St. Mark Lutheran
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

St. Mark Lutheran Church · **Rev. Mark Erler**
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December 4, 2022
10:45 a.m. Service

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO THE VISITORS AND GUESTS AMONG US.
WE PRAY THAT TODAY'S SERVICE IS A BLESSING TO YOU. PLEASE COME AGAIN!

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER: We are celebrating the Sacrament of the Altar today. This is The Lord's Table. As a church and body of Christians we believe this:

We will be receiving the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, in, with and under, the bread and wine.

When we receive Jesus' true body and blood, we receive the forgiveness of sins.

By communing together with our Lord and one another, we express a common belief that Jesus is in truth the Son of God, and our Savior; He is present in this Sacrament in a very real way; that Christ's sacrificial death assures us of complete forgiveness of our sins; and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a life that honors God.

If you share all these convictions, then you are welcome to come and celebrate the blessings of our Altar today. Please note that cups at the center of each tray are "non-alcoholic" wine for those who prefer such for medicinal and personal reasons. Pastor Erler is available before service if you have any questions.

A **NURSERY** with an attendant is available during worship service. You are welcome to use this service. Ask an usher for directions.

PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

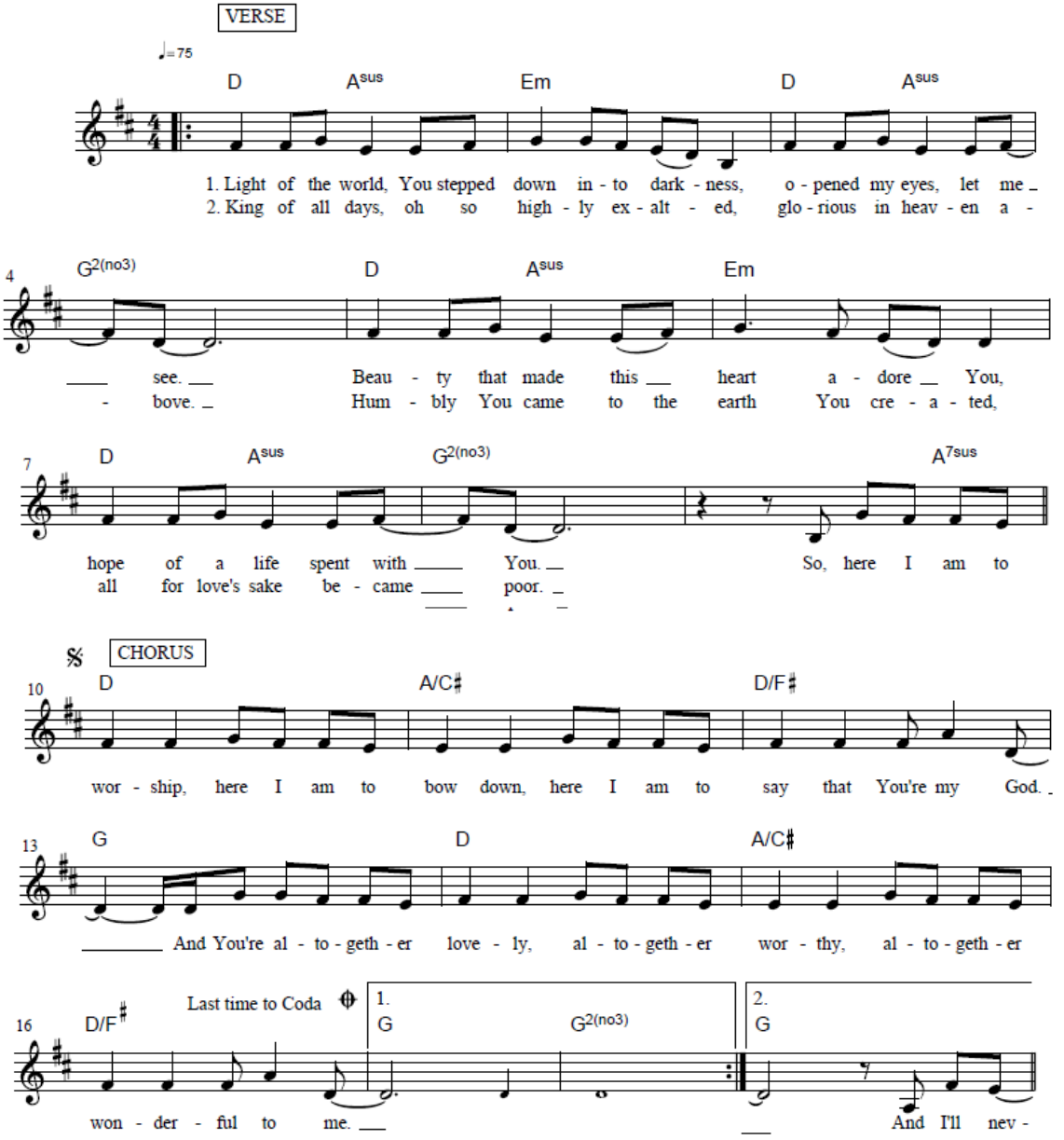
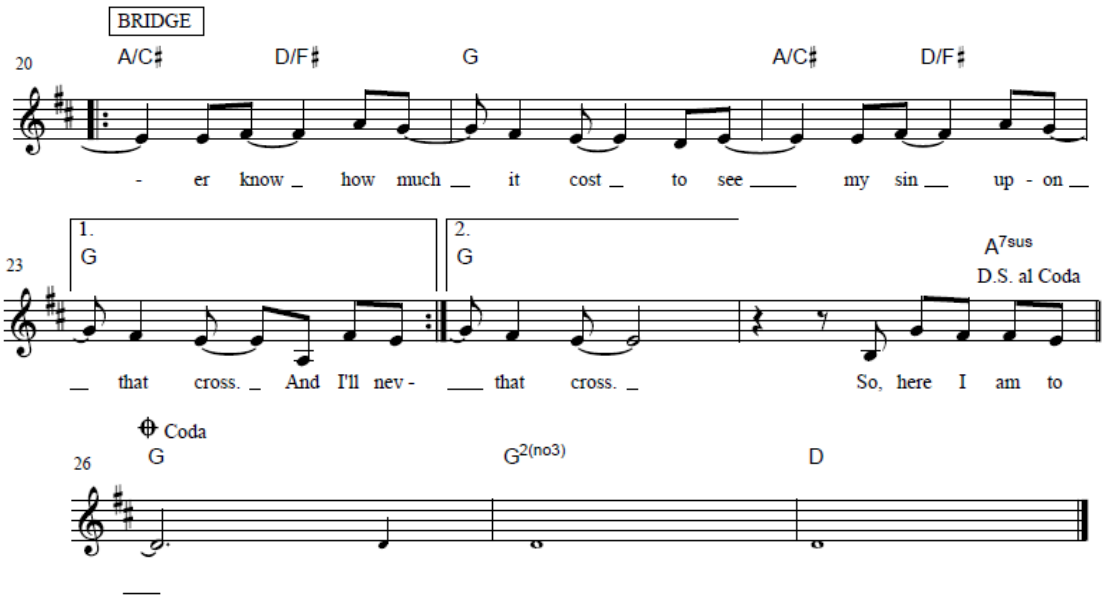
BEFORE COMMUNING

