



LUTHERAN CHURCH
Highlands Ranch CO

ON THE PRIVILEGE AND PURPOSE OF PRAYER

In a sense, prayer comes naturally to us. We want so we ask. We hurt so we cry out. We are frustrated so we vent. We are blessed so we give thanks. Natural! What does not come naturally, however, is a proper understanding of the privilege of prayer. Prayer is a privilege, based entirely on the unique and unearned relationship we have with God, our Father. And the purpose of prayer is really not to tell God what we want, but to claim that which God wants for us. Prayer provides the opportunity to bring our will into conformity with God's will, not the other way around. This week, we give our undivided attention to what God says about this access we call prayer. Along with Jesus' disciples we say, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

***"As we enter the sanctuary,
please be mindful
of those who are preparing for worship
with prayer and Scripture and
keep conversations to a minimum.
Thank you, and may God bless our time
together!"***

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! **UNDIVIDED ATTENTION**

JULY 27, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service

Blue Christian Worship p.172

TODAY'S READINGS:

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 18:20-32

SECOND LESSON: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

OPENING HYMN

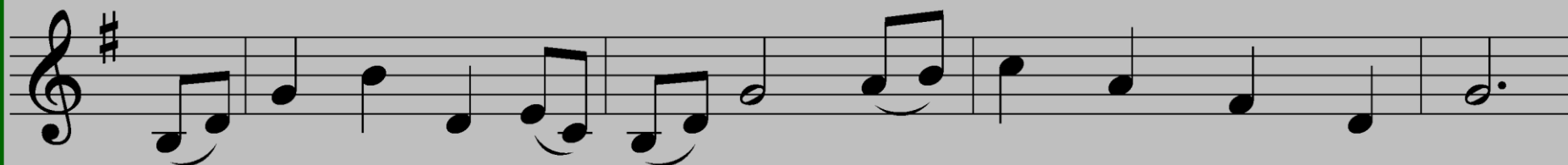
In Holy Conversation

Blue Christian Worship #722

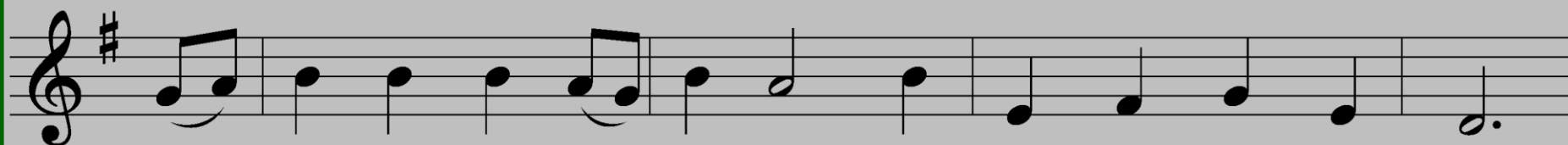




1 In ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion we speak to God in prayer,



and at his in - vi - ta - tion our deep - est thoughts we share.



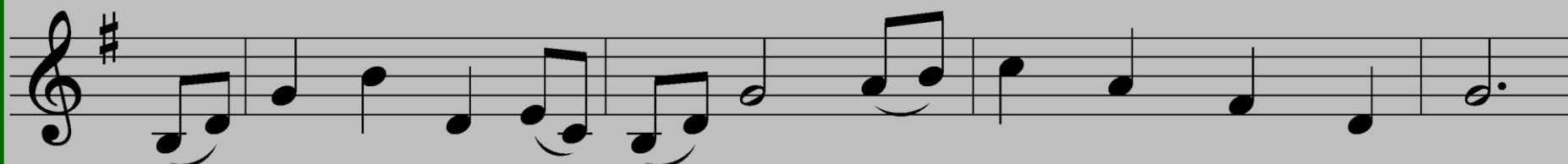
We come, his will o - bey - ing, as chil - dren bring - ing needs;



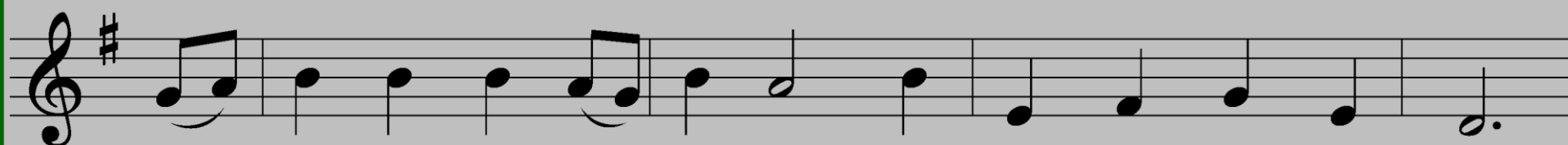
and to sup - port our pray - ing, his Spir - it in - ter - cedes.



2 These ho - ly con - ver - sa - tions be - gin in child-like ways;



we bring our sup - pli - ca - tions and words of thanks and praise.



With care our Fa - ther lis - tens to ev - 'ry thought ex - pressed,



then an - swers our pe - ti - tions in ways he knows are best.

3 As ho - ly con - ver - sa - tion, in si - lence or by word,
in ev - 'ry sit - u - a - tion through Je - sus, we are heard.
So let us pray se - cure - ly, ex - press - ing hopes and fears
with con - fi - dence that sure - ly our Fa - ther ev - er hears.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, b. 1946

Tune: Swedish

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Tune: Public domain

GATHERING

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace from above and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

*For this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
Lord.*

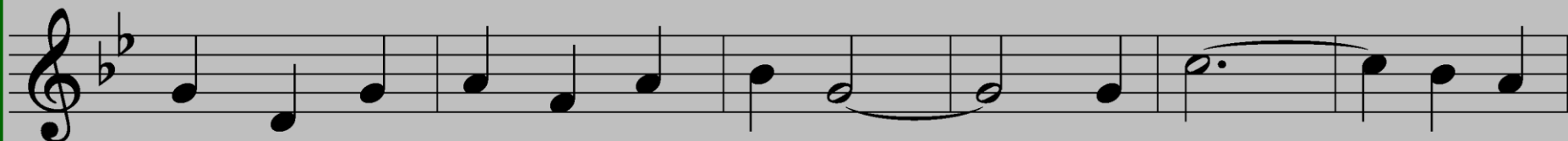
Amen.



RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Glory to God in the Highest

Blue Christian Worship p.176



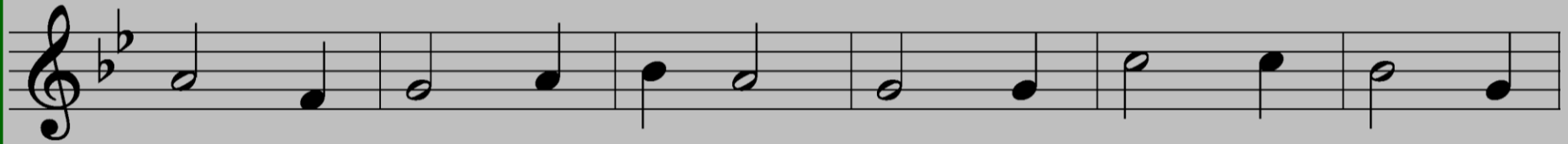
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



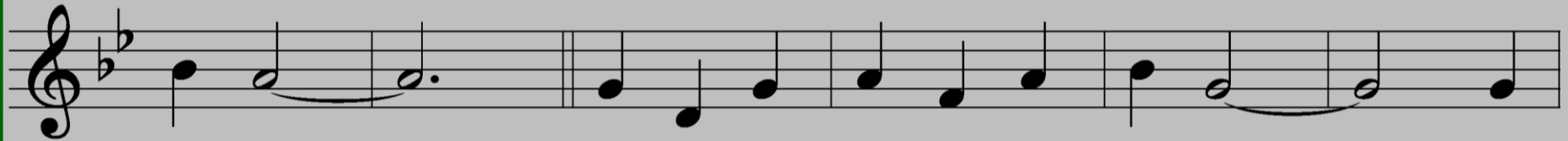
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



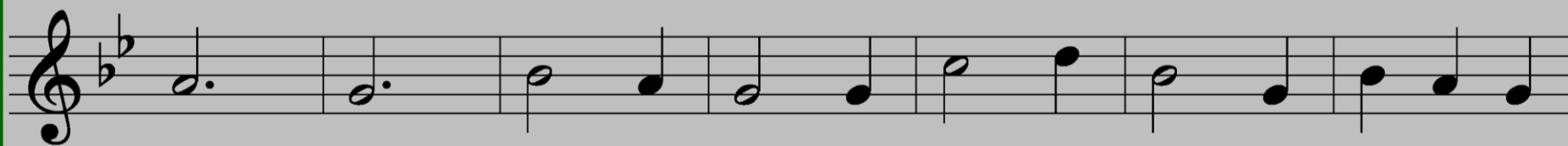
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



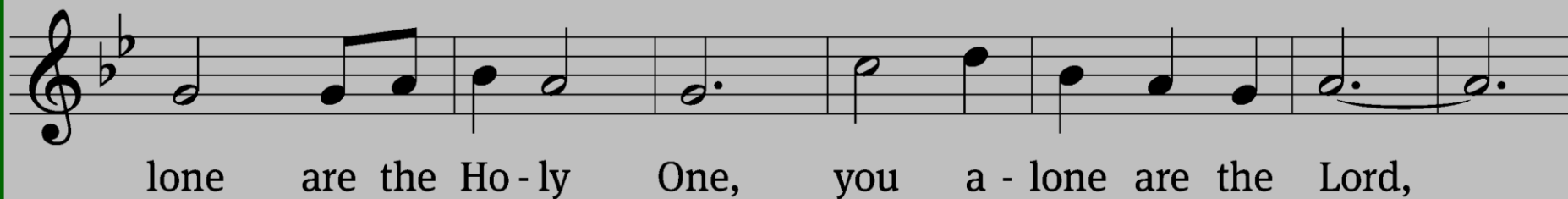
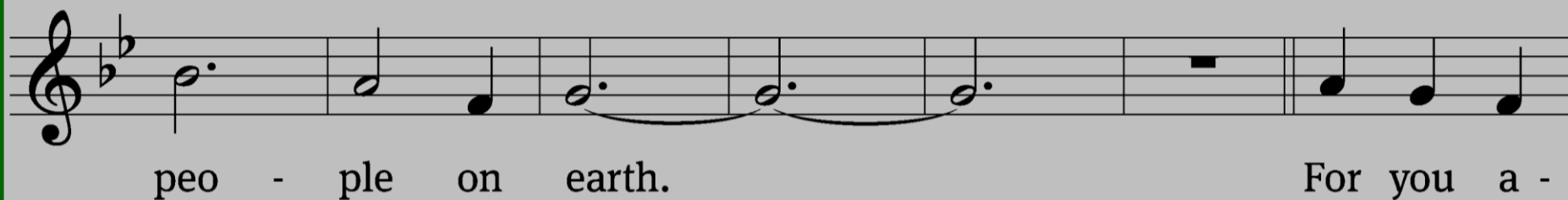
world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his





The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

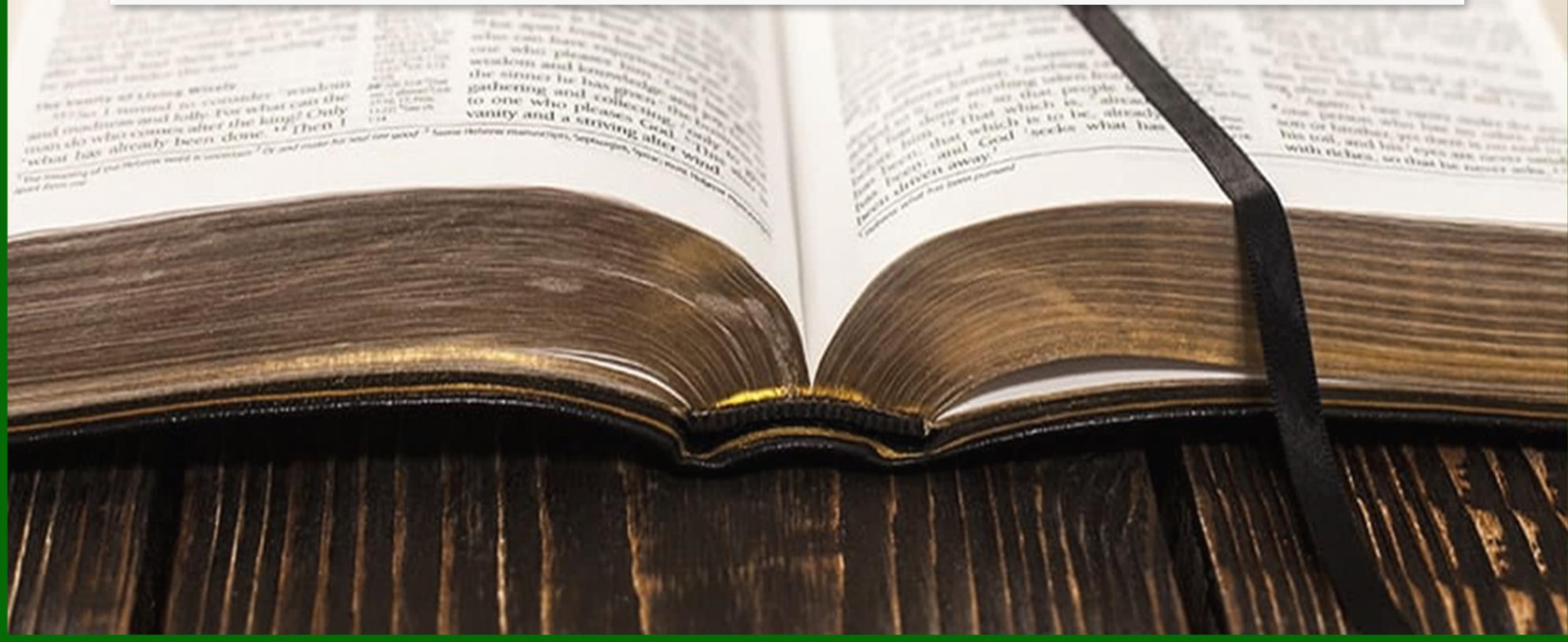
O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 18:20-32 p. 25

