

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
of Stillwater, Minnesota

November 16, 2025

The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

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Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.



## GATHERING

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

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW Page 94

Gathering Song

ELW Hymn 790

*"Day by Day"*

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.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you  
nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your  
mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live  
through what is temporary without losing what is eternal,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

First Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Page 890

Malachi 4:1-2a

*Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.*

*At the conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98

*The refrain is sung first by a leader, then repeated by all and sung after each verse as indicated (R).*

Sing to the Lord a new \_\_\_\_ song for he has done  
marv'-lous things. Oh sing to the Lord a new \_\_\_\_ song  
for he has done marv' lous things for us.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracket) over the first, second, and third measures. The second staff continues the melody for the second line, also with triplet markings. The third staff concludes the third line, with a final triplet marking. The lyrics are written below each staff, with blank lines for the first and second lines of the song.

He's shown the whole world he frees his folk.

They've seen that his words are true. **R**

The harp's music rings; each string calls his name.

The trumpet and horn resound.

The earth and the sea and the river all sing.

The mountain erupt with joy. **R**

The Lord, he has come to all people and lands:  
a fair and a righteous judge. **R**



## 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

*Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.*

*At the conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Children's and Outreach Message

Jenny Brelje



Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Luke 21:5-19

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment, there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

*The gospel is introduced:*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion:*

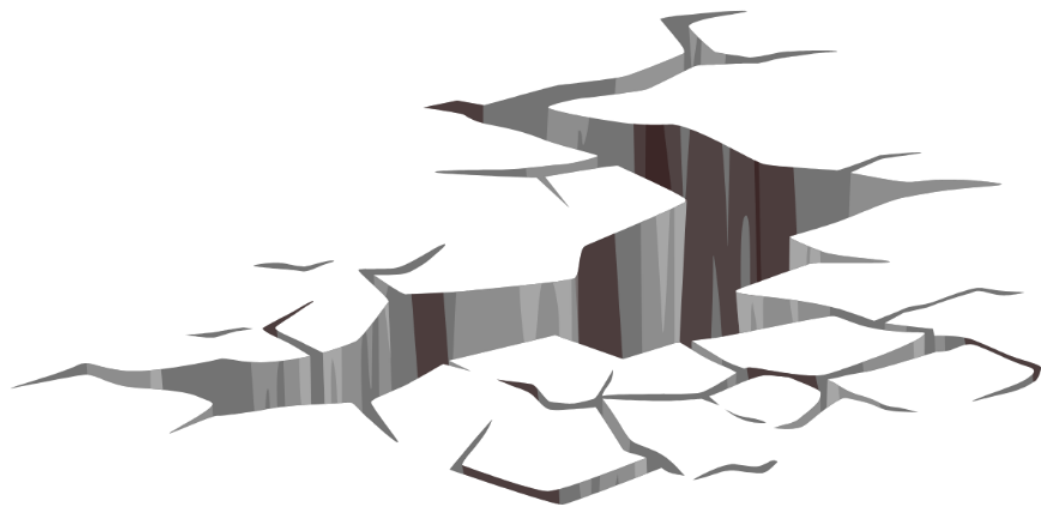
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor John Omans

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*



## Hymn of the Day

### "When Our World Is Rent by Violence"



1 When our world is rent by vio - lence and our lives are  
2 When our cit - ies stand for - sak - en and the poor must  
3 When our lives are burnt to ash - es and our hopes fade  
4 Raise up beau - ty from the ash - es; end our vio - lence;

marred by grief, when our songs of calm as - sur - ance  
beg for bread, when the pris - 'ner sits for - got - ten  
like a dream, when our sto - ries lose their mean - ing  
tend our peace. Give us vi - sions of a fu - ture

turn to cries of un - be - lief: God, we raise our  
and the home - less find no bed, God, we raise our  
and de - spair be - comes their theme, God, we raise our  
where all cap - tives find re - lease, where op - pres - sion

lam - en - ta - tion seek - ing ref - uge and re - lief.  
lam - en - ta - tion: wak - en jus - tice from the dead!  
lam - en - ta - tion: Come, Lord Je - sus, to re - deem!  
is e - vic - ted, and all works of ha - tred cease.

## Prayers of Intercession

*After each prayer:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*At the conclusion:*

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*



## MEAL

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

## Offering

*"Lord, Reign In Me"*

*Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.*



## Offering Prayer

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

(Continued on the next page.) 7

Lift up your hearts,

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command . . .

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.


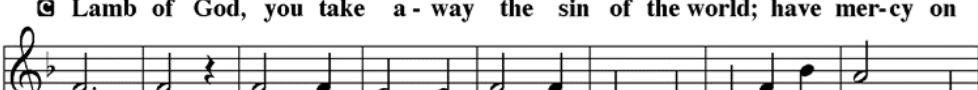
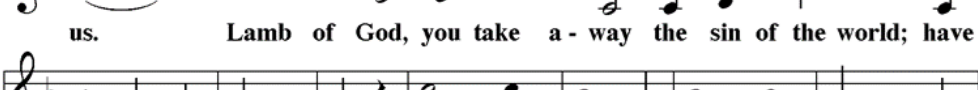
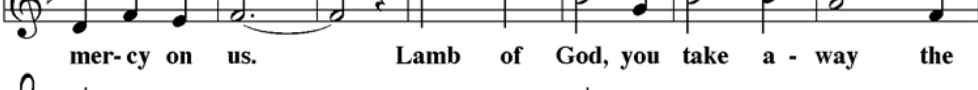

**Amen.**


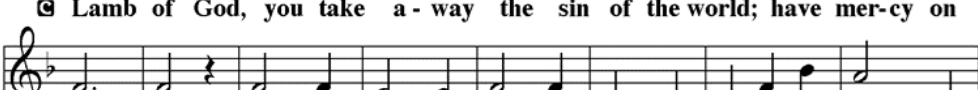
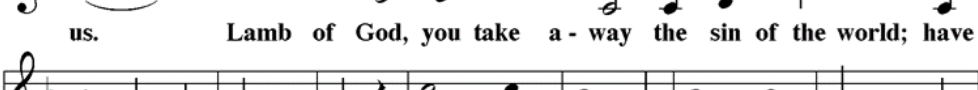
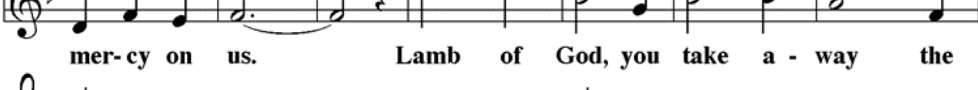




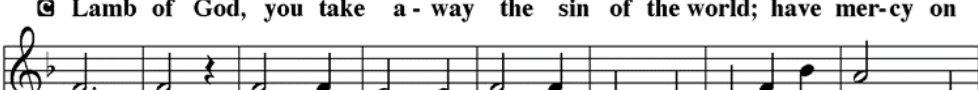
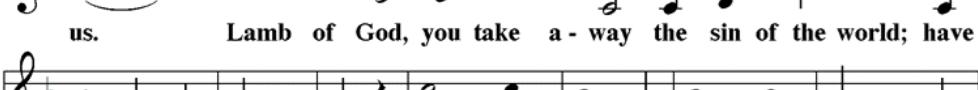
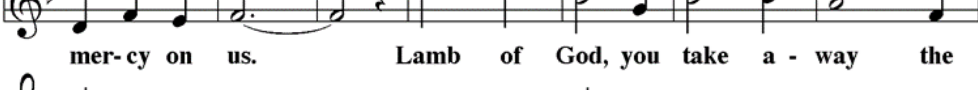

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**


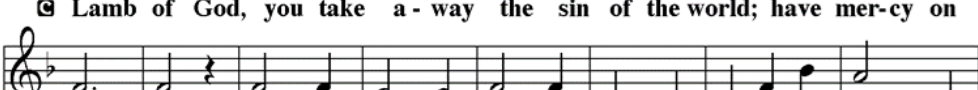
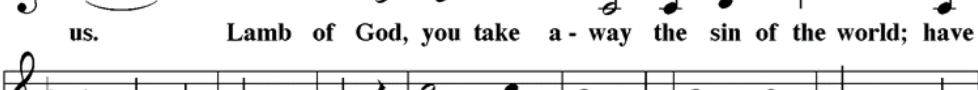
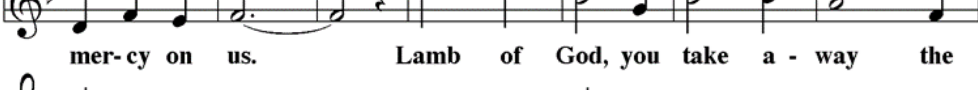

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**


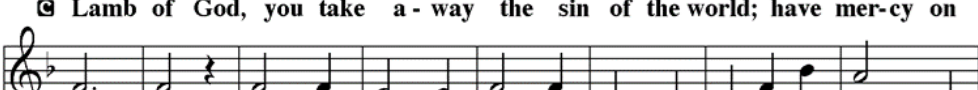
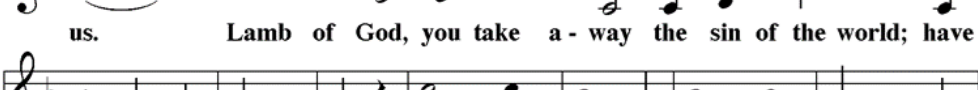
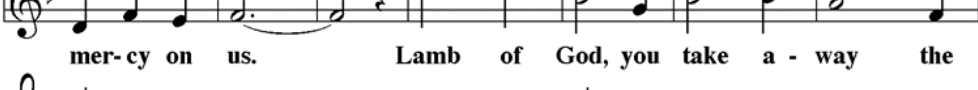

