St. Mark Lutheran
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Growing God's Family

St. Mark Lutheran Church · **Rev. Mark Erler**
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September 10, 2023
10:45 a.m. Service

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

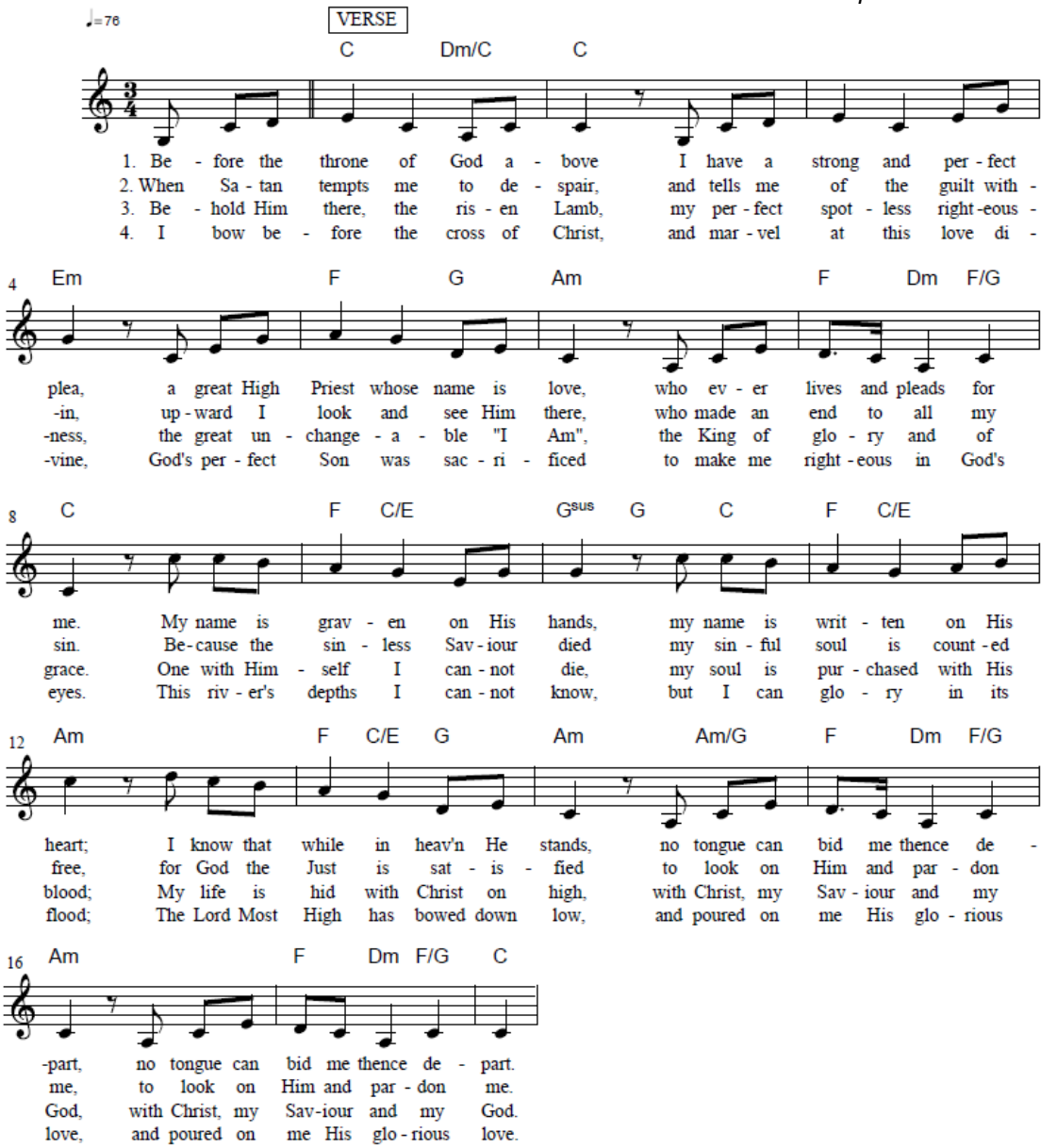
BEFORE WORSHIP
O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for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

Before The Throne Of God Above

Words and Music by
Charitie Lees Bancroft and Vikki Cook



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Please stand

℗ In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

℃ **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

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

℃ **O Lord, who could stand?**

℗ But with You there is forgiveness;

