

**Introduction to the day:** James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.*

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### **OPENING SONG/PRELUDE**

*God You Reign*

©Lincoln Brewster & Mia Fields

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.  
God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG** *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

©Paul Baloche

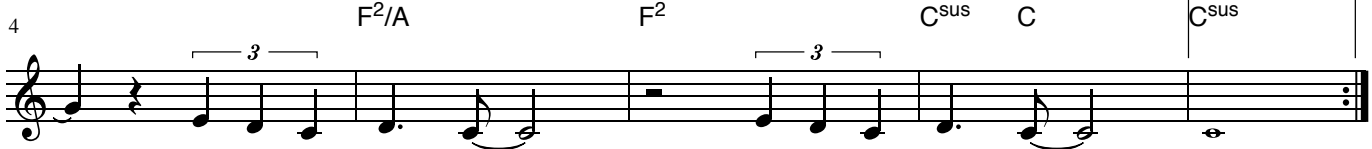
*Music and Lyrics on next page*

♩=112 **CHORUS**  
C<sup>5</sup>

G/B



O - pen the eyes \_ of my heart, \_ Lord, \_ o - pen the eyes \_ of my heart; .



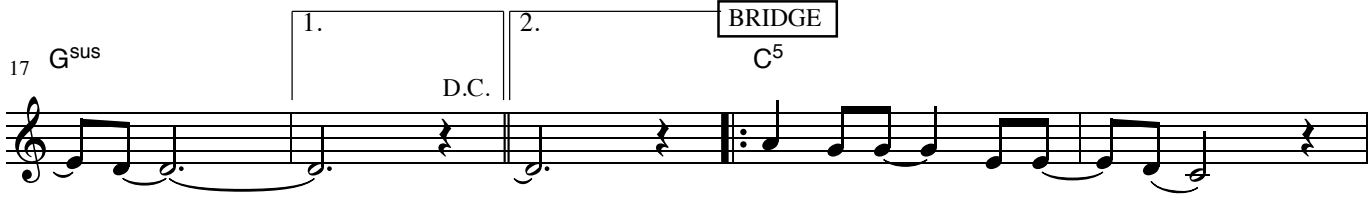
\_ I want to see You, \_ I want to see You. \_



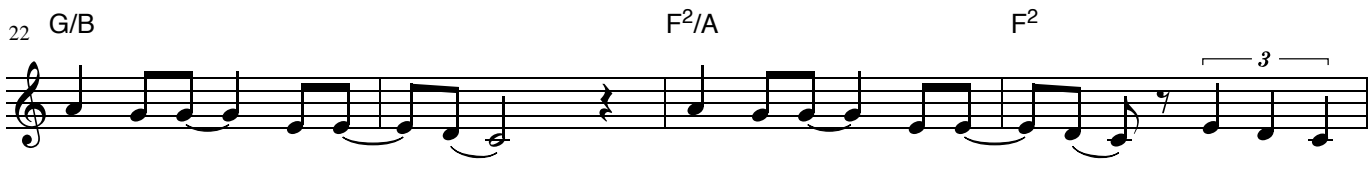
To see You high and lift - ed up, \_ shin - ing in the light of Your glo -



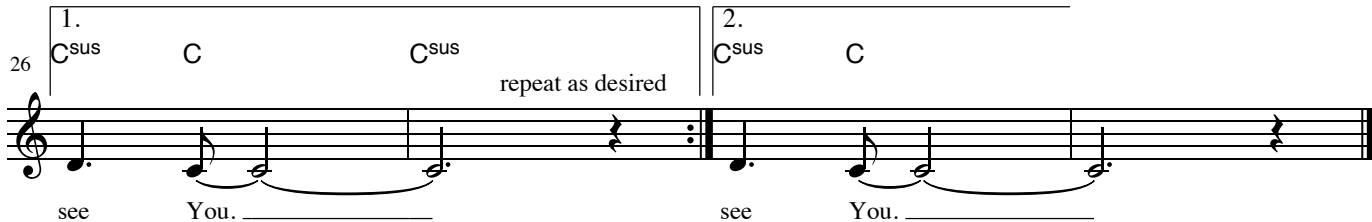
- ry. \_ Pour out Your pow'r and love; \_ As we sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -



- ly. \_ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, \_



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly; \_ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, \_ I want to



see You. \_ see You. \_

# 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 *This Is the Feast*

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy



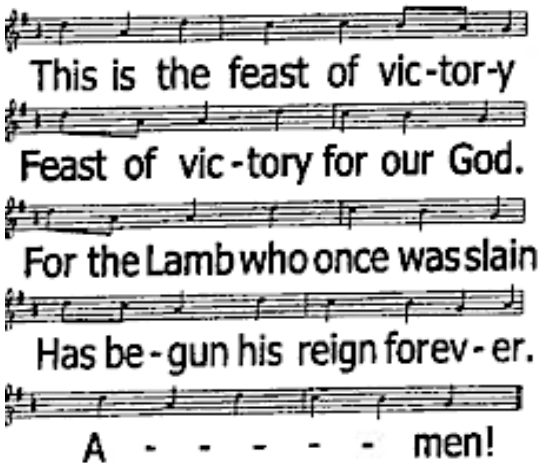
This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
Wor-thy is the  
Lamb who was slain  
His blood to set us free  
Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord  
Serve the Lord for e-ver.  
Po-wer, rich-es,  
wis-dom, strength  
Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry



All be-long to God on high.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Feast of vic-tory for our God.



This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
Sing with all God's  
ho-ly peo-ple  
Join the hy-mn of  
all cre-a-tion  
Bless-ing, hon-or,  
glo-ry, mi-ght  
Be to God and the  
Lamb for-ev-er  
A-men! A-men!



This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
For the Lamb who once was slain  
Has be-gun his reign forev-er.  
A - - - - men!



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 35:4-7a (Allen Dunn)

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 146 (Allen Dunn)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord cares for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING:** James 2:1-17

(Allen Dunn)

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

*A reading from James.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **KIDS' MESSAGE**

(Jeri Wartena)

## **GOSPEL:** Mark 7:24-37

(Pastor Carolyn)

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** (Pastor Carolyn)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Mighty to Save*

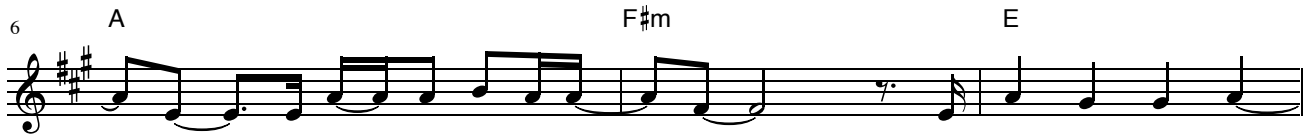
©Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding



1. Ev-'ry-one needs com-pas-sion, love that's nev-er fail-  
 2. So take-me as You find-me, all my fears and fail-



- ing. — Let mer-cy fall on-me. — Ev-'ry-one needs for-give-  
 - ures. — Fill my life a-gain. — I give-my life to fol-



- ness, — the kind-ness of a Sav-iour. — The hope of na-tions. —  
 - low, — ev-'ry-thing I be-lieve in. — Now I sur-ren-der. —

§ **CHORUS**



— Sav-iour, He can move the-moun-tains. My God is



might-y to save. — He is might-y to save. — For-ev-er, Au-thor of sal-

Last time to Coda ☉

16 E D A F#m E

-va - tion. He rose and con- quered the grave. \_ Je - sus con- quered the grave. \_

BRIDGE

27 D A E F#m

Shine your light, and let the whole world \_ see. We're sing - ing

29 D A E F#m

for the glo - ry of the ris - en \_ King. \_ Je - sus.

