The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Scout Sunday, February 12, 2023

9:30 a.m. Adult & Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center

aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

Masks are optional but available in the narthex for anyone who feels more comfortable taking that precaution for themselves or on behalf of others.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *P*: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. *C*: Amen.
- P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.
- P: Holy One, source of our renewal,
- *C:* we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- *P:* Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior. *C:* Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

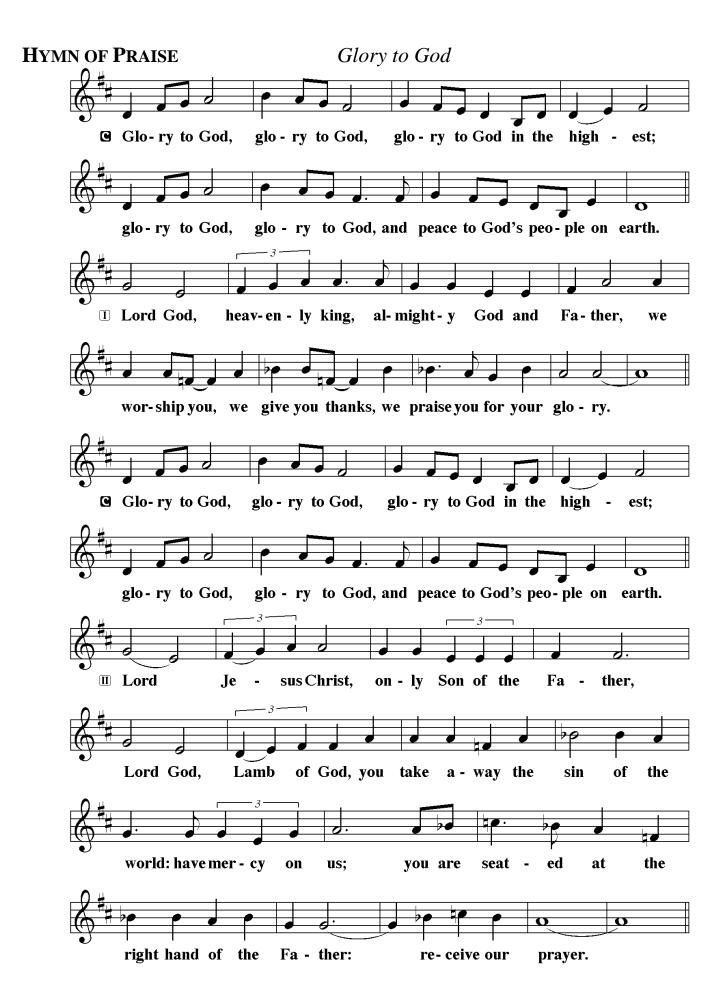
Gather Us In ELW # 532

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *C*: And also with you.



Daniel Longwell





***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

L: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:1-8 (read responsively)

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD! ²Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts, ³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

⁴You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them. ⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

⁶Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments. ⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments. ⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

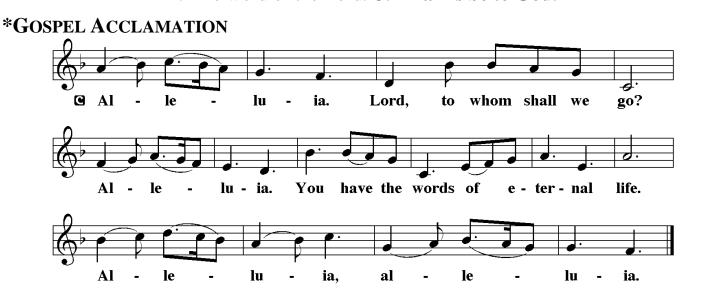
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brandon Reynolds

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

Jordan Smith

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. *L*: The word of the Lord. *C*: Thanks be to God.



*L: Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

Jace King

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

- ²⁷"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.
- ³¹"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
- ³³"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

L: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Paul Longwell ELW # 769

***HYMN OF THE DAY** If You But Trust In God to Guide You EL

*The Apostles' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

- C: 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 THE CHURCH**

- A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
- *A:* Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- *A:* Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. C: Amen.

