

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
HOLY COMMUNION – 12 JANUARY 2025

WELCOME! THE SERVICE ORDER OUTLINES OUR WORSHIP. HYMNS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BLUE HYMNAL.

READINGS: ISAIAH 43:1-7, PSALM 29, ACTS 8:14-17 LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

OUR READERS: STACEY FISCHER-LEWIS AND SALLY GRAHAM

Organ: Meditation on *Omnes qui in Christo* (All Who Are In Christ) – Gerald Near b. 1942

Hymn 120, The Sinless One To Jordan Came And In The River Shared Our Stain-- *Solemnis haec festivitas*

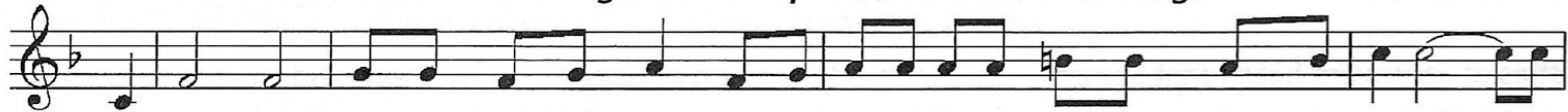
The Word Of God

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise – From The Third Song of Isaiah

*The choir sings this antiphon, and then all sing:*



A - rise, shine; for your light has come, and the glo-ry of the Lord has dawned up - on you. The



Lord will be your ev - er-last-ing light, and your God will be your glo - ry.

Choir: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. For behold, darkness covers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peoples. But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will appear upon you. Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning. Your gates will always be open; by day or night they will never be shut. **All repeat antiphon.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

A Reading From The Prophet Isaiah

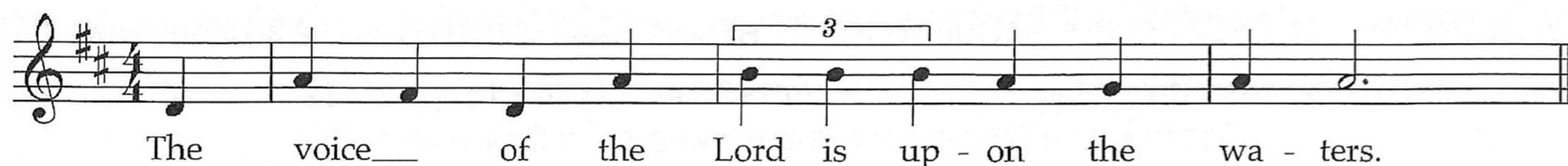
In this prophetic reading, the Lord assures Israel that they are God's chosen people. They are not to fear; God will save them.

Thus says the Lord: O Israel, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



*Psalm 29. The majesty of God is described in the likeness of a thunderstorm; the Lord is mighty over land and sea. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing as indicated by R.*



Ascribe to the Lord; you gods, ascribe to the Lord, glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord, the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. **R.** The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord sakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. **R.** And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R.**

### A Reading From The Acts Of The Apostles

In this New Testament account, we hear of the spread of the early church among the Samaritans. The Lord's Spirit surmounts cultural barriers and traditional enmities as the gospel continues its progress.

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand. The cantor sings "alleluia"; all repeat, and sing again after the verse.*



V. This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. **R. Alleluia (3x)**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon – The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, Rector  
What do we believe?

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. *(continued)*



Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

### Prayers of the People

On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when Christ was revealed as God's beloved child, we bring our hearts to God as God's adopted children, confident that we can ask for more than we can know or imagine.

For the Church, that all who have been baptized will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to give united witness to the life and ministry of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For all those who do not yet know Jesus as the beloved Son of God, that our lives may be examples to them of Christian grace, generosity and hope; Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For a true spirit of humility and Gospel-lived faith, that in our preaching, prayer and example, we may always show the way towards the living Christ. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For peace with justice throughout the world, that all people will turn from hatred to love and from violence to peace. We pray for all those areas of our world torn by conflict or war, and especially for the people of Myanmar, Haiti, Sudan, Russia, Ukraine, Lebanon, Israel, Gaza, Syria. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For the sick, the lonely, the housebound, the vulnerable, and all who experience any kind of loss, trouble, or challenge. We pray for those who have lost property and their lives in the California wildfires, and we pray for the safety of firefighters and all rescue personnel. Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

For all the departed. For Jimmy Carter, 39<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, who was buried yesterday from Washington National Cathedral. For those in whose memory the Christmas flowers have been given. At his Year's Time, we remember Leonard Williams. And for others you wish to remember by name. (pause).

