Welcome

We are glad that you have joined us for worship.

October 18, 2026



unexpected
TRUTHS

Worship Theme

It's Time to Give to God What Is God's

Pastor Brian Roloff

OPENING HYMN: #619 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him (vs.1-4)

V1. Praise the Almighty; my soul, adore him!
Yes, I will laud him until death.
With songs and anthems I'll come before him
as long as he allows me breath.
From him my life and all things came;
bless, O my soul, his holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!

V2. Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
pardon and peace from him obtain;
ever the wants of the poor supplying,
their faithful God he will remain.
He helps his children in distress,
the widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!

V3.

Trust not in princes, they are but mortal;
earth-born they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal
when the dark grave will claim its prey.
Since, then, no one can help afford,
trust only Christ, our God and Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!

V4.

Praise, all you people, the name so holy
of him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise him solely,
with happy heart its amen sings!
Children of God, with angel host
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for self-reflection

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG: Lord, Have Mercy (vs.1-3)

(Congregation sings w/Ascension Arise Band)

V1.

For what we have done and left undone
we fall on your countless mercies.
For sins that are known and those unknown
we call on your name so holy.

For envy and pride, for closing our eyes;
for scorning our very neighbor.
In thought, word, and deed
we've failed you, our King;
how deeply we need a Savior.

Refrain:

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.

V2. For what you have done,
your life of love
you perfectly lived, we praise you.
Though tempted and tried,
you fixed your eyes;
you finished the work God gave you.

And there on the tree,
a King among thieves,
you bled for a world's betrayal.
You loved to the end,
our merciful friend;
how pure and forever faithful.

Refrain(2x):

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.

V3. For hearts that are cold,
for seizing control;
for scoring our very maker.
In thought, word and deed
we've failed you, our King;
how deeply we need a Savior.

Refrain(2x):

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your Church may worship you in peace and confess you with joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Romans 13:1-7

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing.

He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

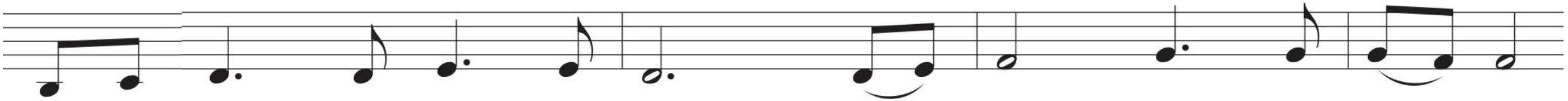
SUNG RESPONSE: Be Exalted, O God



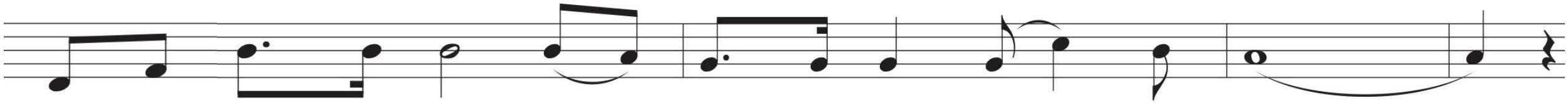
I will give thanks to Thee, O_ Lord, a-mong the peoples.



I will sing prais-es to Thee a-mong the na - tions._____

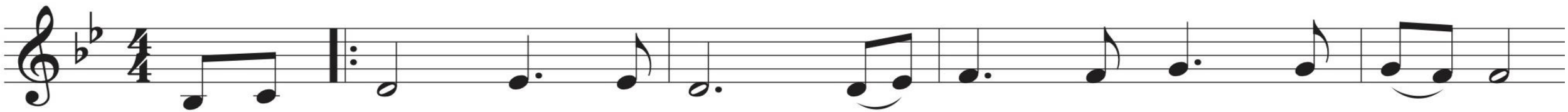


For Thy stead-fast love is great, is_ great to the heav-ens;



And Thy faith-ful-ness, Thy_ faith-ful-ness to__ the clouds._____

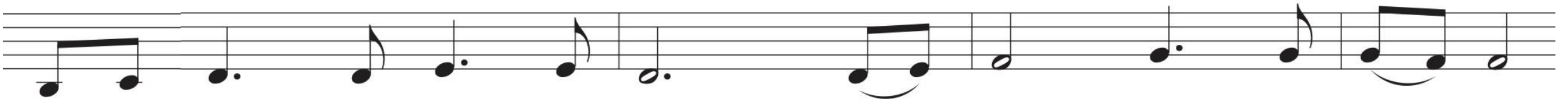

Be ex-alt-ed, O_ God,__ a-bove the heav - ens; Let Thy
glo - ry be o - ver all the earth._____ Be ex-
alt -ed, O_ God,____ a-bove the heav - ens; Let Thy
glo - ry be o - ver all_ the earth._____



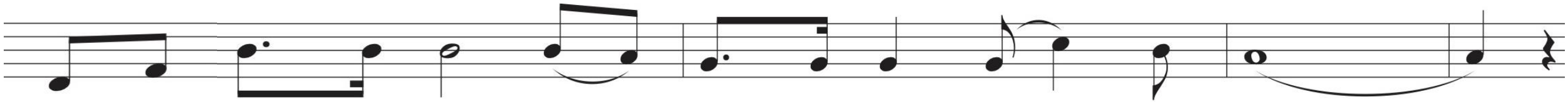
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For Thy stead-fast love is great, is_ great to the heav-ens;



And Thy faith-ful-ness, Thy_ faith-ful-ness to__ the clouds._____


Be ex-alt-ed, O_ God,__ a-bove the heav - ens; Let Thy
glo - ry be o - ver all the earth._____ Be ex-
alt -ed, O_ God,____ a-bove the heav - ens; Let Thy
glo - ry be o - ver all_ the earth._____



THE WORD

SECOND LESSON

Matthew
22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are.

“Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

SERMON HYMN:

#775 Before You, Lord, We Bow (vs.1-5)

V1. Before you, Lord, we bow,
our God who reigns above
and rules the world below
in boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring in joy and praise,
our hearts we raise to you, our King!

V2. The nation you have blessed
may well your love declare,
from foes and fears at rest,
protected by your care.
For this bright day, for this fair land–
gifts of your hand–our thanks we pay.

V3. May ev'ry mountain height,
each vale and forest green,
shine in your Word's pure light
and its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue be tuned to praise
and join to raise a grateful song.

V4. Earth, hear your maker's voice,
your great Redeemer own;
believe, obey, rejoice,
and worship him alone.
Cast down your pride, your sin deplore,
and bow before the Crucified.

V5. And when in pow'r he comes,
oh, may our native land
from all its rending
tombs send forth a glorious band,
a countless throng, with joy to sing
to heav'ns high King, salvation's song!



THE WORD

SERMON TEXT

Daniel 1:3-21

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace.

He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Babylon

Jerusalem



Red Sea

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
606-536 BC



King Nebuchadnezzar





SERMON THEME

"Give to Ceasar what is Ceasar's and to God what is God's!"

Submit to the Government in Everything

- Entered the enemy king's service
- Three-year training program
- Assigned new, Babylonian names

Hebrew Name & Meaning	Babylonian Name & Meaning
Daniel = “God judges”	Belteshazzar = “Bel protect the king!”
Hananiah = “the LORD has been gracious”	Shadrach = “Command of Aku”
Mishael = “Who is like God?”	Meshach = “Who is what Aku is?”
Azariah = “The LORD has helped”	Abednego = “Servant of Nebo”

Submit to the Government in Everything



Submit to the Government in Everything

- All government authorities established by God (cf. Rom. 13)
- Our government is due our support, obedience, and honor



SERMON THEME

"Give to Ceasar what is Ceasar's and to God what is God's!"