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Here I Am To Worship

Words and Music by
Tim Hughes



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Please stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

C **O Lord, who could stand?**

P But with You there is forgiveness;

C **therefore You are feared.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

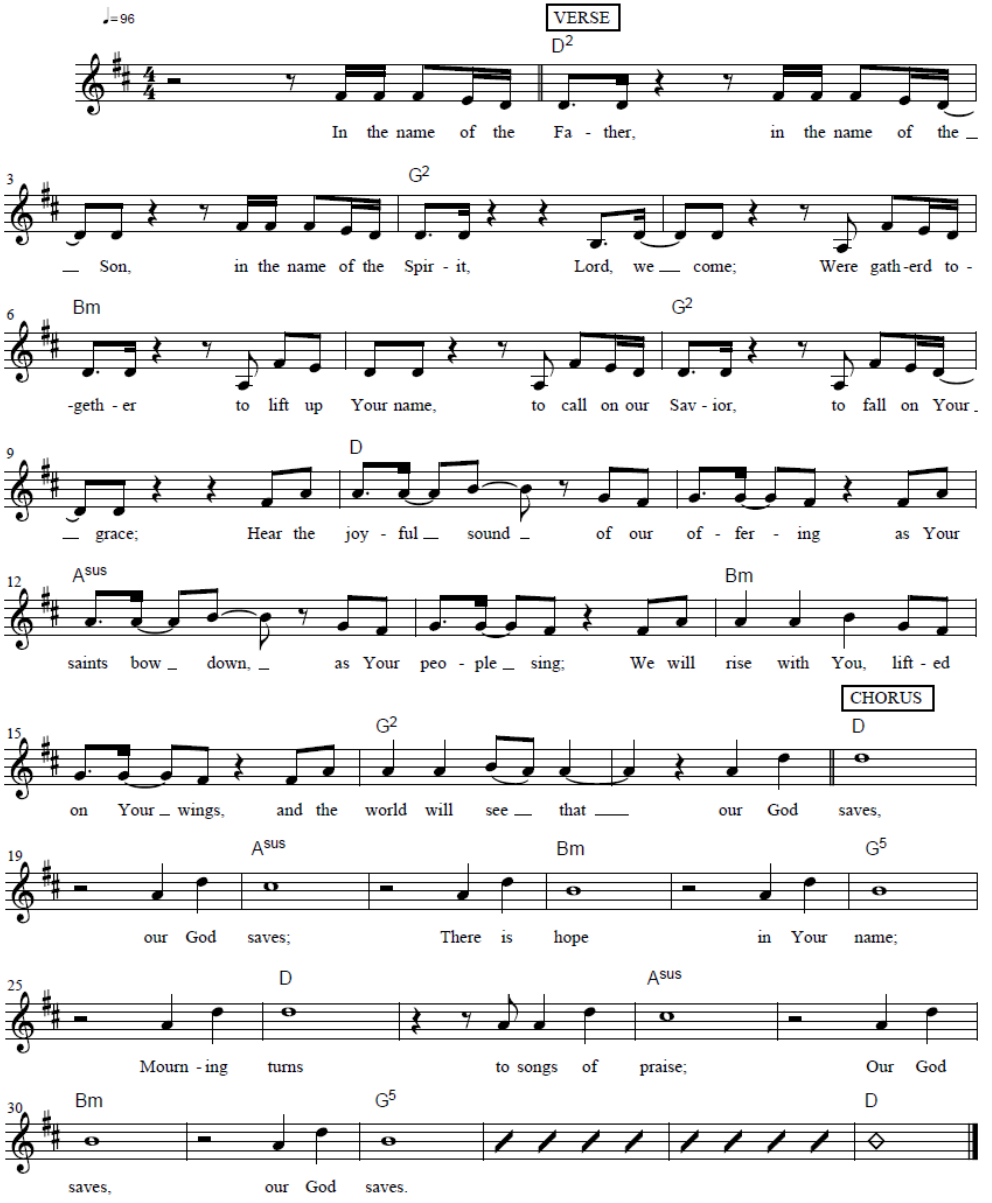
Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated

Our God Saves

Words and Music by
Paul Baloche and Brenton Brown

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Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 11:1–10*

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

[1]There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
[2]And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
[3]And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
[4]but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
[5]Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
[6]The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
[7]The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
[8]The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
[9]They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

[10]In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle *Romans 15:4–13*

4 Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that
through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have
hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such
harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with
one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one
another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's
truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order
that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name."