Abraham prays on the basis of what he knows about the LORD: that the LORD is a just judge, that the LORD shows mercy, and that the LORD invites us to be bold in our prayers.



18 ²⁰Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

²⁶ The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?”

“If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”

²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?”

He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.”

³⁰ Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?”

He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

³¹ Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?”

He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.”

32 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?”

He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY – 138

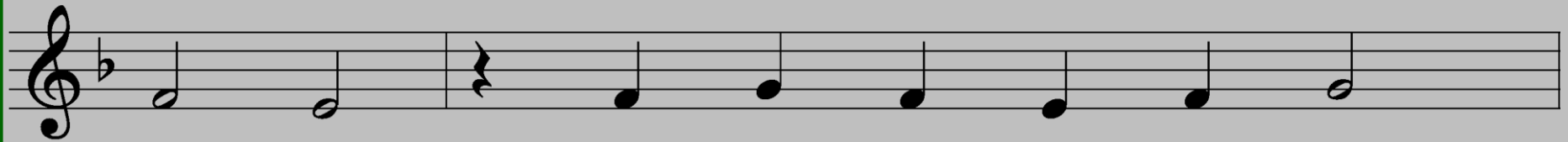
Your Praises, God, I'm Bringing

ALL sing





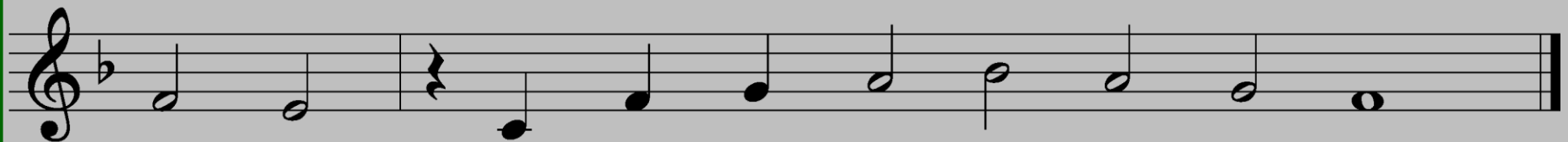
1 Your prais - es, God, I'm bring - ing; my heart with joy is



sing - ing its thanks for gifts out - poured.



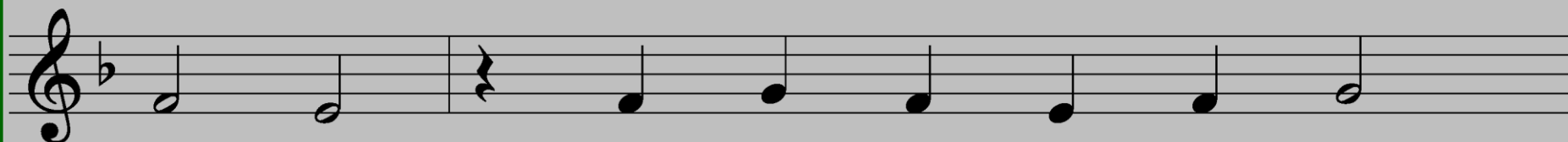
Now, in your pres - ence kneel - ing, a - gain for grace ap -



peal - ing, in qui - et - ness I wait your word.



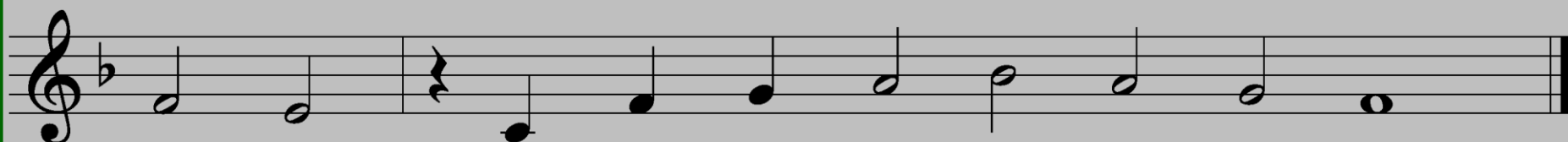
2 When deep-est need had felled me, your stead-fast love up -



held me; my ur - gent prayer you heard.



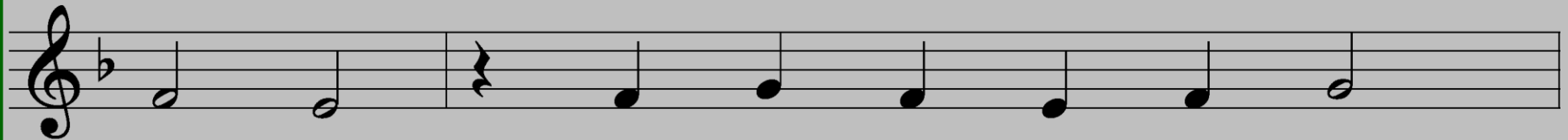
When trou - ble sore as - sailed me, your mer - cy nev - er



failed me. You strength-ened me and I en - dured.