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive our offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, *C:* **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

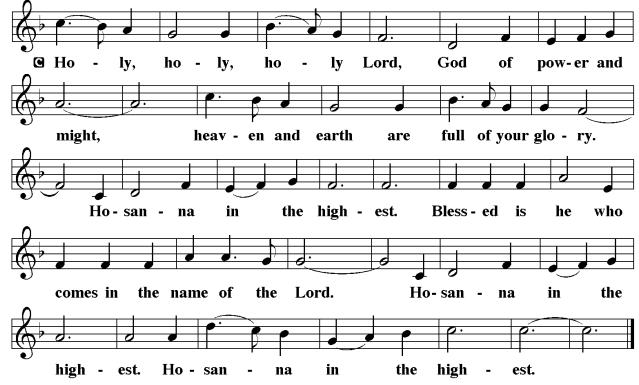
- *P:* The Lord be with you. *C*: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.
- *P*: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



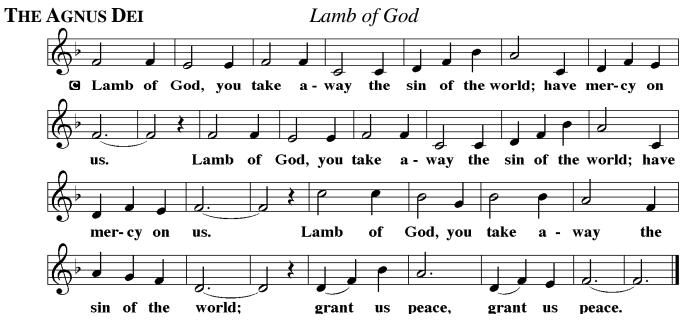
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- *P*: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.
- Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.
- 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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
- By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.
- Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: Amen

*LORD'S PRAYER

- *P*: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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



INVITATION

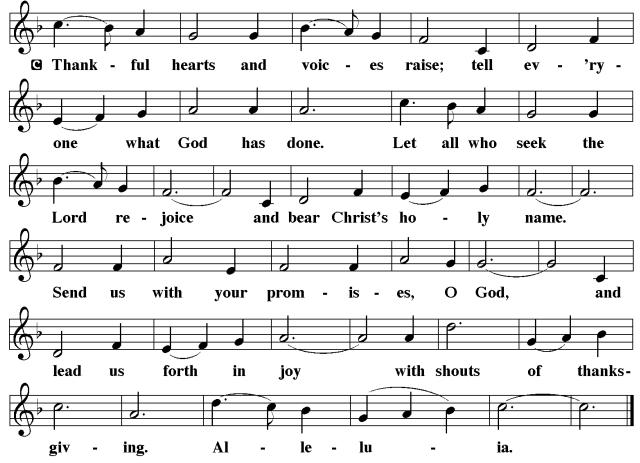
P: Come and taste the joy of God!

Note: White grape juice is available in the cups in the center of the trays.

- The Usher will invite the lectern side, then the piano side, then the back section forward for communion.
- If you do not feel able or comfortable coming forward for communion, the pastor and assisting minister will gladly commune you in your pew. Please let the usher know you would like to receive communion.

BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C*: Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. *C*: Amen.

*SENDING SONG

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW # 537

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Daniel Longwell

Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

- **Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Elwood Smith by Jane Fagans and Gloria Guyer.
- Altar Flowers: You can sponsor Altar Flowers by using the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$40.00 and there are still open Sundays.
- **Please welcome** our guest preacher, Scout Master, Paul Longwell from our Troop #3358 and All of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Martinsburg Food Pantry

Volunteers from Salem United Church of Christ, along with the regular volunteers, will be assisting with the food distribution on Thursday, February 16 from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.

The Items most needed are: Sunny D Drink, Cereal, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Ham, or Chicken and Paper Towels. *Linda Smith*

- **Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Carl Alexy, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenberg, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.
- Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Bonnie Brobst, Diane Cappel, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Sheryl Confeit, Terry & Cathy Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Lindsey Garrison, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Melissa Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Carrie Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Paul Ruth, John Steele, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, John Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates.

Those Serving in the Army Overseas: Nathan Smith (Germany), Melody Estep.

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for the family of Bob Guyer's family and Linda Smith upon his death on Monday, February 6, 2023. Friends will be received on Monday, Feb 13, 2023, from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Woodbury Church of the Brethren and Tuesday, Feb 14, 2023, from 1:00 until the 2:00 p.m. funeral service at the Woodbury Church of the Brethren.

