





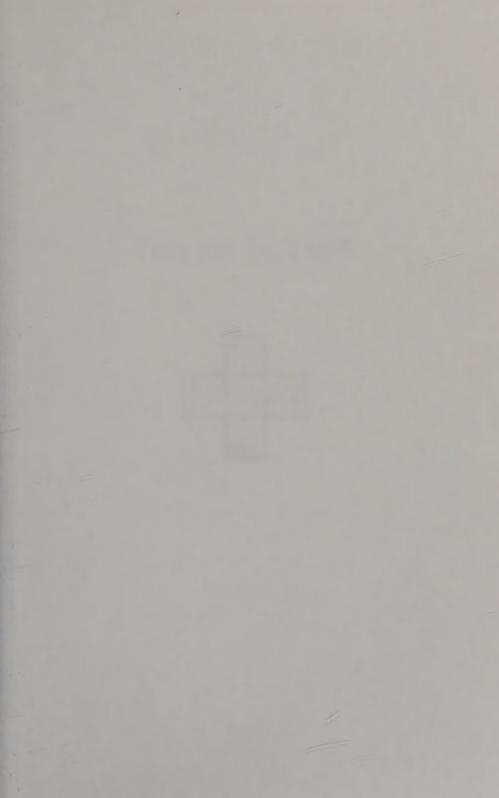
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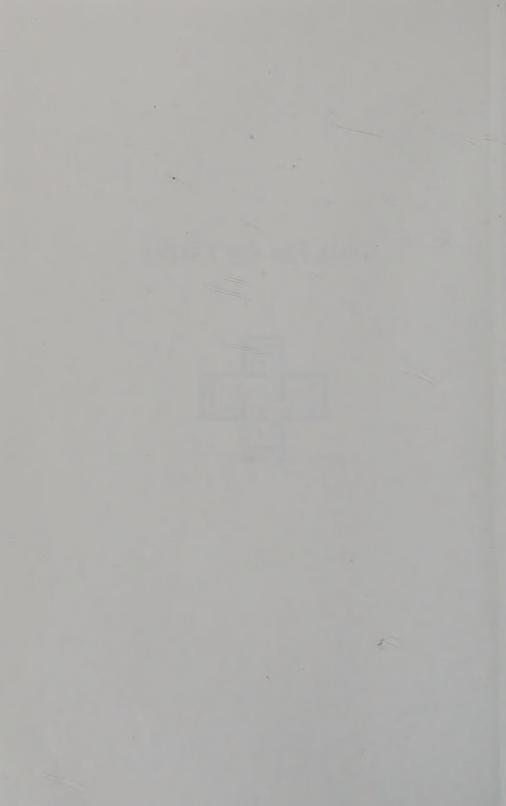
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This Far by Faith

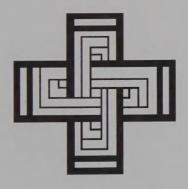




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This Far by Faith

An African American Resource for Worship



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THIS FAR BY FAITH An African American Resource for Worship

This resource has been developed by a cooperative inter-church process involving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Each church body has been responsible for its own review process.

This resource is recommended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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CONTENTS

Introduction		Psalms and Service Music	#1-36
Preface	p. 6		
Worship and Culture	8	Hymns and Songs	
Contextual Worship Practices	11	Advent	37-49
Leading African American Song	13	Christmas	50-59
A Musical Timeline	18	Epiphany	60-65
		Lent	66-76
Holy Communion		Holy Week, The Three Days	77-89
The Liturgy Is Biblical	19	Easter	90-100
Shape of the Rite	22		101-110
Confession and Forgiveness	24		111-117
Holy Communion I	26		118-129
Holy Communion II	43		130-134
Holy Communion III	60	9	135-145
Holy Pantiem	64	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O	146-156
Holy Baptism	04	0	157-164 165-170
Service of the Word	69	8,	171-182
		1	183-190
Service of Prayer and Preaching:		6, 8	
Revival	70	20 /	191-207 208-213
Variable Worship Toyts			214-224
Variable Worship Texts	72		225-230
Calls to Worship	77		231-239
Blessings of Lectors	80	17	240-248
Offertory Prayers	82		249-261
Prefaces	84		262-296
Eucharistic Prayers	88	riaise, manksgiving	202-290
Prayers of Thanksgiving	89	National and Cultural Resource	ces
Post-communion Prayers	90	Hymns and Songs	297-301
Charges to the People	91	Martin Luther King Jr.	302
Benedictions	91	Black History Month	303
Appendix: Creeds	94	Juneteenth	304
The Way of the Cross	96	The Hurricane Season	305
The truy of the cross		Kwanzaa	306
The Journey of Faith:			
Prayers, Signs, and Blessings	103	Indexes	- 404
Young People Coming to		Acknowledgments	p. 494
Adulthood	104	Topics and Themes	496
Marriage	107	Scripture References	500
Blessing of Women and Men	110	Tunes—Alphabetical	503
Blessing of Elders	112	Authors, Composers, and Source	
Burial of the Dead	113	First Lines and Common Titles Resources from the Tradition	506 510
Witnesses to the Faith	114	Graphic Art	511
Withester to the raid		The state of the s	



Jesus whom we worship was born into a specific culture of the world. In the mystery of his incarnation are the model and mandate for the contextualization of Christian worship. God can be and is encountered in the local cultures of our world. A given culture's values and patterns, insofar as they are consonant with the values of the Gospel, can be used to express the meaning and purpose of Christian worship. Contextualization is a necessary task for the Church's mission in the world, so that the Gospel can be ever more deeply rooted in diverse local cultures.

From The Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture, Lutheran World Federation, 1996.

We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord, trusting in his holy word; he's never failed us yet. Oh, we can't turn back, we've come this far by faith.

These words describe the patient hope and prayerful expectation that have sustained the quest to turn *This Far by Faith*, an African American worship resource, from a dream into a reality.

Originally conceived as a concept paper by African American Lutherans within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1990, the dream for the project took shape in 1993 when a small exploratory committee was formed of representatives from both the LCMS (Ulmer Marshall, Bryant Clancy, and Robert Malone) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Craig Lewis).

The dream for an African American worship resource that would supplement the principal worship books of the churches continued to develop. Aided by surveys conducted among African American pastors and congregations that showed great support for the idea, the project moved forward. The ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries and Commission for Multicultural Ministries, and the Commission for Black Ministries of the LCMS agreed to fund the project, but additional funds were still needed.

Walking by faith and not by sight, a steering committee and two subcommittees were formed and began working on the book in February 1995. In September 1995 the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation approved a grant to assist the church bodies with funding, and work on the project accelerated. Development of the resource continued through the final steering committee meeting in January 1998, on the weekend commemorating the birth of Martin Luther King Jr.

A debt of gratitude is owed to the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation for its assistance in funding the project and to all members of the steering, liturgy, music, and editorial committees, named below, without whose tireless efforts this book could not have been developed. We are thankful to Mary Ann Moller Gunderson (former director, ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries), Wyvetta Bullock (director, ELCA Division for Congregational Ministries), and Fred Rajan (director, ELCA Commission for Multicultural Ministries), who lent their leadership and support to the project.

Finally, we thank the African American Lutheran congregations of the LCMS and the ELCA for whom this project was conceived and without whose prayerful support the long struggle to produce this book of worship could not have been achieved.

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AN AFRICAN AMERICAN LUTHERAN PERSPECTIVE

The dialog between culture and the Christian faith expressed in worship is as old as the faith itself. The church's basic pattern of liturgy itself has antecedents both in the synagogue service and the festive meal practices of the Jewish people. The service of word and eucharistic meal was further shaped by the cultures in which the first Christians lived.

A recent Lutheran study presents helpful categories for framing and understanding this dialog:

The reality that Christian worship is always celebrated in a given local cultural setting draws our attention to the dynamics between worship and the world's many local cultures. Christian worship relates dynamically to culture in four ways. First, it is *transcultural*, the same substance for everyone everywhere, beyond culture. Second, it is *contextual*, varying according to the local situation (both nature and culture). Third it is *counter-cultural*, challenging what is contrary to the gospel in a given culture. Fourth, it is *cross-cultural*, making possible sharing between different local cultures . . . (*Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture*, Lutheran World Federation, 1996).

A Common Heritage

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). This is the *transcultural* pattern of weekly Christian worship that is the heritage of all Christians, regardless of culture. Word and sacraments are means of grace through which the gospel of Jesus Christ is communicated to all.

The baptized do not just "get together": they are called and gathered by the Spirit into the very presence of God. God's people do not hear just any word, but the Word of eternal life, Jesus Christ, who changes the heart and enlightens the mind. They do not share just any food, but the very body and blood of Christ. Those who have been gathered, enlightened, and fed do not just "leave," but as disciples of Christ, they are sent forth in mission to speak the word of God and do the work of God in the world. These things are the evangelical content of worship, a common "culture of the gospel" that unites and grounds the whole Christian community.

Worship in the Vernacular

This common heritage of Christian worship inevitably takes on a *contextual* dimension as it makes a home within a wide variety of situations. It reflects the astonishing particularity of

the incarnation: the eternal Word, through whom all things came into being (John 1:3), becomes contextual in a human body, a Jewish home, a first century Greco-Roman culture.

Scripture and the Lutheran confessions contain no specific word for culture. However, the Bible does refer to those elements that are understood today as components of culture: world, nation, generation, tribe, people, religion, form, language, custom. The teachings of Jesus in the gospels and the sermons of Paul in the Acts of the Apostles offer many examples of making connections to the cultural context of the hearers.

The confessional writings contain discussions on matters such as ceremonies and adiaphora (matters neither forbidden nor commanded). Furthermore, Martin Luther and other reformers were strong advocates for worship in the vernacular, worship that engaged the people in their own language and made connections to their daily lives. This emphasis on the vernacular is parallel to the contemporary attention given to the cultural contexts in which the people of God worship.

Components of Culture

Additional insight in understanding culture comes from 20th century liturgical scholar Anscar Chupungco, who proposes that culture includes three components: values, patterns, and institutions. Values are principles that shape the life and activities of a community and its members. Examples of values shared widely among cultures are hospitality, leadership and community. Patterns include a group's thought, spoken language, body language, concept of personal space, concepts of time, modes of dress, literature, music, architecture, and all forms of the fine arts. Institutions include the rites by which cultural groups celebrate or mark the cycles of life from birth to death.

African Americans within North American Lutheranism

North American Lutherans in the first centuries of immigration were people of Northern European ancestry, focused on nurturing and transmitting the faith primarily among their immigrant groups. It is true that Africans became Lutheran in the Americas beginning in the 1600s (records document that an African man named Emmanuel was baptized in a New York Lutheran congregation in 1669), and that especially in the last century, Lutheran domestic missions both in urban areas and the rural South have carried out ministries among African Americans.

Yet the challenge of transmitting the gospel to people of African descent in the Americas has been exacerbated by the "peculiar institution" of slavery and the seemingly intractable legacy of racism. In succeeding decades, as they continued to be baptized and catechized under Lutheran auspices, African Americans frequently found that their vernacular expressions of worship and song were not recognized by the wider Lutheran community.

A Common Contextual Heritage

While the African American community is not monolithic or uniform, there are many cultural commonalities among African Americans representing a rich cultural vernacular. Some of these similarities have been carried from the African continent, especially West Africa. These are shared with many who live in the "African diaspora" from Canada to the Caribbean. Most of the shared cultural features probably derive from a common experience of slavery (or cultural subjugation experienced by some Africans who were not

enslaved), racism, and the ongoing struggle for full recognition in the Americas. The following are examples of frequently-shared cultural features present in African American worship.

LANGUAGE AND IMAGERY

Not only were slaves discouraged from reading the Bible, it was actually illegal for slaves to read. This enforced a-literacy compelled many slaves and their progeny to rely on memory for biblical stories. Spirituals and hymns were an important aid to memory, and they often conflated or blended biblical narratives. The value of oral tradition among the people, however, helped to carry on the living voice of the gospel.

In the midst of struggle, Africans in the Americas developed rich and highly textured images to speak of God and of the relationship between God and humankind. This use of symbolic language is far more than a literary technique. The faith of an oppressed people served as a source of empowerment towards physical in addition to spiritual freedom Many spirituals deliberately used coded language, language useful both in worship and in communicating signals to enable the flight to freedom. At times this language contrasts with more verbally precise hymnological and theological traditions. One is more poetic and expressive, the other more concrete and propositional.

THE FUTURE PRESENT

Born out of the legacy of slavery, segregation, and social ostracism, African American prayer and song often speak of God's comfort in time of struggle, God's deliverance from oppression. Another common feature is a proleptic outlook towards heaven. God's future (heaven, kingdom, just reign) is anticipated, not as a means of escape from life, but as a source of sustenance for communal life which has often been difficult.

WORSHIP AS A VERB

Worship among African Americans is more verb than noun, a holistic engagement of head, heart and body touched by the sacred. Telling the story, testifying, preaching, and prayer are communal acts, set in the context of music, movement, and dance. All are infused with a deep awareness of the activity of the Holy Spirit within worship and a readiness for spontaneous response. Liturgy among African Americans often bears a similarity to jazz: improvisation and variation built upon the fundamental shape of the rite.

THE COMMUNAL "1"

The songs and prayers of African Americans often use first person language: "I want Jesus to walk with me" or "I've just come from the fountain." Observing this practice from outside the culture, some may conclude that this emphasis is individualistic. From within the culture, the opposite is true. There is a profound communal or tribal dimension among Africans and African Americans. In most African cultures, the base unit is the tribe or clan, rather than the individual or the nuclear family. Combine this African tribal antecedent with the African American history of group identity as slaves and the continuing reality of racial oppression, and one discovers a potent cultural undercurrent of collectivism.

In the popular aphorism of West Africa, "I am because we are, and because we are, I am." The use of the first person in worship is a communal "I," understood as "we" by worshipers who share a common history of struggle and striving for justice. Biblical precedents abound, especially in the psalms and in the letters of Paul.

GOD OF OUR ANCESTORS

An additional dimension of this communal sensibility is a profound awareness of the ties that bind living saints to the saints who dwell in light eternal. The African heritage of connectedness to one's ancestors is transformed in the context of Christian faith into a vivid appreciation for the communion of saints, the cloud of witnesses that accompany God's people on the journey of faith. Prayers that call upon the "God of our ancestors" have their lineage in the Old Testament invocation of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and in the frequent uses of this term in the letter to the Hebrews.

This Far by Faith

The interplay between worship and culture is often a messy enterprise. Practices that seem right and salutary in one era or within one culture may be judged odd or quaint in another. Fortunately, the Lutheran heritage welcomes this dialog, calling for unity in the common, evangelical core of worship and at the same time allowing for flexibility and freedom in the ways this essential core is communicated and celebrated.

As the first African American worship supplement prepared for use among Lutherans, *This Far by Faith* joyfully joins this conversation in progress. It is a proposal for addressing issues of worship from a perspective of particular culture and at the same time being faithful to the worship patterns of the church through the ages. To that end, this volume provides an important contribution to the global discussion on worship and culture by making available to African American Lutherans and to the wider church some of the riches of African American liturgy and song.

On these pages, witness a living chronicle of a faith journey begun on African soil. This is the pilgrimage of a people leaning on the Lord and trusting in God's holy word. Empowered by the Holy Spirit not to lay their religion down, African American Christians by the grace of God have overcome. They have overcome cultural marginality by finding family in the church. They have overcome dehumanization and oppression by knowing themselves to be God's children. They have overcome trials and tribulations, storms and tempests, to find joy and peace in believing. Hear them as they worship and sing the triumph of trust in God, having come *This Far by Faith*.

CONTEXTUAL WORSHIP PRACTICES

Symbolic actions and gestures used in worship are drawn from a variety of religious origins and the traditions of particular peoples. Christians have incorporated such cultural expressions within worship by interpreting the gesture in the light of Christian faith, in connection with biblical images, and in association with existing traditions of worship. Some examples include the use of the Advent wreath, candles, processions, and incense; the giving of rings in the marriage rite; or the pouring of earth in the funeral service.

The following practices and expressions, while not universal or exclusive, have been associated with the worship of Africans and African Americans at various times and places.

SPACE FOR WORSHIP

Some African traditions value the symbol of the circle or semi-circle. Moveable chairs or pews in the place of worship may be rearranged into such configurations.

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE

Processions at the gathering or sending of the assembly may be accompanied by African drums and dance. Traditional African music forms such as the *lamba* and dances such as the *domba* may be used, and are especially fitting at the celebration of marriage.

CALL TO WORSHIP

This term is in widespread usage among African American churches, referring to the musical or spoken materials that gather the community for worship, or to a specific dialog, frequently scriptural, that articulates this invitation. Although not African in origin, the call to worship reflects the spirit of the African call-and-response pattern.

ACCLAMATION

In many contexts joyous, vigorous, and physical response from worshipers is naturally expressed. Such acclamation can include handclapping and shouts of thanksgiving and jubilation. Ululation is one form of elevated vocal expression of African origin used to sound praise. At other times, the moan or lament is heard. Spontaneous dancing is a form of acclamation appropriate for certain festive contexts.

POSTURE AND GESTURE FOR PRAYER

A bowed head, kneeling, and the folding of hands are common prayer postures. In addition, some may use the more ancient practice of extending open arms in prayer and praise, recalling the psalm, "Let my prayer rise before you as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2).

LIBATION

Libation is a practice primarily used to accompany a call to worship or gathering prayer. The gesture of libation involves the pouring of a liquid such as water or a fermented drink into the earth or a container of soil. The leader pours from a pitcher or glass during a brief silence that follows each petition or response.

The Bible makes use of the image of pouring or libation in a number of places. These references help to supply meaning to the Christian use of this symbolic act. St. Paul says to the Philippians, "But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you" (*Phil. 2:17*) and again in the letter to Timothy, "I am already being poured out as a libation. . . . I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:6-7). Thus, the image of libation is a metaphor for the dedication of one's self in service for God's sake. The image of pouring is also used as an image for the outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit (*Acts 2:33, 10:45*). **

Communities of faith might consider the use of the libation gesture as a symbolic action of thanksgiving for the creation of humankind from the dust of this earthly home, and thanksgiving for those who have gone before, the mothers and fathers in faith whose mortal remains rest in the earth until the day of resurrection. The gesture may also be a sign of dedication to be poured out for the sake of the world in the same way Christ "poured out himself to death" (*Isa.* 53:12), even as the church is empowered by the Holy Spirit who has been "poured out on us richly" (*Titus* 3:6).



LEADING AFRICAN AMERICAN SONG

The variety of song that finds a home in African American worship presents a similar variety of challenges to those who lead the song of God's people. While many music leaders in communities that use this music have long-standing familiarity with these musical forms, others are seeking help in meeting these challenges, or desire to learn more about a specific genre. What follows is an introduction to the task of inspiring and enabling communities of faith to sing the liturgies and hymns in *This Far by Faith*. It may be a helpful summary and review for the experienced leader, or an overview for the novice with the goal of encouragement to pursue further study and practice.

Knowing and understanding the principles that undergird the performance of African American religious music is one thing, an important first step. Putting these principles into practice is quite another. Performances that look easy when executed by an experienced practitioner of spirituals and gospel music can be quite deceptive. The seemingly effortless melismatic passage or the brilliant display of polyrhythmic clapping comes not from mere spontaneous inspiration, but from years of persistent honing of skills through careful listening, observation, and practice.

For many church musicians, especially those with predominantly classical training, developing proficiency in African American music may pose a great challenge; after all, many of the principles of African American music performance are polar opposites of standard European American musical practices. The first and perhaps biggest challenge is coming to terms with the role of the musical score in African American music. In western music, the score reigns supreme; for the most part, performers are expected to adhere to tempo and dynamic markings. Beyond that, tampering with the melodic line, the rhythm, or the meter is often considered questionable. In contrast, the significance of the score in African American music is determined by the genre or type of music that it represents.

An example from the choral gospel music tradition may be illustrative. As a music whose foundation rests in the oral rather than the written tradition, African American gospel choirs typically learn new repertoire by rote, having heard the chosen selection sung by another group, or having heard the recording on CD, radio, or television. Frequently, no transcription of the selection exists or at least the choir does not have scores. It is the choir director's responsibility to know and demonstrate every vocal line and ensure that the parts blend harmonically.

Even though gospel music is often referred to as a "composed" music (distinguishing it from the spiritual created during slavery whose specific composers are unknown), writers of gospel songs both expect and accept deviation from the score. This improvisational dimension of gospel music performance does not mean that "anything goes." On the contrary, there are boundaries and principles and broadly accepted musical values to guide performers in deciding when, what, and how to do what they do. Only through the discipline of constant practice, generated by a sincere willingness and desire to learn, will the expression of African American music grow to assume personal and collective meaning in worship.

Performance Practice

Three primary areas of significance are identifiable in the performance of African American worship music regardless of genre: quality of sound (timbre); mechanics of delivery (manipulation of musical variables); and style of delivery (physical and visual dimensions of performance). Principles that govern this worship music leadership must not be viewed as inflexible rules that must be applied in the same way in every situation, for the underlying premise of this music is fluidity, constant change. The intent of sharing these fundamental, practical applications is to spark interest and confidence in creating a wider and stronger embrace of African American music, African American culture, and, with God's help, African American people.

Quality of Sound

Singing in traditional African American worship is an expression of jubilation, power, and praise. Even when the text of a spiritual communicates lament, the vocal quality of the singer remains strong. Vocalists are expected to convey their total sincerity and complete absorption in communicating both outward, to others present at the event, and upward to God. The vocal timbre in gospel solos may vary constantly, alternately utilizing moans, groans, shouts, wails, and growls. Similarly, in congregational singing the concluding verse or refrain may be hummed, allowing the assembly to experience the song's meaning through another timbral dimension. Whereas in the singing of spirituals the vocal timbre is more closely aligned with that of western music, maximizing the use of the head voice, in gospel music the commanding power of the chest voice is highly valued in women's singing, and male soloists frequently utilize falsetto.

Much congregational song takes the African-influenced form of call/response. The soloist, a strong and experienced singer, will issue the "call" in a firm manner that elicits an equally bold, full-voiced response from the congregation. It may take time and consistent use to develop the trust necessary for this assured back-and-forth song, but it is integral to African American worship.

A highly valued dimension of timbre, representing a continuing African tradition, is percussive delivery both in vocal and instrumental performance. Particularly in highly syncopated songs with faster tempos, short phrases are strongly punctuated to accent the rhythm. For example, in the opening line of "What a fellowship," breaks will commonly occur after "what" and "a." The line is not sung as a single continuing legato melodic phrase, but is instead chopped up into short, percussive fragments. The phrase is deliberately broken after the first word, adding rhythmic and timbral (percussive) interest.

Mechanics of Delivery

This broad category of performance describes the way time (rhythm, meter, tempo, duration), text, pitch, and harmony are conceived in African American sacred music expression, as well as the role of accompaniment and improvisation.

RHYTHM

More than by any other factor, African American music is driven by its rhythm. Rhythm is preeminent in both vocal lines and instrumental accompaniment; rhythm establishes the character of the piece. Each beat must be clearly sensed and heard. The principal pulse, of course, is given a strong accent. However, frequently the weak beats (such as 2 and 4 in 4/4) are given an even stronger accent than the primary and secondary ones. To illustrate, look at the spiritual "I'm so glad Jesus lifted me" (#191). It has four quarter note beats per measure and it is played with the accents not only on beats 2 and 4, but on the eighth note offbeats (1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and).

This sort of syncopation pervades all forms of African American worship music. It should never be rushed, always a temptation when you are anticipating the accent. Keep a firm sense of the tactus so that the syncopation can play off of it. As singers become more experienced in this style of music, they will often add layers of symmetrical and asymmetrical beat divisions over the basic pulse, contributing to the characteristic rhythmic complexity. Those less accustomed to the style, however, will be better off maintaining the basic rhythm. Above all, avoid smoothing out the rhythms; to do so will rob the music of its vitality and energy.

While rhythmic precision is critical to the performance of spirituals and gospel music, at the same time, rhythm must never be mechanical. Precision is one thing; rigidity is another. Notes may be held longer or shorter than written, and notes may even be anticipated—coming slightly earlier than indicated in the score. Even in congregational singing, each member of the congregation is free to personalize the singing experience—to make it one's own.

METER

Meter is another area in which oral tradition frequently takes precedence over what is written. Especially in the case of material borrowed from the classic or revival hymn traditions, a piece written in 4/4 routinely will be sung in 12/8, with a swing. So, for instance, "What a fellowship" (#220) is often written in 4/4, but played in 12/8. Even songs that keep their 4/4 feel will often have a flexibility in the meter that shows a triplemeter influence.

TEMPO

Tradition has come to dictate the tempos at which most African American songs are sung. Spirituals fall, for the most part, into either of two tempos. The sorrow song—such as "Go down, Moses" (#87)—is sung at a slow tempo, while the jubilee song—such as "Great day" (#164)—is taken at a brisk walking tempo. Within the arena of the gospel song, the gospel waltz is often employed for slower songs like "What a fellowship" while shout songs like "I'm so glad Jesus lifted me" would be sung at a quick tempo.

DURATION

In traditional African American worship neither the length of service in general nor the length of the songs in particular is dictated by the clock. Depending upon the quality of

the interaction between the performer (preacher or singer) and the working of the Holy Spirit, extemporaneous elements of the worship may be extended or shortened. In congregational singing it is common for the final chorus of such well-loved hymns as "What a fellowship" to be repeated as directed by the song leader. Similarly, soloists frequently interject such textual phrases as "I believe I'll say that one more time" to signal repetition of a particular phrase or stanza. In neither of these instances is repetition viewed as boring or grandstanding; instead, repetition serves as an essential tool for generating and sustaining the spiritual fervor that has historically distinguished the worship of African Americans in the United States.

TEXT

Most spirituals and many gospel songs have very short texts, a feature which was helpful in committing them to memory. These brief texts are, however, repeated many times with improvised variations, the repetition helping to convey their message. Another way in which these texts are extended is through the interjection of "wandering," independent couplets and quatrains such as

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say he died for all.

Sometimes these insertions are closely related to the text of the song, sometimes not. They are selected according to the spirit of the moment.

Although rhythm is unquestionably preeminent in African American religious music performance, text—the message—must not be minimized. Spirituals and gospel songs are filled with rich biblical imagery and intense devotion. The text, regardless of its relative simplicity or profundity, must be given its due.

PITCH

The concepts of pitch that characterize African American religious music are distinguished in some rather marked ways. First of all, melodic lines in both spirituals and gospel music include a preponderance of blue notes—lowered third, sixth, and seventh degrees in the major scale. Just as rhythms should not be smoothed out, neither should pitches. Even if a flatted seventh in the melody conflicts with a diatonic seventh in the accompaniment, this is considered an acceptable dissonance. Slides, scoops, and bends are all so fundamental to gospel music performance that soloists and congregations alike employ these vocal techniques intuitively. They have learned to value how pitch is conceived in their tradition through the process of years of exposure and practice.

HARMONY

Two styles of harmonization coexist with standard western harmony in unaccompanied singing. The first uses parallel thirds or sixths throughout the song, a constant parallel motion. In the second style, used especially with very slow-moving pieces, a parallel interval of a fourth or fifth predominates, creating an effect similar to organum.

ACCOMPANIMENT

When not sung unaccompanied, spirituals are often accompanied by acoustic piano alone. In gospel music, as well as gospel interpretations of hymns, piano is still the basis, but instrumentation is unlimited. African American churches often use some combination of piano, electric organ, drums, tambourine, and bass guitar. Accompaniment may also

include instruments such as synthesizer, vibraphone, trumpet, saxophone, or flute. In virtually all forms of African American music, instrumental accompaniment functions to complement the voice; its role is not a secondary one, but rather one of equal importance to the voice. At the same time, instruments playing riffs or obbligatos should be careful to play on the "response" sections and not on the "calls" that are reserved for the leader.

IMPROVISATION

In orally based music like African American sacred song, improvisation plays an important role. At least some basic filling in beyond the written notation is essential to accompanying or leading this music. In singing the solo part, the leader will freely add runs, riffs, or motives to make the line more expressive. The melody line itself may be altered; rubato or rhythmic alteration may be employed.

A basic principle for accompanists is that open spaces in the gospel style are almost always filled in by the keyboard. At the very least this would require repeating chords during longer, held notes. Even more effective would be adding an arpeggiated figure; for instance, leading from one phrase to the next. It requires listening and practice, but such fills can add immeasurably to the song. A next step could be to add a moving bass line.

Few "upper limits" exist for the amount of improvising open to the keyboard player. Once the assembly is familiar with the hymn, even the melody is optional for the pianist. Arpeggios, scale passages, passing tones, upper and lower neighbor tones, even the occasional glissando are all possibilities within the style. Harmonic alterations that support the singing are also welcome. The player must sense when to "let loose" and when, especially as the vocalists become more active, to back off.

Style of Delivery

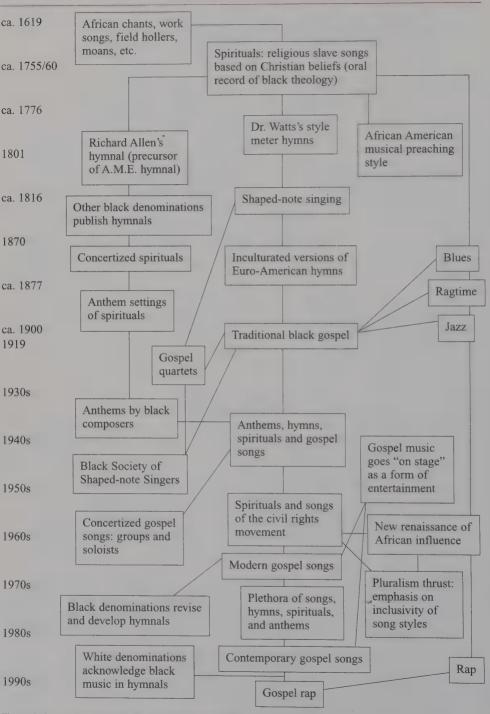
The style of delivery, or physical mode of presentation of much African American music includes variables which, in the European American tradition, may be considered extraneous. In the African American tradition, however, the visual and kinetic dimensions—the expressive behavior that characterizes performance—are of equal significance to the sonic dimension. In other words, it is not just what is sung, but how it is sung that counts.

The most striking aspect of delivery in African American music is the incorporation of dance. Although "flat-footed" singers have also been a part of African American song tradition, movement in synchrony to the rhythm of the song is very common in worship. However important these kinetic dimensions are to the African American worship experience, they never assume dominance over the singing itself.

Conclusion

These principles of African American musical performance are intended to serve as general guides toward developing musical facility and growth in these styles. Commitment and determination are necessary to internalize these principles, but the end result can be a richly rewarding experience.

A MUSICAL TIMELINE



The vertical center line represents the use of music for worship. All musical styles overlap, continually influencing and nurturing each other.

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THE LITURGY IS BIBLICAL

GATHERING

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Psalm 149:1)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. (*Joel 2:15-17*)

Assemble, all of you, and hear. (Isaiah 48:14)

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. (Acts 2:1-13)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

KYRIE

They called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (Luke 17:13)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Peace be within your walls. (Psalm 122:6-7)

HYMN OF PRAISE: GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors! (Luke 2:14)

HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST

To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! (Revelation 5:13)

SALUTATION

[Boaz] said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered, "The Lord bless you." (Ruth 2:4)

[The angel] came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28)

WORD

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

One does not live by bread alone. (Matthew 4:4)

In the beginning was the Word. (John 1:1-5)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (Colossians 3:16)

Give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)

I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

No prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: GENERAL

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: LENT

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (*Joel 2:13*)

THE PRAYERS

Hear my prayer, O Lord. (Psalm 143:1)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

MEAL

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

I am the bread of life. (John 6:48-50)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

PEACE

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:16)

OFFERTORY

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. (John 15:5)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Psalm 51:10-12)

THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[The angels] called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." (*Isaiah 6:3*)

The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

LORD'S PRAYER

Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-13)

BREAKING OF BREAD

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

SENDING

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)

As the Father has sent me, so I send you. (John 20:21)

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (John 13:1-16)

CANTICLE

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace." (Luke 2:28-32)

Oh, give thanks to the Lord. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. (Psalm 105:1-3, 42-45)

BENEDICTION

You shall say to them, the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:23-26)

DISMISSAL

And [Jesus] said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:50)

HOLY COMMUNION

SHAPE OF THE RITE

Sunday is the primary day on which the church assembles: the first day of creation when God transformed darkness into light and the day on which Christ rose from death and revealed himself to the disciples in the scriptures and the breaking of the bread. The baptized gather to hear the word of God, to pray for those in need, to offer thanks to God for the gift of salvation, to receive the bread of life and the cup of blessing, and to be renewed for the daily witness of faith, hope, and love. To guests, strangers, and all in need, the church proclaims the love of God in Christ Jesus.

GATHERING

Entrance Hymn
GREETING
Kyrie
Hymn of Praise
PRAYER OF THE DAY

God calls and gathers believers through the Holy Spirit, and in response the community acclaims this gracious God in song and prayer. The gathering of the congregation may begin with a brief order for confession and forgiveness and/or an entrance hymn. God's welcome is extended to the congregation by the presider. When appropriate, a litany or hymn of praise may be sung immediately before the prayer of the day. Through these actions, the congregation prepares to hear the word of God.

WORD

FIRST READING
Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY
Creed
THE PRAYERS

In the rich treasure of scripture proclaimed by readers and preachers, the church hears the good news of God acting in this and every time and place. A three-year cycle of readings provides portions of the Old Testament narratives and prophetic writings, the New Testament letters, and the gospel books for each week. During Advent/Christmas, the lectionary reveals the mystery of the Word made flesh. In Lent/Easter, the paschal mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection is proclaimed. Throughout the season after Pentecost,

the New Testament texts are read in a continuous order. During the last Sundays of the year, the readings present the final vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

This encounter with the living Word, Jesus Christ, is marked by proclamation and silence, psalm and hymn, singing and speaking, movement and gesture. Silence after the readings allows time for the word to be pondered. The sermon announces the good news of life in Christ to the community and the world; the hymn of the day both proclaims and responds to the word; the creed is a further response to it. God's word, read and preached and acclaimed, leads the community to pray for the church, the people of the world, and those who suffer or are in need.

MEAL

GREETING OF PEACE
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS
THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION
LORD'S PRAYER
COMMUNION
Canticle
Prayer

In word and gesture, prayer and song, the people lift up their hearts in praise and thanksgiving for the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. To the table of the Lord are brought bread and wine, simple signs of God's love, humble signs of human labor. Over them are spoken Jesus' words by which he instituted this holy supper: "This is my body; this is my blood." The Holy Spirit is invoked with the prayer that all who eat and drink the body and blood of the Lord may do so with a living faith. With Jesus serving as host, all join in the prayer which he gave. Welcomed to the table, the communicants are united with God in Christ, with each other, and with the church's mission in the world. In their eating and drinking they remember the Lord's death and resurrection and proclaim his life-giving work until he comes. During the communion, hymns, songs, and psalms may be sung. As the table is cleared, the congregation may sing a canticle. A brief prayer concludes the liturgy of the meal.

SENDING

BLESSING Dismissal

Worship on the Lord's day ends with simplicity. The community receives the blessing of God. All are invited to leave in peace, sent out to serve in word and deed: to speak the words of good news they have heard, to care for those in need, and to share what they have received with the poor and the hungry.

Central elements of the Holy Communion liturgy are noted in uppercase letters; other elements support and reveal the essential shape of Christian worship.

ORDERS FOR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ORDER A

- In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

 Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **Amen**
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Gracious God.
- In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.
 Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
- P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
- **G** Amen

ORDER B

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen
- P Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

■ Have mercy on us, O God, according to your lovingkindness. In your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not remove us from your presence; do not take your Spirit away.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain us with your Spirit. Amen

- P God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen

ORDER C

- P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen
- The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- Gracious God.
- we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
- P From the house of David, God raised up a mighty Savior.
- Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.
- P Remembering the covenant, God delivered us from our enemies.
- Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.
- P Before God we are holy and righteous, free to worship without fear.
- Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who comes to set us free.
- With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace.
- **G** Amen

ORDER D

- **C** Amen
- P Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
- And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- P Almighty God, merciful Father:
- I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

 But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

- P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your 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.
- Amen



HOLY COMMUNION

SETTING ONE River of Life

An order for confession and forgiveness (pp. 24–25) may be used before this service.

The gathering rite may include a call to worship (pp. 72–76).

The minister may announce the day and its significance before the entrance hymn or the readings.

GATHERING

Stand

Entrance Hymn or Psalm

Greeting

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

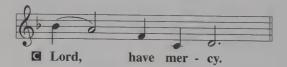
Those assembled may be invited to welcome one another in the name of Christ.

Kyrie

The Kyrie may follow.



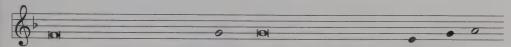
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



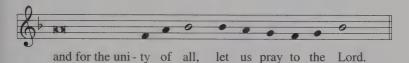


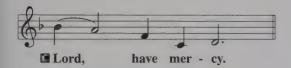
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.





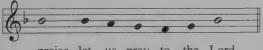
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



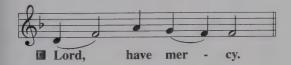




A For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.





A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

The hymn of praise or another appropriate hymn may be sung.









Prayer of the Day

The salutation may precede the prayer.

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray. (The prayer of the day is said, concluding:)
- **Amen**

Sit

First Reading

A reading from _____.

After the reading, the reader may say: The word of the Lord.

All may respond: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

The psalm is sung or said.

Second Reading

A reading from _____.

After the reading, the reader may say: The word of the Lord.

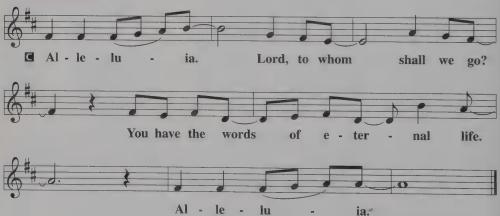
All may respond: Thanks be to God.

Stand

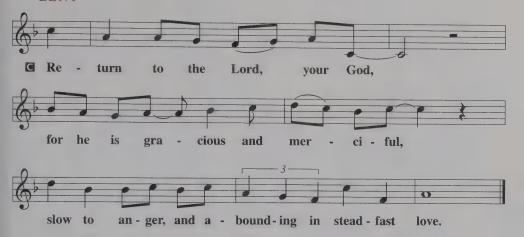
Gospel Acclamation

The appointed verse may be sung by the choir, or the congregation may sing an acclamation or a hymn.

GENERAL



LENT



Gospel

- The Holy Gospel according to _____, the ____ chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

The hymn of the day or another musical proclamation may precede the sermon.

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

Hymn of the Day

Creed

The creed may be said: the Nicene Creed, on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; the Apostles' Creed, at other times. When Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is celebrated, this creed may be omitted.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

■ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

*Or. He descended to the dead.

Stand/Kneel

The Prayers

The prayers begin with these or similar words:

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Prayers are included for the whole church, the nations, those in need, the parish, and special concerns. The congregation may be invited to offer other petitions. Prayers of confession may be included if an order for confession and forgiveness has not been used earlier. The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these or similar words:

OR

A Lord, in your mercy,

d hear our prayer.

A Hear us, O God;

g your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude with these or similar words:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **G** Amen

Stand

Peace

The peace is shared at this time or prior to the distribution of communion.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Sit

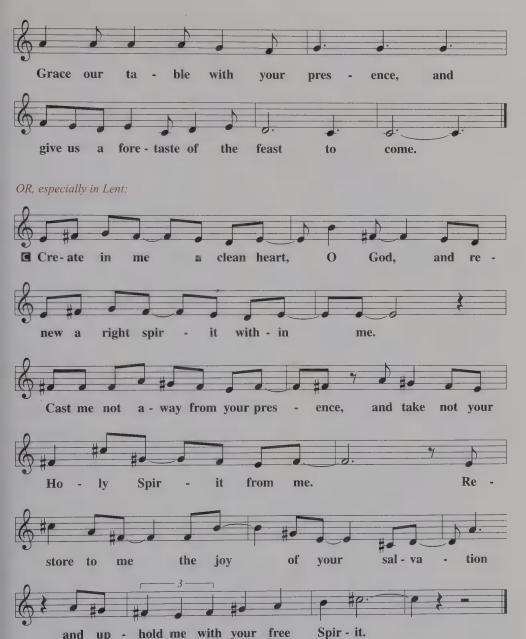
Offering and Preparation

The offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

The appointed offertory may be sung by the choir as the gifts are presented, or the congregation may sing one of the following offertories, or an appropriate hymn or psalm may be sung.

Stand





This or another appropriate prayer (pp. 80-81) may be said.

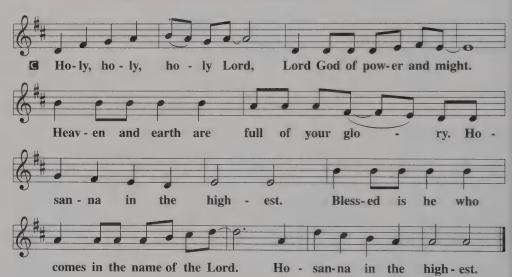
- A Let us pray.

 Merciful God,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
 our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
 Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give our thanks and praise.

When a preface is prayed (pp. 82-83), the Sanctus follows:

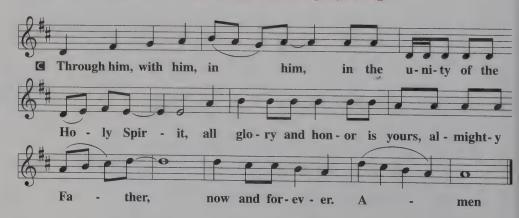


The minister continues the thanksgiving, using one of the forms on pp. 84–88 or another appropriate form, in which the words of Christ's institution are proclaimed.

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:

- P . . . we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

When the thanksgiving includes a doxology, the following may be sung:



now and forever. Amen

OR
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

If not included previously, the greeting of peace is now given and shared.

Sit

Communion

As the people commune, hymns and other music may be used.



Canticle





Prayer

The following or another post-communion prayer (p. 89) is prayed.

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

Silence for reflection.

SENDING

Benediction

The minister blesses the congregation. The benediction may be preceded by a charge to the people (pp. 90–93).

- **G** Amen

OR

- 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.
- **G** Amen

When there is a procession from the church, a hymn, song, or canticle may be sung.

Dismissal

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



HOLY COMMUNION

SETTING TWO Liturgy of Joy

An order for confession and forgiveness (see pp. 24–25) may be used before this service.

The gathering rite may include a call to worship (see pp. 72–76).

The minister may announce the day and its significance before the entrance hymn or the readings.

GATHERING

Stand

Entrance Hymn or Psalm

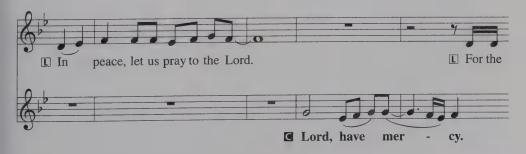
Greeting

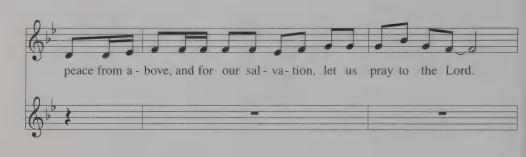
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **G** And also with you.

Those assembled may be invited to welcome one another in the name of Christ.

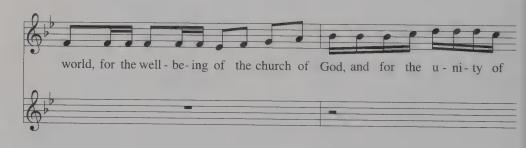
Kyrie

The Kyrie may follow.

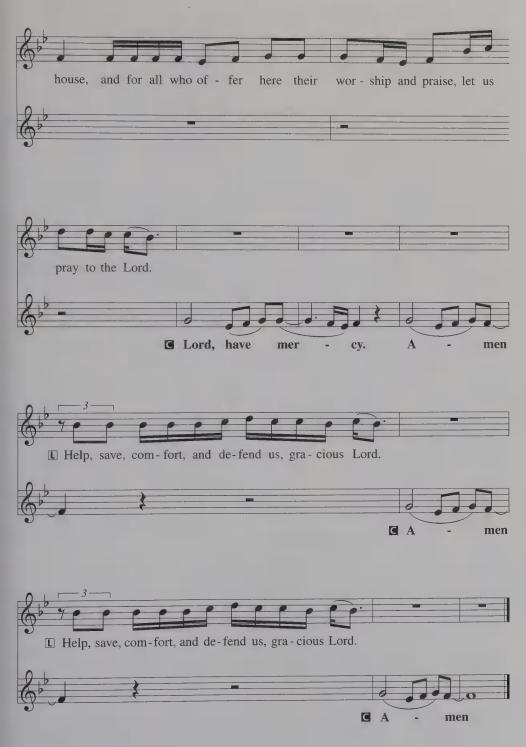






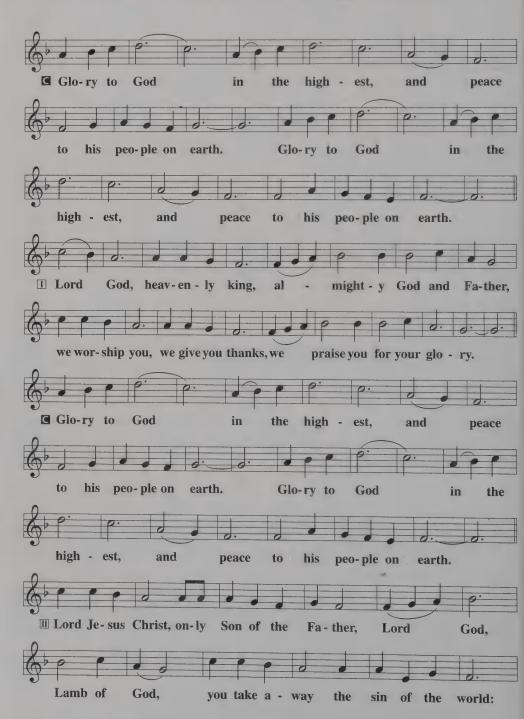






Hymn of Praise

The hymn of praise or another appropriate hymn may be sung.









Prayer of the Day

The salutation may precede the prayer.

- The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray. (The prayer of the day is said, concluding:)
- **G** Amen

Sit

First Reading

A reading from ____

After the reading, the reader may say: The word of the Lord.

All may respond: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

The psalm is sung or said.

Second Reading

A reading from

After the reading, the reader may say: The word of the Lord.

All may respond: Thanks be to God.

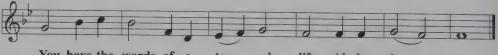
Stand

Gospel Acclamation

The appointed verse may be sung by the choir, or the congregation may sing an acclamation or a hymn.

GENERAL





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

LENT



Gospel

- P The Holy Gospel according to _____, the ____ chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

The hymn of the day or another musical proclamation may precede the sermon.

Sit

Sermon

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

Hymn of the Day

Creed

The creed may be said: the Nicene Creed, on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; the Apostles' Creed, at other times. When Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is celebrated, this creed may be omitted.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

the only Son of God,

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God. begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen

and his kingdom will have no end.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty. creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Stand/Kneel

The Prayers

The prayers begin with these or similar words:

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Prayers are included for the whole church, the nations, those in need, the parish, and special concerns. The congregation may be invited to offer other petitions. Prayers of confession may be included if an order for confession and forgiveness has not been used earlier. The minister gives thanks for the faithful departed, especially for those who recently have died.

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these or similar words:

A Lord, in your mercy,

le hear our prayer.

A Hear us, O God;g your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude with these or similar words:

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

^{*}Or, He descended to the dead.

Stand

Peace

The peace is shared at this time or prior to the distribution of communion.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

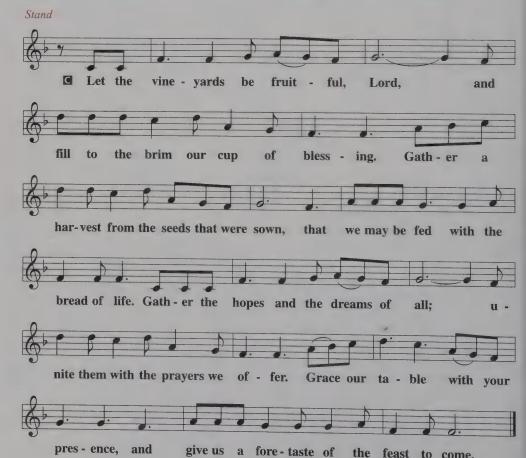
The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Sin

Offering and Preparation

The offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

The appointed offertory may be sung by the choir as the gifts are presented, or the congregation may sing one of the following offertories, or an appropriate hymn or psalm may be sung.



OR, especially in Lent:



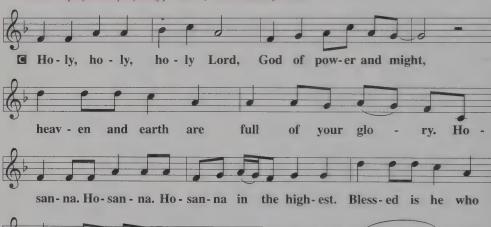
This or another appropriate prayer (pp. 80-81) may be said.

- A Let us pray.
 - Merciful God,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P 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.

When a preface is prayed (pp. 82–83), the Sanctus follows:



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

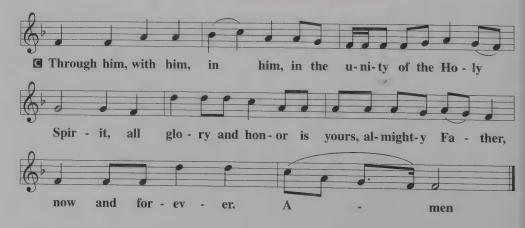
The minister continues the thanksgiving, using one of the forms on pp. 84–88 or another

appropriate form, in which the words of Christ's institution are proclaimed.

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:

- P ... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

When the thanksgiving includes a doxology, the following may be sung:



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

OROur 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.

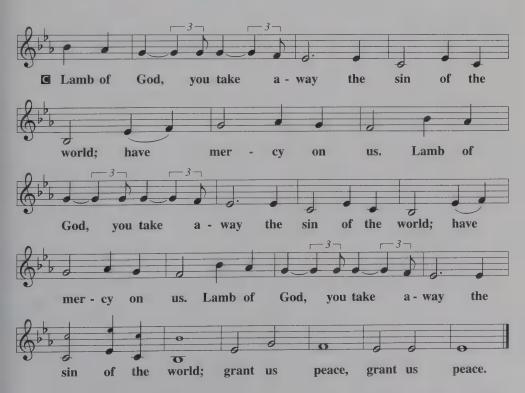
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

If not included previously, the greeting of peace is now given and shared.