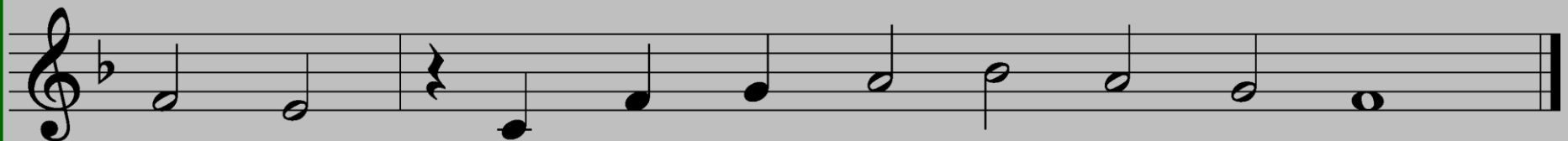
3 Though you, O God, are ho - ly, yet you re - gard the



low - ly and raise them from the dust.



Your prom - ise holds for - ev - er: "I will for - sake you



nev - er!" My God, my rock, in you I trust.

4 All peo - ples shall ac - claim you, and wor - ship - ing shall

name you the God of time and space.

And I will join my prais - es with hymns the whole world

rais - es to you, the God of bound - less grace!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle

Tune: Heinrich Isaac

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Tune: Public domain

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 2:1-7 p. 1844

Paul teaches us that the ultimate purpose for everything we ask is that God's will would be done.



2 ¹I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. ⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ALL sing refrains, Pastor sings verse

The first staff of music is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains the following notes: a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. The staff ends with a double bar line.

The first staff of music is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It contains 10 measures of music. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half), C4 (half), and B3 (half). The staff ends with a double bar line.

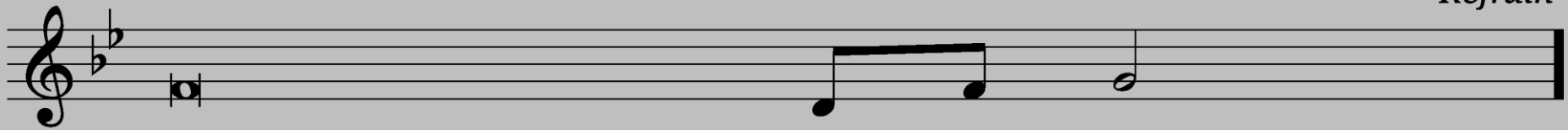
Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

(Pastor)

Tone



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;



knock and the door will be o - pened to you.

Refrain

(All)

Refrain



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



HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13 p. 1616

*Jesus teaches us how to pray and
how our Father will answer.*

11 ¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:
““Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.””

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’

⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

**CHILDREN'S
MESSAGE
AGES 4-10**



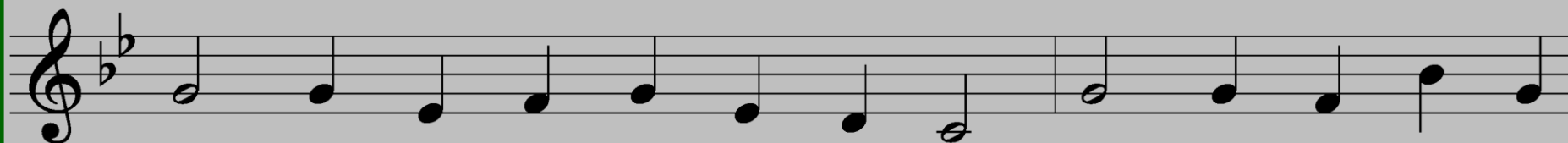


HYMN OF THE DAY

Our Father, Throned in Heaven Above

Blue Christian Worship #720

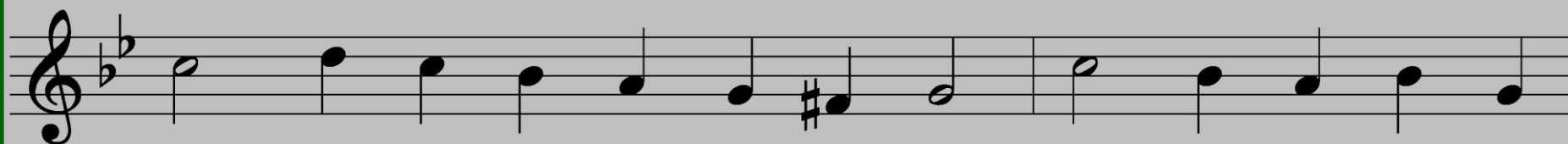
vss.1,5,3



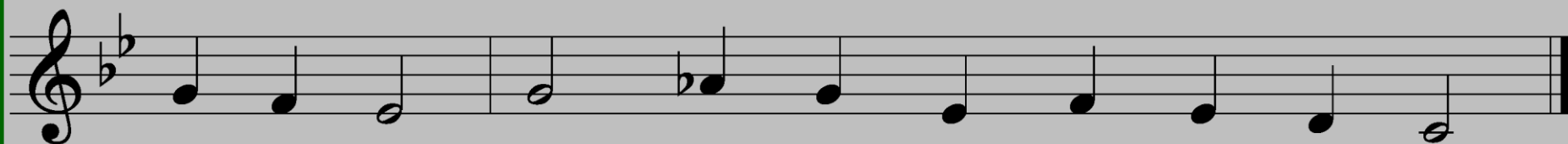
1 Our Fa - ther, throned in heav'n a - bove, you bid us all to



live in love as mem - bers of one fam - i - ly



and pray to you in u - ni - ty— teach us no thought-less



words to say, but from our in - most hearts to pray.



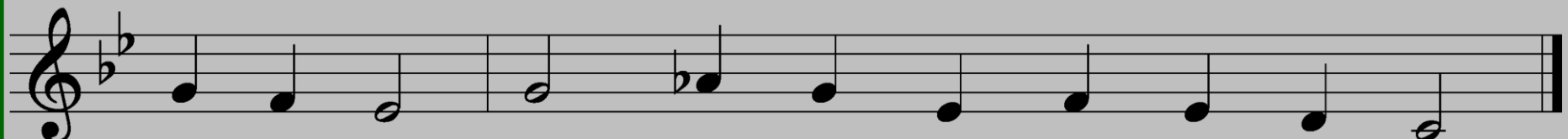
5 Your king - dom come, we hum - bly pray, that Christ may rule in



