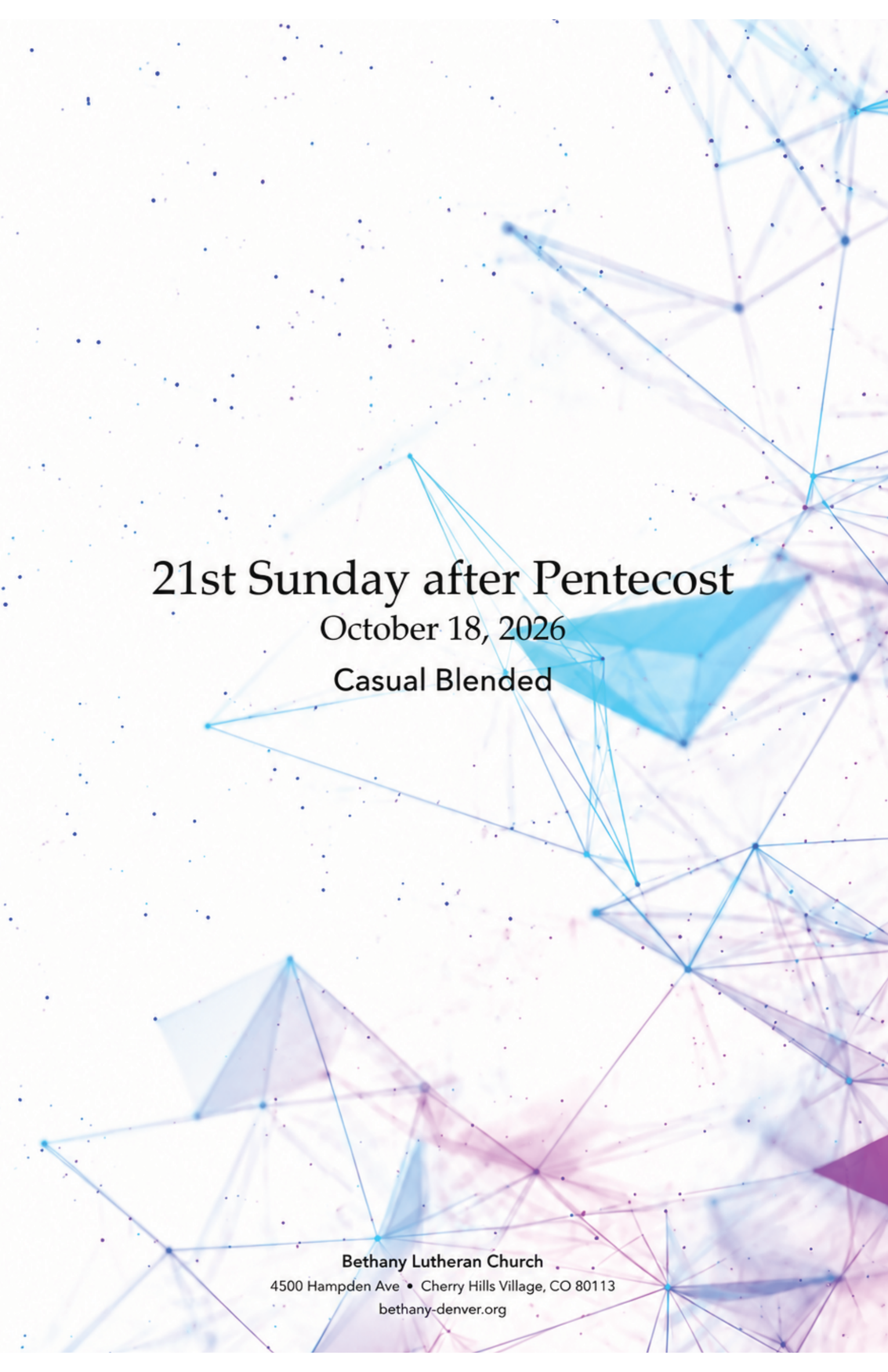




21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

Casual Blended

Bethany Lutheran Church

4500 Hampden Ave • Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

bethany-denver.org

+ We Prepare Our Hearts +

Prelude

Largo in G

G. F. Handel

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Gary Sandberg

To fill out your digital connection card, go to:
www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.



Song of Praise

Active Grace



1. Grace is giv-en full and free, Gift of God for



you and me. Noth-ing earned and noth-ing owed; Love that meets us on the road.



Grace is mov-ing, grace is here, Draw-ing ev-'ry neigh-bor near; Giv-en free-ly we em-brace.



Come and live this ac-tive grace.