Sit

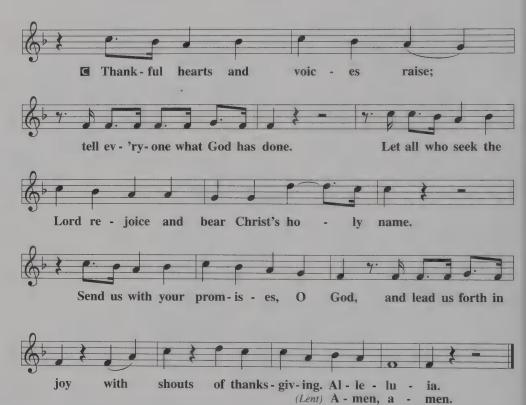
Communion

As the people commune, hymns and other music may be used.



Canticle

After the people have communed, the following canticle or an appropriate hymn may be sung.



Prayer

The following or another post-communion prayer (p. 89) is prayed.

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

Silence for reflection.

SENDING

Benediction

The minister blesses the congregation. The benediction may be preceded by a charge to the people (pp. 90–93).

- P Almighty God,
 Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you now and forever.
- **C** Amen

OR

- 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.
- **G** Amen

When there is a procession from the church, a hymn, song, or canticle may be sung.

Dismissal

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- In Thanks be to God.



HOLY COMMUNION

SETTING THREE A Pattern for the Service

This service follows the tradition of Luther's German Mass (1526), in which parts of the liturgy are replaced with appropriate hymns and songs.

GATHERING

An order for CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (pp. 24-25) may precede this service.

As a CALL TO WORSHIP, one or more of the following elements may be used: hymns, songs, psalms, song medleys, silence, spoken dialog (pp. 72–76).

With a biblical GREETING, the minister declares God's welcome.

- P 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.

OR

As the minister leads the INVOCATION, all may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

- In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen

Those assembled may be invited to welcome one another in the name of Christ.

A KYRIE may be sung, using one of the following, or another litany or hymn focused on God's mercy.

- 20 Kyrie
- 21 Lord, have mercy
- 22 Lord, have mercy / Nkosi, nkosi
- 23 Lord, have mercy / Señor, ten piedad

A HYMN OF PRAISE may be sung, using "Glory to God" or an appropriate hymn, song, or canticle.

- 24 Glory to God
- 100 We praise thee, O God
- 138 Come, all you people / Uyai mose

The PRAYER OF THE DAY is said, and the congregation responds, Amen.

WORD

The scripture READINGS for the day are proclaimed. Prior to the readings, the readers may receive a blessing (pp. 77-79). Silence for reflection may follow each reading.

After each reading, the reader may say: The word of the Lord.

The congregation responds: Thanks be to God.

The PSALM follows the first reading.

Before the Gospel, one of the following or another appropriate hymn or song may be sung as a GOSPEL ACCLAMATION.

During LENT:

26 Alleluia

25 Halle, halle, hallelujah

27 Hallelujah

131 Lord, let my heart be good soil

134 O Lord, open my eyes 273 Bless the Lord

The GOSPEL is read.

At the announcement of the Gospel:

P The Holy Gospel according to _____, the ____ chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading of the Gospel:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The acclamation may be repeated, or a hymn or other music sung in preparation for the sermon.

The SERMON follows. Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

The HYMN OF THE DAY may be sung; or, an INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP may be extended, beginning with an appropriate hymn and continuing as the minister invites those who desire to come forward for prayer, creedal affirmation, or profession of faith. An invitation into catechumenal inquiry may occur at this time.

The CREED may be said: the Nicene Creed (p. 34 or p. 94) on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter; the Apostles' Creed (p. 35 or p. 95) at other times.

THE PRAYERS are said. Prayers are included for the whole church, the nations, those in need, the parish, the sick, special concerns, and in thanks for the faithful departed. The congregation may be invited to offer other petitions. Prayers of confession may be included if an order for confession and forgiveness has not been used earlier.

Each portion of the prayers may end with these or similar words:

OR

A Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

A Hear us, O God;g your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude in these or similar words:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

The PEACE may be shared at this time or prior to the distribution of communion.

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

The OFFERING is received as the Lord's table is prepared. The gifts may be presented at the altar.

As an OFFERTORY, one of the following, or another appropriate song or hymn may be sung.

- 28 Let the vineyards be fruitful
- 68 That priceless grace
- 129 Now we offer
- 216 Give me a clean heart
- 239 What shall I render

This or another appropriate prayer (pp. 80-81) may be said.

- P Let us pray.

 Merciful God,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The presiding minister begins the THANKSGIVING with this dialog.

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give our thanks and praise.

When a preface is prayed (p. 82–83) one of the following or another version of the SANCTUS follows.

- 29 Holy, holy, holy Lord
- 32 Holy, holy, holy Lord

The minister continues the thanksgiving, using one of the forms on pp. 84–88 or another appropriate form, in which the words of Christ's institution are proclaimed. All join in saying or singing the Lord's Prayer (p. 39 or p. 57).

- 33 Our Father, who art in heaven
- 34 Let the words of my mouth

If not included previously, the greeting of peace is now given and shared.

The bread is broken, and the COMMUNION is shared.

Music during the communion may include one of the following as well as other appropriate hymns, psalms, songs, and anthems.

- 35 Lamb of God
- 36 O Lamb of God
- 128 Now behold the Lamb

As a POST-COMMUNION song, one of the following or another appropriate hymn or song may be used.

- 158 Hallelujah! We sing your praises
- 292 Give thanks
- 293 Thank you, Lord
- 280 Thank you, Jesus

With the following or another appropriate prayer (pp. 89), the meal is concluded.

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SENDING

The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate BENEDICTION (pp. 93–95). The benediction may be preceded by a charge to the people (pp. 90).

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.

Amen

When there is a procession from the church, a hymn, song, or canticle may be sung.

With a DISMISSAL, the congregation is sent out in mission.

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



This order normally follows the sermon in the liturgy. The hymn of the day or a baptismal hymn may be sung as candidates, sponsors, and family gather at the waters of baptism.

Introduction

P Hear the testimony of the Holy Scriptures concerning baptism:

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. (Acts 2:38-39)

The Ethiopian said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" . . . Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the Ethiopian saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:36, 38-39)

- **■** We obey our Lord's command and trust in his promise as we baptize into his name. (Acts 10:47-48; 19:5)
- P Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. (John 3:5)
- What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)

Presentation of Candidates

A sponsor for each candidate, in turn, presents the candidate with these or similar words:

Before the God of our ancestors and on behalf of this congregation, I present

name to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The congregation may offer acclamation with applause after each candidate is presented, or after the welcome (p. 68).

Commitment and Promise

The minister addresses the sponsors, family, and congregation.

In Holy Baptism God graciously delivers us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through water and the word the Holy Spirit calls us to walk a new life in God. In this new life we are joined across time and space to our ancestors who have lived and died trustingly and to the whole Christian community on earth. Their witness supports our Christian journey.

Nourished by the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers, *these* our *sisters/brothers* will be empowered to live in the fullness of their baptism and to join all of God's reborn people in serving the community with their gifts.

When only young children are baptized:

- P By presenting these children for Holy Baptism, you commit yourselves to providing for their growth in the knowledge and fear of the Lord. As Apollos was instructed in the way of the Lord, you join this community's teachers and elders in handing over the Holy Scriptures, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. Do you intend to act in this way for your children and for the sake of Jesus?
- We do.

OR

When older children or adults are baptized also:

- P In Christian love you have presented these persons for Holy Baptism. Do you intend faithfully to lift them up in prayer, nurture and help them grow in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit? Do you promise to help them in their struggle to live in their baptismal covenant within the community of faith and in the world until Jesus comes again? Do you intend to act in this way for their sake and for the sake of Jesus?
- We do.

Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy us and all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, no longer male or female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Profession of Faith

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil?

- I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the devil?
- I renounce the devil.
- P Do you renounce all the devil's empty promises?
- **☐** I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated that the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- 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

^{*}Or, He descended to the dead.

Baptism

After each of the three phrases of the baptismal formula, the minister immerses the candidate in the baptismal water, or pours ample water over the candidate's head.

- Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen

OR

- P Name is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen

A hymn, psalm, or other acclamation may follow.

Laying On of Hands

The minister lays both hands on the head of each of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit.

- God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon <u>name</u>: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
- **G** Amen

Sign of the Cross

The minister marks the sign of the cross on each of the baptized while saying the following or similar words. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used.

Name, receive the sign of the holy cross upon your forehead + [and upon your heart +] to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Images of Baptism

If desired, one or more of the following acts may be added, with care taken that they are supportive and do not overshadow the central sign of baptism: water with the word of God. These symbolic actions may be led by the minister or representative(s) of the congregation, accompanied with words such as those provided below.

Salt may be placed into the mouth of the baptized.

You are the salt of the earth. Receive the salt of wisdom, that you may conduct your life with the sound judgment of a child of God.

- A garment of naturally colored fabric or a band of kente cloth may be placed upon the baptized. You have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ to stand before the throne of the Lamb, joined with the great multitude of the communion of saints—our elders and ancestors, as well as generations yet to come.
- A bangle (wristlet, bracelet) may be placed on the wrist of the baptized.

 Receive this gift, in the shape of a circle with its unbroken oneness, as a sign of your belonging to a people chosen by God to be a blessing.

A baptismal candle may be lighted from the paschal or altar candle and given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child).

Receive this burning light. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God.

Certificates of baptism and of baptismal sponsorship may be given.

When infants or small children are baptized, this prayer may be said here or as a part of the pravers.

- P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the fathers and mothers of these children. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own baptism so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **G** Amen

Commission and Welcome

The ministers and the baptismal group turn to face the congregation. An elder or other representative of the congregation addresses the newly baptized, sponsors, and family.

Through baptism God has added your name to the roll of all our ancestors in faith. You are a part of the priesthood we share in Christ Jesus. You have not been called in vain. Therefore, take up your cross and follow Jesus through the prairies and grasslands, in the desert wilderness, along the freeways and back alleys of suburb and city. You belong now to God, sent to witness for Christ before all the world.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you with great joy to live with us in the body of Christ, to share with us in God's new creation, to work with us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may express its welcome with singing, applause, or other signs of acclamation. Within the liturgy of Holy Communion, the prayers of the church follow. The greeting of peace may then be given and shared among the newly baptized, their sponsors and family, and all those assembled



SERVICE OF THE WORD

This pattern for a Service of the Word may be used on an occasion when Holy Communion is not celebrated. When used on Sunday, prayers, psalms, and readings appointed for the day are appropriate.

GATHERING

As the congregation assembles, one or more of the following may occur: singing; individual prayer; meditation; sharing of announcements and community concerns; testimonies.

A CALL TO WORSHIP may include one or more of the following: scripture sentences; spoken or sung dialog; exhortations; musical solos; instrumental calls; dance. The invocation of God's name or an apostolic greeting are also included.

An order for CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS may be used; the GREETING OF PEACE may be given and shared by all.

A HYMN, ANTHEM, or SCRIPTURE SONG may be sung.

The appointed prayer of the day or another GATHERING PRAYER is prayed.

WORD

The SCRIPTURE READINGS for the day are read, including a reading from the gospels. Psalms, hymns, songs, or anthems may be sung in response.

The SERMON follows. Response to the proclamation of God's word may include a hymn, song, or anthem, and the confession of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed.

THE PRAYERS include intercession for various needs and concerns.

The OFFERING may be followed by a concluding prayer.

SENDING

With a BENEDICTION, the minister blesses the congregation. The blessing may be preceded by a CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE.

A concluding hymn, song, or anthem may be sung. With a DISMISSAL, the congregation may be sent out in mission.



SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

REVIVAL

Although the Lord's day, Sunday, is the primary time for Christians to assemble for worship, there are other occasions when sisters and brothers in Christ gather for corporate spiritual renewal. In many African American communities, these take the shape of revival services. Spanning a predetermined period of time (from two nights to two months, though ordinarily Monday through Friday evenings), these services focus on building up Christian discipleship and renewing the community of believers. In Lutheran settings, these services will focus on repentance, the celebration of salvation by grace, baptismal remembrance, and encouragement for those inquiring into the faith. The following may serve as a pattern for such a service.

GATHERING

Praise, prayer, and thanksgiving are joyously expressed. Flexibility is welcomed during this extended period of worship preparation. The gathering may conclude with a choir entrance.

Devotional Time

Choruses, songs, hymns Testimony Prayer

Call to Worship

Invocation
Welcome
Greeting of peace

Choir Entrance

WORD

Preaching, teaching, and public reading of God's word is central to these services. This speaking is God's action, revealed in the Old and New Testaments, and is reflected in preaching. The preacher is most often a guest missioner. Scriptures selected for revival services may be many, or may be more specific in scope, perhaps with one thematic reading for each service. The preaching event is the climax and focus of revival worship.

Choral Offering Offering Scripture Readings Prayer Congregational Song, Choral Music Sermon

These services provide many opportunities to focus on God's gift of saving faith. The ongoing work of the Holy Spirit is to call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep the church in the true faith. After the sermon, the worship leader may invite those who desire to come forward for prayer, creedal affirmation, or profession of faith. An invitation to catechumenal inquiry may occur at this time.

SENDING

The grace of God, proclaimed in this worship, moves the assembly to go forth boldly in faith. With the promise of salvation, the redeemed are charged to extend this saving message to everyone. Often, the guest missioner will capsulize the message and service theme with a concluding word of blessing and dismissal.

Blessing Dismissal



VARIABLE WORSHIP TEXTS

CALLS TO WORSHIP

These calls to worship stand in the tradition of sounding the shofar in ancient Israel or intoning the introit in the historic Western rite. With words of scripture, hymns, or other exhortations, the leader invites the assembly into the worship of God.

In addition to spoken dialog, calls to worship based on hymns and songs (such as those suggested below) may be spoken or sung in call-and-response form by leader and congregation.

Advent

- L Church of God, are you ready?
- We're ready!
- Let Are you ready to meet the Lord? Church of God, are you ready?
- We're ready!
- Let Are you ready to greet the Lord? Church of God, get ready!
- We're ready!
- Get ready and wait for the Lord.

 Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall soar with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not grow faint.

 (Isaiah 40:31)

OR

- The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, O everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.
- L Who is this King of glory?
- The Lord of hosts is the King of glory! The Lord of hosts is the King of glory!
- L Who is this King of glory?
- The Lord of hosts is the King of glory!

(Psalm 24:1, 7, 10)

HYMNS AND SONGS

- 38 Soon and very soon
- 44 Somebody's knockin' at your door

Christmas

- Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- Declare his glory among the nations, his wonders among all the peoples.
- ☐ Give to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth,
- Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let the sea roar, let the field be joyful!
- All the trees of the forest, shout for joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth with righteousness and the peoples with truth.

(Psalm 96:1-2, 8-9, 11-13)

OR

- L Joy to the world.
- Joy, joy, joy!
- L Joy to the world.
- Joy, joy, joy!
- L Joy to the world.
- Joy, joy, joy!
 Joy! For the Lord is come!
- Let every heart prepare him room.
- Let heaven and nature sing!
- Let every heart prepare him room.
- Let heaven and nature sing!
- Let every heart prepare him room.
- Let heaven and nature sing!
 Let heaven and nature sing!
 Let heaven, let heaven and nature sing!

HYMNS AND SONGS

- 52 Go tell it on the mountain
- 55 Mary had a baby

Epiphany

- L Arise, shine, for your light has come!
- The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
- Lift up your eyes and look around:
- all gather together to proclaim the praise of the Lord.
- L Your sun will never set again.
- The Lord is our light and our salvation!
- L Your moon will wane no more.
- **☑** The Lord is our light and our salvation!
- L Your days of sorrow will end.
- **■** The Lord is our light and our salvation!
- L Whom shall we fear?
- Whom shall we fear?
 The Lord is the strength of our life; whom shall we fear?

(Isaiah 60:1, 4, 20: Psalm 27:1)

OR

- L This little light of mine,
- I'm goin'-a let it shine!
- This little light of mine,
- I'm goin'-a let it shine!
- This little light of mine,
- I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- L Everywhere I go
- I'm goin'-a let it shine!
- L Everywhere I go
- I'm goin'-a let it shine!
- L Everywhere I go
- I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

HYMNS AND SONGS

- 59 Jesus, the light of the world
- 165 In the morning when I rise

Lent

- L Seek the Lord while he may be found.
- Call upon God while he is near.
- Wicked, forsake your ways!
- Unrighteous, forsake your thoughts!
- L Come back to God.
- Return to the Lord!
- L Come back to God.
- Return to the Lord!
- The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

(Isaiah 55:6-7; Joel 2:13)

OR

- Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
- God's greatness is unsearchable.
- © O Lord, you are just in all your ways, faithful in all your works.
- You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you in truth.
- Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
- God's greatness is unsearchable.

(Psalm 145:3, 17-18)

HYMNS AND SONGS

69 What can wash away my sin? 153 Guide my feet

Easter

- This is the day that the Lord has made:
- we will rejoice and be glad in it!
- The Lord is my strength and my song.
- ☐ The Lord has become my salvation.
- Open to me the gates of righteousness;
- I will go through them and praise the Lord.
- I shall not die, but live,
- and declare the works of the Lord.
- L This is the day that the Lord has made:
- we will rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118:14, 17, 19, 24)

OR

- L Christ the Lord is risen.
- The stone is rolled away!
- L Death has now been vanquished.
- The stone is rolled away!
- L Come, bow down and worship.
- The stone is rolled away!
- L Come, let us adore him.
- The stone is rolled away!
- L Give God all the glory.
- The stone is rolled away!
- Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMNS AND SONGS

- 191 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
- 262 This is the day

Pentecost

- Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come.
- L It's your leading that we're needing.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come.
- L Guide our thinking and our speaking.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come.
- L Motivate all in their seeking.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come.
- L Keep us fervent in our witness.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come.
- L Keep us fervent in our witness.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come.
- L Ever grant us zealous fitness.
- Come, Holy Spirit, come!

HYMNS AND SONGS

101 Spirit of the living God

106 Come, O Holy Spirit, come

Season after Pentecost, General

- A
- I I was glad when they said unto me,
- let us go to the house of the Lord!
- L I was glad when they said unto me,
- let us go to the house of the Lord!
- Unless the Lord builds the house,
- In vain do the builders labor.
- L Unless the Lord builds the house,
- In vain do the builders labor.
- L Surely the Lord is in this place.
- This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!
- L Surely the Lord is in this place.
- This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!
- L Oh, come let us worship!
- Oh, come let us worship! Oh, come let us worship! Oh, come let us worship!

(Ps. 122:1; Ps. 127:1; Gen. 28:16-17)

- В
- Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.
- L For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. I will give you rest, I will give you rest, I will give you rest.

(Matthew 11:28-30)

C

- L Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands.
- Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.
- Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.Be thankful to him and bless his name.
- For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations.

(Psalm 100:1-2, 4-5)

D

- □ Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice! Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.
- Let us not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present our requests to God.
- □ Rejoice in the Lord always. Say it again: Rejoice!
- Let gentleness be evident to all, for the Lord is near.

(Philippians 4:4-6)

E

- Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise God in the firmament of his power!
- Praise God for his mighty acts; praise God according to his excellent greatness!
- Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
- Praise the Lord!

(Psalm 150:1-2, 6)

F

- Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.
- Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.
- For God satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.
- Give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever.

(Psalm 107:1-2, 9)

G

- Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!
- Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song!
- For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.
- In his hand are the depths of the earth; and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker!
- For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the flock under his care.
- Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

(Psalm 95:1-7a)

HYMNS AND SONGS

141 Come and go with me 145 Jesus, we want to meet

BLESSINGS OF LECTORS

These prayers for illumination may be used to bless those who serve as readers of scripture and to prepare the assembly for the hearing of God's word. This action underscores the importance of the ministry of lectors and of the public reading of the scriptures as an event that brings Christ, the Word, into the midst of his people. The blessings also echo African and African American tradition: in need of and out of respect, those seeking blessing come before the elder(s), in this case the pastor, to be prayed over.

After the prayer of the day and just before the readings, the lector(s) may come forward for the blessing and stand before the presider, who may be standing beside or seated in the presider's chair. This chair may be adorned with ethnic cloth coordinated with the liturgical season or with some other appointments (candles, for example), in accordance with liturgical tradition and with the African practice of designating seating for tribal leaders and elders.

These prayers can be used as printed or as models for presiders who choose to pray freely over the readers. They may be adapted for use with more than one reader.

Advent

P The Spirit and the church cry out, come, Lord Jesus. Everyone who awaits his appearance cries out, come, Lord Jesus. The whole creation cries. come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray. Come to us, Lord Jesus, as name reads for us your holy word. Keep us attentive to the truth of the scriptures; turn us away from myths; and turn us in faith to you, our strength and our redeemer.

G Amen

OR

P Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Let us pray. Be with us, O God, as name opens for us the scriptures, and open our ears to hear the good Word. Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

Christmas

P Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Let us pray.

Bless name, O God, as he/she proclaims to us the scriptures, and open the mangers of our hearts to welcome the King, Jesus Christ the Lord.

C Amen

Epiphany

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon *name* as *he/she* proclaims the word, so that all who receive it will no longer dwell in the shadows, but will have the light of life.

C Amen

Lent

P Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart. Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us pray.

Bless <u>name</u>, O God of mercy, and bless us as we listen to the words of the scriptures. May they touch our hearts and lead us to return to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Easter

P Christ is risen!
The word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. *Name*, as you read to us the scriptures, may they pierce our souls and judge the thoughts and the intentions of our hearts.

G Amen

OR

Mame, may God bless you as you read for us the scriptures.
May the word of God dwell in us richly so that everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

G Amen

OR

P Let us pray.
Oh, that today we would hear God's voice. May we hear your voice today, Lord, as *name* reads to us the scriptures. Let not our hearts be hardened, but

open to the word of life.

C Amen

OR

P Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, your servant <u>name</u> as he/she reads to us the holy word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

Pentecost

P Let us pray.

Spirit of the living God,
fall fresh on us;
Spirit of the living God,
fall fresh on us.

Holy God, send your Spirit to fall fresh upon us and upon <u>name</u> as *he/she* proclaims to us the scriptures. Mold our minds and melt our hearts to receive what the Spirit is saying to the churches; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

OR

P Let us pray.

O God, source of our salvation: Open our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Word is among us.
The Spirit is present.
May the Lord add a blessing to this reading.

C Amen

Season after Pentecost

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless *name*, who will read to us the scriptures.

Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

OR

P Let us pray.

Bless <u>name</u>, O Lord, as *he/she* reads to us the scriptures.

As rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return until the earth is watered, let your word not return empty, but accomplish your purpose and succeed in that for which it was sent; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

OR

P Let us pray.

God Almighty, we ask your blessing upon <u>name</u> as <u>he/she</u> reads to us the scriptures. May the words of <u>his/her</u> mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

C Amen

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

One of the following, or another appropriate sentence of scripture, may precede the offering.

A

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Rom. 12:1)

B

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (Matt. 5:23, 24)

C

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. (Ps. 50:14)

D

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph. 5:2)

Ε

Let us with gladness present our lives and the fruits of our labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Advent

- A O Mighty One,
- you have done great things for us, and holy is your name.

 Bless all we offer you—
 our selves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen

Christmas

- A God of wonder,
- we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us, all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-madeflesh. Amen

Epiphany

- A God of all creation,
- all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lent

- A Compassionate God,
- we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives, and feed us with your grace, that, in the midst of death, all creation might feast on your unending life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Week, The Three Days

- A God of glory,
- receive these gifts and the offering of our lives.

 As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

 Amen

Easter

- A Good Shepherd,
- We offer you the gifts of this money, bread, and wine, signs of your gracious love, and tokens of our grateful hearts. Nourish us at the feast of the Lamb, that we may proclaim to all the world your triumphant love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Season after Pentecost A

- A Wise and gracious God,
- receive the labor of our hands these gifts of money, bread, and wine—along with the offering of our lives. Nourish us with the life of your Son, that we might be his body in the world, making known your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Season after Pentecost B

- A Generous God.
- all good gifts come from your gracious hand. We offer you this bread, wine, and money, the harvest of our time and labor.

 Make us wise stewards of all your gifts, that your name may be exalted in all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Season after Pentecost C

- A God of the harvest,
- receive these gifts of the earth and human labor with the offering of our hearts.

 Feed us with your bread and cup, that we may be signs of your gracious life made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

General

- A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of all things: through your goodness you have given us this bread, fruit of the earth and of human labor.
- Blessed be God forever!
- A Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of all things: through your goodness you have given us this wine, fruit of the vine and the work of human hands.
- Blessed be God forever!
- A Merciful God, as the grains once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now united on this table in bread and wine, may we who celebrate this Holy Communion be gathered into one in you.
- **Amen**

General

P It is right and good that we should offer you thanks and praise, O God, for with great love you have led us out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. You guided us along the way, giving us power to rejoice in the face of evil and death, and, fulfilling your ancient promise, you continue to lift up the brokenhearted even in our own day. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

OR

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Although our road has been stony going, you have given us the power to stand firm in the face of wickedness and to rejoice in triumph over death and the grave. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

Advent

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, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Christmas

■ 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Epiphany

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. haring 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:

Lent

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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Passion

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; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Easter

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, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

Ascension

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; who, after his resurrection, appeared openly to his disciples and, in their sight, was taken up into heaven, that he might make us partakers of his divine nature. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Pentecost

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; who rose beyond the bounds of death, and, [on this day,] as he had promised, poured out your Spirit of life and power upon the chosen disciples. At this the whole earth exults in boundless joy. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Trinity

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, almighty and everliving God. You have revealed your glory as the glory also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit: three persons, equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your everlasting glory. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sundays after Pentecost

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYERS

A P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,

but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets

to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

 Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say "Amen"!
- **G** Amen
- P Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
 to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
 with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
 Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say "Amen"!
- **G** Amen
- P Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
- In the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

B P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth and created us in your likeness.

You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care.

All through our weary years and our silent tears, you did not abandon us to ourselves,

but sought us out in love.

When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.

When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.

When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us.

Through your holy prophets you called us to return to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.

In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life.

For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save the world from sin.

Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us; his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners, his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, that we who share this meal may become a holy communion, the body of Christ in the world.

■ Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

- C When this prayer is used, it follows immediately the third sentence of the preface dialog, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God . . ." The preface itself and Sanctus are omitted.
 - P God of our ancestors, friend in our midst, your children come before you. Here is food! Here is drink!

These things are yours before they are ours.

Now we are making a feast, but it is a thanksgiving:

God, we are thanking you.

With our ancestors in faith and all the hosts of heaven,

O God, we thank you and rejoice.

This food—we shall eat it in your honor!

This drink—we shall drink it in your honor!

- P We thank you for giving us life.
- We thank you!
- P We thank you for giving us freedom.
- We thank you!
- P We thank you for bringing us peace.
- We thank you!
- P We thank you for the one who bore our sins upon the cross.
- We thank you!
- P We thank you for the one who brought us over from death to life.
- We thank you!
- P Father, send the Spirit of life,

the Spirit of power and fruitfulness.

With the Spirit's breath, speak your Word into these things.

Give us who eat and drink the living body and the lifeblood of Jesus, our brother, life and power and fruitfulness of heart and body.

Give us true communion with your Son.

On the night of his suffering,

he gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands.

This bread he shared among his followers, saying:

All of you, take this, eat this;

it is my body, handed over for you.

Do this and remember me.

☐ The body of Christ! Amen

P Then he shared drink with them, saying:

All of you, take this, drink this;

it is my blood, the blood of the new covenant

that begins now and lasts forever.

This blood is poured out for you and for all people

so that sins may be taken away. Do this and remember me.

■ The blood of Christ! Amen

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

- Hail, hail, hail Jesus Christ our Lord, death, resurrection, and return! May happiness come!
- P Lord, you are resurrection and life.
 You, Crucifixion, are here!
 You, Resurrection, are here!
 You, Ascension, are here!
 You, Spirit—Medicine of Life—are here!

Father, bring us life; give us kinship and fellowship with Mary, the mother of our Lord, with all the elders and ancestors of your people, and with all your children.

And you, our prayer—
Prayer of the long-distant past;
you, ancient Word, spoken by the Father;
you, Breath of the Spirit—
Prayer of the ancestors,
you are spoken now! Amen

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

These prayers may be used within the context of praying at the table that always includes the proclamation of the words of institution of the holy supper and the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

General

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

Lent, Easter, Pentecost

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

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.

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 is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

This do, as often as you drink it. in remembrance of me

POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

A Let us pray.

God of our ancestors. God of all people, before whose face the human generations pass away, we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf, the broken fragments of our history are gathered up and healed by the redeeming act of Christ. Send us forth in peace. form us into what we celebrate. the body of Christ in the world. Nourished by this sacrament. give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life with joy and singleness of heart.

G Amen

B A Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to you will not hunger, all who believe in you will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the name of Christ we pray.

G Amen

Almighty God,

you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

CHARGES TO THE PEOPLE

A charge (an exhortation to mission) such as those that follow may be used before the benediction. When a charge is given, the benediction that follows should be brief.

- B I Go out into the world in peace.

 Love the Lord your God

 with all your heart,

 with all your soul,

 with all your mind;

 and love your neighbor as yourself.
- C Beloved in the Lord,
 God has shown you what is good.
 What does the Lord require of you
 but to do justice,
 and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?
- D I People of God,
 you have been called to be disciples of Christ.
 Whatever you do, in word or deed,
 do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks to God through him.

BENEDICTIONS

- P The peace of God. which passes all understanding. keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. in Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
- **G** Amen

OR

- P The God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus. make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among you that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **C** Amen

THREEFOLD BENEDICTIONS

Advent

- P You believe that God came to us in Jesus Christ, and look for him to come again. May the advent of his coming bring you comfort and joy.
- **C** Amen
- P May God make you steady in faith, full of hope, and abounding in love.
- C Amen
- P Rejoice that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. When he comes again in glory, may he bring you to everlasting life.
- **G** Amen
- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen

Christmas

- P Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.
- **C** Amen
- P Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope.
- **G** Amen
- P Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.
- **G** Amen
- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen

New Year

- P God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. May God grant you grace and peace at the dawn of this new year.
- **G** Amen
- P All flesh is grass, but the word of God remains forever. May God who is eternal keep you in hope of the resurrection.
- **G** Amen
- P The past, the present, and the future rest in God's hands. May God guard your coming in and your going forth, this new year and forevermore.
- Amen
- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- G Amen

Epiphany

- P The magi found the infant Jesus by following his star. May you seek the Lord where he is found and call upon him while he is near.
- **G** Amen
- P Christ Jesus is the sun of righteousness. May his radiance bring you warmth and cheer.
- **C** Amen
- P Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ. May your light so shine before others, that they see your works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Amen
- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C Amen

Passion

- P Jesus took the form of a servant and was obedient to death, even death on a cross. May you follow his example and share in the resurrection.
- **G** Amen
- In faithfulness to God, Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many.

 May you walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
- C Amen
- On the cross of Calvary Jesus bore our grief and carried our sorrows. May his Passion bring you healing and peace.
- **G** Amen
- P Almighty God,
 Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen

Easter

- "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. May Christ's rising lift your spirits and gladden your hearts.
- **G** Amen
- All those who believe in Christ will never perish. May you pass with Christ from death to life.
- C Amen
- P Christ has gone to prepare a place for us. May his resurrection bring you all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope.
- **G** Amen
- Almighty God,
 Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you now and forever.
- **G** Amen

Pentecost, Holy Spirit

P At Pentecost, the Spirit of God was poured out upon believers. May the Spirit's flame burn brightly in your hearts.

G Amen

P The wind of the Spirit blows where it wills. May the breath of the Spirit rouse you for life.

G Amen

P Christ said to the disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit." May you be enlightened and sanctified in his name.

C Amen

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

Season after Pentecost A

P We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God. May the word of God be upon your lips and written on your hearts.

G Amen

P The word that goes out from God does not return empty. May the word bear fruit, accomplishing its purpose in you.

C Amen

P May your minds be set on things above, where Christ is seated, at God's right hand.

C Amen

P Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen

Season after Pentecost B

P Jesus is the great shepherd of the sheep. May you hear his voice and obey his commands.

C Amen

■ Jesus is the pathway that leads to life. May you follow in the narrow way.

G Amen

P Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in his love.

G Amen

Almighty God,Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,bless you now and forever.

Amen

Season after Pentecost C

P The church is surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. May you find strength and courage in their presence.

C Amen

P The devil prowls like a lion, seeking someone to devour. May you be freed from all sin and protected from all evil.

G Amen

P Christ has run the good race of faith and finished the course.

May you run with perseverance the race set before you.

G Amen

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has provided these versions of the creeds for the use of its congregations.

Nicene Creed

■ 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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord and Giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets.
And I believe 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

^{*}Or, one holy catholic and apostolic Church, the original and generally accepted text.

Apostles' Creed

■ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church,* the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

^{*}Or, the holy catholic Church, the original and generally accepted text.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross may be used for individual prayer or as a public liturgy, particularly on the Fridays in Lent. The congregation may assemble in the church, or at another appointed place (especially if outdoor stations are to be made).

- ☐ In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen
- Lord, have mercy.
- Christ, have mercy.
- L Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

Allowed 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

OR

- 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
- We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- in whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.
- Let us pray.

 Mercifully assist us, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may remember with joy the mighty acts whereby you have given us life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen

The procession moves to the first station.

First Station

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

- I God did not spare his own Son,
- delivered him up for us all.

HYMNS

- 80 He never said a mumbalin' word
- 193 Precious Lord, take my hand
- Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son our Savior suffered at the hands of sinners and endured the shame of the cross. Grant that we may walk in the way of his cross and find it the way of life and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **G** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- I have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the second station.

Second Station

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing.

- The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
- for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

HYMNS

- 73 Jesus, keep me near the cross
- 282 Let all that is within me cry, "Holy!"

- Let us pray.

 Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns forever and ever.
- **C** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- A have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the third station.

Third Station

THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

- L Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me
- cannot be my disciple.

HYMNS 70 Lead me, guide me
235 All to Jesus I surrender

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

- **G** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- language have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the fourth station.

Fourth Station

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

- Those who sowed with tears
- will reap with songs of joy.

HYMNS 66 I want Jesus to walk with me

67 By the waters of Babylon

Let us pray.

Teach your church, O Lord, to mourn the sins of which it is guilty, and to repent and forsake them; that, by your pardoning grace, the results of our iniquities may not be visited upon our children and our children's children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **G** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the fifth station.

Fifth Station

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

- L They gave me gall to eat,
- and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

HYMNS 198 When the storms of life are raging 208 Oh, freedom

Let us pray.

O God, your Son chose the path which led to pain before joy and the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **G** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- I have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the sixth station.

Sixth Station

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left. He poured out himself to death, and yet he bore the sin of many.

- They pierce my hands and my feet;
- d they stare and gloat over me.

HYMNS 77 On a hill far away

81 Were you there (sts. 1–3)

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name.

- **G** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the seventh station.

Seventh Station

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And when Jesus had received the vinegar he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- L Christ for us became obedient unto death,
- even death on a cross.

HYMNS 68 That priceless grace

85 Calvary

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, so that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; who lives and reigns now and forever.

Amen

- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- have mercy and hear us.

The procession moves to the eighth station.

Eighth Station

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

- L We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
- By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

- L You will not abandon me to the grave,
- one let your holy one see corruption.

HYMNS

- 81 Were you there (sts. 4–5)
- 86 King of my life
- Let us pray.

O God, your blessed Son was laid in a tomb in a garden, and rested on the Sabbath day. Grant that we who have been buried with him in the waters of baptism may find our perfect rest in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns forever and ever.

- **G** Amen
- L Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
- C have mercy and hear us.

The procession may move to the chancel or the place of gathering.

Conclusion

- L Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us.
- Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.
- Let us pray.

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son; and we pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- **G** Amen
- Let To Christ our Lord who loves us, washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.
- **G** Amen

NOTES

- The Way of the Cross is a devotion adapted from a custom observed by Christian pilgrims who said prayers in Jerusalem at a series of places in that city associated with the passion of Jesus.
- Traditionally, there have been as many as fourteen stations. Of these, eight are based directly on events of scripture and are included in this rite. Each station includes sentences and responses, scripture verses, a prayer, and a hymn.
- Although the rite is especially appropriate on the Fridays in Lent, it does not displace the proper liturgy for Good Friday.
- The Way of the Cross resonates with several aspects of African and African American Christian traditions: an association with struggle and suffering; the concepts of pilgrimage and marching for justice; and a hymnic tradition that proclaims the saving blood and cross of Christ.
- Traditionally, the procession moves to stations at a series of plain wooden crosses placed along the walls of the church. With each cross there may also be a pictorial representation of the event being remembered.
- Stations may also be made outside the church walls as a public witness. Outdoor stations may be made at significant locations in the immediate neighborhood where healing is needed and where associations between the contemporary struggles of life and the events of Christ's suffering can be made (for example, sites where crimes have occurred, abandoned buildings, or other places of human struggle).
- Visual depictions for the stations may include sculpture, paintings, murals, photographs, or modern images, possibly created by people from the community.
- The hymns listed are suggestions. Other appropriate hymns and songs may be sung, and individual stanzas may be selected as needed.
- The one who presides may lead sentences and prayers; the prayer provided for each station or an appropriate free prayer may be used. One or more readers may proclaim the scripture verses. An assisting minister may carry a large, rough-hewn wooden cross in procession.



THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

PRAYERS, SIGNS, AND BLESSINGS

In addition to the principal forms of worship for the assembly, the church celebrates occasions and transitions in the lives of individual Christians and their families. Sometimes these points of recognition occur within the principal gathering of the community; at other times they are celebrated independently in the church or the home. The church lifts up the lives of its people in these ways not merely as a matter of social congratulation. Intercessions and blessings, symbolic actions and gestures, songs and acclamations are ways in which the community supports and accompanies its members along the journey of faith. Through such rites people are helped through the passages of human experience with the word of God, with prayer, and with mutual love.

The church recognizes and supports its members at various times in childhood and adolescence, in the stages of adult life, and in the face of illness and death. These occasions, by their very combination of the personal and the communal, have often employed particular cultural expressions of various times and places to proclaim the church's universal witness to every time and place.

African and African American Christians are among the many peoples who have incorporated cultural expressions to support primary Christian words and actions in connection with these life passages. These practices often make use of the physical elements of the world as an affirmation of God's good gifts in creation.

Some of these cultural expressions have identifiable points of origin. However, one consequence of the many years of slave trading is that later generations are often not able to trace the source of their traditions to specific nations or tribes on the African continent. Thus, cultural expressions that may derive from a particular region are now available to the larger community to support Christian proclamation in a given context.

The following pages offer resources that Christian communities may use in their ministry with people on the journey of faith. This representative selection provides resources for use with young people coming into adulthood, those entering marriage, men and women in the life of the community, and elders with the gifts they bring.



YOUNG PEOPLE COMING TO ADULTHOOD

The life transition through adolescence into adulthood may be marked with prayers of support and encouragement. Congregations may select as desired from the following elements in order to offer public affirmation of growth into maturity and prayer for the future.

Following the hymn of the day in the liturgy the young people, accompanied by family members (including baptismal sponsors when possible), may gather at the front of the congregation or at the place of baptism.

Introduction

- A representative of the congregation may present the young people:

 These persons seek the prayers and support of the community as they grow into
 - maturity by the grace and power of God.
- P In response to Jesus' invitation, "Let the children come unto me and do not hinder them," these young persons have been baptized into Christ and clothed with Christ. As members with us in the baptismal priesthood of Christ, they have been called to be disciples of Christ and servants of God in the world. As these young people stand on the verge of adulthood, we ask God to guide them into maturity and to walk with them as they begin to discern where adulthood may lead.

Invitation to Vocation

Each young person may be invited to express hopes and intentions for the call of God in their adult lives; these may include a desired occupational direction.

- P Name, what do you desire for your future?
- If desire _____, and I ask the God of our ancestors and the people of Christ to strengthen, lead, and guide me.
- P St. Paul writes: "For 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." (Rom. 12:4-6)

In the use of these differing gifts within the family, the school, the church, the society, and the world of work, we recognize the gift of vocation, our calling to various places of responsibility. Know that each one affords an opportunity to serve. "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter. 4:10)

Feeding

From a dish containing bread or a traditional food, the mother or another family representative may offer the young person a small amount, saying in these or similar words:

Name, it is I, your *relationship,* feeding you today. I represent the generations of your family and of the extended human family. We are feeding you today. When you were a child, we fed you. We clothed you. We took care of you. We brought you to Jesus. Now you are a *woman/man*. You will feed yourself, clothe yourself, take care of yourself, and grow in your own relationship to Jesus. This does not mean that we have abandoned you. We will support and nourish you in time of need. But you will be responsible for yourself. We feed you today, remembering how you have been fed in body and spirit until now. We feed you today, entrusting you to the grace of God who will supply your every need. In the name of Jesus we feed you. In the power of the Holy Spirit of God we feed you.

In the name of Jesus. Amen

Commitment and Communal Support

The young person may tie a knot in a length of cord, saying these or similar words:

I, <u>name</u>, tie this knot in the presence of God and of this community. This knot is a sign of my pledge to follow in the way of Jesus and climb the ladder of growth that is before me. I ask the God of our ancestors and the people of Christ to strengthen, lead, and guide me; in the name of Jesus.

In the name of Jesus. Amen

The cord is passed on to family members, who tie another knot on the first one, saying these or similar words to the young person:

We, too, tie a knot on your knot, a sign of the promise we make to you today in the presence of God and of this community. We will support and help you in any way and by any means necessary. We will pray for you, advise you, and help you to discern and carry out your calling. We ask the God of our ancestors and the people of Christ to strengthen, lead, and guide us; in the name of Jesus.

In the name of Jesus. Amen

Affirmation of Identity

The minister addresses each young person in turn.

- P Who are you?
- My name is_____. I am a woman/man. A young woman/man, but still a woman/man. My roots are name of heritage. My people and my community need me. My church and my family need me. My friends and the whole of creation need me. I ask the Holy Spirit of God and the people of Christ to strengthen, lead, and guide me; in the name of Jesus.
- In the name of Jesus. Amen

Call to Maturity in Christ

The young people may face the congregation. A representative of the congregation says:

We are called to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by trickery and scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head of the body, into Christ. (based on Eph. 4:13-16)

Sisters and brothers in Christ, today we have heard wonderful things from you. You have shared your hopes and dreams with this community. We invite you to a more mature and responsible participation in the world, to live in word and deed the faith that we confess. We receive you with open hearts and arms, in the name of Jesus.

The congregation may offer its acclamation with applause and shouts of thanksgiving.

Prayer

The following prayer may be included in the prayers of the church or used independently.

- A Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our *daughters and sons*. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- C Amen

NOTES

- These resources acknowledge the movement away from childhood and dependence towards maturation and independence—a transition that often includes discernment and planning for adult responsibilities.
- The North American cultural setting offers no uniform norm as to when childhood/adolescence ends and adulthood begins. Some consider an age tied to physical maturation, such as age 13; others, age 15 or 16, such as "sweet sixteen," the first driver's license, and the Hispanic celebration of Quince Años; others, age 18, the age of eligibility for voting and for military conscription. Recognizing that coming to adulthood is a process spanning a number of years, particular communities of faith and their young people may discern appropriate times and adapt these resources accordingly.
- As a resource to help mark a life-cycle transition, this recognition is independent from and is not intended to replace the affirmation of baptism (confirmation) that occurs in the catechetical ministry of many congregations. It may, however, provide a more suitable setting for certain life passage dimensions that have become attached to the confirmation rite.
- It is suggested that this recognition be celebrated only once in the life of each young person. The recognition may be offered once or twice per year within the weekly assembly or at a special parish celebration. Sundays and seasons for which the color is green are recommended times.



MARRIAGE

At the heart of the rite of marriage is the promise of love and faithfulness by which two people bind themselves to one another in a lifelong commitment. The church celebrates and accompanies the couple through this life passage by witnessing their promises, proclaiming the word of God in connection with this transition, and praying for God's blessing on the couple and their household.

These universal features of marriage within the Christian tradition are supplemented here by particular expressions of African and African American cultures. Congregations may select as desired from the following prayers, ceremonies, and blessings.

A Form of the Vows

The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words.

I, <u>name</u>, give you my hand this day. I open my mouth to declare before God, our ancestors, and this congregation, that I take you, <u>name</u>, to be my <u>wife/husband</u>. I love you. In bitter days and in days of sweetness, in darkness and in light, in life and until death, I will walk in step with you. Your concerns will be my concerns. Your joys will be my joys. We will share our struggles, and we will share our triumphs. I will be with you all the days of my life. This is my vow. I have spoken.

Cord of Family Unity

The symbolic gesture of tying a cord of family unity may follow the exchange of vows and rings. The minister may take up a length of cord and present it to representatives of the bride's and groom's families with these or similar words:

P This cord represents an unbroken chain of life: given by God to our first parents, sustained by God through the generations of our ancestors, flowing to our families today. I invite you to tie this cord in the presence of God and these witnesses as a sign that you are joining the life of your two families.

Then, addressing representatives of each family in turn:

P Are you prepared to be joined to the family of <u>name of bride/groom?</u>

The family representatives respond:

M Yes, we are.

The family representatives tie a knot into the cord.

The family representatives pass the cord to the bride and groom, who tie another knot, saying:

We have together tied a knot with this cord. Our families are joined into one family, our peoples are joined into one people.

Broom of New Beginning

The symbolic gesture of jumping over a broom may follow the exchange of vows and rings. The minister may address the couple in these or similar words:

P The broom represents cleansing and the hearth at the center of the home. I invite you to jump over the broom as a sign of your passage out from the past and into a new day begun as you make a home together.

The broom is laid down and the bride and groom hop over it, with the right foot and then the left.

Blessing and Declaration of Marriage

A length of kente cloth may be unfolded and held around the couple and over their heads. Other family members may gather under the cloth as well. The minister may say:

P As you are wrapped in this cloth, may it remind you of the energy, the beauty, and the sheltering warmth of God's gift of the family. As our merciful God first made garments for humankind, as our gracious God clothes all who are in Christ, so may God clothe you with compassion and love for one another, for your family and community, and for the whole of creation.

The couple may share a kiss, and as they kiss the cloth is lowered. Then the marriage may be announced:

- What God has joined together, let no one put asunder. Elders of the community, family and friends, behold <u>name</u> and <u>name</u>; they are now husband and wife.
- Hail! Hail! Hail! May happiness come!

The congregation may offer its acclamation, which may include applause, shouts of thanksgiving, music, dance.

Prayers

A God of our ancestors, the one on whom we lean and do not fall: when you close, no one can open, and when you open, no one can close. Your children come before you. We call on you to bless *name* and *name*, married this day.

Our Savior Jesus Christ, who freely gives us life, who turned water into wine at the wedding at Cana, we call on you. Strengthen in love and faithfulness the hearts of <u>name</u> and <u>name</u>. Keep them forever in your path, we pray.

Spirit of God, great and old and wise, our companion and guide, we lift up your name. Pour out your gifts upon <u>name</u> and <u>name</u>, that they may be rich in peace and joy, gentleness and wisdom. Give them understanding toward one another and a generous heart toward others.

- A Holy One, we pray to you for <u>name</u> and <u>name</u> in the name of Jesus.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Give them fruitfulness of mind and body.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Give them peace of mind.
- In the name of Jesus.

- A Give them happiness and prosperity.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Give them patience with one another.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Protect them from enemies and tricksters.
- **■** In the name of Jesus.
- Mrap them in the strength of the community.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Use us to support one another.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Give us wisdom to raise our children.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Bless every human bond of love and commitment.
- In the name of Jesus.
- A Bless all husbands and wives, parents, and children.
- In the name of Jesus.

Other petitions may be added as desired.

- A In the name of Jesus we ask this.
- In the name of Jesus. Amen

NOTES

- The above resources do not constitute a complete marriage rite. One or more of these elements may be added to or substituted within the marriage rite in use by the congregation.
- Various traditions have incorporated symbolic elements and gestures into the marriage rite to underscore the spoken vows of marriage. The exchange of rings is a long-standing practice. The additional options presented here are linked to several African and African American traditions. Other practices may also be found. For example, in some regions fruits of the earth are offered to the couple, such as an orange, signifying fruitfulness of mind and body; a cluster of bananas, signifying the potential gift of children; and a coconut, with its hidden milk signifying the mystery of love that God has placed in the hearts of the newly married.
- An entrance procession of the wedding party, family members, and ministers may include art forms appropriate to the context and cultural traditions represented, such as music, textile art, or dance. Symbolic elements to be used in the service may be carried in procession.
- For the cord of family unity, an alb cincture or similar length of cord may be used.
- The kente cloth used in the blessing and declaration of marriage should be of an appropriate size for the action (6 feet by 9 feet is a useful size). One common kente cloth pattern is named *ebusa ye dom*, "the family is a crowd," symbolizing the vibrancy of a strong community.
- ▶ The prayer gesture of libation may accompany the prayers at the conclusion of each petition.



BLESSING OF WOMEN AND MEN

Some congregations observe men's day or women's day at various times of the year to recognize the contributions of women and men to the whole community on its journey of faith. On such occasions the following prayers of blessing may be added to the prayers of the church or included in the sending rite prior to the benediction.

For Women's Day

P God, who knit us together in the womb,

God of Eve, made in your image, God of Sarah, Hagar, and Keturah,

God of Ruth and Naomi,

God of Mary Magdalene,

God of Mary, mother of our Lord: we ask your blessing upon all the women of this congregation.

Help them to be

good daughters and sisters, good friends and spouses, good mothers and grandmothers, good women of faith.

Stir up in them

the power of your Spirit.

Kindle in them

the fire of your love.

Call forth in them

the strength to serve you.

Through word and sacrament in the community of faith, renew in them the blessed assurance of salvation and the promise of eternal glory in your presence,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

For Men's Day

P God, our everlasting Father, God of Adam, made in your image,

God of Abraham and Isaac,

God of Nimrod and Phinehas,

God of Simon the Cyrenian,

God of Joseph, guardian of Jesus: we ask your blessing upon all the men of this congregation.

Help them to be

good sons and brothers, good friends and spouses, good fathers and grandfathers,

good men of faith.

In the midst of struggles, give them patience and strength.

In the midst of persecution,

keep them steadfast in your Word.
For freedom Christ has set them

For freedom Christ has set them free.

Help them stand firm, and not submit to the yoke of any slavery.

Through word and sacrament in the community of faith, may they be renewed in body, mind, and spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

For Women's Day

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth.

We give thanks to you for all the women of faith who have done your will throughout the ages.

We thank you for Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel, for Deborah and Esther, for Anna and Elizabeth, for Joanna and Susanna, for Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, for Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection, and for Mary, the blessed mother of our Lord.

God of our ancestors in faith,
we ask your blessing
upon the faithful women
of this congregation,
our sisters and friends,
our spouses and daughters,
our grandmothers and mothers.
Bless them and all women

who place their trust in you.

