

TEXAS-LOUISIANA GULF COAST SYNOD ASSEMBLY

How Can We Keep from Singing?



OPENING WORSHIP

with the RITE OF INSTALLATION of a DEACON and a PASTOR

Friday, March 15, 2026 | 9:30 am

**St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1123 Burney Road, Sugar Land, TX 77498**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE SONG: The River by Jordan Feliz

I know a place where we can go
to lay the troubles down, eating your soul.
I know a place where mercy flows,
and your sins melt away like the snow.

Like a tide, it is rising up, deep inside,
a current that moves and makes you come alive.
Living water that brings the dead to life.

We're goin' down to the river,
down to the river,
down to the river to pray.
Let's get washed by the water,
washed by the water,
and rise up in amazing grace.

Let's go down, down, down to the river.
(You will leave changed.)
Let's go down, down, down to the river.
(Never the same.)

I've seen it move in my own life,
took me from dusty roads into paradise.
All of my dirt, all of my shame,
drowned in the streams that've made me born again.

Like a tide, it is rising up, deep inside,
a current that moves and makes you come alive.
Living water that brings the dead to life.

We're goin' down to the river,

down to the river,
down to the river to pray.
Let's get washed by the water,
washed by the water,
and rise up in amazing grace.

Let's go down, down, down to the river.
(You will leave changed.)
Let's go down, down, down to the river.
(Never the same.)

Let's go down, down, down to the river.
(You will leave changed.)
Let's go down, down, down to the river.
(Never the same.)
We're goin' down.

WORDS OF WELCOME: Debbie Scott | Council President, St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church

WORDS OF WELCOME: The Rev. Dr. Tracey L. Breashears Schultz | Bishop, TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Nancy Southern | Operations Manager, St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Martin's is located on the original and ancestral lands of the Sana and Coahuiltecan peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

The assembly rises in body or spirit and faces the baptismal font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Water is poured into the font by the Assisting Minister.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family,
and all those who had been saved sang of your salvation.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom,
and you guided Miriam, who sang and danced on the safe side of the sea.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit,
and on the day of Pentecost,
your people sang with varied voices and tongues of fire.
By water and your Word you claim us as your own,
and you give us a new song to sing.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
for voices that praise you and hymns we cannot keep from singing,
and above all we praise you for the gift of Jesus Christ,
your Love Song for the world.
Shower us with your Spirit, and give us your grace,
so we may sing and serve you, all of our days.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN with PROCESSION: Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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

Let us pray. God our maker, in the depths you form us, in the waters of baptism you make us new. Stir up the waters in our hearts, make a new song on our lips, that we might know you with our whole being, and follow when you call our names.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 16:25-34

A reading from Acts.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up

into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Oh, Sing to the Lord [Cantad al Señor] (ELW 822)

The Psalmody will be sung responsively: V. 1 (Spanish) – Cantor; V. 1 (English) – Assembly; V. 2 (Spanish) – Cantor; V. 3 (English) – Assembly; V. 4 (Spanish) – Cantor; V. 5 (English) – Assembly.



1 Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
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Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
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 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2 *Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

4 *Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

3 *Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

5 *¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English
 Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune
 Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:18b-21

A reading from Ephesians.

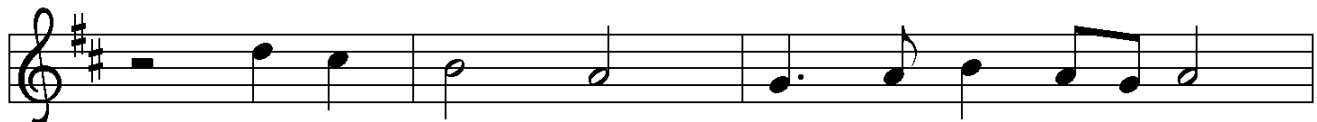
Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:64, 68-79

The holy gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Immediately [Zechariah's] mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

"Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON: The Rev. Dr. Tracey L. Breashears Schultz | Bishop, TX-LA Gulf Coast
Synod**

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY: My Life Flows On in Endless Song (ELW 763)

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!

I catch the sweet, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
 Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

RITE OF INSTALLATION of a DEACON and a PASTOR

PRESENTATION

Deacon Aimee and Pastor Cassandra, the deacon and pastor to be installed, as well as Caleb Parks and Diane White, representatives of the calling body (TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod Council), all come before Bishop Schultz and the assembly.