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**


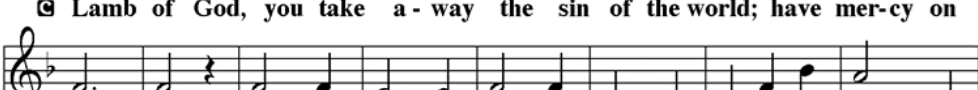
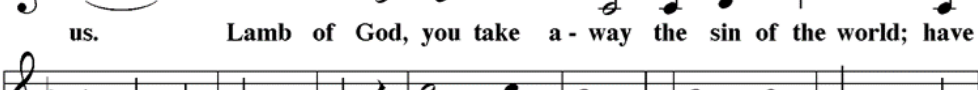
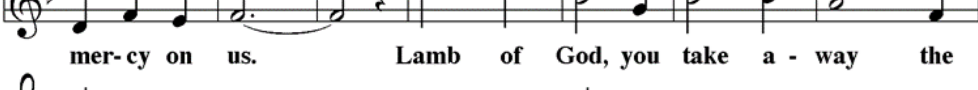

    


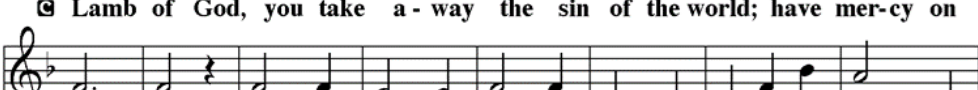
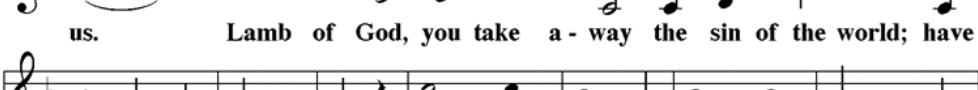
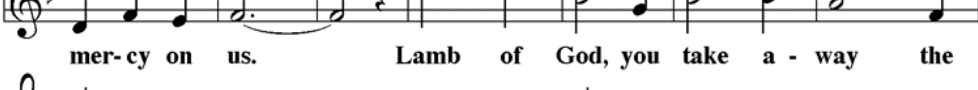

    


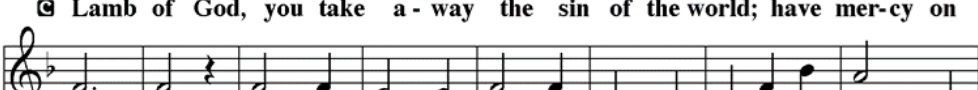
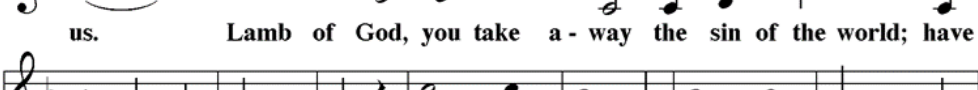
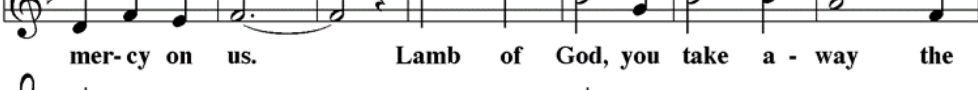

    


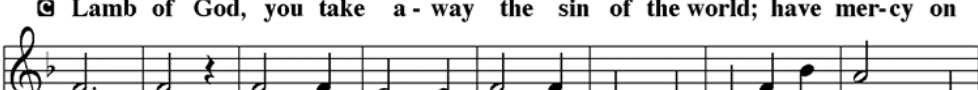
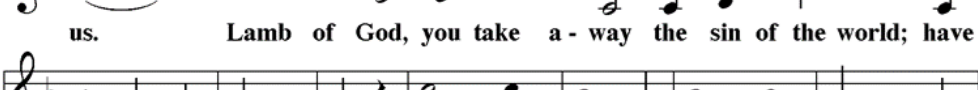
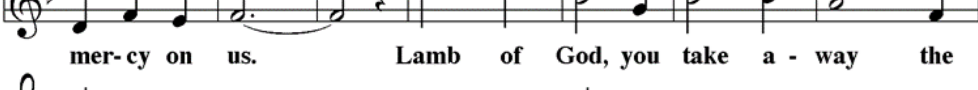

    


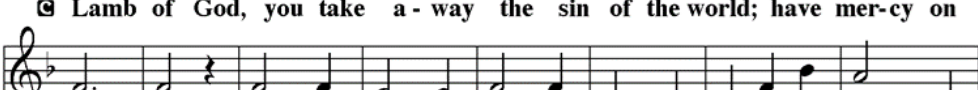
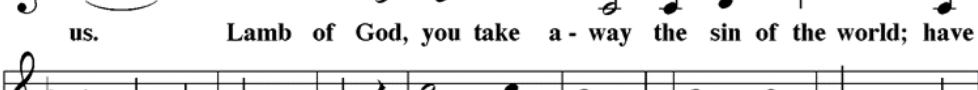
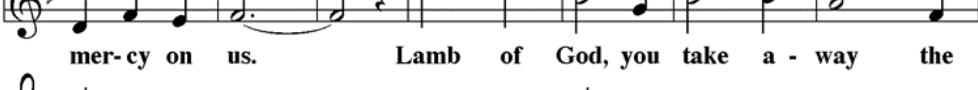

    


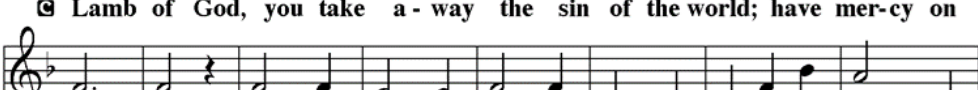
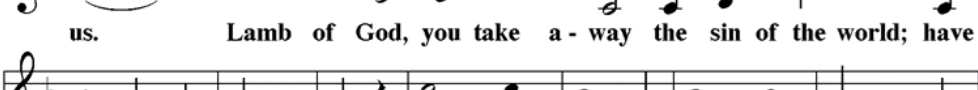
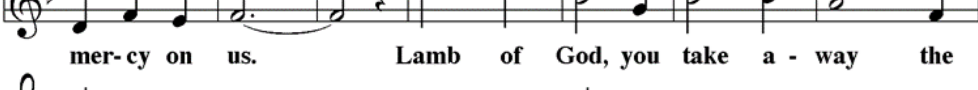

    


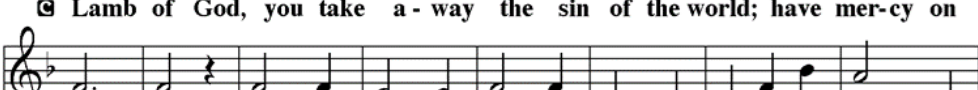
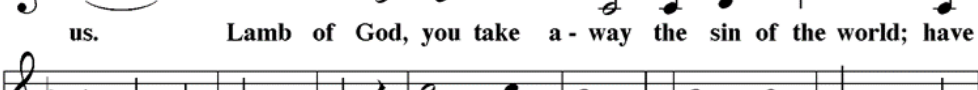
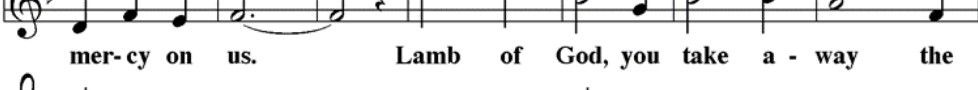

    


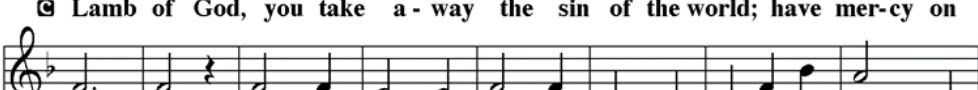
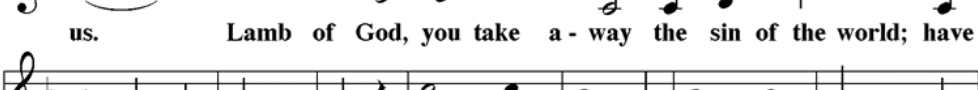
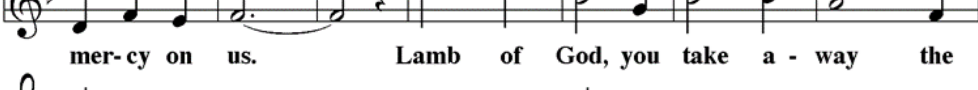

    


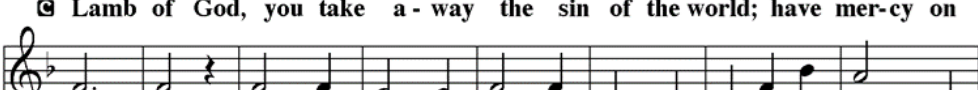
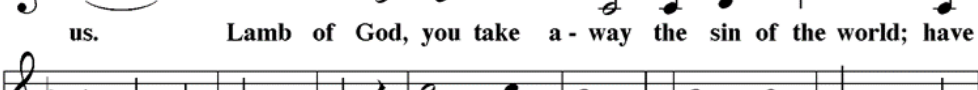
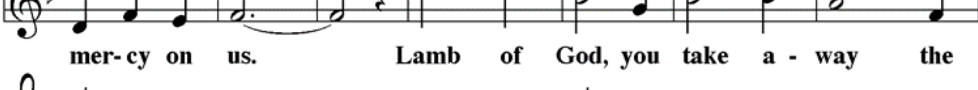

    