Keep them steadfast in your Word.

Look with favor upon their lives in Christ.

May they wait upon the Lord and renew their strength, soaring up with wings like eagles, running and not growing weary, walking and not becoming faint; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen

For Men's Day

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth.

We give thanks to you for all the men of faith who have done your will throughout the ages.

We thank you for Abraham, the father of Israel,

Moses the deliverer,

Samuel the judge,

David the king,

Isaiah the prophet,

Simeon the Black and Lucius of

Cyrene, prophets in Antioch, and for Joseph, husband of Mary and guardian of our Lord.

God of our ancestors in faith,
we ask your blessing
upon the faithful men
of this congregation,
our brothers and friends,
our spouses and sons,
our grandfathers and fathers.

Bless them and all men who place their trust in you.

Empower them to hold fast their faith and reject all that is evil.

May they not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of their minds, so that they may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen



BLESSING OF ELDERS

The elders of the community are acknowledged in many congregations to have an important place and vocation. Elders are recognized by those around them as people who, through years of human experience and faithful presence in the community, bring various gifts of wisdom, steadfastness, caring, and leadership. Congregations may have various ways of identifying the elders in their midst.

This prayer of blessing for elders may be added to the prayers of the church or included in the sending rite prior to the benediction.

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth.

From everlasting to everlasting you are God, our dwelling place in all generations.

You are the source of holy wisdom, and the fountain of all truth.

We give thanks to you for the elders among us.

We are graced by their wisdom and seasoning.

We are touched by their knowledge and faith.

Bless them, O God, as they are a blessing to us.

Pour out your Spirit,

that our elders may continue to dream dreams
and testify to the Light of their salvation, Jesus Christ.

May we find inspiration in their years of faithfulness.

May we follow their example
by serving you with steadfastness and singleness of heart;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

G Amen



BURIAL OF THE DEAD

NOTES

- ▶ The Burial of the Dead expresses the church's confident faith and hope in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Christian funeral rites mark the final stage of the journey of faith, the passing over of the baptized from this world to God. They also provide an opportunity to give thanks for the life of the deceased and to provide solace to those bereaved through the word of God proclaimed and sung in the context of a supportive community of faith.
- ➤ Traditional Christian funeral practices have often followed a pattern that includes washing, anointing, and dressing the body (practices reminiscent of baptism); communal gathering of family and friends for support and prayer; a service of the word (and Holy Communion); and a final commendation and procession to the grave.
- Within African American communities, a variety of burial traditions build upon this foundation. Coming from the harsh circumstances of slavery and its legacy, African Americans haveoften viewed death as a release from this "vale of tears" and a home-going to a better hereafter. Thus, African American burial traditions are often emotive, dignified, and celebratory. They are emotive as they provide deep catharsis for mourners. They are dignified as they honor the dead and assert the dignity of the living. And as the deceased crosses over, there is joy-filled celebration for the unity of life, death, and the new life in Christ. These rituals of comfort are also helpful in many modern urban communities where there is often a tragically high rate of premature death, especially among young African American males.
- African American burial practices vary from region to region. In some places, for example, the procession to the grave has taken on major significance, accompanied with celebratory music and rhythmic step. Other practices take place informally, rather than as part of the communal rites. These include leaving cooked food at grave sites; scattering dirt into graves; decorating graves with pieces of glass, pottery, and personal belongings; and funeral parties. The custom—informally observed by some African Americans—of delaying burial after death may have roots in the Igbo tradition of the second funeral.
- ▶ Because of the great regional variety, no specific resources for funeral rites are included here. Congregations may evaluate the practices of their communities and determine those aspects that can be used to supplement the church's rites for the burial of the dead.



WITNESSES TO THE FAITH

The piety of many African and African American Christians includes a vivid appreciation for the ancestors in faith. Those who walk the way of faith by the grace of God are strengthened by the biblical assurance: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (Heb. 12:1-2).

The Lutheran confessional writings (Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Article XXI) note several ways God's people may recognize such witnesses to the faith from previous generations: giving thanks for their lives, allowing their example to motivate us, and entrusting our own growth in faith and service to the abounding grace of God.

The following is a sampling of persons and groups of persons, witnesses to the faith through the centuries, who may have particular significance to African Americans. Some of these are persons, recognized ecumenically, who are linked to the African continent by ancestry or by area of service; others have become known through their witness among African Americans. Such a list can never be comprehensive; it serves to supplement other available lists of commemorations, and may be supplemented further by local practice.

Where available, a calendar date has been included (traditionally that of a person's death, the "heavenly birthday"). On or near the appropriate date, the prayers of the church may include thanksgiving by name for the faithful departed. The church's life and mission may be strengthened by additional uses of these and other stories of witnesses to the faith; for example, in various aspects of educational ministry, or in the celebration of Black History Month.

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian, d. 709–10) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England, particularly through his direction of an influential school where many church leaders were instructed. *January* 9

The Alpha Synod

In 1868 Michael Cobble was licensed by the North Carolina Synod to begin an African American mission congregation. Years later, the synod ordained D. J. Koontz and licensed Nathan Clapp, but did not grant equal pastoral privileges, suggesting they support their own ministries through secular employment. Continued lack of support for these missions led Koontz, Clapp, Sam Holt, and W. Philo Phifer to petition the North Carolina Synod for the formation of a synod for African American Lutherans, called the Alpha Synod (1889–1891).

Koontz was the first African American to become a synod president. After the Alpha Synod dissolved due to financial difficulties, Koontz's work was taken up in 1891 by Phifer with the help of the synodical conference of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church

Born in Qemen-al-Arous, Upper Egypt, Antony (c. 251–356) was one of the earliest Egyptian "desert fathers." He established monasteries for Christian learning and devotion, was active in refuting the Arian heresy, and exerted a strong influence upon Athanasius, who made a record of his life. *January 17*

Augustine, bishop of Hippo

Originally from Algeria, Augustine (354–430) was converted as an adult through the influence of Ambrose, bishop of Milan, and was baptized at the Easter Vigil in 387. His theological writings and gifts of organization helped to shape the church of the fourth century in both Africa and Europe. *August 28*

Benedict the African, confessor

Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict (d. 1589) joined a community of hermits when he was freed, serving as superior but later returning to his former position of cook. His fame as a confessor brought many visitors to the humble and holy cook. A patron saint of blacks in the United States, Benedict is remembered for his patience and understanding when confronted with racial prejudice. *April 4*

Marmaduke N. Carter, pastor

In 1916 Marmaduke Carter became the principal of the Christian Day School (formerly called the Rosebud School) and the first pastor of Christ Church, Rosebud, Alabama, a pioneering congregation in African American ministry among Lutherans in the South.

Peter Claver, missionary

A Jesuit missionary, Peter Claver (d. 1654) served in Cartagena (in what is now Colombia) by teaching and caring for the black slaves. Meeting them as they arrived after experiencing horrible conditions on slave ships, Claver tended to their physical needs and baptized the newborn. Though committed to speaking more with his hands than with his lips, he also advocated for the improvement of the slaves' living conditions. September 9

Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, martyr

Cyprian (c. 200–258) worked for the unity of the church and cared for his flock in North Africa during a time of great persecution. For refusing to take part in official pagan worship under Valerian, Cyprian was exiled and later executed. *September 16*

Emma Francis, deaconess

Emma Francis opened the Ebenezer Home for Girls in Frederiksted, Virgin Islands. In 1922 she moved to the United States and helped found a Lutheran church in New York. As a parish worker at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in New York, she became the first African American deaconess in the Lutheran church.

Frederick Lutheran Church

Frederick Lutheran Church, located on the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, is the second-oldest congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It was founded by the Church of Denmark in 1666.

Jehu Jones, missionary

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Jehu Jones (1786–1852) was ordained by the New York Ministerium in 1832, the Lutheran church's first African American pastor. Upon returning to South Carolina he was arrested under a law prohibiting free blacks from re-entering the state, and so was unable to join the group of Charlestonians he had been commissioned to accompany to Liberia. For nearly twenty years Jones carried out missionary work in Philadelphia in the face of many difficulties. Here he led in the formation of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's) and the construction of its church building. September 28

Martin Luther King, Jr., renewer of society, martyr

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded his advocacy of vigorous yet nonviolent action for racial equality. Pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968. *January 15 (to coincide with national holiday) or April 4*

Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church

Massie L. Kennard (1918–1996), a native of Chicago, Illinois, was a major figure in championing ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served the church in various staff positions, including director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America. *October 10*

Monica, mother of Augustine

Monica (c. 322–387) is remembered as the mother of Augustine, praying and working fervently for his conversion through many years of his waywardness. A disciple of Ambrose, Monica assisted in bringing her son under Ambrose's influence, and eventually Augustine was baptized. In his *Confessions*, Augustine speaks tenderly of his mother's "zeal in good works and faithfulness in worship." *May 4*

Moses the Black, monk

A man of great strength and rough character, Moses the Black (died c. 400) was converted to the Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. *August 28*

Pachomius, renewer of the church

Pachomius (d. 346), born in Upper Egypt and later conscripted into the army, is recognized as the founder of Christian community monasticism. He translated the administrative skills learned in the military into a highly organized system for communal life. Communities for women as well as men were established, emphasizing work according to one's craft, a pattern for life in community, and common prayer. *May 14*

Daniel Payne, teacher

Educator Daniel Payne organized a school for African Americans in Charleston, South Carolina, that eventually became the largest school in Charleston. In 1835 the school was closed when the General Assembly of South Carolina passed a law preventing free African Americans and slaves from operating schools. Payne eventually enrolled in

Gettysburg Seminary and was ordained by the Franckean Synod of Upper New York. No call was available to him in the Lutheran church, so he served a Presbyterian congregation in East Troy, New York. He went on to found Wilberforce College in Ohio.

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs

Among the earliest martyrs remembered by the church are Perpetua, a noblewoman from North Africa, and Felicity, a slave, together with several others who were arrested for their enrollment and participation in the catechumenate. The early account of their martyrdom in 202 records that Perpetua and Felicity survived the wild beasts in the arena at Carthage and were killed by the sword, having first exchanged the kiss of peace. *March* 7

Martin de Porres, renewer of society

Born in Peru to Don Juan de Porres and Ana Velázquez, a freed black slave from Panama, Martin (1575–1639) learned the healing arts from his mother's knowledge of herbal medicine and his own apprenticeship to a barber–surgeon in Lima. A lay brother in the Dominican order, Martin engaged in many charitable works, including the founding of an orphanage and hospital as well as the administration of the convent's food program. He is recognized as an advocate for Christian charity and interracial justice. *November 3*

Tertullian, theologian

Born in Carthage, North Africa, Tertullian (c. 160–c. 225) wrote forcefully in defense of the Christian faith and in opposition to various heresies, and is credited with such memorable words as "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Although later attracted to sectarian thought, Tertullian combined reason and faith in a way that profoundly influenced the articulation of Christian doctrine.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop

Nelson Trout (1920–1996), born in Columbus, Ohio, attended the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbus. Ordained in 1952, he served parishes in Montgomery, Alabama; Los Angeles, California; and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Trout also served in staff positions with the American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Social Services of Dayton, Ohio, and the Columbus seminary. In 1983 Trout was elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American to serve in such a capacity. *September 20*

Victor the Moor, martyr

Known also as Victor Maurus, this native of Mauritania was a Christian from his youth who served as a soldier in the Praetorian Guard. Under the persecution of Maximian, Victor died for his faith at Milan in 303. *May* 8

Rosa Jensey Young, teacher, missionary

Rosa Young (1874–1971), a laywoman, is considered the mother of black Lutheranism on the Alabama field. In 1915, following the advice given to her by Booker T. Washington, she sought financial assistance from the Lutheran Synodical Conference for her school in Rosebud, Alabama. The school was required to become a Lutheran school to receive funding, and Young (a Methodist at the time) was confirmed in the Lutheran church. In association with Nils Jules Bakke, she labored to establish the Lutheran church in the black belt of Alabama. During the 1920s three or four new congregations were established there each year.

PRAYERS

GENERAL

Lord God, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Grant that we [encouraged by the example of your *servant/servants name*] may persevere in the course that is set before us, to be living signs of the gospel and at last, with all the saints, to share in your eternal joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

MARTYRS

Gracious Lord, in every age you have sent men and women who have given their lives for the message of your love. Inspire us with the memory of those martyrs for the gospel [like your *servant/servants name*] whose faithfulness led them in the way of the cross, and give us courage to bear full witness with our lives to your Son's victory over sin and death; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MISSIONARIES

God of grace and might, we praise you for your *servant/servants* <u>name</u>, to whom you gave gifts to make the good news known. Raise up, we pray, in every country, heralds and evangelists of your kingdom, so that the world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RENEWERS OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, we praise you for the men and women you have sent to call the Church to its tasks and renew its life [such as your *servant/servants name*]. Raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your church and proclaim the reality of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

RENEWERS OF SOCIETY

Lord God, your Son came among us to serve and not to be served, and to give his life for the world. Lead us by his love to serve all those to whom the world offers no comfort and little help. Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

OR

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fear-lessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us [like your *servant/servants name*] to use our freedom to bring justice among people and nations, to the glory of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PASTORS AND BISHOPS

Almighty God, you have raised up faithful pastors and leaders of your church. May the memory of their lives be a source of joy for us and a bulwark of our faith, so that we may serve you and confess your name before the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

TEACHERS

O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your church. By your Holy Spirit give all teachers insight into your word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Far by Faith

Psalms and Service Music

Hymns and Songs

Resources from the Tradition





PSALMS AND SERVICE MUSIC





¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,*
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and they meditate on his law | day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,

bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;* everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so | with the wicked;*

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,* nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,* but the way of the wick- | ed is doomed.





¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me* and are so far from my cry, and from the words of | my distress? ²O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you | do not answer;* by night as well, but I | find no rest.

³Yet you are the | Holy One,*
 enthroned upon the prais- | es of Israel.
 ⁴Our forefathers put their | trust in you;*
 they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
 ⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;*
 they trusted in you
 and were not | put to shame.

⁶But as for me, I am a worm | and no man,* scorned by all and despised | by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;*

they curl their lips and wag | their heads, saying,

8"He trusted in the LORD;

let him de- | liver him:*

let him rescue him, if he de- | lights in him."

⁹Yet you are he
who took me out | of the womb,*
and kept me safe
upon my | mother's breast.
¹⁰I have been entrusted to you
ever since | I was born;*

you were my God

when I was still in my | mother's womb.

when I was still in my | mother's womb.

11Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,*

and there is | none to help.

¹²Many young bulls en- | circle me;* strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me.

¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,* like a ravening and a | roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water;

all my bones are | out of joint;*

my heart within my breast is | melting wax.

15My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks

to the roof | of my mouth;*
and you have laid me

in the dust | of the grave.

¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in,

and gangs of evildoers cir- | cle around me;*
they pierce my hands and my feet,

I can count | all my bones.

¹⁷They stare and gloat | over me;* they divide my garments among them; they cast lots | for my clothing.

¹⁸Be not far a- | way, O LORD;*

vou are my strength; hast-| en to help me.

19 Save me | from the sword,* my life from the power | of the dog.

²⁰Save me from the | lion's mouth,* my wretched body from the horns | of wild bulls.

²¹I will declare your name | to my brethren;*
in the midst of the congregation |

I will praise you.

²²Praise the LORD, | you that fear him;*stand in awe of him,O offspring of Israel;all you of Jacob's | line, give glory.

²³For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his | face from them;*

but when they cry to | him he hears them.

24My praise is of him in the | great assembly;*

I will perform my vows
in the presence of those

who | worship him.

²⁵The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the | LORD shall praise him:*

"May your heart | live forever!"

²⁶All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.

²⁷For kingship belongs | to the LORD;*
he rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁸To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow | down in worship;*
all who go down to the dust |
fall before him.

²⁹My soul shall live for him; my descend- | ants shall serve him;* they shall be known as the | LORD's forever.

30They shall come and make known to a people | yet unborn* the saving deeds that | he has done.

Psalm 23





¹The LORD | is my shepherd;* I shall not | be in want.

²He makes me lie down | in green pastures* and leads me be- side still waters.

³He re- | vives my soul* and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;* you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,* and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.



¹The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,* the world and all who | dwell therein.

²For it is he who founded it up- | on the seas* and made it firm upon the rivers | of the deep.

3"Who can ascend the hill | of the LORD* and who can stand in his | holy place?"

4"Those who have clean hands and | a pure heart,* who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what | is a fraud.

⁵They shall receive a blessing | from the LORD* and a just reward

from the God of | their salvation."

⁶Such is the generation of | those who seek him,* of those who seek your face,

O | God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O ever- | lasting doors;* and the King of glory | shall come in.

8"Who is this | King of glory?"*

"The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle."

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates;

lift them high, O ever- | lasting doors;* and the King of glory | shall come in.

10"Who is he, this | King of glory?"*

"The LORD of hosts, he is the | King of glory."

Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord





¹I will bless the LORD | at all times:* his praise shall ever be | in my mouth. ²I will glory | in the LORD;* let the humble hear | and rejoice. ³Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD:* let us exalt his | name together. ⁴I sought the Lord, and he | answered me* and delivered me out of | all my terror. ⁵Look upon him | and be radiant,* and let not your faces | be ashamed. ⁶I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me* and saved me from | all my troubles. ⁷The angel of the LORD encompasses | those who fear him,* and he will de- liver them. ⁸Taste and see that the | LORD is good;*

⁹Fear the LORD, you that | are his saints,*
for those who fear | him lack nothing.
¹⁰The young lions lack and | suffer hunger,*
but those who seek the LORD
lack nothing | that is good.
¹¹Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.
¹²Who among | you loves life*
and desires long life
to en- | joy prosperity?

happy are they who | trust in him!

13Keep your tongue from | evil-speaking* and your lips from | lying words.
 14Turn from evil | and do good;* seek peace | and pursue it.

15The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,* and his ears are open | to their cry.
16The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,* to root out the remembrance of them |

from the earth.

17The righteous cry,
and | the LORD hears them*
and delivers them
from | all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted* and will save those whose spir- | its are crushed.

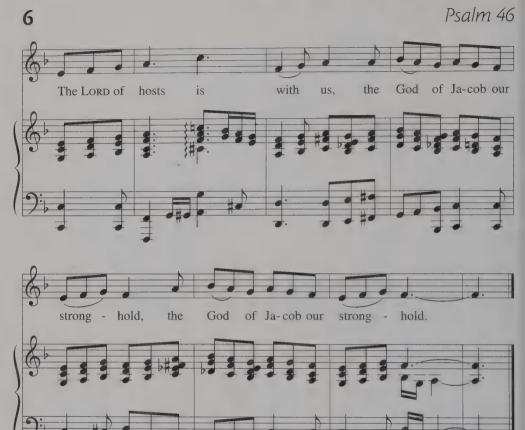
19Many are the troubles | of the righteous,* but the LORD will deliver him out | of them all.

²⁰He will keep safe | all his bones;* not one of them | shall be broken.

²¹Evil shall | slay the wicked,* and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²The LORD ransoms the life | of his servants,* and none will be punished who | trust in him.

The Lord of Hosts Is with Us





¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,*

a very present | help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,* and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;

3though its waters | rage and foam,*

and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of | hosts is with us;*

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*

the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;*

God shall help her at the | break of day.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;*

God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.

⁸The LORD of | hosts is with us;*

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,*

what awesome things he has | done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;*

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

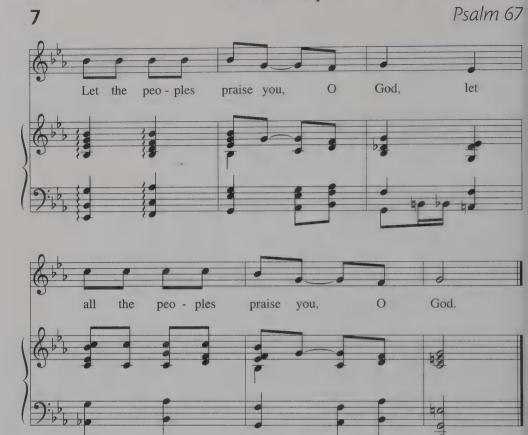
11"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;*

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."

¹²The LORD of | hosts is with us;*

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Let the Peoples Praise You, O God





¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us,*
show us the light of his countenance, and | come to us.

²Let your ways be known | upon earth,*

your saving health a- | mong all nations.

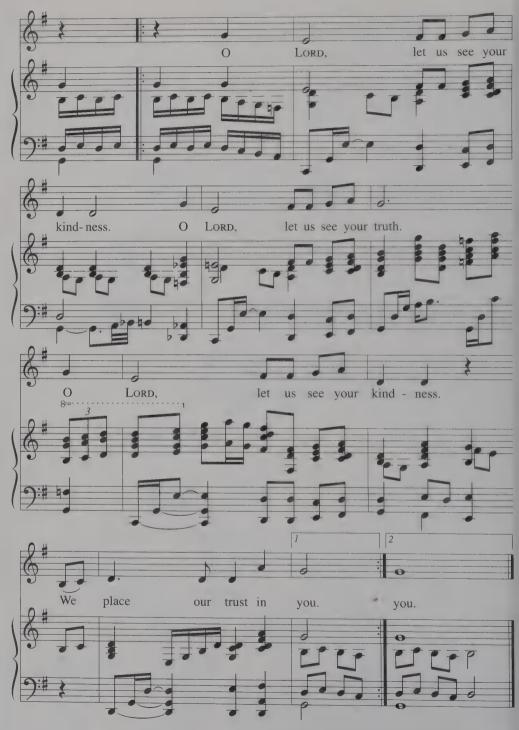
³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;* let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,* for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations | upon earth.

Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*
let all the | peoples praise you.
The earth has brought | forth her increase;*
may God, our own God, give | us his blessing.

⁷May God give | us his blessing,* and may all the ends of the earth stand in | awe of him.

8 Psalm 85





¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;* you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people* and blotted out | all their sins.

⁷Show us your mer- | cy, O LORD,* and grant us | your salvation.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,* for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,* that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have | met together;* righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up | from the earth,* and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,* and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall | go before him,* and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Come, Ring out Your Joy to the Lord





¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;* let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
²Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving* and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.
³For the LORD | is a great God,* and a great king | above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,* and the heights of the hills | are his also.

⁵The sea is his, | for he made it,* and his hands have molded | the dry land.

and his hands have molded | the dry land. ⁶Come, let us bow down and | bend the knee,*

and kneel before the | LORD our Maker.

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand.*

Oh, that today you would hearken | to his voice!

⁸Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did | in the wilderness,* at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they | tempted me.

⁹They put me to the test,*

though they had | seen my works.

¹⁰Forty years long I detested that genera- | tion and said,*

"This people are wayward in their hearts;

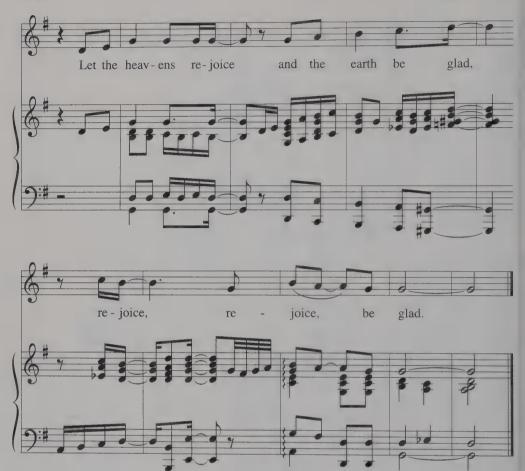
they do not | know my ways."

¹¹So I swore | in my wrath,*

"They shall not enter in- | to my rest."

10

Psalm 96





Sing to the LORD | a new song;*
sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.
Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;*
proclaim the good news
of his salvation from | day to day.
Declare his glory a- | mong the nations*
and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.
For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;*
he is more to be feared | than all gods.

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;* but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!*

Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!*

Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;* ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;* bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;* let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.

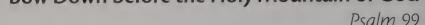
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peo- | ples with equity."
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all | that is in it;*
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD | when he comes,*
when he comes to | judge the earth.

¹³He will judge the | world with righteousness* and the peoples | with his truth.

Bow Down before the Holy Mountain of God





¹The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.*

He is enthroned upon the cherubim;

let | the earth shake.

²The LORD is | great in Zion;*
he is high | above all peoples.

³Let them confess his name,
which is | great and awesome;*
he is the | Holy One.

4"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have | established equity;* you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob."

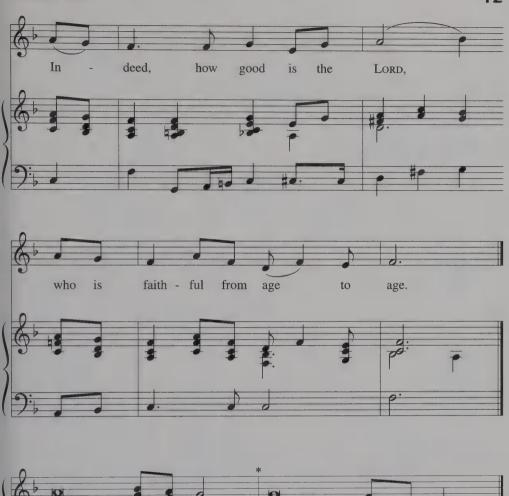
⁵Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down be- | fore his footstool;* he is the | Holy One.

6Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call up- | on his name,* they called upon the LORD, and he | answered them.
7He spoke to them out of the pil- | lar of cloud;* they kept his testimonies and the decree | that he gave them.

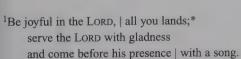
⁸O Lord our God, you answered | them indeed;* you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their | evil deeds. ⁹Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God

and worship him upon his | holy hill;*
for the LORD our God is the | Holy One.

Music: Leon C. Roberts, refrain; Lutheran Book of Worship, tone 5 Refrain © 1999 Augsburg Fortress, tone © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship



O



²Know this: The LORD him- | self is God;*
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people
and the sheep | of his pasture.

³Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his | courts with praise;* give thanks to him and call up- | on his name. ⁴For the LORD is good;

his mercy is | everlasting;*
and his faithfulness endures
from | age to age.





²⁵O LORD, how manifold | are your works!* In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.

²⁶Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too man-|y to number,* creatures both | small and great.

²⁷There move the ships, and there is | that Leviathan,* which you have made for the | sport of it.

²⁸All of them | look to you* to give them their food | in due season.

²⁹You give it to them; they | gather it;* you open your hand, and they are filled | with good things.

³⁰You hide your face, and | they are terrified;* you take away their breath, and they die and return | to their dust.

³¹You send forth your Spirit, and they | are created;* and so you renew the face | of the earth.

³²May the glory of the LORD en- | dure forever;* may the LORD rejoice in | all his works.

³³He looks at the earth | and it trembles;* he touches the mountains | and they smoke.

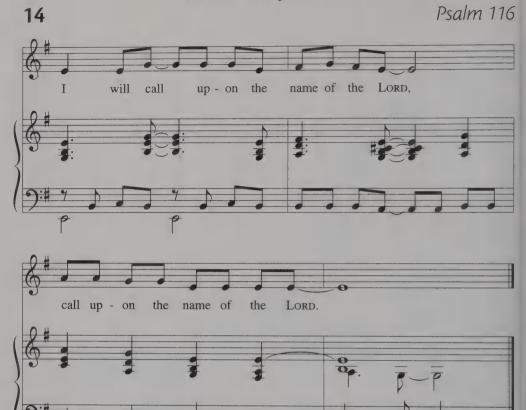
³⁴I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will praise my God while I | have my being.

³⁵May these words | of mine please him;*
I will rejoice | in the LORD.

³⁷Bless the LORD, | O my soul.* Hal- | lelujah!



I Will Call Upon the Name of the Lord





the voice of my | supplication,* because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I | called upon him. ²The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took | hold of me;* I came to | grief and sorrow. ³Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:* "O LORD, I pray you, | save my life."

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard

⁴Gracious is the LORD and righteous;* our God is full | of compassion. ⁵The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;*

I was brought very low, | and he helped me.

⁶Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.* for the LORD has treat- | ed you well.

⁷For you have rescued

my | life from death,* my eyes from tears,

and my | feet from stumbling. ⁸I will walk in the presence | of the LORD* in the land of the living.

"I have been brought | very low."*

In my distress I said, "No one | can be trusted."

⁹I believed, even when I said,

¹⁰How shall I re- | pay the LORD* for all the good things he has I done for me?

11I will lift up the cup | of salvation* and call upon the name | of the LORD.

¹²I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD* in the presence of | all his people.

¹³Precious in the sight | of the LORD* is the death | of his servants.

¹⁴O LORD, I | am your servant;* I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving*

and call upon the name | of the LORD.

¹⁶I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD* in the presence of | all his people,

¹⁷in the courts of the Lord's house,* in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

The Lord Is My Strength





¹Give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good;* his mercy en- | dures forever.

²Let Israel | now proclaim,*

"His mercy en- | dures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength | and my song,* and he has become | my salvation.

¹⁵There is a sound

of exulta- | tion and victory* in the tents | of the righteous:

16"The right hand of the | LORD

has triumphed!*

The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the | LORD has triumphed!"

17I shall not | die, but live,*
 and declare the works | of the LORD.
 18The LORD has pun- | ished me sorely,*

but he did not hand me o- | ver to death.

19 Open for me the | gates of righteousness;*

I will enter them;

I will offer thanks \mid to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate | of the LORD;* he who is righ- | teous may enter."

²¹I will give thanks to you, for you | answered me* and have become | my salvation.

²²The same stone

which the build- | ers rejected* has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³This is | the LORD's doing,*

and it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴On this day the | LORD has acted;*
we will rejoice and be | glad in it.

²⁵Hosanna, | LORD, hosanna!*

LORD, send us | now success.

²⁶Blessed is he

who comes in the name | of the Lord;* we bless you

from the house | of the LORD.

²⁷God is the LORD;

he has | shined upon us;*

form a procession with branches up to the horns | of the altar.

²⁸"You are my God, and | I will thank you;* you are my God, and I | will exalt you."

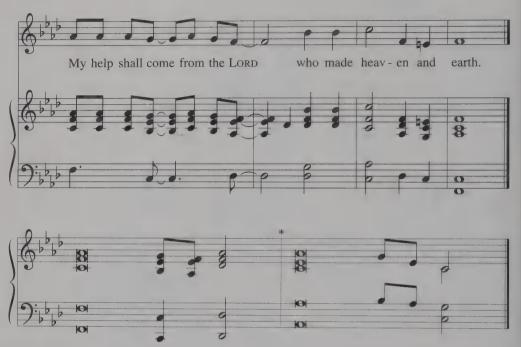
²⁹Give thanks to the LORD,

for | he is good;*

his mercy en- | dures forever.

My Help Shall Come from the Lord

16 Psalm 121



¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;*
from where is my | help to come?

²My help comes | from the LORD,*
the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³He will not let your | foot be moved*
and he who watches over you
will not | fall asleep.

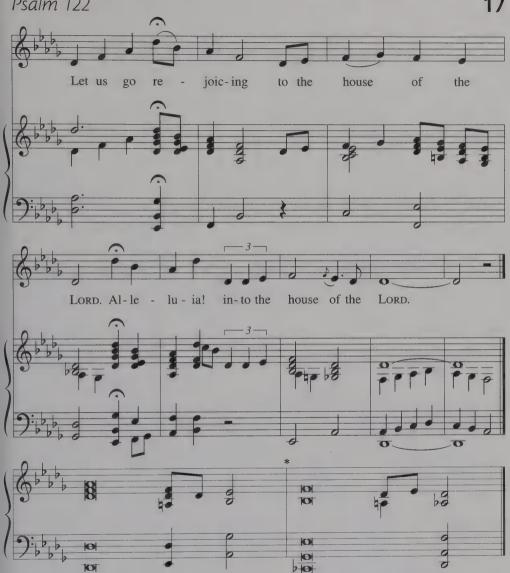
⁴Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel* shall neither slum- | ber nor sleep;
⁵the LORD himself watches | over you;* the LORD is your shade at | your right hand,
⁶so that the sun shall not strike | you by day,* nor the | moon by night.

⁷The LORD shall preserve you | from all evil;*

it is he who shall | keep you safe.

The LORD shall watch over
your going out and your | coming in,*
from this time forth for- | evermore.





¹I was glad when they said to me,* "Let us go to the house of the LORD." ²Now our | feet are standing* within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built | as a city* that is at unity | with itself;

4to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,*

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. ⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,* the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:* "May they pros- | per who love you.

⁷Peace be with- | in your walls*

and quietness with- | in your towers. ⁸For my brethren and com- | panions' sake,* I pray for | your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the | LORD our God,* I will seek to | do you good."

Let My Prayer Arise before You





¹O LORD, I call to you; come | to me quickly;* hear my voice when I | cry to you. ²Let my prayer be set forth in your | sight as incense,* the lifting up of my hands as the | evening sacrifice.

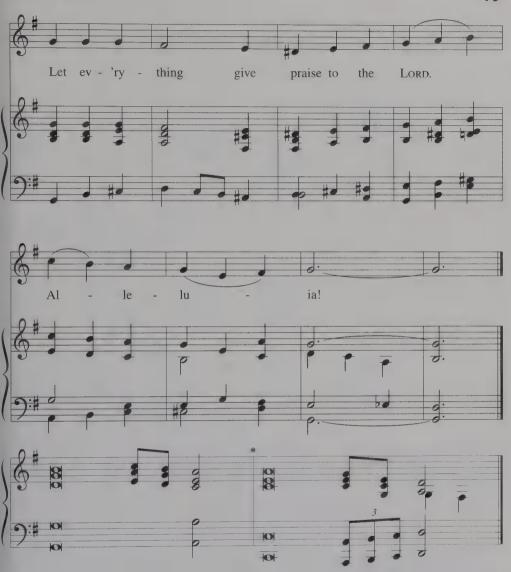
³Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door | of my lips;* let not my heart . incline to any | evil thing. ⁴Let me not be occupied in wickedness with | evildoers,* nor eat of | their choice foods. ⁸But my eyes are turned to | you, Lord GoD;* in you I take refuge:

do not strip me | of my life.

Let Everything Give Praise to the Lord

Psalm 150

19



¹Hallelujah!

Praise God in his | holy temple;*

praise him

in the firmament | of his power.

²Praise him for his | mighty acts;*

praise him for his ex- | cellent greatness.

³Praise him with the blast | of the ram's horn;* praise him with | lyre and harp. ⁴Praise him with tim- | brel and dance;* praise him with | strings and pipe.

⁵Praise him with re- | sounding cymbals;* praise him with loud- | clanging cymbals.

⁶Let everything | that has breath*

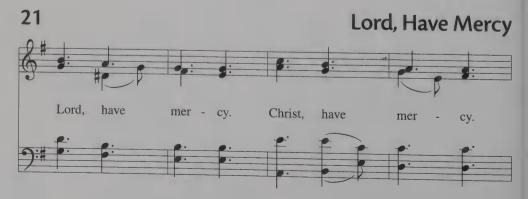
praise the Lord. | Hallelujah!

Music: Leon C. Roberts, refrain; Psalter for Worship, tone 37 Refrain © 1999 and tone © 1996 Augsburg Fortress

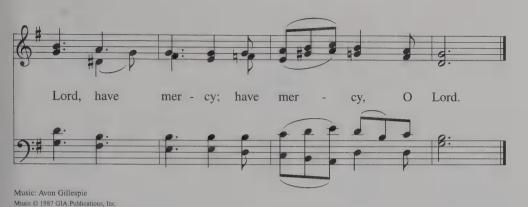
Lord, Have Mercy



Music: Dinah Reindorf; arr. With One Voice, 1995 Tune © 1987 Dinah Reindorf Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress



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Music: G. M. Kolisi Music © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

Lord, Have Mercy

23

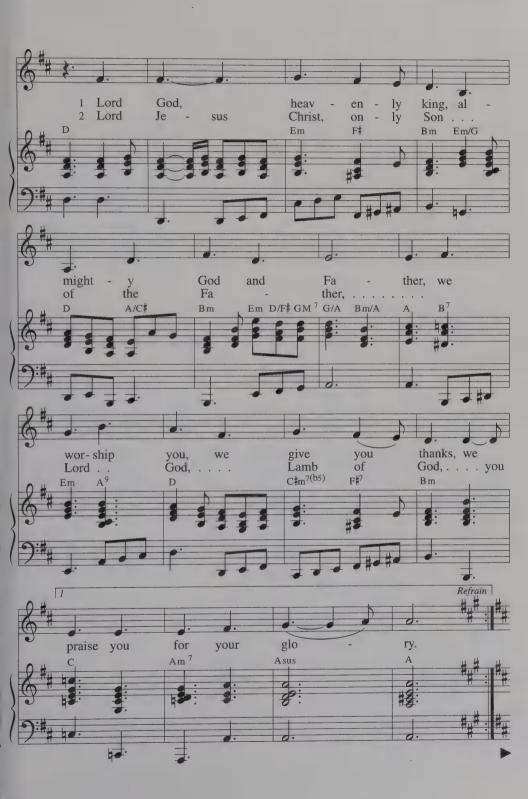
Señor, ten piedad



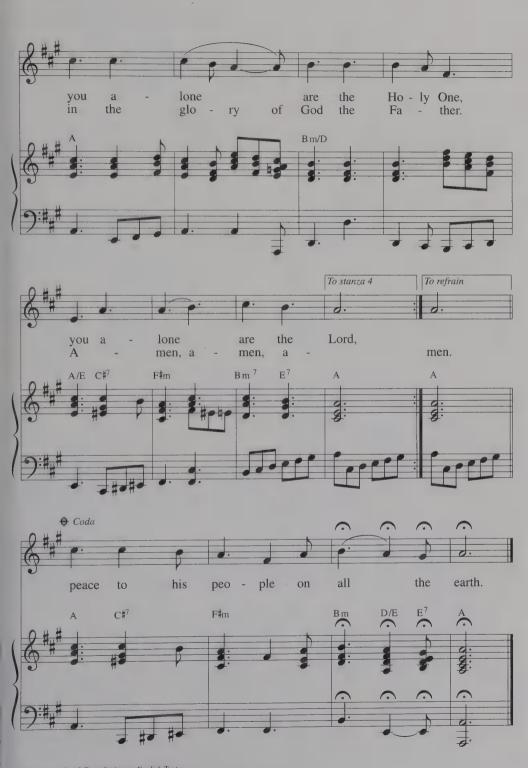


Glory to God









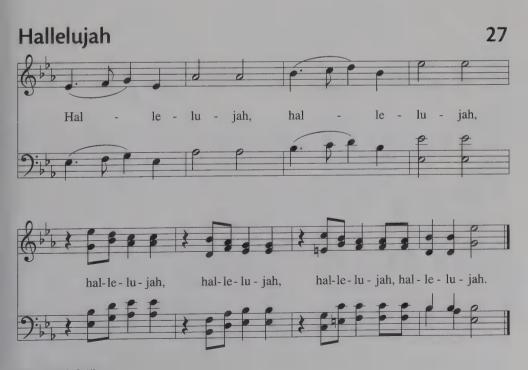
Text: International Consultation on English Texts Music: Grayson Warren Brown; arr. Val Parker Music © 1985 North American Liturgy Resources, admin. OCP Publications



Alleluia



Music: South African; arr. Gobingca Mxadana Arr. © Gobingca Mxadana



Music: Fernando G. Allen Music © 1987 Fernando G. Allen

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful





Text: John Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Tillis Butler and James Harris, Detroit Folk Mass Text: © 1978 Lutheron Book of Worship Music © 1986 Fortress Press

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord





Acclamations

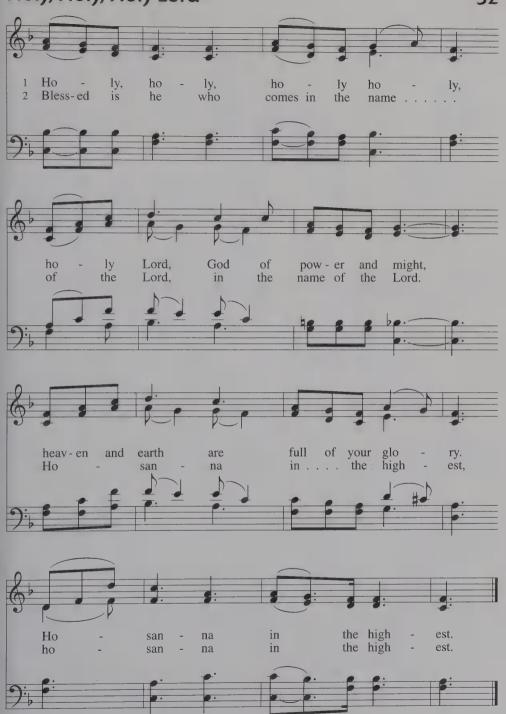


Music: Michael Hassell, b. 1952 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress



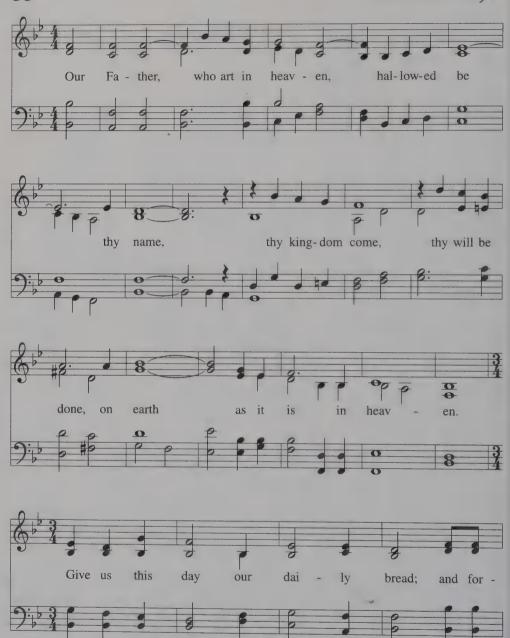
Music: Michael Hassell, b. 1952 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



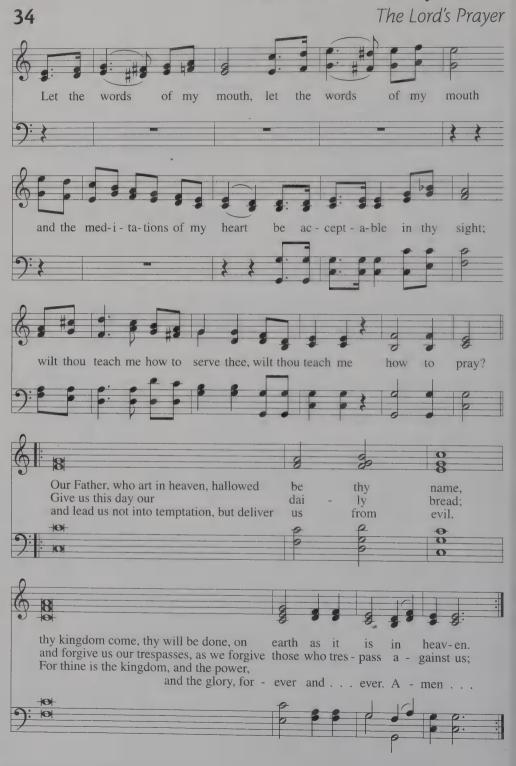
Text: International Consultation on English Texts Music: Grayson Warren Brown; arr. Larry Adams Music © 1979 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. by OCP Publications

The Lord's Prayer





Let the Words of My Mouth



Lamb of God



Text: International Consultation on English Texts Music: Tillis Butler and James Harris, Detroit Folk Mass

Music © 1986 Fortress Press



Text: traditional Music: Grayson Warren Brown; arr. Larry Adams Music © 1979 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. by OCP Publications



HYMNS AND SONGS

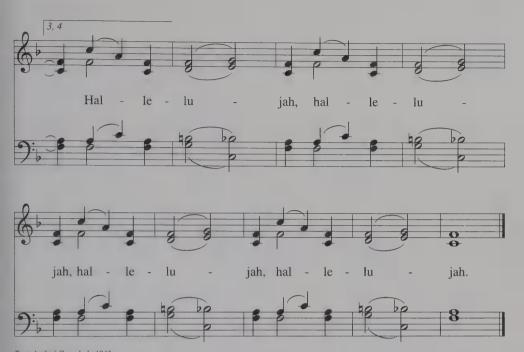


Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: He Came Down, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

He Came Down

Soon and Very Soon



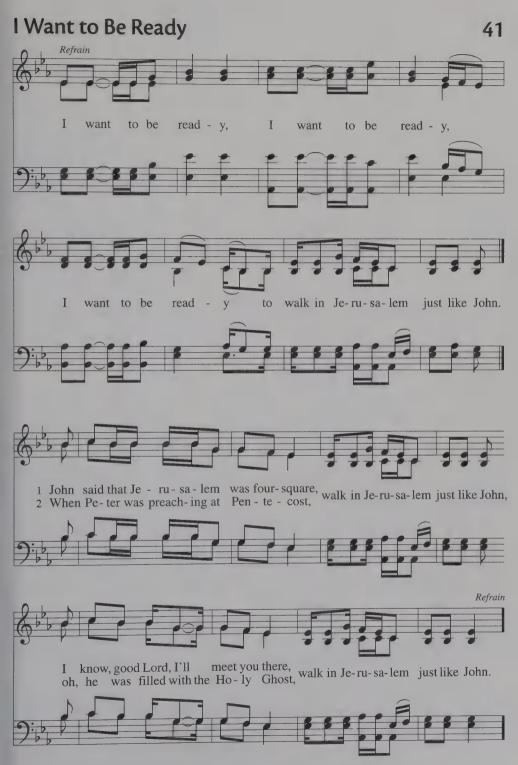


Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch, b. 1945 © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

He's Right on Time

He may not come when you want him but he's right on time. 39





Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. R. Nathaniel Dett, 1882-1943 Arr. © 1936 Paul A. Schmitt Music Co.; assigned to Belwin Mills, admin. CPP/Belwin Inc.

Come by Here 42 Lord, come by here; come by needs you, Lord, here; 2 Some - one bless - ing, Lord, 3 Send come by here; by come by here, Lord, needs you, Lord, bless - ing, Lord, some - one come by here; a here: here, Lord, come by here. needs you, Lord, bless - ing, Lord, one come by here. come by here.



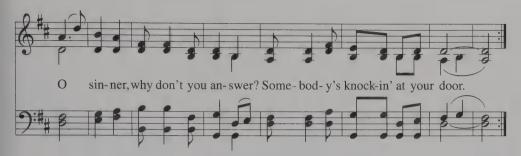
Text: traditional Music: Kum Ba Yah, traditional; arr. Richard Smallwood Arr. © 1975 Century Oak/Richwood Music



Text: traditional Music: KUM BA YAH, traditional

Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door





Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications



Text: Bob McGee, b. 1944
Music: McGee, Bob McGee, b. 1944
© 1976 C.A. Music (div. of Christian Artists Corp.), admin. Word Music, Inc.

Freedom Is Coming





Text: South African Music: South African © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

All Earth Is Hopeful

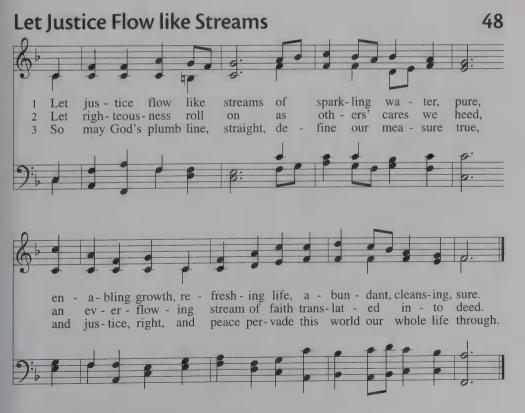
47

Toda la tierra



- 1 Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor; es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad.
- 2 Dice_el profeta al pueblo de Israel: "De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.
- 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar; nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar. Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar, y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.
- 4 En una cueva Jesús apareció, pero en el mundo está presente hoy. Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está; y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

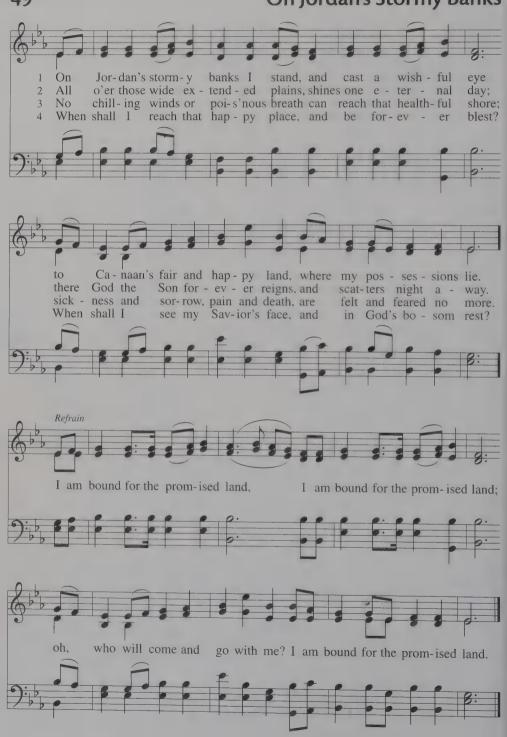
Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TAULÉ, Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992 Spanish text and tune © 1972 Alberto Taulé, admin. OCP Publications Tr. © 1995 Madeleine Forell Marshall, admin. Augsburg Fortress, arr. © Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Music: St. Thomas, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press



On Jordan's Stormy Banks



Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727-1795

Music: PROMISED LAND, Southern Harmony. 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836-1899; arr. Norman Johnson Arr. © 1968 Singspiration Music, admin. Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.

I Wonder As I Wander



Text: Appalachian carol; collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980 Music: I Wonder, Appalachian carol; adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980 © 1934 G. Schirmer, Inc. (ASCAP)

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child



Finger snaps or claps on the off-beats may be used to fill the rests.