Bishop Schultz addresses the assembly.

Having been authorized by the church to install Deacon Aimee Lynn Elles, our co-worker in the gospel, as Bishop's Associate for Candidacy & Education, I now ask for certification of this call.

Caleb Parks addresses Bishop Schultz.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council, have called Deacon Aimee Lynn Elles as Bishop's Associate for Candidacy & Education. I present Deacon Aimee and this letter certifying the call.

Caleb Parks gives Bishop Schultz the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted, and then he moves aside.

Bishop Schultz addresses the assembly.

Having been authorized by the church to install Pastor Cassandra Maria Nagle, our co-worker in the gospel, as Bishop's Associate for Community & Call Process, I now ask for certification of this call.

Diane White addresses Bishop Schultz.

After prayerful deliberation, we, of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Council, have called Pastor Cassandra Maria Nagle as Bishop's Associate for Community & Call Process. I present Pastor Cassandra and this letter certifying the call.

Diane White gives Bishop Schultz the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted, and then she moves aside.

The assembly is seated.

ADDRESS & QUESTIONS

Bishop Schultz addresses Deacon Aimee.

Aimee, our Lord, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one called and set apart for the ministry of word and service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and service to Christ.

Deacon Beth Hartfiel addresses Deacon Aimee.

A reading from Romans: As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:4-8)

Bishop Schultz addresses Pastor Cassandra.

Cassandra, our Lord, who is the Good Shepherd, calls us to faith and a life of tending the flock of Christ with love and gentleness. You come among us as one called and set apart for the ministry of word and sacrament, a gift from God to nourish us and sustain us with God's grace.

Pastor Barb Bartling addresses Pastor Cassandra.

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Bishop Schultz questions Deacon Aimee and Pastor Cassandra.

Aimee and Cassandra, in the presence of this assembly, will you commit yourselves to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes

from God through the call of the church?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Aimee, trusting in God's care,
will you witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed,
pray for God's people,
seek to grow in love for those you serve,
strive for excellence in your skills,
and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Cassandra, will you love, serve, and pray for God's people,
nourish them with the sacraments,
and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Aimee and Cassandra, will you give faithful witness in the world,
that God's love may be known in all that you do?

Response: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

Bishop Schultz addresses the assembly.

People of God,

will you receive Aimee and Cassandra as messengers of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you regard Aimee

as one called to be among us to cross every barrier that stands between the church and its ministry in the world?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you regard Cassandra

as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Aimee and Cassandra?

Will you help and honor them in carrying out these ministries?

In all things, will you strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Bishop Schultz addresses Deacon Aimee.

Aimee, the ministry of Bishop's Associate for Candidacy & Education is now committed to you

in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you sent our Savior Jesus Christ, who is God-with-us,

to meet us exactly where we are,

to accompany us on our journeys,

and to lead us to where you are calling us to be.

By your Holy Spirit, you have called your beloved Aimee

to these same ministries –

building relationships, accompanying, and discerning with ministry candidates, rostered ministers,

and lay leaders of this synod.

Sustain Aimee's relationships with your grace;
direct her conversations with your wisdom;
and root her discernment with your beloveds
in your Son's posture of seeking out those places
where the gospel meets the world's need;
so that she may witness faithfully in word and deed to all people,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Bishop Schultz addresses Pastor Cassandra.

Cassandra, the ministry of Bishop's Associate for Community & Call Process
is now committed to you
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you sent our Savior Jesus Christ, who is God-with-us,
to meet us exactly where we are,
to connect us together,
and to draw us into deeper relationships with each other.

By your Holy Spirit, you have called your beloved Cassandra
to these same ministries –

building relationships, community, and connections
with congregation leaders, rostered ministers,
and global companions of this synod.

Sustain Cassandra's relationships with your grace;
direct her conversations with your wisdom;
and root her care for your beloveds
in your Son's posture of giving and receiving comfort,
bearing their burdens, and not betraying their confidence;
so that she may witness faithfully in word and deed to all people,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING with LAYING ON OF HANDS

Bishop Schultz addresses the assembly.

