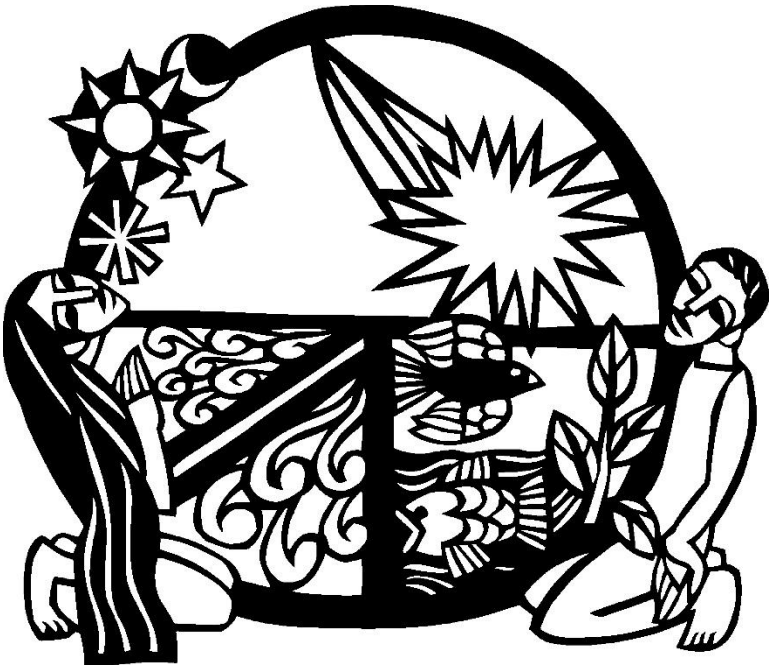


St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502

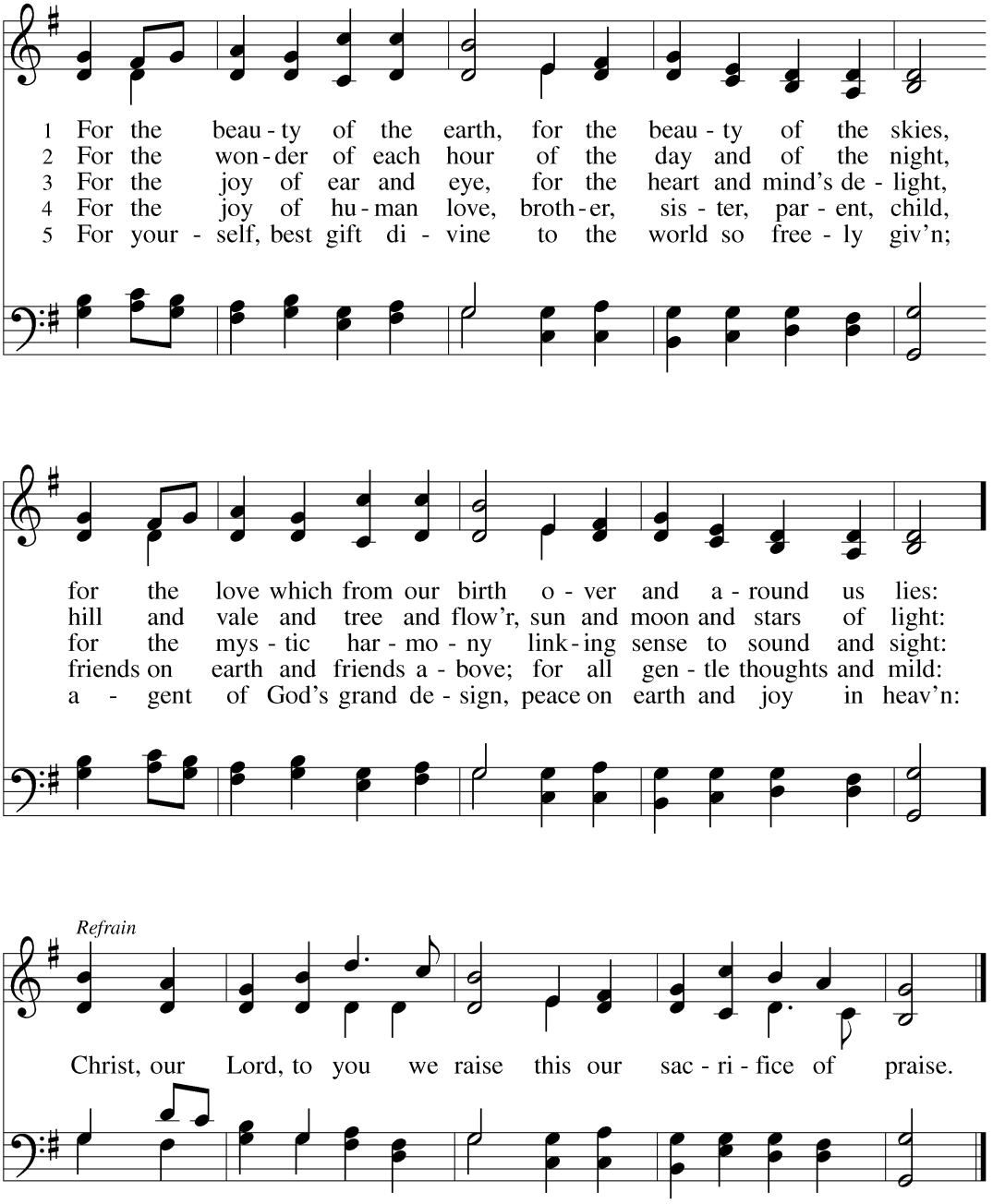
Pastor Steve Basselman

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Creation in Christ

September 6, 2026

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Verse 1 – ALL, harmony
Verse 2 – Men, unison
Verse 3 – ALL, unison
Verse 4 – Women, unison
Verse 5 – ALL, harmony

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST *SEPTEMBER 6, 2026*

Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE **"…AND THANKSGIVING MAY FOLLOW"** FROM RUBRICS
-Dan Locklair

BELLS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"For the Beauty of the Earth"

***LITANY** *(Based on the poem in Genesis 1)*

Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world. We praise you, O God:
We praise you, O God.