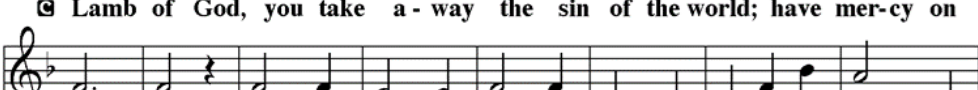
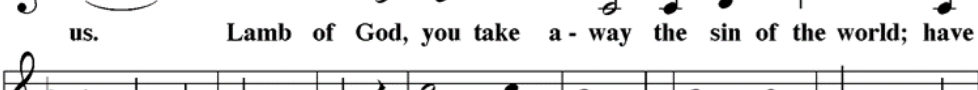
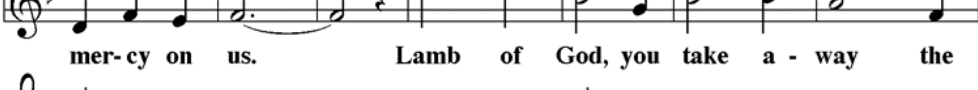

    


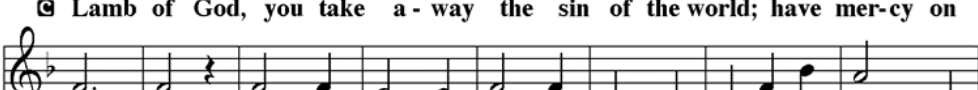
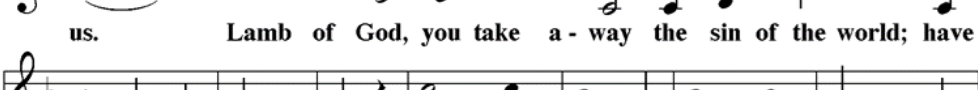
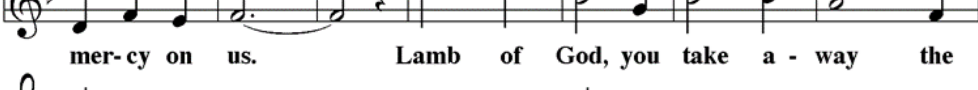

    


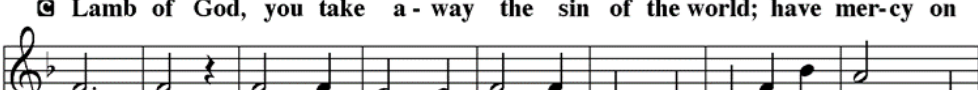
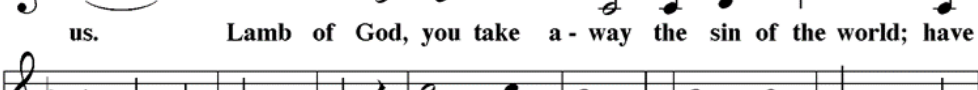
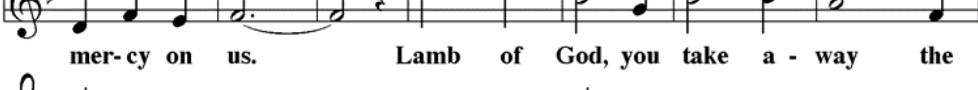

    


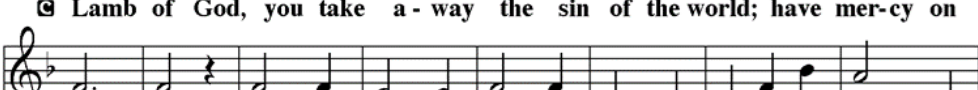
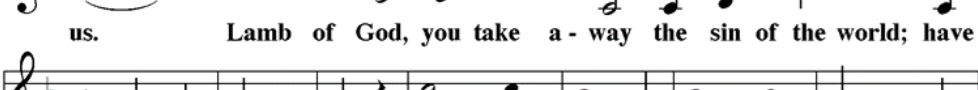
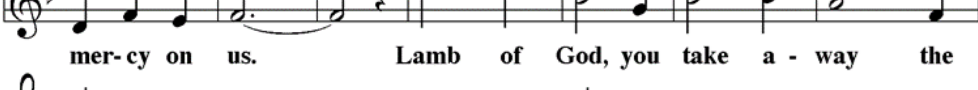

    


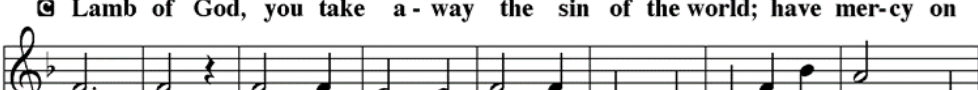
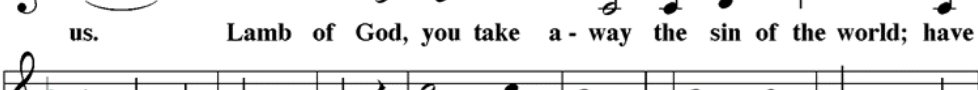
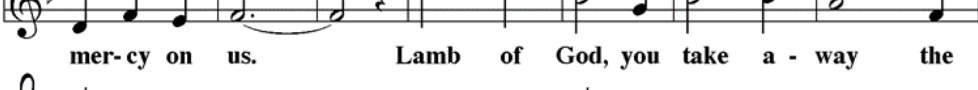

    


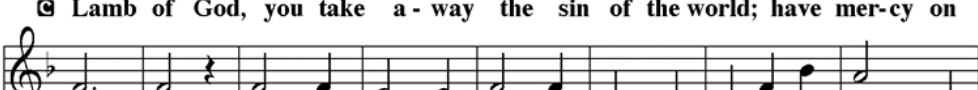
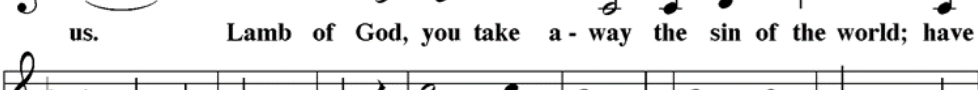
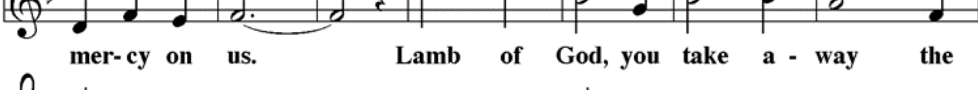

    


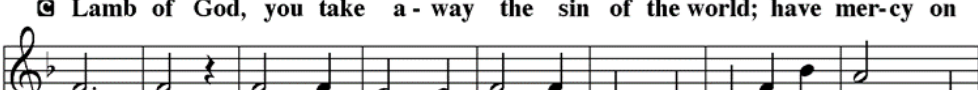
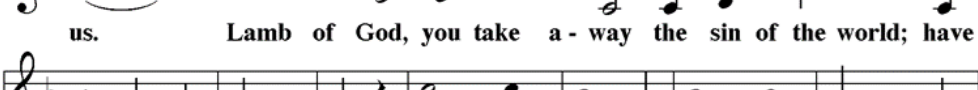
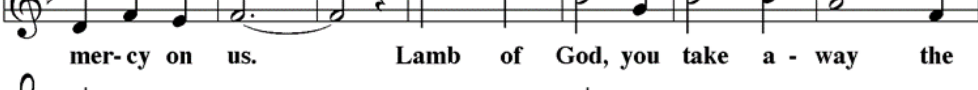

    


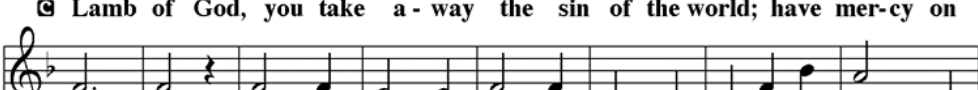
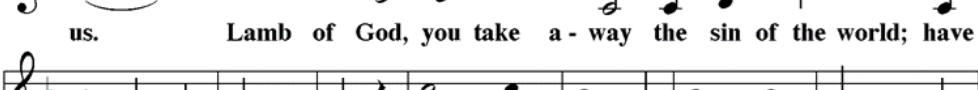
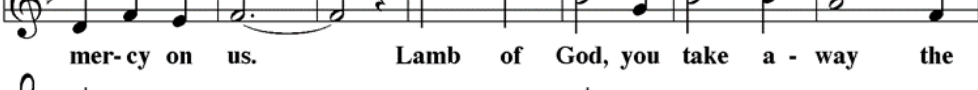

    


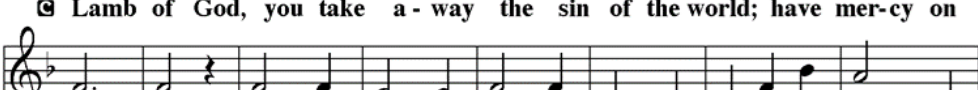
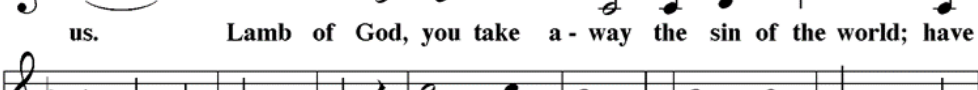
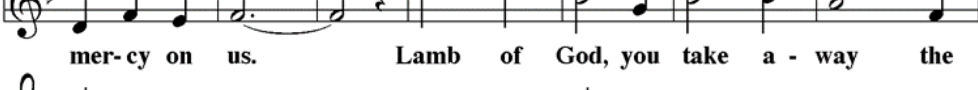

    