This installation service continues with a blessing and the laying on of hands. At this time, I invite the members of Aimee's and Cassandra's families to come forward.

Next, I invite their presenters and addressers (readers) to join their families.

And now, I invite the members of their calling body — the Synod Council — to join the group for the laying on of hands.

The assembly is invited to extend a hand in blessing.

Participants place their right hands on the shoulders of the newly-installed Deacon Aimee, who may kneel as Bishop Schultz proclaims God's blessing.

Aimee,

the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Participants place their right hands on the shoulders of the newly-installed Pastor Cassandra, who may kneel as Bishop Schultz proclaims God's blessing.

Cassandra,

the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Deacon Aimee stands as Bishop Schultz addresses the assembly.

People of God, I present to you Deacon Aimee Elles, your Bishop's Associate for Candidacy & Education. Let us welcome Deacon Aimee in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

Pastor Cassandra stands as Bishop Schultz addresses the assembly.

People of God, I present to you Pastor Cassandra Nagle,
your Bishop's Associate for Community & Call Process.
Let us welcome Pastor Cassandra in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION with SUNG RESPONSE: Let My Prayer Rise Up (ELW 232) [chorus only]

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Vespers '86, more familiarly known as Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen, the assembly will respond to the prayer petitions by singing the chorus of Let My Prayer Rise Up (ELW 232) – “Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.”

Joining our voices into one song, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Silence for reflection.

O God, you give us psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to sing, and together we make melody to you in our hearts. By your Holy Spirit, give us, your church, the courage and grace to sing the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, in our respective contexts and communities. Guide the rhythm of our hearts and minds, so that the love of Christ may be known to all we encounter.

O God, you are the composer of creation. With mountains and hills, we burst into song, and with all the trees of the field, we clap our hands. Provide water to parched lands and sunlight to flooded places. Protect endangered species, and transform our hearts to care more fully for all that you have made.

O God, you clothe us in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Where there is division and war, bring reconciliation and peace, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

O God, we lift our voices to you, singing:

All

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the
 lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

O God, you direct our voices and guide our songs. Where there is dissonance, bring harmony. Give wisdom and discernment to local, national, and international leaders, and sustain policymakers and diplomats with your patience and truth.

O God, you have arranged each of us with love and care, and you call us good. Protect migrants, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers as they journey, seek new homelands, and navigate complex systems. Convict us to resist the ways of this world and courageously treat all of your beloved children with the dignity, respect, and love you so abundantly have for each of us.

O God, you never skip a beat nor forget a note. With humility, we remember those whom we have cast aside, judged, or considered less-than based on characteristics known or unknown to us. Transform us into disciples who embody your gifts of love, acceptance, and the promise of belonging.

O God, we lift our voices to you, singing:

All

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the
 lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

O God, even in the silence, you are with us. When we lose our voices or don't have the heart to sing, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us. Grant hope and peace to all who are in any mental, physical, or spiritual distress. Surround those who are suffering with your comforting presence and your peace that passes all understanding.

O God, throughout time, you have joined our songs together. With joy, we sing alongside the congregations that are marking significant anniversaries this year: **Christ-Lake Jackson (75 years), St. James/Santiago Apóstol-Houston (75 years),** and **Hosanna-Houston (50 years).** We praise you for the faithful witnesses – past, present, and future – of these congregations. Sustain the ministries of these congregations, and give us all boldness to sing of your love in our churches and communities.

O God, when our songs on this earth come to an end, you welcome us home in your heavenly choir. With thanksgiving, we remember the faithful witness of those who have died, especially **Pastor Diane Campbell, Pastor James (Jim) Giannantonio, Ralph Giffen, Betty Hohlt, Pastor Kenneth Moerbe, Betty Raschke, Anne Schindehette,** and those we name before you, aloud or in the quiet of our hearts... Draw near to us in our grief, and comfort us with the promise that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our hearts and songs will be reunited once more.

O God, we lift our voices to you, singing:

All

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be - fore you, the
lift-ing up of my hands as an of - fer-ing to you.

O God, we let our prayers rise up like incense before you, trusting that you receive all the songs of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.
The assembly is seated.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Our Assembly offering this year will go to **The Three C Fund**, which will allow us to prioritize **connection, communication, and compassion**.