10 And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

11 And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him."

12 And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope."

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power
of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 3:1–12*

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

[1]In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
[2]"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." [3]For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.'"

[4]Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. [5]Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, [6]and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

[7]But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? [8]Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. [9]And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. [10]Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

[11]"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. [12]His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

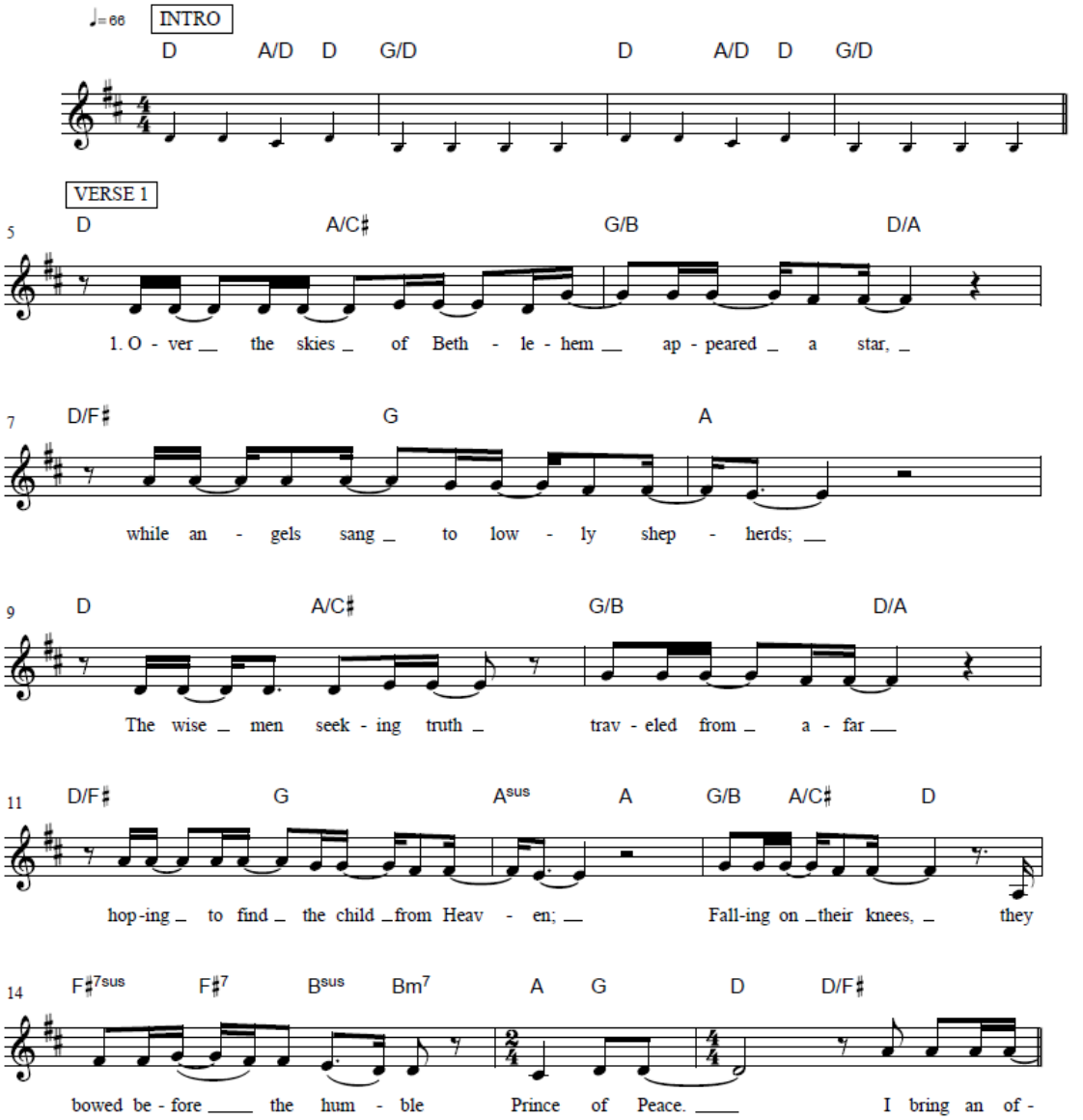
Nicene Creed

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

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

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Christmas Offering *Words and Music by Paul Baloche*