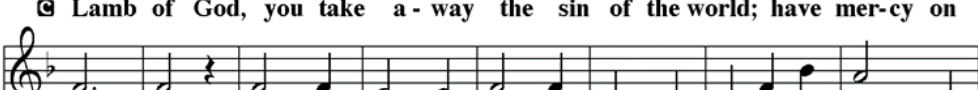
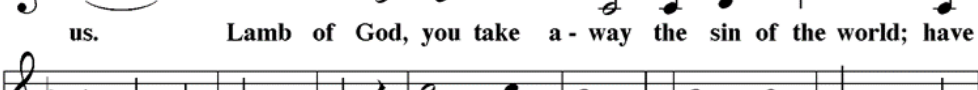
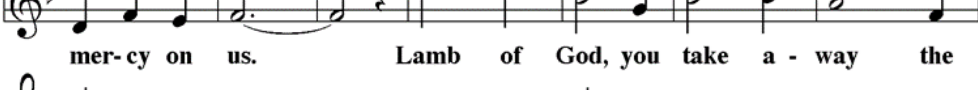

    


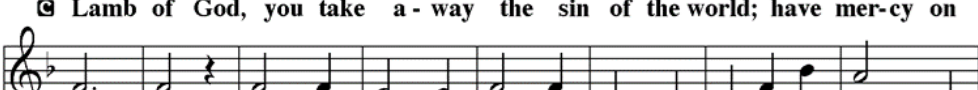
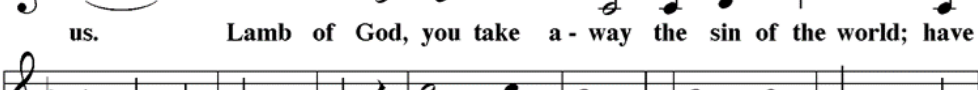
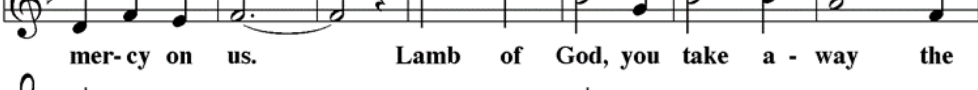

    


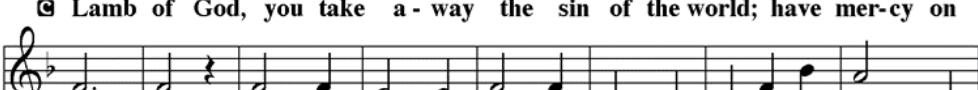
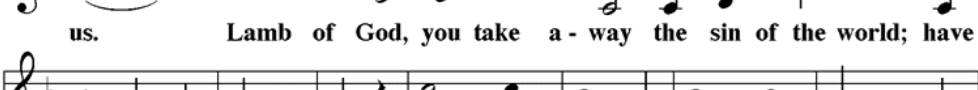
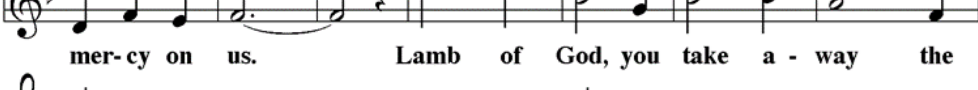

    


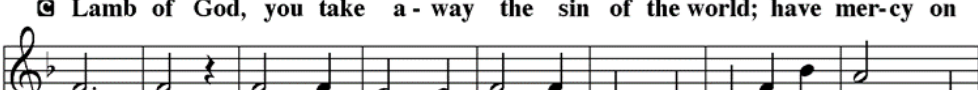
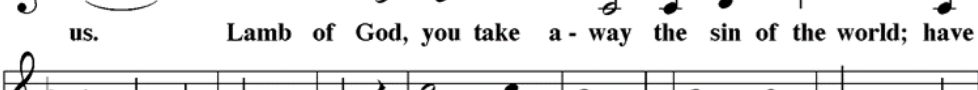
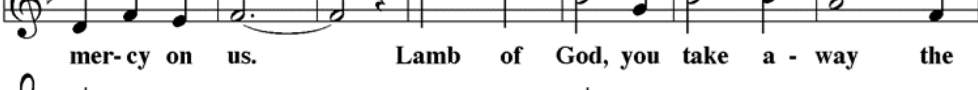

    


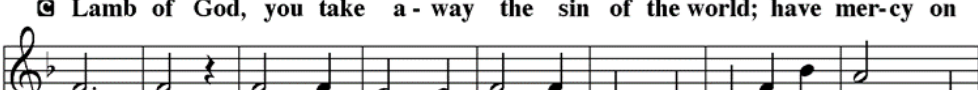
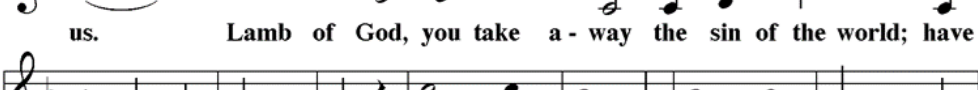
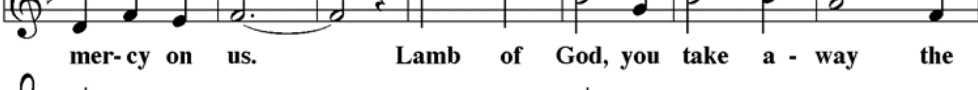

    


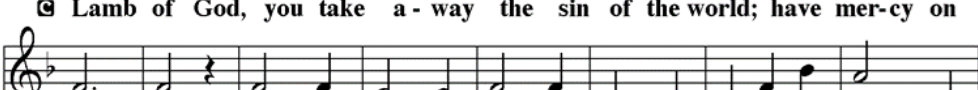
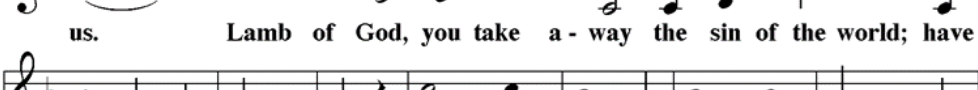
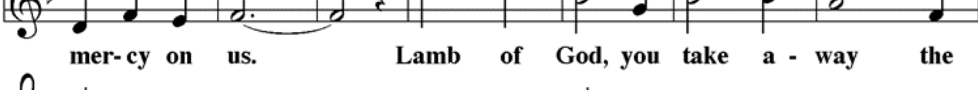

    


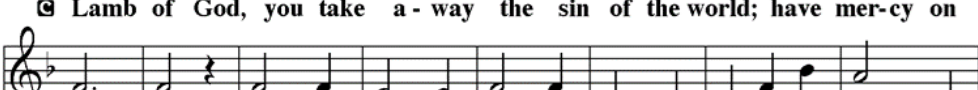
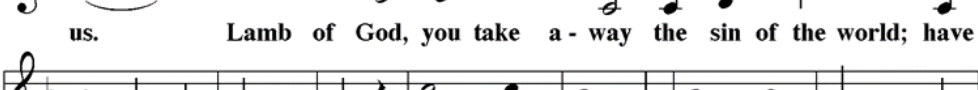
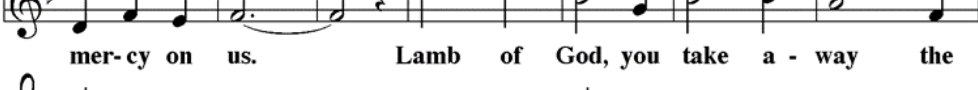

    


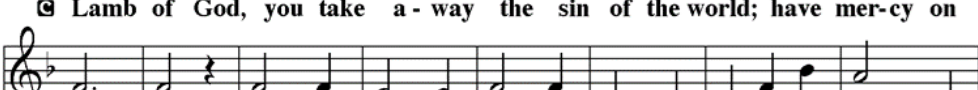
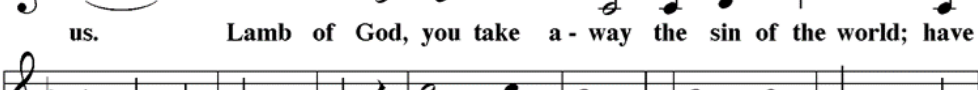
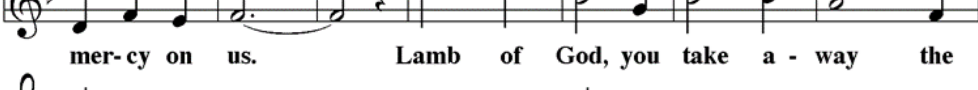

    


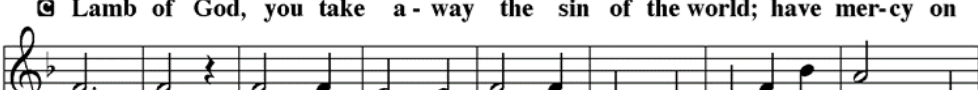
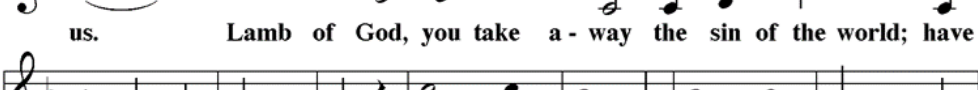
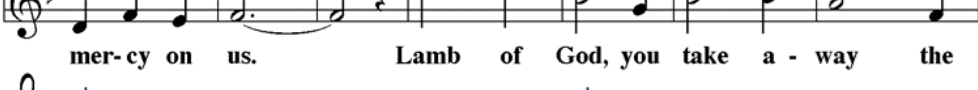

    