A Time of Confession

Garth England III

God of Mercy,
Help me to be more aware of those places in my life that do not align with your best intentions for me. I ask for your forgiveness: when I ignore the challenges my neighbors face; when I focus on my desires more than my neighbors' needs; when I convince myself that my worth is greater than other's. Please continue to open pathways for me to walk in your ways.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

God is already forgiving you of all your sins. God recognizes when you fail to be your best self, and through the gift of Jesus God reminds you that in his love you are set free - free to share your burdens with God knowing that he will carry them with you, free to live in God's mercy, and free to extend that mercy to others. Live in this freedom as your gift to God. **Amen.**

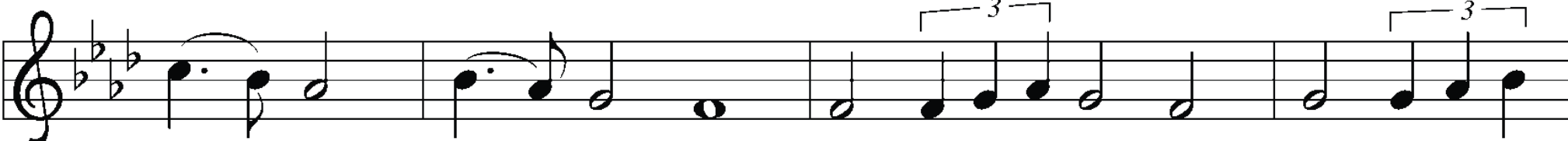
Gathering Song

Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-4)

ELW 511



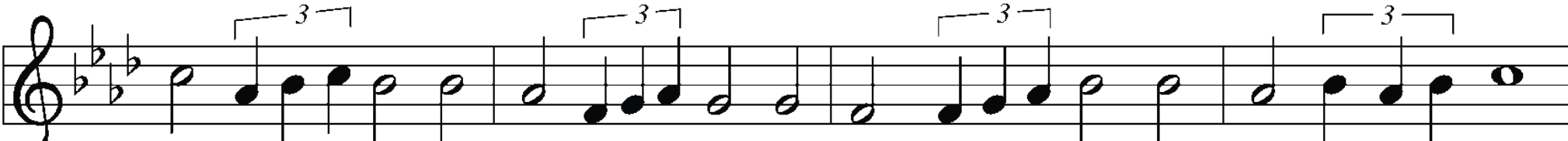
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Greeting

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Bethany Youth Choir, dir. Laura Tribby

God is like a rock; changeless day to day; something that will last, never go away;

Evermore the same, our foundation sure, always to endure.

God is like the wind, something no one sees; mighty as the gale, gentle as the breeze,

With a hidden power no one can deny as the days go by.

God is like a friend, full of loving care; someone you can trust who's always there;

One who will forgive every day anew, all your whole life through.

God is like a light, shining through the night, filling all the world with its comfort bright;

Bringing with it joy, hope for every heart, never to depart.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Hank Allan Buys - Born: May 14, 2026

Parents: Jakob Buys & Jessica Kleven Buys

Sponsors: Lauren Dionisio & Justin Buys

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.

Parents, do you wish Hank to be baptized into the promises of God?

R: **I do.**

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your child among God's faithful people, bring your child to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God?

R: **I do.**

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Hank's new life in Christ?

R: **We do.**

Baptism: Hank Allan, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayer: God of new life, sustain Hank with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing: Hank Allan, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome our new sibling in Christ!

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, child of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

Children's Worship

Zach Rodasti

We Prepare to Hear God's Word

Active Grace (vs. 2)



2. Speak, O God, and help us hear

Words that calm our hearts of fear. Turn our list - ening in - to life, Grace that meets a

world of strife. Grace is mov - ing, grace is here, Draw - ing ev - 'ry neigh - bor near;

Giv - en free - ly we em - brace. Come and live this ac - tive grace.

+ We Encounter God's Word +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

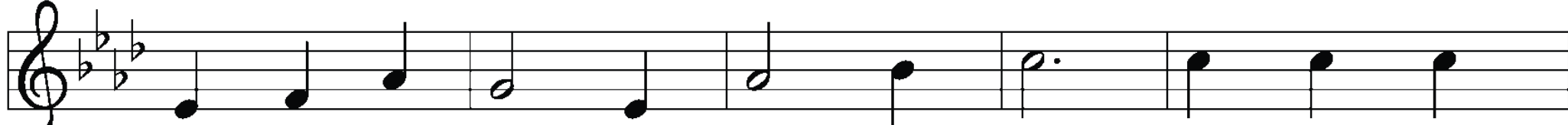
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Notes