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark, we bless you, O God:
We bless you, O God.

For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God:
We exalt you, O God.

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God:
We magnify you, O God.

For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God:
We extol you, O God.

For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God:
We glorify you, O God.

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God:
We adore you, O God.

For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God:
We worship you, O God.

Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God:
We praise you, O God.

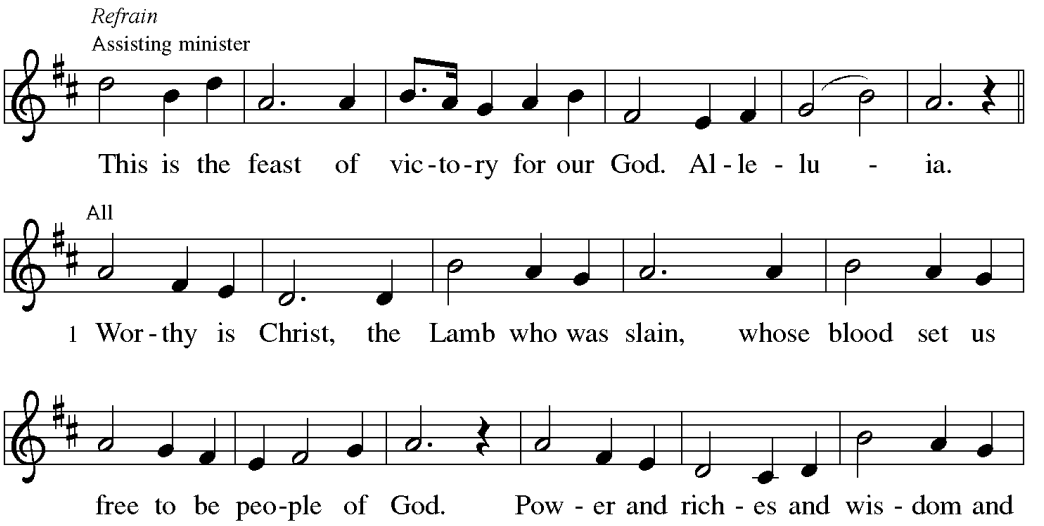
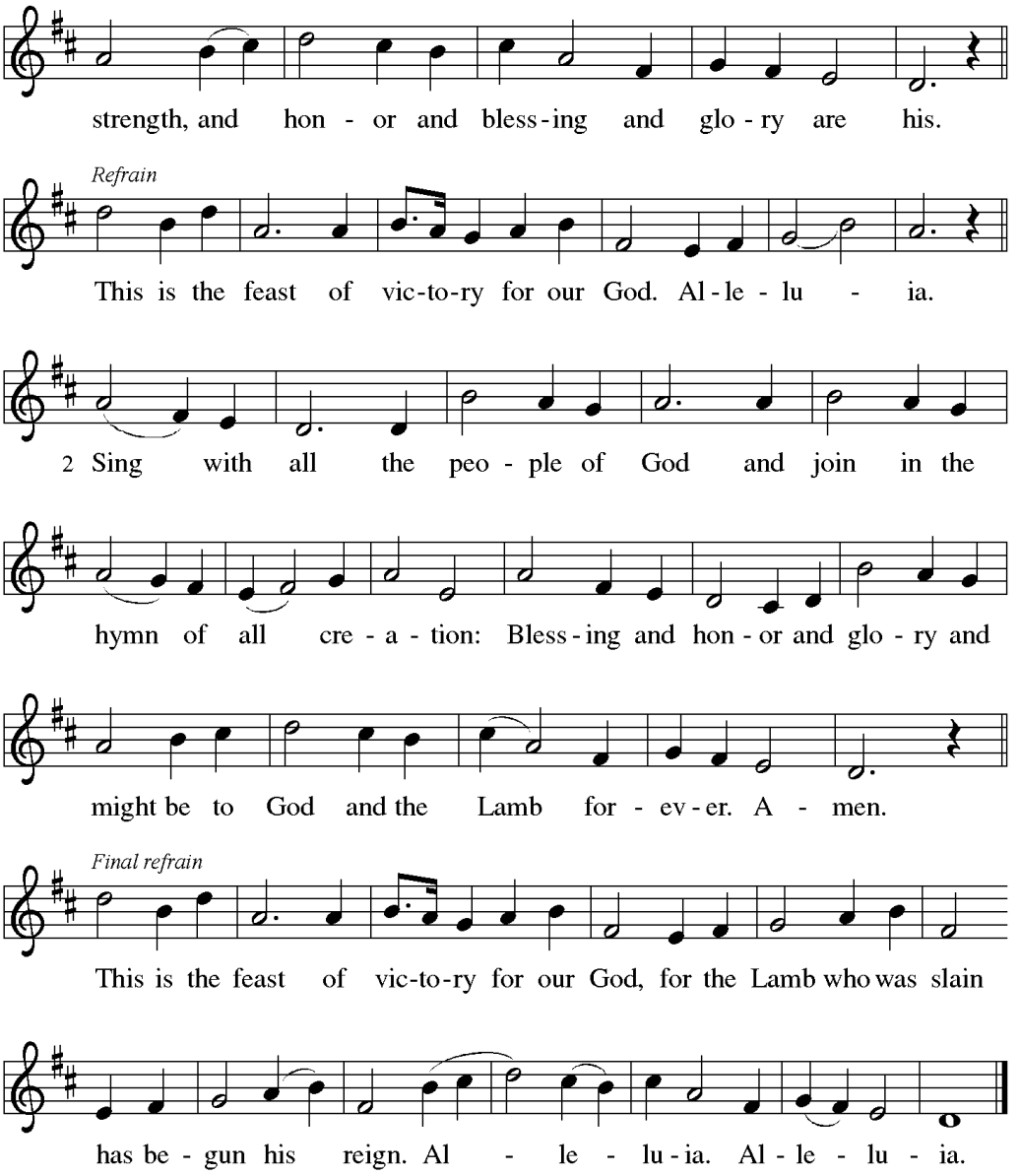
Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to you, our God, forever and ever.
Amen.