us to - day and that your Ho - ly Spir - it bring



still more to wor - ship Christ as king. Break Sa - tan's pow'r, de -



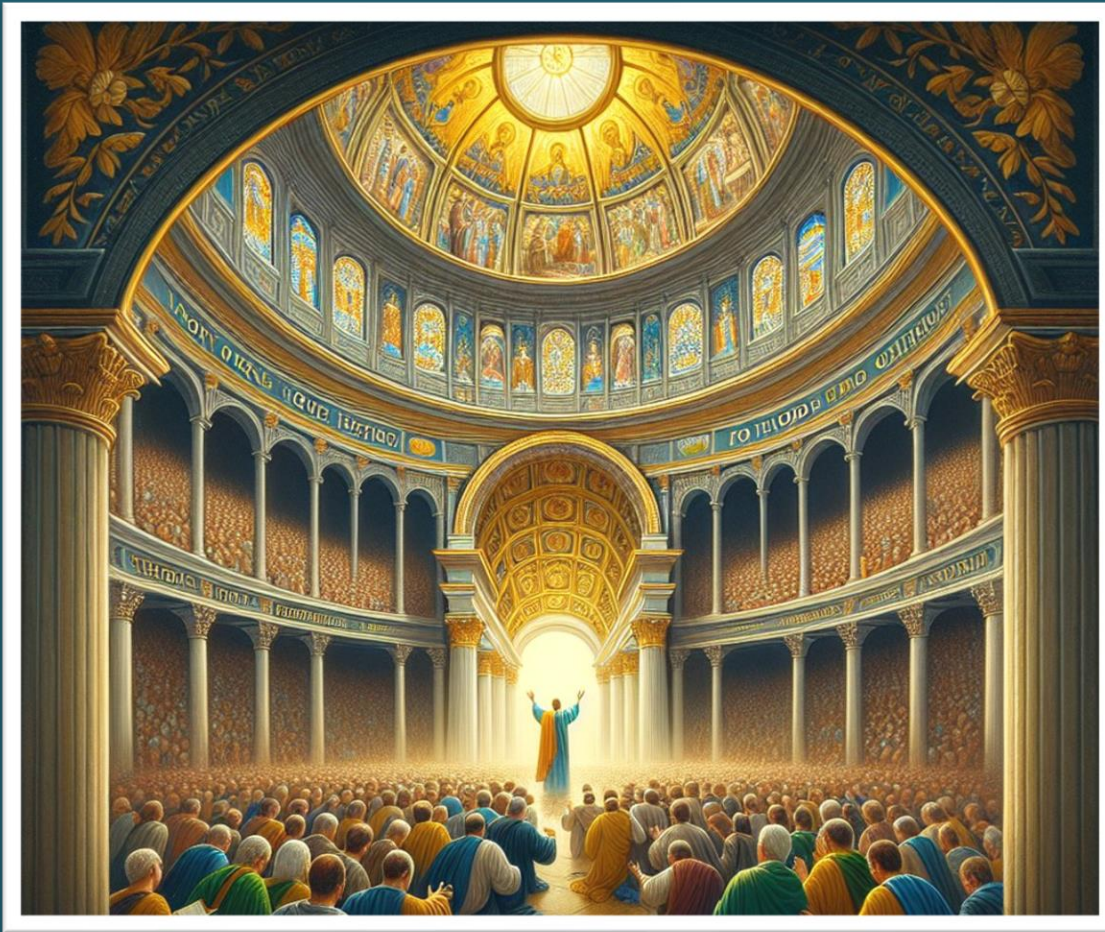
feat his rage; pre - serve your Church from age to age.

3 A - men, that is, so shall it be. Make strong our faith in

you that we may nev - er doubt you but be - lieve

that what we ask we shall re - ceive. Thus in your name and

at your word we say, "A - men, O hear us, Lord!"



Sermon: “Pray for What God Wants –
That All Would Know the Truth”
1 Timothy 2:1-7

NICENE CREED

*Public confession is faith's
response to God's saving Word*



**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.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation,
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
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,
who in unity with
the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken
through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy
Christian 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

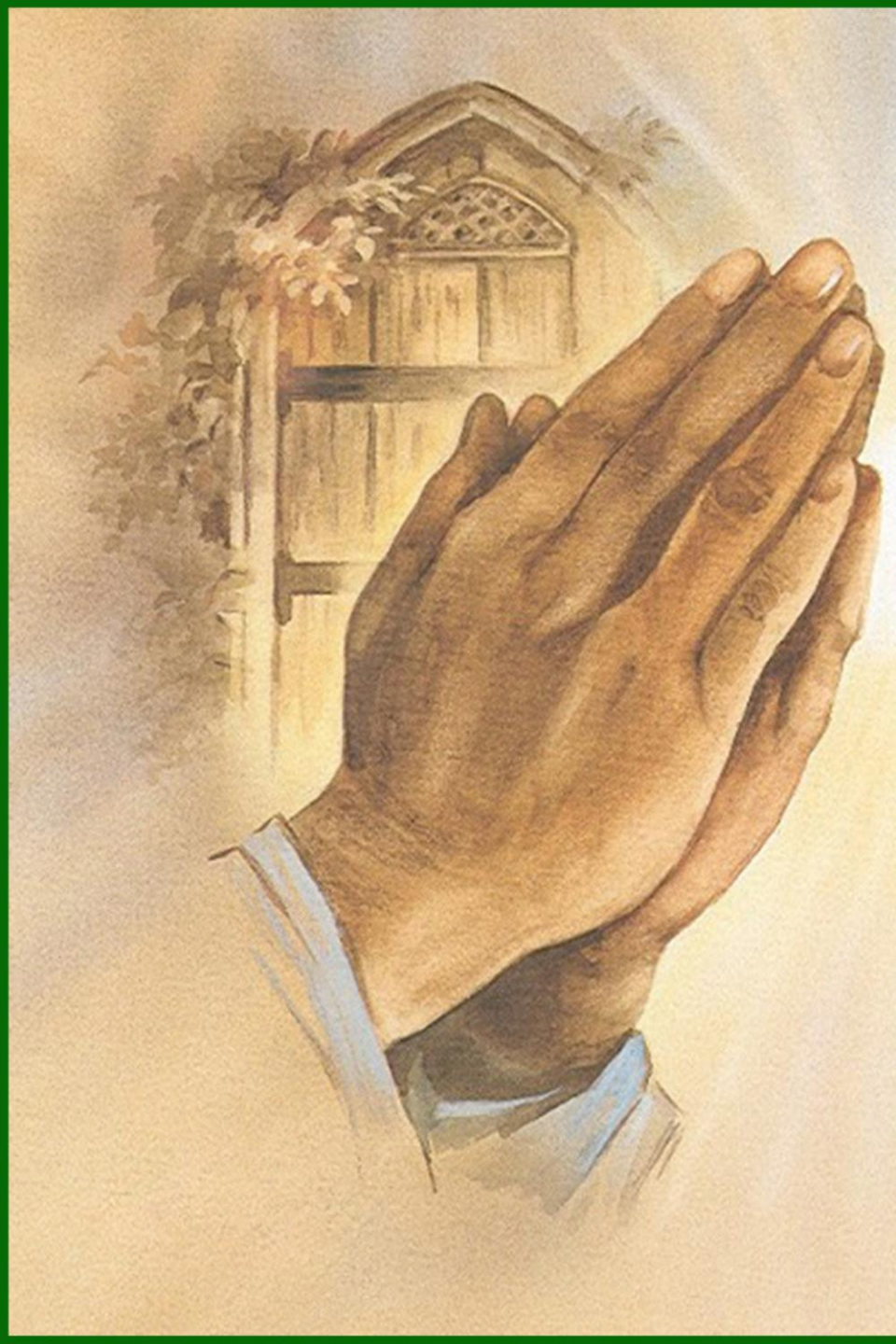
Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.