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we remember the clergy and people of Christ Church, Adrian and Grace Church, Mt. Clemens. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we remember the clergy and people of The Church of Wales, and the Church of the Province of West Africa. In our parish cycle of prayer, we remember: Ed, Christopher, Karen, Nina, Raymond, Donald, Lynn, Tom, Lori. And for others you wish to remember by name. (pause).

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us; **Have mercy upon us, most merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things done and left undone, and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet each other without making physical contact.*



## Holy Communion

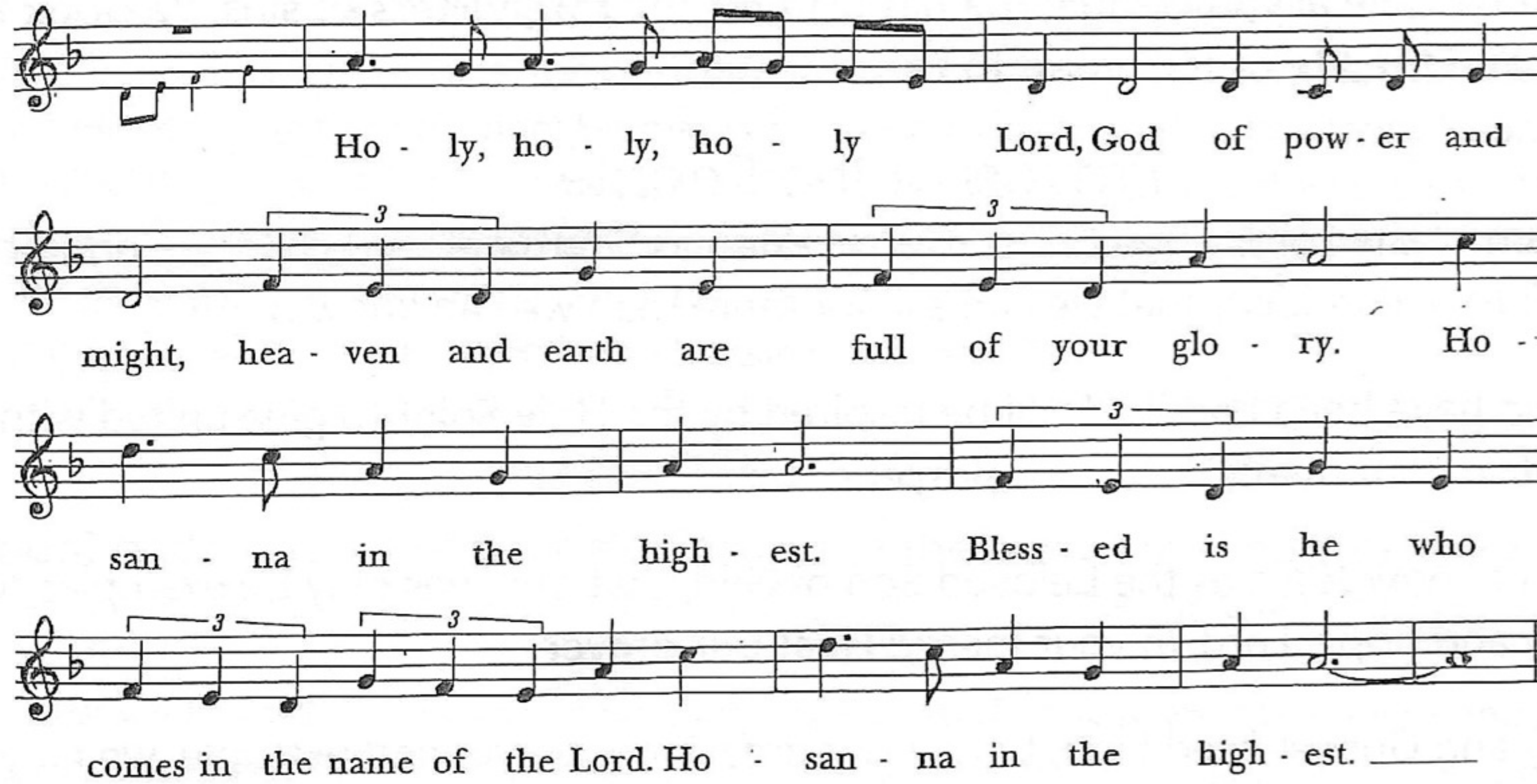
*All are invited to receive Communion. The bread is placed in the palm of your right hand. You may dip the bread in the wine or sip the wine from the chalice. Instead of Communion and to receive a blessing, kindly keep your hands folded.*