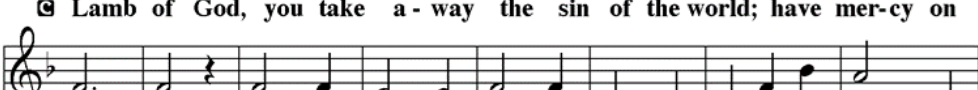
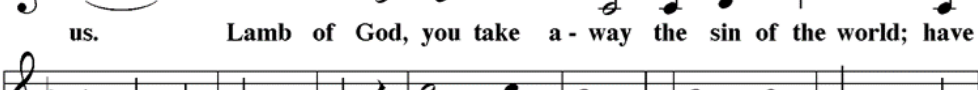
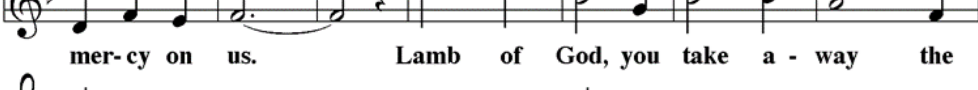

    


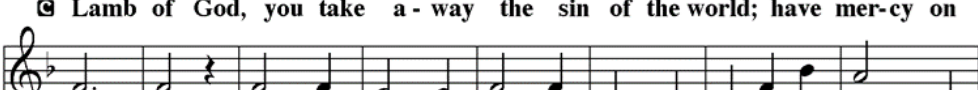
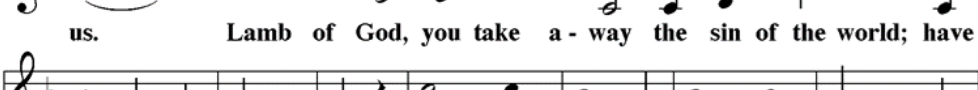
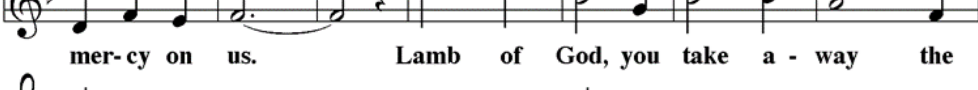

    


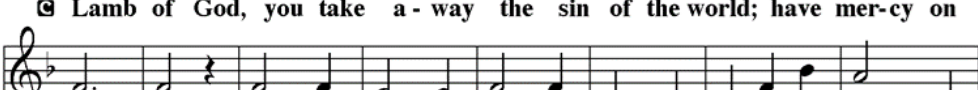
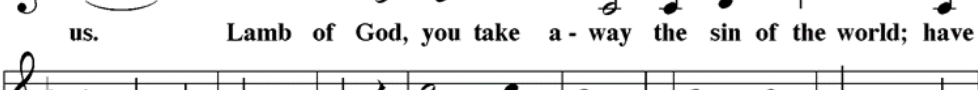
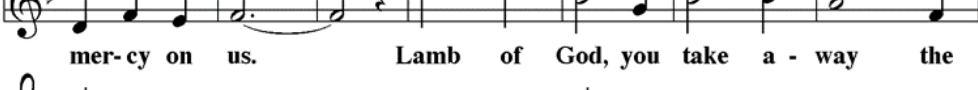

    


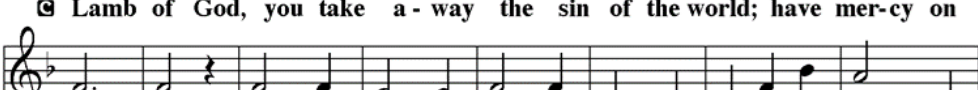
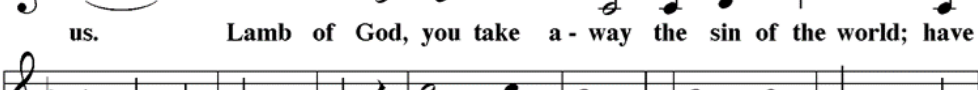
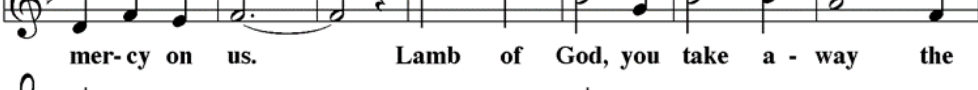

    


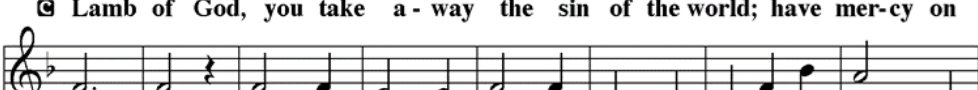
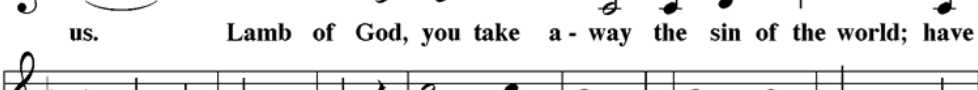
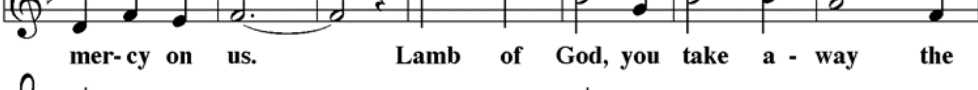

    


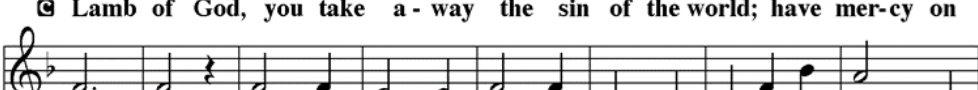
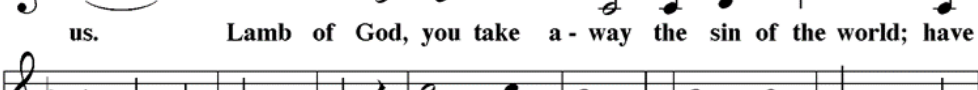
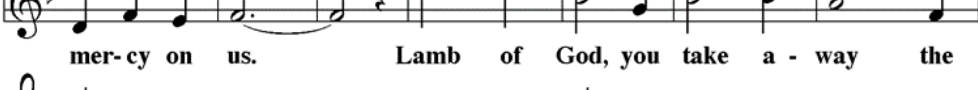

    


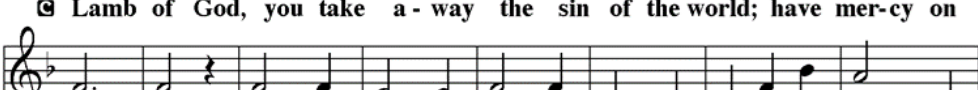
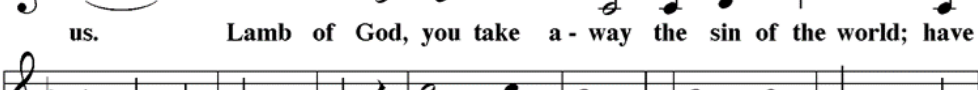
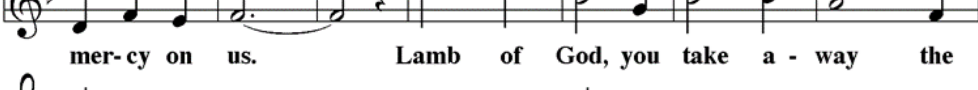

    


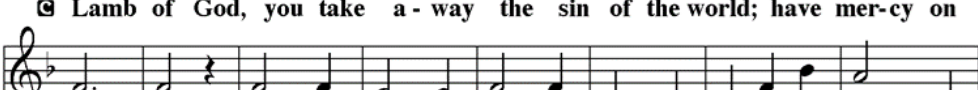
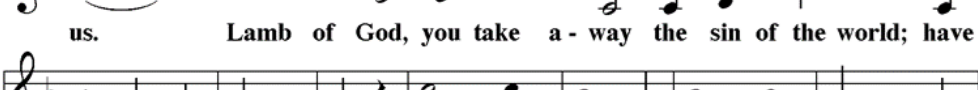
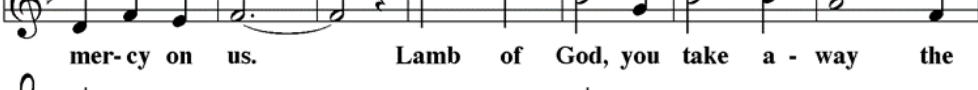

    


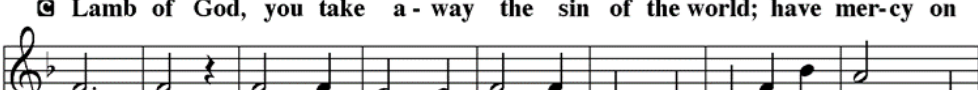
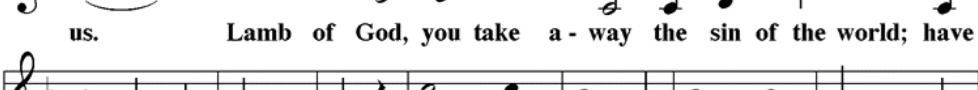
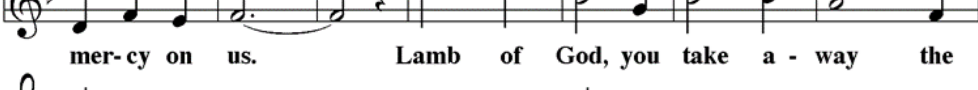

    


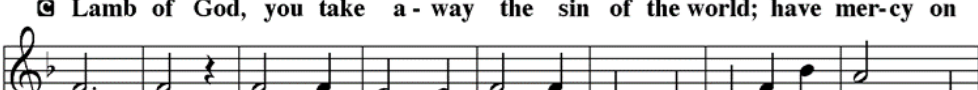
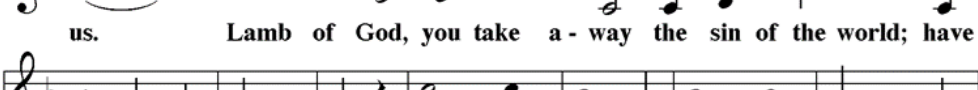
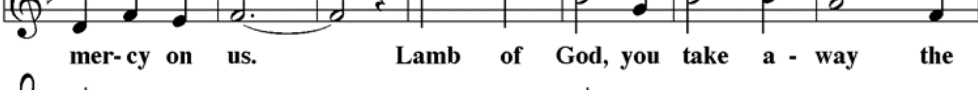