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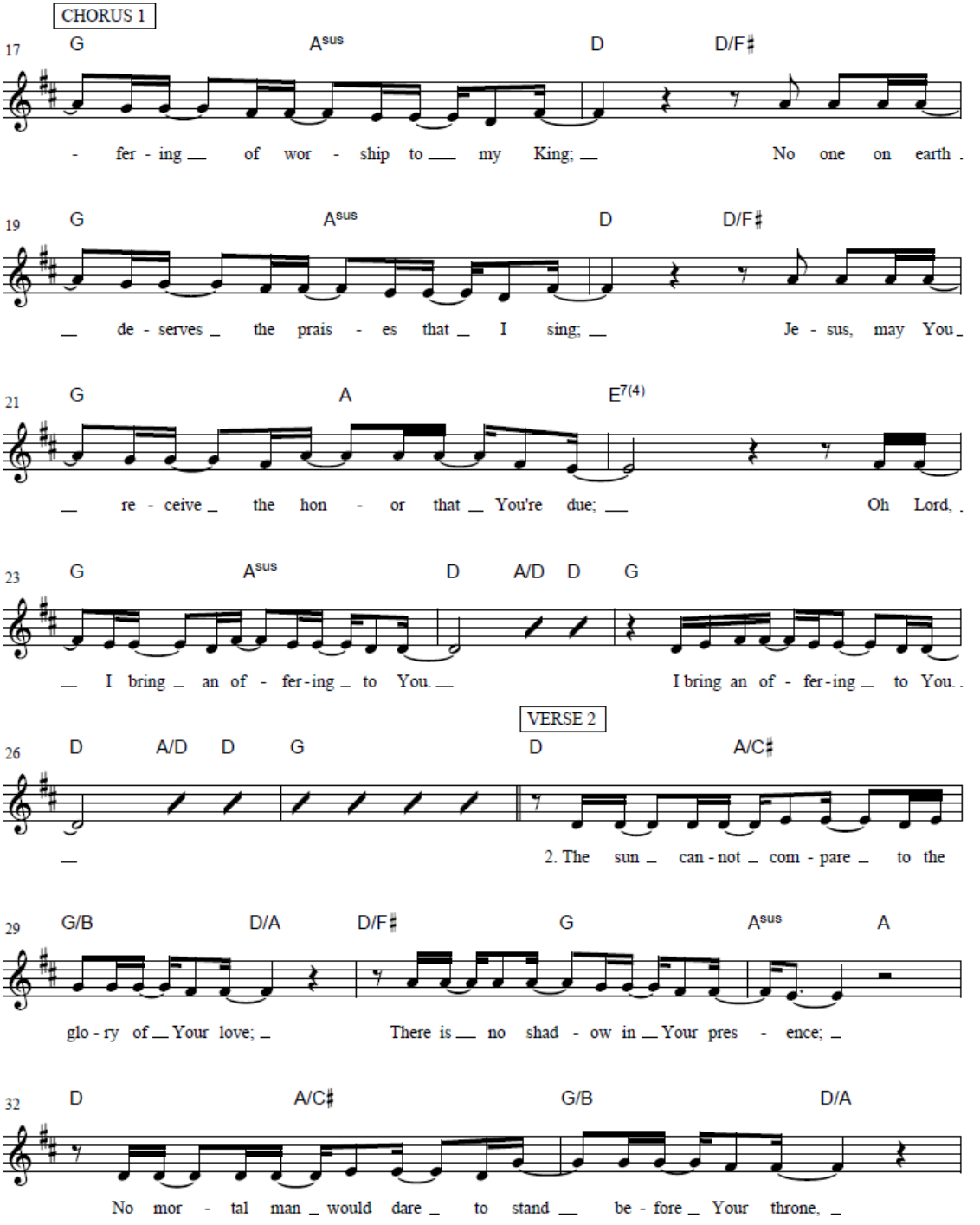
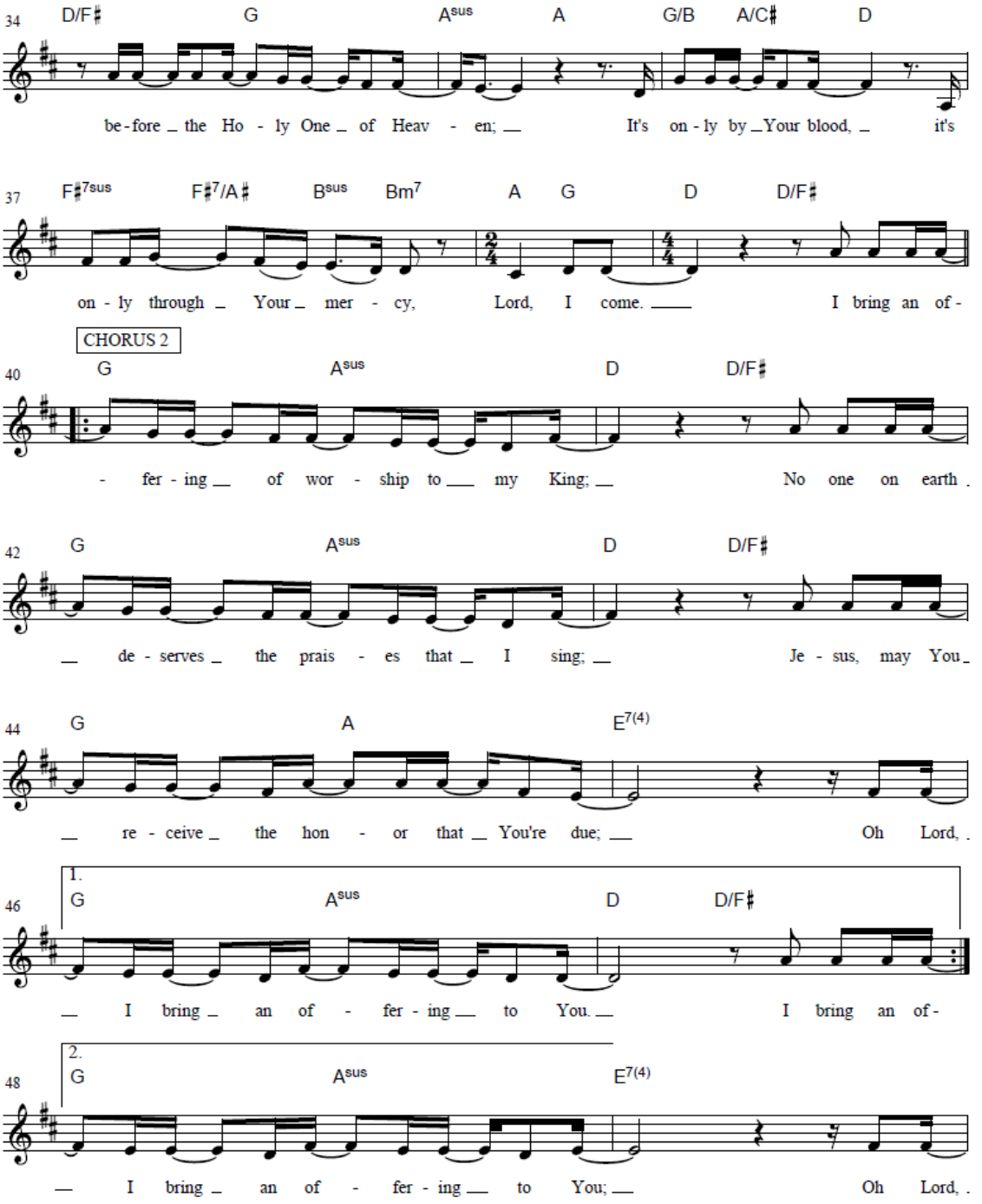
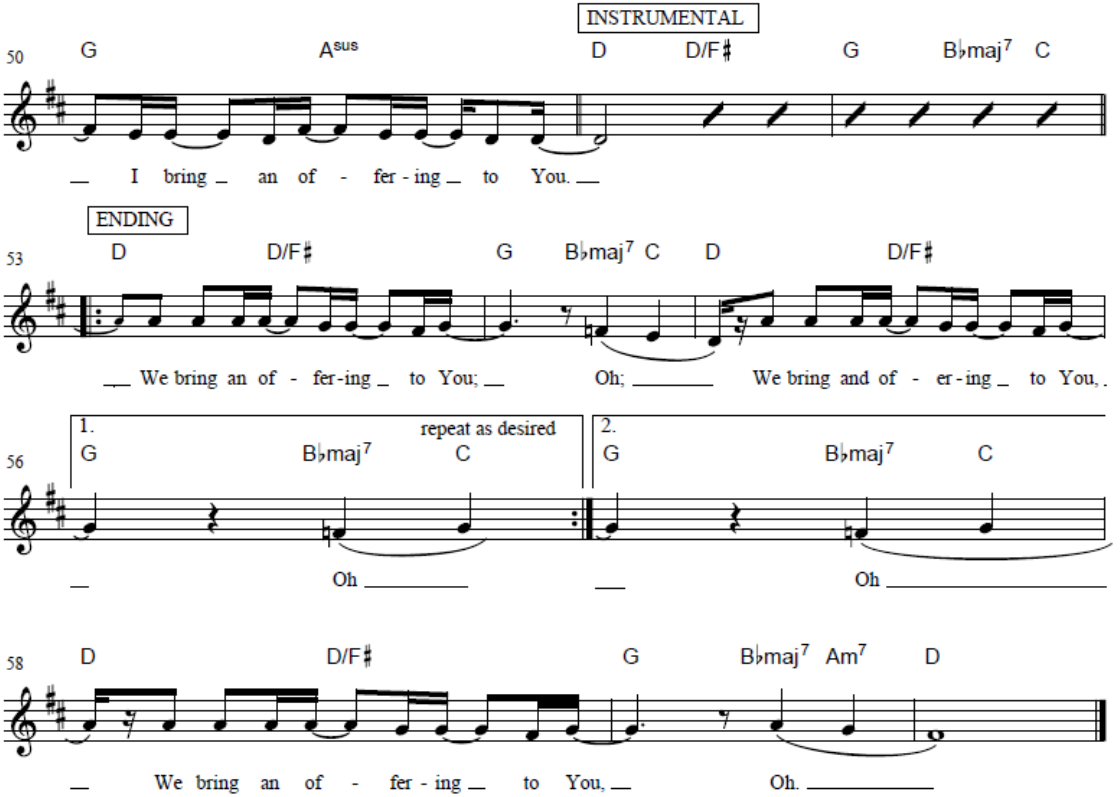