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.
2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

O Blessed Trinity, we worship you, the Source and Savior and Strength of all the worlds. We laud you for your wondrous creation. Breathe your blessing on us and on all that you have made, and form us by your wisdom to be caregivers of your gift of this good earth. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and unto ages of ages.

Amen

We Hear God's Word

First Reading — Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

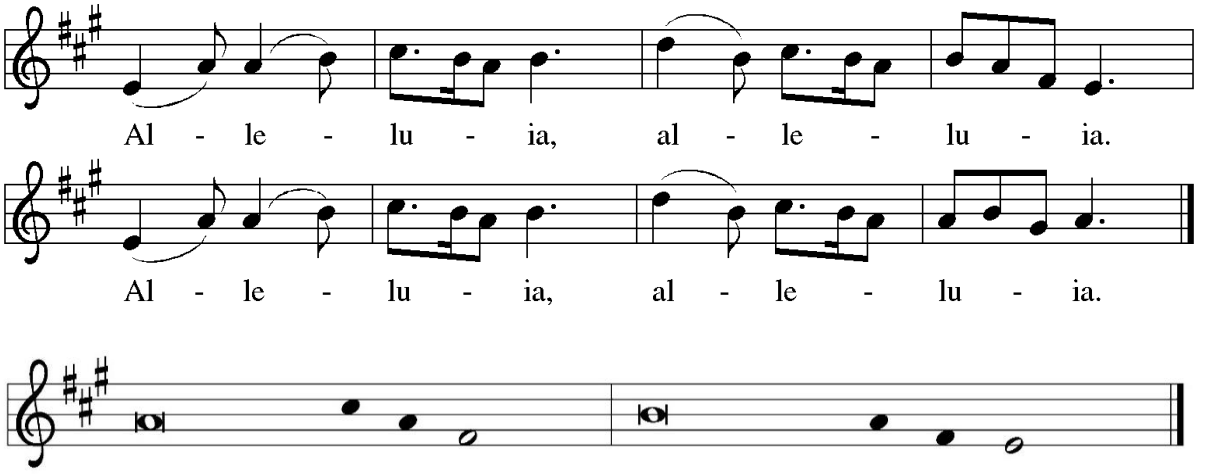
Second Reading — Acts 17:22a, 24-28

22a Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we, too, are his offspring.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



(Psalm 104:24)

*Holy Gospel **John 1:1-5**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4] in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

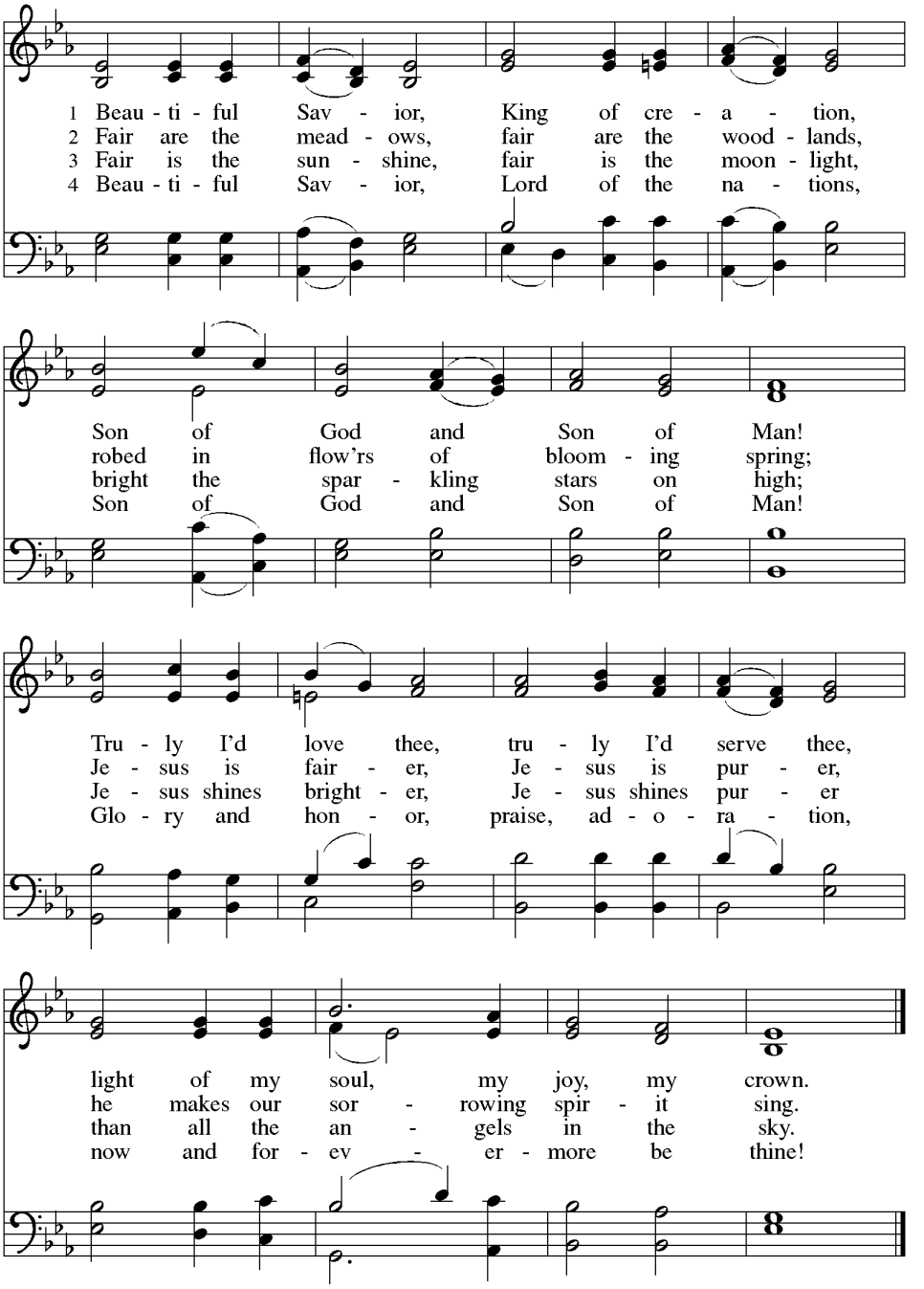
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message ***"First Light, Risen Light"***