    


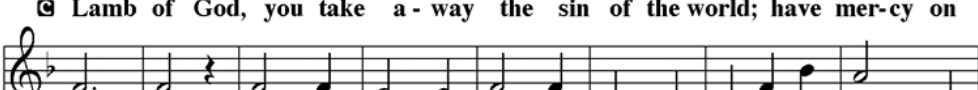
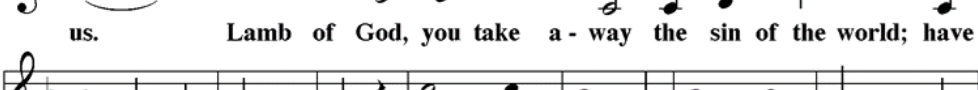
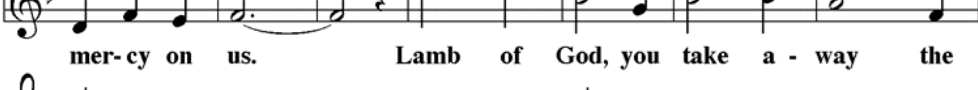

    


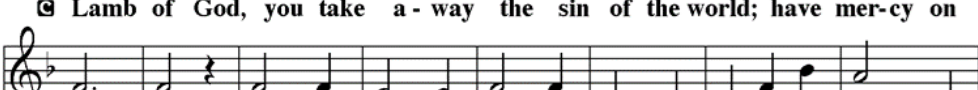
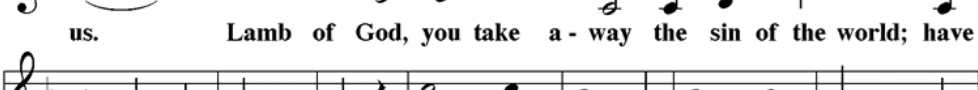
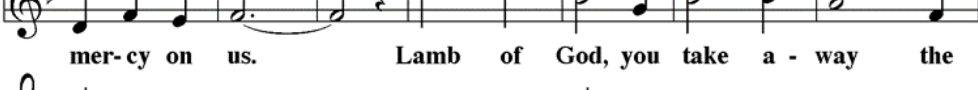

    


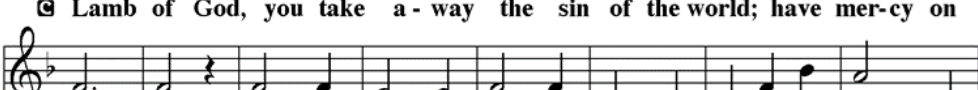
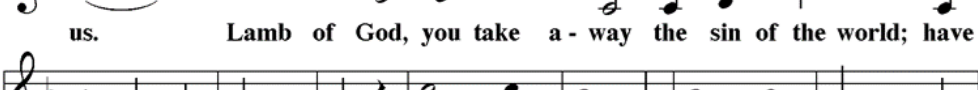
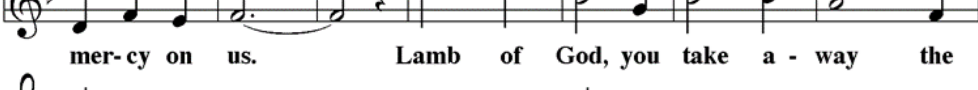

    


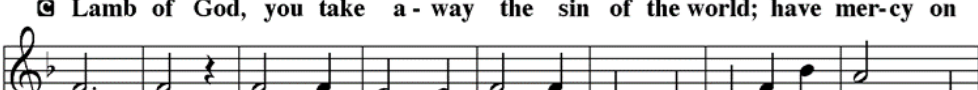
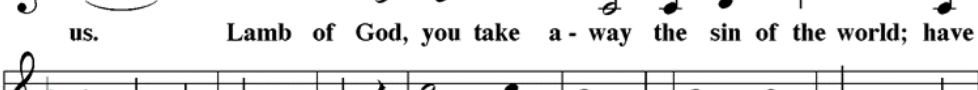
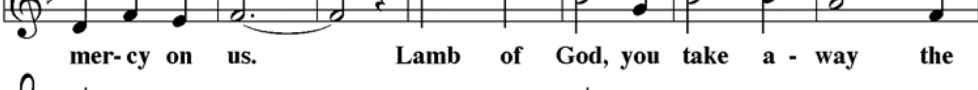

    


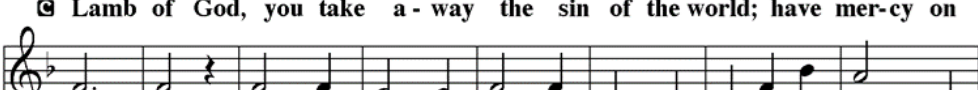
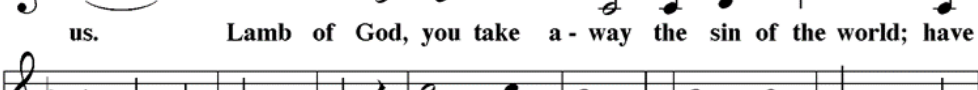
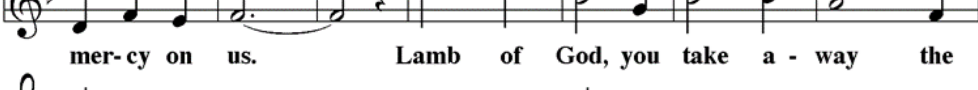

    


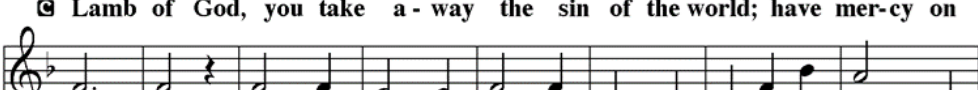
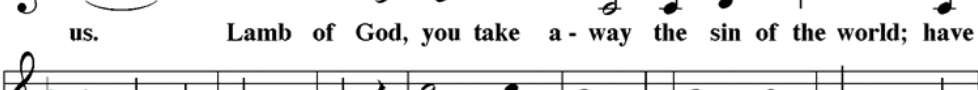
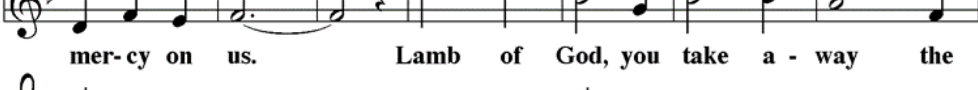

    


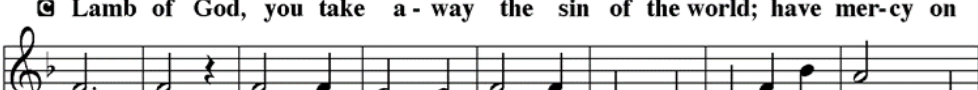
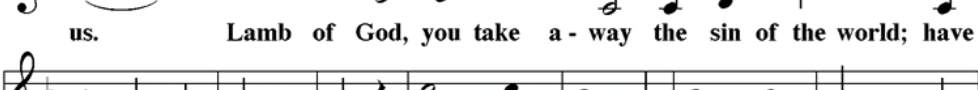
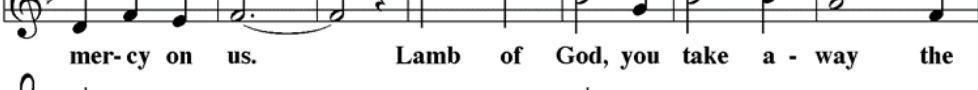

    


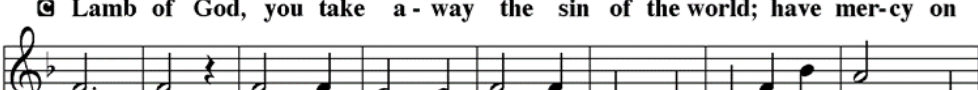
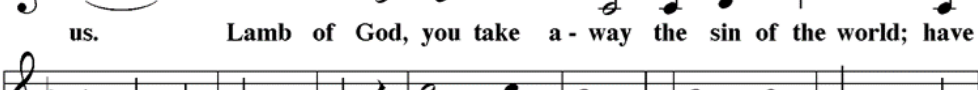
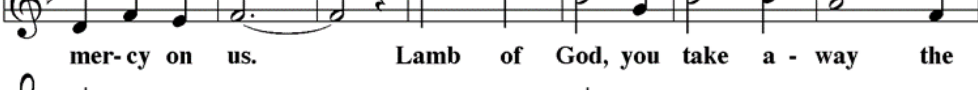

    


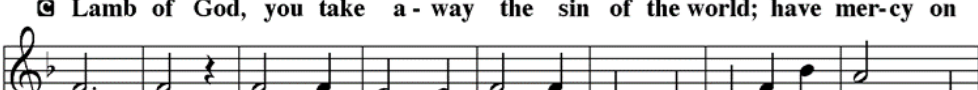
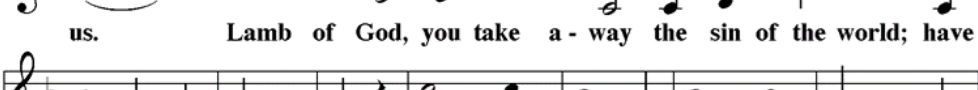
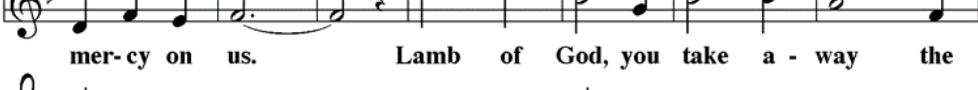