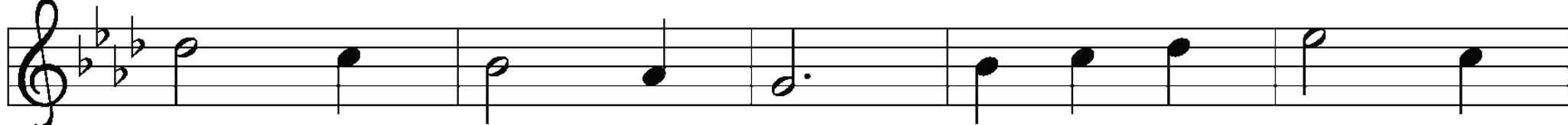
Song of the Day

O God of Mercy, God of Light

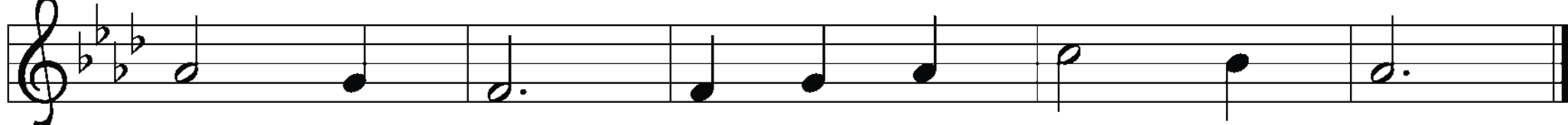
ELW 714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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 the People

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

+ We Worship God With Our Offerings +

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Gary Sandberg

- Troop 712 Pancake Breakfast Today
- Confirmation Sunday Oct. 25 10am
- All Saints Sunday Nov. 1

The Offering

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at: **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code** 
- Unlock your phone, hold near the **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the plate as it is passed

Musical Offering

Green Pastures

Avril Gearheart & Ralph Stanely

Bethany Bluegrass Ensemble: Koren Holden, Anne Warren, Julie Schwabauer, Scott Nixon, Dave Craven, Rick Smith

Troubles and trials often betray those, on in the weary body to stray.

But we shall walk beside the still waters with the Good Shepherd leading the way.

Those who have strayed were sought by the Master,

He who once gave his life for the sheep.

Out on the mountain, still he is searching, bringing them in forever to keep.

Going up home to live in green pastures, where we shall live and die nevermore.

Even the Lord will be in that number, when we shall reach that heavenly shore.

We will not heed the voice of the stranger, for he would lead us on to despair.

Following on with Jesus our savior, we shall all reach that country so fair.

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ The Community Meal +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Celebration of Holy Communion

May you know God's presence in this moment.

God is with us here.

Come to this table with grateful hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us be thankful for Christ's promise of grace.

With gratitude, we receive this gift.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer (Ecumenical translation)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Communion Instruction

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Song

Active Grace

3. Come, the ta - ble now is spread,
Grace is giv - en, wine and bread. Man - y gath - ered, joined as one, Ours, the gift of
God's own Son. Grace is mov - ing, grace is here, Draw - ing ev - 'ry neigh - bor near;
Giv - en free - ly we em - brace. Come and live this ac - tive grace.

Communion Music

Humble Heart

Jess Ray

Bethany Bluegrass Ensemble: Koren Holden, Anne Warren, Julie Schwabauer, Scott Nixon, Dave Craven, Rick Smith
I want a humble heart. Oh, how I have so much to learn.

Cause pride, it isn't worth it. It makes me lonely, leaves me stranded.

When I, I never wanted to be alone, and it'll all be alright over bread and wine.

Would you come and dine with me?

I want to walk in love. Oh, how I have so much to learn.

And let's gather around the table, and share stories till the sun goes down,

And secrets till the stars fill the skies.

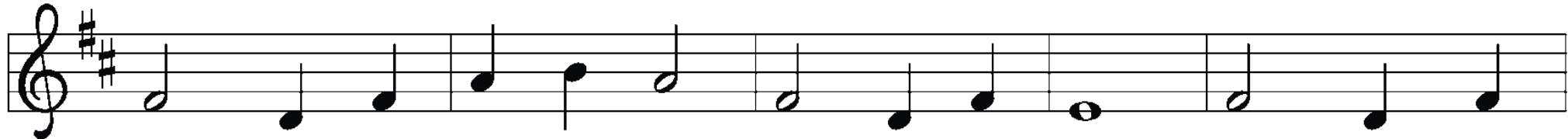
And we'll laugh about tomorrow, and we'll drown all our sorrows

In the joy of being side by side.