℃ **therefore You are feared.**

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

℗ O almighty God, merciful Father,

℃ **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.**

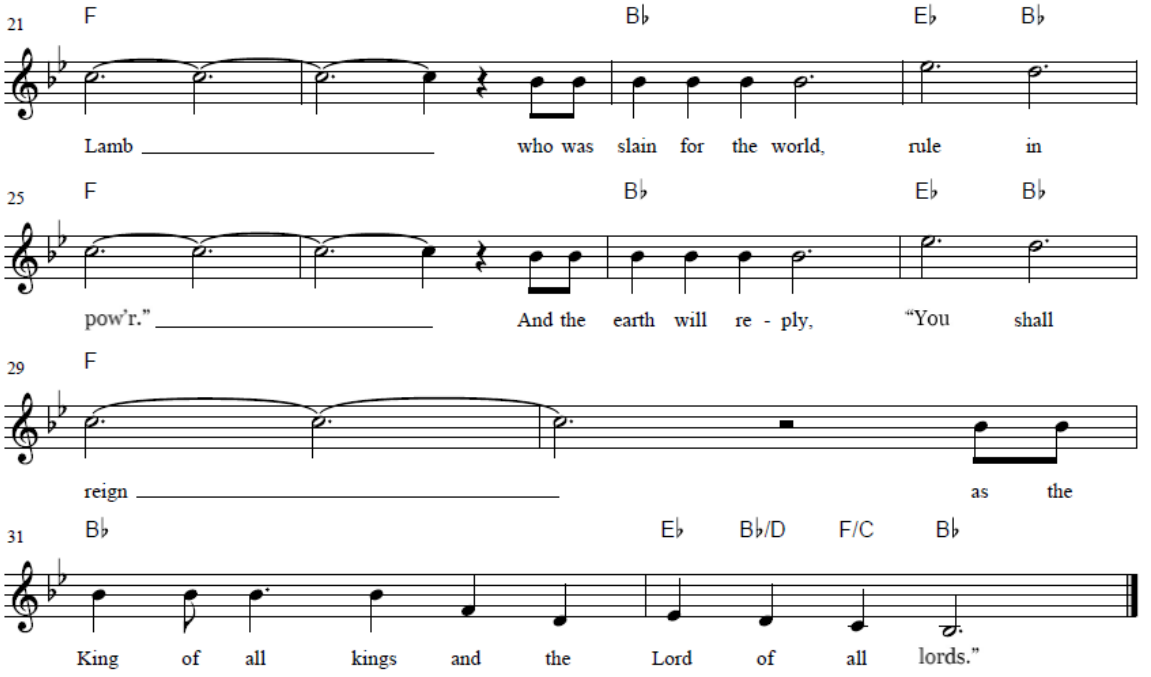
Absolution

℗ 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.

℃ **Amen.**

Please be seated

Lion of Judah *Words and Music by Robin Mark*



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Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 33:7–9*

7 "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever
you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the
wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to
turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will
require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not
turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your
soul."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle *Romans 13:1–10*

Submission to the Authorities

[1]Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no
authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
[2]Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those
who resist will incur judgment. [3]For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.
Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you
will receive his approval, [4]for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be
afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger
who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. [5]Therefore one must be in subjection,
not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. [6]For the same reason
you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.
[7]Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom
revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Fulfilling the Law Through Love

[8]Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another
has fulfilled the law. [9]The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall
not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are
summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [10]Love does no
wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

Please stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 18:1–20*

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

℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Who Is the Greatest?

[1]At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" [2]And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them [3]and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [4]Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

[5]"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, [6]but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Temptations to Sin

[7]"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! [8]And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. [9]And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

[10]"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. [11]For the Son of Man came to save the lost. [12]What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? [13]And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. [14]So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

If Your Brother Sins Against You

[15]"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. [16]But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. [17]If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. [18]Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,

and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [19]Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. [20]For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

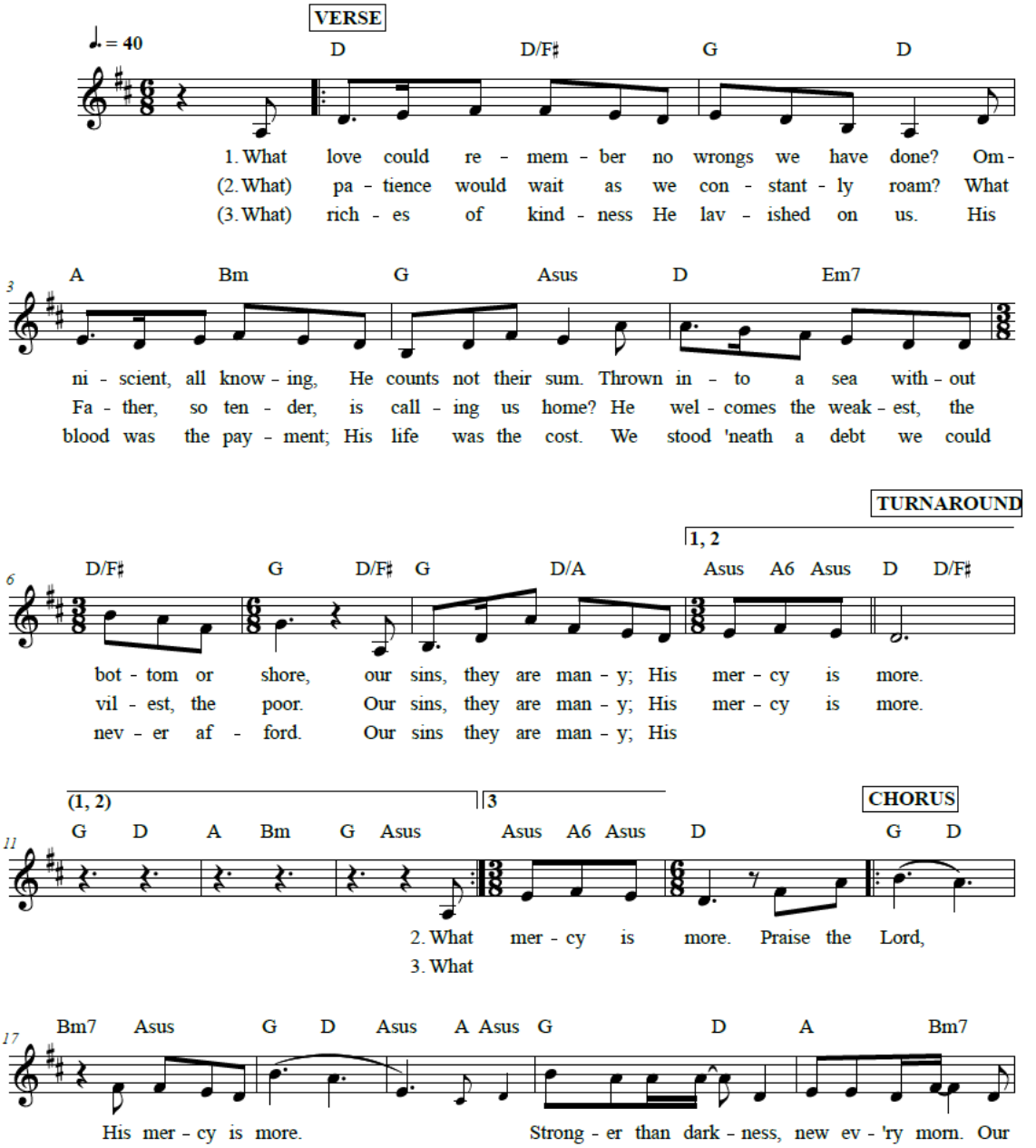
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

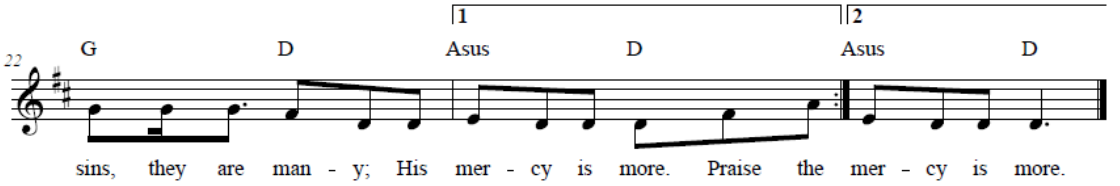
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

His Mercy Is More

Words and Music by
Matt Papa and Matt Bowell





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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

℗ 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.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