CHORUS 1
17
G
Asus
D
D/F♯
- fer - ing __ of wor - ship to __ my King; __ No one on earth .
19
G
Asus
D
D/F♯
__ de - serves _ the prais - es that _ I sing; __ Je - sus, may You _
21
G
A
E7(4)
__ re - ceive _ the hon - or that __ You're due; __ Oh Lord, .
23
G
Asus
D
A/D
D
G
__ I bring _ an of - fer-ing _ to You. __ I bring an of - fer-ing _ to You. .
VERSE 2
26
D
A/D
D
G
D
A/C♯
__ 2. The sun _ can - not _ com - pare _ to the
29
G/B
D/A
D/F♯
G
Asus
A
glo - ry of __ Your love; _ There is __ no shad - ow in __ Your pres - ence; _
32
D
A/C♯
G/B
D/A
No mor - tal man _ would dare _ to stand __ be - fore _ Your throne, _


34
D/F♯ G Asus A G/B A/C♯ D
be - fore _ the Ho - ly One _ of Heav - en; __ It's on - ly by _Your blood, _ it's
37
F♯7sus F♯7/A♯ Bsus Bm7 A G D D/F♯
on - ly through _ Your _ mer - cy, Lord, I come. ____ I bring an of -
CHORUS 2
40
G Asus D D/F♯
- fer - ing __ of wor - ship to ___ my King; __ No one on earth .
42
G Asus D D/F♯
__ de - serves _ the prais - es that _ I sing; __ Je - sus, may You _
44
G A E7(4)
__ re - ceive _ the hon - or that __ You're due; ___ Oh Lord, .
1.
46
G Asus D D/F♯
__ I bring _ an of - fer - ing __ to You. __ I bring an of -
2.
48
G Asus E7(4)
__ I bring _ an of - fer - ing __ to You; __ Oh Lord, .

INSTRUMENTAL
50
G
Asus
D
D/F♯
G
B♭maj7
C
I bring an of - fer - ing to You.
ENDING
53
D
D/F♯
G
B♭maj7
C
D
D/F♯
We bring an of - fer-ing to You;
Oh;
We bring and of - er - ing to You,
1.
repeat as desired
2.
56
G
B♭maj7
C
G
B♭maj7
C
Oh
Oh
58
D
D/F♯
G
B♭maj7
Am7
D
We bring an of - fer - ing to You,
Oh.

