



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

UNDIVIDED ATTENTION

AUGUST 3, 2025

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ON USEFUL RESOURCES

Money. Possessions. Perhaps more than anything else, those things have the power to turn our attention away from what is truly important. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus frequently teaches about wealth. Christ wants us to understand that it is our heavenly Father who provides us with those useful resources. But we need to know why our Father gives them: what they are useful for, and what they are not useful for. Those resources cannot give purpose or meaning to our lives on earth. They cannot give us security for life after this earth. However, the blessings God provides can bring some joy to our lives. More importantly, our wealth is extremely useful in our efforts to serve God and others. This week let us give our undivided attention to what Christ says about the useful resources our gracious Father provides to us.

***“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!”***

Order of Service

Blue Christian Worship Supplement p.15

TODAY’S READINGS:

FIRST LESSON: Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14; 2:18-26

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-11

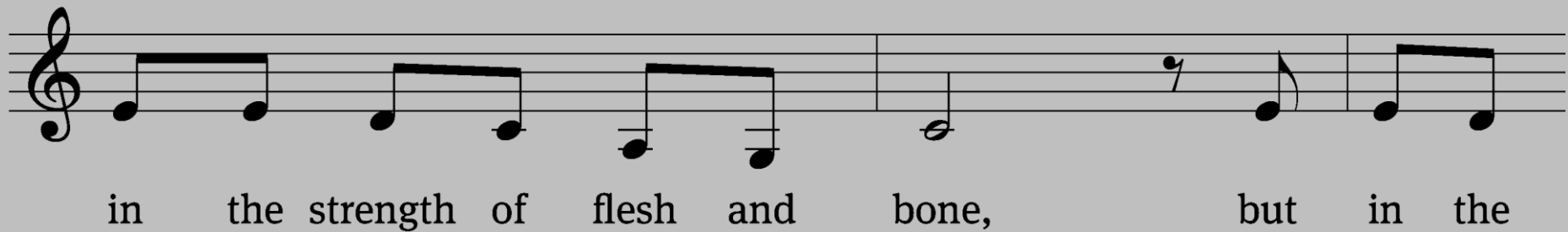
HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

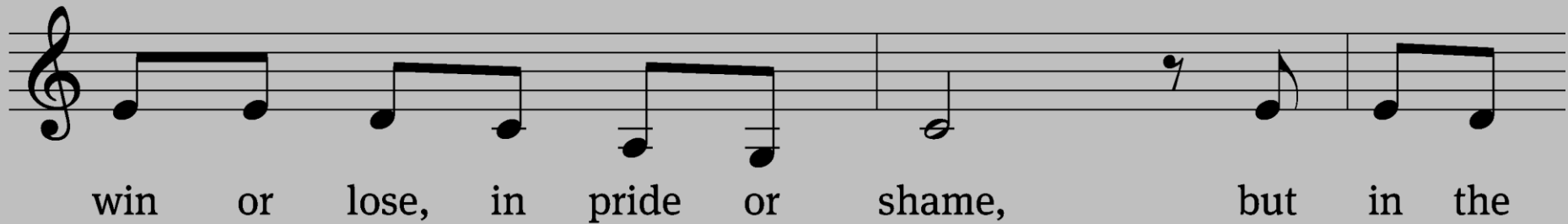
OPENING HYMN

My Worth Is Not in What I Own

Blue Christian Worship #753







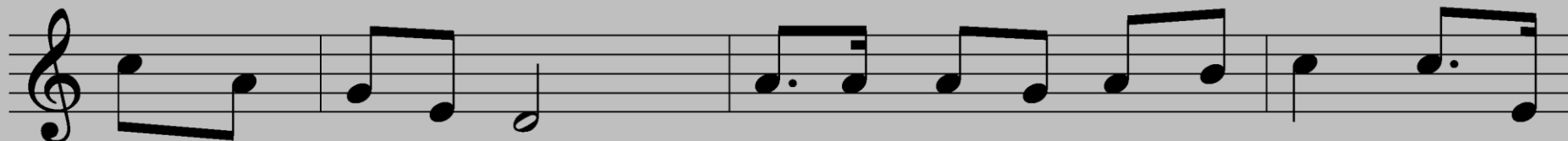
Refrain

2/5

Refrain



I re-joice in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,

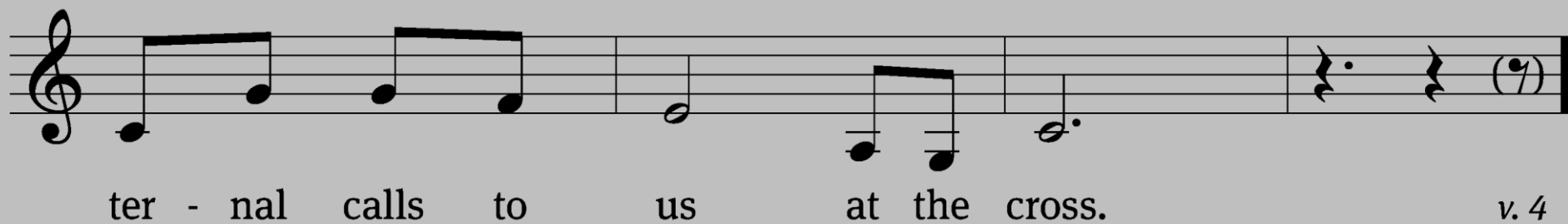
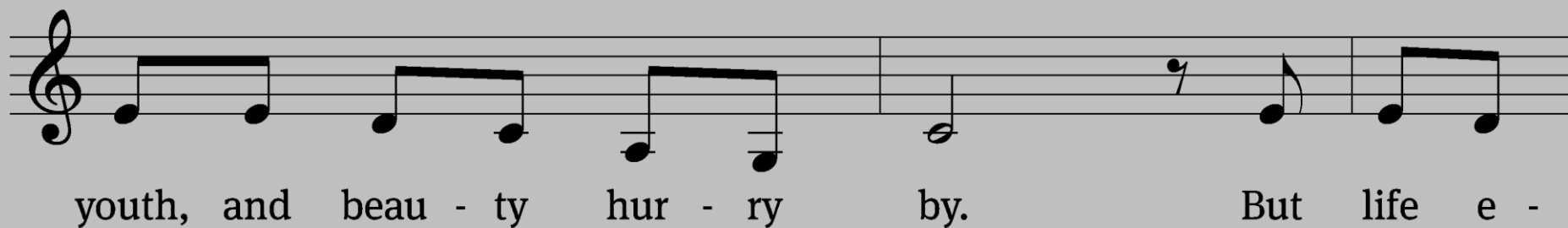


well-spring of my soul.

I will trust in him, no oth - er; my

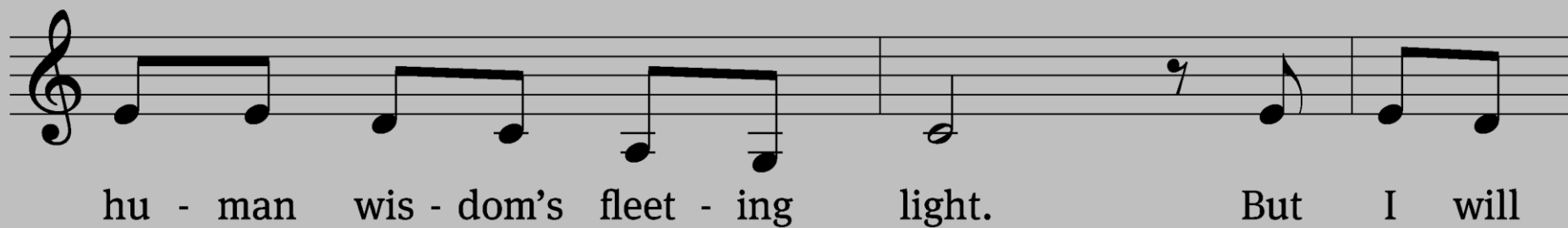
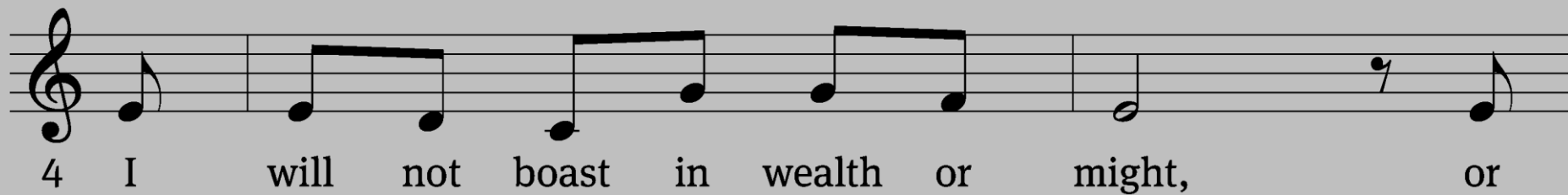


soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.