(special prayers and
intercessions)

*Hear us, Lord,
as we pray in silence.*

(silent prayer)

*Gracious God, you govern and direct all things
and you love all people. Hear our prayers,
spoken and silent, and answer them in your
wisdom and grace.*

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



OFFERING

Giving Back To God

**“Remember the words the
Lord Jesus himself said:
‘It is more blessed to give
than to receive.’ ”**

Acts 20:35b

**- Online
- Offering Plate
- Vanco app
(giving card on back
table QR code)**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

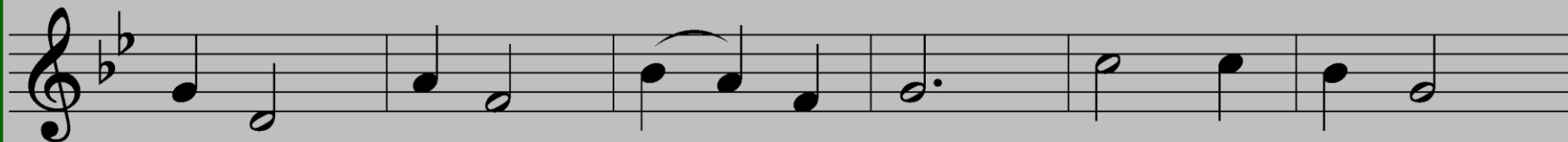
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

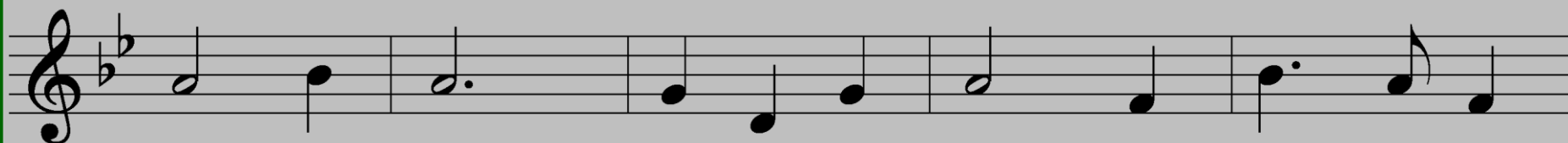
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



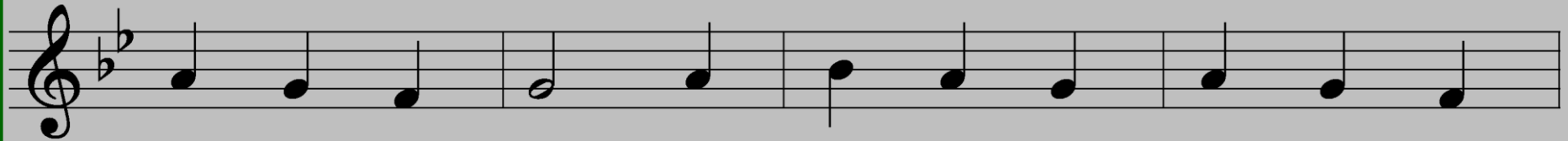
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your



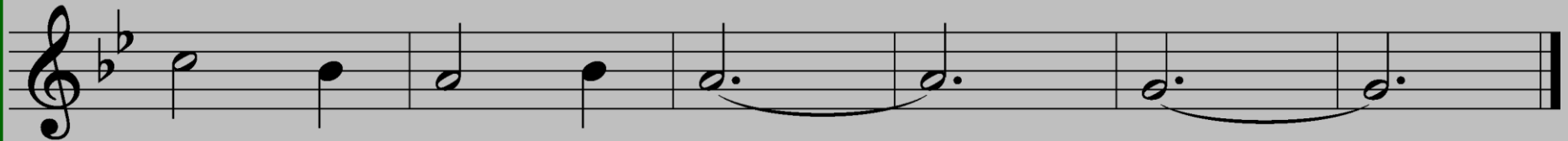
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

*Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood,
and lead us to remember his suffering, death,
and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with
the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise
and receive our thanks as we worship you – the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

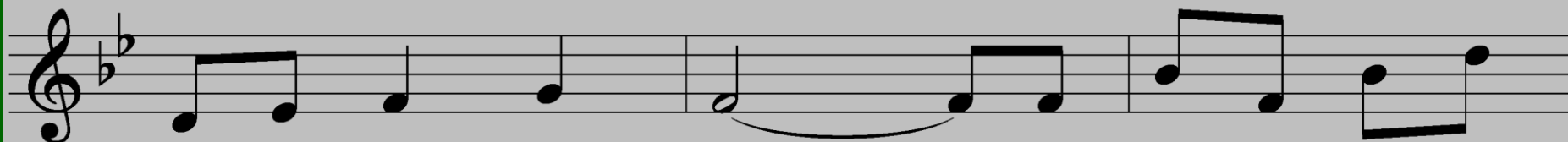
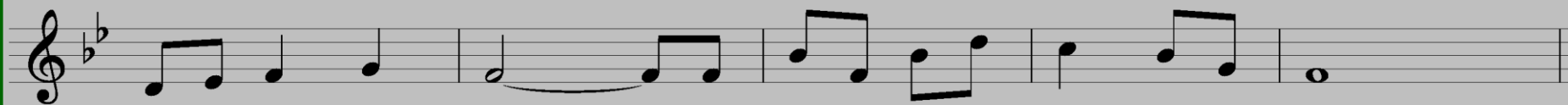
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

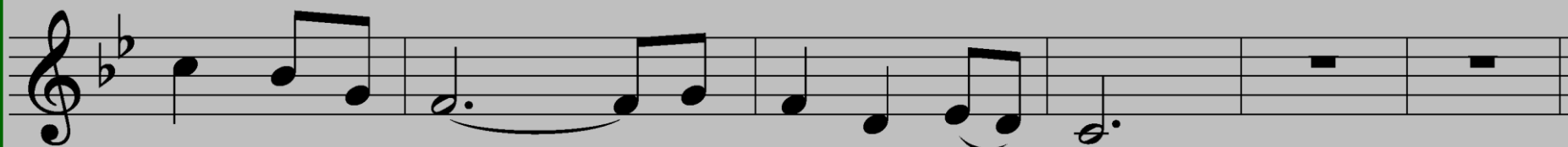
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

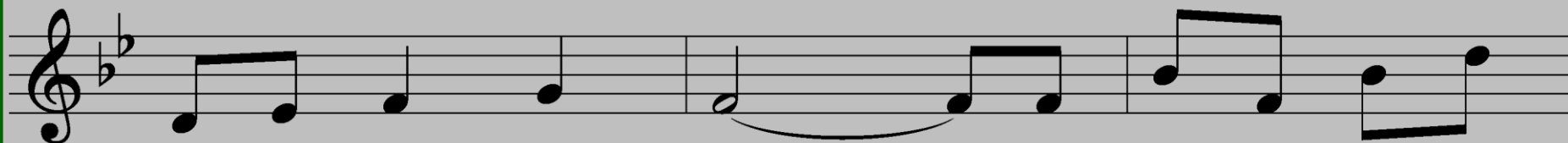
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the





Personal Preparation
For Holy Communion
(*Blue Christian Worship* pgs.295-296)

Lord, I am not worthy to be
a guest at your holy table.
But you are the friend of sinners,
and you will not cast me out.
This bread is your body, which
bore my sins on the tree.
This wine is your blood, which
purifies me from all guilt.
At your invitation, I come
rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

In the Word God gives us the Lord's supper as a sacred meal involving spiritual preparation and unity of faith.

²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

(1 Corinthians 11:28-29)

We encourage visitors to speak with the pastor or ushers regarding its significance and our confession of faith prior to reception.

Also, please see Communion handout on the back table of the sanctuary.

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

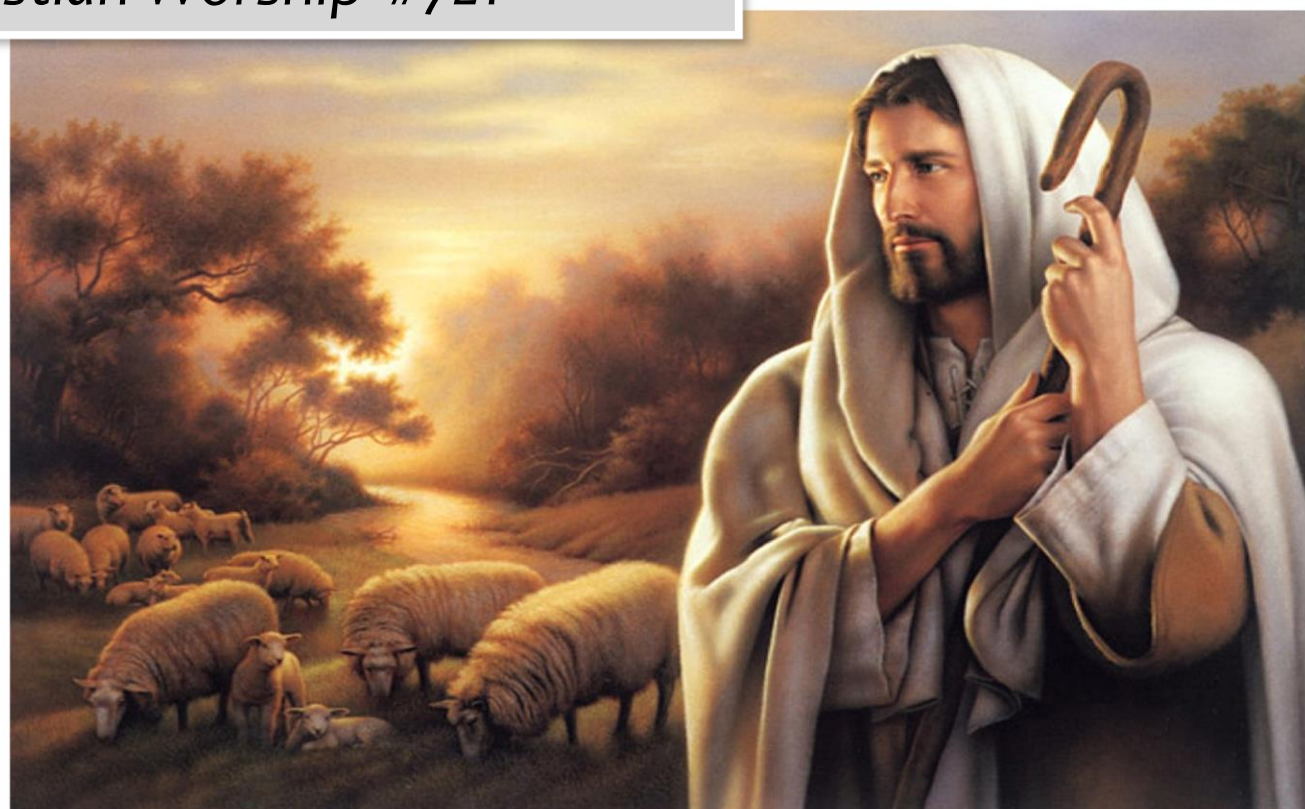
BLESSING

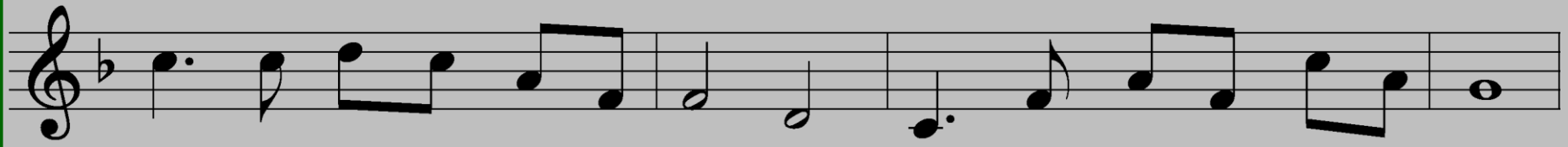
*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor
and give you peace.
Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