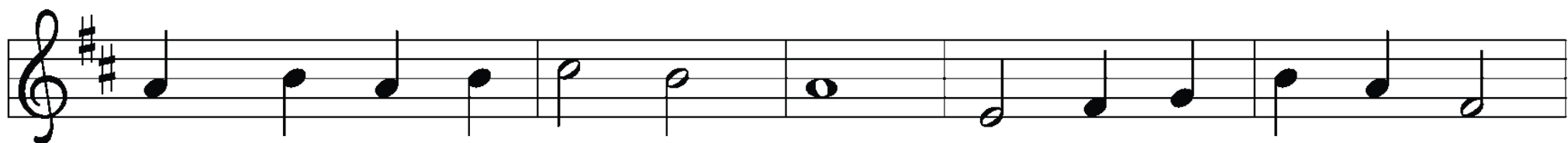
Communion Song

Break Now the Bread of Life

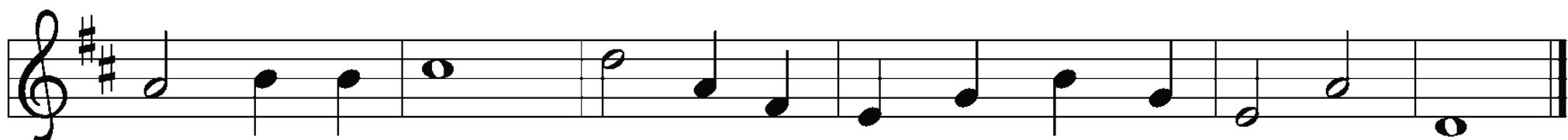
ELW 515



1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.

Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

Table Blessing

+ God Sends Us To Serve +

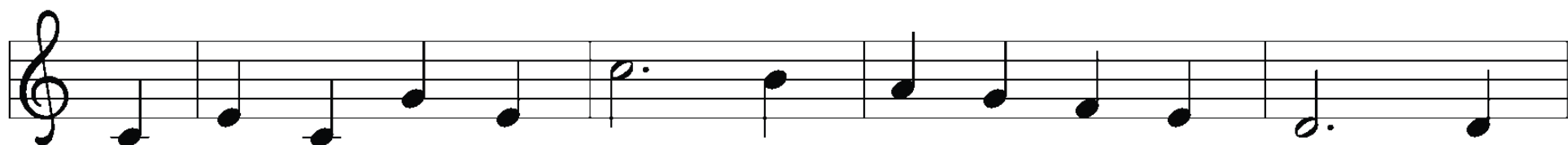
Sending Invitation and Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Sending

On What has Now Been Sown

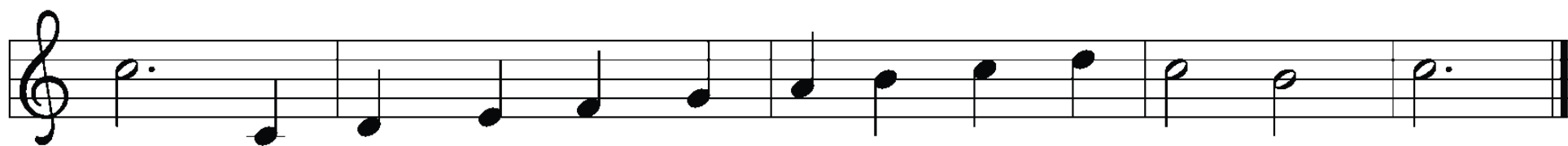
ELW550



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany. Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Joyous Day

John Leavitt

New to Bethany? Stop by the Mission Center for a welcome to Bethany Gift.

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Things to Know About News & Events

Worship:

- **Confirmation Service:** Oct. 25 10am service
- **All Saints Sunday:** Nov. 1

Education/Faith Formation:

- **Sunday Adult Education** - 9:45 in room 210, 11:20 in Chapel

Hospitality:

- **End of life planning.** Tuesday, October 20 10:30am
- **Women of Bethany!** Save the date of October 27, Tuesday at 11:30
- **XYZ Halloween Party** When was the last time you attended a Halloween Party? Oct 27 10am
- **All Saints' Day** Brunch Potluck Sunday, November 1, 2026 @ 11:30am

Outreach:

- **Outreach Team:** Project Angel Heart delivering meals on Oct 24
- **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains** – Home for the Holidays Donation Drive Nov 4
- **Global Mission:** Bethany's Global Mission Ministry proposals- Nov 17
- **Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver Thanksgiving Dinner:** Nov. 19 4:30-7pm
- **Integrated Family Community Services** (IFCS) Fresh Thanks - Sat, Nov 21
- **LFSRM's Refugee Youth Empowerment Program Needs SUPPLIES!**

Other:

- **TODAY -Troop 712 PANCAKE BREAKFAST fundraiser** - fellowship hall after both services.
- **ESOL:** organization meeting Oct 28 6-7pm
- **Confirmation Project:** Emily Moy

Look for full details for all our news and events on the Bethany website:

[Bethany-denver.org/news](https://bethany-denver.org/news)