v. 4

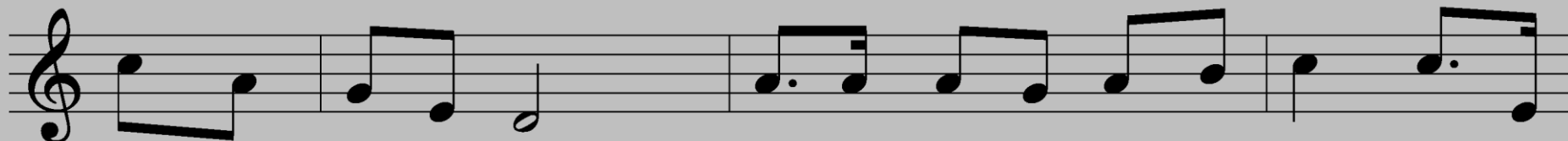
3/5



Refrain



I re-joice in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,



well-spring of my soul.

I will trust in him, no oth - er; my



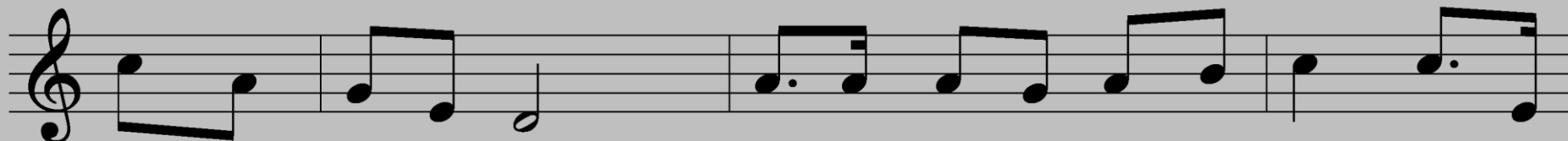
soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.



Refrain



I re-joice in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,



well-spring of my soul.

I will trust in him, no oth - er; my



soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

GATHERING

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

Amen.

CONFESSION

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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.

ABSOLUTION

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

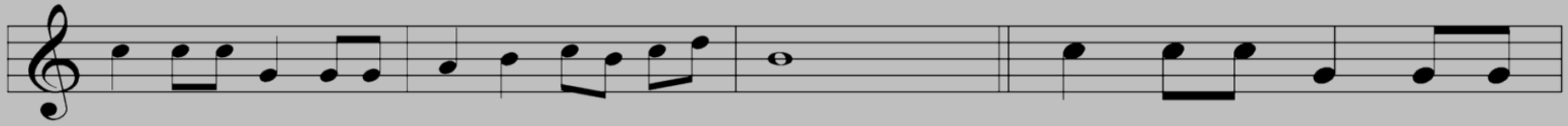
In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

A large, weathered wooden cross stands against a vibrant blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The sun is visible in the upper left, casting a bright glow and creating rays of light that filter through the clouds. The cross is made of two thick wooden beams, and its vertical post shows signs of age and weathering.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Glory To God

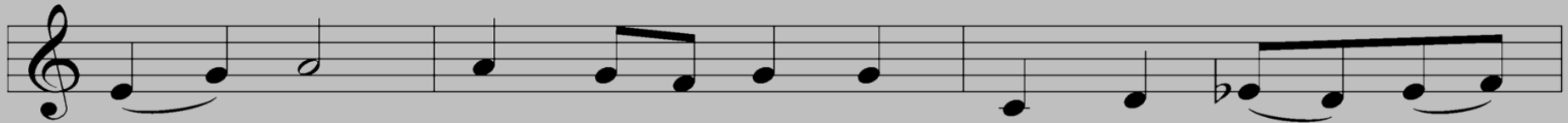
Blue Christian Worship Supplement, p.16



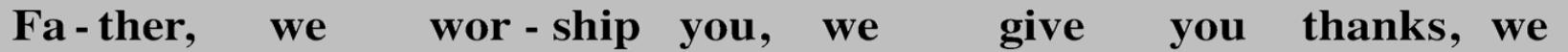
Glo - ry to God in the

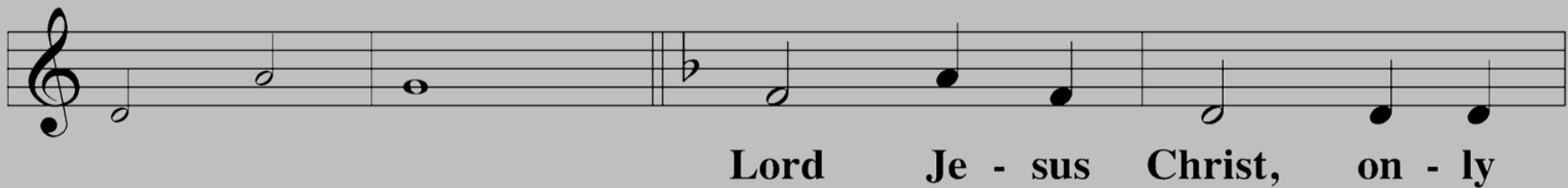


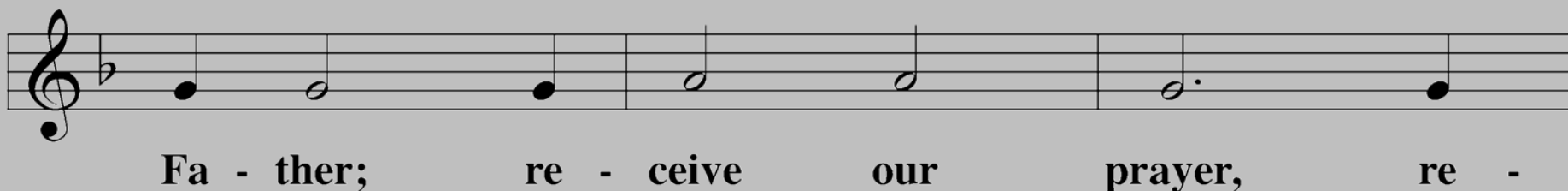
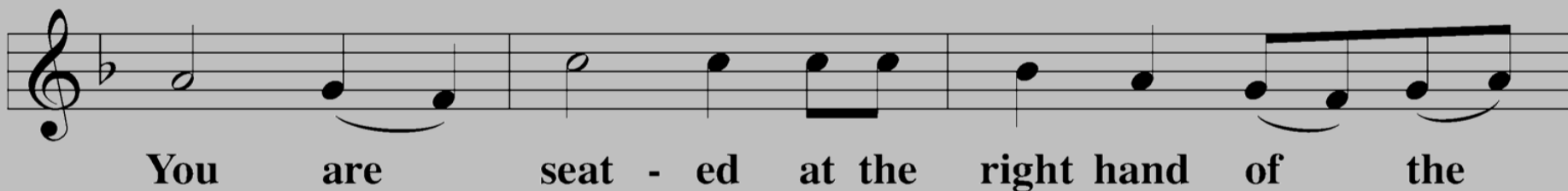
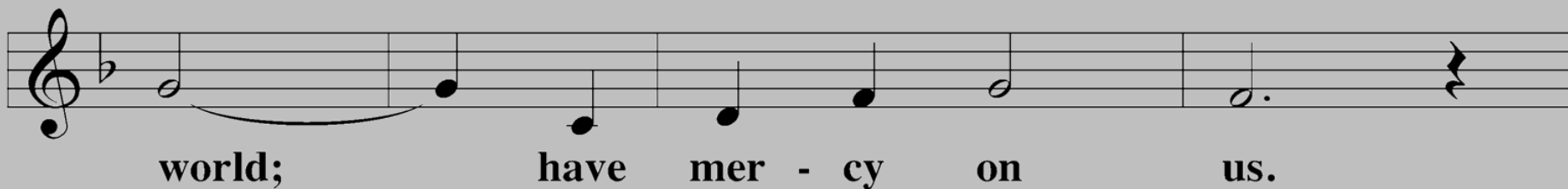
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

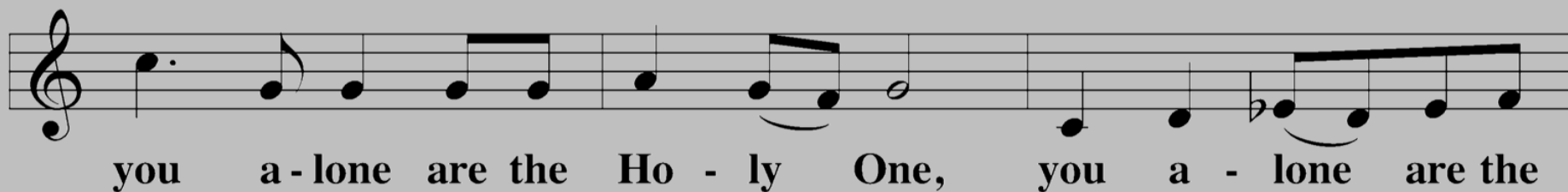
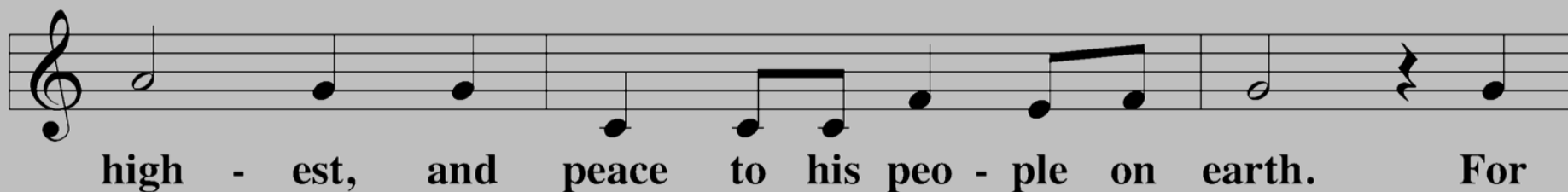
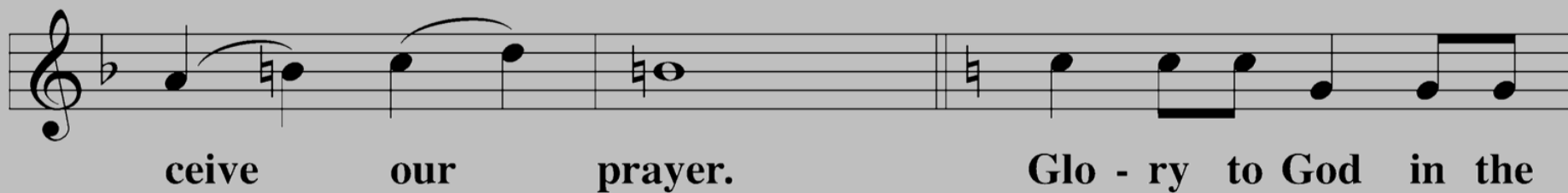


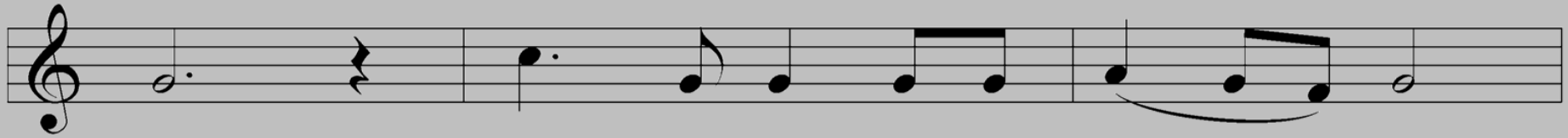
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



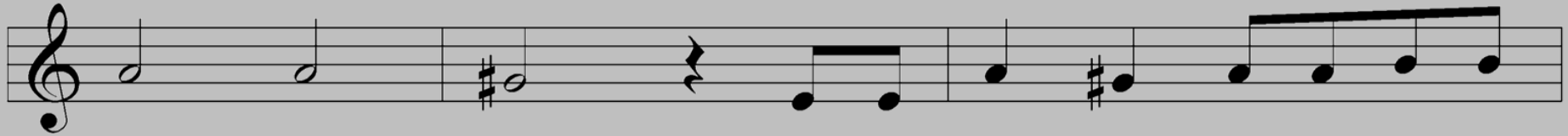




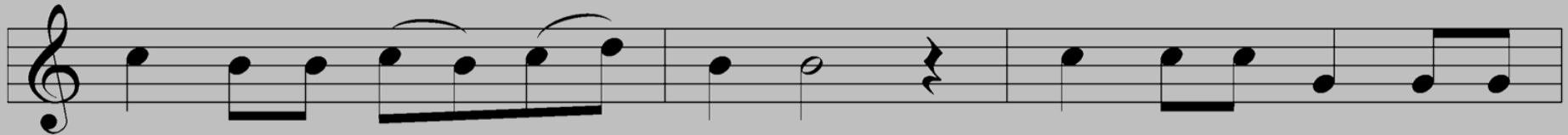




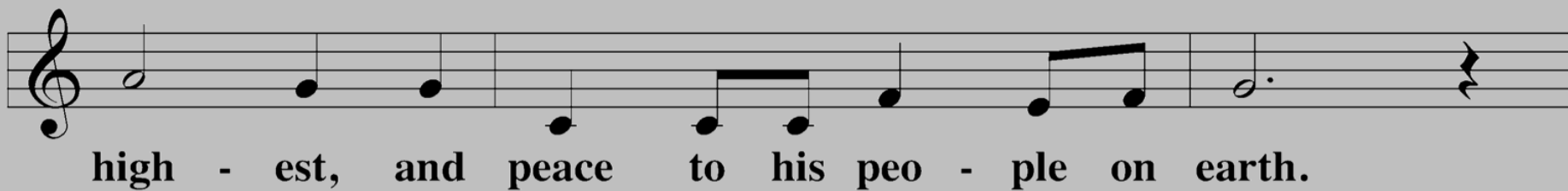
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the



The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures you have stored up for us in heaven that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of your grace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

An open Bible with a red ribbon bookmark is shown in the background. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box in the center of the image.

FIRST LESSON

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14;2:18-26 p. 1035

King Solomon, possibly the wealthiest man who ever lived, learned by experience the limited value of earthly possessions.

1 ¹The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless.”

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun.

²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.

This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY – 90

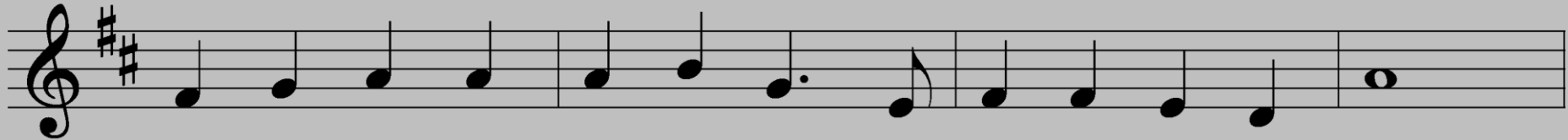
Fill Us with Your Love, O Lord

Pastor introduces refrain and sings italicized,
ALL sing bold and refrains

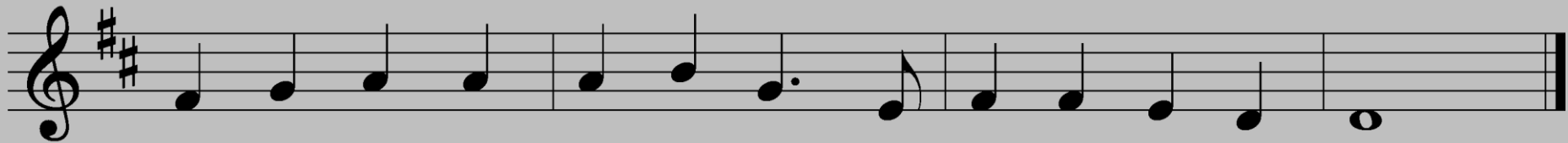


(Pastor)

Refrain



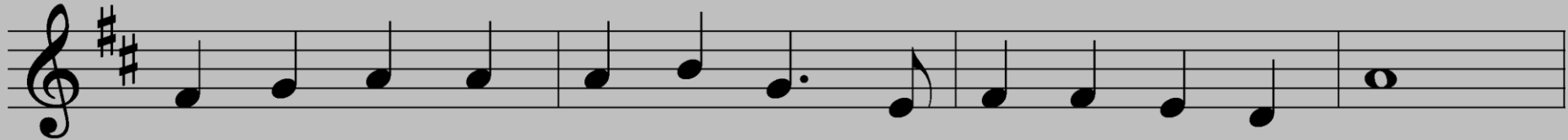
Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



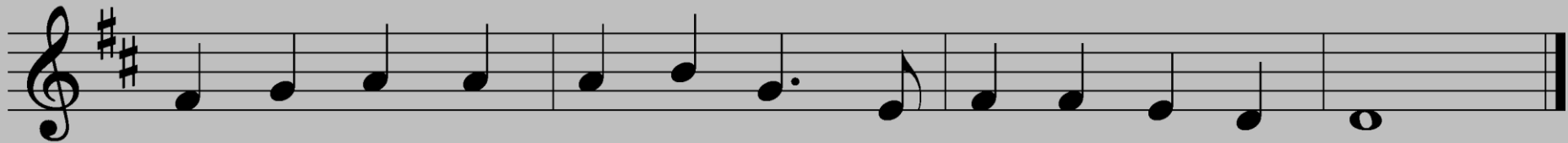
Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

(All)

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



*Lord, you have been our / dwelling place
throughout all gener- / ations.*

**Before the mountains were born or you
brought forth the / whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting / you are
God.**

Tone



You turn people / back to dust,

saying, “Return to dust, you / mortals.”

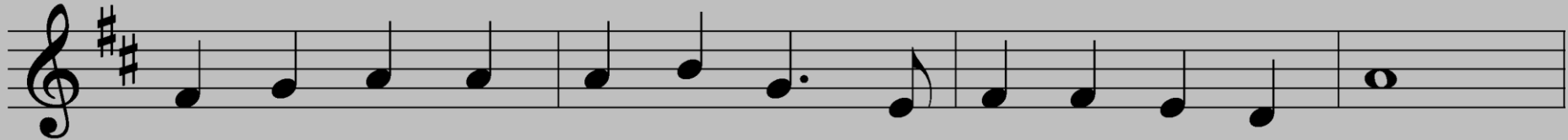
**A thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has / just gone by,**

or like a watch / in the night.

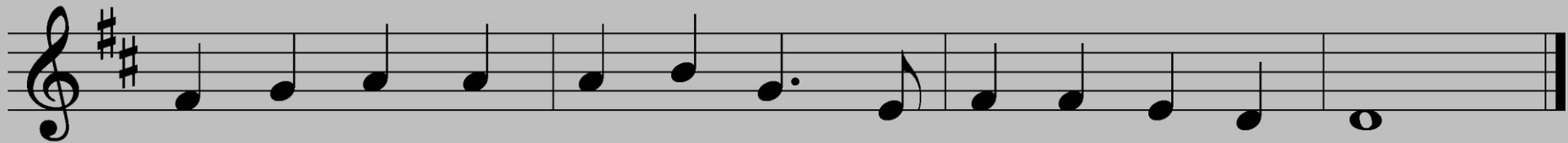
Refrain

(All)

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Tone



Teach us to number / our days,

that we may gain a heart of / wisdom.

**May the favor of the Lord our God / rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—yes,
establish the work / of our hands.**

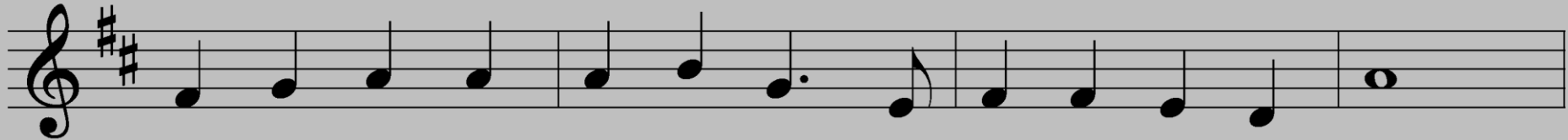
Tone



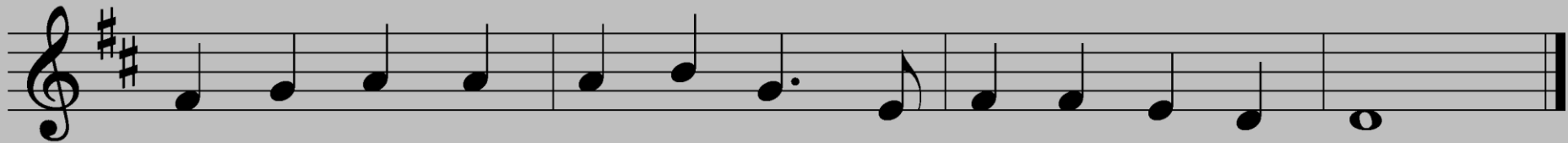
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

(All)

Refrain



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!



Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Text: Mark Haas, alt.

Tune: Mark Haas, alt.