Sermon

Offering

Please stand

Prayer of the Church
The Pastor will end each petition with the phrase, "Lord in Your Mercy".
The congregation will respond **"Hear our Prayer"**.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Please note:
St. Mark Lutheran Church is a congregation and a body of Christians believing firmly God's Word which says that in Holy Communion we truly and really receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus as we receive the earthly elements of bread and wine. His body and blood *are not symbolically present or spiritually received,* but real and tangible *in* the bread and wine, *with* the bread and wine, *under the bread and wine by the authority of Jesus' words,* and given to us as His pledge of love and forgiveness.

Holy Communion is a gift of God intended for those who have been baptized and confirmed in the Christian Faith. Within our Lutheran Church, we ask that a confirmation be done according to our Lutheran understanding. It is imperative, according to 1 Corinthians 11:27-29, for a communicant to spiritually examine himself before coming to the Lord's Table.

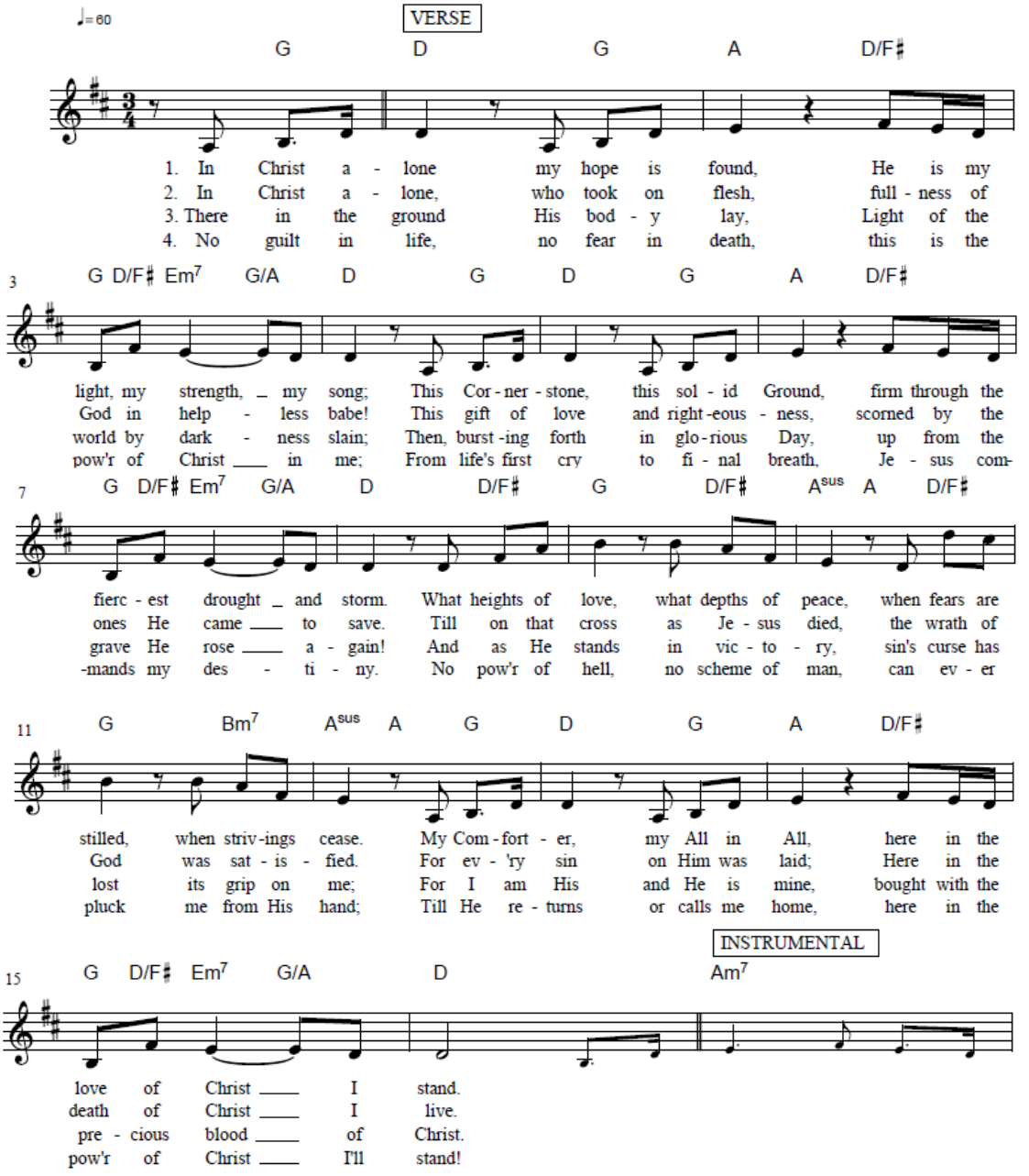
A brief examination would include answering "Yes" to the following five questions:
Do you believe that you are a sinner by nature and by choice?
Are you truly sorry for your sins?
Do you believe Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior from sin Who graciously forgives your sins?
Do you intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit to make the needed changes in your sinful life?
Do you believe you receive the true body and blood of Jesus in, with, and under the bread and wine?

