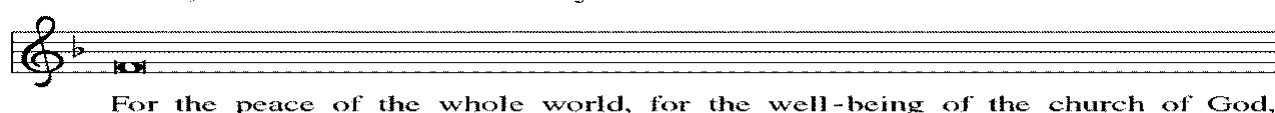
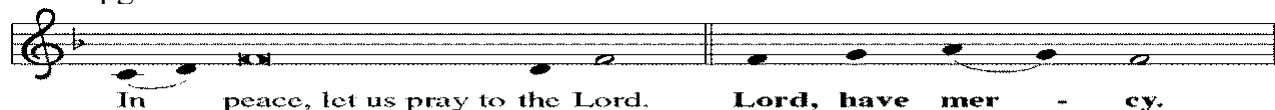
GATHERING HYMN – ELW 848 GIVE TO OUR GOD IMMORTAL PRAISE

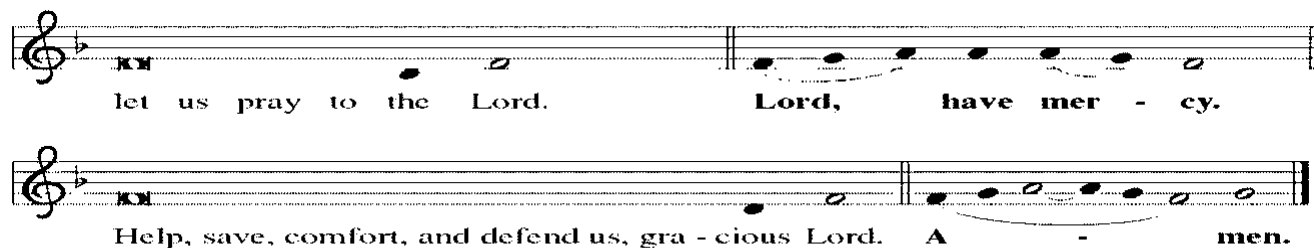
GREETING

Pastor – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong – And also with you.

KYRIE – pg. 138





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HYMN OF PRAISE – pg. 140 “This is the Feast.....”

(Women & Children – Verses 1 and 3) (Men – Verses 2 and 4)

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Cong – Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

Pat Siler, Elder

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

(Choir will sing before and at the R)

(The Psalm will be sung alternatively, beginning with Choir)

[¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
 and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
³who forgives | all your sins
 and heals all | your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
 so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
 and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.]
⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R
⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
 nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
 so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. R

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

Pat Siler, Elder

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

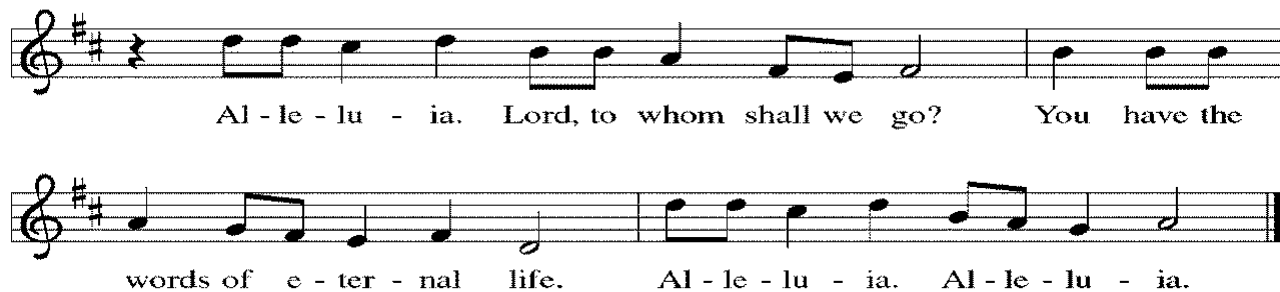
¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

Gospel Acclamation



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Pastor – The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Cong – Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Kelly Reagan

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Pastor – The Gospel of the Lord.

Cong – Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON – "Forgiven To Forgive"

Pastor Kelly Reagan

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 606 OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED

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

Pastor – Here us, O God.

Cong – Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Cong - Amen.

May the peace of the Lord be with you!

Cong – And also with you.

PEACE

OFFERING

(Please rise)

OFFERTORY – ELW 182 “Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord....”

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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OFFERING PRAYER.

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Cong – Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – p. 144

Preface Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

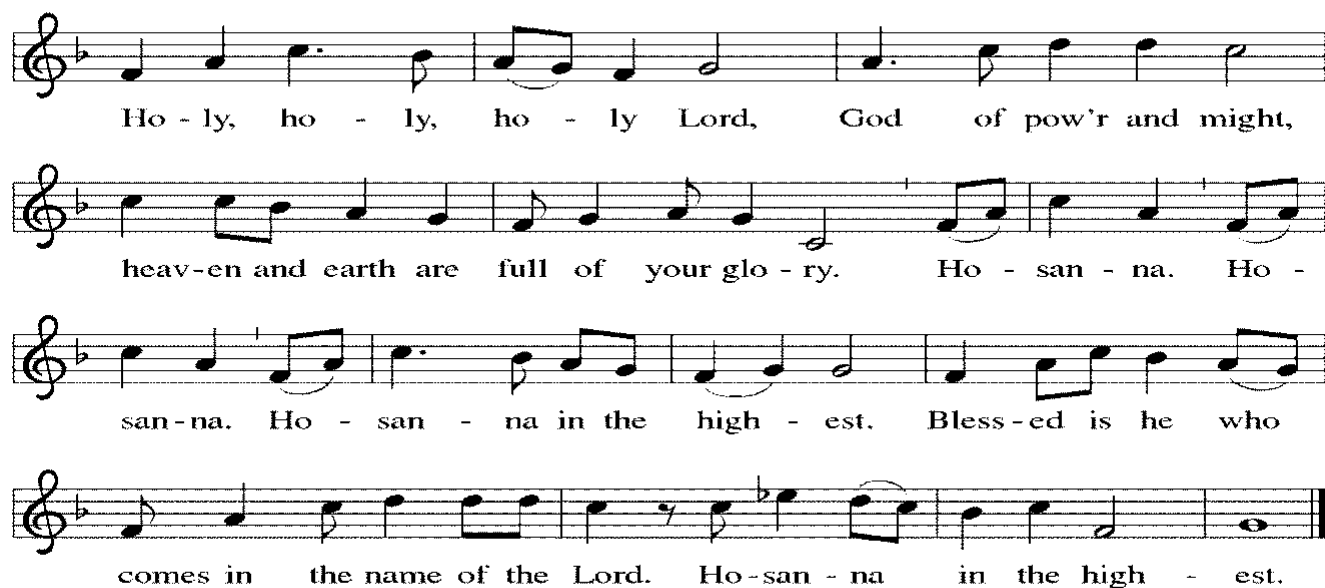
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Pascal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING V (ELW pg. 65)

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

Cong – Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

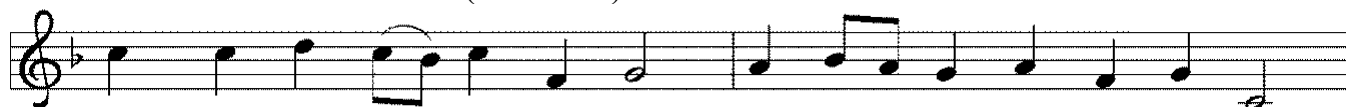
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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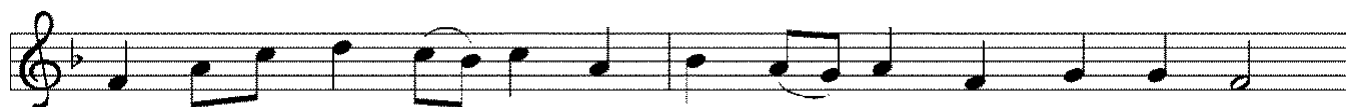
COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 721 GOODNESS IS STRONGER THAN EVIL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN – (ELW 204)



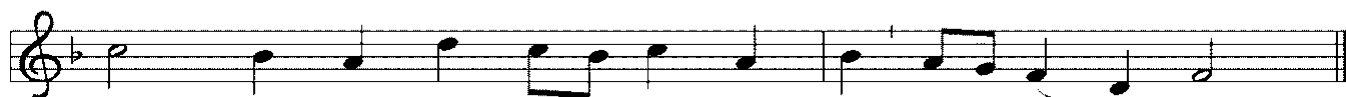
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Cong– Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Cong – Amen.