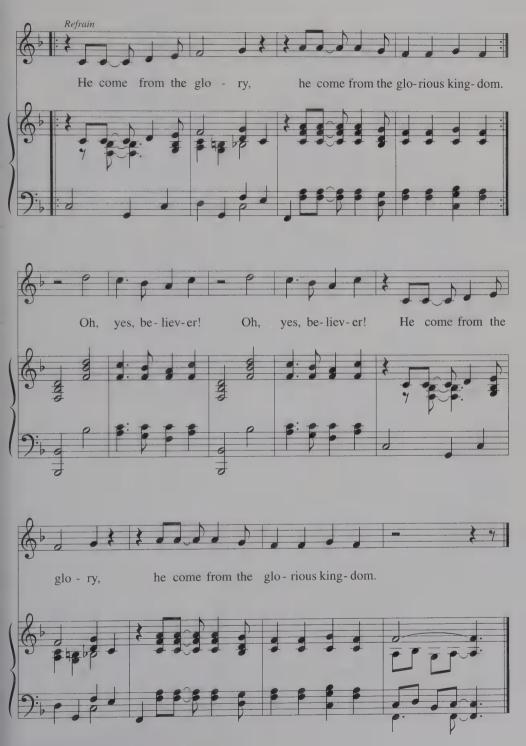
Text: African American traditional, alt.
Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional; arr. Jeffrey Radford, b. 1953
Arr. © 1992 Pilgrim Press, from *The New Century Hymnal*

Go Tell It on the Mountain



The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy





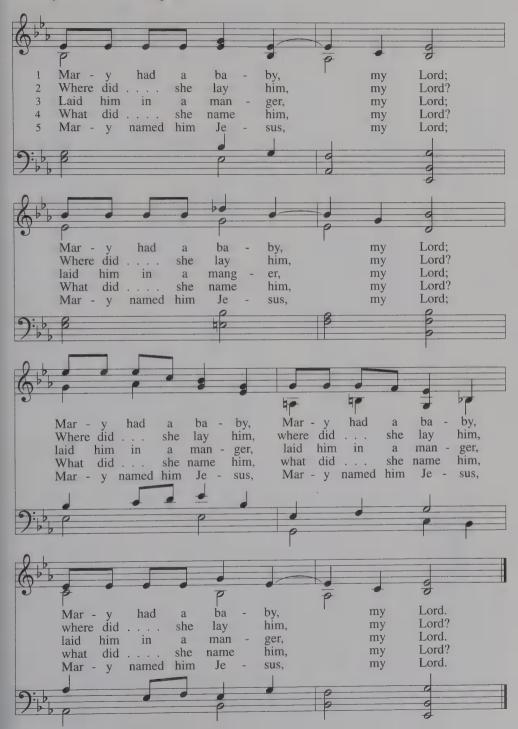
Text: West Indian carol Music: West Indian carol; arr. John Barnard, b. 1948 © 1945 Boosey and Company, Ltd, admin. Boosey and Hawkes, Inc.

That Boy-Child of Mary



- 5 One with the Father, he is our Savior, heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.
- 6 Gladly we praise him, love and adore him, give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.

Mary Had a Baby

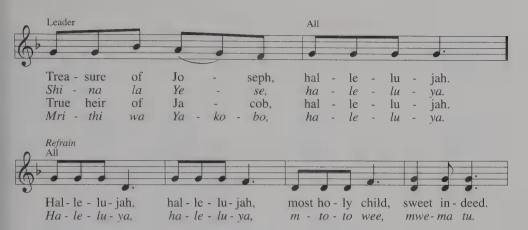


Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. David N. Johnson, 1922-1987 Arr. © 1970 Augsburg Publishing House

Hush, Little Jesus Boy

Yesu, ulale







God has des-tined you peace to bring that we may con-fess and be-lieve in your name. $Ki - la \quad a - na - ye - ku - a - mi - ni \quad u - ta - mga - wi - a \quad a - ma \quad - ni \quad kuu$.

Text: Ilyamba from *Membo ma Kiklisto*, anon.; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: YESU ULALE, Ilyamba traditional

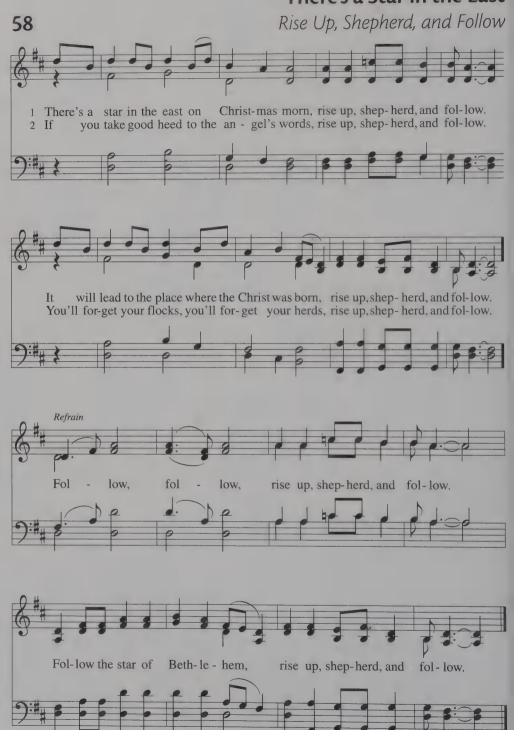
Swahili text © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson

Feet o' Jesus

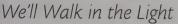
At the feet o' Jesus, Sorrow like a sea. Lordy, let yo' mercy Come driftin' down on me.

At the feet o' Jesus At yo' feet I stand. O my little Jesus, Please reach out yo' hand. 57

There's a Star in the East

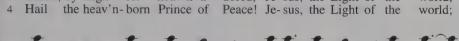


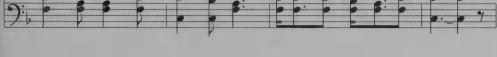
Jesus, the Light of the World





- 1 Hark! the her ald an gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world; 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
- 3 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;







the new-born King," Je-sus, the Light of world. skies; Je-sus, the Light of world. the tri - umph of the the Je-sus, the Light of the Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! world. Je-sus, the Light of the Sun of righ - teous - ness! the world.



Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.





Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.







Whom

shall I

fear,

whom

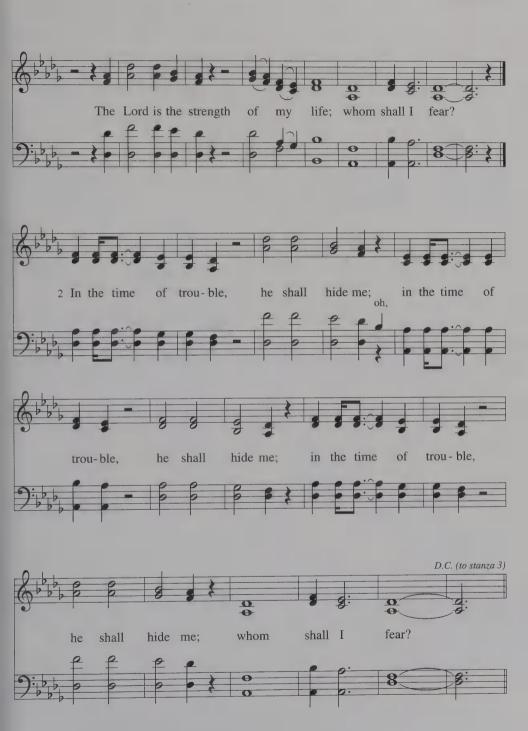
shall

fear?

61

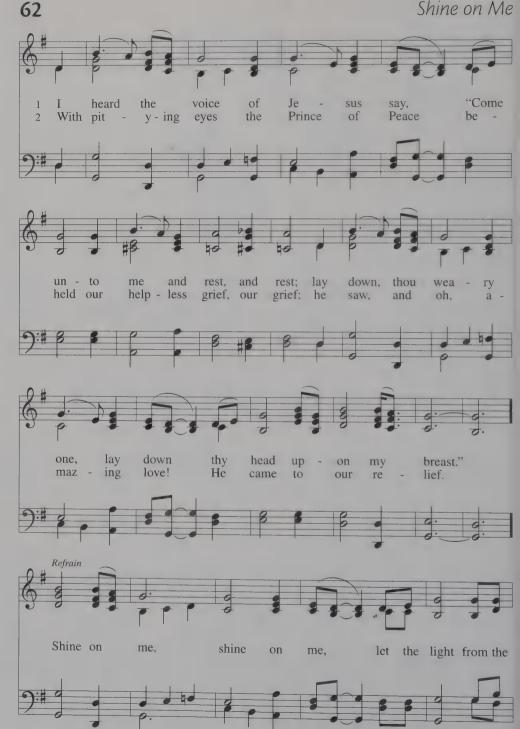
The Lord Is My Light





I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

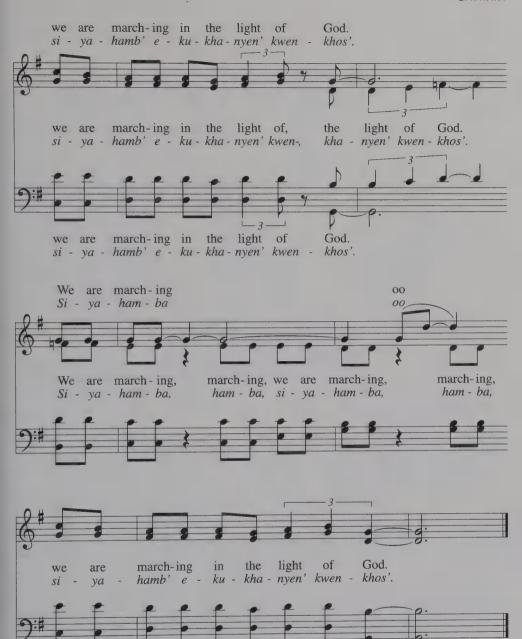
Shine on Me





We Are Marching in the Light of God



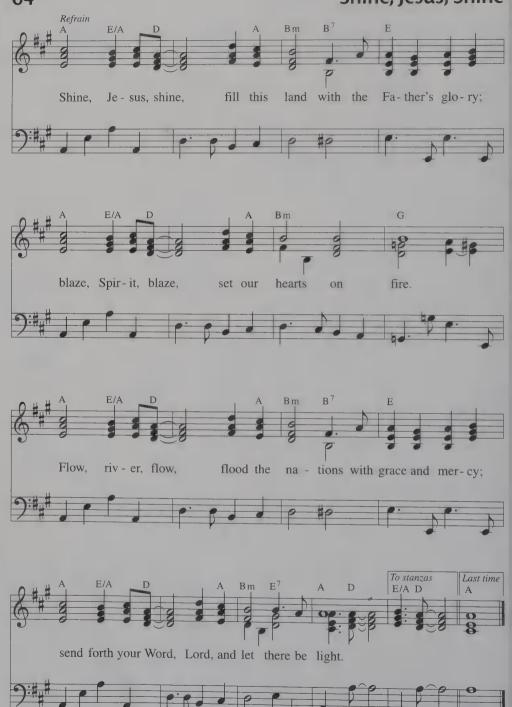


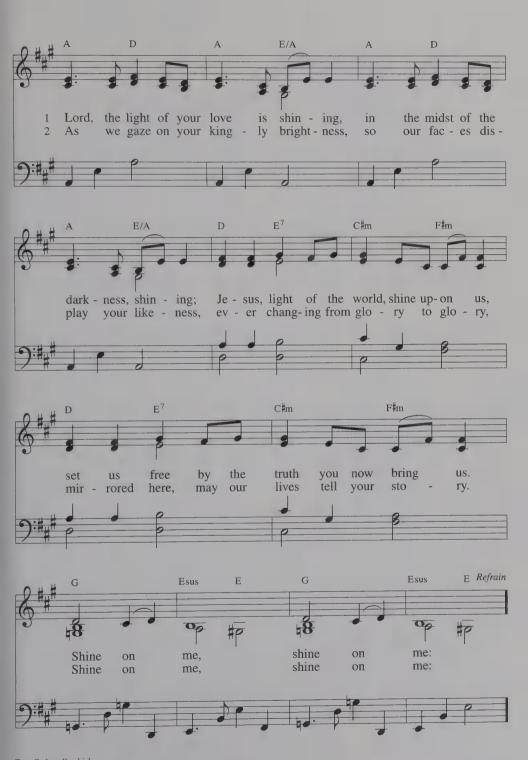
Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . . We are singing . . .

Text: South African Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

Shine, Jesus, Shine





Text: Graham Kendrick Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE, Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Integrity's Hosanna! Music in N., S., & C. America



Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935 Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer

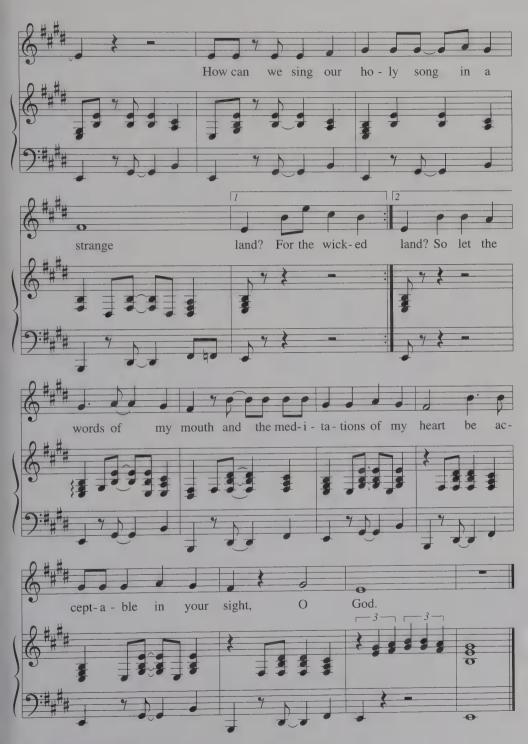
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



Text: African American spiritual Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 and Verolga Nix, b. 1933 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

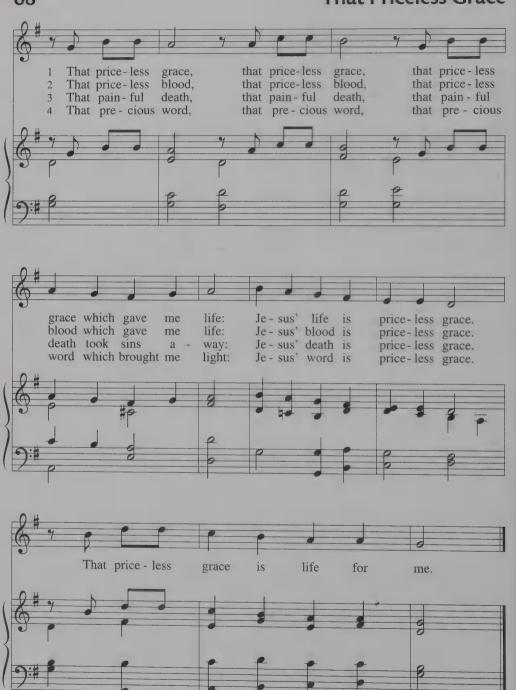
By the Waters of Babylon



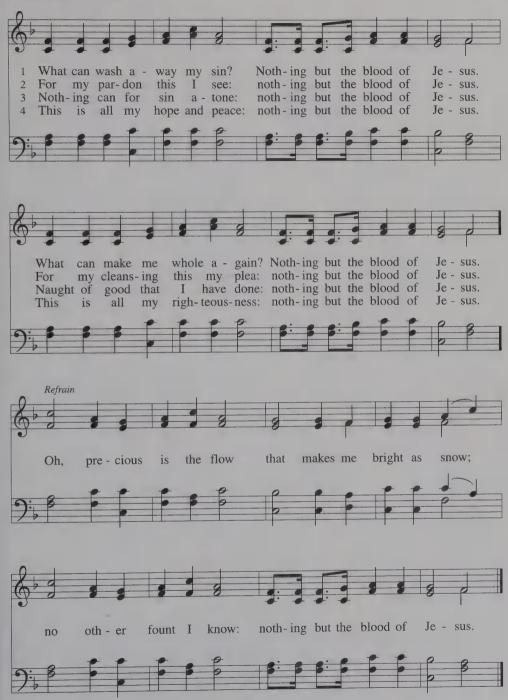


Text: Ps. 137:1-4, Ps. 19:14, adapt. Music: Jamaican traditional; arr. Bread for the Journey Arr. © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

That Priceless Grace



Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson Music: Ghanaian traditional; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Text and arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress



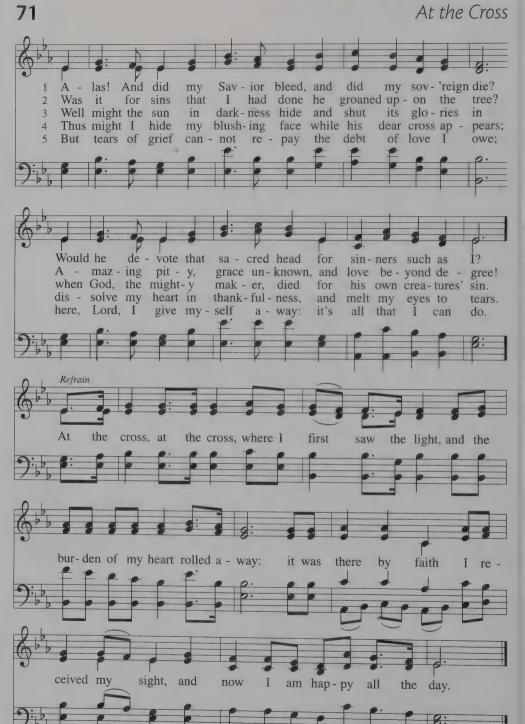
Lead Me, Guide Me





Text: Doris M. Akers, b. 1922 Music: Doris M. Akers, b. 1922; arr. Richard Smallwood © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music. Inc.

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed





Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929 Music: GLORY TO HIS NAME, John H. Stockton, 1813-1877

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



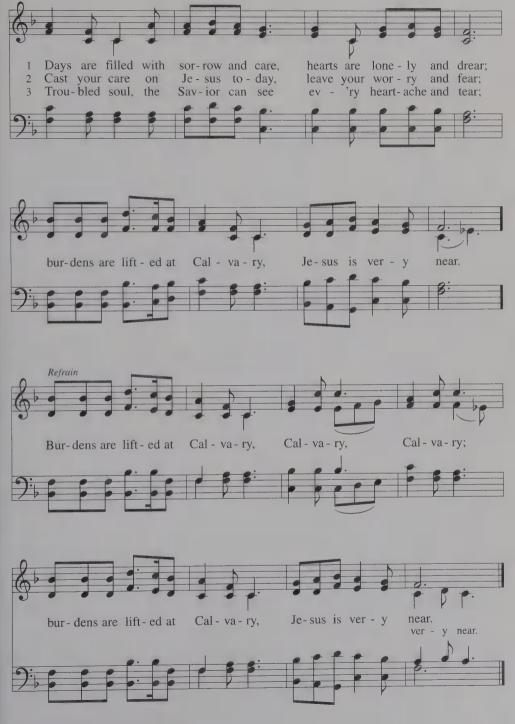


Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832-1915

Days Are Filled with Sorrow and Care

Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary

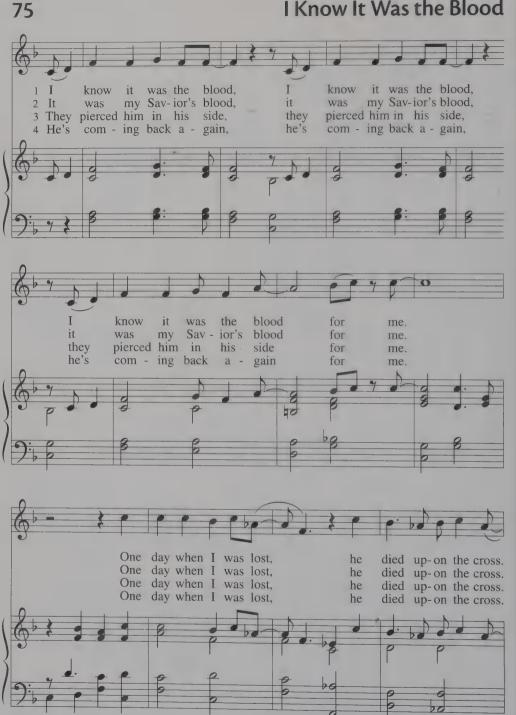




Text: John M. Moore Music: John M. Moore

© 1952 Singspiration Music/ASCAP, admin. Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing

I Know It Was the Blood

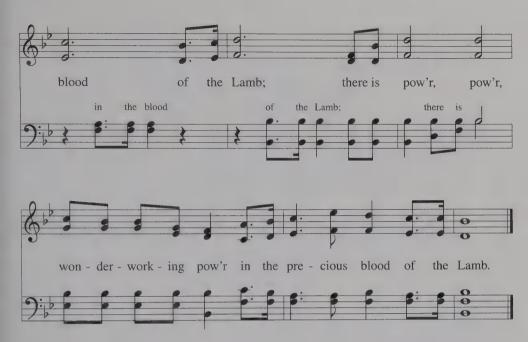




Would You Be Free

There Is Power in the Blood

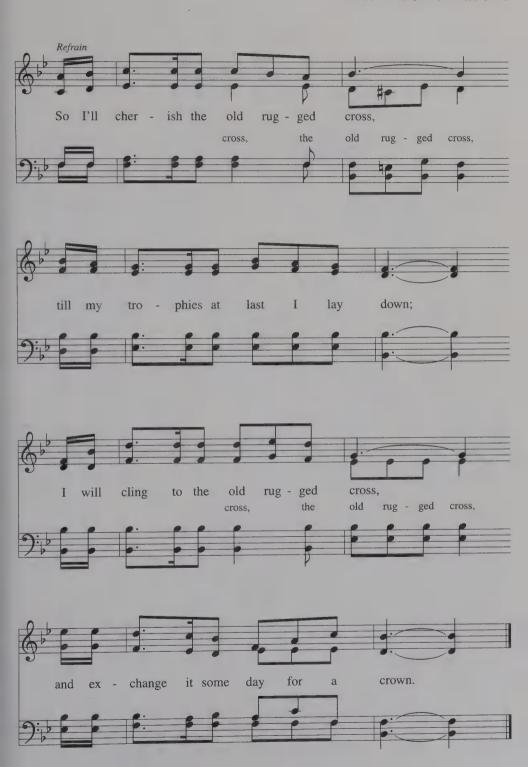




On a Hill Far Away

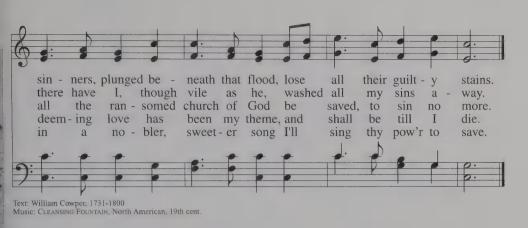
The Old Rugged Cross





Text: George Bennard, 1873-1958 Music: The Old Rugged Cross, George Bennard, 1873-1958

There Is a Fountain 78 filled with blood drawn There is foun - tain thief see that 2 The dy ing re joiced to blood shall dy ing Lamb, thy pre cious E'er since by faith I saw the stream thv tongue When this poor, fal - t'ring mor tal lies from Im - man uel's veins: and ners, plunged be sin foun - tain in there have I, though his day; and nev - er lose its pow'r till all the ran - somed flow - ing wounds sup ply; re deem - ing love si - lent in the then grave, in a no - bler. neath that flood, lose all their guilt stains: lose vile washed as he, all my sins a way: washed church of God be saved, to sin no more: he my theme, and shall he till Ι die: and sweet - er song sing thy pow'r to save: I'll their guilt - y stains, all their guilt - y lose stains; my sins a way, washed all my sins a way; and saved, to sin no more. be saved, to sin no more; till shall be till I die, and shall be till T die. re thy pow'r to save. I'll sing thy pow'r to save: then



79 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross drous cross on which the When I sur vey won -Lord, that I should boast save in the For - bid it, his feet. sor - row and See, from his head, his hands. ture mine. that were a Were the whole realm of na 0 my rich-est glo gain died, prince of ry God: the vain things that of Christ, death my love down. Did e'er such and flow min gled love ing, far too small; love so maz ute O 0 all pride. my loss and pour con - tempt on count but blood. fice them to his sac - ri charm me most, crown? or thorns com - pose SO rich meet, row sor all. life, my di vine, de-mands my soul, my 0

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Music: Hamburg, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

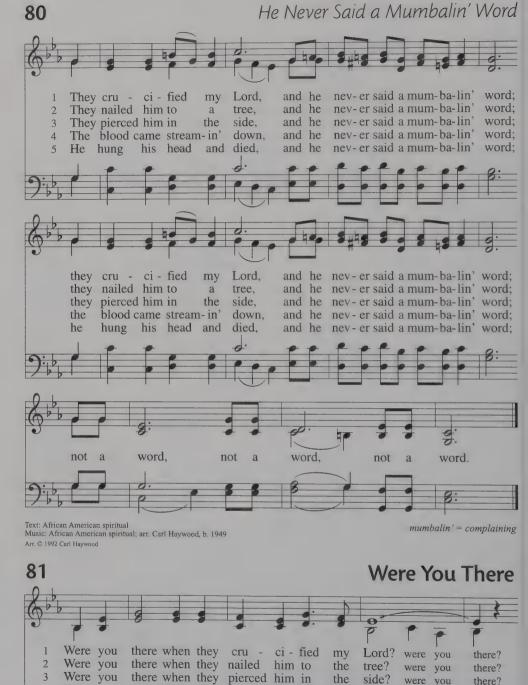
Were you

Were you

there when the

there when they

They Crucified My Lord



re - fused

him in

to

the

shine?

tomb?

you

there?

there?

sun

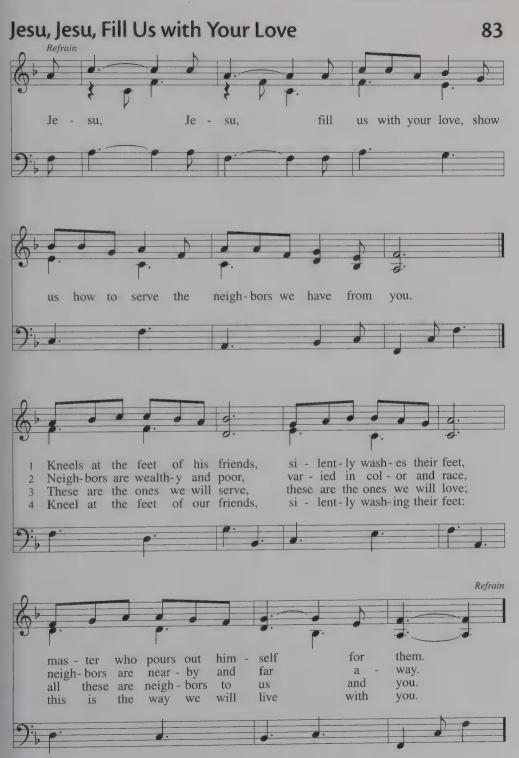


Text: African American spiritual
Music: Were You There, African American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, b. 1941
Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

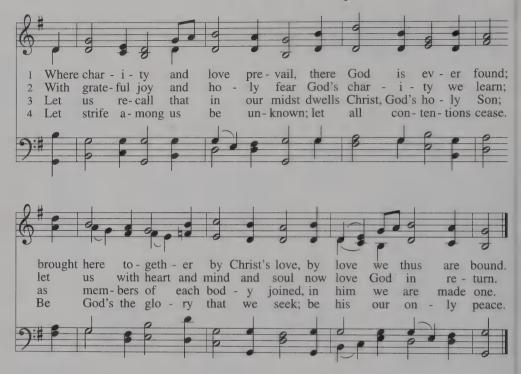


Text: Kurt Kaiser, b. 1934 Music: Patricia, Kurt Kaiser, b. 1934 © 1975 Word Music, Inc.



Text: Tom Colvin, b. 1925 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune; adapt. Tom Colvin, b. 1925; arr. Jane Marshall, b. 1924 Text and tune © 1969, arr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

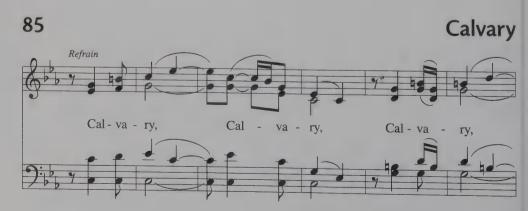
Where Charity and Love Prevail



that names the Savior's name: his family embraces all whose Father is the same.

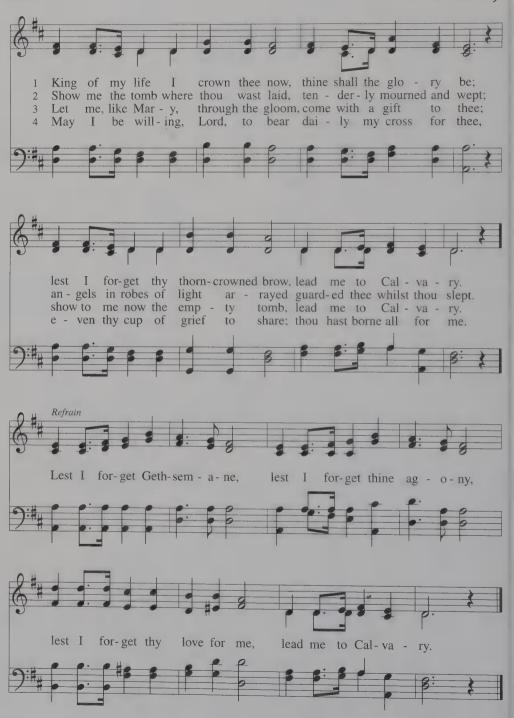
Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt. Music: Martyrdom, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824 Text @ 1960 World Library Publications, a division of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

For love excludes no race or clan 6 We now forgive each other's faults as we our own confess. that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.





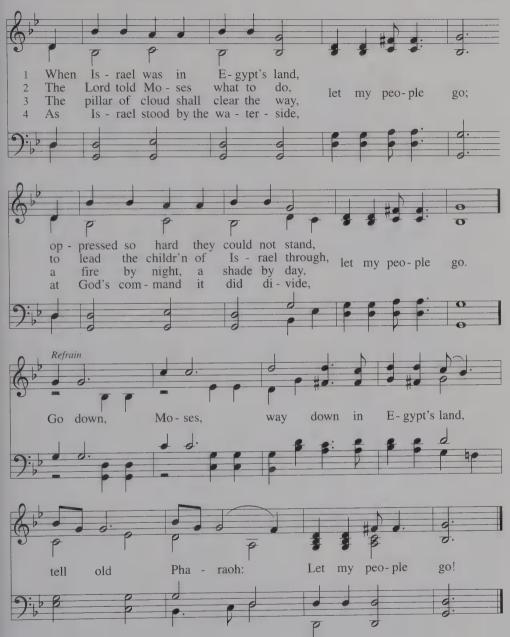




When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

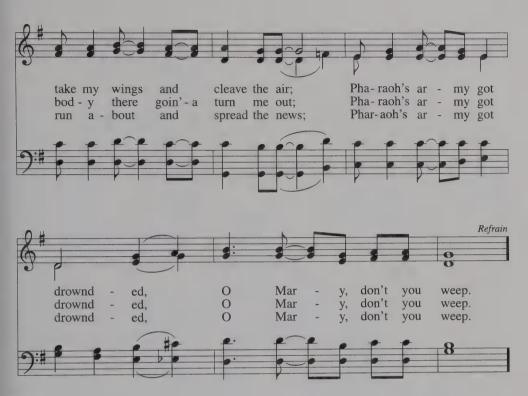
Go Down, Moses

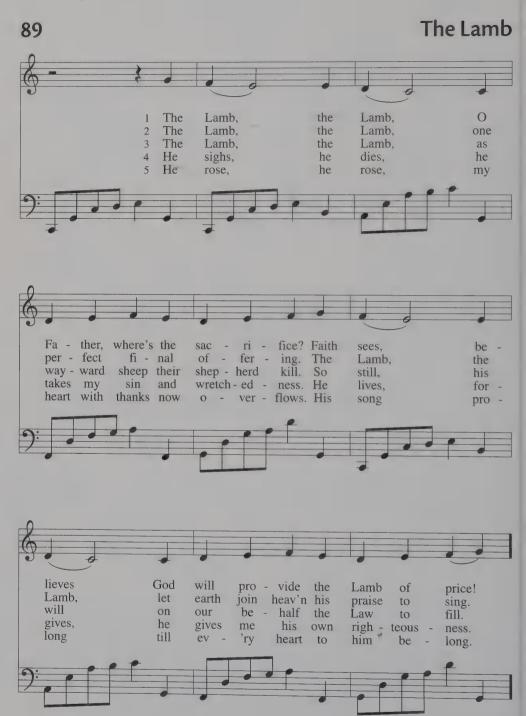
87

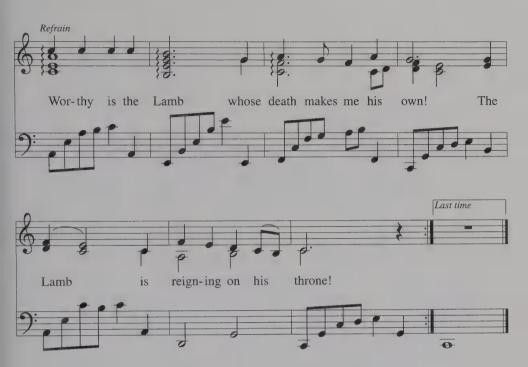


- When they had reached the other shore, let my people go; they sang the song of triumph o'er, let my people go. *Refrain*
- 6 Oh, let us all from bondage flee, let my people go; and let us all in Christ be free, let my people go. *Refrain*



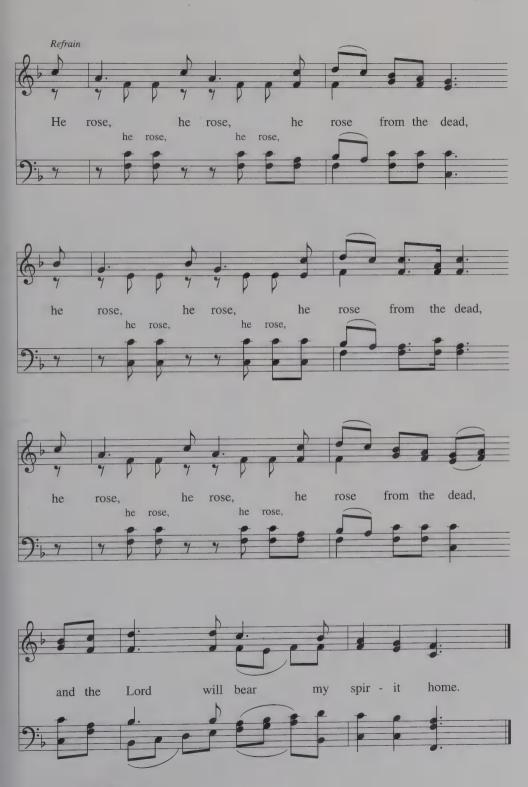






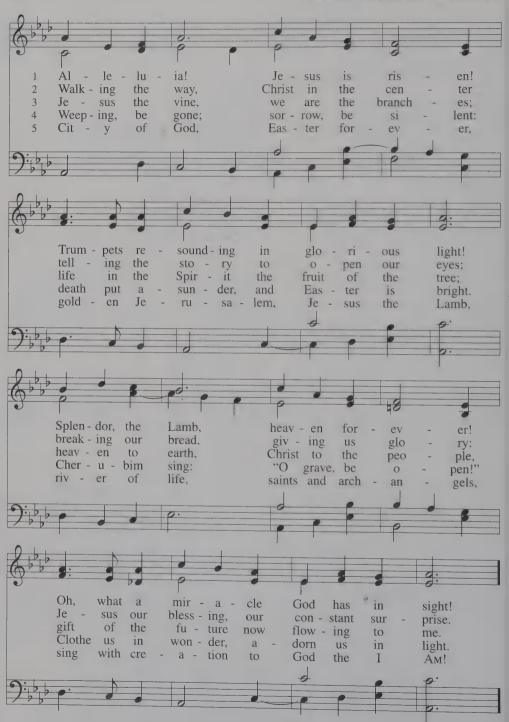


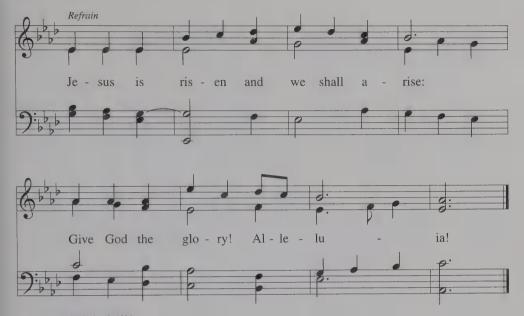




Text: African American spiritual Music: He Rose, African American spiritual

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: Earth and All Stars, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dancing before the Lord

Great is, O King, Our happiness In thy kingdom, Thou, our king.

We dance before thee, Our king, By the strength Of thy kingdom.

May our feet Be made strong; Let us dance before thee, Eternal.

Give ye praise, All angels, To him above Who is worthy of praise. 92

God Sent His Son

Because He Lives



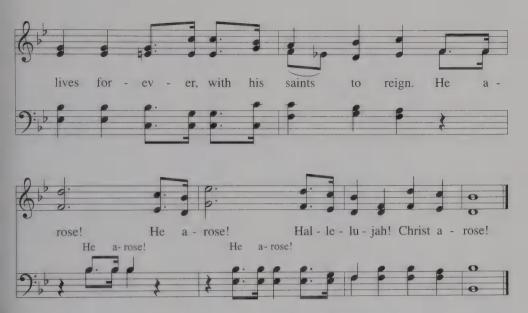




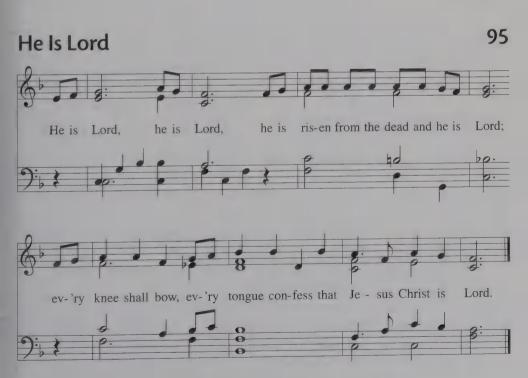
Low in the Grave He Lay

Up from the Grave He Arose



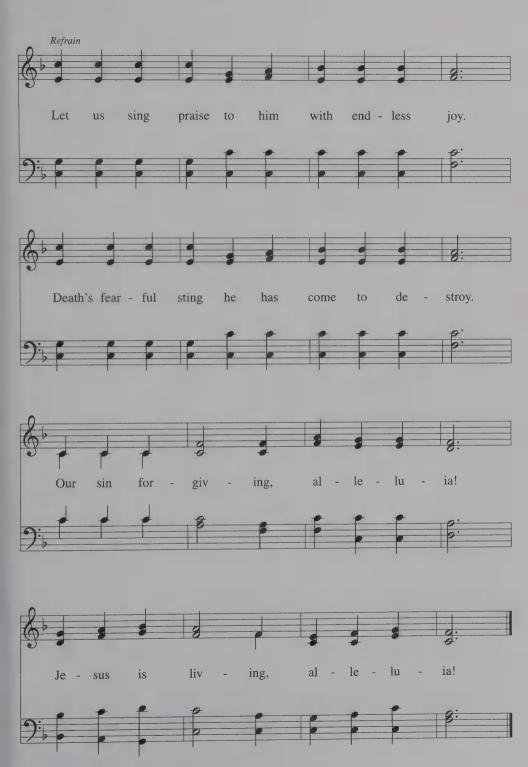


Text: Robert Lowry. 1826-1899 Music: Christ Arose. Robert Lowry, 1826-1899



Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia



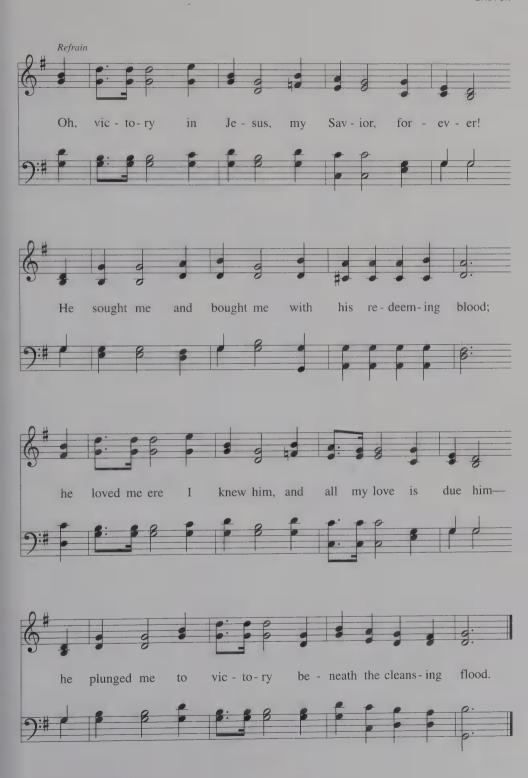


Text: Bernard Kyamanywa, b. 1938; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: Mfurahim, haleluya, Tanzanian traditional Tr. © 1977 Howard S. Olson

I Heard an Old, Old Story

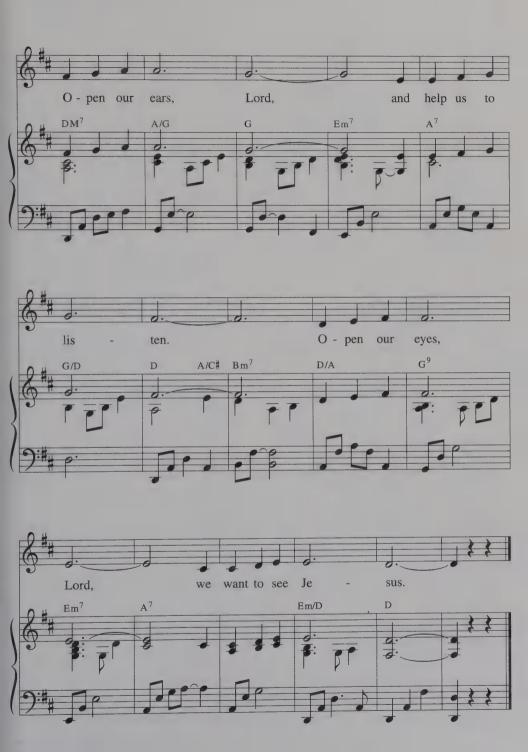
97 Victory in Jesus





Open Our Eyes, Lord





Text: Robert Cull, b. 1949 Music: Robert Cull, b. 1949 © 1976 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

How Lovely on the Mountains



Our God Reigns





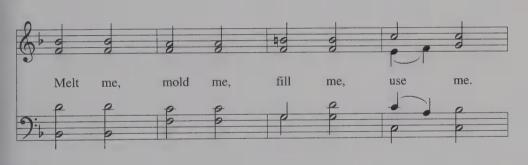
Text: Leonard E. Smith Music: OUR GOD REIGNS, Leonard E. Smith © 1974, 1978 Leonard E. Smith/New Jerusalem Music

We Praise Thee, O God









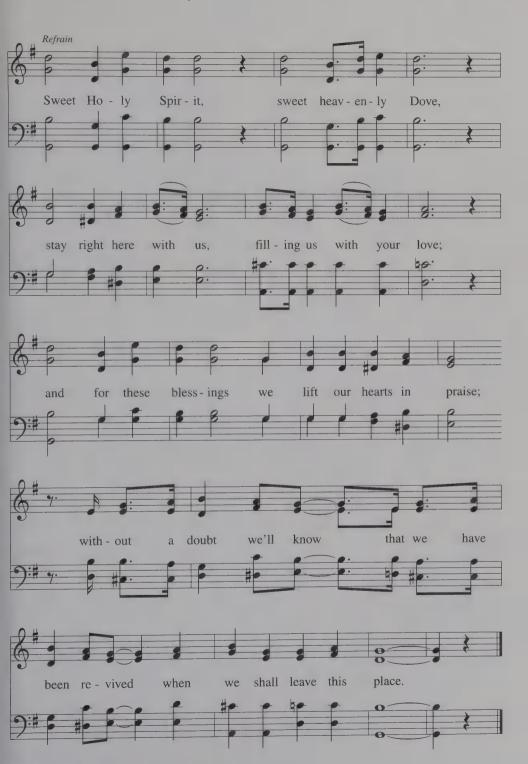


PENTECOST

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place

102 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

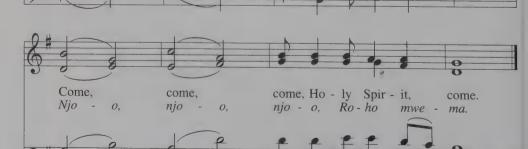




Text: Doris Akers, b. 1922 Music: Sweet, Sweet Spirit, Doris Akers, b. 1922 © 1962 Manna Music, Inc

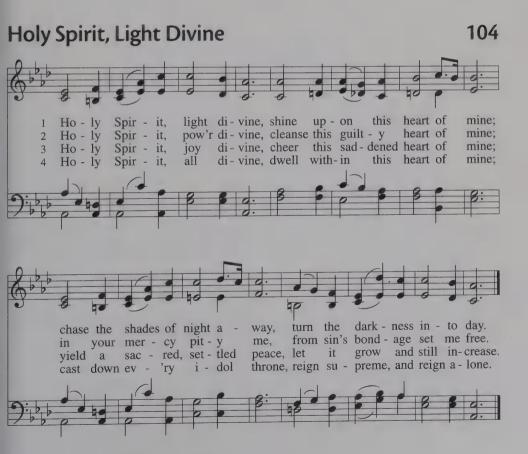
Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading





- 1 Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema, Mfariji wetu. Tufundishe ya mbinguni, tuwe watu wapya. Kipokeo
- 2 Utufanye waamini wa Yesu Mwokozi. Tukaishi kikundini, kanisani mwako. Kipokeo
- 3 Kwa huruma tubariki, tuishi na wewe. Tukatende kila kitu kuongozwa nawe. Kipokeo
- 4 Roho mwema, Mfariji, utupe hekima; Tukiwaza na kutenda, yote yawe yako. Kipokeo
- 5 Tudumishe tuwe hai na ukweli wako. Tusivutwe na dunia, tushu'die neema. Kipokeo

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: Nioo Kwetu, Roho Mwema, Wilson Niwagila; att. Egil Hovland, b. 1924
Swahili text, trans., and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Art. © Egil Hovland



Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You

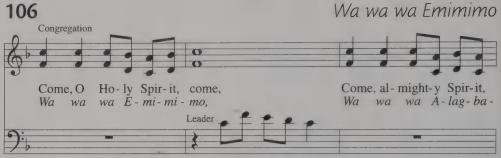
105

Spirit Song





Come, O Holy Spirit, Come



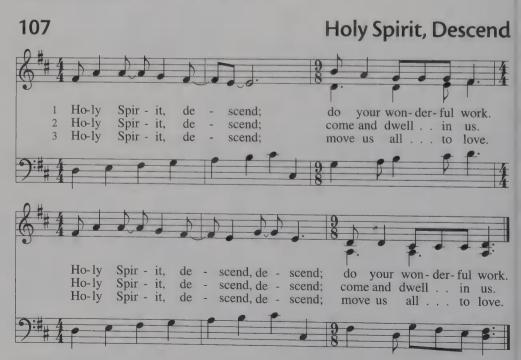
Ho-ly Spir-it, come. E-mi-o-lo-ye.



al-might-y Spir-it, come. A - lag - ba - ra - me - ta.

O Spir-it, come. E-mi-mi-mo.

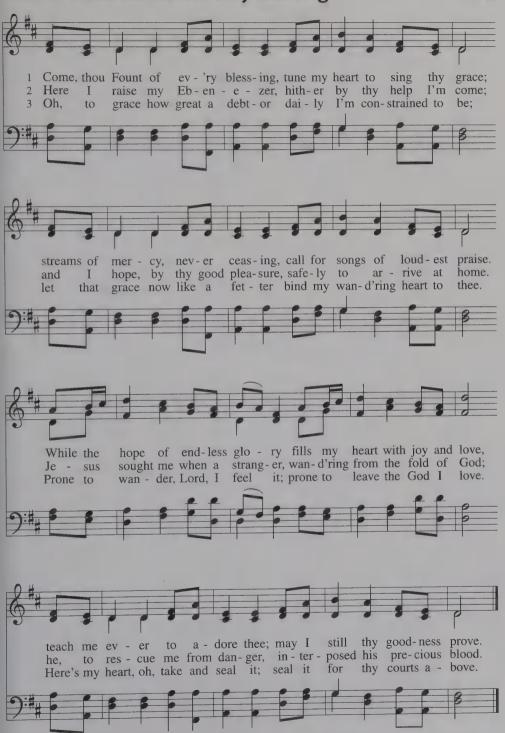
Text: The Church of the Lord (Aladura); para. I-to Loh, b. 1936
Music: The Church of the Lord (Aladura); transc. I-to Loh, b. 1936
Text and music © The Church of the Lord (Aladura)
Transc. and English para. © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian School of Music, Liturgy and the Arts



Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson Music: NYAME NE SENSE, Ghanaian traditional; arr. *This Far by Faith* Text and arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

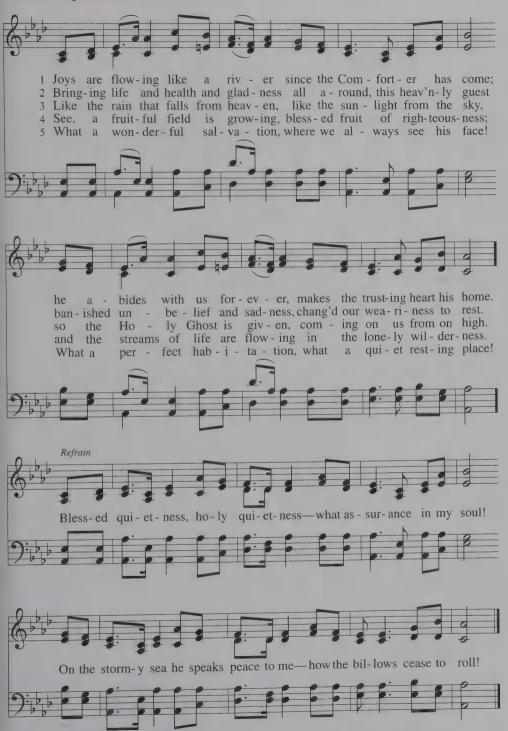
108





Music: I'M Goin'-A Sing, African American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, b. 1941 Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company Blessed Quietness

110

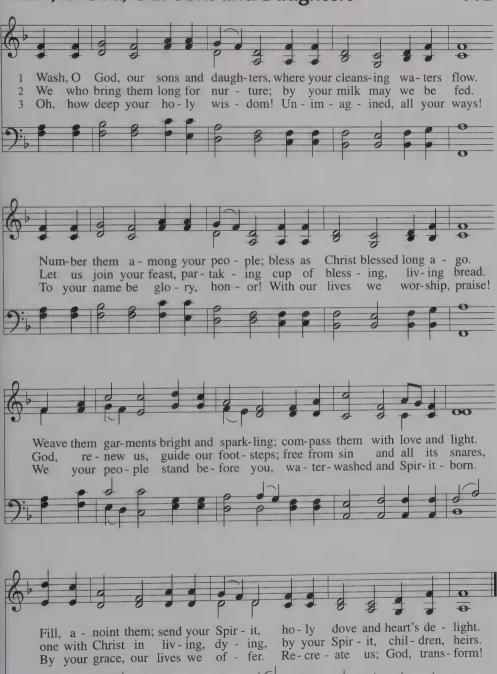




Text: African American spiritual Music: His Name So Sweet, African American spiritual; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

112



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company
Arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

Refrain All

Wade

in the

wa - ter.

wade

Have You Got Good Religion?