Anthem: Christ, When for us you were baptized – text, Hymn 121; setting, William Bradley Roberts, b. 1947

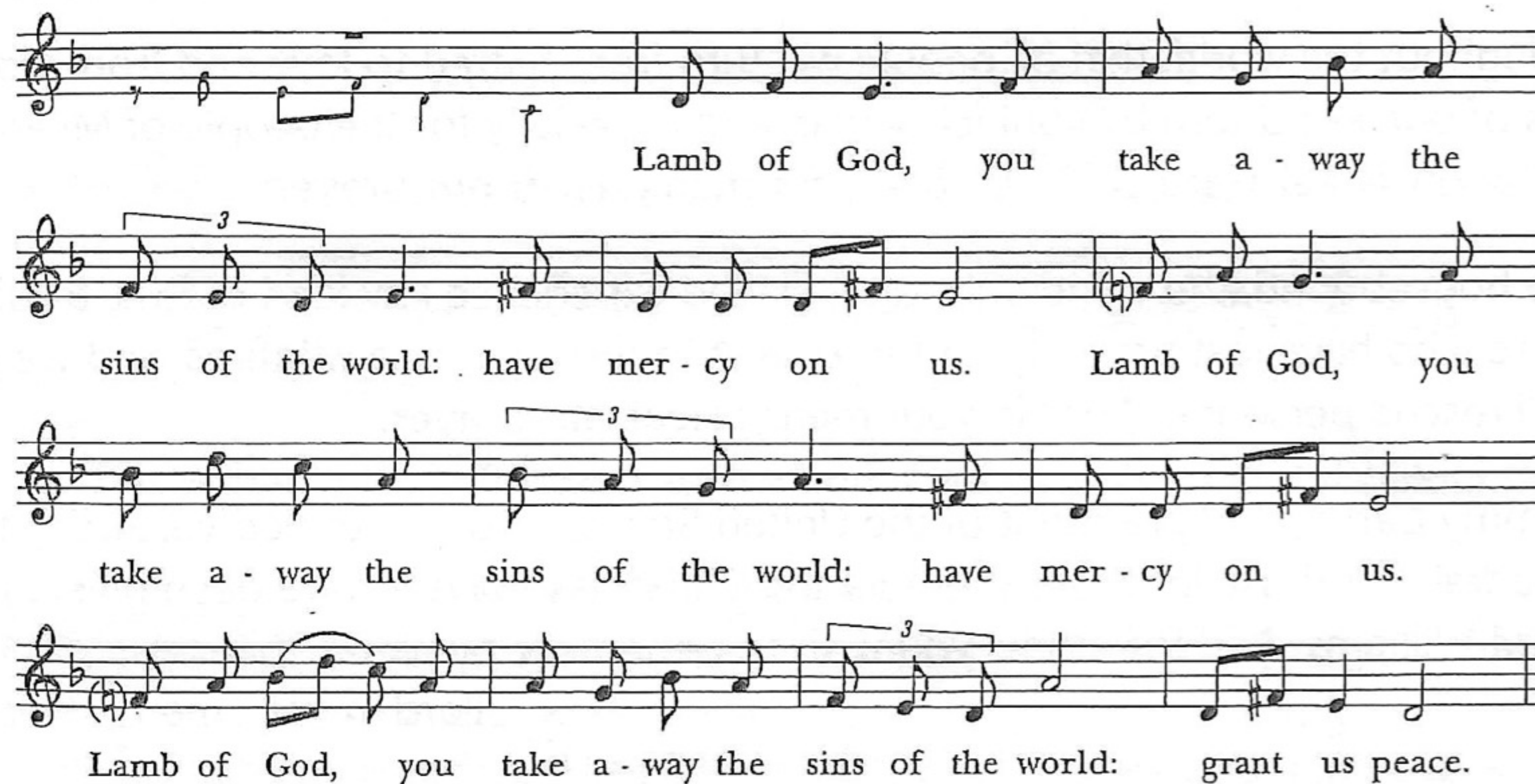
*After the anthem, the people stand at the presentation of the gifts.*

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —



Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*After all have received, please stand and pray together:*

Gracious God; Lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for each other and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ. We ask this in his name, Amen.

The blessing of God, etc. Amen. Let us go forth to spread the light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

## Hymn 121, Christ When For Us You Were Baptized - Caithness

Organ: Sortie on the tune *Solemnis haec festivitas (This Solemn Festival)* – Gerald Near

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Our Mission: We share the light of Christ  
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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