The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from [his] table.

Our Highest Allegiance is to God



[Daniel] asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

“Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.”

Our Highest Allegiance is to God





SERMON THEME

"Give to Ceasar what is Ceasar's and to God what is God's!"



Give

Supporting Us...

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.*

If you feel encouraged to support our ministry you can give electronically today. You can also set up recurring offerings automatically just scan the QR.

If you already support us place this card in the offering plate as a sign of your commitment.

Thanks for your generosity!

Please stand

RESPONSIVE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, take our hearts and fill them with your love;

C: take our lips and move them to speak of your grace;

P: take our treasures and use them to serve your church;

C: use our lives to do whatever is needed to spread the gospel here at Ascension, in our community, and around the world, for your mercy's sake. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- WELS President, Mark Shroeder, recently suffered a stroke, but has since regained his faculties and been cleared to return to service

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

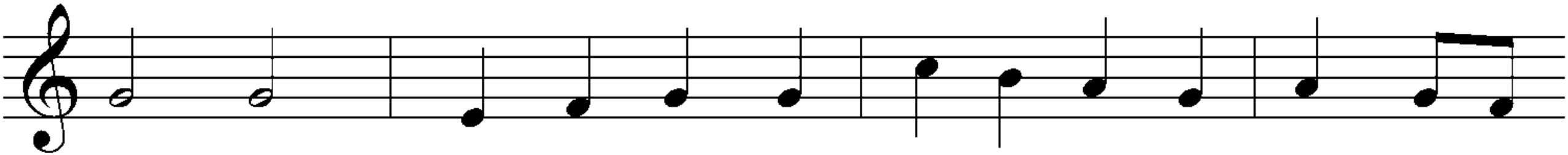
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: 

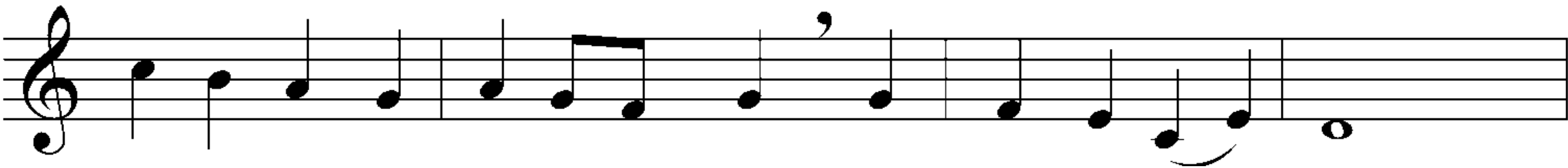
AGNUS DEI: O Christ, Lamb of God



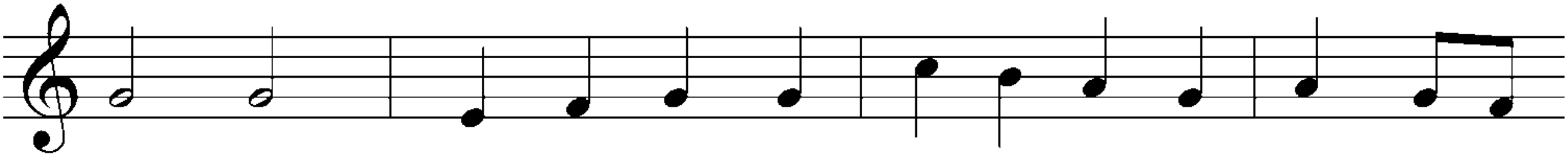
O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