Did you know: the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod gives away more than half of our anticipated budget for benevolence? Because of you, we are able to financially support new and renewing congregations, Lutherhill, two ELCA seminaries, three campus ministries, interfaith ministries, ecumenical dialogue, and advocacy for our neighbors in need. This will also allow us to compensate synod staff, fund travel, guide congregations in transition, accompany candidates, and respond in times of crisis.



Gifts may either be given digitally using this QR Code or placed in the offering plates. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERING MUSIC: Death Was Arrested by North Point Worship

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin.
Lost without hope with no place to begin.
Your love made a way to let mercy come in.
When death was arrested and my life began.

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains.
My orphan heart was given a name.

My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance.
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh, your grace so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with you.
It's your endless love, pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with you.

Released from my chains, I'm a pris'ner no more.
My shame was a ransom he faithfully bore.
He cancelled my debt, and he called me his friend.
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh, your grace so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with you.
It's your endless love, pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with you.

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross.
Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost.
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand.
That's when death was arrested and my life began.

Oh, your grace so free, washes over me.
You have made me new, now life begins with you.
It's your endless love, pouring down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with you.

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free.
Come join the song of all the redeemed.
Yes, we're free, free, forever amen.
When death was arrested and my life began.

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free.
Come join the song of all the redeemed.

Yes, we're free, free, forever amen.

When death was arrested and my life began.

When death was arrested and my life began.

When death was arrested and my life began.

*The assembly rises in body or spirit.
The gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought forward.*

OFFERING HYMN: We Are an Offering (ELW 692)

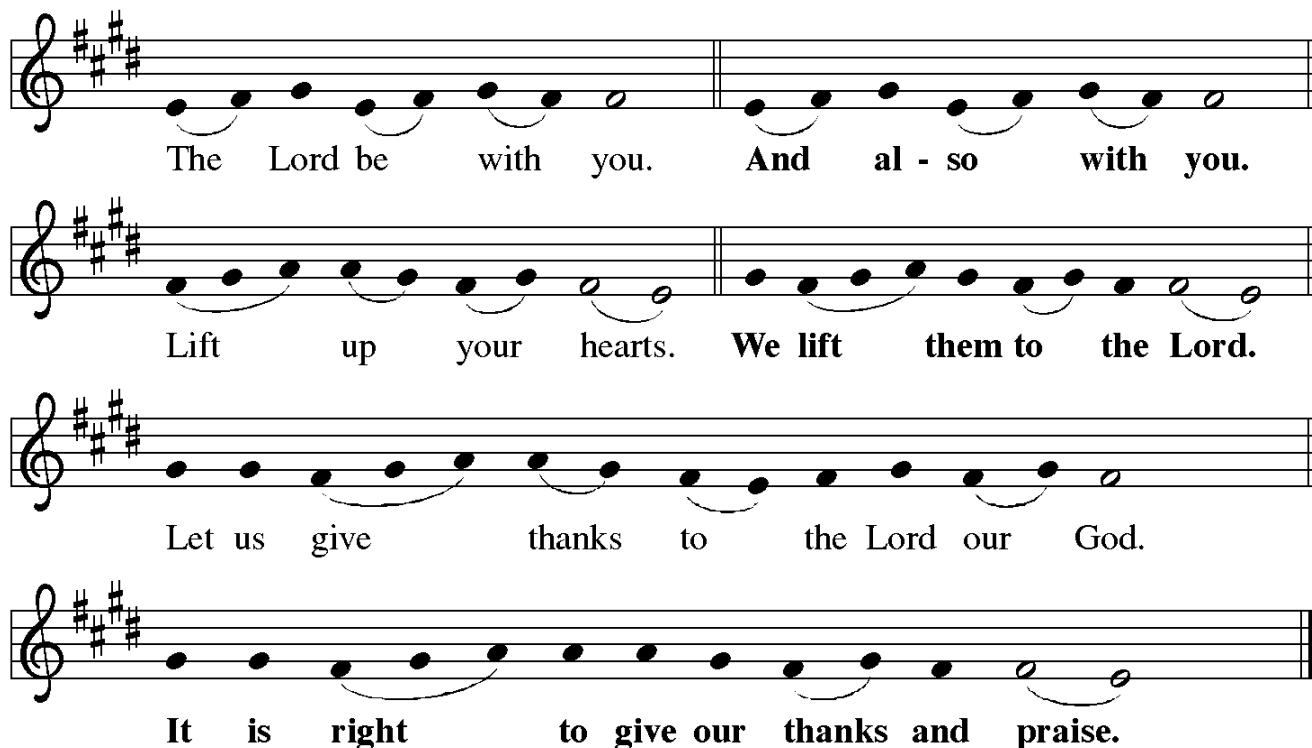
The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. we are an offering." The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, along with dynamic markings like accents and slurs. There are also triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) and a key signature change to one flat (B-flat) in the final staff.