Please be seated

Distribution

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



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Please stand

Post-Communion Collect

℗ Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ **Amen.**

Benediction

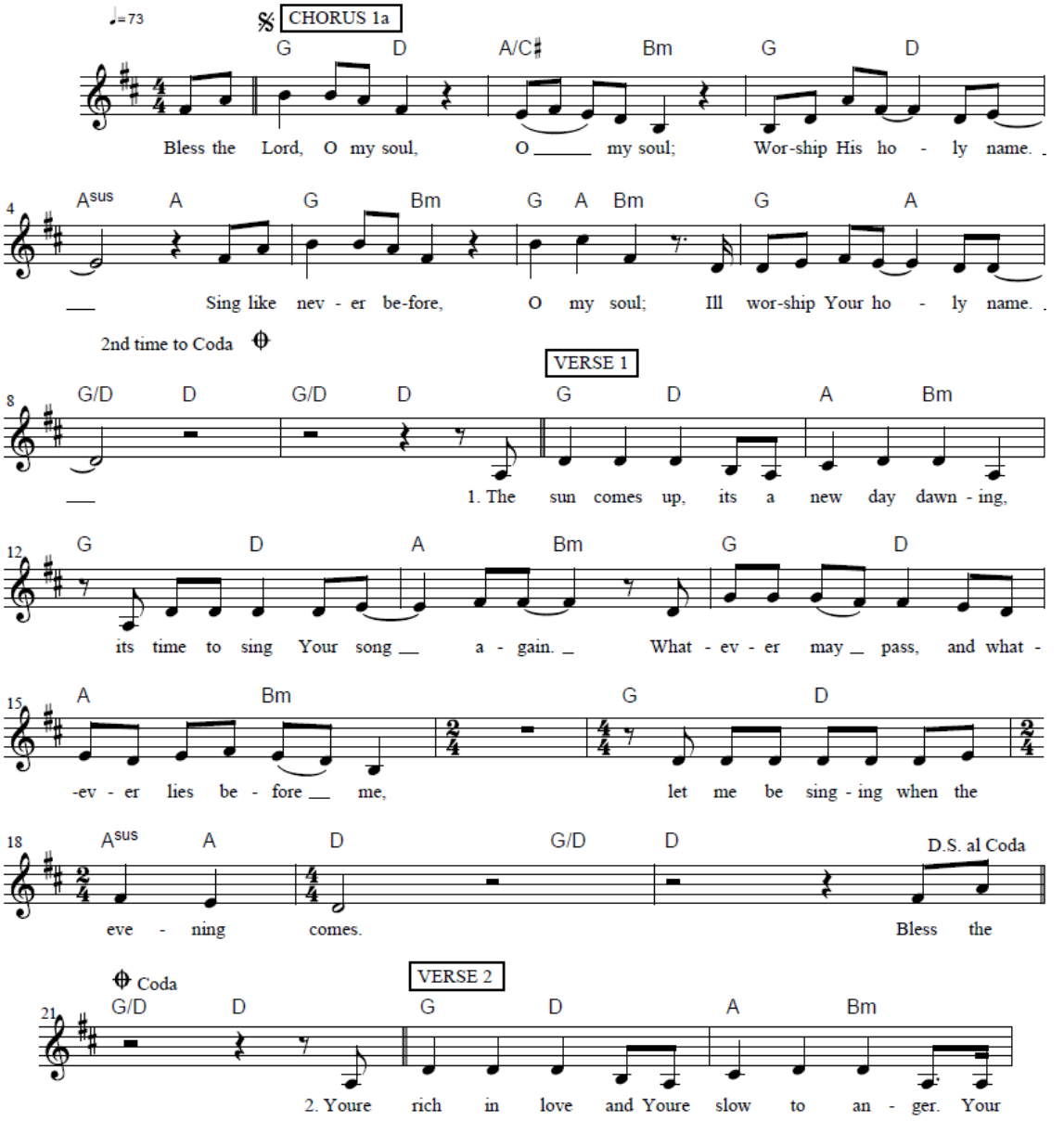
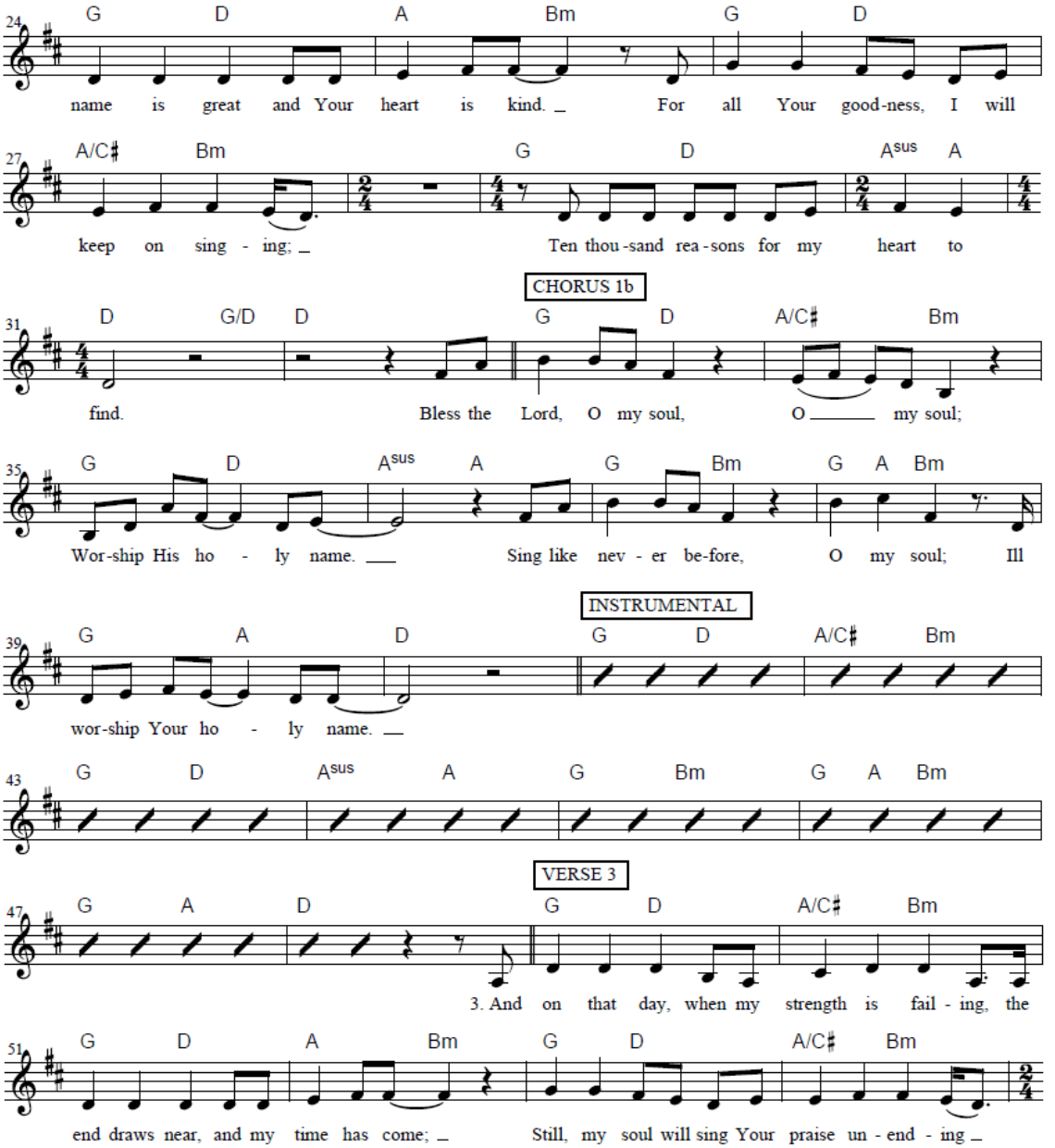
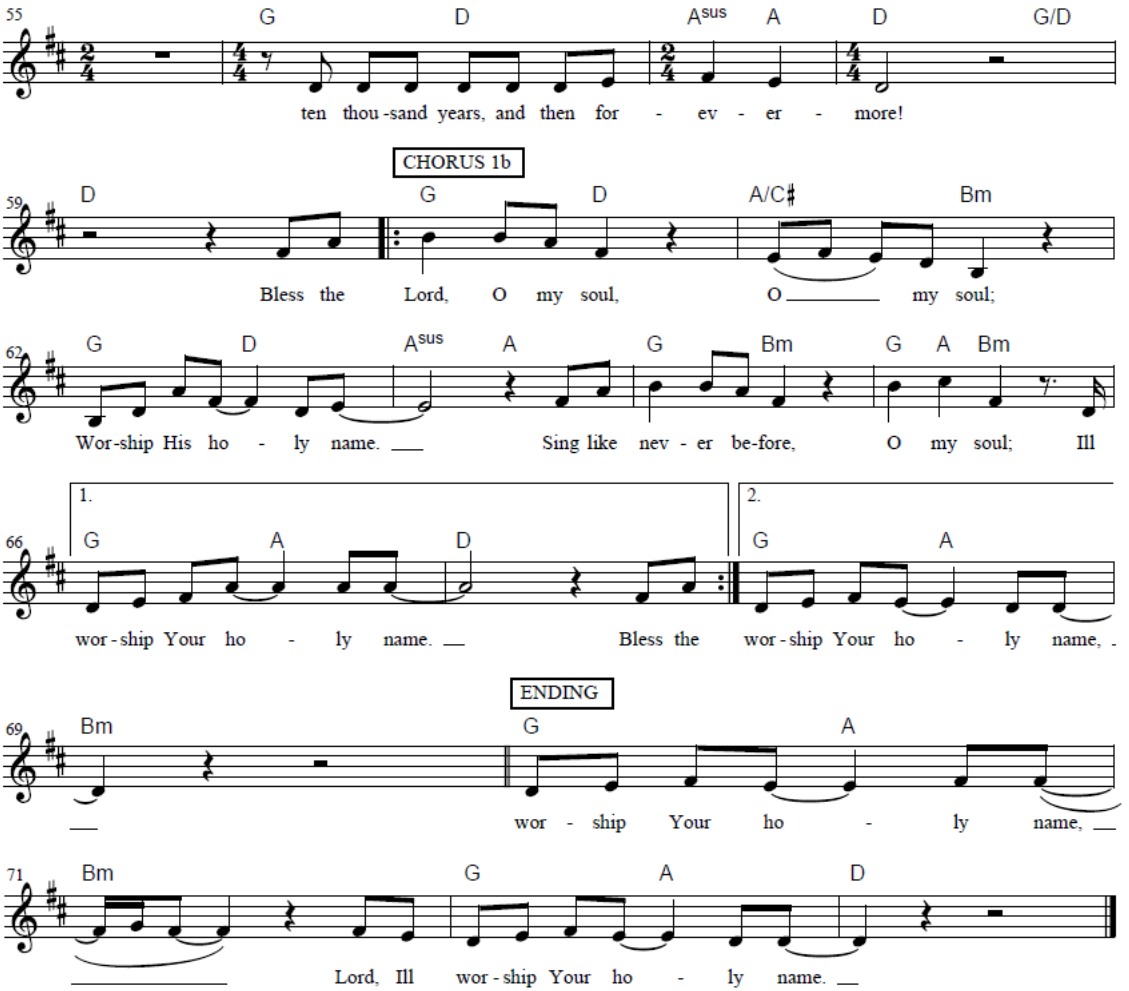
℗ Let us bless the Lord.

ℂ **Thanks be to God.**

℗ 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.

ℂ **Amen.**

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Words and Music by
Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

24
G D A Bm G D
name is great and Your heart is kind. For all Your good-ness, I will
27
A/C♯ Bm G D Asus A
keep on sing - ing; Ten thou-sand rea-sons for my heart to
CHORUS 1b
31
D G/D D G D A/C♯ Bm
find. Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
35
G D Asus A G Bm G A Bm
Wor-ship His ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore, O my soul; Ill
INSTRUMENTAL
39
G A D G D A/C♯ Bm
wor-ship Your ho - ly name.
43
G D Asus A G Bm G A Bm
VERSE 3
47
G A D G D A/C♯ Bm
3. And on that day, when my strength is fail - ing, the
51
G D A Bm G D A/C♯ Bm
end draws near, and my time has come; Still, my soul will sing Your praise un - end - ing

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