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Beautiful Savior"

(Please stand after the introduction; please sing in harmony, a cappella)

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Apostles Creed*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Summer Singers

"God, Architect of Ages"

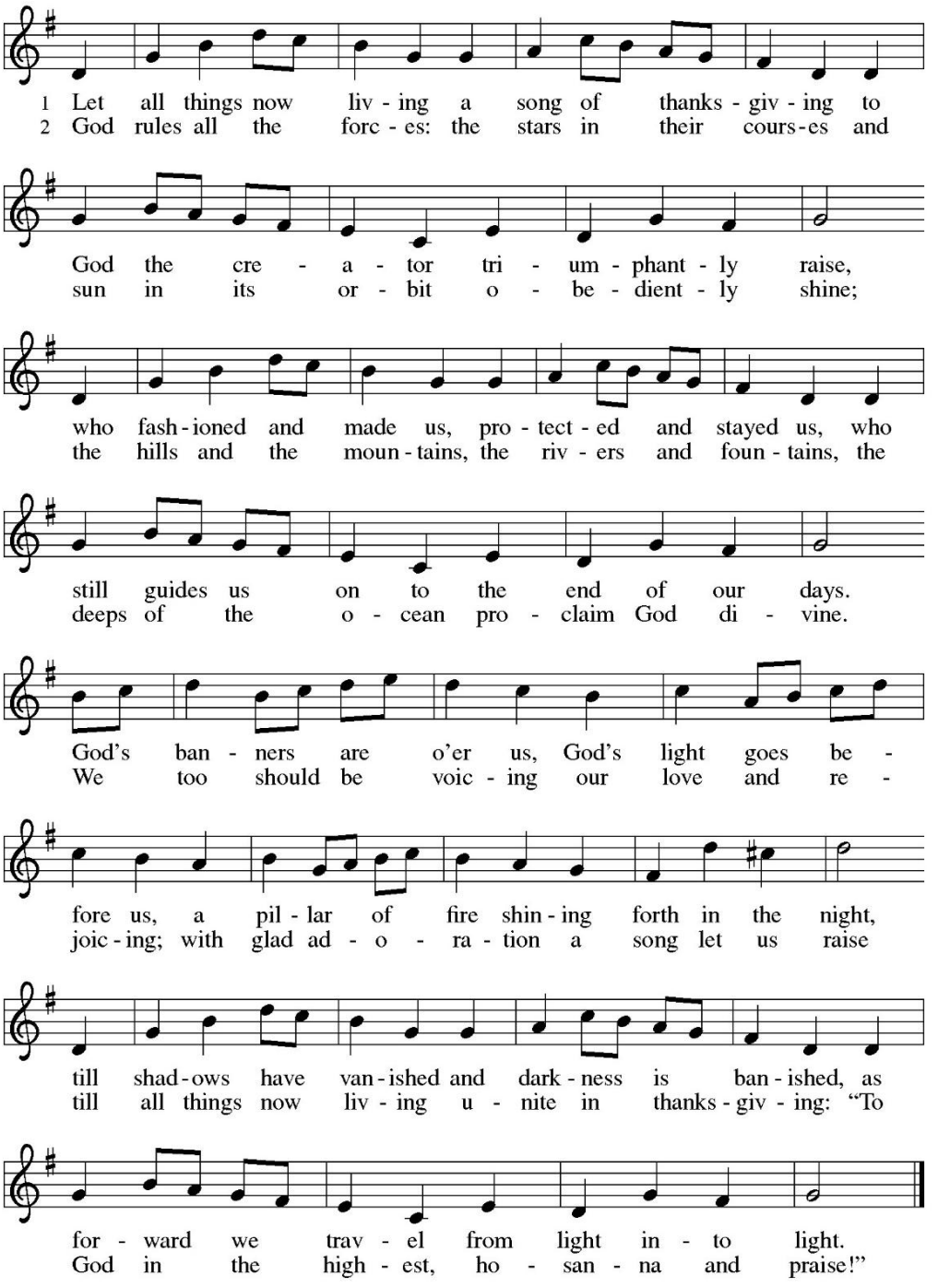
-Matthew Wachtman

God, architect of ages,
before the dawn of time,
You drew creation's
blueprint, its order, its
design. You spoke and all
awakened; You dreamed
the sky and sea.
From wisdom's perfect
pattern came all that e'er
shall be.

God, layer of foundations,
You set the footing sure.
A cornerstone laid firmly
forever shall endure.
When all around
is shaking
Your promise still sustains.
Upon Your firm
Foundation the house of
faith remains.

God, master builder,
framing the structure of the
earth, from womb-like walls
of shelter which gave
creation birth.
You raised the roof of
heaven o'er creatures far
below, and crafted each
with purpose, in life and
breath to grow.

For plumbers, electricians,
and painters, craftsmen,
too, for those who bring
us water, and light our
pathways through –
God, bless their faithful
labors, and help us
always see:
You are the perfect builder
of boundless artistry.

OFFERTORY** ***"Let All Things Now Living"

*Offertory Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

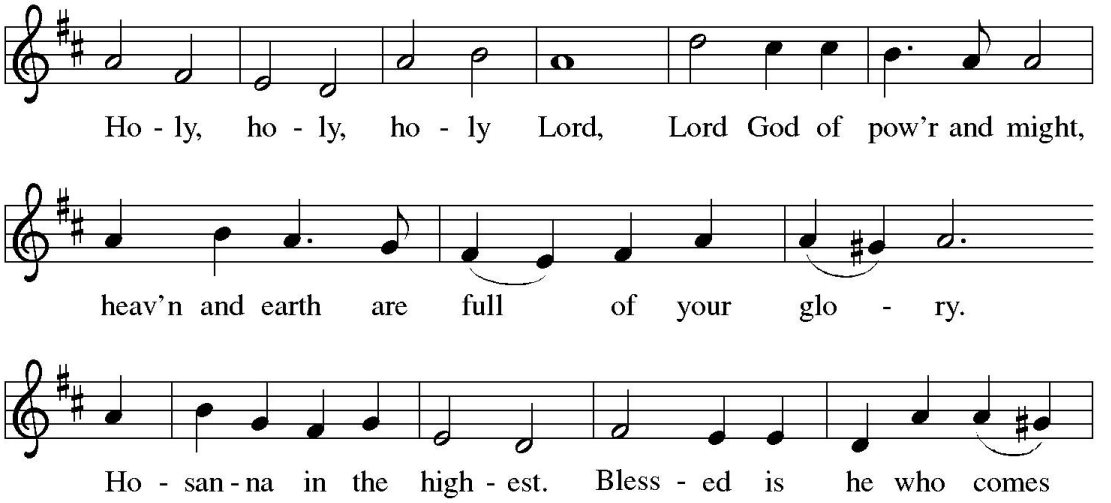
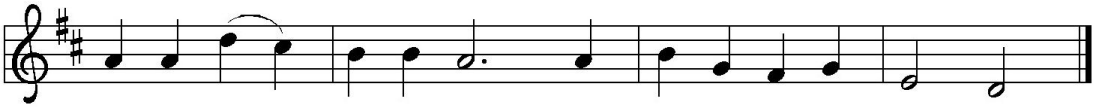
We Share in the Meal

*The Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord. *(Lamentations 3:41)*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise. *(2 Thessalonians 1:3)*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death, and in 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, with all the saints, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

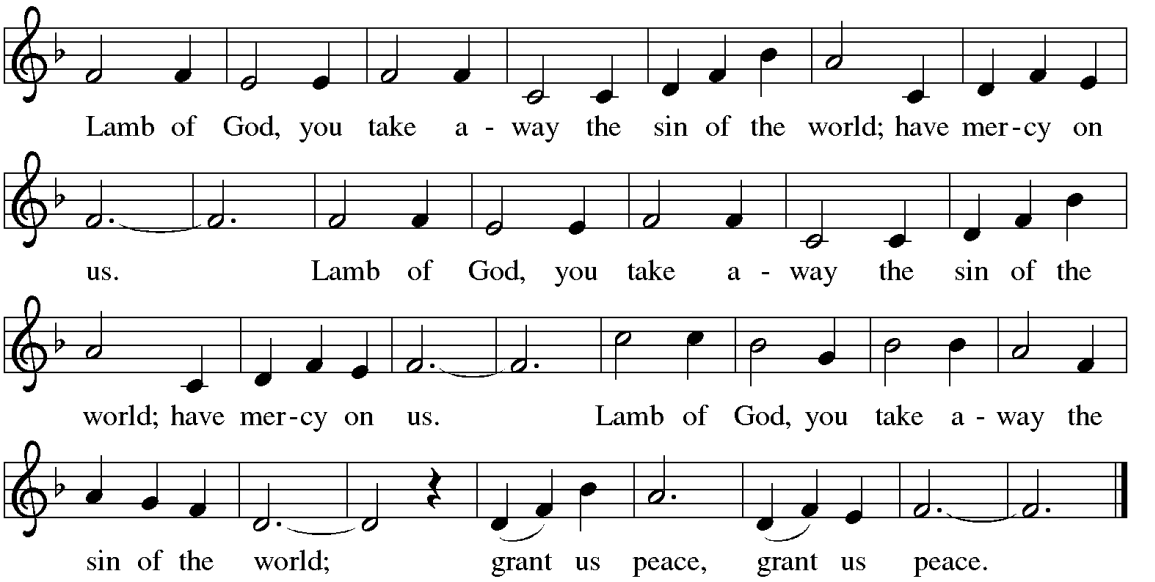
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

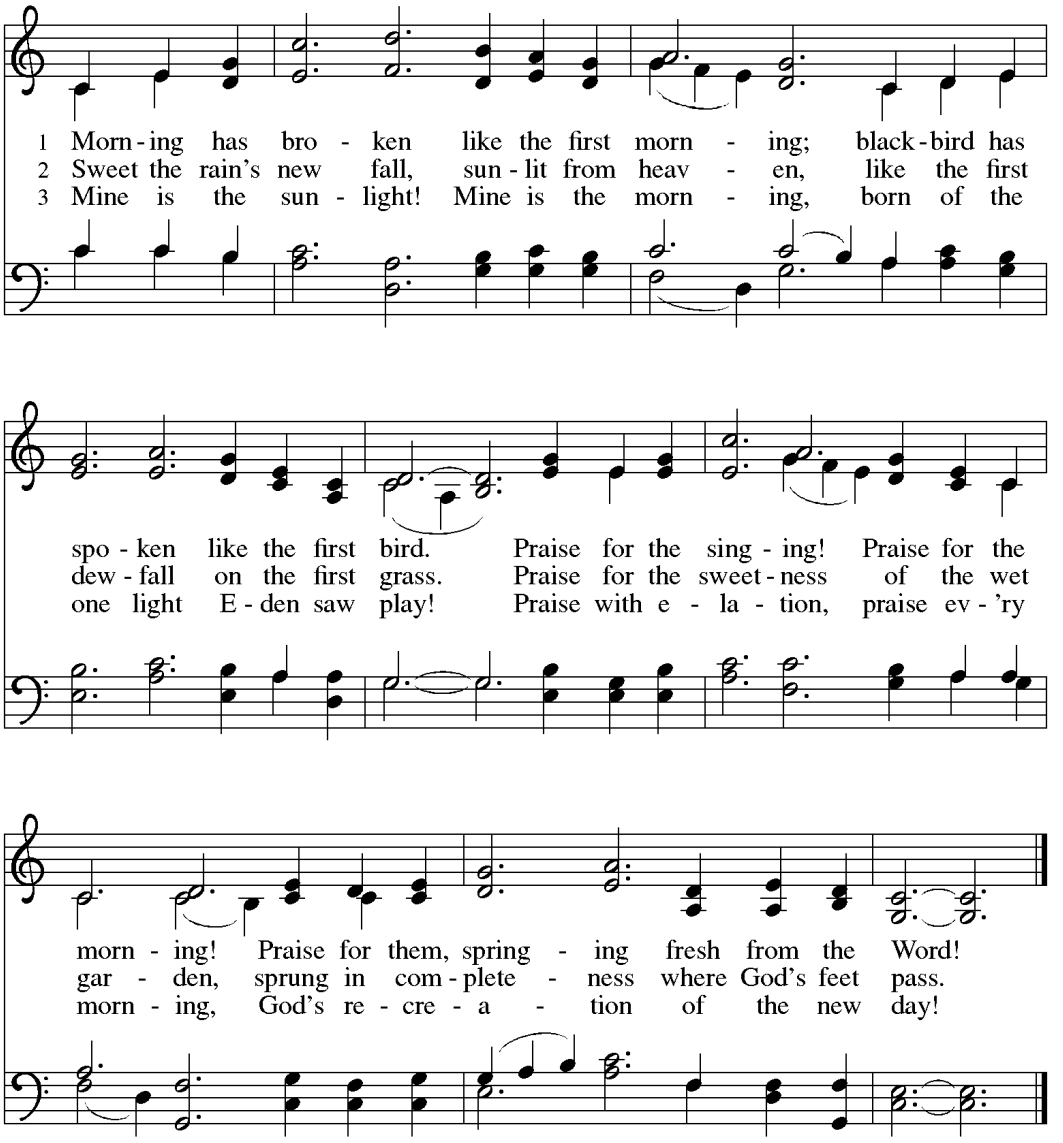
Amen

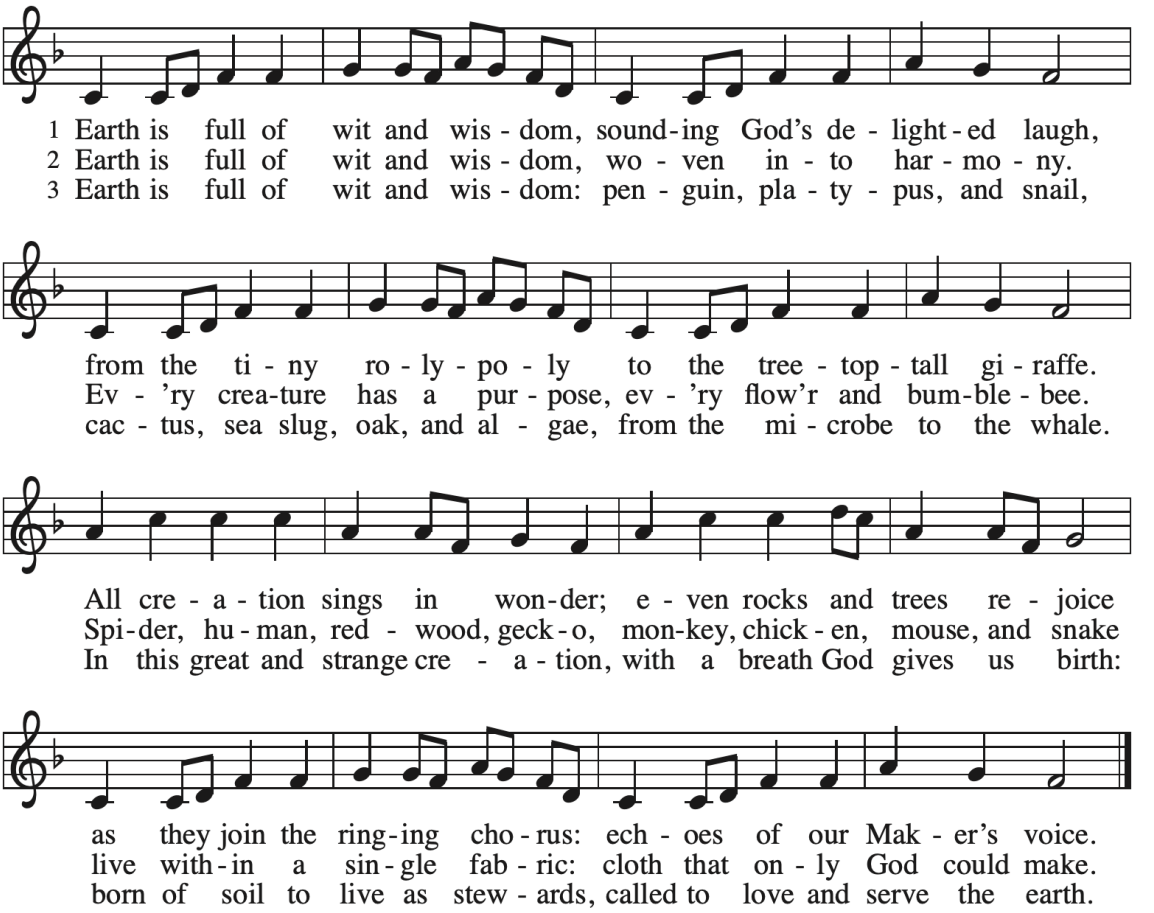
*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION "LAMB OF GOD"