Text & Music: Dwight Liles
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, growth in grace, fruitful labor, and new songs to sing. Accept the first fruits we offer here: time and toil, field and orchard, voice and heart. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture, for the care of your creation, and as a song of praise to our Creator. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING: Dialogue



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

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

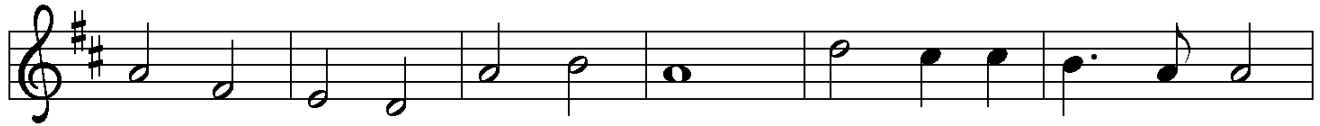
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING: Preface

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection
of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself
to take a - way our sin, who in dying has destroyed death,
and in ris - ing has brought us to e - ter - nal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Pe - ter and all the witnesses of the
res - ur - rec - tion, with earth and sea and all their crea - tures,
and with angels and archangels, cheru - bim and ser - a - phim,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

SANCTUS



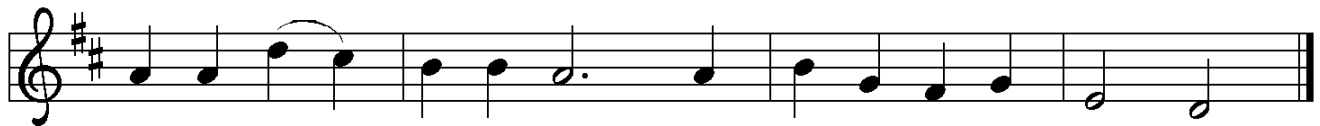
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, source of life and breath,
whose mercy meets us before we are ready,
you gather a people not by our striving but by your promise,
drawing us from many stories into one body,
and you call it good;
you meet us in the middle of our lives, not in perfection,
and so we give you thanks for Jesus Christ,
who crossed every boundary,
set a table where others closed doors,
and sang freedom into the night like Paul and Silas in the prison,
where even chains could not hold back your liberating grace;
we remember not as those who earn a place,
but as those who are given one,
where grace comes as gift and forgiveness is spoken before we can repay it,
and where you make yourself known in bread and cup for the life of the world;
so we come, hungry, hopeful, and held,

trusting your promise that in Christ we are made one body,
where mercy outlasts fear,
justice takes root in hope,
and all creation is still becoming new;
and so we turn to the night of his giving,
where Christ's promise meets us in bread and cup.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre;
venga a nos tu reino;
hágase tu voluntad,
así en la tierra como en el cielo;
el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
y perdónanos nuestras deudas
así como nosotros perdonamos
a nuestros deudores;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
mas líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder y la gloria
por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.**

Baruch Haba B'shem Adonai.

(Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

No matter who you are, what you've done, or what has been done to you, all are welcome. Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The assembly is seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served continuously at two stations. At the usher's invitation, please proceed to the front of the worship space via the center aisle. You will first receive bread (or a gluten-free option), then wine (red) or grape juice (white) in individual cups. Beside each station, there is a tray for empty cups. You will return to your pews via the side aisles.

If you would like to receive a blessing, please let the communion servers know by telling them or crossing your arms over your chest. If you would like communion to be brought to you, please let one of our ushers know when they reach your pew.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG: I Speak Jesus by Charity Gayle

I just want to speak the name of Jesus over ev'ry heart and ev'ry mind.
'Cause I know there is peace within your presence. I speak Jesus.