SENDING HYMN – ELW 544 PRAISE THE LORD, RISE UP REJOICING

(Please be seated)

Postlude

Pastor - Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

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HOW MANY TIMES

SHALL WE FORGIVE
Mt 18:21

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

848

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

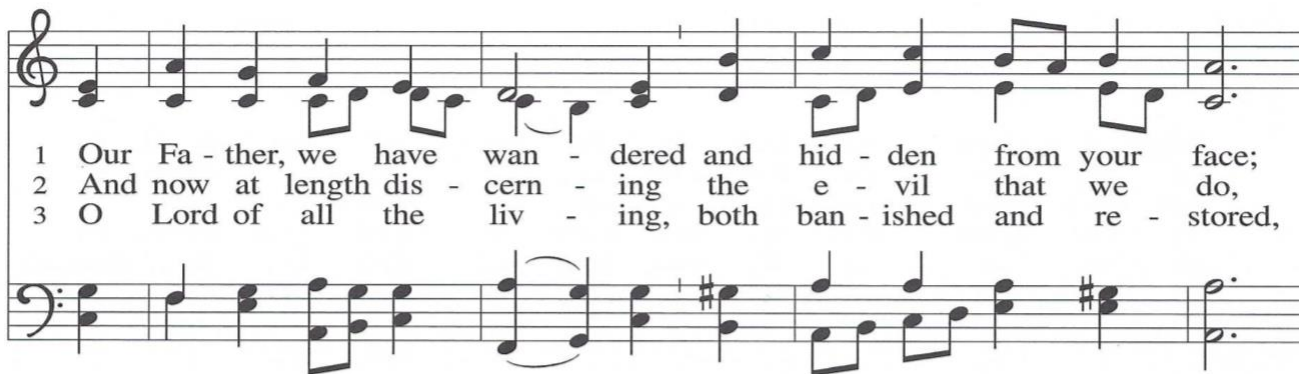
truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

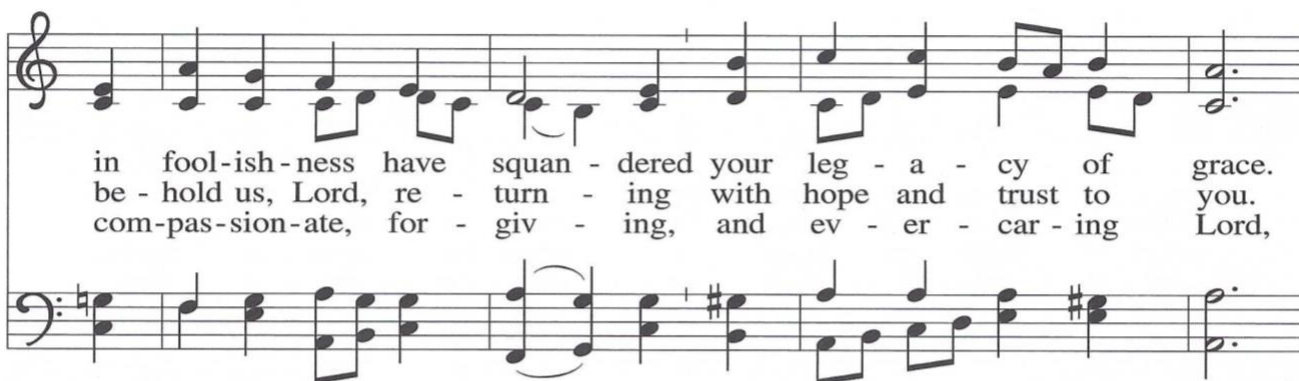
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

721

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is vic - t'ry is ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Oh,

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. vic - t'ry is ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931

Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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Music © 1996 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

GOODNESS IS STRONGER

8676445



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
 2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
 3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
 one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
 lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
 by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
 Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
 ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.

Music: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN

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