"Morning Has Broken"

"Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

(Please Sing Verse 2 in a Round)

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

***BLESSING**

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

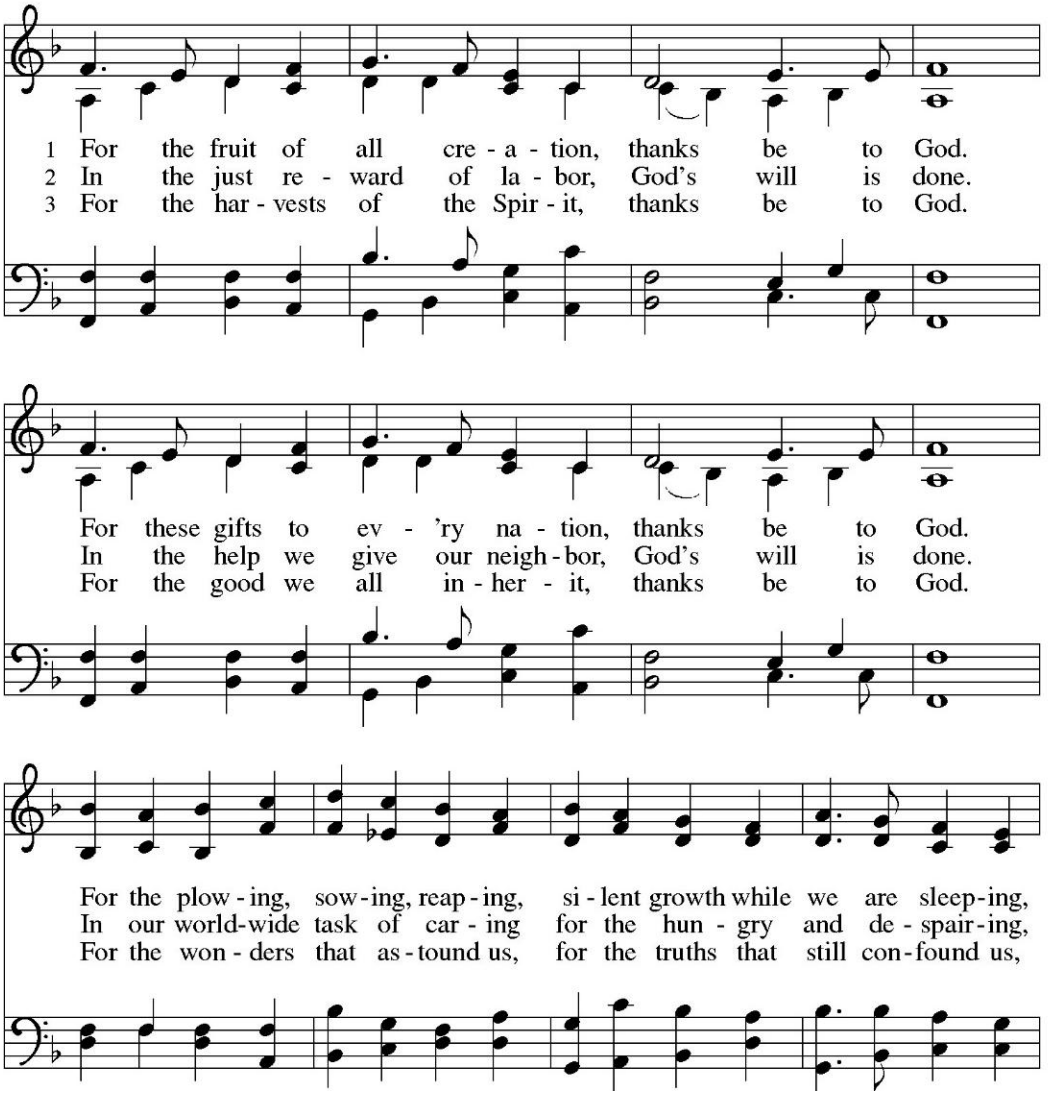
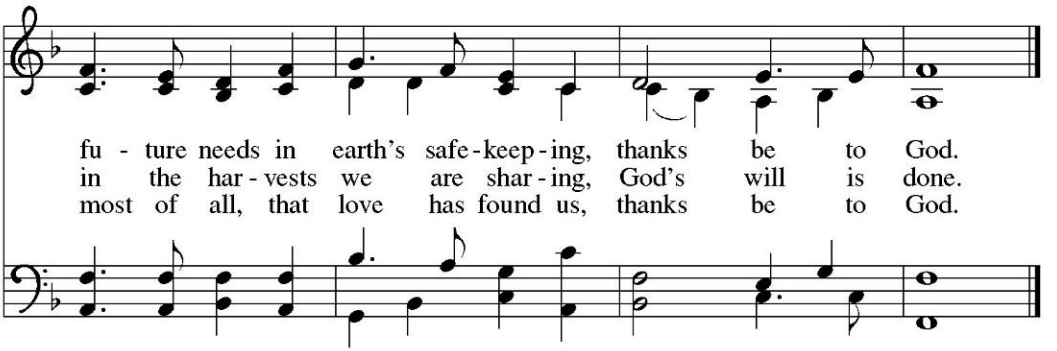
***PRAYER**