I just want speak the name of Jesus 'til ev'ry dark addiction starts to break.
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom, I speak Jesus.

'Cause your name is power. Your name is healing. Your name is life.
Break ev'ry stronghold. Shine through the shadows. Burn like a fire.

I just want speak the name of Jesus over fear and all anxiety.
To ev'ry soul held captive by depression, I speak Jesus.

'Cause your name is power. Your name is healing. Your name is life.
Break ev'ry stronghold. Shine through the shadows. Burn like a fire.

Shout Jesus from the mountains. Jesus in the streets. Jesus in the darkness, over
ev'ry enemy. Jesus for my fam'ly. I speak the holy name, Jesus.

Shout Jesus from the mountains. Jesus in the streets. Jesus in the darkness, over
ev'ry enemy. Jesus for my fam'ly. I speak the holy name, Jesus.

Shout Jesus from the mountains. Jesus in the streets. Jesus in the darkness, over
ev'ry enemy. Jesus for my fam'ly. I speak the holy name, Jesus.

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Break ev'ry stronghold. Shine through the shadows. Burn like a fire.

'Cause your name is power. Your name is healing. Your name is life.
Break ev'ry stronghold. Shine through the shadows. Burn like a fire.

I just want to speak the name of Jesus over ev'ry heart and ev'ry mind.
'Cause I know there is peace within your presence. I speak Jesus.

COMMUNION SONG: Lead On Good Shepherd by Patrick Mayberry

Well, I've been turned 'round, but I've never been lost.
Seen the water get troubled, but we walked across.
When my knees were shaking, you held my hand,
turning my problems to a promised land.

Lead on, Good Shepherd, I'll follow all my days.
There ain't nothing sweeter than to watch you make a way.
You've walked me through the valley, but you never steered me wrong.
So lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Seen some mighty deep canyons that you brought me through.
Seen some mighty big mountains that just up and moved.
Glory, glory, hallelujah. Yeah, that's my song.
Walking with my Father into the great unknown.

Lead on, Good Shepherd, I'll follow all my days.
There ain't nothing sweeter than to watch you make a way.
You've walked me through the valley, but you never steered me wrong.
So lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Step by step, day by day. Lead me on, Lord, I pray.
Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Step by step, day by day. Lead me on, Lord, I pray.
Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Lead on, Good Shepherd, I'll follow all my days.
There ain't nothing sweeter than to watch you make a way.
You've walked me through the valley, but you never steered me wrong.
So lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

Step by step, day by day. Lead me on, Lord, I pray.
Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Step by step, day by day. Lead me on, Lord, I pray.
Road gets dark, walk by faith. Lead on, Good Shepherd.

Lead on, Good Shepherd. Lead on, Good Shepherd.
Lead on, Good Shepherd. Lead on, Good Shepherd.
Lead on, Good Shepherd, lead on.

COMMUNION HYMN: What Feast of Love (ELW 487)



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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The assembly rises in body or spirit.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, amplified our songs, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made, until none can keep from singing; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

OPENING OF A SYNOD ASSEMBLY

As in one body we have many members,

so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.

Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,

I am there among them.

Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

with all humility and gentleness,

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

**Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace,
and for mutual upbuilding.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

I declare this assembly to be in session
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

HYMN: My Life Flows On in Endless Song (ELW 763) [chorus only]

Refrain

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the chorus of the hymn. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. The first system of music is for the first line of the chorus, and the second system is for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

No storm can shake our in-most calm while to that Rock we're cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can we keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Offering Prayer | ACS Setting 11: OPTION B: Gracious God, you bless us with gifts

Adapted by The Rev. Dr. Tracey Breashears Schultz, Fourth Bishop of the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod,

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Prayer after Communion | ACS Setting 11: OPTION A: O God, in this holy communion

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Prayer of the Day

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Thanksgiving at the Table

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Thanksgiving for Baptism

"Thanksgiving for Baptism: A," *In These or Similar Words: Crafting Language for Worship*, edited by Suzanne Burke and Scott Weidler, © Augsburg Fortress, 2025, pp. 55-57. Adapted by The Rev. Dr. Tracey Breashears Schultz, Fourth Bishop of the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA, on 02 May 2026.



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