Wade in the Water

wa-ter, chil-dren.

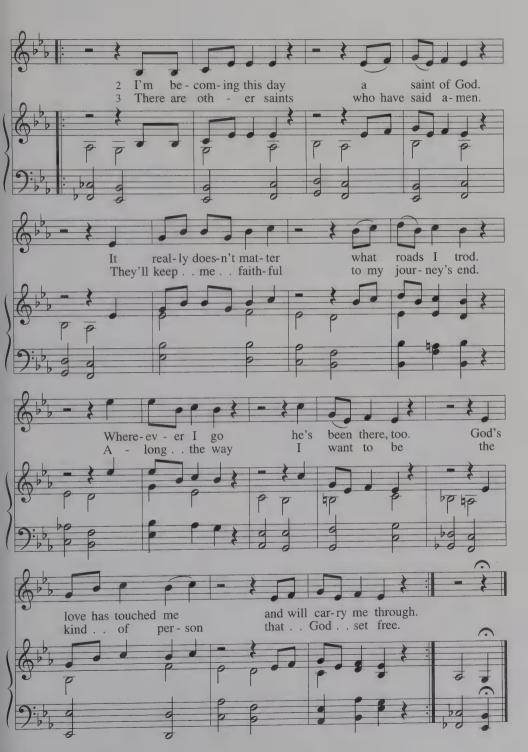
the





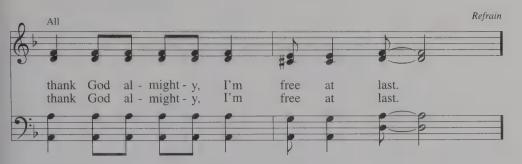
Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood, b. 1949 Arr. © 1992 Carl Haywood



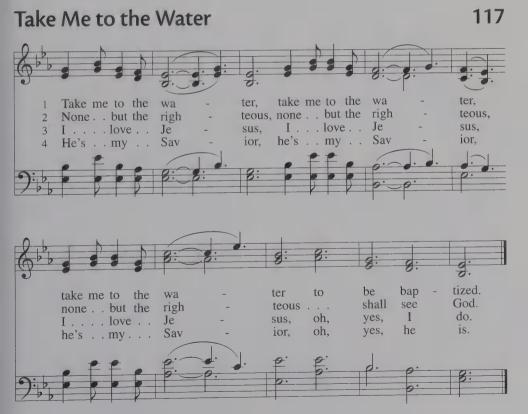


Text: Kenneth D. Larkin Music: WET SAINTS, Edward V. Bonnemère, 1921-1996 © 1994 Augsburg Fortress

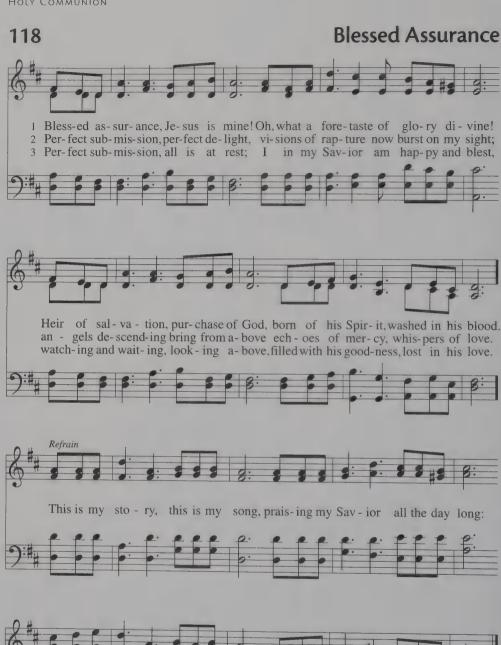


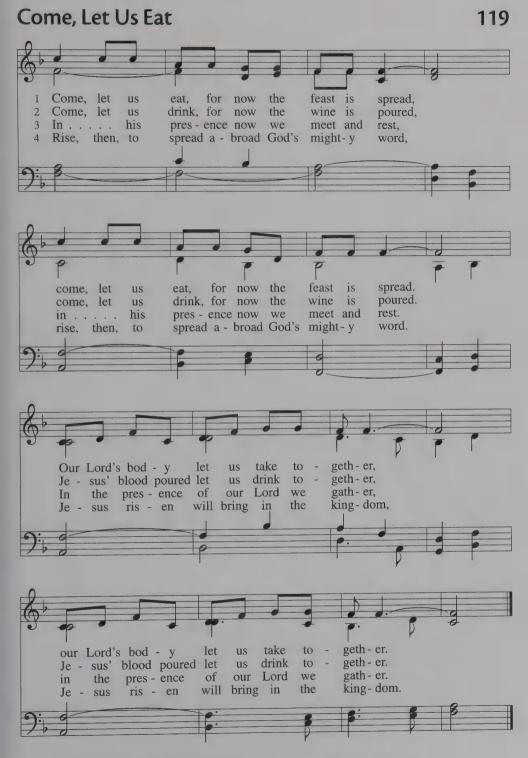


Text: traditional Music: African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland. 1937-1986 and Verolga Nix, b. 1933 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company



Text: traditional Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935 Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer





Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt. Music: A va DE, Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925; arr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and arr. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress

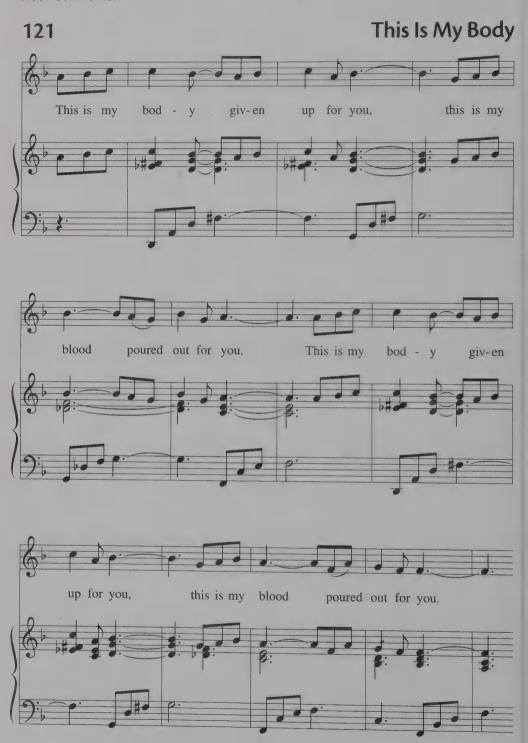
Lord, I Hear of Showers of Blessings

120 Even Me



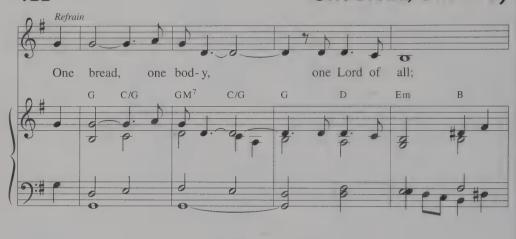
o.

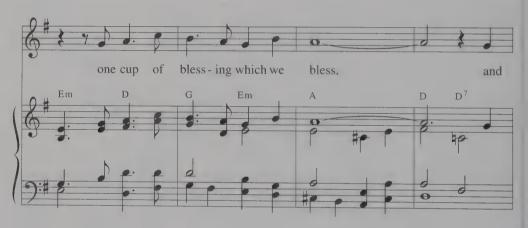


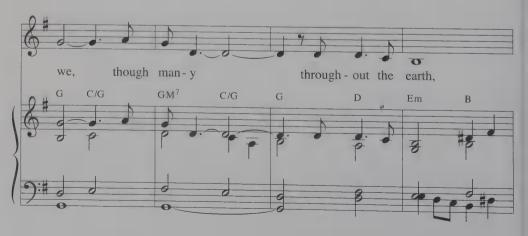


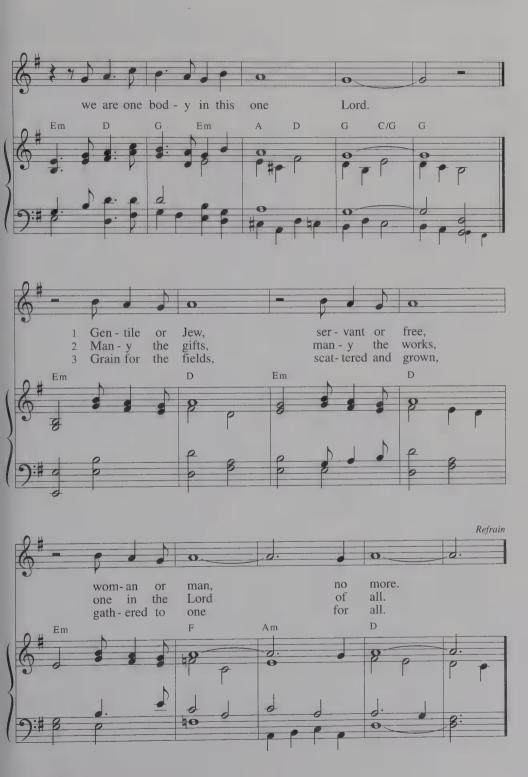


One Bread, One Body



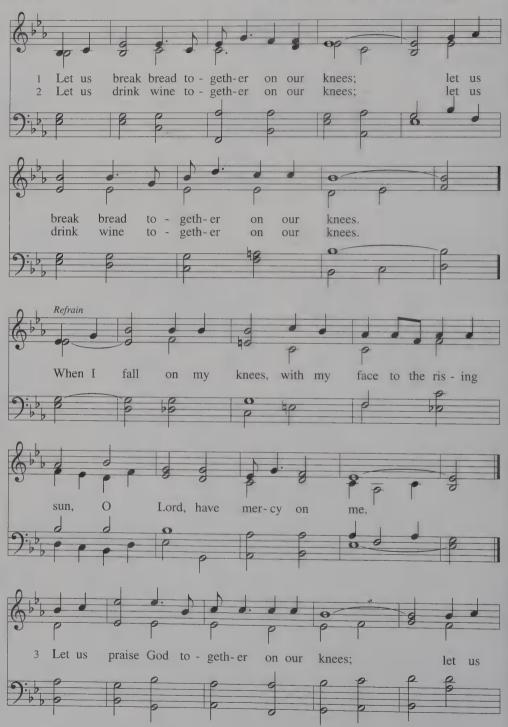


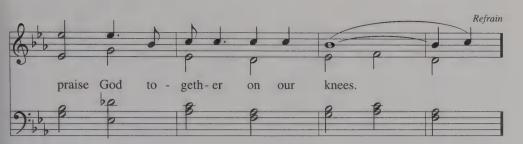




Text: John Foley, b. 1939 Music: One Bread, One Body, John Foley, b. 1939 © 1978, 1989 John B. Foley and New Dawn Music

Let Us Break Bread Together

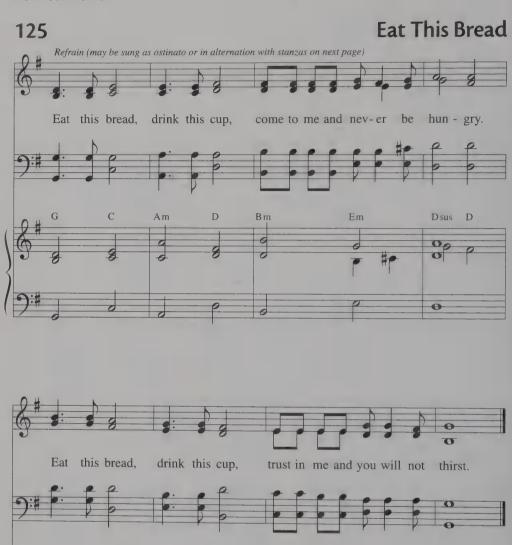


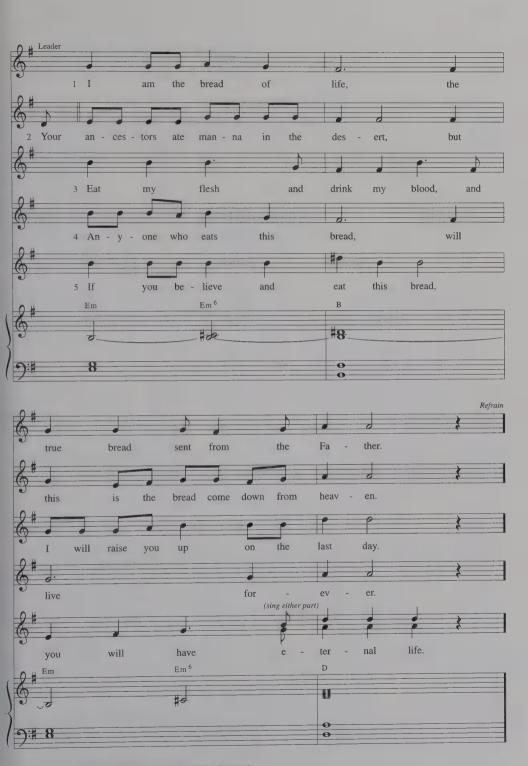


Text: African American spiritual
Music: Break Bread Together, African American spiritual; arr. Contemporary Worship 4, 1972
Arr. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4, admin. Augsburg Fortress



Text: Richard Blanchard, b. 1925 Music: FILI, My Cup, Richard Blanchard, b. 1925; arr. Eugene Clark © 1964 Word Music, Inc.





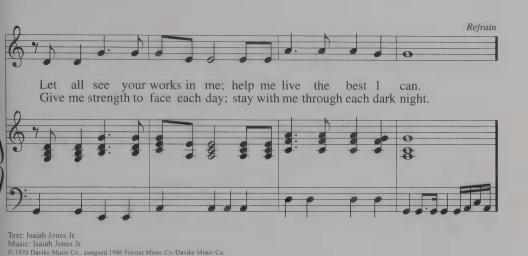
Text: John 6; adapt. Robert J. Batastini, b. 1942 and the Taizé Community Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.





Text: Psalm 34, adapt. Music: James E. Moore, Jr. Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

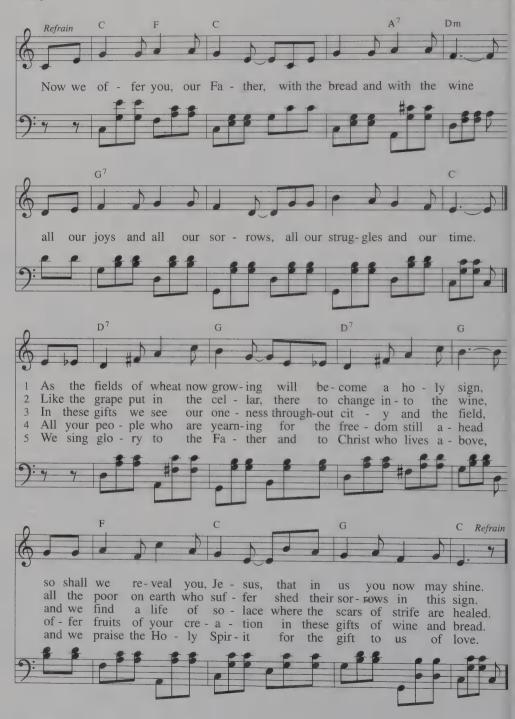






Text: Kirk Franklin Music: Kirk Franklin; arr. Keith Hampton © 1995 Lilly Mack Music

Now We Offer



Text: Misa popular nicaragüense; tr. Gerald Thorson, b. 1921 Music: TE OFRECEMOS, Nicaraguan folk tune; arr. Vernon Hamberg, b. 1948 Tr. © 1989 Lutheran World Federation

Arr. © 1989 Augsburg Fortress

your

led

pre - cepts,

walk-ing

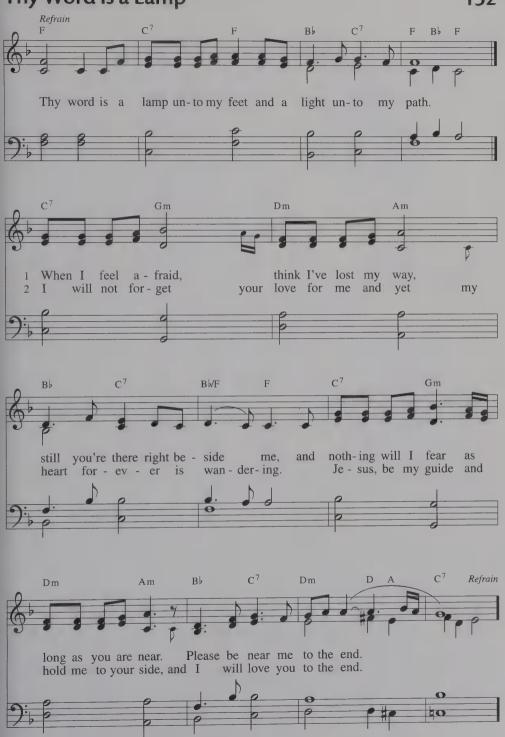
in your

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: Good Soil, Handt Hanson, b. 1950 © 1985 Prince of Peace/Changing Church, Inc.

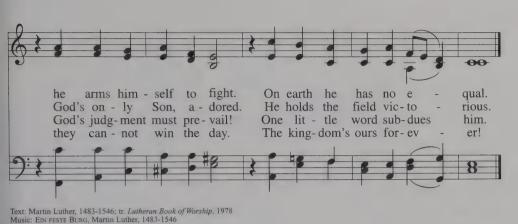
Thy Word Is a Lamp



Text: Amy Grant, b. 1960
Music: THY WORD, Michael W. Smith, b. 1957; arr. Keith Phillips

© 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co/ Bug and Bear Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

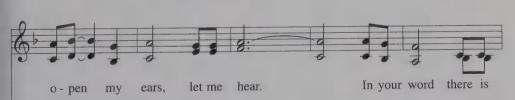
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 133 sword and shield vic might - y for - tress is our God, a No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re threat-'ning to de -Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all shall a - bide. God's Word for no thanks to foes, who ev - er to rious: he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and ed. ject But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom we trem-ble not, vour us. un - moved we stand; they fear it: for God him - self fights by our wins sal - va - tion glo -The old sa - tan - ic rious. God him-self e lect ed. You ask who this may be? can - not o - ver pow'r Let this world's ty - rant rage; us. weap-ons of the Spir Were they to take our house. has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might The Lord of hosts is Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail: goods, hon-or. child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

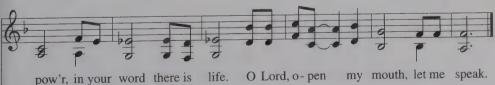


Tr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

O Lord, Open My Eyes

O Lord, o - pen my eyes, let me see. O Lord,





pow'r, in your word there is life. O Lord, o-pen my mouth, let me speak

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson Music: Ghanaian traditional, arr. This Far by Faith Text and arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Come, We That Love the Lord

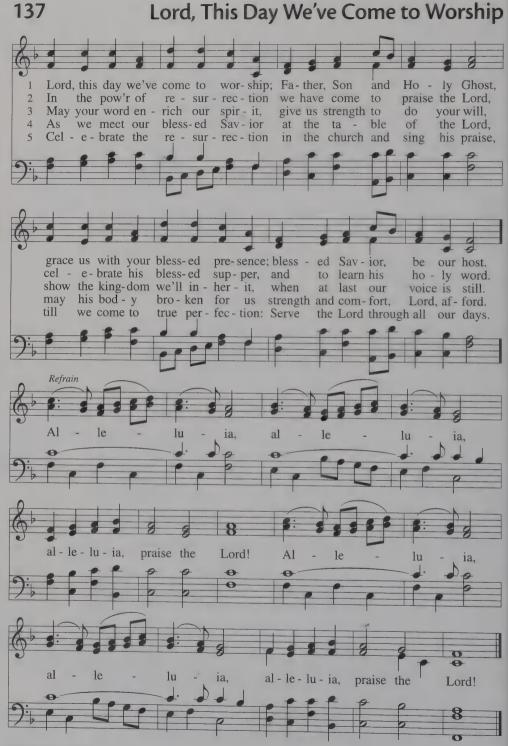


We Have Come into His House

136



Text: Bruce Ballinger, b. 1945 Music: Bruce Ballinger, b. 1945 © 1976 Sound III, Inc. admin. MCA Music Publishing

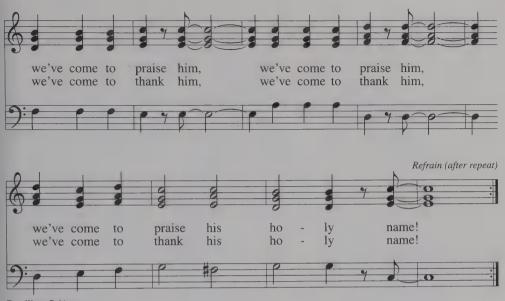


Text: Richard C. Dickinson Music: GLORIOUS NAME, B. B. McKinney, 1886-1952 Text © 1995 Richard C. Dickinson Music © 1942, 1970 Broadman Press

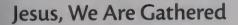


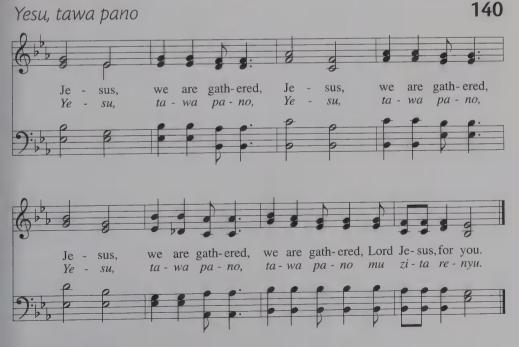
What a Blessing





Text: Wayne Robinson Music: Wayne Robinson © 1994 Wayne Robinson

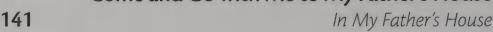




Text: Patrick Matsikenyiri
Music: YESU, TAWA PANO, Patrick Matsikenyiri

WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

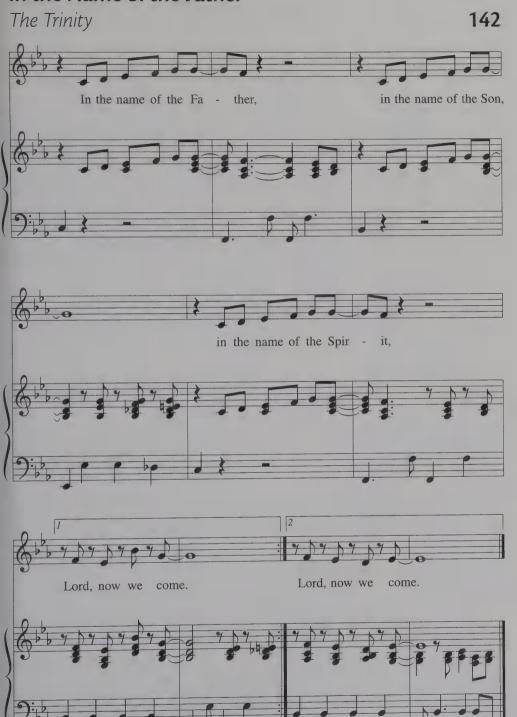
Come and Go with Me to My Father's House





- 5 All is peace and love in my Father's house . . .
- 6 We will dance and sing in my Father's house . . .
- 7 We will praise the Lord in my Father's house . . .

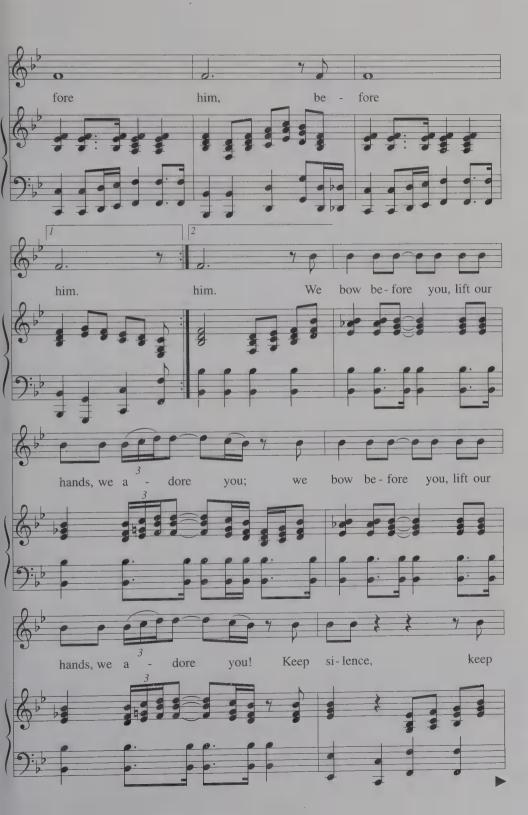
In the Name of the Father GATHERING



Text: James M. Capers, b. 1948 Music: James M. Capers, b. 1948 © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

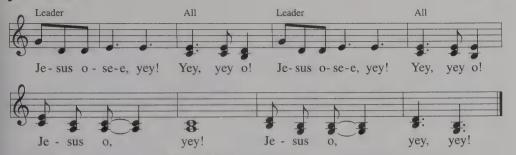






Music © 1988 Glenn Burleigh, Burleigh Inspirations Music





Literal translation: Jesus has won the good battle. This Jesus is good, yes! Jesus, Jesus is good.

Text: Ghanaian traditional

Music: Ghanaian traditional; transcribed Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson



Text: A. T. Olajide Olude, b. 1908; tr. Biodun Adebesin, b. 1928; versification Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919 Music: Nicerla, A. T. Olajide Olude, b. 1908

Tr. and versification © 1964 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

I Can Hear My Savior Calling

146

Where He Leads Me



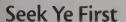
Text: E. W. Blandy Music: Norris, John S. Norris, 1844-1907

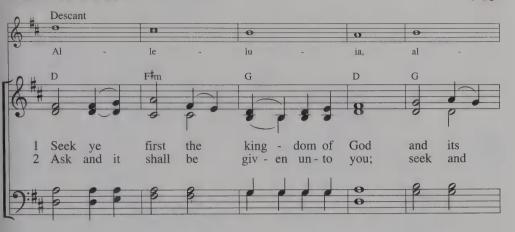


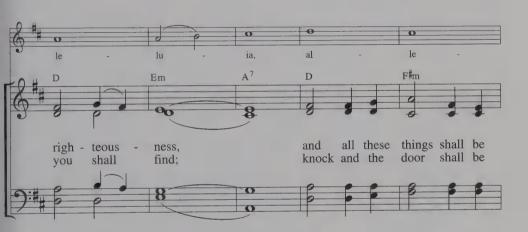
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

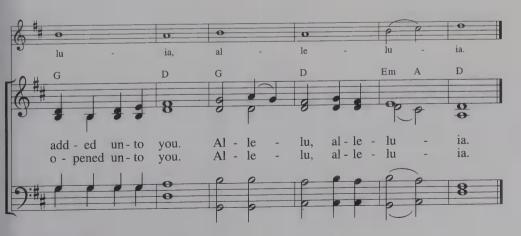


Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood, b. 1949 Arr. © 1992 Carl Haywood









Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior



He Leadeth Me

151



1 He lead- eth me: oh, bless- ed thought! Oh, wordswith heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!

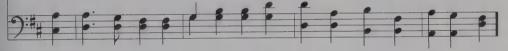
2 Some-times midscenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E - den's bow-ers bloom, 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur-mur nor re - pine;

4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,





What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me. by wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me. con - tent, what-ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me. e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.





He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, by his own hand he lead-eth me.





His faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead-eth me.



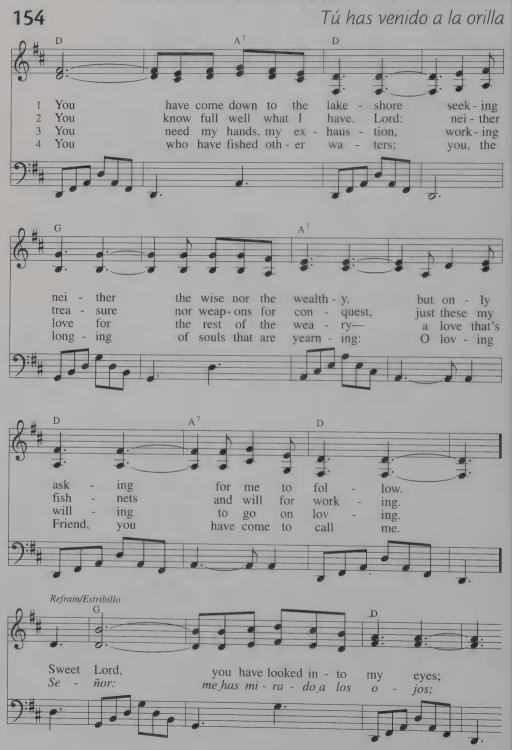
Have Thine Own Way, Lord





Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. This Far by Faith Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

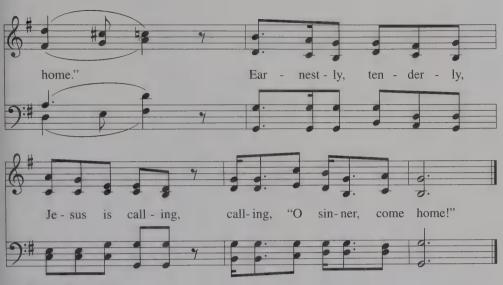
You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

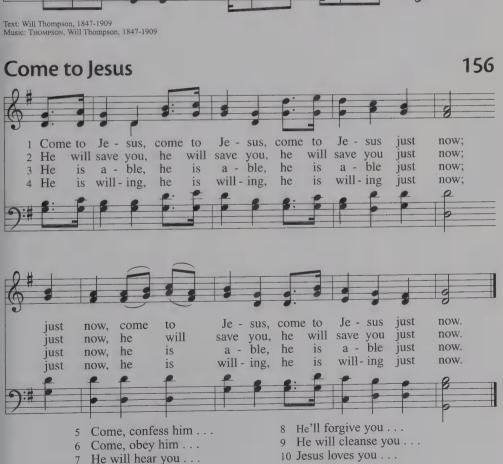




- 1 Tú has venido a la orilla; no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos; tan sólo quieres que yo te siga. Estribillo
- 2 Tú sabes bien lo que tengo: en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas; tan sólo redes y mi trabajo. Estribilo
- 3 Tú necesitas mis manos, mi cansancio que a otros descanse, amor que quiera seguir amando. Estribillo
- 4 Tú, Pescador de otros mares, ansia eterna de almas que esperan. Amigo bueno, que así me llamas. Estribillo

155 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling and ten - der - ly ly Je sus is call - ing, tar - ry when Why should we Je sus is plead - ing, Oh. for the won - der - ful love he prom - ised, has call - ing for you and for me. on the por - tals he's plead-ing for and for you Why should we lin - ger me? and and for prom-ised for you me! Though we have sinned, he has wait-ing and watch-ing, watch-ing for you and for me. heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me? mer-cy and par-don, par - don for you and for me. Refrain "Come home, come home! You who are wea-ry, come Come home, come home!





Text: traditional Music: traditional

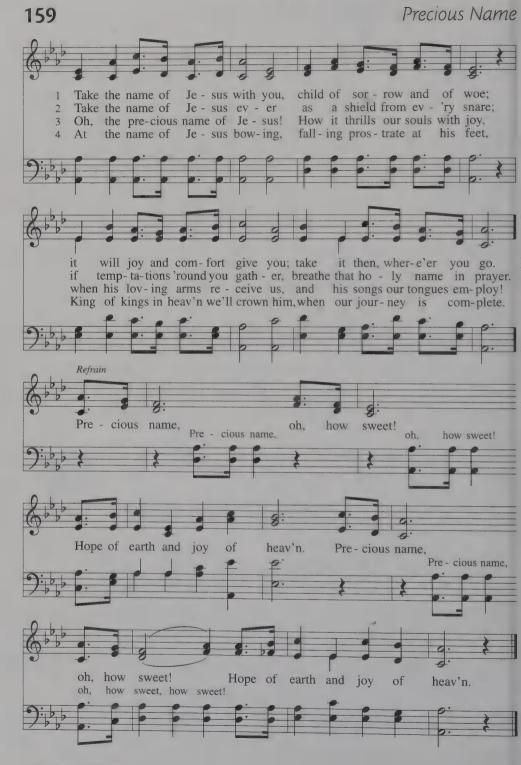
God Be with You till We Meet Again



Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904 Music: God Be WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833-1896



Take the Name of Jesus with You



Text: Lydia Baxter, 1809-1874 Music: Precious Name, William H. Doane, 1832-1915



Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993 Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935 Text and tune © 1940 Unichappell Music, Inc. Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: Ar hyd y nos, Welsh Text © 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda

May God Bless Us



Text: Numbers 6:24, adapt. Music: African

We Shall Not Be Alone

Be in the fleeting word, our Father, the stumbling effort. Touch mind and heart and life, that as we move from this place into the way that we must take, we shall not be alone, but feel thy presence beside us, all the way.

163



Text: African American spiritual Music: GREAT DAY, African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

In the Morning When I Rise

Give Me Jesus

165



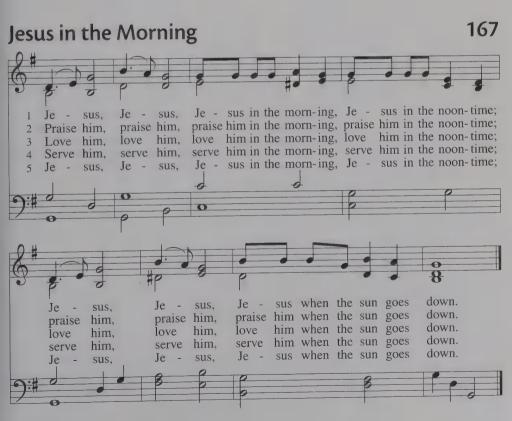
Text: African American spiritual
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. L. L. Fleming, b. 1936
Arr. © 1973 Augsburg Publishing House

Oh, I Woke Up This Morning

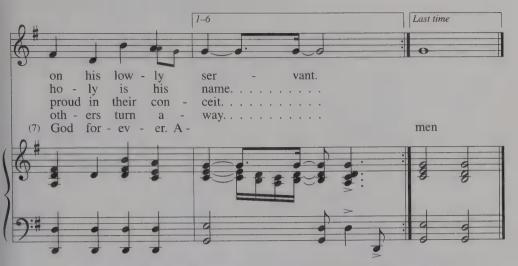




Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual







- 5 He comes to all who seek his love, for he remembers the promise that he had made to Abraham and to the children of God.
- 6 All glory be to God on high, and to his Son, God the Savior, and to the Spirit of life and truth that burns within our hearts.
- 7 Just as it was, it is today, and it shall last through all tomorrows, and so my soul magnifies the Lord; praise God forever. Amen

Text: Grayson Warren Brown; based on Luke 1:46-55 Music: Grayson Warren Brown © 1992 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. OCP Publications

A Prayer at Evening

Lord, I sing your praise, the whole day through until the night. Dad's nets are filled, I have helped him. We have drawn them in, stamping the rhythm with our feet, the muscles tense. We have sung your praise.

On the beach, there were our mammies, who bought the blessing out of the nets, out of the nets into their basins.

They rushed to the market, returned and bought again.

Lord, what a blessing is the sea with fish in plenty.

Lord, that is the story of your grace.

Nets tear, and we succumb because we cannot hold them.

Lord, with your praise we drop off to sleep.

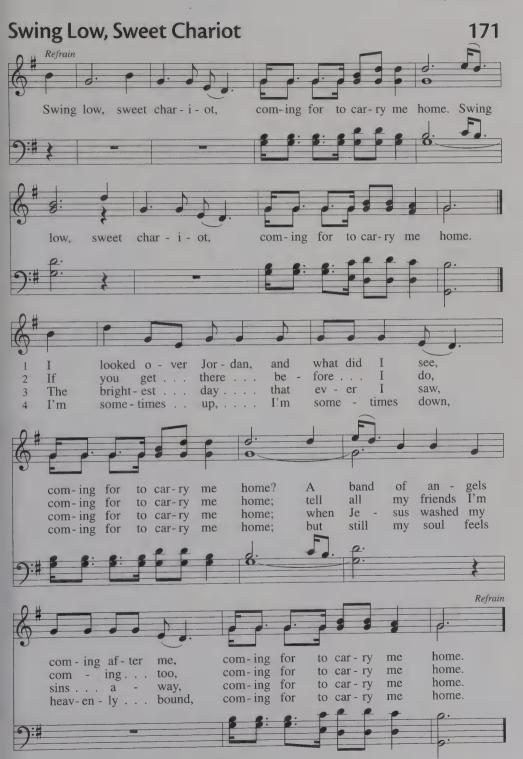
Carry us through the night, make us fresh for the morning.

Hallelujah for the day!

And blessing for the night!

169

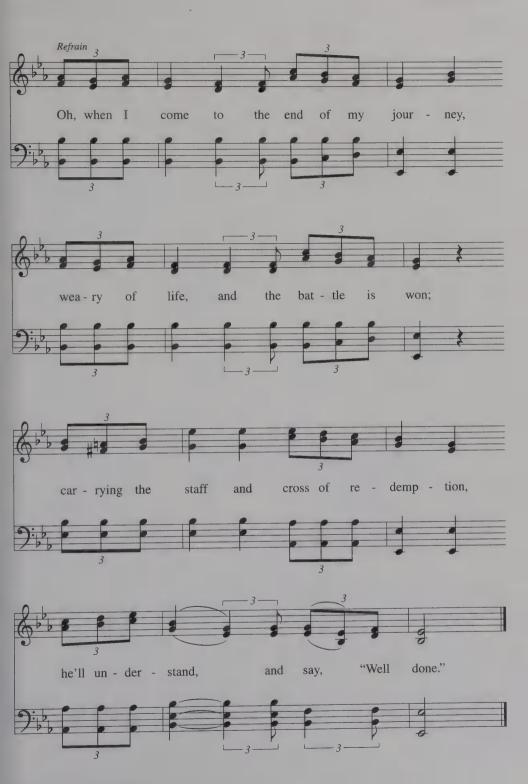




HOPE, COMFORT

If When You Give the Best of Your Service



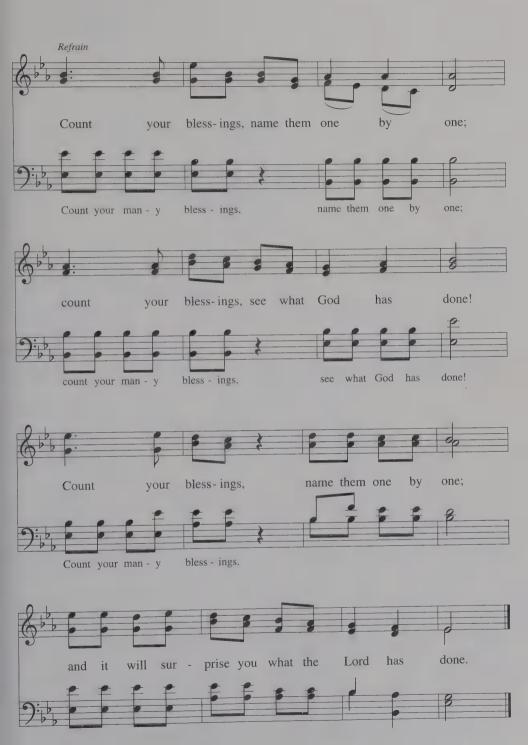


When upon Life's Billows

173

Count Your Blessings

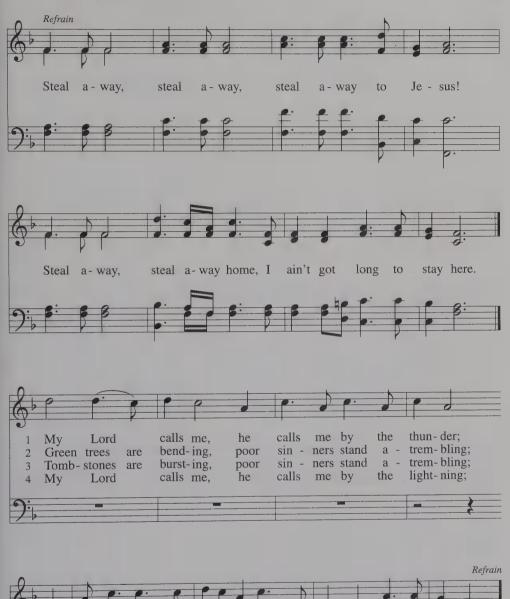


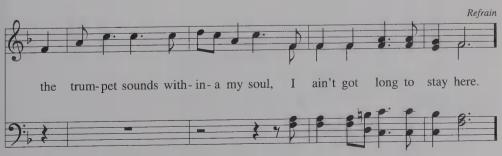


Deep River



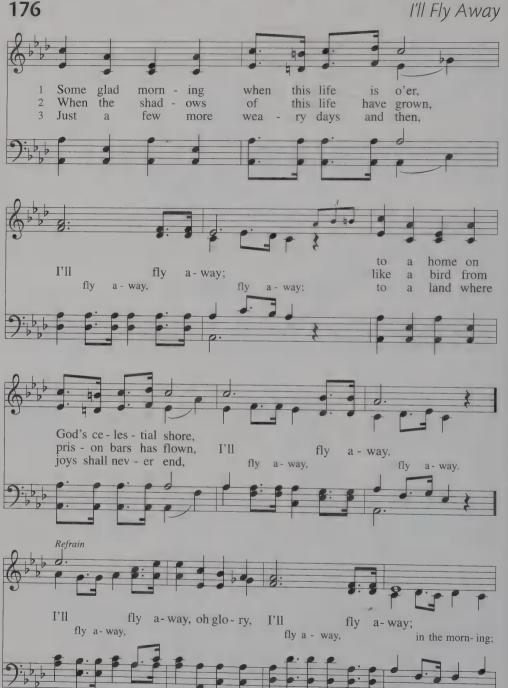
Text: African American spiritual Music: DEEP RIVER, African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

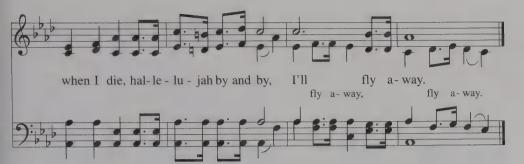




HOPE, COMFORT

Some Glad Morning When This Life Is O'er





Text: Albert E. Brumley
Music: I'LL FLY AWAY, Albert E. Brumley
© 1932, 1980 Albert E. Brumley, admin. Integrated Copyright Group

O God, Save Me

177

Our house stood within a few rods of the Chesapeake Bay, whose broad bosom was ever white with sails from every quarter of the habitable globe. Those beautiful vessels, robed in white, and so delightful to the eyes of freemen, were to me so many shrouded ghosts, to terrify and torment me with thoughts of my wretched condition.

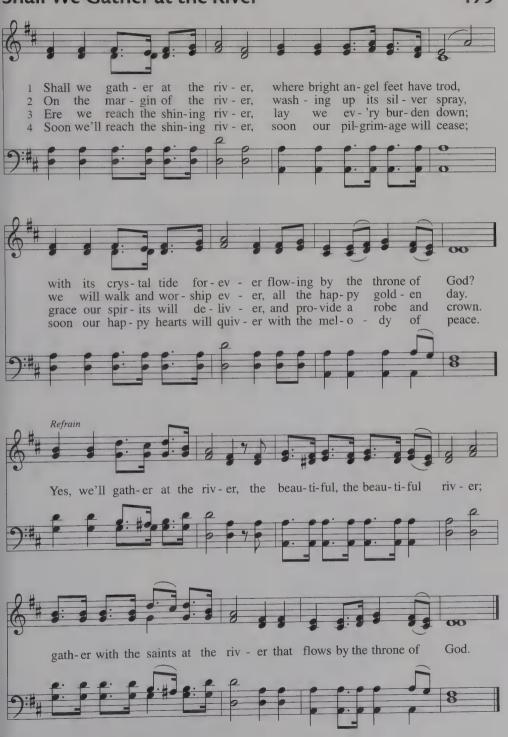
I have often, in the deep stillness of a summer's Sabbath, stood all alone upon the banks of that noble bay, and traced, with saddened heart and tearful eye, the countless number of sails moving off to the mighty ocean. The sight of these always affected me powerfully. My thoughts would compel utterance; and there, with no audience but the Almighty, I would pour out my soul's complaint in my rude way with an apostrophe to the multitude of ships.

"You are loosed from your moorings, and free. I am fast in my chains, and am a slave! You move merrily before the gentle gale, and I sadly before the bloody whip. You are freedom's swift-winged angels, that fly around the world; I am confined in bonds of iron. Oh, that I were free! Oh, that I were one of your gallant decks, and under your protecting wing. Alas! betwixt me and you the turbid waters roll. Go on, go on; Oh, that I could also go! Could I but swim! If I could fly! Oh, why was I born a man, of whom to make a brute! The glad ship is gone: she hides in the dim distance. I am left in the hell of unending slavery.

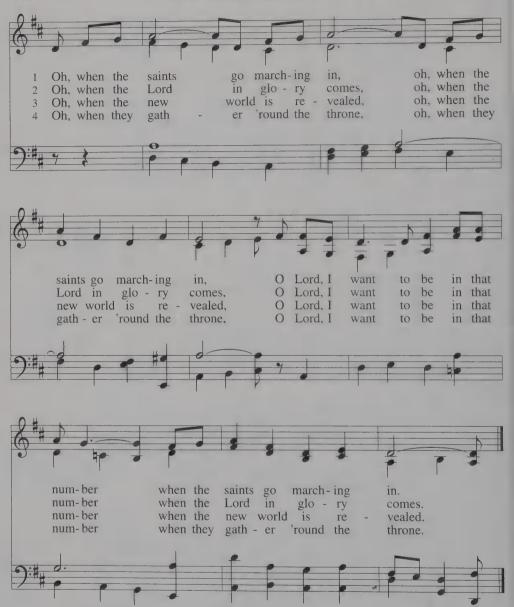
"O God, save me! God, deliver me! Let me be free!—Is there any God? Why am I a slave? I will run away. I will not stand it. Get caught or get clear, I'll try it. I had as well die with ague as with fever. I have only one life to lose. I had as well be killed running as die standing. Only think of it: one hundred miles north, and I am free! Try it? Yes! God helping me, I will. It cannot be that I shall live and die a slave. I will take to the water. This very bay shall yet bear me into freedom."



Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

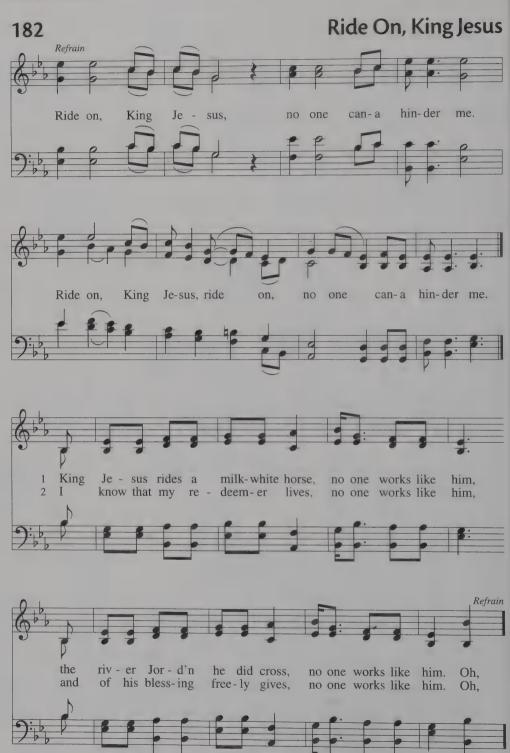


Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



- 5 Oh, when they crown him King of kings, oh, when they crown him King of kings, O Lord, I want to be in that number when they crown him King of kings.
- And on that hallelujah day,
 and on that hallelujah day,
 O Lord, I want to be in that number on that hallelujah day.

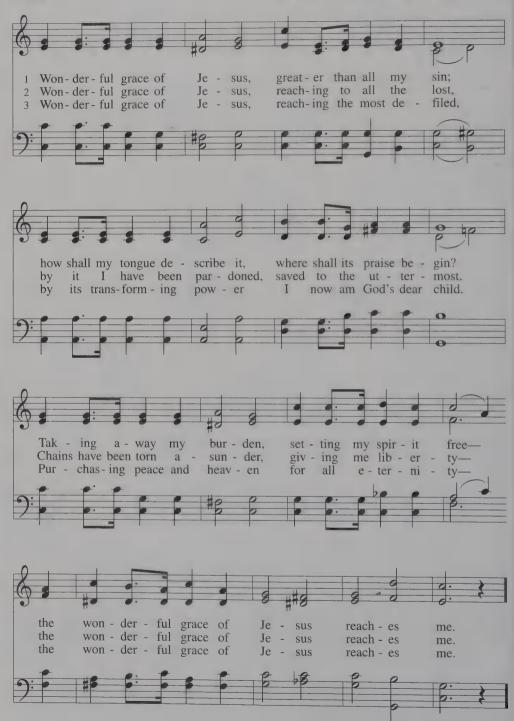


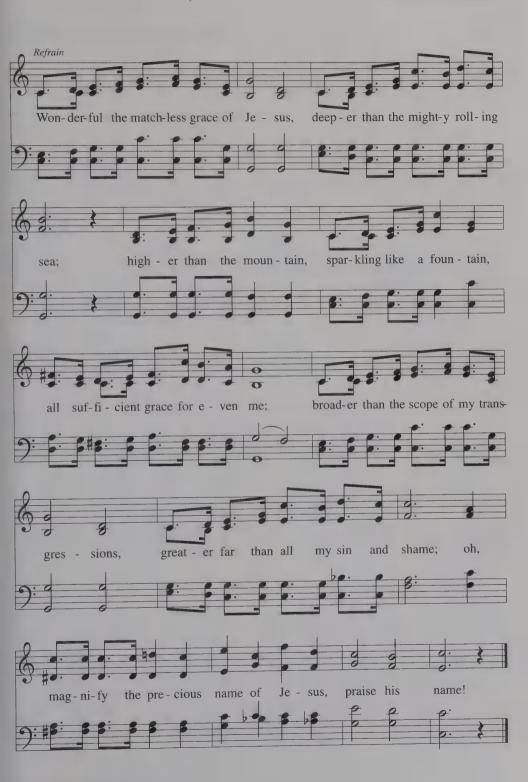


Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. Hezekiah Brinson Jr., b. 1958 Arr. © 1990 Hezekiah Brinson, Jr.