    


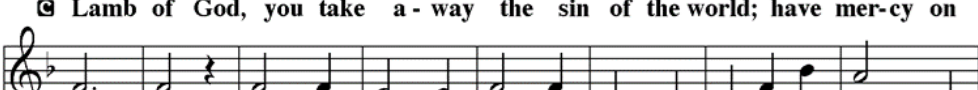
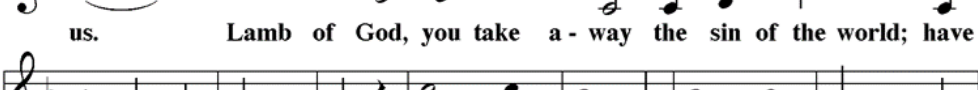
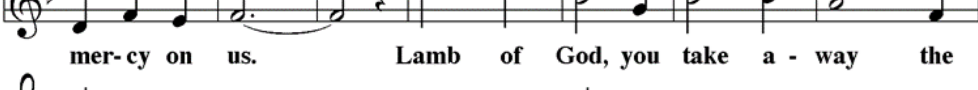

    


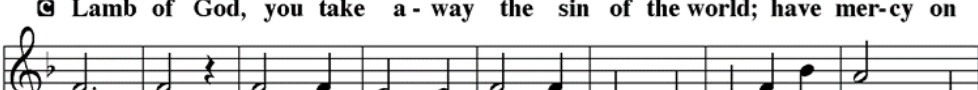
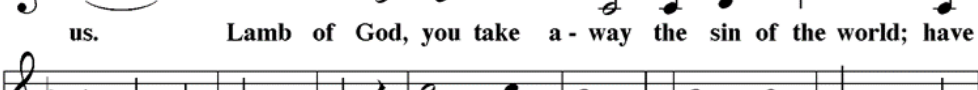
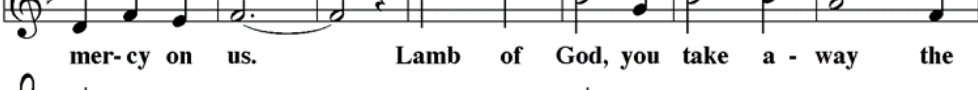

    


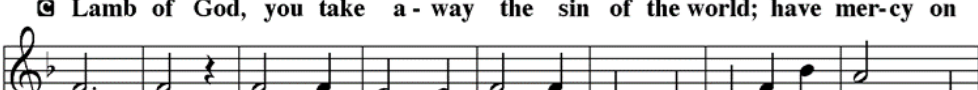
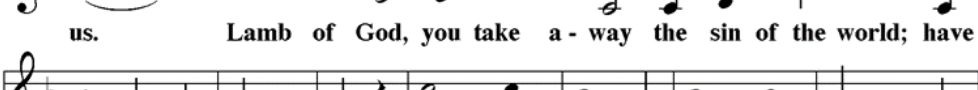
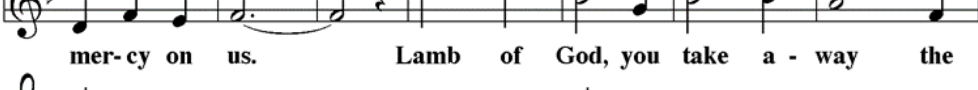

    


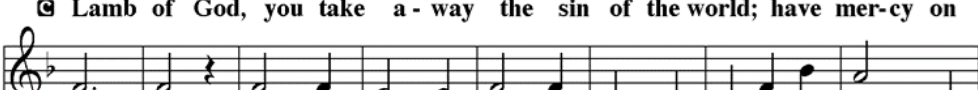
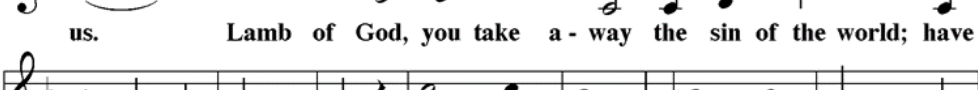
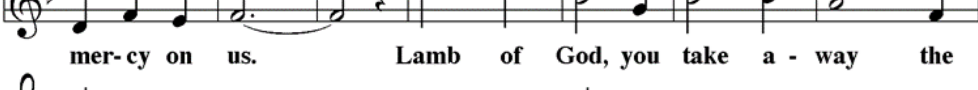

    


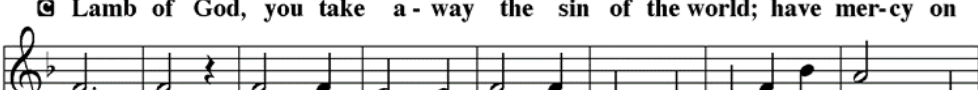
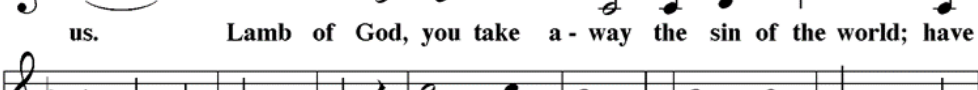
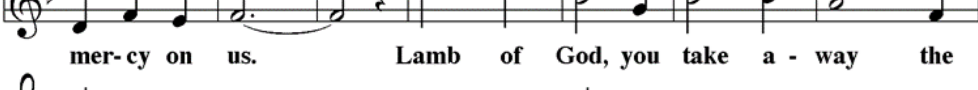

    


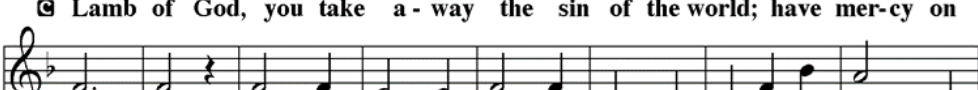
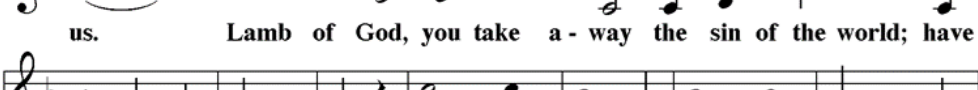
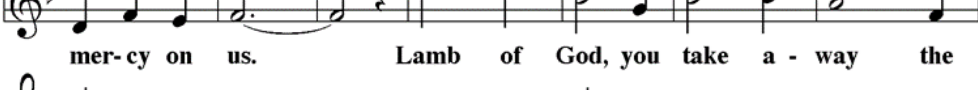

    


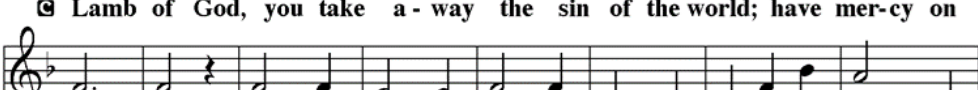
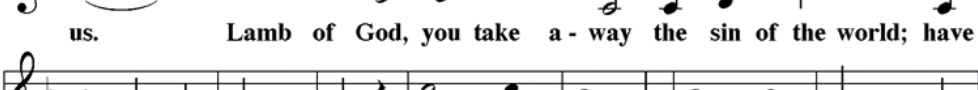
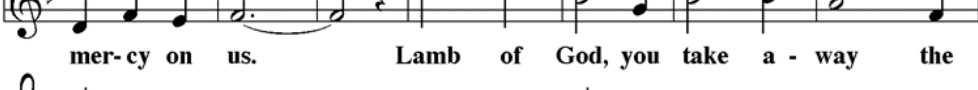

    


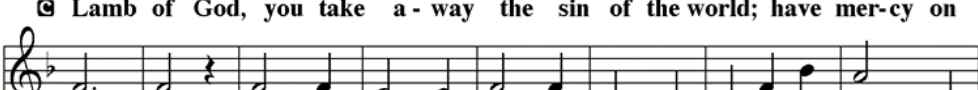
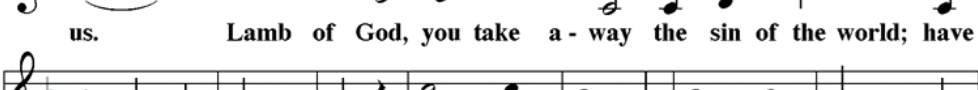
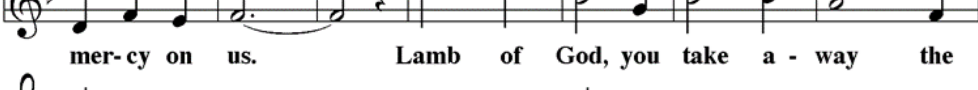

    


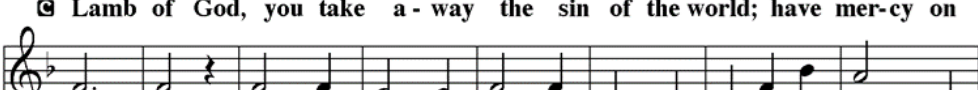
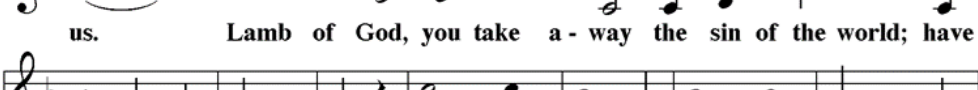
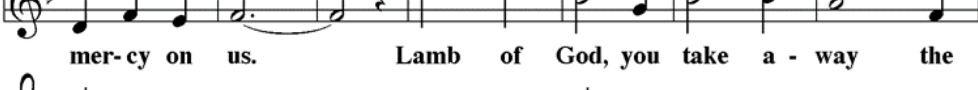