31 D A E F#m

Shine your light, and let the whole world \_ see. We're sing - ing

33 D A E D.S. al Coda

for the glo - ry \_ of the ris - en \_ King. \_

CHORUS

☉ Coda

35 A E D A

Sav - iour, He can move the \_ moun - tains. My God is might - y to save. \_ He is


38 F#m E A E


might - y to save. \_ For - ev - er, Au - thor of Sal - va - tion. He rose and


41 D A F#m E

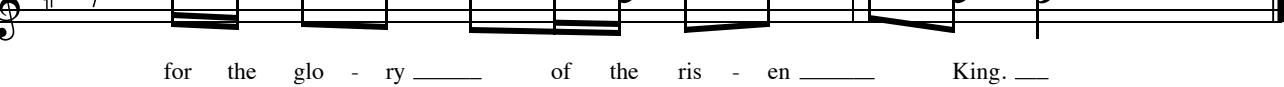
con - quered the grave. \_ Je - sus con - quered the grave. \_

**BRIDGE**

43 D A E F#m  
  
 Shine your light, and let the whole world — see. We're sing - ing

45 D A E F#m  
  
 for the glo - ry of the ris - en King. — Je - sus.

47 D A E F#m  
  
 Shine your light, and let the whole world — see. We're sing - ing

49 D A E  
  
 for the glo - ry — of the ris - en — King. —

**CREED**

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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 to the dead. 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 INTERCESSION**

(Allen Dunn)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Continue to be with the firefighters working tirelessly to protect our forests, especially those fighting the Caldor and Dixie fires. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Especially as we celebrate Labor Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box*

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **OFFERING**

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.*

*Thank you so much for your continued support in these unusual times.*

If you are worshiping with us onsite, and wish to give an offering, please use the basket on the back table. You may also give online using the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.  
You sent your Son to eat with sinners  
and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,  
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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

**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of your heart.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*If you are joining us online,  
you welcome to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.  
If you are worshipping with us onsite, please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us  
forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, ✚ one God, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Let the People Praise*

©Aaron Shust

Our God is the God of \_\_\_ gods. \_\_\_ And our

3 G/B C D Em<sup>7</sup> C  
Lord is the Lord of \_\_\_ kings; \_\_\_ The re - veal - er \_\_\_ of se - crets, of

6 G D/F# C D<sup>sus</sup> D G G/B Last time to Coda ⊕  
mys - ter - ies \_\_\_ un - known. \_\_\_ Let the peo - ple praise our \_\_\_ God. \_\_\_

9 C D<sup>sus</sup> D G Am<sup>7</sup> C/D  
Let the peo - ple praise our \_\_\_ God. \_\_\_  
1. His sov - reign \_\_\_ rule \_\_\_ will last for -  
2. He lifts up \_\_\_ kings \_\_\_ and brings them

12 G Am<sup>7</sup> C/D G

-ev - er. His king-dom won't de - cline \_ or \_ fall. \_ He  
low a - gain. He shows us what is right \_ from \_ wrong. \_

15 C C/D G D/F# Em G/B

does as \_ He pleas - es, both in Heav - en and earth. \_ Whom am I \_  
God of \_ all time, \_ we give You thanks and praise, for \_ You have made \_

17 C Am' D<sup>sus</sup> D repeat 2 times

\_ that I \_ should ques - tion Him \_ at all? Our  
\_ us wise, \_ and You \_ have made \_ us strong. Our

⊕ Coda

19 C D<sup>sus</sup> D G D<sup>sus</sup> G

Let the peo - ple praise our \_ God. \_ Ev - 'ry-thing He does is \_ right,

22 C D<sup>sus</sup> G C

and all His ways \_ are just. \_ Those who walk in pride He \_ is a - ble \_ to hum - ble.