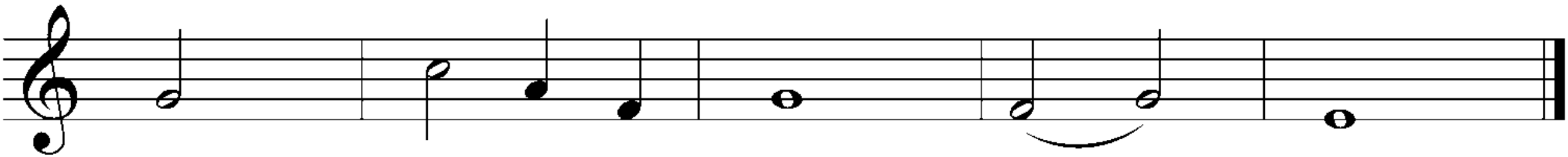
world; have mer-cy on__ us. O Christ, Lamb of God, You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on__ us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us Your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Communicant members of Ascension Lutheran and other churches in fellowship in the WELS or ELS are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. If you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor to learn how you can establish a communing fellowship with us. We are eager to help anyone to take this step.

Please Note: The center cups of the individual trays contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are labeled on a separate center tray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

#667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

V1.Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared
this feast for our salvation;
it is your body and your blood,
and at your invitation
as weary souls, with sin oppressed,
we come to you for needed rest,
for comfort, and for pardon.

V2.

Although you did to heav'n ascend,
where angel hosts are dwelling,
and in your presence they behold
your glory, all excelling,
and though your people shall not see
your glory and your majesty
till dawns the judgment morning.

V3. Yet, Savior, you are not confined
to any habitation,
but you are present ev'rywhere
and with your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
unmoved by any daring hand
or subtle craft and cunning.

V4.

We eat this bread and drink this cup,
your precious Word believing
that your true body and your blood
our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true,
and there is naught you cannot do,
for you, Lord, are almighty.

V5.

Though reason cannot understand,
yet faith this truth embraces;
your body, Lord, is even now
at once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be;
your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.

V6.

Lord, I believe what you have said;
help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
and let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
refreshes me and stills my fears
and is my priceless treasure.

V7. Grant that we worthily receive
your supper, Lord, our Savior,
and, truly grieving for our sins,
may prove by our behavior
that we are thankful for your grace
and day by day may run our race,
in holiness increasing.

V8. For your consoling supper, Lord,
be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
the world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
a blessed comfort unto me
when living and when dying.

The Blessings of The Lord's Supper

RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

LIFE AND SALVATION



PRAYER

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

#774 God Bless Our Native Land (vs.1-2)

V1. God bless our native land;
firm may she ever stand
thro' storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
do thou our country save
by thy great might.

V2. For her our prayers shall rise
to God above the skies;
on him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
guarding with watchful eye,
to thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONNECTION CARD

Please take a moment and fill out the info on the connection card, located under the Worship Today button on our app or on our website. There is a tablet in entryway or scan the QR code. Please fill out and submit.



Oct. 24th
11am-1pm

TRUNK OR TREAT, FOOD, BAKE SALE, CRAFTS, & BINGO

Supported by:
thrivent®

TEEN GROUP
BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

BAKED GOODIES NEEDED!

Please bring in your baked goods on **Fri. Oct. 23rd by 3:00pm** to be priced and displayed for the Trunk or Treat on Oct. 24th. All sales go towards purchase of gift cards for college teens and future events.



GROUPLIFE EVENT

THE CHOSEN
SEASON 6

EARLY ACCESS EVENT | EPISODE 1

OCTOBER 23RD

7:00PM

*Concession proceeds will go towards the Teen Group (cash only)

PRESENTED BY COME AND SEE



Mark Your Calendars



Voter's Meeting

October 25th

After Worship

Stay Up To Date With Us

VOLUNTEER EVENT

Interfaith Outreach™

Igniting the power of community

Saturday, November 14 | 12-3:00pm



SIGN-UP ON OUR APP Group Life


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY NEEDED:
Communion Coordinator
- Interested Please Contact Lisa Molitor -

THANKS FOR SERVING

- ✝ Pianist: Marcia Michalik
- ✝ Ascension Arise Band
- ✝ AV Team
- ✝ Serving: Flock #3 – Brian Stein

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