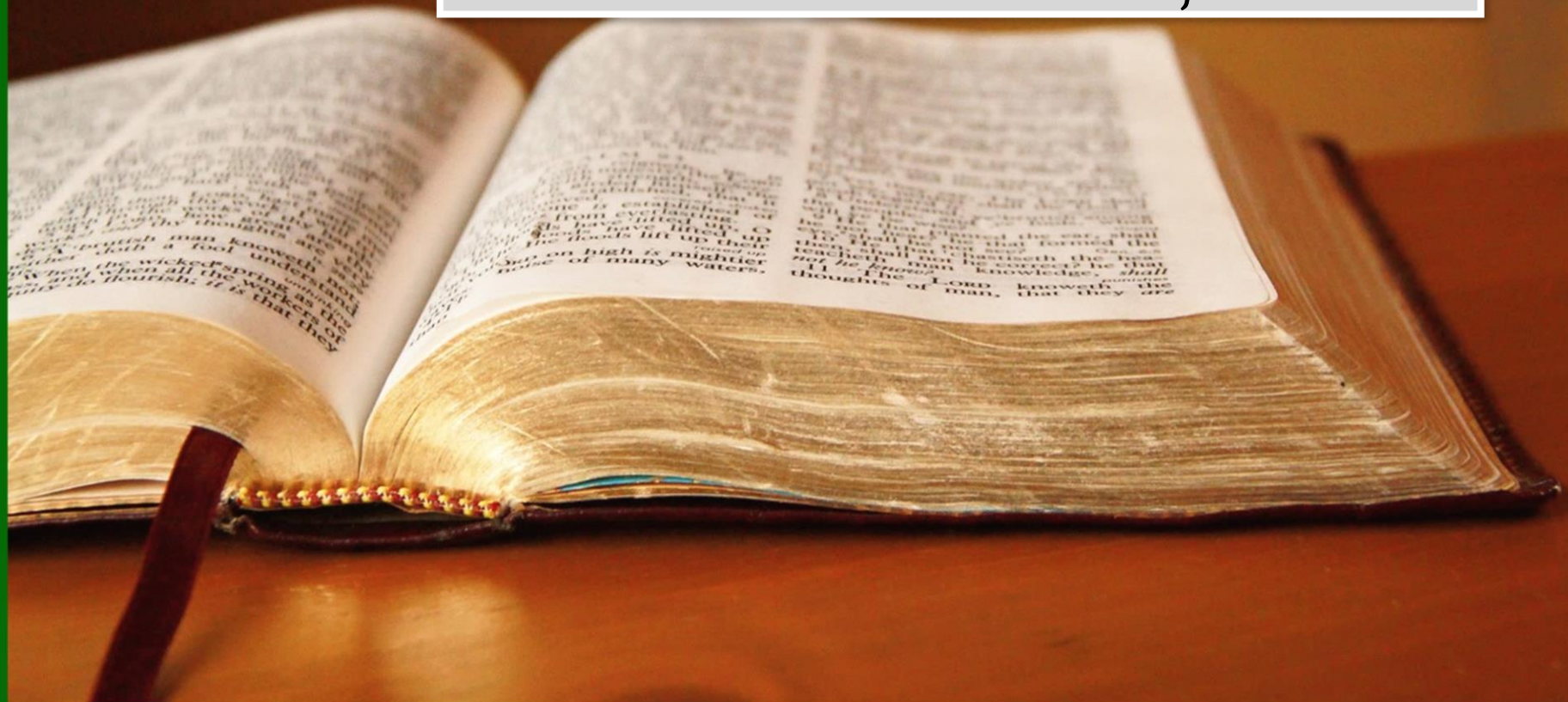
Setting: Mark Haas, alt.

Music: © 2015 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716168

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 3:1-11 p. 1831

Believers are liberated from the idolatry of greed as they put to death their sinful nature and are renewed in their new life in Christ.



3 ¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

An open Bible is shown from a high angle, with its pages slightly curved. The text on the pages is visible but mostly obscured by a central white box. The Bible is resting on a dark, textured surface. A warm, golden light source from the right creates a strong highlight on the right edge of the Bible and the surface it lies on, casting a soft glow across the scene. The entire image is framed by a thin green border.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21 p. 1619

Greed's folly is felt in life and will be exposed in death. Through a parable, Jesus gives us a strong warning against greed.

12 ¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’”

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

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.**

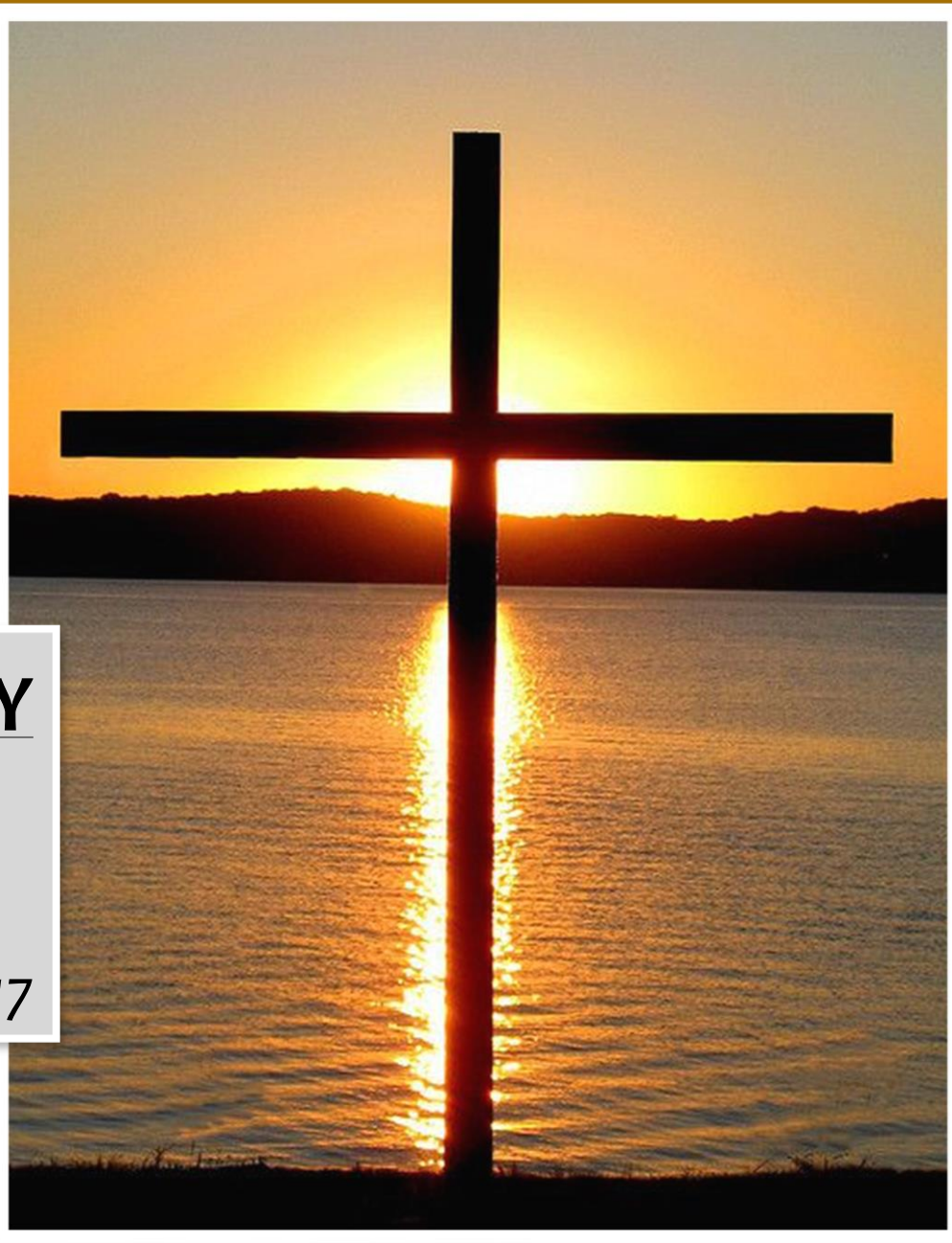
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

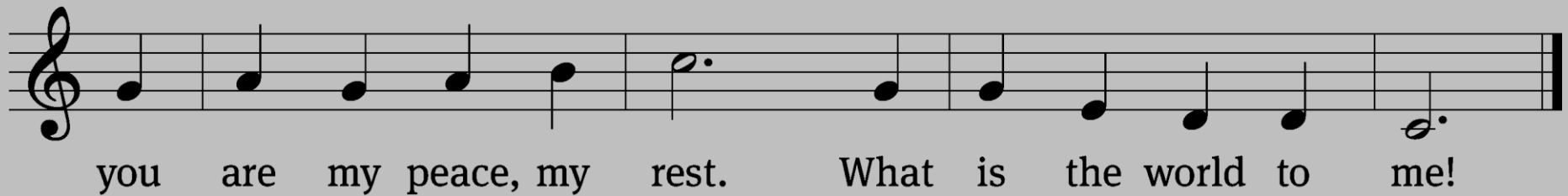
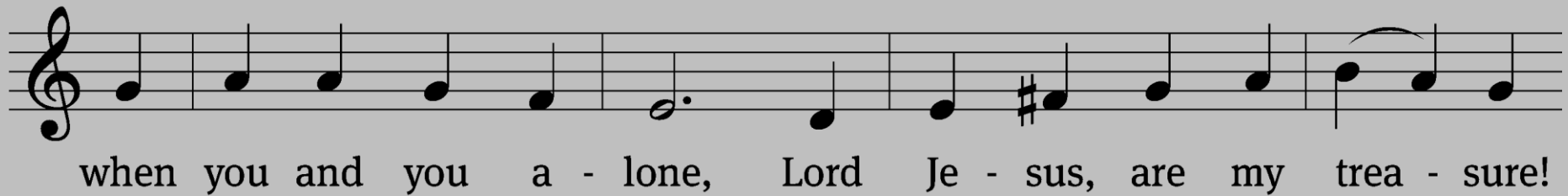


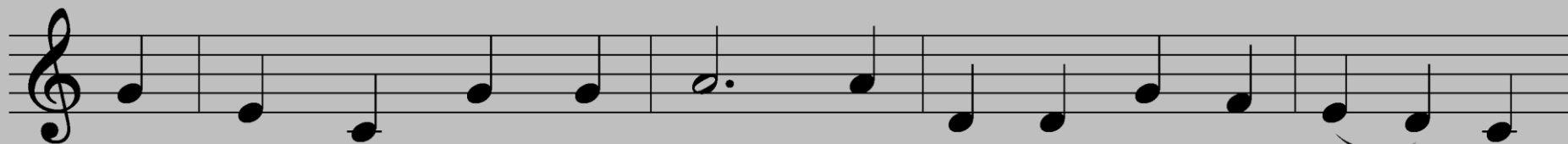
HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World to Me

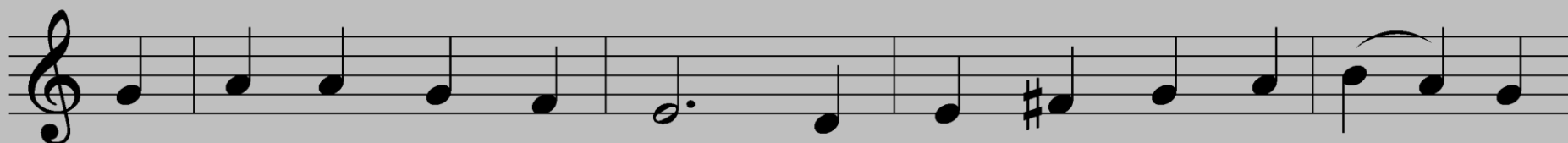
Blue Christian Worship #717



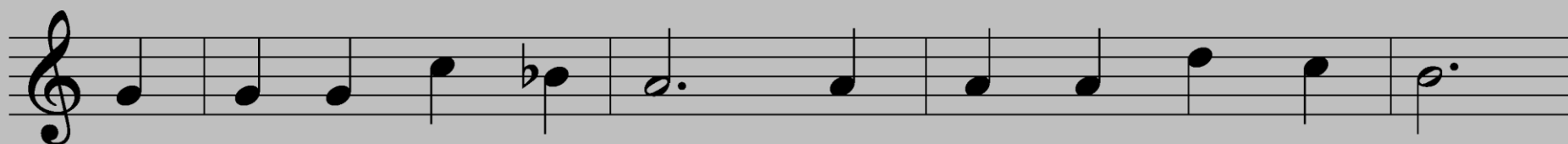




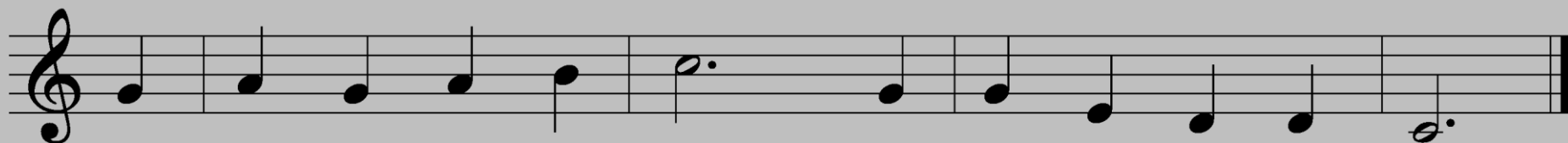
2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,



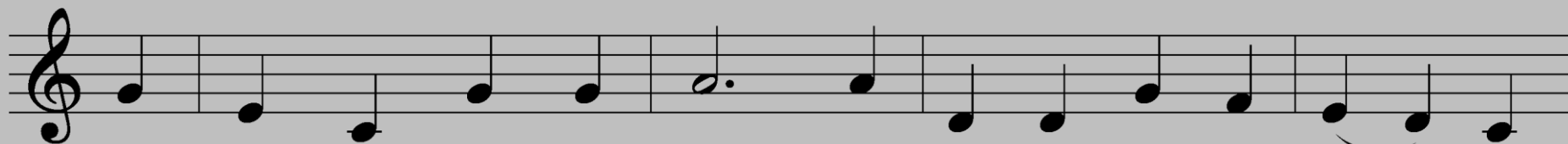
yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.



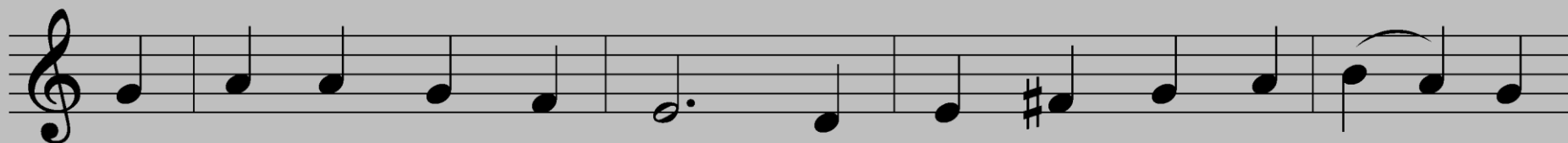
I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;



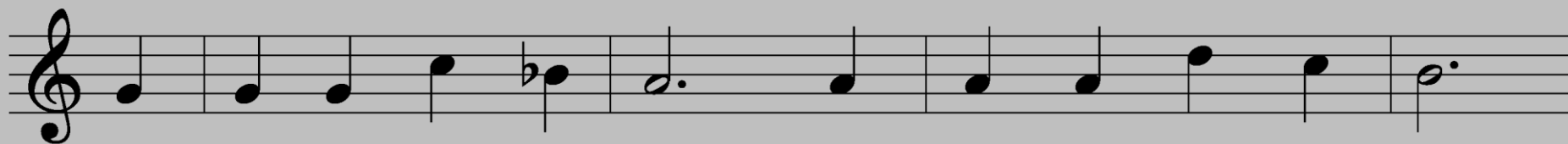
my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!



3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,



a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.



My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,



my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!

4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,
my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,
my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.
Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

4/4

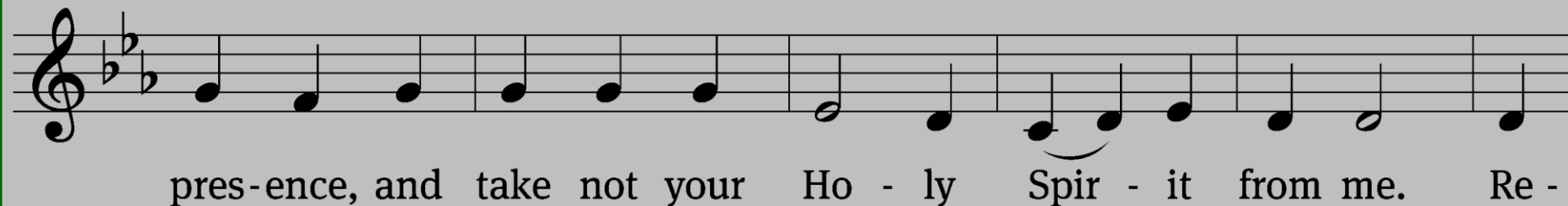
Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

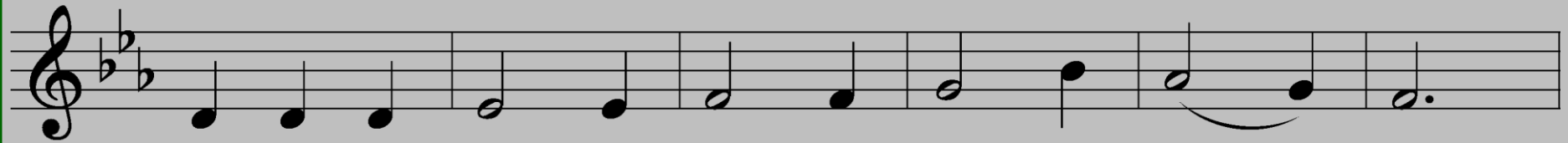
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain



Sermon: ***“When Life Loses Meaning,
Find It in God”***
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14; 2:18-26





store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.



OFFERING

GIVING BACK TO GOD

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

ACTS 20:35B

- online - offering
plate - Vanco app
(giving card on back
table with QR code)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.
We praise you for every grace and blessing.

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

SPECIAL PRAYERS
AND
INTERCESSIONS

*HEAR US, LORD,
AS WE PRAY IN
SILENCE.*

(SILENT PRAYER)



*Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught,
with the confidence that you will hear and with
the faith that you will respond for our welfare.*
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.**

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 good and right so to do.

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.

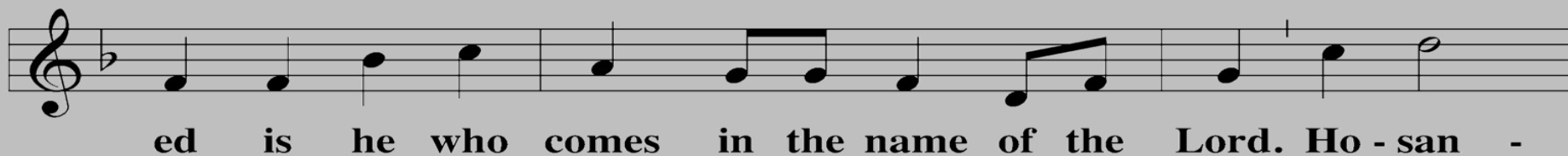
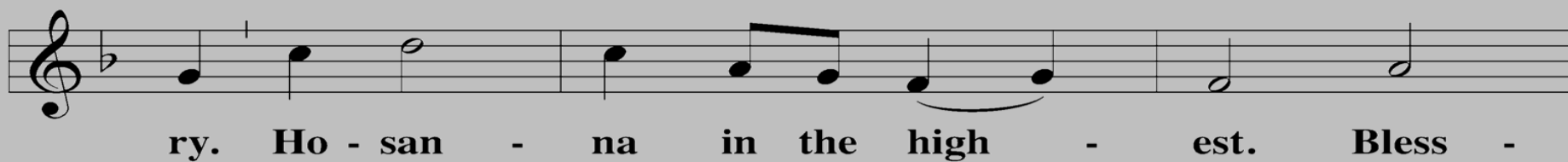
Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



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



God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -



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.

O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.



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.

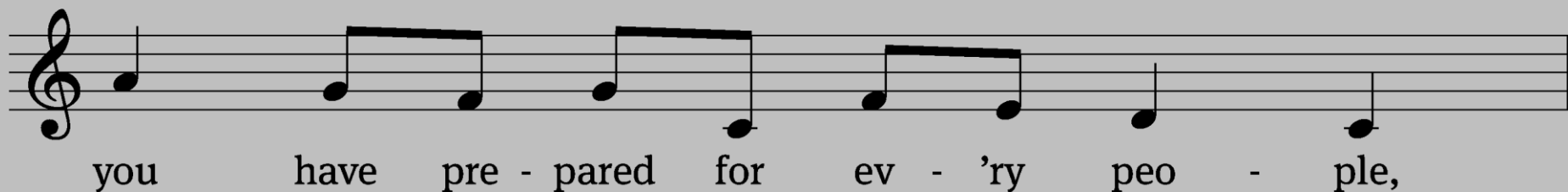
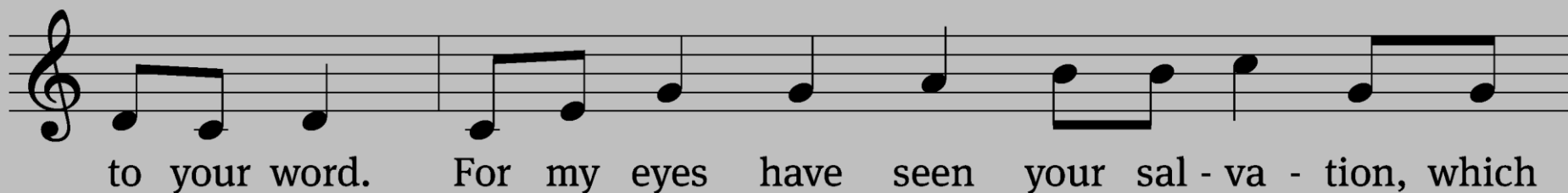
In the Word God gives us the Lord's supper as a sacred meal involving spiritual preparation and unity of faith.

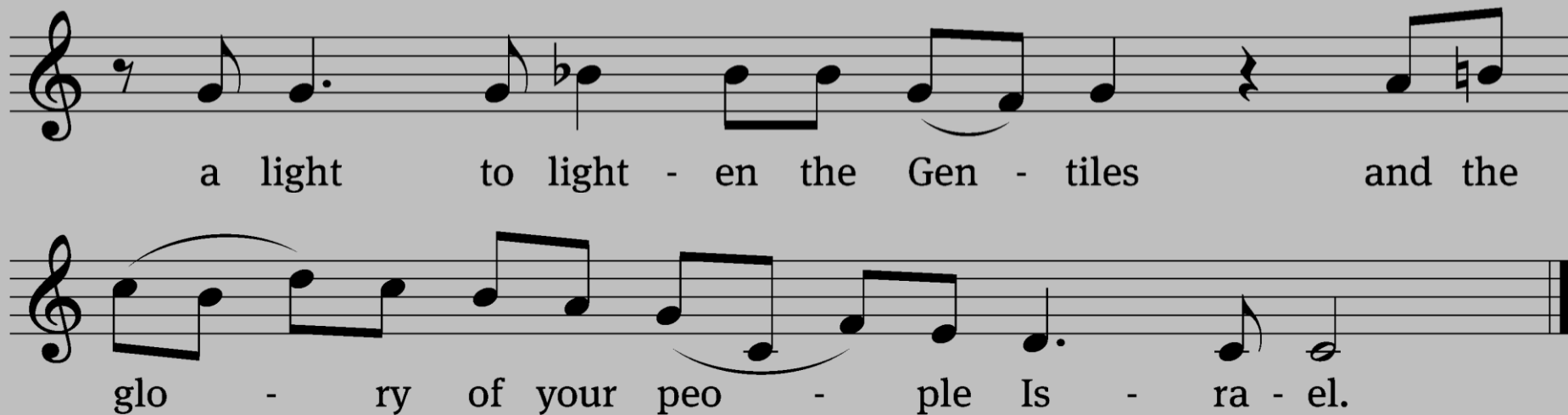
²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

(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.





O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
And his mercy endures forever.