Wonderful Grace of Jesus



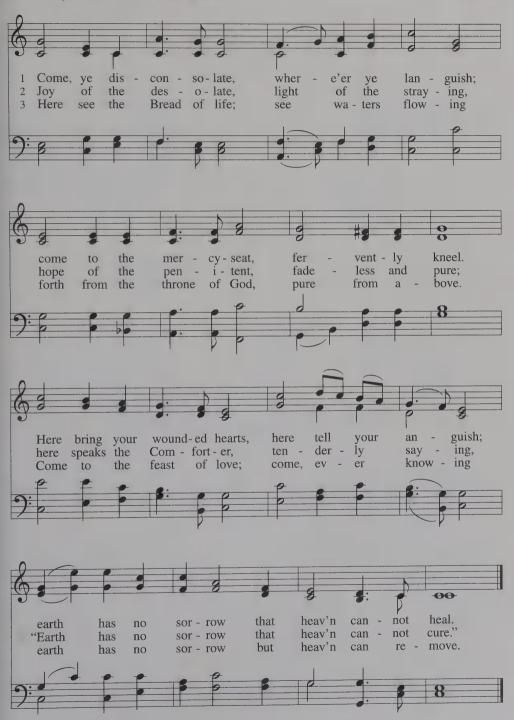


Text: Haldor Lillenas, 1885-1959 Music: Wonderful Grace, Haldor Lillenas, 1885-1959



Come, Ye Disconsolate

186



God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name:

187 Freely, Freely



Text: Carol Owens, b. 1931
Music: Freely, Freely, Carol Owens, b. 1931
© 1972 Bud John Songs, Inc., admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing

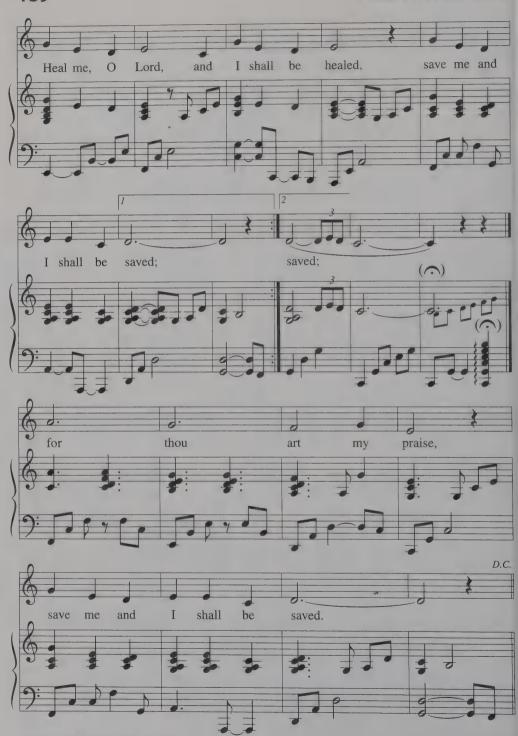
I Was Sinking Deep in Sin

Love Lifted Me

188



Heal Me, O Lord



Text: Steven Eulberg; based on Jeremiah 17:14 Music: Steven Eulberg

Text and music © 1990 Steven B. Eulberg, published by Owl Mountain Music



Text: Isaiah Jones Jr.; Hezekiah Brinson Jr., b. 1958, refrain Music: Isaiah Jones Jr.; arr. Hezekiah Brinson Jr. Text and music © 1973 Davike Music Co., assigned 1986 Fricout Music Co./Davike Music Co.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

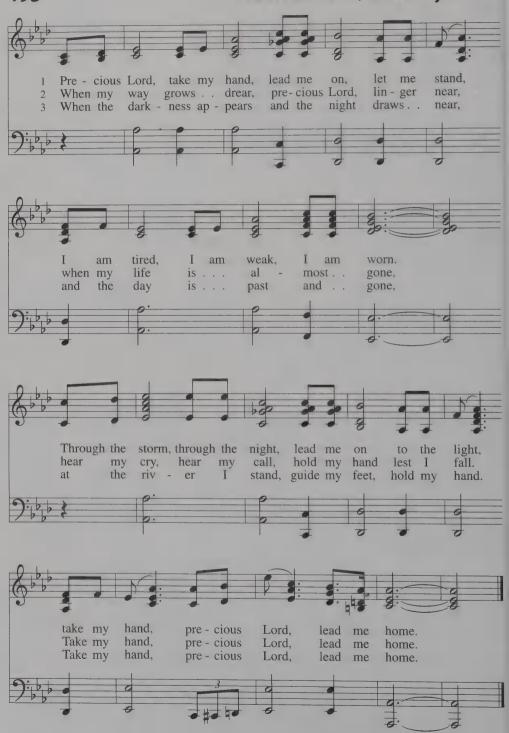


Text: African American spiritual Music: Jesus Lifted Me, African American spiritual; arr. With One Voice, 1995 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress



Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Music: The Solid Rock, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

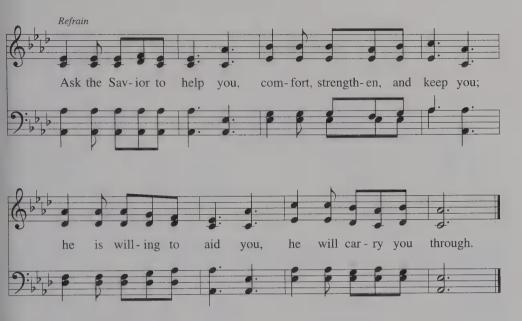


Text: George N. Allen, 1812-1877; adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993 Music: Precious Lord, Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993, based on Maitland, George N. Allen © 1938 Unichappell Music, Inc. It Is Well with My Soul

194





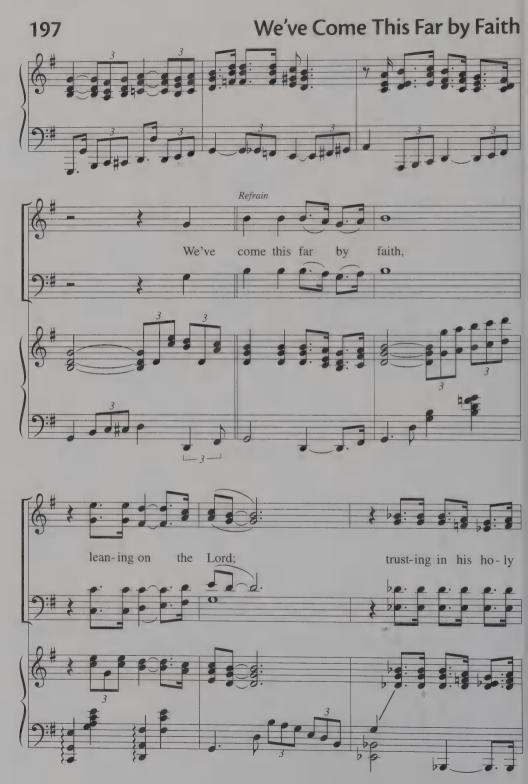


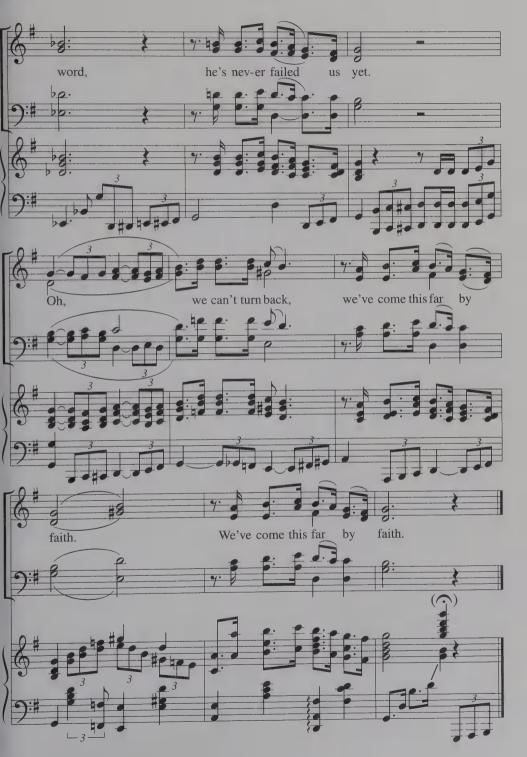
Text: Horatio R. Palmer, 1834-1907 Music: PALMER, Horatio R. Palmer, 1834-1907

Help Me

196

Help me, help me.
Every day, every day, Lord, help me.
I ask my Lord for help in mind,
to be like Jesus now.
Help me, help me, Lord; I am thine.
Help me, help me, Christ, God's friend.
Help me, help me, Jesus, I am thine.
Help me say, the Lord is mine.
Help me say, Lord, I am thine.
Help me, help me, O Lord.
Help me to come to thee when you call.
Help me to say, Lord, thou art all.





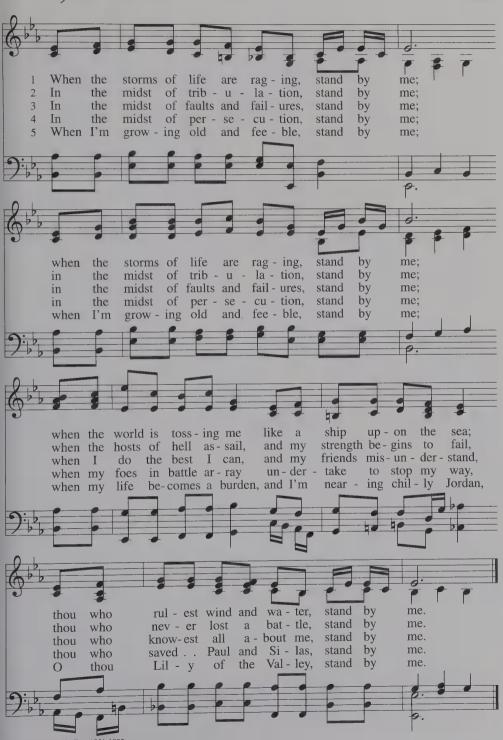


Text: Albert A. Goodson Music: Albert A. Goodson © 1965, 1993 Manna Music

When the Storms of Life Are Raging

Stand by Me

198



Text: Charles A. Tindley, 1851-1933
Music: STAND BY ME, Charles A. Tindley, 1851-1933; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 and Verolga Nix, b. 1933
Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company



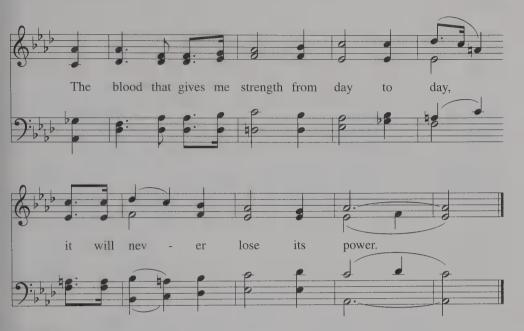
Text: African American spiritual Music: YARMOUTH, African American spiritual

Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide



The Blood that Jesus Shed for Me





Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945 Music: THE BLOOD, Andraé Crouch, b. 1945 © 1966, 1994 Manna Music

A Pastor's Prayer for a Son on Drugs

202

Most heavenly Father, I come to you, first saying, "Thank you for letting me rise to a new day." I thank you for being merciful to me and my family. Thank you for watching over us while we slumbered in the cool of the night. Lord, I thank you.

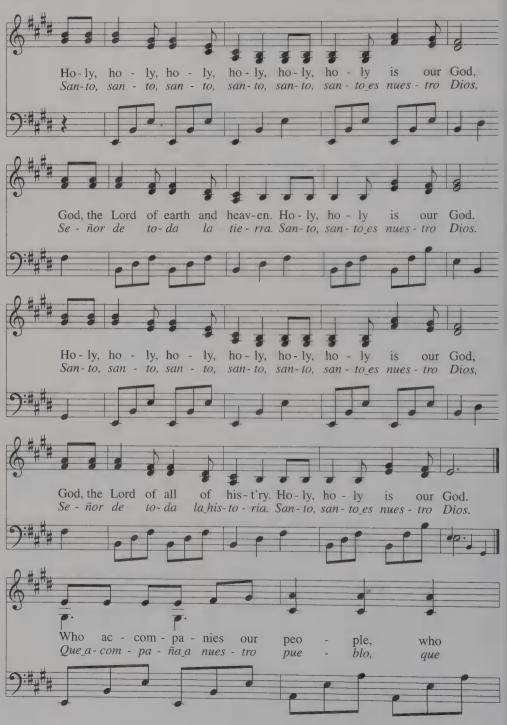
Father, I am asking you to please look down from heaven and help the son of a heartbroken mother. His name is Joe, Lord. You know him, and you know that crack has possessed his mind and body. Lord, please deliver him from the demon of drugs. Loose him from Satan's grip. Restore him to manhood and a good life. Satan has robbed too many black men of character, employment and self-respect.

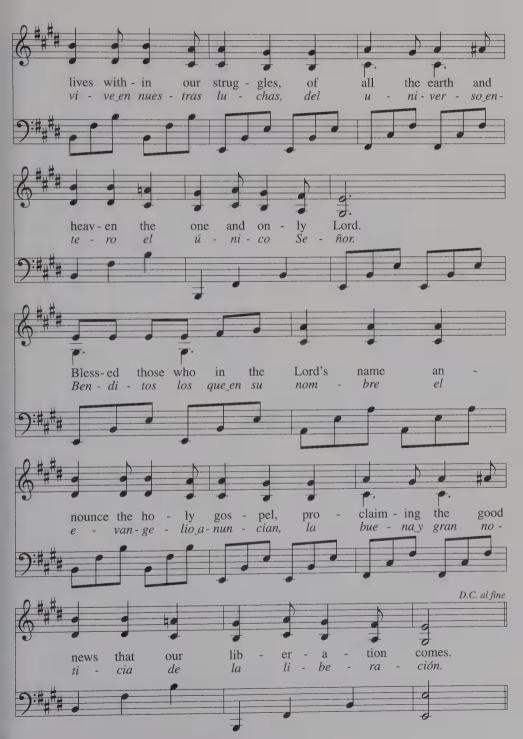
O Lord, I am not just praying for brother Joe, I'm praying and asking your help for a good many men and women. Lord, please deliver brother Joe just as you delivered Jonah from the belly of the whale. I thank you, Father, in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen

Holy Is Our God

Santo es nuestro Dios

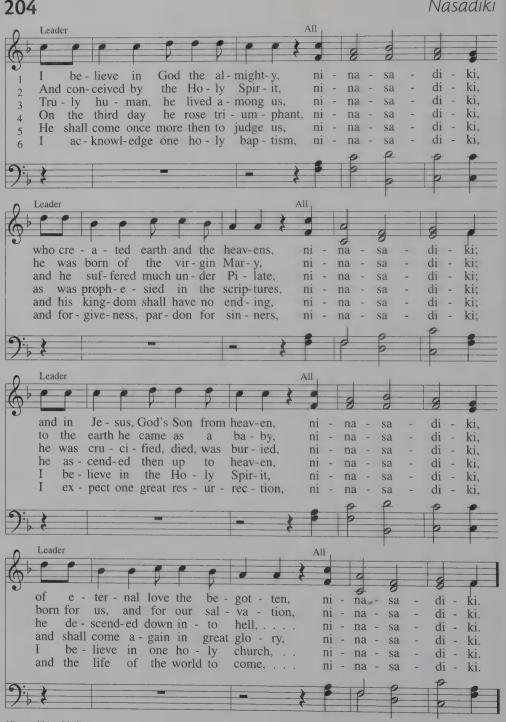


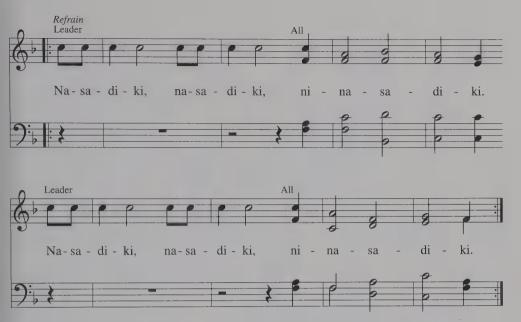




Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, *Misa popular salvadoreña*, 1986; tr. Linda McCrae Music: Cuéllar, Guillermo Cuéllar, arr. Diana Kodner Text and tune © 1996 GIA Publications Arr. © 1993, 1994 GIA Publications

Nasadiki





Text: based on the Nicene Creed; tr. composite Music: NASADIKI, S. C. Ochieng Okeyo, Kariobangi Mass © S.C. Ochieng Okeyo

The Ten Commandments

205

I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is your neighbor's.

We Are Often Tossed and Driven

206

We'll Understand It Better By and By





207 Satan, We're Going to Tear Your Kingdom Down



Text: traditional Music: traditional; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

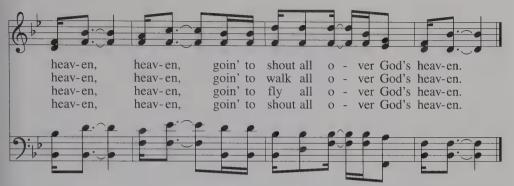






Text: traditional; adapt. Kenneth Morris Music: traditional; arr. Kenneth Morris Text adapt. and arr. © 1968 Martin and Morris Music, Inc.





- 5 I've got a harp, you've got a harp, all of God's children got a harp.
 When I get to heaven goin' to play my harp, goin' to play all over God's heaven, heaven, heaven.
 Ev'rybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't goin' there; heaven, heaven, goin' to play all over God's heaven.
- 6 I've got a song, you've got a song, all of God's children got a song. When I get to heaven goin' to sing my song, goin' to sing all over God's heaven, heaven, heaven. Ev'rybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't goin' there; heaven, heaven, goin' to sing all over God's heaven.
- 7 I've got a prayer, you've got a prayer, all of God's children got a prayer. When I get to heaven goin' to pray my prayer, goin' to pray all over God's heaven, heaven, heaven. Ev'rybody talkin' 'bout heaven ain't goin' there; heaven, heaven, goin' to pray all over God's heaven.

Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual

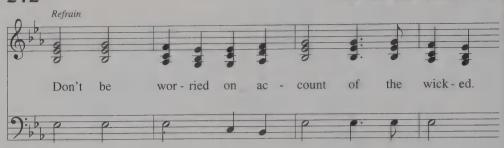
A Slave Woman's Prayer

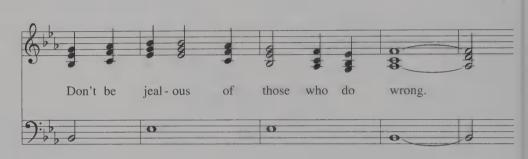
211

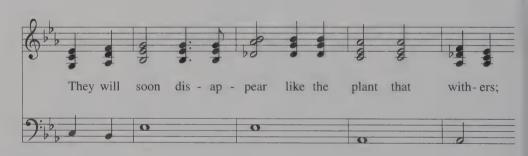
O Lord, bless my master. When he calls upon thee to damn his soul, do not hear him, do not hear him, but hear me—save him—make him know he is wicked, and he will pray to thee.

I am afraid, O Lord, I have wished him bad wishes in my heart—keep me from wishing him bad—though he whips me and beats me sore, tell me of my sins, and make me pray more to thee—make me more glad for what thou hast done for me, a poor Negro.

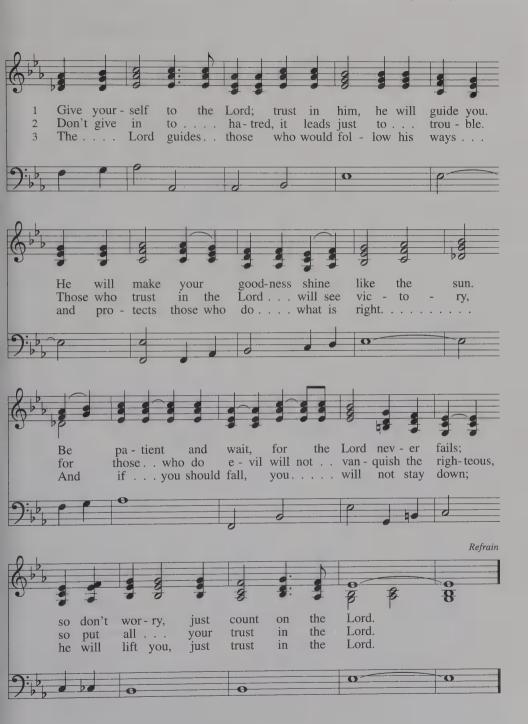
Don't Be Worried



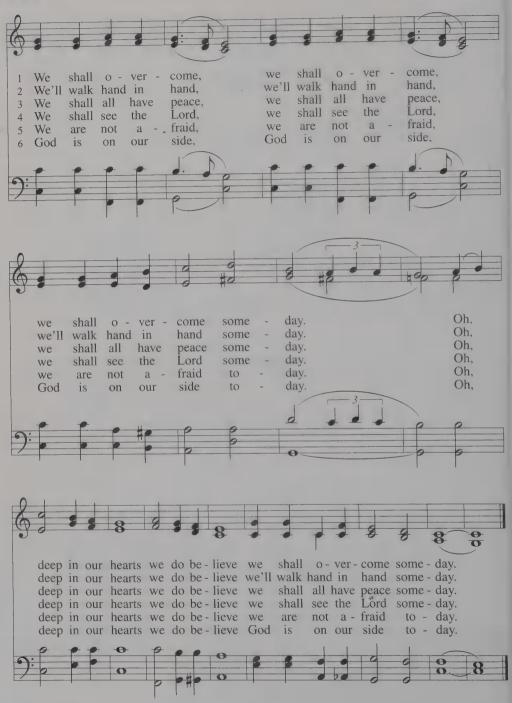








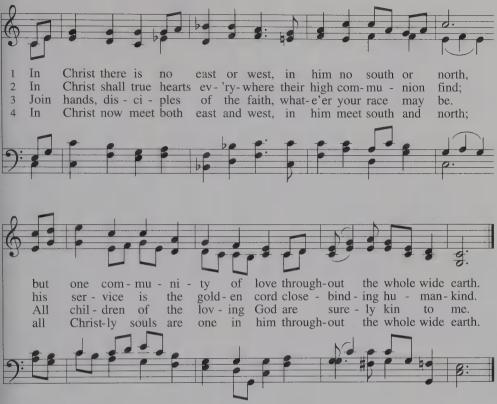
We Shall Overcome



Text: traditional Music: African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Coypright Company

In Christ There Is No East or West

214



Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941 Music: McKee, African American spiritual; arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Give us grace, O God, to dare to do the deed which we well know cries to be done.

Give Us Grace

215

Let us not hesitate because of ease, or the words of men's mouths, or our own lives.

Mighty causes are calling us—
the freeing of women, the training of children, the putting down of hate and murder and poverty—
all these and more.

But they call with voices that mean work and sacrifice and death.

Mercifully grant us, O God, the spirit of Esther, that we say:
I will go unto the King and if I perish, I perish—Amen.

Give Me a Clean Heart





Text: Margaret J. Douroux, b. 1941 Music: Margaret J. Douroux, b. 1941; arr. Albert D. Tessier © 1970 Margaret J. Douroux

Bind Us Together, Lord

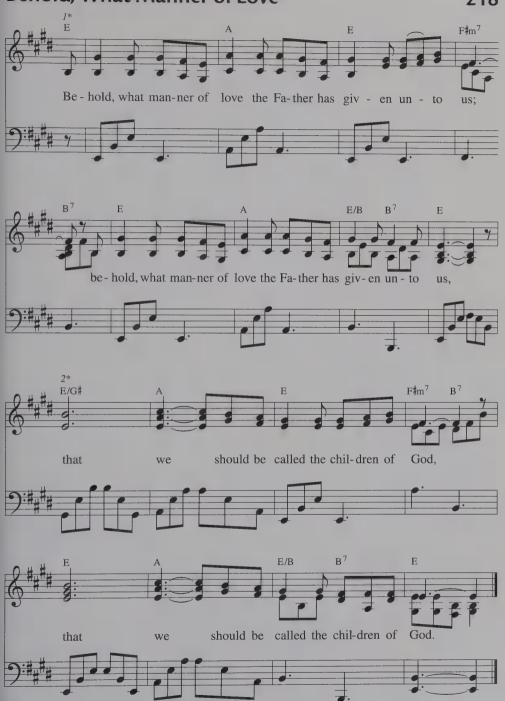


Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946

Music: BIND Us TOGETHER, Bob Gillman, b. 1946

© 1977 Kingsway Thankyou Music, admin. Integrity's Hosanna! Music in N., S., and C. America



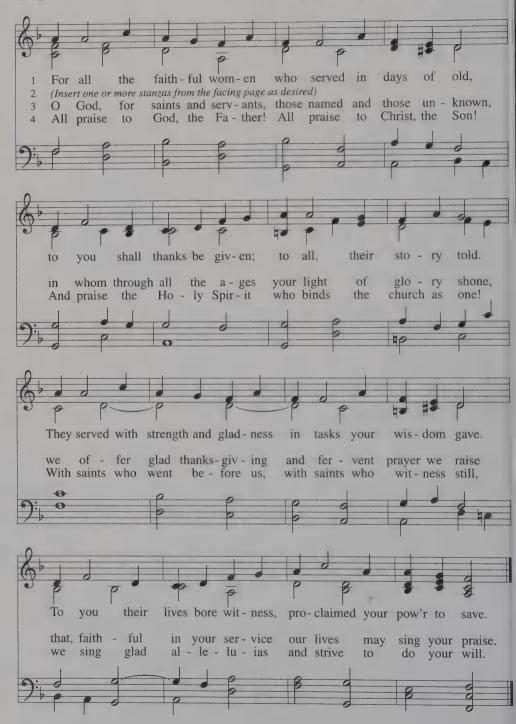


^{*} May be sung as a two-part round

Text: 1 John 3:1; adapt. Patricia van Tine Music: Theimer, Patricia van Tine

© 1978 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

For All the Faithful Women



Miriam

5 We praise your name for Miriam who sang triumphantly while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea.
As Israel marched to freedom, her chains of bondage gone, so may we reach the kingdom your mighty arm has won.

Deborah

6 All praise for that brave warrior who fought at your command. You made her Israel's savior when foes oppressed the land. As Deborah stood with valor upon that battlefield, may we, in evil's hour, truth's sword with boldness wield.

Hannah

7 To Hannah, praying childless before the throne of grace, you gave a son and called him to serve before your face.
Grant us her perseverance;
Lord, teach us how to pray and trust in your deliv'rance when darkness hides our way.

Ruth

8 For Ruth who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith, who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death, we praise you, God of Israel and pray for hearts set free to bind ourselves to others in love and loyalty.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

9 We sing of Mary, mother, fair maiden, full of grace. She bore the Christ, our brother, who came to save our race. May we, with her, surrender ourselves to your command and lay upon your altar our gifts of heart and hand.

Martha and Mary

10 We sing of busy Martha who toiled with pot and pan while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.

Christ, keep our hearts attentive to truth that you declare, and strengthen us for service when work becomes our prayer.

The Woman at the Well

11 Recall the outcast woman
with whom our Lord conversed:
Christ gave her living water
to quench her deepest thirst.
Like hers, our hearts are yearning;
Christ offers us his word.
Then may our lips be burning
to witness to our Lord.

Mary Magdalene

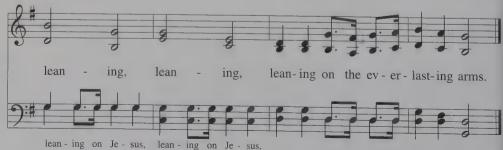
12 We praise the other Mary who came at Easter dawn and near the tomb did tarry, but found her Lord was gone. But, as with joy she saw him in resurrection light, may we by faith behold him, the day who ends our night.

Dorcas

13 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas who served the sick and poor. Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door. Send us, O Christ, your Body, where people cry in pain, and touch them with compassion to make them whole again.

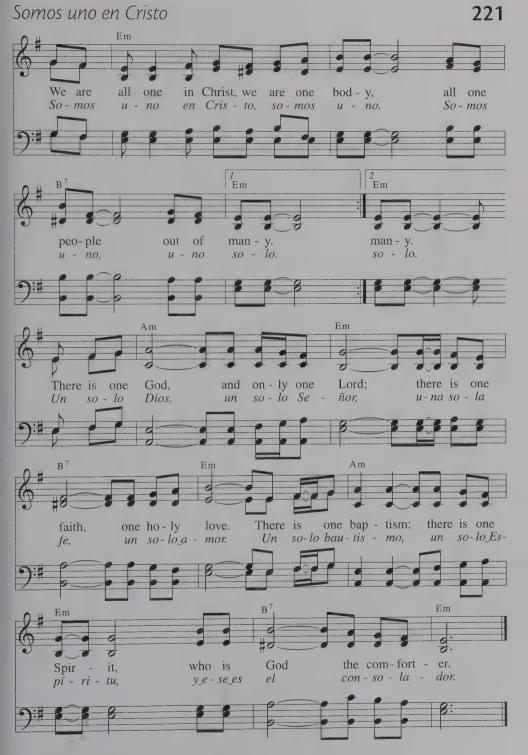






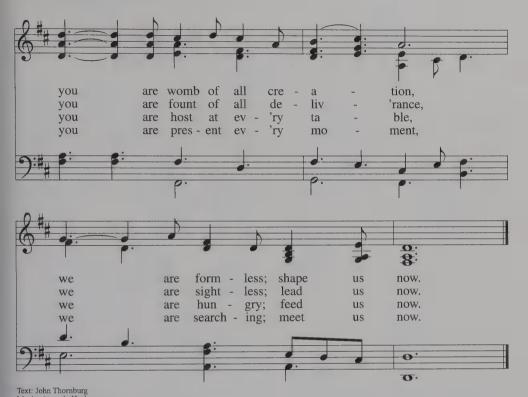
Text: Elisha Hoffman, 1838-1929 Music: Showalter, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

We Are All One in Christ



God the Sculptor of the Mountains





Music: Amanda Husberg Text © 1993 John Thornburg Music © 1996 Amanda Husberg

We Believe 223

We believe in the one high God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and woman, and wanted them to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on earth. God promised in the book of his word, the Bible, that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good his promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humankind, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured, nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him. On the third day he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe.



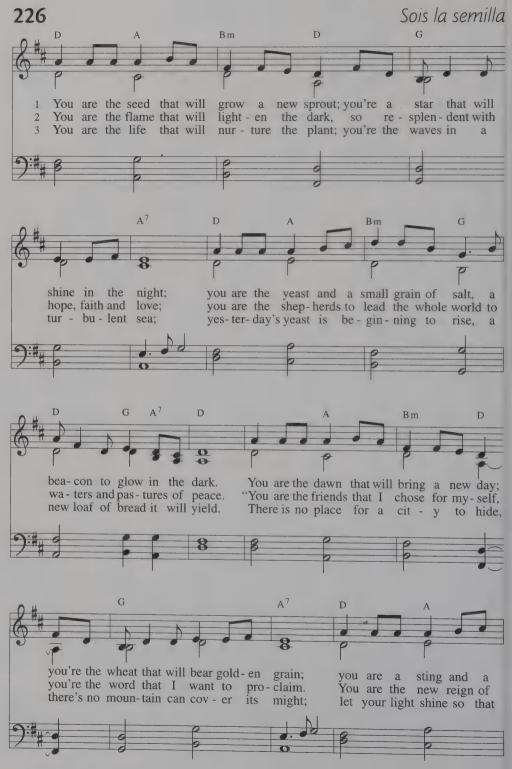
Text: Edward V. Bonnemère, 1921-1996 Music: Edward V. Bonnemère, 1921-1996 © 1968 Edward V. Bonnemère, admin. Augsburg Fortress

I Believe I'll Testify



Text: traditional Music: traditional; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

You Are the Seed





Text: Cesáreo Gabarain, 1936-1991; tr. Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, b. 1927 and Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992, alt.

Music: ID Y ENSEÑAD, Cesáreo Gabarain, 1936-1991; arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992

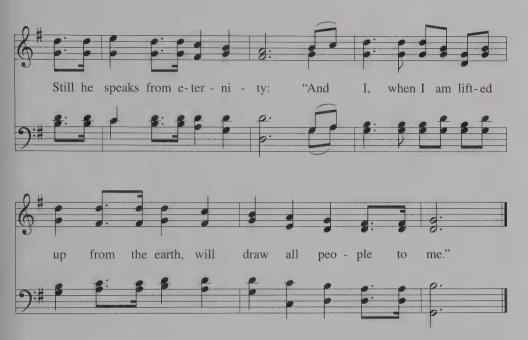
Spanish text and tune © 1979 Ediciones Paulinas, admin. OCP Publications; tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company Arr. © 1987 Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo

How to Reach the Masses

227

Lift Him Up





Text: Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1856-1926, alt. Music: Lift Him Up, B. B. Beall

I Love to Tell the Story





Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911, sts. 1-3, Jeffrey E. Burkart, st. 4 Music: Hankey, William G. Fischer, 1835-1912 Text st. 4 © Jeffrey E. Burkart

Who Is to Condemn?

If Jesu, Lord, I come to thee,
And freely thou receivedst me,
Who shall say, nay?
Who shall bring up the days of sin,
When earthly passions raged within?

If Jesu, Lord, I should profess
Thy name—Thy boundless love confess,
Who shall deny?
That thou thyself hast made me bold
To claim the blessings long foretold?

If Jesu, in the throng I raise
My voice in notes of praise,
Who say, be still?
Who chide me for the words I speak
And tell me I should be more meek?

Dear Jesu, 'tis thy precious Name
That doth alone my heart inflame—
My heart inspire.
And makes me fearless of the world—
Thy children—of the arrows hurled.

229

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky



Here I Am, Lord



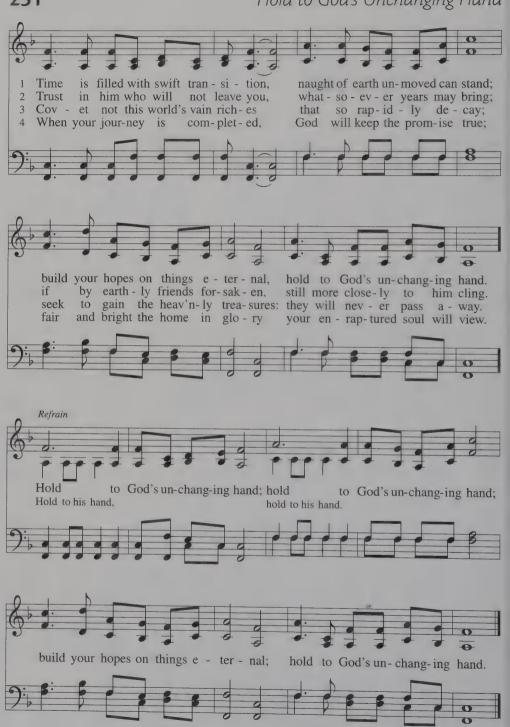


Text: Daniel Schutte Music: Here I Am, Lord, Daniel Schutte; arr. Michael Pope, Daniel Schutte, and John Weissrock © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

Time Is Filled with Swift Transition

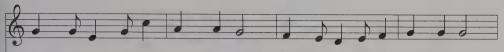
231

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand



Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

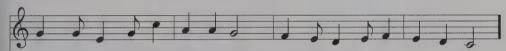
232



- us tal ents and tongues em-ploy,
- Christ is a ble to make us one,
- Je sus calls us in, sends us

reach-ing out with a shout of joy: at the ta-ble he sets the tone, bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,





bread is bro-ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo-ken and seen and heard. teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

love in word and in deed ex - press. God (Im-man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!





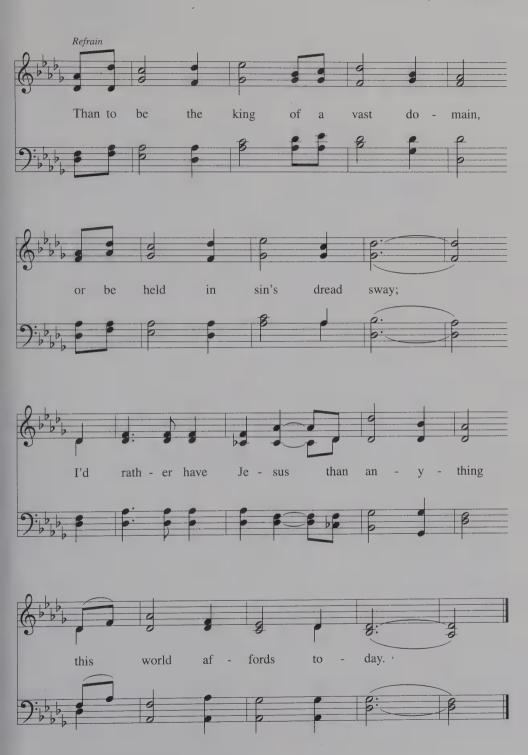
Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929 Music: Linstead, Jamaican traditional; arr. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980 © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.

I'd Rather Have Jesus





Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



All to Jesus I Surrender

I Surrender All

235

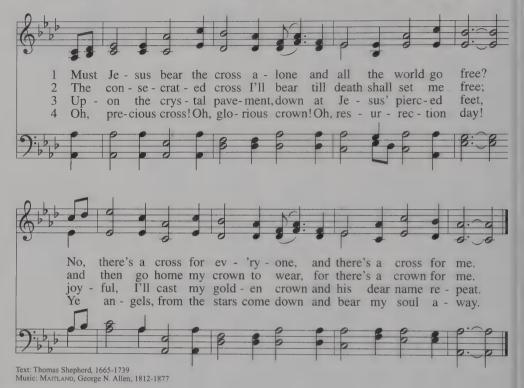


Stewardship, Commitment Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses





Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone



238

A Deacon's Prayer

Holy and righteous, everlasting unto everlasting, thou art God, the giver of all good and perfect gifts, the author and finisher of our faith.

Again our Father, we, a few of your childrens, has assembled ourselves at this appointed place, and at this particular time.

And as we come together, our Father, we don't come for no shape, form, or fashion, neither do we come for an outside show to a sin-cursed world. But, our Father, we come as disobedient children would come before a good parent, asking if thou would forgive us for our many mistakes, and own us as your children.

And as we come, our Father, we don't come beggin' thee but we come thankin' thee, thankin' thee for thy lovingkindness and tender mercy, realizing that you been a good God to us, better to us than we have been to ourselves, better to us, our Father, than we have been to one another, because you told us to love one another as you have loved us.

Somewhere, someway, or somehow, we've come shorter than thy glory; but you being God, and such a good God, you didn't stop us there, but you kept on blessing us.

We come just now, Master, to say thank you, thank you, thank you, Jesus, for being so good to us.

You brought us from a mighty long ways; O Lord, have mercy.

We pray, our Father, for our childrens today; not only our childrens, but our neighbors, their childrens, and their children's childrens; please, Sir, have mercy.

O Lord, we realize that they are living down here in a sin-torn world. A world, our Father, that's no friend to grace, a world, my Master, where man will say all manner of evil about you, call you everything but a child of God. A world, my Master, where murder, rape, dope, war and sex seem to be the order of the day.

We pray, our Father, that you will let our lives be an example, that we may go into a mean world, tellin' men, women, girls and boys everywhere that the wages of sin is death.

But there is a gift: the gift of God is eternal life.

There is a reality in serving a true and living God.

Hell is too hot, and eternity is too long; please, Sir, have mercy.

Now Lord, now Lord, one day when we like others must quit the busy walks of life, when this world can afford us a home no longer, we pray that we will be able to look back and see a well-spent life.

As you receive us unto yourself, say to us, "Well done, well done, thou good and faithful servant."

These blessings we ask in the name of him who gave himself to us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

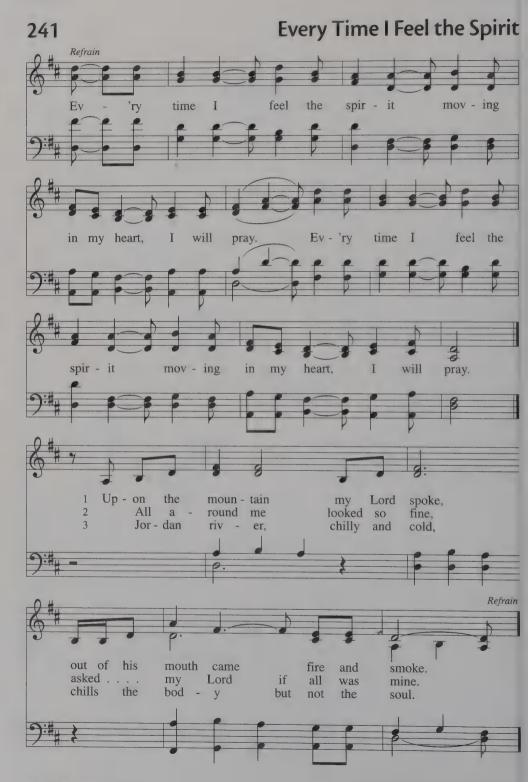
Amen



Text: Margaret J. Douroux, b. 1941; based on Psalm 116:12 Music: Margaret J. Douroux, b. 1941 © 1975 Margaret J. Douroux

It's Me, O Lord







1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share





and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known. to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless; till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.





In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re-lief. and since he bids me seek his face, be-lieve his word and trust his grace, With joy I'll has-ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,





and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by thy re-turn, sweet hour of prayer. I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer. and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom-ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.



Your Will Be Done

243

Mayenziwe



Text: South African, from the Lord's Prayer Music: South African traditional; taught by Gobingca Mxadana; transc. John L. Bell, b. 1949 Arr. © 1990 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.



Thuma mina, somandla.

Roma nna, modino.

Tr. and arr. © 1984 Ultryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

Music: Thuma MINA, South African

Send Me, Jesus

Thuma mina

Text: South African

245



I am will-ing; I am will-ing, will-ing, Lord. am will-ing;

thu - ma mi - na, Nko - si yam. Thu-ma mi-na, thu-ma mi-na, ndi - ya vu-ma, Nko-si yam. ndi-ya vu-ma, Ndi - ya vu - ma,

Send me, Je-sus.

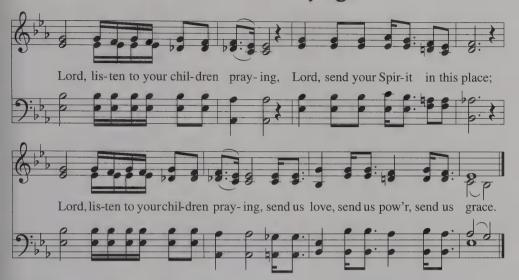
Somebody Prayed for Me



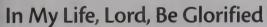
Text: traditional Music: James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

247



Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943 Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema, b. 1943 © 1973 Hope Publishing Co.



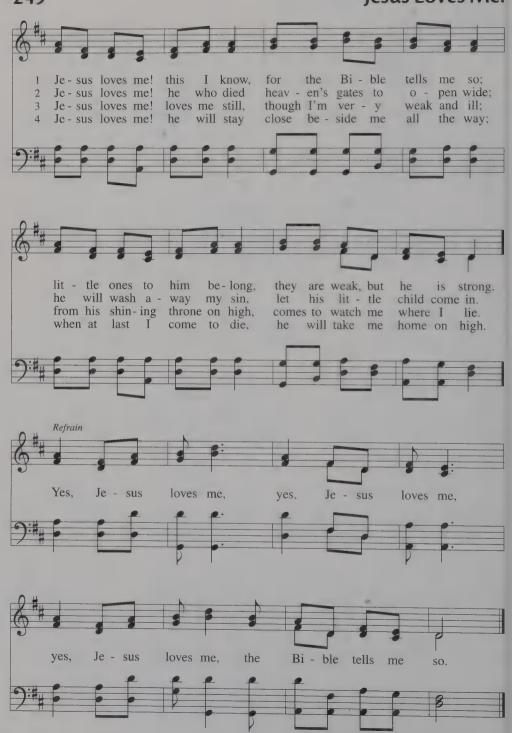
248





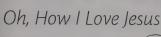
Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952 Music: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952 © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, admin. Lorenz Publishing Co.

Jesus Loves Me!

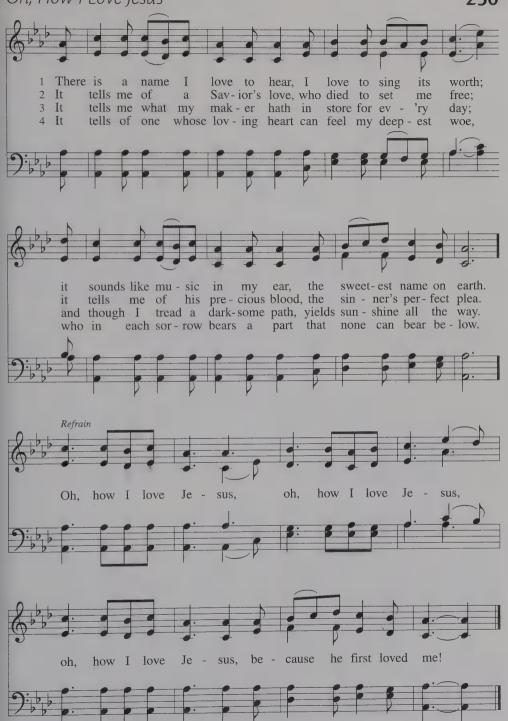


Text: Anna Warner, 1820-1915, alt. Music: Jesus Loves Me, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

There Is a Name I Love to Hear



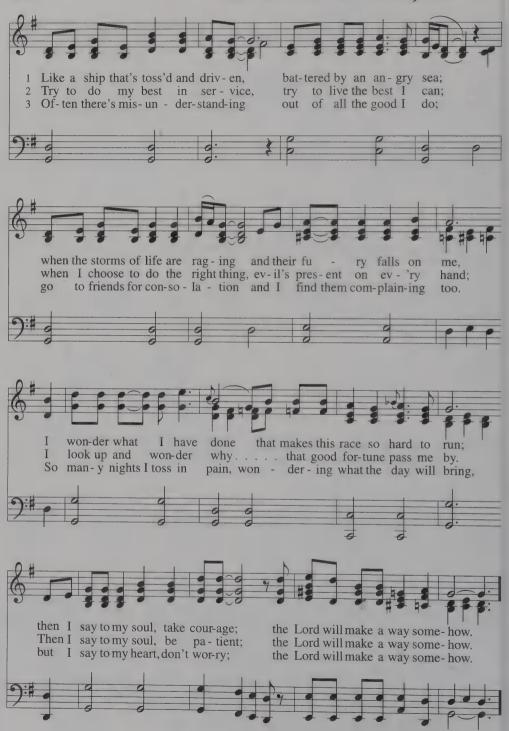
250



Like a Ship That's Tossed and Driven

251

The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow





Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993 Music: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993 © 1943 Unichappell Music

eye is on

eye is on

eye is on

his

the

the

the

spar-row,

spar-row,

spar-row,

and I

and I

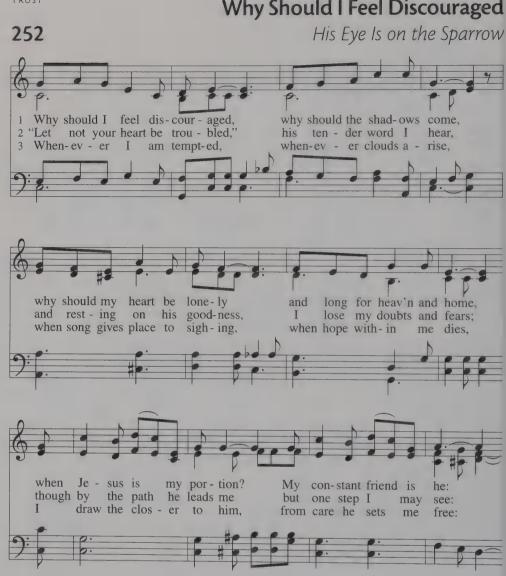
know he watch-es

know he watch-es

me:

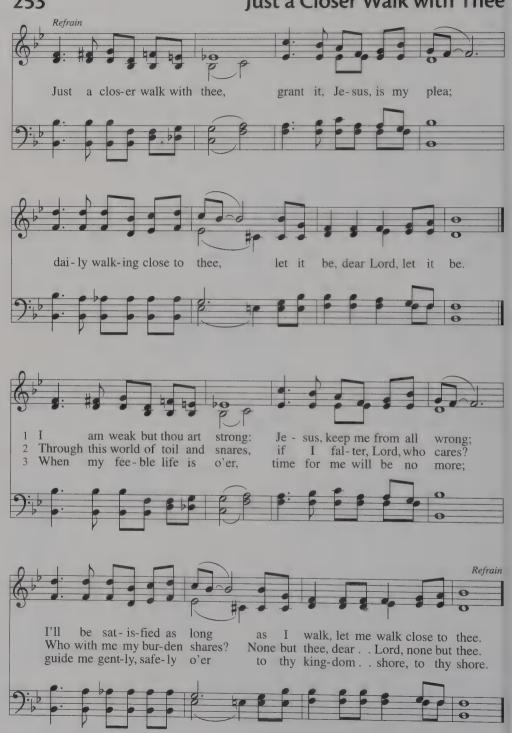
and I know he watch-es

Why Should I Feel Discouraged





Just a Closer Walk with Thee



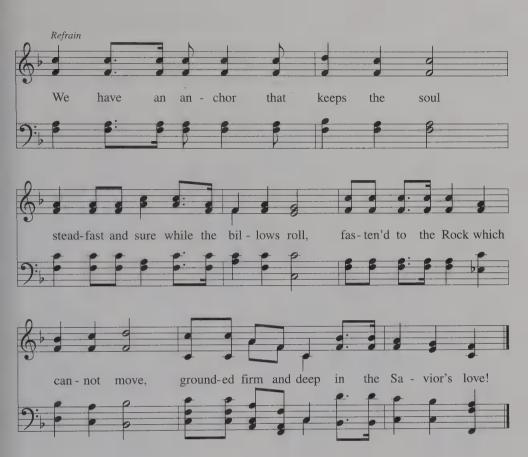
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

254



Will Your Anchor Hold





I Will Trust in the Lord



Additional stanzas ad lib:

Deacon, will you trust . . . Preacher, will you trust . . . People, will you trust . . .

Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

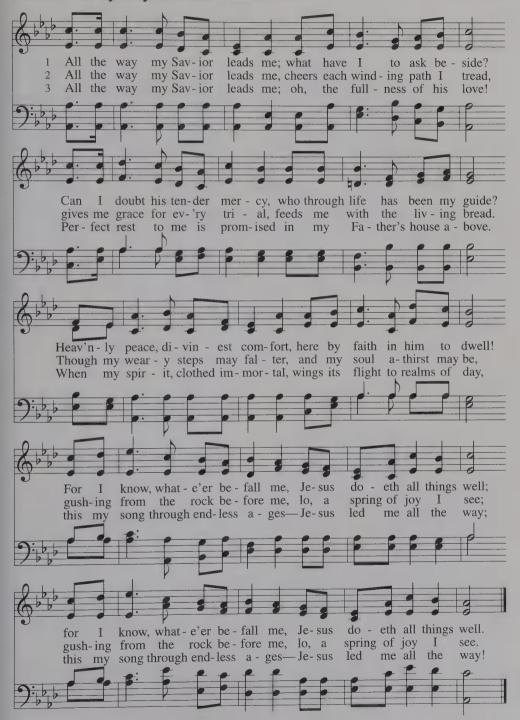
I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy



I've Got Peace Like a River



All the Way My Savior Leads Me

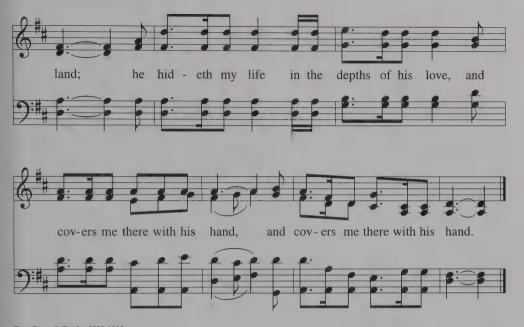


A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus

260

He Hideth My Soul





Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

Calling on You, O Lord

O God, you have prepared in peace the path I must follow today.

Help me to walk straight on that path.

If I speak, remove lies from my lips.

If I am hungry, take away from me all complaint.

If I have plenty, destroy pride in me.

May I go through the day calling on you, you, O Lord, who know no other Lord.

Amen

261

This Is the Day



Text: Psalm 118:24 Music: Les Garrett, b. 1944

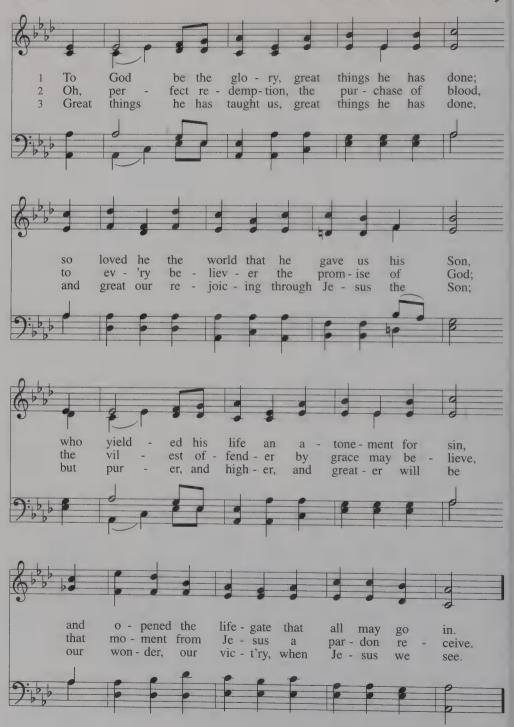
Music @ 1967 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.

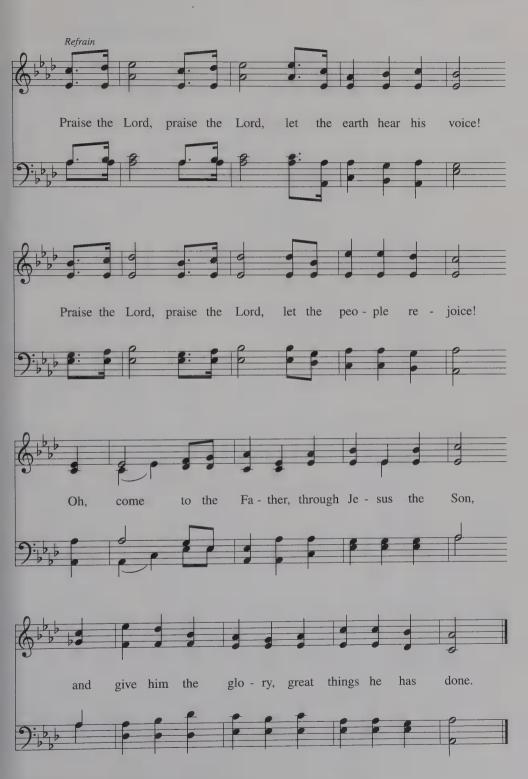
Praise, Thanksgiving

I'm a-Goin'-a Eat at the Welcome Table



To God Be the Glory





In the Name of Jesus



Text: traditional Music: traditional; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress



Text: traditional Music: traditional; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress



All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



all!

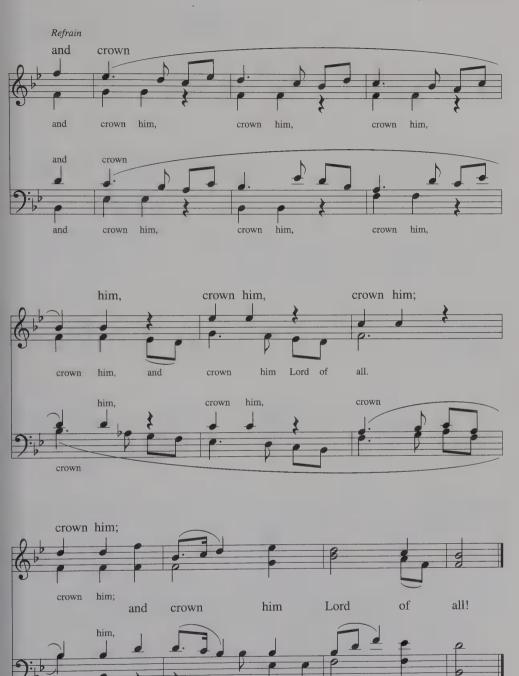
of

him

crown

and

Lord

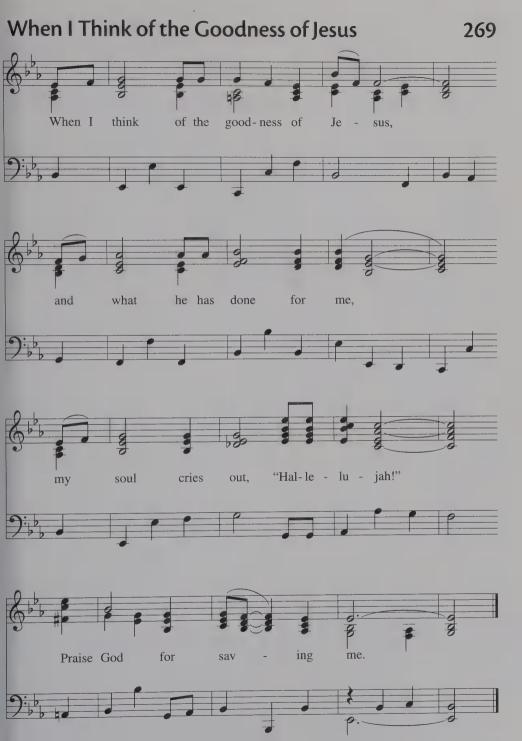


him;



Text: Naida Hearn Music: Naida Hearn

© 1974 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.

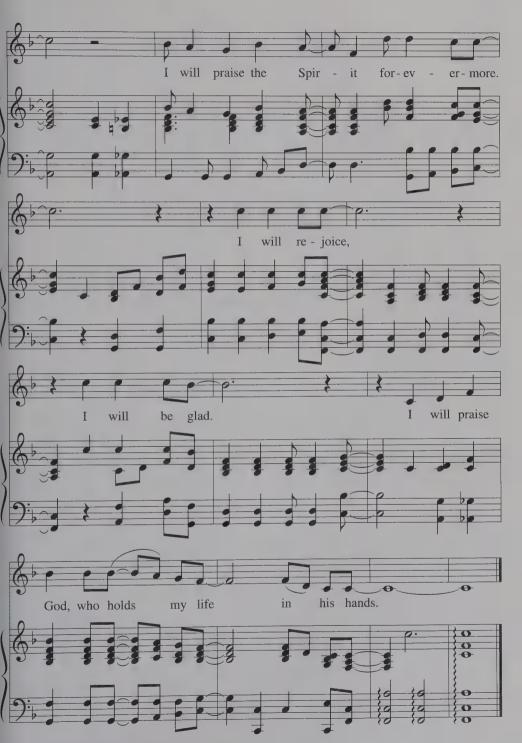






Text: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980 Music: Bill LaMotta, 1919-1980; arr. *This Far by Faith* Text and tune © Bill LaMotta Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress





Text: Grayson Warren Brown, b. 1948 Music: Grayson Warren Brown, b. 1948; arr. Larry Adams © 1979 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. by OCP Publications

To God Be the Glory

My Tribute 272



Bless the Lord



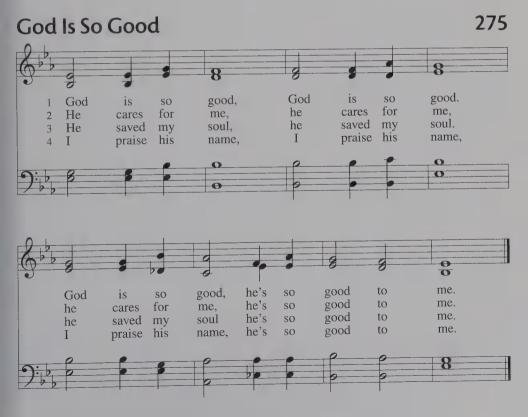
Oh, Sing to the Lord

274 Cantad al Señor



- 1 Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo. Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo. Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo. ¡Cantad al Señor! cantad al Señor!
- 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!
- 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!
- 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!
- 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 Cartford, b. 1923 Music: CANTAD AL SENOR, Brazilian folk tune; arr. Gerhard Cartford, b. 1923 Tr. and arr. Gerhard Cartford



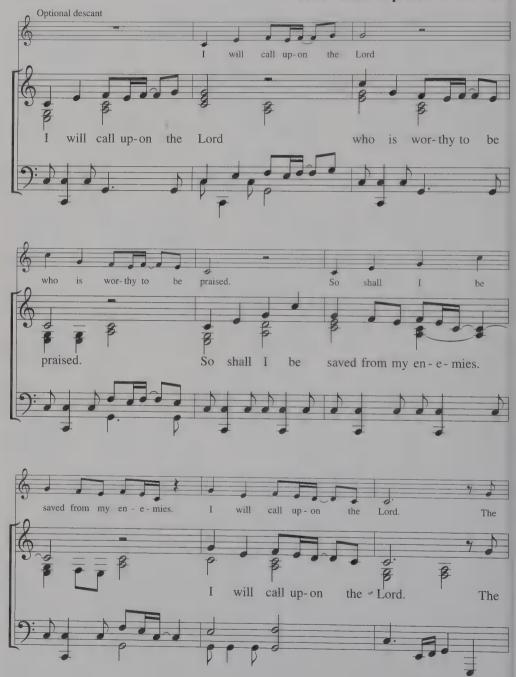
Text: traditional Music: God Is So Good, traditional

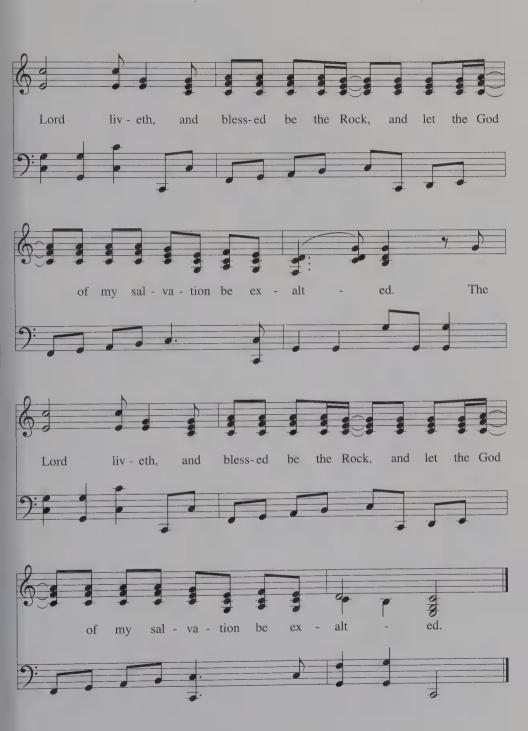




Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, st. 1; Isaac Watts, 1675-1748, st. 2; William Kethe, d. 1593, st. 3 Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793; adapt. George Coles; atr. Roberta Martin, 1912-1969 Arr. © 1968 Roberta Martin, c/o Leonard Austin, admin. J. B. Ross

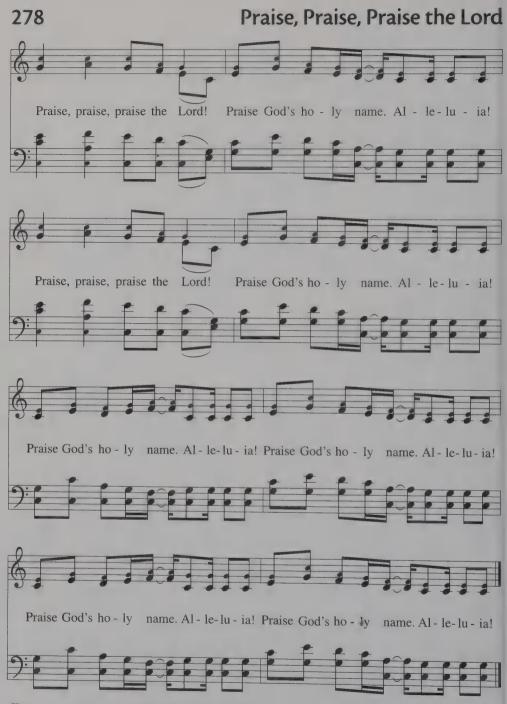
I Will Call Upon the Lord





Text: Michael O'Shields Music: Michael O'Shields

© 1981 Sound III and All Nations Music, admin. MCA Music and The Lorenz Corp.



This song may be repeated, adding a vocal part on each repetition: melody (alto) alone; melody + tenor; melody + lower parts; all voices.

Amen, We Praise Your Name

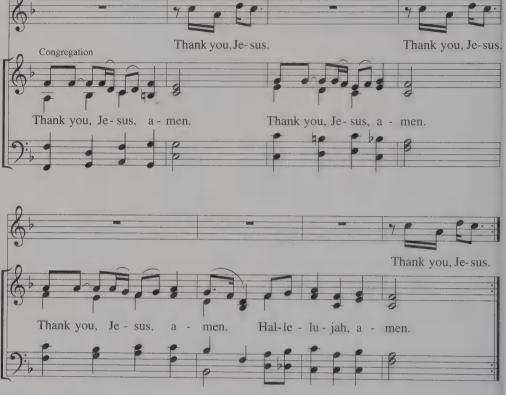
Amen, siakudumisa

279





Thank You, Jesus



Leader

Text: Namibian traditional Music: Namibian traditional; arr. James M. Capers, b. 1948 Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

281

We Will Glorify





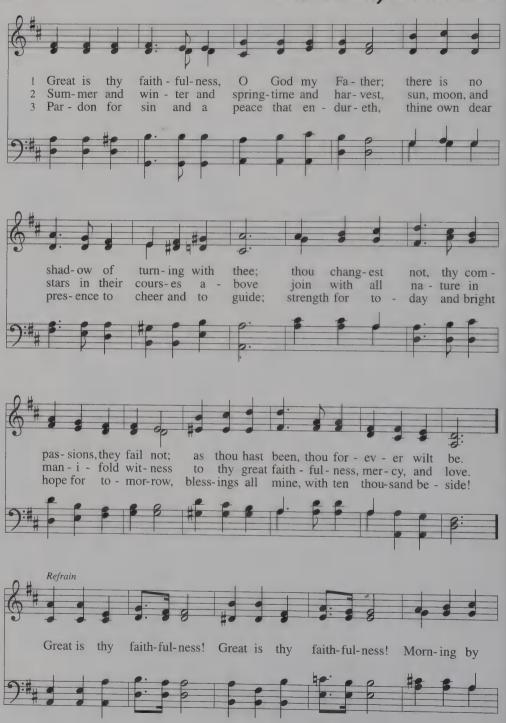
Let All That Is within Me Cry, "Holy!" 282 "Ho - ly!" me cry, Let all with in "Bless - ed!" all that is with in me cry, Let "Wor - thy!" Let all that is with in me cry, "Ho - ly!" with cry, Let all that me "Bless-ed!" cry, Let that is with - in me "Wor - thy!" all that is with - in me Let Ho - ly is the Lamb that was slain. Ho - ly! Ho - ly! Bless-ed is the Lamb that was slain. Bless-ed! Bless-ed! slain. Wor-thy is the Lamb that was Wor-thy! Wor - thy! 0 Text: anonymous; transc. Melvin Harrel

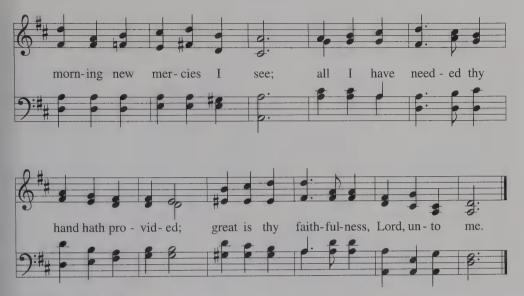
Music: arr. Charles High

Text © 1963 Gospel Publishing House, admin. The Lorenz Corp. Arr.© 1978 Word of God Music, admin. The Copyright Company

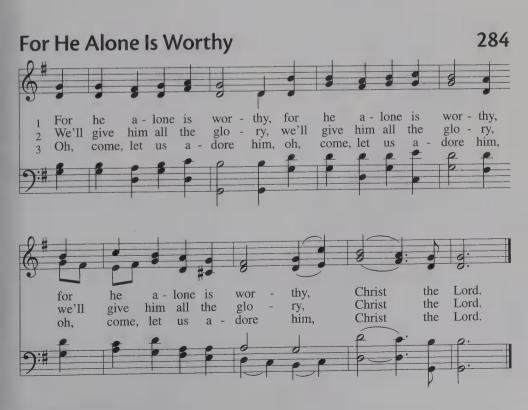
283

Great Is Thy Faithfulness





Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957



Text: traditional Music: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, 1711-1786





Music: Donnie Harper
© 1986 Bud John Tunes, Inc., admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

I Am Thanking Jesus

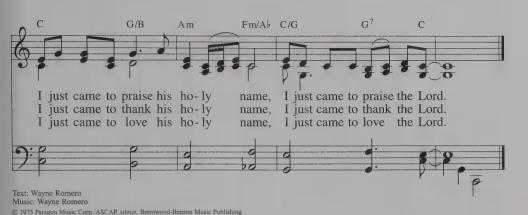
286

Tandi Tanga Yesus



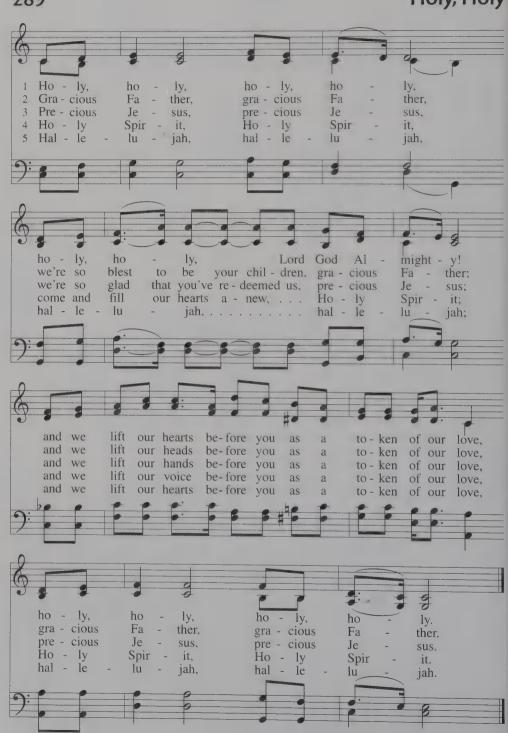
Text: Namibian and Tanzanian traditional Music: African traditional, arr. *This Far by Faith* Tr. © 1986, arr © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

287 I Just Came to Praise the Lord G/B Am just came to praise the Lord, just came to praise the Lord. 2 I just came to thank the Lord, just came to thank the Lord, 3 I just came to love the Lord, just came to love the





Holy, Holy



Text: Jimmy Owens, b. 1930 Music: Holy, Holy, Jimmy Owens, b. 1930 © 1972 Communique Music. admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

Praised Be the Rock

290



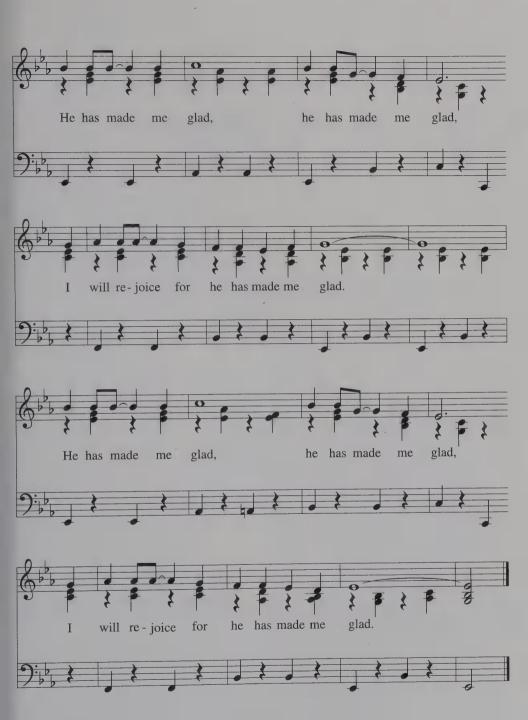
Text: Aaron Lwehabura; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922 Music: AHIMIDWE MWAMBA WANO, Haya tune; arr. A. Louise Anderson Olson Tr. and arr. © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania

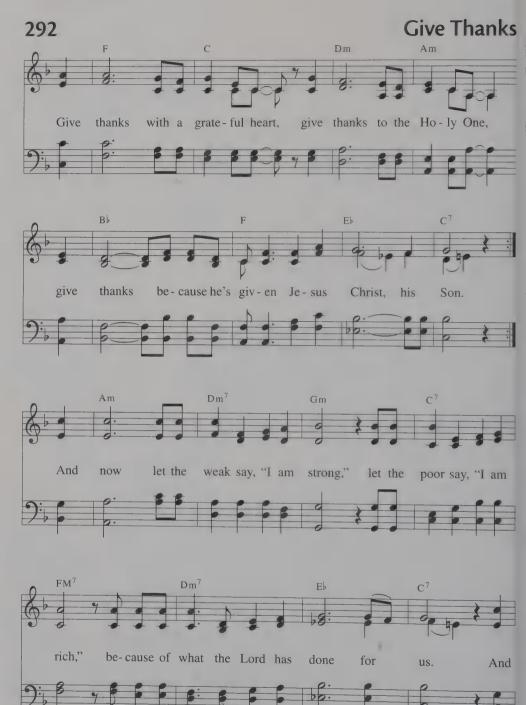
I Will Enter His Gates

291

He Has Made Me Glad









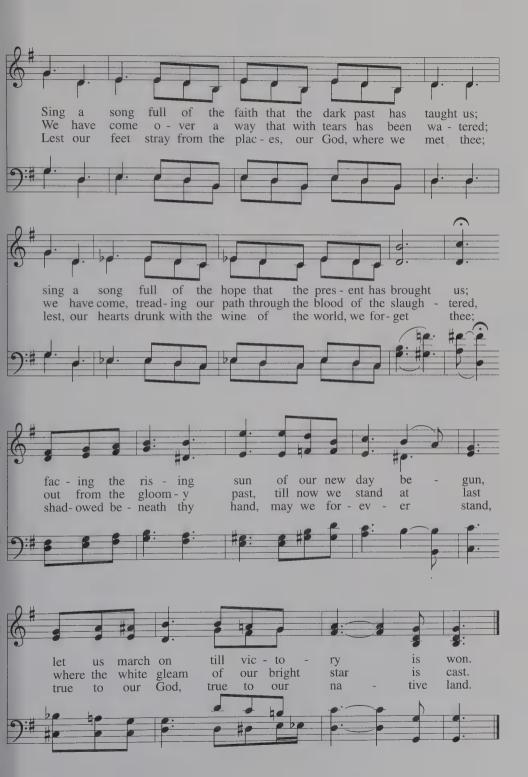
Text: traditional Music: traditional; arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986; and Verolga Nix, b. 1933 Arr. © 1981 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company



PRAISE, THANKSGIVING What a Mighty God We Serve! 295 What a might serve! we What a might God serve! An-gels bow be - fore heav-en and earth a - dore him; him,



Lift Every Voice and Sing 296 till earth and heav - en Lift ev - 'ry voice and ring, sing Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning God of our wea - ry God of our si - lent years, tears. ring with the lib har - mo nies of days when felt in the hope un born had died; brought us thou who hast thus far the on Let our re - joic - ing high as the lis - t'ning rise skies, yet with a stead - v beat, have not our wea - ry feet thou who hast by thy might led us in - to re - sound loud as the roll ing come to the place for which our par ents sighed? for - ev er in the path, we pray.



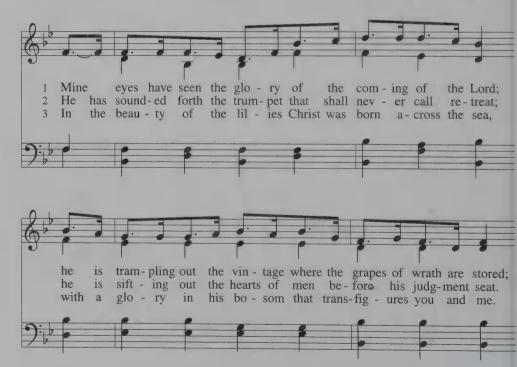


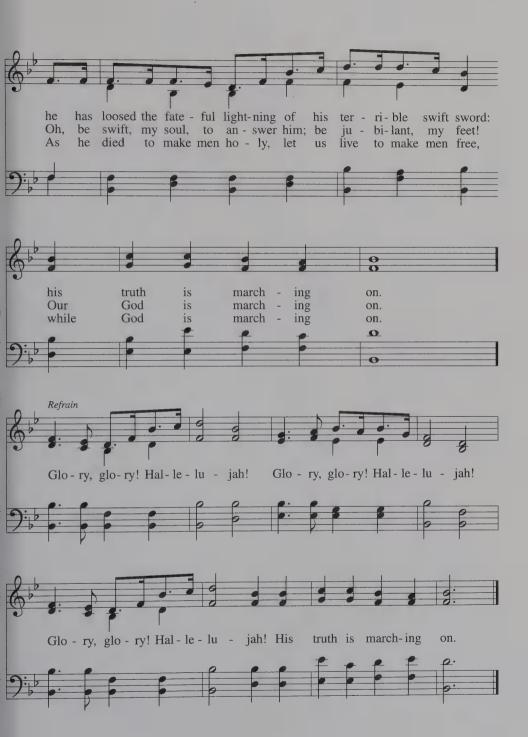
NATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

297

Battle Hymn of the Republic





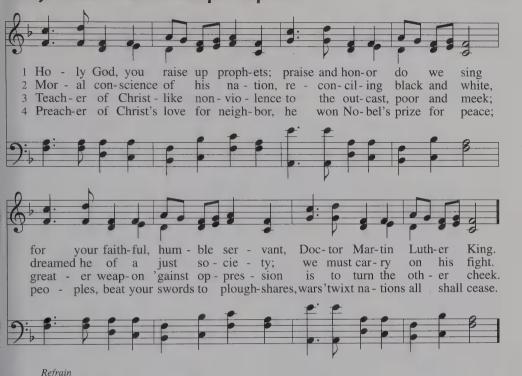
298

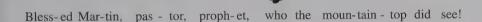
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

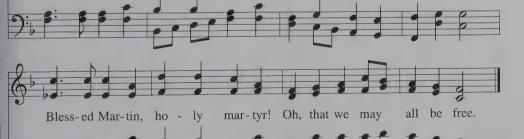


Holy God, You Raise up Prophets









5 Champion of oppressed humanity suff'ring throughout all the world; he offered pride and dignity,

6 So, when felled by snip under heavens overcast he could cry, "Thank Go

let Christ's banner be unfurled! Refrain

6 So, when felled by sniper's bullet, under heavens overcast, he could cry, "Thank God Almighty, I am free, I'm free at last."

Refrain

The Right Hand of God 300 God The right hand of is writ - ing land, in our 2 hand God point-ing land. The right of is our God 3 The right hand of is strik - ing in our land. The right hand of God heal - ing land. is in our 0 Θ writ with with pow - er and love. point the ing we must go, strik-ing out at en - vy, hate, and greed. heal-ing bro ken bod - ies, minds, and souls. our con-flicts and our fears, tri - umphs and our our tears cloud-ed is the SO way, so eas - i ly stray, we Our self - ish - ness and lust, our pride and deeds un just won-drous is its touch with love that means SO much, are cord-ed re by the right hand of God. guid-ed

Optional stanza

we're

we're

stroyed

healed

de

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are

5 The right hand of God is planting in our land, planting seeds of freedom, hope, and love. In these Caribbean lands, let people all join hands, and be one by the right hand of God.

by

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the

the

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right

right

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hand

hand

hand

of

of

of

God.

God.

God.

Bless, O Lord, Our Country



302 Commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.

As an example of ways that the church may remember witnesses to the faith, the following resources are offered as suggestions for congregations that observe the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.

Prayer of the Day

Martyrs, Renewers of Society (p. 118)

Psalms

5; 31:1-20; 46; 56; 72; 94:1-14

Readings

Amos 5:24; Deut. 34:1-12; Isa. 43:1-7; Ezek. 20:40-42; Hos. 2:18-23

Rom. 12:9-21; Eph. 6:10-20; Phil. 4:4-9; Rev. 6:9-11

Matt. 10: 16-31; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 6:20-36; John 15:12-21

Hymns

296 Lift Every Voice and Sing	213 We Shall Overcome	2
197 We've Come This Far by Faith	70 Lead Me, Guide Me	e
299 Holy God, You Raise Up Prophets	46 Freedom Is Coming	3

Intercessions

Silence for prayer may follow each of the spoken petitions.

We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King Jr. that

"freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

Therefore, let us pray

for courage and determination by those who are oppressed.

We remember Martin's warning that

"a negative peace which is the absence of tension" is less than "a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

Therefore, let us pray

that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice.

We remember Martin's insight that

"injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Therefore, let us pray

that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven.

We remember Martin's lament that

"the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are."

Therefore, let us pray

that neither this congregation nor any congregation of Christ's people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is God's call to us.

We remember Martin's hope that

"dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not so distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

Therefore, in faith, let us commend ourselves and our work for justice to the goodness of almighty God.

Quotations from Letter from the Birmingham City Jail, Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968 © 1963 Martin Luther King Jr., ren. 1991 Coretta Scott King, admin. Writer's House, LLC Litany by W. B. McClain and L. H. Stookey © 1986 Abingdon Press

Charge to the People

When we let freedom ring,
when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet,
from every city and every state,
we will be able to speed up that day
when all God's children, Black men and White men,
Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics
will be able to join hands and sing that old Negro spiritual,
"Free at last! Free at last!
Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"

Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968 © Martin Luther King Jr., ren. Coretta Scott King, admin. Writer's House, LLC

Black History Month

303

Background

Black History Month is an annual observance of the history and accomplishments of African Americans. The month designated for the observance is February, which was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). Lincoln is significant for signing the Emancipation Proclamation, which ended slavery in the United States, and Douglass for his prominence as an African American leader in the nineteenth century.

The concept for the observance originated with African American historian, Carter G. Woodson, who in 1926 called for the establishment of Negro History Week. Woodson observed that both the struggles and accomplishments of African Americans were not widely studied or recognized, and that this deficit of knowledge was unhealthy for American society in general and the African American community in particular. Woodson believed that studying and remembering the past was a prerequisite to living successfully in the present and being prepared for the future.

The observance has been sponsored by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), an organization founded by Woodson in 1915. Each year ASALH has chosen a theme to focus the observance, which became known as Black History Week in the early 1970s. In 1976 the observance was lengthened to a month.

Observance in the congregation

Although not a religious observance, Black History Month is appropriately marked and celebrated by congregations as a secondary focus during the seasons of Epiphany and Lent. Possibilities for observance include the following:

- Sponsor adult and youth forums on African American history. These forums may be sponsored jointly by several area congregations.
- Sponsor plays or dramas recalling important events or figures in African American history. Consider having parish youth write, organize, and act in the performances.
- Publish articles, poetry, and prose on African American history or by African American writers in the parish newsletter.
- Sponsor a congregational banquet and invite members to wear African-inspired clothing. Consider including a special speaker and serving traditional foods.
- ► Hold soup suppers with storytelling times. Invite elders (older members) to share their recollections of African American history, drawing from the experiences of their own lives.
- Include teaching moments about African American history during worship times.
- Use various African and African American musical styles in worship. Decorate the worship spaces with African cloth that coordinates with the seasonal liturgical color.

304

Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration.

Legend has it that the good word was spread by a black man who rode a mule from the east all the way to Texas. Historians credit Union General Gordon Grander, who arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, with making the announcement. In any case, the announcement marked the end of slavery for the nation.

More recently, the United States House and Senate have passed a resolution calling for June-teenth to be recognized as Independence Day for African Americans and celebrated by all. At the time of this printing some were working to see that Juneteenth becomes an official American holiday.

The hurricane season often has a profound impact on those who live in tropical and coastal regions. The following prayers, from a Danish Lutheran missionary manual, have been used for decades in parts of the Caribbean.

Prayer for the Beginning of the Hurricane Season

O Lord God, heavenly Father, in this perilous season of the year our island/region <u>name</u> is often visited with tempests and gales, calamities and distresses by land and sea. From such evil spare us, we pray.

But if you loosen the wings of the gale and the earth trembles at your bidding—your will, O Lord, be done. Almighty Creator and heavenly Father, keep us in your mercy through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, forever and ever. Amen

Prayers for the End of the Hurricane Season

O merciful God and heavenly Father, you asked us to call upon you in all our need and distress, and moreover, you promised to hear our prayers and to help us, thereby causing us to give thanks. During this past perilous season, we have felt nature weigh heavily upon us. Keep us from anger, that we might turn our hearts to you, as the ruinous gale passes over us and the earth trembles.

We give ourselves to you with humble hearts, and pray that you will graciously grant by your Holy Spirit, that we are found thankful, not only in word, but also in deed and in truth, that our lives may give glory and praise to you, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, forever and ever. Amen

OR

O merciful God and heavenly Father, you asked us to call upon you in all need and distress, and moreover promised to hear our prayers and to help us, thereby causing us to give thanks. During this past perilous season, we have felt your help and assistance, as you have preserved our lives and homes, and kept the ruinous gale from afflicting us and the earth from trembling.

Therefore we give thanks to you from humble hearts, and we pray that you will graciously grant by your Holy Spirit, that we are found thankful, not only in word, but also in deed and in truth, that our lives may give glory and praise to you, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one true God, forever and ever. Amen

306 Kwanzaa

In recent years, many African Americans have begun to celebrate the festival of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa is a cultural rather than a religious festival. It is not affiliated with any particular religious faith or tradition. Kwanzaa affirms ethical principles that emanate from traditional African societies and that resonate with the ethical traditions of the major religious traditions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

Civil rights activist Maulana Karenga formulated and introduced Kwanzaa in 1966 to encourage African American families to build upon the spiritual strengths of their cultural heritage. On each of the seven days of Kwanzaa—December 26 to January 1—candles are lighted to signify seven foundational principles (*Nguzo Saba*, listed on the following page). Various combinations of red, green, and black candles may be used.

Many African Americans relate Kwanzaa to their Christian faith and traditions. The rituals associated with Kwanzaa are familial and take place primarily in the home, but on occasion they are adapted for use in congregational settings. Some who celebrate Kwanzaa in this way call its observance "Christkwanzaa," while others simply observe it as a cultural festival.

The following are activities and practices that may be observed on the days of Kwanzaa.

- Families may place a straw mat, *mkeka*, on the table as a sign of the tradition that is foundation for the celebration.
- On the first day of Kwanzaa, the *mtume* (leader) calls the family together. When everyone is present, the *mtume* greets them with the words "*Habari gani*" ("What's the news?") and the family responds "*Umoja*" (unity). On each succeeding day, the principle associated with that day is named.
- ► A member of the family offers prayer while all are standing.
- The group then says "Harambee" ("Let's pull together"), a call for unity and the collective work and struggle of the family. Each member raises up the right arm with open hand and, while pulling the arm down, closes the hand into a fist.
- "Harambee" is repeated in sets of seven in honor and reinforcement of the Nguzo Saba, Kwanzaa's seven spiritual and communal principles.
- ► The group sings a Kwanzaa song.
- ► The leader talks about the concept of Kwanzaa and the principle of the day.
- An elder performs the *tambiko* (libation), pouring juice or water in honor of the ancestors.
- A family member, preferably a youth, lights the candle appropriate to the day.
- After the lighting ceremony is complete, a story, song, or object reflective of the principle of the day is shared, and a scripture passage related to the principle may be read.
- ► The family distributes zawandi, handmade gifts.
- ► The leader conducts a closing prayer.
- On December 31, a *karamu*, an African-style feast, may be eaten, often without Western utensils, and accompanied by indigenous music.

NGUZO SABA (THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES)

with related biblical passages

Umoja (unity)

To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

There is one body and one Spirit . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Ephesians 4:4-6; see also Acts 10:1-37

Kujichagulia (self-determination)

To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for, and spoken for by others.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people.

1 Peter 2:9; see also Numbers 13:31—14:9

Ujima (collective work and responsibility)

To build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2; see also Nehemiah 3:1-31

Ujamaa (cooperative economics)

To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Timothy 5:8; see also Acts 2:42-47

Nia (purpose)

To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses . . . let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**Hebrews 12:1; see also Esther 4:1-17*

Kuumba (creativity)

To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might.

Ecclesiastes 9:10; see also 2 Kings 12:1-16

Imani (faith)

To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

This is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

Acknowledgments

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With One Voice, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

All-Africa eucharistic prayer, adapted (East Africa).

Book of Common Prayer (1979) of The Episcopal Church (psalm texts, offertory sentences).

Book of Common Worship, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press (charges to the people).

The Book of Occasional Services 1994, © 1995 Church Pension Fund (Way of the Cross, adapted).

International Consultation on English Texts: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Lord's Prayer; the canticle texts "Glory to God in the highest," "Holy, holy, holy Lord," "Lamb of God," "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace."

New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America (scripture quotations).

Sundays and Seasons, Cycle B, © 1996 Augsburg Fortress (offertory prayers).

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Topics and Themes

A DAVIDATO	37–49	247	I and I interest to Man Cit in the Day in
ADVENT 219	For All the Faithful Women	247	Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
219	Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory	134	O Lord, Open My Eyes Open Our Eyes, Lord
168	My Soul Does Magnify the Lord	149	Seek Ye First
	on of Baptism	149	Spirit of the Living God
161	Go, My Children, with My Blessing	262	
115			This Is the Day
154	I'm Going on a Journey You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore	295	What a Mighty God We Serve!
All Saints		269	When I Think of the Goodness of Jesus
267	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	267	King/Reign of Christ
135	Come, We That Love the Lord	95	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! He Is Lord
179	Shall We Gather at the River	297	
126	Taste and See	297	Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
114	Wade in the Water	38	O Christ the King, Anointed Soon and Very Soon
Apostles'		159	Take the Name of Jesus with You
204	I Believe in God		AAS 50–59
Ascension	A Believe III God	284	
96	Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia		For He Alone Is Worthy
95	He Is Lord		see Hope, Comfort ent see Stewardship, Commitment
99	How Lovely on the Mountains		NITY IN CHRIST 214–224
294	O Christ the King, Anointed	83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
Burial	o christ the King, Anothted	145	Jesus, We Want to Meet
174	Deep River	48	Let Justice Flow like Streams
180	Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In	232	
193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	129	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ Now We Offer
176	Some Glad Morning When This Life Is O'er	129	
171	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	246	One Bread, One Body
Children,		136	Somebody Prayed for Me
279	Amen, We Praise Your Name	84	We Have Come into His House
241	Every Time I Feel the Spirit	Creation	Where Charity and Love Prevail
52	Go Tell It on the Mountain	222	God the Soulaton of the Manuscine
275	God Is So Good	283	Good the Sculptor of the Mountains
158	Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises	276	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
287	I Just Came to Praise the Lord	EASTER	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 90–100
66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	219	For All the Faithful Women
109	I'm Goin'-a Sing	148	
191	I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me	262	Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! This Is the Day
83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	281	
232	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ	Easter, Vig	We Will Glorify
247	Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying	88	
274	Oh, Sing to the Lord	87	O Mary, Don't You Weep
149	Seek Ye First	EPIPHAN	When Israel Was in Egypt's Land
179	Shall We Gather at the River	45	Emmanuel
38	Soon and Very Soon	37	He Came Down
54	That Boy-Child of Mary	59	
63	We Are Marching in the Light of God	128	Jesus, the Light of the World Now Behold the Lamb
295	What a Mighty God We Serve!	89	The Lamb
87	When Israel Was in Egypt's Land	112	
Choruses	Sylve Salid		Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
218	Behold, What Manner of Love	221 154	We Are All One in Christ
45	Emmanuel		You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore Struggle, Faith
124	Fill My Cup, Lord		struggie, raith s see Healing, Forgiveness
284	For He Alone Is Worthy	Freedom	s see Healing, rorgiveness
187	God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name		All Family I. II. C.1
95	He Is Lord	47	All Earth Is Hopeful
189	Heal Me, O Lord	67	By the Waters of Babylon
288	I Love You, Lord	46	Freedom Is Coming
248	In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified	164	Great Day!
142	In the Name of the Father	230	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
268	Jesus, Name Above All Names	48	Let Justice Flow like Streams
-50	- Tour, Addition thore the traines	208	Oh, Freedom

63	We Are Marching in the Light of God	156	Come to Jesus
87	When Israel Was in Egypt's Land	161	Go, My Children, with My Blessing
ATHERI		191	I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me
279	Amen, We Praise Your Name	179	Shall We Gather at the River
106	Come, O Holy Spirit, Come	HOLY CO	OMMUNION 118–129
103	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading	273	Bless the Lord
107	Holy Spirit, Descend	186	Come, Ye Disconsolate
ood Frid	ay	161	Go, My Children, with My Blessing
85	Calvary	275	God Is So Good
80	They Crucified My Lord	158	Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
race		62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
71	Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed	287	I Just Came to Praise the Lord
68	That Priceless Grace	263	I'm a-Goin'-a Eat at the Welcome Table
89	The Lamb	258	I've Got Peace Like a River
78	There Is a Fountain	257	I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy
184	Wonderful Grace of Jesus	83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
rowth		253	Just a Closer Walk with Thee
110	Joys Are Flowing like a River	232	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
131	Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil	234	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
226	You Are the Seed	293	Thank You, Lord
uidance	see also Trust	Holy Inne	ocents
212	Don't Be Worried	60	Sister Mary
153	Guide My Feet	Holy Trin	ity
151	He Leadeth Me	138	Come, All You People
66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	289	Holy, Holy
70	Lead Me, Guide Me	142	In the Name of the Father
193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	HOLY W	EEK, THE THREE DAYS 77-89
185	There Is a Balm in Gilead	74	Days Are Filled with Sorrow and Care,
132	Thy Word Is a Lamp	72	Down at the Cross
231	Time Is Filled with Swift Transition	125	Eat This Bread
79	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	182	Ride On, King Jesus
EALING	G, FORGIVENESS 183-190	HOPE, C	OMFORT 171–182
200	Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide	47	All Earth Is Hopeful
42	Come by Here	91	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
43	Come by Here	118	Blessed Assurance
174	Deep River	152	Have Thine Own Way, Lord
148	Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!	230	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
161	Go, My Children, with My Blessing	256	I Will Trust in the Lord
97	I Heard an Old, Old Story	165	In the Morning When I Rise
111	I've Just Come from the Fountain	150	Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
110	Joys Are Flowing like a River	290	Praised Be the Rock
120	Lord, I Hear of Showers of Blessings	193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
105	Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You	201	The Blood that Jesus Shed for Me
193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	61	The Lord Is My Light
155	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling	185	There Is a Balm in Gilead
209	We've Come a Long Way, Lord	220	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
197	We've Come This Far by Faith	INVITAT	TION TO DISCIPLESHIP 146–156
198	When the Storms of Life Are Raging	235	All to Jesus I Surrender
252	Why Should I Feel Discouraged	141	Come and Go with Me to My Father's House
leaven, E	ternal Life	216	Give Me a Clean Heart
199	'Tis the Old Ship of Zion	113	Have You Got Good Religion?
91	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!	256	I Will Trust in the Lord
118	Blessed Assurance	233	I'd Rather Have Jesus
135	Come, We That Love the Lord	257	I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy
116	Free at Last	111	I've Just Come from the Fountain
41	I Want to Be Ready	172	If When You Give the Best of Your Service
210	I've Got a Robe	165	In the Morning When I Rise
49	On Jordan's Stormy Banks	234	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
179	Shall We Gather at the River	236	Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses
38	Soon and Very Soon	Joy	
181	To Go to Heaven	291	I Will Enter His Gates
IOLY BA	PTISM 111-117	191	I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me
217	Bind Us Together, Lord	274	Oh, Sing to the Lord

278	Praise, Praise the Lord		G, EVENING 165–170
266	Victory Is Mine	283	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
100	We Praise Thee, O God	40	My Lord, What a Morning
	E, SOCIETY 208–213	285	Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior
47	All Earth Is Hopeful	64	Shine, Jesus, Shine
224	Help Me, Jesus	63	We Are Marching in the Light of God
227	How to Reach the Masses	Name of J	
48	Let Justice Flow like Streams	267	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
40	My Lord, What a Morning	72	Down at the Cross
38 Last Tim	Soon and Very Soon	45 265	Emmanuel In the Name of Jesus
116	Free at Last	268	Jesus, Name Above All Names
41	I Want to Be Ready	159	Take the Name of Jesus with You
40	My Lord, What a Morning'	250	There Is a Name I Love to Hear
49	On Jordan's Stormy Banks	139	What a Blessing
179	Shall We Gather at the River		AL, CULTURAL 297–301
176	Some Glad Morning When This Life Is O'er	296	Lift Every Voice and Sing
38	Soon and Very Soon	Offertory	Ent Every voice and Sing
	66–76	129	Now We Offer
85	Calvary	122	One Bread, One Body
216	Give Me a Clean Heart	239	What Shall I Render
62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	Peace	What Shall I Kender
123	Let Us Break Bread Together	37	He Came Down
234	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian	48	Let Justice Flow like Streams
131	Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil	220	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
82	Oh, How He Loves You and Me		OST 101–110
182	Ride On, King Jesus	241	Every Time I Feel the Spirit
254	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	271	I Will Rejoice
155	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling	145	Jesus, We Want to Meet
236	Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses		THANKSGIVING 262-296
44	Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door	118	Blessed Assurance
185	There Is a Balm in Gilead	96	Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
78	There Is a Fountain	138	Come, All You People
79	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	108	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Lesser Fe		25	Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
219	For All the Faithful Women	158	Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
299	Holy God, You Raise up Prophets	191	I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me
294	O Christ the King, Anointed	167	Jesus in the Morning
182	Ride On, King Jesus	168	My Soul Does Magnify the Lord
179	Shall We Gather at the River	102	There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place
Light		PRAYER	240–248
104	Holy Spirit, Light Divine	42	Come by Here
62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	43	Come by Here
64	Shine, Jesus, Shine	160	God Be with You
61	The Lord Is My Light	157	God Be with You till We Meet Again
65	This Little Light of Mine	277	I Will Call Upon the Lord
132	Thy Word Is a Lamp	34	Let the Words of My Mouth
100	We Praise Thee, O God	162	May God Bless Us
Love		101	Spirit of the Living God
218	Behold, What Manner of Love	175	Steal Away
224	Help Me, Jesus	Reconcilia	
188	I Was Sinking Deep in Sin	191	I'm So Glad Jeşus Lifted Me
214	In Christ There Is No East or West	170	If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today
83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	70	Lead Me, Guide Me
84	Where Charity and Love Prevail	166	Oh, I Woke Up This Morning
Marriage		49	On Jordan's Stormy Banks
217	Bind Us Together, Lord	236	Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses
Mary, Mo	ther of Our Lord	100	We Praise Thee, O God
219	For All the Faithful Women	84	Where Charity and Love Prevail
168	My Soul Does Magnify the Lord	Reformation	
Maundy T	Thursday	133	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	46	Freedom Is Coming
84	Where Charity and Love Prevail	290	Praised Be the Rock

221	We Are All One in Christ	TRUET 4	240 261 In Cuit Imm
Saints Days		TRUST 2	249–261 see also Guidance All to Jesus I Surrender
219	For All the Faithful Women	200	Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide
180	Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In	42	Come by Here
SENDING	157–164	43	Come by Here
232	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ	212	Don't Be Worried
130	Listen, God Is Calling	72	Down at the Cross
244	Send Me, Jesus	125	Eat This Bread
245	Send Me, Jesus	153	Guide My Feet
221	We Are All One in Christ	152	Have Thine Own Way, Lord
226	You Are the Seed	151	He Leadeth Me
Service	Tod file the seed	62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
216	Give Me a Clean Heart	183	I Must Tell Jesus
230	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky	66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
172	If When You Give the Best of Your Service	233	I'd Rather Have Jesus
		167	Jesus in the Morning
	e Justice/Society	73	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
	OSHIP, COMMITMENT 231–239	110	*
108	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing		Joys Are Flowing like a River
103	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading	70	Lead Me, Guide Me
230	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky	150	Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
86	King of My Life	193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
131	Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil	44	Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door
101	Spirit of the Living God	185	There Is a Balm in Gilead
195	Yield Not to Temptation	132	Thy Word Is a Lamp
154	You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore	231	Time Is Filled with Swift Transition
	LE, FAITH 191–207	206	We Are Often Tossed and Driven
186	Come, Ye Disconsolate	220	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
46	Freedom Is Coming	79	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
225	I Believe I'll Testify	194	When Peace, Like a River
228	I Love to Tell the Story	198	When the Storms of Life Are Raging
183	I Must Tell Jesus	Unity	n: 177 m . 1 . 7 . 1
66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	217	Bind Us Together, Lord
188	I Was Sinking Deep in Sin	214	In Christ There Is No East or West
249	Jesus Loves Me!	122	One Bread, One Body
253	Just a Closer Walk with Thee	221	We Are All One in Christ
251	Like a Ship That's Tossed and Driven	213	We Shall Overcome
237	Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone	84	Where Charity and Love Prevail
166	Oh, I Woke Up This Morning	WITNESS	
77	On a Hill Far Away	260	A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus
242	Sweet Hour of Prayer	135	Come, We That Love the Lord
209	We've Come a Long Way, Lord	52	Go Tell It on the Mountain
173	When upon Life's Billows	190	God Has Smiled on Me
255	Will Your Anchor Hold	275	God Is So Good
Suffering		93	God Sent His Son
67	By the Waters of Babylon	103	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	283	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
172	If When You Give the Best of Your Service	158	Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
165	In the Morning When I Rise	95	He Is Lord
193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	99	How Lovely on the Mountains
185	There Is a Balm in Gilead	256	I Will Trust in the Lord
213	We Shall Overcome	249	Jesus Loves Me!
209	We've Come a Long Way, Lord	130	Listen, God Is Calling
81	Were You There	234	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
198	When the Storms of Life Are Raging	192	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
Sunday of	the Passion	236	Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses
85	Calvary	101	Spirit of the Living God
95	He Is Lord	250	There Is a Name I Love to Hear
73	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	65	This Little Light of Mine
282	Let All That Is within Me Cry, "Holy!"	79	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
182	Ride On, King Jesus	154	You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore
Thanksgiving see Praise, Thanksgiving			HE 130-134
Transfigur	ation	137	Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship
64	Shine, Jesus, Shine	268	Jesus, Name Above All Names