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

* BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

(Please sing Verse 3 in Unison)

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+

Acolyte – Jordyn Schmidt
Lector – Diana Zielger
Flute – Eliza Avers
Flugelhorn – Philip Hoverman
Handbells – Stan Schmidt, Deb Schmidt, Josh Voll, Susan Short
Percussion – Jacob Thatcher
Choir – Melanie Nagel, Linda Bernath, Deb Schmidt, Kris Jemmott, Robin Trudel, Jo Ann Leichty, Carla Hoverman, Josh Voll, Steve Basselman, Ross Miller, Stan Schmidt, Philip Hoverman, Susan Short, Andrea Avers

Worship Matters – A Musical Note

Dan Locklair's Rubrics takes its title from the directions that shape our liturgy. As today's prelude, "...and thanksgiving may follow" invites us to hear worship as an ordered response to God's creative work, leading us toward praise on this Creation in Christ Sunday.

Today's new anthem, "God, Architect of Ages," was composed by Matthew Wachtman, inspired by the creation accounts in Genesis. The piece is dedicated in honor of his grandpa Vernon Wachtman, a lifetime carpenter, in gratitude for his work as a builder and craftsman—and as a reflection on God as the ultimate Creator and builder of all things.

The St. Martin's Webstore has some new items! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email.

We are looking for several people who would be interested in being part of an usher team. Each team only ushers every five months and usually once or twice during that month. If you would be interested in considering doing this or have any questions, please reach out to Jim or Janet Wyse.

Rally Day Brunch Sign up form is in the entrance. If you would be willing to bring something to the Rally Day Brunch or serve at the brunch, **please sign up with your name and what items** you will be bringing or sign up for serving and Erinn will be in contact the week of for the time you are needed!

After School Tutoring-We are expanding our After School Tutoring program this year! Last year, we started with 6 students who needed a little extra support after school. That support can look different for every student. It might mean helping with homework, having a child read to you, working through a difficult assignment, or simply being a safe and encouraging adult in their life. With the full launch of the program this year, **we are looking for more volunteers.** We are opening the program to 10 elementary students and 2 middle school students, with the goal of providing each student with one-on-one time in the fellowship hall. We can only make that happen with the help of volunteers**.** One of the things that's great about this program is that you can create a schedule that works for you. You could help every time we meet, once a month, or even just 4 times throughout the school year. Any amount of time you can give makes a difference. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, feel free to contact Jake.

Snacks for Kids Club & Middle School-Another current need is snacks for Kids Club and Middle School Youth on Sunday nights. We ask that snacks be non-perishable, such as graham crackers, fruit snacks, chips, water, and juice boxes for Kids Club.
We have been incredibly fortunate and thankful for how willing everyone has been to donate to our youth ministry. Because of your generosity, we have been able to keep snacks stocked throughout the entire school year and even use them for summer activities. There have been a few times when snacks have been left in the kitchen, in the refrigerator, or I'm informed of a donation in passing. We truly appreciate the donations, but unfortunately, those items don't always get used because Jake is rarely in that part of the building during the week. **To make sure everything gets seen, stored properly, and used, please drop snack donations off in my office or at the top of the staircase leading to the basement with a note that says "Youth & Kids."** That way Jake knows the snacks are there and can get them where they need to go. Thank you again for continuing to support our youth and kids' ministry. Your generosity makes a real difference!

Kids Club Volunteer- Earlier this summer, Jake sent out an email about the possibility of opening Kids Club up to younger kids, specifically Pre-K students ages 4 and up. We would love to be able to include this age group, but to do that, **we need one additional volunteer to help**. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to find someone yet, so this is the last effort to see if there is someone who would be willing to step in and help us make this happen. If you are interested in volunteering with Kids Club and helping us open it up to our younger kids,

Jake would love to connect with you and talk more about what that would look like. We would need to have a volunteer in place by Labor Day in order to make this happen this year. If you're interested, please reach out to Jake.

FALL MUM SALE-Order your mums by September 20 to support the ELCA Youth Gathering trip in 2027.

Rally Day Schedule
NEXT SUNDAY – September 13

- ✞ *9am Worship*
- ✞ *Brunch following Worship*
- ✞ *Packing the Lutheran World Relief Kits after Brunch*
- ✞ *Ages 3 years old through 4th grade: kids activity at church*
- ✞ *Ages 5th grade through High School: Detroit Tigers Game*

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY- Sunday – September 6
Worship, 9am

Tuesday – September 8
Men's Breakfast, 7am McDonald's
Boy Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday- September 9
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm

Thursday- September 10
Women's Breakfast, 7am The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am
Church Council, 7pm

Next Sunday – September 13
Worship, 9am
Bell Choir to Evansport, 10:15am
Brunch & Kit Packing, 10:15am
Kids Activities, 10:30am

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
Phone Number: 419-445-4656
Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org
Email: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs. All Day
Wed. PM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. AM & Fri. AM

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 8/30/2026 Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$6,812.56	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,848.00
Other Designated Income	$266.00		
Total Income	$7,078.56	**AS OF 8/31/2026**	
		YTD Operating Received	$252,428.34
		YTD Operating Expenses	($268,222.53)
Worship: Sun/Wed/Total	90/26/114	Net Income/(Deficit)	$(15,794.19)