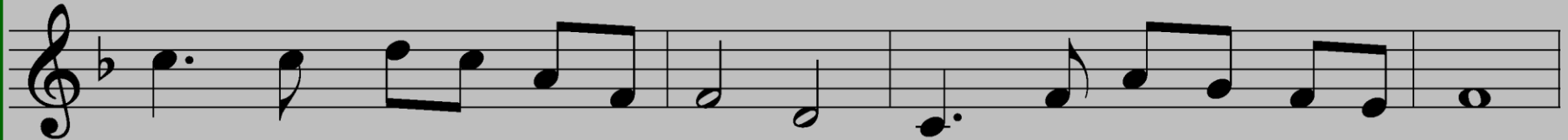
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Blue Christian Worship #721





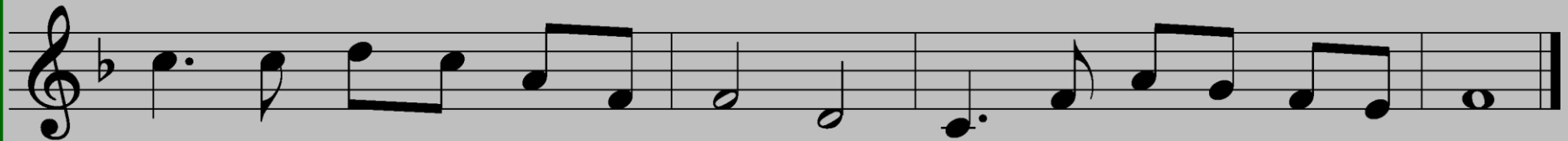
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!



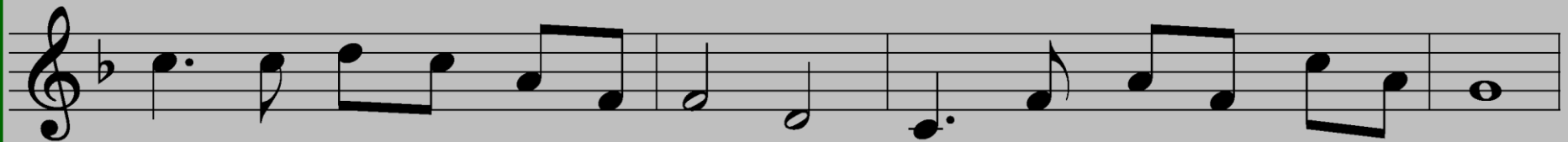
What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!



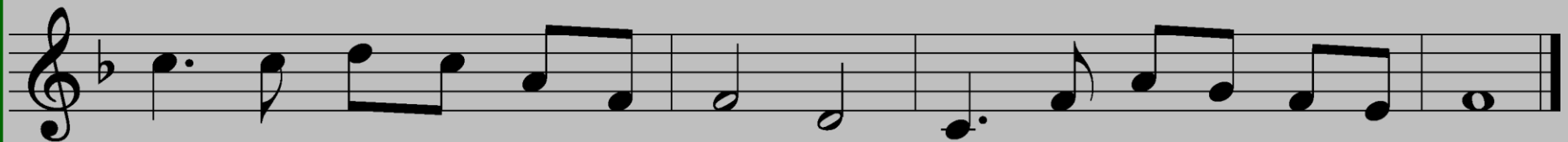
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?



We should nev-er be dis-cour-aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.



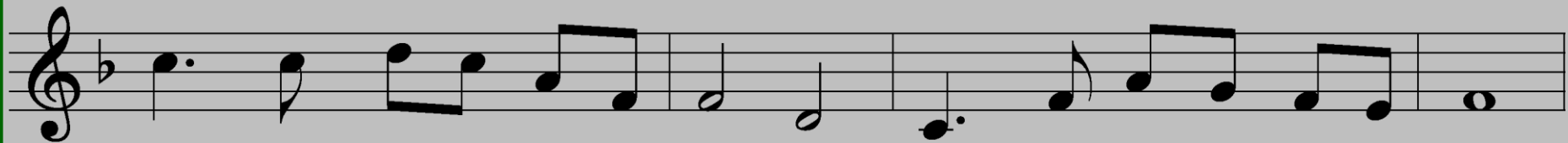
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?



Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.



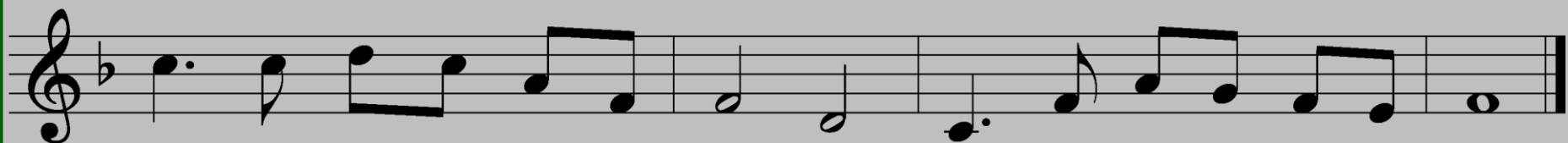
3 Are we weak and heav-y lad-en, cum-bered with a load of care?



Pre-cious Sav-ior, still our ref-uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol-ace there.

AWLC 2025

Campout

RECREATION | ADVENTURE | FELLOWSHIP | FUN



August 1-3

Wellington Lake, Bailey, CO

Swimming, Fishing, Canoeing,
Kayaking, Paddleboarding, Hiking

Campfires, Games, Crafts,
Group Meals, Sunday Worship

Tent or RV: \$34/person (all ages)

Register & Pay:



***REGISTER TODAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!**



***NEW 6-man dome tent (REI)**



A vibrant field of yellow sunflowers under a blue sky with white clouds, serving as the background for the top section of the announcement.

Announcements

Visit www.awlc.org for Church calendar

July 29th (Tue) - Ladies' Book Club at Abiding Word at 6:30pm

- "The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion" by Fannie Flagg
books NOW available at reception desk

August 1st - 3rd (Fri-Sun) - AWLC Campout at Wellington Lake near Bailey

- *see Communique for more information, registration and payment*

August 9th (Sat) - Men's Breakfast Club & Bible Study at Abiding Word 8:30am

- "Noah – The Man, The Ark, The Flood"

August 16th (Sat) - Women's Bible Study at Abiding Word 9:00am

- "The Gospel of Luke"

September 27th (Sat) – Abiding Word Fall Festival

- open to the community
- Stay tuned for more details!