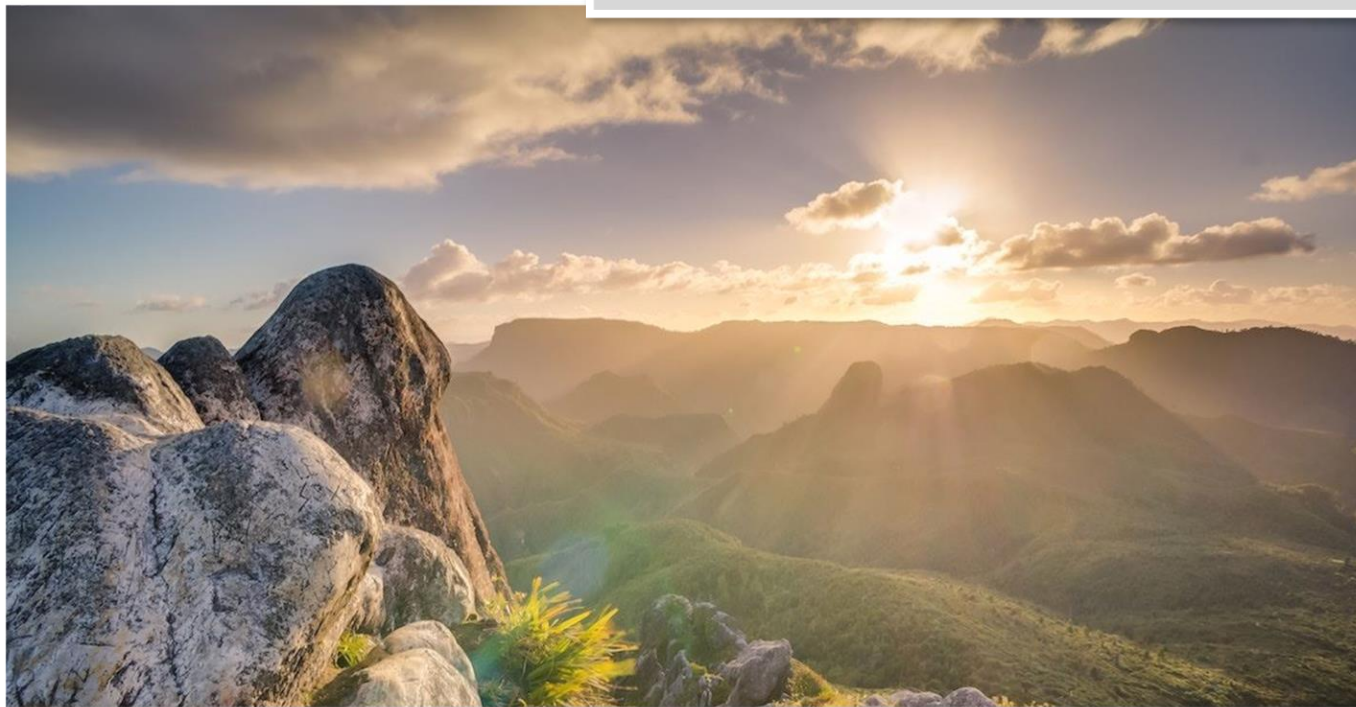
O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

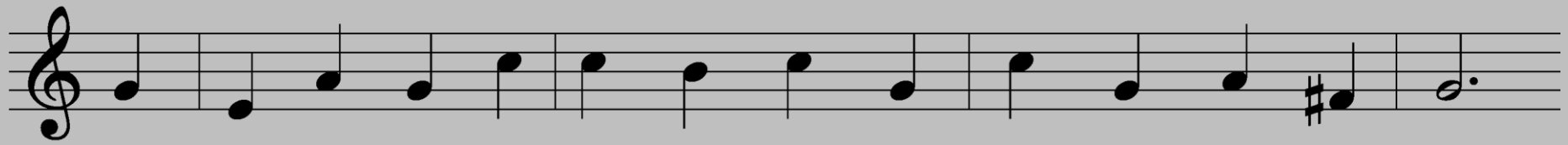
Amen.

BLESSING

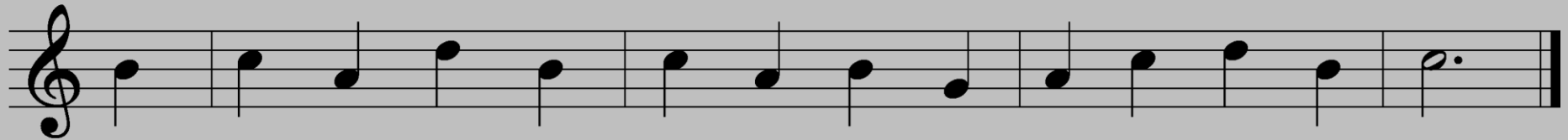
*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor
and give you peace.
Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Blue Christian Worship #820
vss. 1-3,6



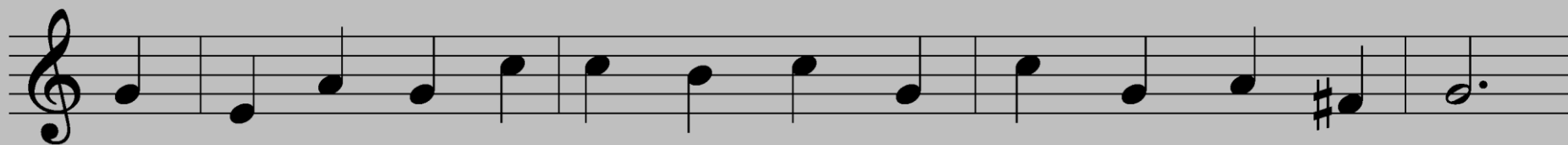


1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

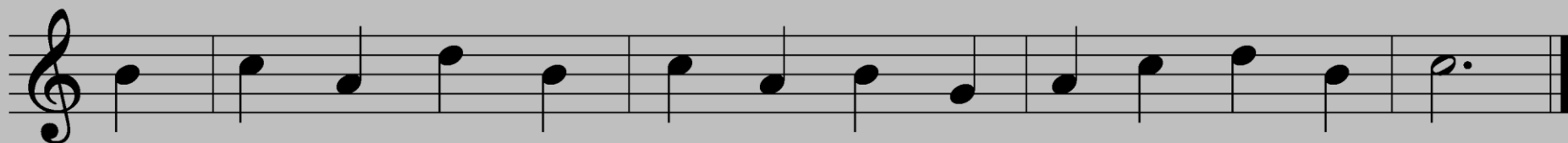


our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:

1/4

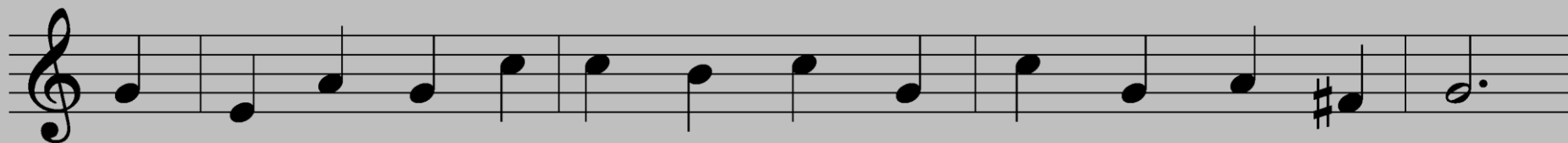


2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;

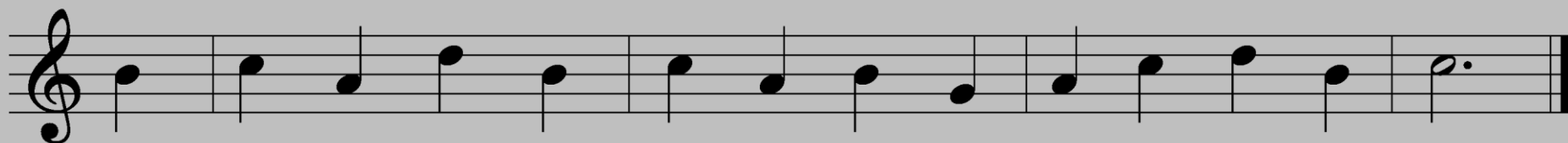


suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de-fense is sure.

2/4



3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,



from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end-less years the same.

6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while trou-bles last and our e - ter - nal home!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins with a '6' and contains the lyrics 'O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,'. The second staff contains the lyrics 'still be our guard while trou-bles last and our e - ter - nal home!'. The music is written in a simple, clear style with notes and rests. The lyrics are in a serif font, and the overall layout is clean and professional.

4/4



Announcements

Visit www.awlc.org for Church calendar

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 2nd (Tue) - Ladies' Book Club at Abiding Word at 6:30pm

- books NOW available at reception desk

September 27th (Sat) - Abiding Word Fall Festival 12pm-3pm

- open to the community

- Stay tuned for more details!

Living Savior Call Update - next call meeting 8/10