Scripture References

Cameric 12-1-8 66 Want Jesus to Walk with Me 95 9 Come. Ring out Your Joy to the Lord						
Second	Genesis			95	9	
Second Second Before the Holy Mountain 15:21 88 O Mary, Don't You Weep 100 12 100	12:1-8	66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	96	10	Let the Heavens Rejoice
Manumbers	Exodus			98	274	Oh, Sing to the Lord
Number 100 12 Indeed, How Good Is the Lord 100-1 280 Thank You, Jesus 118-1 280 Thank You, Jesus 128-1 280 Thank You, Jesus 118-1 280 Thank You, Jesus 118-1 280	8:1, 13-15	87	When Israel Was in Egypt's Land	99	11	Bow Down Before the Holy Mountain
Deuteronomy	15:21	88	O Mary, Don't You Weep			of God
Section	Numbers			100	12	Indeed, How Good Is the Lord
8:2 259 All the Way My Savior Leads Me 100:4 260 A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus 9:20 246 Somebody Prayed for Me 103:1 273 Bless the Lord 9:20 246 Somebody Prayed for Me 103:1 273 Bless the Lord of Vour Spirit! 1:11-15 49 On Jordan's Stormy Banks 116 14 I Will Call upon the Name of the Lord 24:15-24 236 Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses 116:12 239 What Shall I Render Ruth 4:11-12 219 For All the Faithful Women 118:6 198 When the Storms of Life Are Raging 31:-18 230 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky 118:24 260 A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus 7:12 108 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 118:24 262 This Is the Day 2 Kings 21 13 14 Swings 18:24 262 This Is the Day 2 Kings 27 Ware You Thanked the Lord? 118:25 29 This Is the Day 2 Kings 27 <td< td=""><td>6:24</td><td>162</td><td>May God Bless Us</td><td>100:1</td><td>280</td><td>Thank You, Jesus</td></td<>	6:24	162	May God Bless Us	100:1	280	Thank You, Jesus
8-2 209 We've Come a Long Way, Lord 103:1 273 Bless the Lord	Deuteronom	ıy		100:4	136	We Have Come into His House
Joshua 103:1 273 Bless the Lord Joshua 104 13 Lord, Send Out Your Spirit 1:11-15 49 On Jordan's Stormy Banks 116 14 Twill Call upon the Name of the Lord 24:15-24 236 Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses 116:12 239 What Shall I Render Ruth 4:11-12 219 For All the Faithful Women 118 209 We've Come a Long Way, Lord Samuel 3:1-18 230 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky 118:24 266 A Wonderful Sayoir of Isea 27 Kings 21:10 To Some, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 118:24 262 This Is the Day 22:11 171 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot 118:26 32 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord 116-10 13:10	8:2	259	All the Way My Savior Leads Me	100:4	260	A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus
1-11-15 49	8:2	209	We've Come a Long Way, Lord	100:4	291	I Will Enter His Gates
1-11-15	9:20	246	Somebody Prayed for Me	103:1	273	Bless the Lord
1-11-15 49	Joshua			104	13	Lord, Send Out Your Spirit!
24:15-24 236 Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses 116:12 239 What Shall I Render	1:11-15	49	On Jordan's Stormy Banks	116	14	
Name	24:15-24	236	Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses	116:12	239	
18 18 209 We'we Come a Long Way, Lord 18 18 209 We'we Come a Long Way, Lord 18 18 198 When the Storms of Life Are Raging 18 18 26 26 A Wonderful Savio's Is Besus 18 24 26 26 This Is the Day 28 28 18 29 18 29 18 29 18 29 29 18 29 29 29 29 20 20 20 20	Ruth			118		
18 miles	4:11-12	219	For All the Faithful Women	118	209	
31-18 320 1, the Lord of Sea and Sky	1 Samuel			118:6		
7.12 108 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 118:24 262 This Is the Day	3:1-18	230	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky	118:24		0.0
2 Kings	7:12	108	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	118:24		
171 171 171 172 173 174 175	2 Kings		,			
10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-1	2:11	171	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot			
1	1 Chronicles					
Psalms	16:8	270	Have You Thanked the Lord?			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1	Psalms					* *
133 147 I Shall Not Be Moved 122:1 141 Come and Go with Me to My Father's House	1	1	Happy Are They			
18:1-21 183 I Must Tell Jesus 136 173 When upon Life's Billows 18:1-21 187 I Must Tell Jesus 136 173 When upon Life's Billows 19:14-277 I Will Call Upon the Lord 137:1-4 67 By the Waters of Babylon 19:14 290 Praised Be the Rock 141 18 Let My Prayer Arise before You 19:14 67 By the Waters of Babylon 150 19 Let Everything Give Praise to the Lord 19:14 34 Let Words of My Mouth 150:1 276 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 19:14 18 Let My Prayer Arise before You 19:14 34 Let Words of My Mouth 150:1 276 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 19:14 1	1:3		7 7 7			
18:1-21				122.1	1-1	
18:3, 46 277 Will Call Upon the Lord 137:1-4 67 87 87 87 87 87 87 87			,	136	173	
19:12-13						
19:14 290 Praised Be the Rock 141 18						The state of the s
19:14 67 By the Waters of Babylon 150 19 Let Everything Give Praise to the Lord						
19:14 34						
22						
22:23 281 We Will Glorify Proverbs 3:5 263 I'm a-Goin'-a Eat at the Welcome Table 23:1-2 146 I Can Hear My Savior Calling Isaiah				130.1	2/0	
23				Dwarranha		All Blessings Flow
146 Can Hear My Savior Calling 15aiah 23:3 254 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 6 143 The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 6:1-8 230 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky 27 61 The Lord Is My Light 6:3 32 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord 17:11 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 6:3 203 Holy Is Our God 33:12-29 298 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 7:114 45 Emmanuel 34 167 Jesus in the Morning 7:14 47 All Earth Is Hopeful 25:6-8 119 Come, Let Us Eat 42:13 295 What a Mighty God We Serve! 48:17-18 258 I've Got Peace like a River 37 212 Don't Be Worried 53:7 80 They Crucified My Lord 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 60:1-11 63 Shine, Jesus, Shine 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord 17:14			-		262	7) 0:1
23:3 254 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 6 143 The Lord Is in His Holy Temple					263	I'm a-Goin'-a Eat at the Welcome Table
24					1.42	
27						
27:11 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 33:12-29 298 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 34 167 Jesus in the Morning 34 5 Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord 34 126 Taste and See 36:8-9 108 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 37 212 Don't Be Worried 37:3 256 I Will Trust in the Lord 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 40:2 188 I Was Sinking Deep in Sin 46 6 The Lord of Hosts Is with Us 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 72 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 7:114 45 Emmanuel 7:14 47 All Earth Is Hopeful 25:6-8 119 Come, Let Us Eat 42:13 295 What a Mighty God We Serve! 48:17-18 258 I've Got Peace like a River 7 They Crucified My Lord 48:17-18 258 I've Got Peace like a River 7 Me Are Marching in the Light of God 60:1-11 64 Shine, Jesus, Shine 61:1 1 64 Freedom 1 Scoming 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 7 Lamentations 7 2 208 Oh, Freedom 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 7 2 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 8 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 8 4 Let Justice Flow like Streams						•
33:12-29 298 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 34 167 Jesus in the Morning 34 5 Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord 34 126 Taste and See 36:8-9 108 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 37 212 Don't Be Worried 37:31 256 I Will Trust in the Lord 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 40:2 188 I Was Sinking Deep in Sin 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart 66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 72 208 Oh, Freedom 73 212 Ohrist the King, Anointed 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 7:114 47 All Earth Is Hopeful 25:6-8 119 Come, Let Us Eat 42:13 295 What a Mighty God We Serve! 48:17-18 258 I've Got Peace like a River 7 They Crucified My Lord 46:1-1 64 Shine, Jesus, Shine 60:1-11 64 Shine, Jesus, Shine 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord Lamentations 7 2 298 Orbrist the King, Anointed 8 22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams						
34167Jesus in the Morning7:1447All Earth Is Hopeful345Taste and See25:6-8119Come, Let Us Eat34126Taste and See42:13295What a Mighty God We Serve!36:8-9108Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing48:17-18258I've Got Peace like a River37212Don't Be Worried53:780They Crucified My Lord40:16288I Love You, Lord60:1-1163We Are Marching in the Light of God40:2188I Was Sinking Deep in Sin61:146Freedom Is Coming466The Lord of Hosts Is with Us61:1294O Christ the King, Anointed46:1-366I Want Jesus to Walk with Me64:8152Have Thine Own Way, Lord51:10216Give Me a Clean HeartJeremiah66:8-12138Come, All You People17:14189Heal Me, O Lord677Let the Peoples Praise You, O GodLamentations72294O Christ the King, Anointed3:22-23283Great Is Thy Faithfulness858O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness5:24; 7-948Let Justice Flow like Streams						
34 5 Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord 25:6-8 119 Come, Let Us Eat 34 126 Taste and See 42:13 295 What a Mighty God We Serve! 36:8-9 108 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 48:17-18 258 I've Got Peace like a River 37 212 Don't Be Worried 53:7 80 They Crucified My Lord 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 60:1-11 63 We Are Marching in the Light of God 40:2 188 I Was Sinking Deep in Sin 61:1 46 Freedom Is Coming 46 6 The Lord of Hosts Is with Us 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart Jeremiah 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 8:22 185 There Is a Balm in Gilead 66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God Lamentations 3:22-23 <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>						
126 Taste and See 42:13 295 What a Mighty God We Serve!			8			
36:8-9 108 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 48:17-18 258 I've Got Peace like a River 37:3 256 I Will Trust in the Lord 60:1-11 63 We Are Marching in the Light of God 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 60:1-11 64 Shine, Jesus, Shine 40:2 188 I Was Sinking Deep in Sin 61:1 46 Freedom & Coming 46:1-3 66 The Lord of Hosts Is with Us 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord Jeremiah 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 8:22 185 There Is a Balm in Gilead 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord Lamentations 18:2-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 18:2-23 284 Mmos 18:2-23 284 Let Justice Flow like Streams 18:20 Let Uus See Your Kindness 18:24 The Justice Flow like Streams 18:24 The Jus						
37: 3 212 Don't Be Worried 53:7 80 They Crucified My Lord 37:3 256 I Will Trust in the Lord 60:1-11 63 We Are Marching in the Light of God 40:16 288 I Love You, Lord 60:1-11 64 Shine, Jesus, Shine 40:2 188 I Was Sinking Deep in Sin 61:1 46 Freedom ★s Coming 46:1-3 66 The Lord of Hosts Is with Us 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart Jeremiah 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 8:22 185 There Is a Balm in Gilead 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord Lamentations 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 4mos 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams					295	What a Mighty God We Serve!
37:3 256 I Will Trust in the Lord 60:1-11 63 60:1-11 64						
40:16					80	
40:2 188 I Was Sinking Deep in Sin 61:1 46 Freedom \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Sinking Deep in Sin 61:1 46 Freedom \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Soming 46 6 The Lord of Hosts Is with Us 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart Jeremiah 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 8:22 185 There Is a Balm in Gilead 66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 72 208 Oh, Freedom 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 73 294 O Christ the King, Anointed Amos 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams					63	We Are Marching in the Light of God
46 6 The Lord of Hosts Is with Us 61:1 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart Jeremiah 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 8:22 185 There Is a Balm in Gilead 66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 72 208 Oh, Freedom 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 72 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams					64	Shine, Jesus, Shine
46:1-3 66 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 64:8 152 Have Thine Own Way, Lord 51:10 216 Give Me a Clean Heart Jeremiah 61:2 70 Lead Me, Guide Me 8:22 185 There Is a Balm in Gilead 66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God Lamentations 72 208 Oh, Freedom 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams						Freedom is Coming
10					294	O Christ the King, Anointed
Sirio					152	Have Thine Own Way, Lord
66:8-12 138 Come, All You People 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord 67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 72 208 Oh, Freedom 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness 72 294 O Christ the King, Anointed Amos 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams				Jeremiah		
67 7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 72 208 Oh, Freedom 73 294 O Christ the King, Anointed 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 17:14 189 Heal Me, O Lord Lamentations 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness Amos 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams				8:22	185	There Is a Balm in Gilead
7 Let the Peoples Praise You, O God 208 Oh, Freedom 3:22-23 283 Great Is Thy Faithfulness Amos 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7-9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams				17:14		
72 294 O Christ the King, Anointed Amos 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7–9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams				Lamentation		
72 294 O Christ the King, Anointed Amos 85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7–9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams				3:22-23	283	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
85 8 O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness 5:24; 7–9 48 Let Justice Flow like Streams			O Christ the King, Anointed	Amos		
		8	O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness		48	Let Justice Flow like Streams
	88:13	166	Oh, I Woke Up This Morning			

Micah			2,21	5.4	That Day Child of Manager
6:8	252	Just a Closer Walk with Thee	2:21		That Boy-Child of Mary
Habakkuk	233	Just a Closer walk with Thee	2:33, 38	47	All Earth Is Hopeful
2:20	1.42	The Lead Is in III. Help Towns	5:1-11		You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore
Zechariah	143	The Lord Is in His Holy Temple	5:3		'Tis the Old Ship of Zion
13:1	72	Down at the Cross	9:23		Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone
	72 78		9:28-36	64	Shine, Jesus, Shine
13:1	/0	There Is a Fountain	10:33		Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
Matthan			14:27		Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone
Matthew	17	A 11 Y2	17:15		When I Think of the Goodness of Jesus
1:18-25 1:23	47 45	All Earth Is Hopeful Emmanuel	18:15-17		Go, My Children, with My Blessing
2:1-2		There's a Star in the East	18:38-39 18:38-39	20	Kyrie
2:10-11		Ride On, King Jesus		21	Lord, Have Mercy
4:18-22		You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore	18:38-39	22 23	Lord, Have Mercy
5:16	65		18:38-39 22:19		Lord, Have Mercy This Is My Rody
6:6		This Little Light of Mine	22:33	86	This Is My Body King of My Life
6:9-13	33	Steal Away	23:32-34	74	
6:9-13		Our Father, Who Art in Heaven	23:40-43		Days Are Filled with Sorrow and Care
6:19-23		Let the Words of My Mouth	24:1-8		Do, Lord, Remember Me
6:25-39		Time Is Filled with Swift Transition Why Should I Feel Discouraged	24:1-8	86 94	King of My Life Low in the Grave He Lay
6:33		Seek Ye First	24:13-28	91	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
		Seek Ye First	John	71	Alletuia: Jesus is Risch;
7:7			1:4-9	37	He Came Down
8:5-13	42	Come by Here	1:16		
8:5-13	43	Come by Here	1:29	35	Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow Lamb of God
9:27	20	Kyrie	1:29	36	O Lamb of God
9:27	21	Lord, Have Mercy	1:29		Now Behold the Lamb
9:27	22	Lord, Have Mercy	2:1-11		A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
9:27	23	Lord, Have Mercy	4:5-15		Fill My Cup, Lord
10:8		God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name	4:7-15		I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
11:28-30	62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	4:23		There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place
11:28-30		I Must Tell Jesus	5:24		Deep River
13:8-23		Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil	6		Eat This Bread
15:21-28		Lord, I Hear of Showers of Blessings	6		Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
17:1-9	64	Shine, Jesus, Shine	6:1-13		Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
17:8	98	Open Our Eyes, Lord	6:33-37		Come to Jesus
18:20		Jesus, We Want to Meet	6:35		Fill My Cup, Lord
19:13-15		Go, My Children, with My Blessing I'd Rather Have Jesus	8:12		I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
19:16-30		Send Me, Jesus	8:36		Wade in the Water
21:22		Send Me, Jesus Send Me, Jesus	8:36		Free at Last
21:22	40	My Lord, What a Morning	14:1		I Will Trust in the Lord
24:29	38	Soon and Very Soon	14:3		To Go to Heaven
24:36		If When You Give the Best of Your Service	15:13		Jesus Loves Me!
25:31 28:5-7		Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia	15:26		Holy Spirit, Descend
		Listen, God Is Calling	16:13		Precious Lord, Take My Hand
28:16-20		God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name	17:18		Take the Name of Jesus with You
28:18-20		In the Name of the Father	20:11-18	88	O Mary, Don't You Weep
28:19	142	If the Name of the Pather	Acts	00	,, ,
Mark 3:24-37	40	Mr. Lord What a Marning	1:8	106	Come, O Holy Spirit, Come
		My Lord, What a Morning You Are the Seed	2		Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You
4:8			2:14	41	I Want to Be Ready
10:13-16	161	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	2:42		What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
10:35-45	83		2:42		Let Us Break Bread Together
11:15-32		O Lord, Open My Eyes Your Will Be Done	3:1		Sweet Hour of Prayer
14:36			4:20		I Love to Tell the Story
16:16	113	Have You Got Good Religion?	4:20		I Believe I'll Testify
Luke	1.00	Mr. Coul Door Magnify the Lard	8:12		Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
1:46-55		My Soul Does Magnify the Lord I Wonder As I Wander	8:18-19		Somebody Prayed for Me
2:1-21	50		8:36		Take Me to the Water
2:7	54	That Boy-Child of Mary	10:12		Just a Closer Walk with Thee
2:7	60	Sister Mary Go Tall It on the Mountain	18:20		Jesus, We Are Gathered
2:8-20	52	Go Tell It on the Mountain	20:17		Jesus, We Want to Meet
2:11-22	55	Mary Had a Baby	20:17		I Believe I'll Testify
2:13-14	51	Jesus, What a Wonderful Child	20.27	الاطند	

Romans			3:10	97	I Heard an Old, Old Story
3:24	68	That Priceless Grace	4:5-18		Give Thanks
					I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy
6:4-5		I'm Going on a Journey	4:7	231	I ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy
8:26		I'm Goin'-a Sing	Colossians	71	W- 11V- D- C
8:26		Every Time I Feel the Spirit	1:20	. 76	Would You Be Free
8:34		The Right Hand of God	1 Thessalon		
8:37		We Shall Overcome	3:9		What Shall I Render
8:37-38		Blessed Assurance	5:5		It's Me, O Lord
1 Corinthia			5:23	104	Holy Spirit, Light Divine
1:17-18	73	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	1 Timothy		
2:2		In the Morning When I Rise	1:1	192	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
10:4		All the Way My Savior Leads Me	Hebrews		
10:13		Like a Ship That's Tossed and Driven	3:17-18	252	Why Should I Feel Discouraged
10:31	248	In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified	4:16	186	Come, Ye Disconsolate
11:26	201	The Blood that Jesus Shed for Me	6:19	255	Will Your Anchor Hold
12	122	One Bread, One Body	11:29	197	We've Come This Far by Faith
12:4-6	103	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading	12:2	73	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
13:12	206	We Are Often Tossed and Driven	12:2	77	On a Hill Far Away
14	109	I'm Goin'-a Sing	13:15	293	Thank You, Lord
15:20-23	176	Some Glad Morning	James		
		When This Life Is O'er	1:12	195	Yield Not to Temptation
15:54-56	97	I Heard an Old, Old Story	5:23		Why Should I Feel Discouraged
15:55-58	93	God Sent His Son	1 Peter		,
15:57	266	Victory Is Mine	3:12	247	Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
2 Corinthia		,	1 John		zorą ziowi to rom omiani raying
1:21-22	241	Every Time I Feel the Spirit	1:7	76	Would You Be Free
3:6		We Praise Thee, O God	3:1		Behold, What Manner of Love
3:18		There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place	3:8-9		Satan, We're Going to Tear
4:6	61	The Lord Is My Light	5.0 /	201	Your Kingdom Down
4:6	62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	4:7-12	83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
5:21		Now Behold the Lamb	4:16	84	Where Charity and Love Prevail
13:4		Just a Closer Walk with Thee	4:19		There Is a Name I Love to Hear
Galatians	200	Table a Closer Walk With Thee	5:4		We Shall Overcome
3:23-28	214	In Christ There Is No East or West	3 John	213	we Shall Overcome
5:19-26		Joys Are Flowing like a River	1:2	104	117 D 1 1 D
5:22		Holy Spirit, Descend		194	When Peace, Like a River
5:25		I'm Goin'-a Sing	Revelation	261	T. O. I.D. J. O.
6:14	77		1:6		To God Be the Glory
	//	On a Hill Far Away	1:50		I Know It Was the Blood
Ephesians	120	W. Di	3:9		For He Alone Is Worthy
1:3		What a Blessing	4		The Lord Is in His Holy Temple
1:7	69	What Can Wash Away My Sin?	4:8		Holy, Holy
1:7	76	Would You Be Free	5:12	282	Let All That Is within Me Cry, "Holy!"
1:7-8	72	Down at the Cross	5:13	285	Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior
2:4-6	82	Oh, How He Loves You and Me	7	180	Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In
2:8		Wonderful Grace of Jesus	7:9-10	210	I've Got a Robe
2:11-18	111	I've Just Come from the Fountain	7:12	279	Amen, We Praise Your Name
4:4-6		Bind Us Together, Lord	7:17	78	There Is a Fountain
5		Just a Closer Walk with Thee	14:14-19	297	Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
5:18	292	Give Thanks	19:7a		I Will Rejoice
6:18	241	Every Time I Feel the Spirit	19:16		All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
Philippians			21	49	On Jordan's Stormy Banks
2:8-11	268	Jesus, Name Above All Names	21:9-12		Come, We That Love the Lord
2:9-11	159	Take the Name of Jesus with You	21:22-26	63	We Are Marching in the Light of God
2:10-11	95	He Is Lord	22:1	179	Shall We Gather at the River

Tunes—Alphabetical

110		0.00	** 1		
119	A va de	228	Hankey	195	Palmer
152	Adelaide	179	Hanson Place	150	Pass Me Not
284	Adeste Fideles	97	Hartford	82	Patricia
290	All the West	37	He Came Down	154	Pescador de hombres
259	All the Way	95	He Is Lord	69	Plainfield
279	Amen siakudumisa	151	He Leadeth Me	76	Power in the Blood
170	An Evening Prayer	90	He Rose	301	Prayer for Africa
161	Ar hyd y nos	230	Here I Am, Lord	193	Precious Lord
118	Assurance	252	His Eye Is on the Sparrow	159	Precious Name
185	Balm in Gilead	111	His Name So Sweet	49	Promised Land
219	Baronita	289	Holy, Holy	100	Revive Us Again
297	Battle Hymn	71	Hudson	58	Rise Up, Shepherd
112	Beach Spring	50	I Wonder	30	rado op, bnophera
125	Berthier	176	I'll Fly Away	188	Safety
217	Bind Us Together	109	I'm Goin'-a Sing	64	Shine, Jesus, Shine
54	Blantyre	226	Id y enseñad	220	Showalter
254	Bradbury	194	It Is Well	63	Siyahamba
123	Break Bread Together	127	11 13 11011	66	Sojourner
40	Burleigh	191	Jesus Lifted Me	221	Somos uno
206		249	Jesus Loves Me	48	St. Thomas
200	By and By	59	Jesus, the Light of the World	198	Stand by Me
85	Calvary			175	Steal Away
274	Cantad al Señor	181	Kule mbinguni nataka kwenda	235	Surrender
121	Cause of Our Joy	42	Kum ba yah	242	Sweet Hour
83	Chereponi	43	Kum ba yah	102	Sweet, Sweet Spirit
247	Children Praying	140	Lafforty	171	Swing Low
94	Christ Arose	149 296	Lafferty		
78	Cleansing Fountain		Lift Every Voice	47	Taulé
253	Closer Walk	227 232	Lift Him Up Linstead	129	Te ofrecemos
186	Consolator	232	Linstead	201	The Blood
203	Cuéllar	237	Maitland	89	The Lamb
. 200		135	Marching to Zion	77	The Old Rugged Cross
174	Deep River	200	_	192	The Solid Rock
267	Diadem	299		218	Theimer
178	Ditmus	84		155	Thompson
		298	Materna	244	Thuma mina
91	Earth and All Stars	45	McGee	132	Thy Word
133	Ein feste Burg	214	McKee	181	To Go to Heaven
120	Even Me	104	Mercy	264	To God Be the Glory
283	Faithfulness	96	Mfurahini, haleluya	87	Tubman
124	Fill My Cup	272	My Tribute	138	Uyai mose
187	Freely, Freely	~	,	136	Oyai mosc
107	Treety, Treety	204	Nasadiki	38	Very Soon
165	Give Me Jesus	73	Near the Cross		·
137	Glorious Name	130	Neno lake Mungu	106	
72	Glory to His Name	108	Nettleton	281	We Will Glorify
52	Go Tell It	145	Nigeria	81	Were You There
157	God Be with You	103	Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema	115	Wet Saints
275	God Is So Good	146	Norris	51	Wonderful Child
231	God's Unchanging Hand	107	Nyame ne sense	184	Wonderful Grace
131	Good Soil	88	O Mary	199	Yarmouth
164	Great Day	122	One Bread, One Body	140	Yesu, tawa pano
158	Haleluya! Pelo tso rona	183	Orwigsburg	56	Yesu ulale
70	Hamburg		Our God Reigns		

99 Our God Reigns

Hamburg

Authors, Composers, and Sources

Adams, Larry 32, 36, 212, 271 Adebesin, Biodun 145 African American spiritual 40, 41, 44, 52, 55, 58, 60, 65, 66, 80, 81, 85, 87, 88, 90, 109, 111, 113, 114, 116, 117, 123, 147, 148, 153, 164, 165, 166, 167, 171, 174, 175, 178, 180, 182, 185, 191, 199, 208, 210, 213, 214, 234, 240, 241, 256, 258, 263 African American traditional 51 African traditional 162, 286 Akers, Doris M. 70, 102 Allen, Fernando G. 27 Allen, George N. 193, 237 Appalachian carol 50 Arthur, John 28

Ballinger, Bruce 136 Barnard, John 53 Bartlett, Eugene M. 97 Batastini, Robert J. 125 Bates, Katherine L. 298 Battersby, C. M. 170 Baxter, Lydia 159 Beall, B. B. 227 Bell, John L. 37, 243 Bennard, George 77 Berthier, Jacques 125 Blanchard, Richard 124 Blandy, E. W. 146 Bliss, Philip P. 194 Bonar, Horatius 62 Bonnemère, Edward V. 115, 121, 224 Bouknight, Lillian 61 Boyer, Horace Clarence 65, 117, 160 Bradbury, William B. 120, 151, 192, 242, 249, 254 Brazilian folk song 274 Bread for the Journey 67 Brinson Jr., Hezekiah 182, 190 Brokering, Herbert F. 91 Brown, Grayson Warren 24, 32, 36, 168, 212, 271 Brumley, Albert E. 176 Burkart, Jeffrey E. 228 Burleigh, Glenn 143 Burleigh, Harry T. 214 Butler, Tillis 28, 35

Cameroon traditional 37, 278
Campbell, Lucie E. 172
Capers, James M. 68, 75, 111, 142, 207, 225, 246, 265, 266, 269, 280
Caribbean traditional 25
Cartford, Gerhard 221, 274
Chávez-Melo, Skinner 47, 226
Chisholm, Thomas O. 283
Clark, Eugene 124
Clark, F. A. 206
Cleveland, J. Jefferson 62, 66, 116, 164, 174, 198, 213, 256, 293

Coleman, Gerald Patrick 89
Coles, George 276
Colvin, Tom 54, 83
Conder, Elizabeth 120
Contemporary Worship 4 123
Cooke, George W. 257
Cowper, William 78
Crosby, Fanny J. 73, 118, 150, 259, 260, 264
Crouch, Andraé 38, 201, 272, 273
Cuéllar, Guillermo 203
Cull, Robert 98

Detroit Folk Mass 28, 35

Dett, R. Nathaniel 41

Dexter, Noel 300

Dickinson, Richard C. 137, 294

Diton, Carl 263

Doan, Gilbert E. 119

Doane, William H. 73, 150, 159, 264

Dorsey, Thomas A. 160, 193, 251

Douglass, Frederick 177

Douroux, Margaret J. 216, 239

DuBois, W. E. B. 215

Duck, Ruth 112

Elderkin, George 59 Eliand, F. L. 231 Ellor, James 267 Ethiopia 261 Eulberg, Steven 189 Excell, Edwin O. 173

Ferguson, Marie P. 110 Fischer, William G. 228 Fleming, L. L. 165 Foley, John 122 Franklin, Kirk 128

Gabarain, Cesáreo 154, 226 Gabriel, Charles H. 170, 252 Gainer, Paul 61 Gaither, Gloria 93 Gaither, William 93 Garrett, Les 262 Ghanaian traditional 68, 83, 107, 134, Gillespie, Avon 21 Gillman, Bob 217 Gilmore, Joseph H. 151 Gondo, Alexander 138 Goodson, Albert A. 197 Gottschalk, Louis Moreau 104 Grant, Amy 132 Grantson, Emmanuel F. Y. 68, 107, 134, 144

Hamberg, Vernon 129 Hampton, Keith 128 Hankey, Katherine 228 Hanson, Elaine 278

Gutiérrez-Achon, Raquel 226

Hanson, Handt 131 Harbor, Rawn 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Harper, Donnie 285 Harrel, Melvin 282 Harris, James 28, 35 Hassell, Michael 29, 30, 31 Hastings, Thomas 186 Hatton, John 276 Haya tune 290 Hays, Stephen 211 Haywood, Carl 80, 114, 148, 299 Hearn, Naida 268 High, Charles 141, 282 Hoffman, Elisha A. 72, 183, 220 Hovland Egil 103 Howe, Julia Ward 297 Huber, Jane Parker 48 Hudson, Ralph E. 71 Hughes, Langston 57 Husband, John H. 100 Husberg, Amanda 222 Hussey, Jennie Evelyn 86

Ilyamba 56
International Consultation on English
Texts 24, 29, 32, 35
Iverson, Daniel 101
Jamaican traditional 67, 232

Jahnson, David N. 55, 91 Johnson, Harris 236 Johnson, J. Rosamund 296 Johnson, James Weldon 296 Johnson, Norman 49 Johnson, Ralph M. 278 Jones Jr., Isaiah 127, 190 Jones, Lewis E. 76

Kaan, Fred 232 Kaiser, Kurt 82 Kariobangi Mass 204 Ken, Thomas 276 Kendrick, Graham 64 Kethe, William 276 Kilpatrick, Bob 248 King Jr., Martin Luther 302 Kirk, James M. 110 Kirkpatrick, William J. 86, 255, 260 Klein, Laurie 288 Knapp, Phoebe P. 118 Kolisi, G. M. 22 Kodner, Diana 203 Kwillia, Billema 119 Kyamanywa, Bernard 96

Lafferty, Karen 149
LaMotta, Bill 270
Larkin, Kenneth D. 115
Latin hymn 84
Laureano, Orlando 23
Leslie, C. E. 34

Letter from the Birmingham City Jail 302 Lewis, Harold T. 299 Lillenas, Haldor 184 Loh, I-to 106, 138 Lovelace, Austin C. 130, 145 Lowry, Robert 69, 94, 135, 179, 259 Luther, Martin 133 Lutheran Book of Worship 2, 4, 6, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 112, 119, 133 Lutheran Manual of Hymns, Liturgy and Prayers 305

Lwehabura, Aaron 290

MacKay, William P. 100 Malawi traditional 54 Malotte, Albert Hay 33 Marshall, Jane 83 Marshall, Madeleine Forell 47, 154 Marshall, W. S. 110 Martin, Civilla D. 200, 252 Martin, Roberta 120, 276 Martin, W. Stillman 200 Masai people 223 Mason, C. H. 196 Mason, Lowell 79 Matsikenyiri, Patrick 140 McCrae, Linda 203 McGee, Bob 45 McIntosh Rigdon M. 49 McKinney, B. B. 137 Medema, Ken 247 Membo ma Kiklisto 56 Miller, Margaret D. 119 Miller, Rhea 233 Misa popular nicaragüense 129 Misa popular salvadoreña 203 Molefe, S. C. 279 Moore Jr., James E. 126 Moore, John M. 74

Namibian traditional 280, 286 Ndelwa, Ndilivako 181 Nicaraguan folk tune 129 Nicene Creed 204 Niles, John Jacob 50 Niwagila, Wilson 103 Nix, Verolga 62, 66, 116, 198, 293 Norris, John S. 146 North American 78, 297

Mxadana, Gobingca 26, 243, 279

Moore, Thomas 186

Morris, Kenneth 209

Mote, Edward 192

O'Shields, Michael 277 Oatman Jr., Johnson 173, 227 Ochieng Okeyo, S. C. 204 Olson, A. Louise Anderson 290 Olson, Howard S. 56, 96, 103, 130, 181, 290 Olude, A. T. Olajide 145 Owens, Carol 187 Owens, Jimmy 289 Owens, Priscilla J. 255 Oxenham, John 214

Palmer, Horatio R. 195 Paris, Twila 281 Parker, Edwin P. 104 Parker, Val 24, 212 Perronet, Edward 267 Phillips, Keith 132 Pollard, Adelaide A. 152 Pope, Michael 230 Potter, Doreen 219, 232 Prescod Patrick 300 Proulx, Richard 44 Psalter for Worship 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 19

Radford, Jeffrey 51 Rankin, Jeremiah E. 157 Reed, Andrew 104 Reindorf, Dinah 20 Rickard, Jeffrey 180 Roberts, Leon C. 3, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18. 19 Robinson, Robert 108 Robinson, Wayne 139 Rohrbough, Katherine F. 301 Romero, Wayne 287 Rowe, James 188 Ruiz, José 23 Runyan, William M. 283

Schutte, Daniel 230 Sedio, Mark 25 Shea, George Beverly 233 Shepherd, Thomas 237 Shorter, Aylward 92, 169 Showalter, Anthony J. 220 Smallwood, Richard 42, 70 Smith, Leonard E. 99 Smith, Henry 292 Smith, Howard E. 188 Smith, Michael W. 132 Smith, William Farley 81, 88, 109, 178 Sontonga, Enoch 301 South African 26, 46, 63, 158, 244, South African traditional 243, 279 Southern Harmony 49

Spafford, Horatio G. 194 Stebbins, George C. 152 Stennett, Samuel 49 Stockton, John H. 72 Stuempfle, Jr., Herman G. 219 Swahili 181

Tanner, Benjamin Tucker 229

Taizé Community 125

Tanzanian 130, 181

Tanzanian traditional 96, 130, 286 Taulé, Alberto 47 Terrell, Lloyd Preston 202 Tessier, Albert D. 216 The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia 112 This Far by Faith 60, 107, 134, 153, Thompson, Will 155 Thornburg, John 222 Thorson, Gerald 129 Thrupp, Dorothy A. 254 Thurman, Howard 163 Tindley, Charles A. 198, 206 Tomer, William G. 157 Traditional 36, 42, 43, 59, 62, 75, 95, 116, 117, 121, 141, 156, 207, 209, 213, 221, 225, 246, 250, 253, 258, 265, 266, 269, 275, 278, 284, 293, 295

Vajda, Jaroslav J. 161 Van DeVenter, Judson W. 235 van Tine, Patricia 218 von Brethorst, Leona 291

Wade, John Francis 284 Walford, William 242 Ward, Samuel A. 298 Warner, Anna 249 Watts, Isaac 71, 79, 135, 276 Webbe, Samuel 186 Weeden, Winfield S. 235 Weissrock, John 230 Welsh 161 Wesley, Charles 59 Westendorf, Omer 84 West Indian carol 53 White, Evelyn Davidson 208 Whitfield, Frederick 250 Williams, Aaron 48 Williams, James 238 Wilson, Hugh 84 Wilson, Jennie 231 Wimber, John 105 With One Voice 20, 138, 191 Work Jr., John W. 52, 87

Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part II 108

First Lines and Common Titles

133	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	284	For He Alone Is Worthy
260	A Wonderful Savior Is Jesus	116	Free at Last
30	Acclamations	46	Freedom Is Coming
71	All Farth Is Harrafal	187	Freely, Freely
47	All Hail the Property of Years' Name	216	Give Me a Clean Heart
267 259	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	165	Give Me Jesus
235	All the Way My Savior Leads Me All to Jesus I Surrender	292	Give Thanks
26	All to Jesus i Surrender Alleluia	24	Glory to God
91	Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!	148	Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
31	Amen	87	Go Down, Moses
279	Amen, siakudumisa	52	Go Tell It on the Mountain
279	Amen, We Praise Your Name	161	Go, My Children, with My Blessing
286	Asante sana Yesu	160	God Be with You
71	At the Cross	157	God Be with You till We Meet Again
, -	11 000 07000	187	God Forgave My Sin in Jesus' Name
297	Battle Hymn of the Republic	190	God Has Smiled on Me
200	Be Not Dismayed Whate'er Betide	275	God Is So Good
93	Because He Lives	93	God Sent His Son
218	Behold, What Manner of Love	222	God the Sculptor of the Mountains
217	Bind Us Together, Lord	200	God Will Take Care of You
273	Bless the Lord	103	Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
301	Bless, O Lord, Our Country	164	Great Day!
118	Blessed Assurance	283	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
110	Blessed Quietness	153	Guide My Feet
11	Bow Down before the Holy Mountain of God	2.5	TT 11 TT 11 YY 11 Y
74	Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary	25	Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
162	Bwana awabariki	27	Hallelujah
67	By the Waters of Babylon	158	Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
85	Calvary	1	Happy Are They
274	Cantad al Señor	152	Have Thine Own Way, Lord
113	Certainly, Lord	113	Have You Got Good Religion?
96	Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia	270 37	Have You Thanked the Lord? He Came Down
141	Come and Go with Me to My Father's House	291	
42	Come by Here	260	He Has Made Me Glad
43	Come by Here	95	He Hideth My Soul He Is Lord
156	Come to Jesus	151	He Leadeth Me
138	Come, All You People	80	He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word
119	Come, Let Us Eat	90	He Rose
106	Come, O Holy Spirit, Come	172	
9	Come, Ring out Your Joy to the Lord	189	He Understands; He'll Say, "Well Done"
108	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	224	Heal Me, O Lord
135	Come, We That Love the Lord	230	Help Me, Jesus
186	Come, Ye Disconsolate	252	Here I Am, Lord
173	Count Your Blessings	231	His Eye Is on the Sparrow
- / -	Town Diebourge	299	Hold to God's Unchanging Hand
74	Days Are Filled with Sorrow and Care	203	Holy God, You Raise up Prophets
174	Deep River	107	Holy Is Our God
178	Do, Lord, Remember Me		Holy Spirit, Descend
212	Don't Be Worried	104	Holy Spirit, Light Divine
72	Down at the Cross	289 29	Holy, Holy
125	ו מ' וייים	32	Holy, Holy Lord
125	Eat This Bread	99	Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
45	Emmanuel		How Lovely on the Mountains
120	Even Me	227	How to Reach the Masses
241	Every Time I Feel the Spirit	56	Hush, Little Jesus Boy
85	Every Time I Think About Jesus	286	I Am Thanking Jesus
127	Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow	225	I Believe I'll Testify
124	Fill My Cup, Lord	204	I Believe in God
219	For All the Faithful Women	146	I Can Hear My Savior Calling
	The same rate and the same and		True my barior Calling

97	I Heard an Old, Old Story	19	Let Everything Give Praise to the Lord
62	I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say	48	Let Justice Flow like Streams
287	I Just Came to Praise the Lord	18	Let My Prayer Arise Before You
75	I Know It Was the Blood	10	Let the Heavens Rejoice
228	I Love to Tell the Story	7	Let the Peoples Praise You, O God
288	I Love You, Lord	28	Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
183	I Must Tell Jesus	34	Let the Words of My Mouth
147	I Shall Not Be Moved	123	Let Us Break Bread Together
235	I Surrender All	17	Let Us Go Rejoicing
230	I, the Lord of Sea and Sky	232	Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
66	I Want Jesus to Walk with Me	296	Lift Every Voice and Sing
41	I Want to Be Ready	227	Lift Him Up
188	I Was Sinking Deep in Sin	4	Lift Up Your Heads
277	I Will Call Upon the Lord	251	Like a Ship That's Tossed and Driven
14	I Will Call upon the Name of the Lord	130	Listen, God Is Calling
291	I Will Enter His Gates	21	Lord, Have Mercy
271	I Will Rejoice	22	Lord, Have Mercy
256	I Will Trust in the Lord	23	Lord, Have Mercy
50	I Wonder As I Wander	120	Lord, I Hear of Showers of Blessings
233	I'd Rather Have Jesus	234	Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
176	I'll Fly Away	131	Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
263	I'm a-Goin'-a Eat at the Welcome Table	247	Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
109	I'm Goin'-a Sing	13	Lord, Send Out Your Spirit!
115	I'm Going on a Journey	137	Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship
191	I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me	188	Love Lifted Me
236	I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice	94	Low in the Grave He Lay
210	I've Got a Robe		
258	I've Got Peace like a River	168	Magnificat
257	I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy	55	Mary Had a Baby
111	I've Just Come from the Fountain	162	May God Bless Us
170	If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today	243	Mayenziwe
172	If When You Give the Best of Your Service	297	Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
214	In Christ There Is No East or West	237	Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone
141	In My Father's House	2	My God, My God
248	In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified	16	My Help Shall Come from the Lord
165	In the Morning When I Rise	192	My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
265	In the Name of Jesus	40	My Lord, What a Morning
142	In the Name of the Father	168	My Soul Does Magnify the Lord
12	Indeed, How Good Is the Lord	272	My Tribute
194	It Is Well with My Soul	204	Nasadiki
240	It's Me, O Lord	204	
240	113 1410, 0 2014	73	Near the Cross
83	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	103	Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema
167	Jesus in the Morning	22	Nkosi, Nkosi
73	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	69	Nothing but the Blood
249	Jesus Loves Me!	128	Now Behold the Lamb
268	Jesus, Name Above All Names	129	Now We Offer
144	Jesus Ose	298	O Beautiful for Spacious Skies
59	Jesus, the Light of the World	294	O Christ the King, Anointed
140	Jesus, We Are Gathered	36	O Lamb of God
145	Jesus, We Want to Meet	8	O Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness
51	Jesus, What a Wonderful Child	134	O Lord, Open My Eyes
110	Jovs Are Flowing like a River	88	O Mary, Don't You Weep
253	Just a Closer Walk with Thee	208	Oh, Freedom
200	Just a Groot Frank Harris	82	Oh, How He Loves You and Me
86	King of My Life	250	Oh, How I Love Jesus
43	Kum ba yah	166	Oh, I Woke Up This Morning
20	Kyrie		Oh, Let the Son of God Enfold You
		105	Oh, Sing to the Lord
35	Lamb of God	274	Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In
86	Lead Me to Calvary	180	On a Hill Far Away
70	Lead Me, Guide Me	77 49	On Jordan's Stormy Banks
220	Leaning on the Everlasting Arms		On Jordan's Stormy Banks One Bread, One Body
282	Let All That Is within Me Cry, "Holy!"	122	One Breau, One Body

98	Open Our Eyes, Lord	117	Take Me to the Water
33	Our Father, Who Art in Heaven	159	Take the Name of Jesus with You
99	Our God Reigns	286	Tandi Tanga Yesus
150	Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior	126	Taste and See
276	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	5	Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord
285	Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior	280	Thank You, Jesus
278	Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord	293	Thank You, Lord
290	Praised Be the Rock	54	That Boy-Child of Mary
301	Prayer for Africa	68	That Priceless Grace
193	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	201	The Blood that Jesus Shed for Me
159	Precious Name	89	The Lamb
1	Psalm 1	143	The Lord Is in His Holy Temple
2	Psalm 22	61	The Lord Is My Light
3	Psalm 23	3	The Lord Is My Shepherd
4	Psalm 24	15	The Lord Is My Strength
5	Psalm 34	6	The Lord of Hosts Is with Us
6	Psalm 46	251	The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow
7	Psalm 67	33	The Lord's Prayer
8	Psalm 85	34 77	The Lord's Prayer
9	Psalm 95		The Old Rugged Cross
10	Psalm 96	300	The Right Hand of God
11	Psalm 99	142 53	The Trinity
12	Psalm 100	185	The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy There Is a Balm in Gilead
13	Psalm 104	78	There Is a Fountain
14	Psalm 116	250	There Is a Pountain There Is a Name I Love to Hear
15	Psalm 118	76	There Is Power in the Blood
16	Psalm 121	58	There's a Star in the East
17	Psalm 122	102	There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in This Place
18	Psalm 141	80	They Crucified My Lord
19	Psalm 150	90	They Crucified My Savior
100	D-1-11 4	197	This Far by Faith
100	Revive Us Again	121	This Is My Body
182	Ride On, King Jesus	262	This Is the Day
58	Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow	65	This Little Light of Mine
203	Santo es nuestro Dios	244	Thuma mina
207	Satan, We're Going to Tear Your Kingdom Down	245	Thuma mina
254	Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	132	Thy Word Is a Lamp
149	Seek Ye First	231	Time Is Filled with Swift Transition
244	Send Me, Jesus	199	'Tis the Old Ship of Zion
245	Send Me, Jesus	181	To Go to Heaven
23	Señor, ten piedad	264	To God Be the Glory
179	Shall We Gather at the River	272	To God Be the Glory
62	Shine on Me	47	Toda la tierra
64	Shine, Jesus, Shine	154	Tú has venido a la orilla
60	Sister Mary		
63	Siyahamba	94	Up from the Grave He Arose
155	Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling	138	Uyai mose
226	Sois la semilla	07	TP:
236	Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses	97	Victory in Jesus
176	Some Glad Morning When This Life Is O'er	266	Victory Is Mine
246	Somebody Prayed for Me	106	Wa wa wa Emimimo*
44	Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door	114	Wade in the Water
221	Somos uno en Cristo	112	Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
38	Soon and Very Soon	221	We Are All One in Christ
101	Spirit of the Living God	63	We Are Marching in the Light of God
105	Spirit Song	206	We Are Often Tossed and Driven
198	Stand by Me	136	We Have Come into His House
240	Standing in the Need of Prayer	100	We Praise Thee, O God
175	Steal Away	213	We Shall Overcome
242	Sweet Hour of Prayer	281	We Will Glorify
102	Sweet, Sweet Spirit	206	We'll Understand It Better By and By
171	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	59	We'll Walk in the Light

135	We're Marching to Zion	198	When the Storms of Life Are Raging
209	We've Come a Long Way, Lord	173	When upon Life's Billows
197	We've Come This Far by Faith	84	Where Charity and Love Prevail
263	Welcome Table	146	Where He Leads Me
81	Were You There	252	Why Should I Feel Discouraged
115	Wet Saints	255	Will Your Anchor Hold
139	What a Blessing	166	Woke Up This Morning
220	What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine	184	Wonderful Grace of Jesus
295	What a Mighty God We Serve!	76	Would You Be Free
69	What Can Wash Away My Sin?		
239	What Shall I Render	140	Yesu, tawa pano
79	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	56	Yesu, ulale
269	When I Think of the Goodness of Jesus	195	Yield Not to Temptation
87	When I stratel Was in Egypt's Land	226	You Are the Seed
	671	154	You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore
194	When Peace, Like a River	243	Your Will Be Done
180	When the Saints Go Marching In	2 10	

When the Saints Go Marching In

180

Resources from the Tradition

238	A Deacon's Prayer	229	If Jesu, Lord, I come to thee
202	A Pastor's Prayer for a Son on Drugs		
169	A Prayer at Evening	304	Juneteenth
211	A Slave Woman's Prayer	306	Kwanzaa
57	At the feet o' Jesus, sorrow like a sea	200	Kwanzaa
163	Be in the fleeting word, our Father	169	Lord, I sing your praise
303	Black History Month	202	Most heavenly Father, I come to you
261	Calling on You, O Lord	306	Nguzo Saba
302	Commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.	177	O God, Save Me
92	Dancing before the Lord	261	O God, you have prepared in peace
		211	O Lord, bless my master
57	Feet o' Jesus	177	Our house stood within a few rods of the
215	Give Us Grace		Chesapeake Bay
92	Great is, O King, our happiness	305	Prayer for the Beginning of the Hurricane Season
39	He may not come when you want him	305	Prayers for the End of the Hurricane Season
39	He's Right on Time	205	Ten Commandments, The
196	Help Me	203	Ten Commanaments, The
238	Holy and righteous, everlasting unto everlasting	223	We Believe
305	Hurricane Season, The	163	We Shall Not Be Alone
		220	Who Is to Condemn

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Graphic Art

Artist Barbara Zuber based *This Far by Faith*'s cover cross design on a carved motif from a Yoruba wooden door in Nigeria. She adapted and stylized the Yoruba design by varying the line weights and adding an African American geometric pattern found in the Mississippi quilting tradition. This quilt pattern, called a "log cabin," also has its origin in a design from West Africa. The Yoruba people of Nigeria were among those most profoundly affected by the American slave trade; thus their traditions are particularly relevant to African Americans.

The woven cross represents the weaving of traditions and faith that African Americans celebrate today. Tied together by the knot of faith and the log cabin respite of home, the African American journey is symbolized in the woven lines of the cross, through which the people have come *This Far by Faith*.

The art featured within this book is typical of Barbara Zuber's style. Influenced by artists of the African American "Harlem Renaissance," the artist prefers to represent a two dimensional flat plane, creating figures that are elongated to enhance movement and complement the composition. The geometric designs incorporated into the art are stylizations of African textile patterns, including kente cloth.

Barbara Zuber was born in Philadelphia, raised in New York City, and educated at Yale University, New York University and the Art Students League of New York. She has exhibited with Georgia O'Keeffe and Fernando Garassi, and been featured in the traveling exhibit *Forever Free, Art by African American Women*. Zuber has taught the arts of the African and African American traditions to students of all ages. Her Christian faith has been shaped by both Southern Baptist and Episcopal traditions. She resides in Troy, New York, with her family.

		AN INDEX TO T	HE ART		
Christian Burial, the Saints	113	Music	13	Times and Seasons	72
Holy Baptism	64	Prayers and Blessings (1)	104	Way of the Cross	96
Holy Communion	26, 43, 60	Prayers and Blessings (2)	110, 112	Witnesses to the Faith	114
Journey of Faith	103	Preaching, Revival	70		
Marriage	107	The Word	19, 69		

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