Serving God and Us

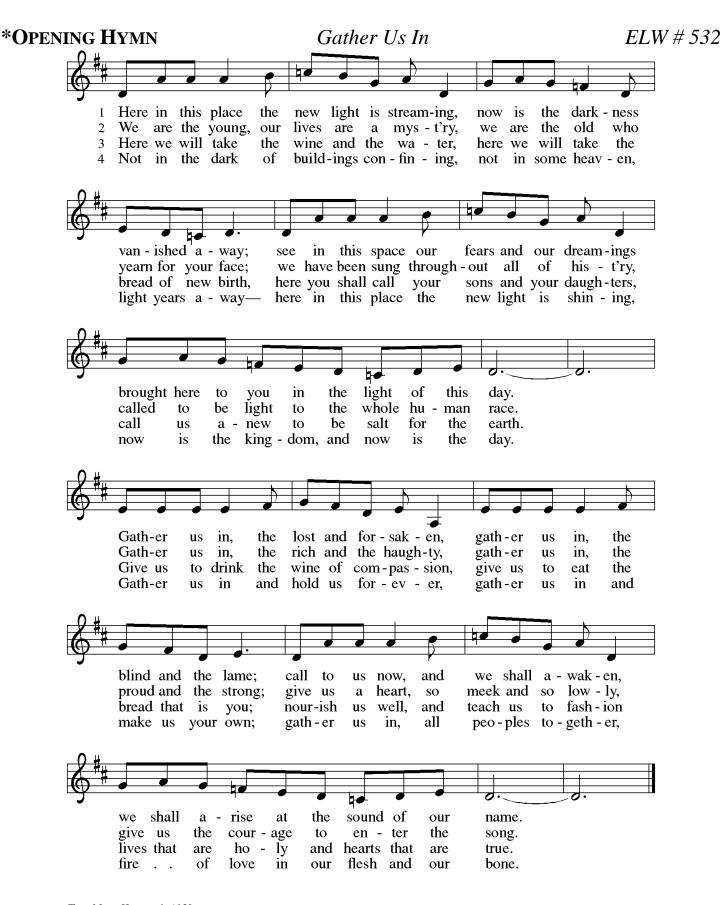
Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith Our Organist – Mary Nelson Our Missionary Family - On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck Our Sexton – Phil Claar Our Lectors – Jordan Smith, Brandon Reynolds, Jace King Our Acolyte – Calleigh Wright Our Assisting Minister – Mike Lamborn Our Altar Guild – Jean Sinal Our Scout Pianist – Daniel Longwell Our Ushers - Scouts, Martie Gilbert Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster Our Offering Counters - Jim Barley, Beth Garner First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"

All 2023 Goals should be given to Lori in the Church Office by Monday, February 13, 2023.

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413 **Office Hours** Pastor Traci – Wed. – 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lori Tremmel – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today –	Worship Service Sunday in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.
Monday –	Scouts, Scout Rooms 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday -	Council Meeting, via Zoom 6:30 p.m. or Window Room
Wednesday –	Yoga, Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
Sunday –	Youth Sunday
	Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
	Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary 9:45 a.m.
	Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 a.m.
SunMon	Snowtubing Youth Lock-In 2:00 p.m. till Mon., 11:00 a.m.



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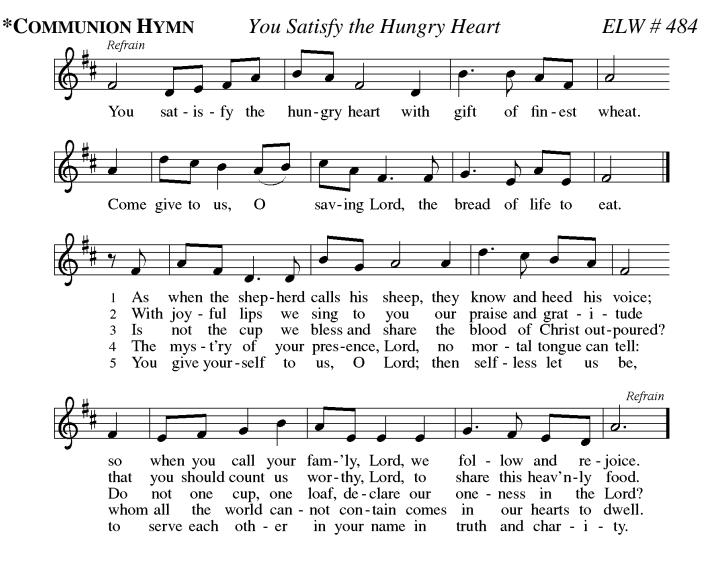


Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite

Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark

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