    


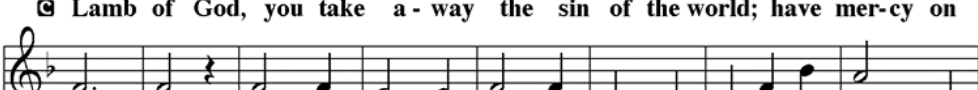
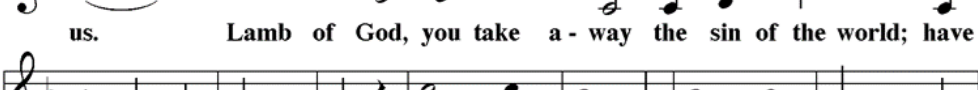
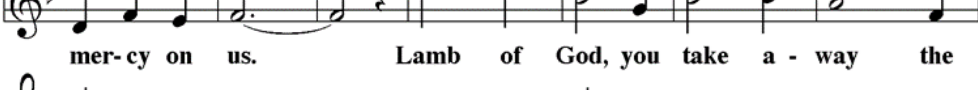

    


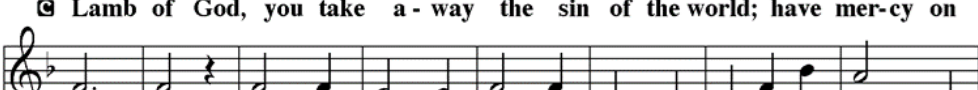
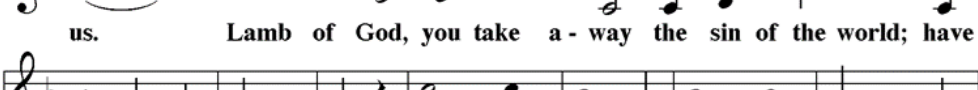
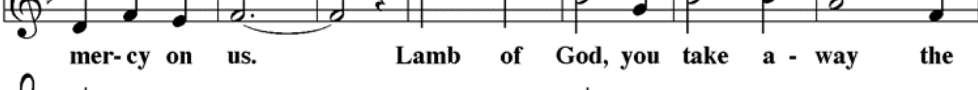

    


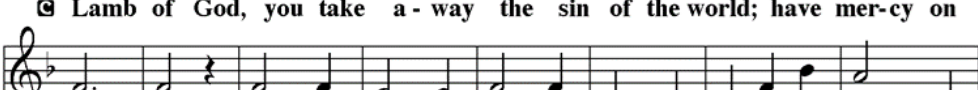
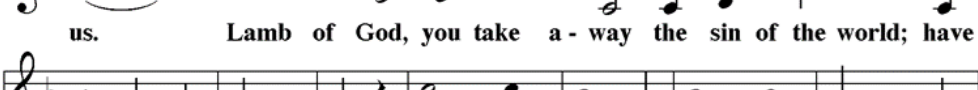
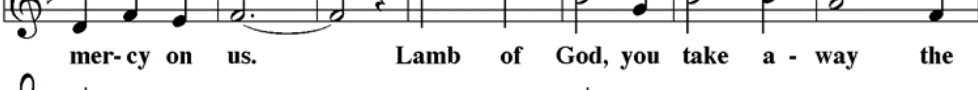

    


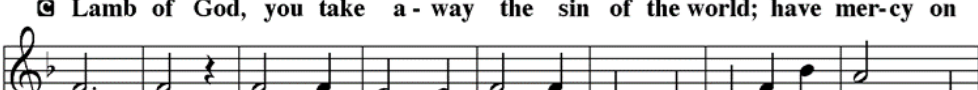
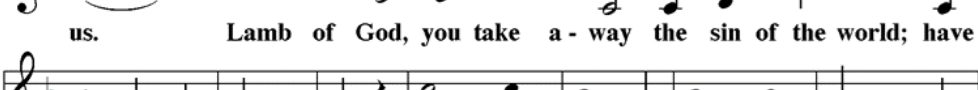
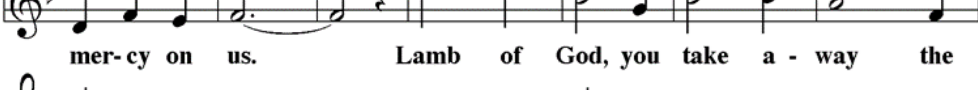

    

## Communion

*We celebrate at an open communion table. All who hear our Lord's invitation are welcome to participate. Receive the bread first with an open hand and eat immediately, followed by the juice (white) or wine (red). Gluten-free bread is available at the front end of the center aisle. Please indicate to an usher if you need to receive communion from your pew. Children who have received age-appropriate instruction are welcome to commune. If you prefer instead to receive a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your shoulders.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*and each person may respond:*

**Amen.**

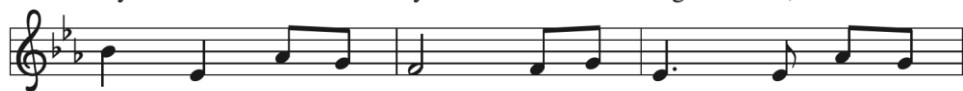


# Communion Hymn

## "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



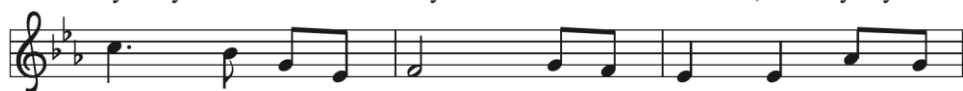
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from  
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you  
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the  
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.  
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.  
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"  
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



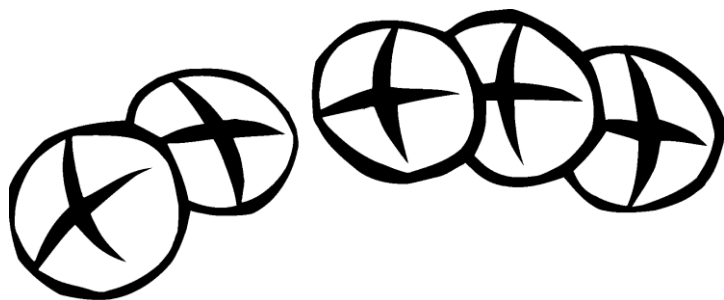
By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.



## Prayer After Communion

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## Announcements

Blessing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

Sending Song

ELW Hymn 596

*"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"*

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **DAILY PRAYER**

### **Protection through Life**

O God, full of compassion, we commit and commend ourselves to you, in whom we live and move and have our being. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest by the way. Give us refuge from the turmoil of worldly distractions beneath the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, so often a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, O God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **CONNECTIONS WITH THE LITURGY**

### **Singing about Nature**

Many hymns that thank God for nature are marked by nineteenth-century Romanticism that describes an earth of beautiful sunsets and singing birds. Yet the truth of nature is also like the apocalyptic visions of earthquakes and famines in today's gospel. Indeed, Charles Darwin's discoveries were most unsettling to him because he could not imagine how an earth so reliant on nature's violence could have come from a beneficent Creator. In view of the natural disasters mentioned in today's gospel, we meditate on the mystery of God and beg for divine protection.

## **CATECHISM CONNECTION**

### **Valley of Tears**

Modern life in a stable nation largely insulates us from the afflictions of nature once very common to daily life. These include high infant mortality rates, far more deaths by disease and infection, lack of timely weather forecasts, and little or no mitigation from natural disasters. That we live in a fragile world that is full of tragedy was foremost in the minds of our ancestors in the faith, including Martin Luther. In his teaching about the final petition of the Lord's Prayer, "deliver us from evil," Luther describes this earthly life as a "valley of tears" for which the comfort of heaven is deeply sought: "We ask in this prayer . . . that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this

valley of tears to himself in heaven."

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

### **Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231**

**Monday, November 17, 2025**

This Hungarian princess lived her entire life in east-central Germany, and is often called Elizabeth of Thuringia. Married to a duke, she gave large sums of money, including her dowry, for relief of the poor and sick. She founded hospitals, cared for orphans, and used the royal food supplies to feed the hungry. Though she had the support of her husband, her generosity and charity did not earn her friends within the royal court. At the death of her husband, she was driven out. She joined a Franciscan order and continued her charitable work, though she suffered abuse at the hands of her confessor and spiritual guide. Her lifetime of charity is particularly remarkable when one remembers that she died at the age of twenty-four. She founded two hospitals, and many more are named for her.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Honoring Creators of Justice**

This week's gospel reading is a part of an apocalyptic speech Jesus gives in the temple. Jesus' talk of war can be alarming to our ears. We want to hear him speak about peace and love and mercy. However, there is much in this world that is scary and violent. Jesus would not be doing his pastoral due diligence if he did not talk about these things. Jesus reminds us that, yes, things are going to get bad. But he calls us to cling to our faith and respond to God's charge that we love and serve our neighbor. And by this, he assures us, we bring about the kingdom.

November 11 is honored as Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in Canada. Originally it was called Armistice Day to commemorate the ending of World War I and the signing of a ceasefire. It signaled the end of the violence.

An "armistice" is an agreement to stop fighting, to bring about peace. But as Martin Luther King Jr. famously observed, "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice." Jesus tells us that violence will happen, but our calling as baptized Christians is to live in the promise of his grace and to go out into the world to be creators of justice and peace.

This week, as we honor and remember those who have served and experienced the violence Jesus speaks of, we must heed Jesus' pastoral words of hope: "Do not be afraid." In the midst of chaos and fear, Jesus gives us his strength and the wisdom to follow him. Blessed are all who work toward armistice in service of peace and justice.