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

Revelation Song

Words and Music by
Jennie Lee Riddle

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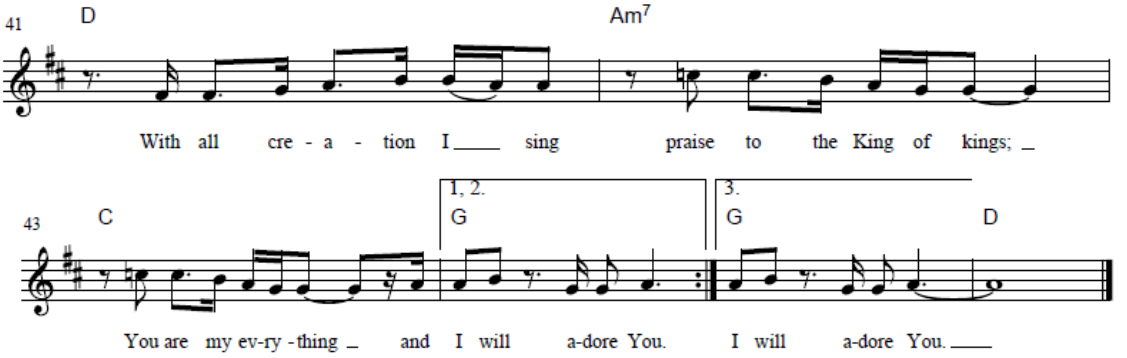
VERSE 2
21
D
Am7
C
2. Clothed in rain-bows of liv-ing col-or flash-es of light-ning, rolls.
24
G
D
of thun-der;
Bless-ing and hon-or, strength and
26
Am7
C
G
D.S. al Coda
glo-ry and pow-er be
to You, the on-ly wise King.
VERSE 3
Coda
29
D
Am7
C
3. Filled with won-der, awe-struck won-der, at the men-tion of Your name;
32
G
D
Am7
Je-sus, Your name is pow-er, breath and liv-ing wa-ter,
CHORUS
35
C
G
D
such a mar-vlous mys-ter-y, yeah. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly
38
Am7
C
G
is the Lord God Al-might-y. Who was and is and is to come;



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.

℃ **Amen.**

Benediction

℗ Let us bless the Lord.

℃ **Thanks be to God.**

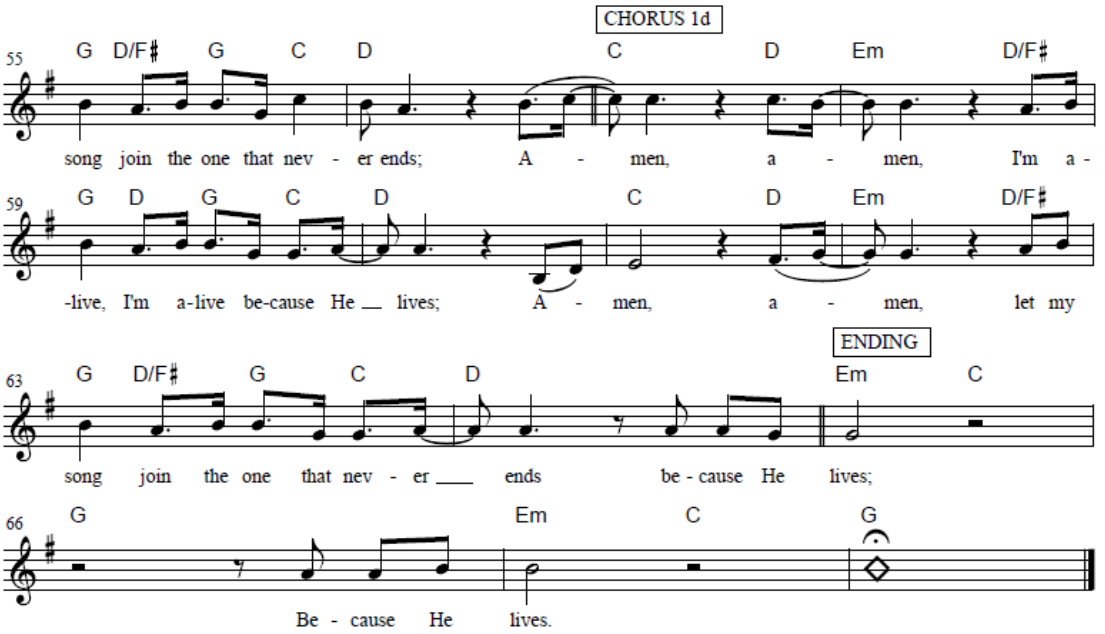
℗ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

℃ **Amen.**

Because He Lives (Amen)

Words and Music by Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, Daniel Carson, William J. Gaither, and Chris Tomlin

28
G Em C G C Em
I heard mer - cy call my _ name; He rolled the stone a - way. _
CHORUS 1b
32
D C D Em D/F♯ G D G C
_ A - men, a - men, I'm a - live, I'm a-live be-cause He _
36
D C D Em D/F♯ G D G C
_ lives; A - men, a - men, let my song join the one that nev - er _
BRIDGE
40
D G C D
_ ends. Be - cause He lives, I can face to - mor - row; Be - cause He
43
G C D G/B C Em D
lives ev - 'ry fear is _ gone; I know He holds my life, my fu-ture in His _
CHORUS 1c
47
C C D Em D/F♯
_ hand. A - men, a - men, I'm a -
51
G D/F♯ G C D C D Em D/F♯
-live, I'm a-live be-cause He _ lives; A - men, a - men, let my



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