25 D<sup>sus</sup> G C D<sup>sus</sup> G

Ev - 'ry-thing He does is \_ right, and all His ways \_ are just. \_ Those who walk in pride He \_ is

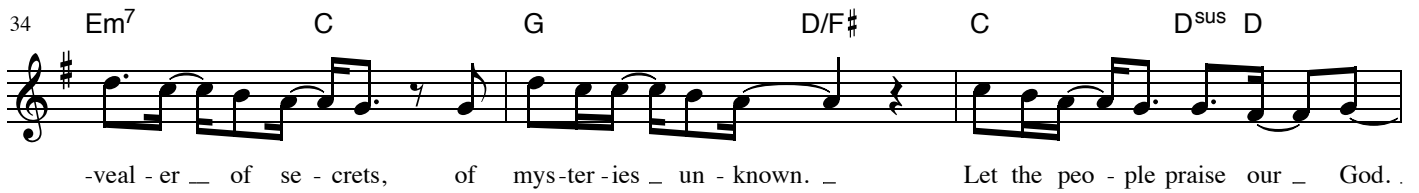
28 C D<sup>sus</sup> D G C

a - ble \_ to hum - ble. Our God is the God of \_ gods. \_

31 D G/B C D

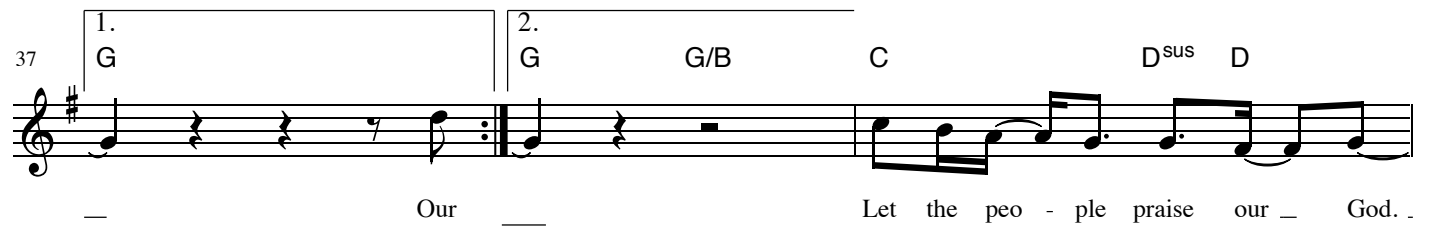
\_ And our Lord is the Lord of \_ kings; \_ the re -

34 Em<sup>7</sup> C G D/F# C D<sup>sus</sup> D



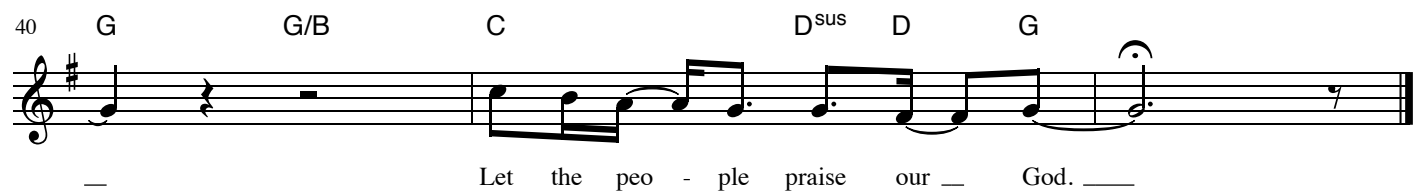
-veal - er \_ of se - crets, of mys - ter - ies \_ un - known. \_ Let the peo - ple praise our \_ God. .

37 1. G 2. G G/B C D<sup>sus</sup> D



\_ Our \_ Let the peo - ple praise our \_ God. .

40 G G/B C D<sup>sus</sup> D G



\_ Let the peo - ple praise our \_ God. \_\_\_

## DISMISSAL

The living Word dwells in you. Go in peace.  
**Thanks be to God and we will.**

## CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS