



*if only...*

*August 11, 2024*

*12th Sunday after Pentecost*



Ascension Lutheran Church

1105 N. Washington Blvd.

Ogden, UT 84404

801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, including those who call themselves "members" of this church named Ascension Lutheran Church more than 50 years ago.

A special welcome to guests who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;  
however please know a nursery space is available for  
parents who need to tend to their little ones**

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### Introduction

Sometimes when we have traveled away from the familiar, we return and find the familiar holds more than we had noticed before. Our eyes, now trained to wonder and appreciate, behold the place we left afresh. Our "Quest" has brought us right 'round again.

# Returning Home



Lea - ving home, we set our see - ing,



on a quest for dee - per mea - ning.



What we find can change us for the love of



all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

*P* We've been on a journey and today we return home.  
After stretching our spirits and our love  
to include more of the glorious creation and its peoples,  
we return to a home that will never be the same to us.  
We have returned with "guests" –  
memories of new friends and new perspectives.  
Perhaps we also return with new convictions to be  
more active and loving citizens of humanity right where we live.  
Jesus says "abide in me" and follows that up  
with the commandment to love one another.  
The beauty of travel is that we discover prized souvenirs—  
the experiences  
the people  
the different cultures that become part of our lives.

♪ ♪ *Leaving home, we set our seeing, ♪ ♪  
on a quest for deeper meaning.*

*What we find can change us for the love of all  
the creation and its beings.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* The shore of the Sea of Galilee was the place where Jesus called the disciples away from their familiar lives and roles into an adventure, a journey, that would change their lives and our world forever.

After his crucifixion, the disciples returned there to the water –  
to what they knew.

But can you imagine?

It would never be the same again.

And it was there that the resurrected Jesus met them again.

He offered them comfort through hospitality –  
a meal of fish on the shoreline.

He meets us even now, right where we are. Let us pray:

***All Merciful God,***

***we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts  
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,  
through what we have done and left undone.***

***Forgive us when we return to the familiar in fear rather than promise.***

***Forgive us when we turn inward rather than become  
the hosts you call us to be.***

***Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love.***

***Lead us to travel in your ways. Amen.***

*P* Know this:

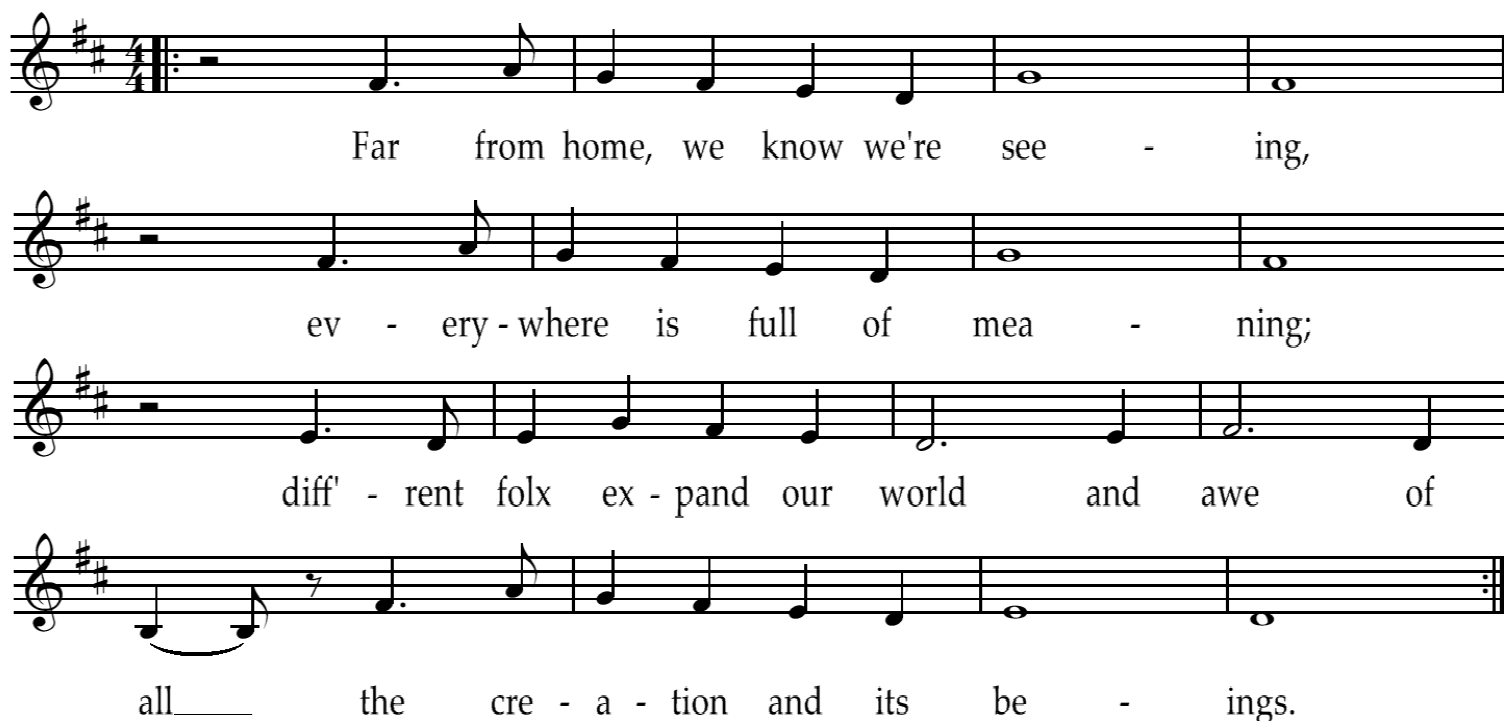
Jesus' welcome is always there.

He stokes the flames of love and invites us to gather 'round,  
filling our emptiness, calming our fear, making a home for all.

*P* He is our constant companion,  
inviting us to reach out in care to one another,  
traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All** In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Glory to God. Amen!



Far from home, we know we're see - ing,  
ev - ery - where is full of mea - ning;  
diff' - rent folk ex - pand our world and awe of  
all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

## Prayer for This Day

*P* Sojourning God,  
your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path,  
inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.

**All** Move us from our comfort zones.  
Show us how to be humble and willing to accept  
that all beings are sacred as created by you.  
May we grow in peace, expand in love,  
and deepen in understanding of one another.  
Nudge and guide us, we pray.  
Amen.

[You may be Seated](#)

# A Reading from Psalm 36

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

*Psalm 36: 5-9*

*L* The Word of the Lord,

**All** Thanks be to God!

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

1 Ho - ly words long pre - served for our  
walk in this world; They re - sound with God's own  
heart, O, let the an - cient words im - part;  
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength,  
help us cope; In this world wher - e'er we  
roam, an - cient words will guide us home. An - cient  
words, ev - er true, chang - ing me, chang - ing

you; We have come with o - pen hearts, O let the  
 an - cient words im - part.  
 O let the an - cient words im - part.

## Gospel Reading

*P* The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

*John 15: 1-17*

**All** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

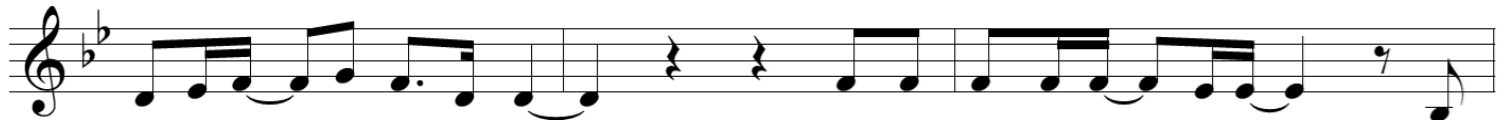
Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit. Lovely Needy People

Music by Gary Rand  
Lyrics by Lenora Rand



Oh you pris'-ners in your cells, All you in pri - vate hells,\_\_\_\_  
You chil - dren ripped and torn Battered, bruised and worn,



Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.\_\_\_\_ All you hun-gry and ig-nored, Who  
All who look hate in the face, -----



thirst for some - thing more,\_\_\_\_ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.\_\_\_\_  
locked in hate's em - brace,



You who feel so lost but are a - fraid of be - ing found;  
You who've giv - en up and can't see an - y - where but down.



You who are in chains but are a - fraid to live un - bound,  
You who've lost all hope and think it's no - where to be found.

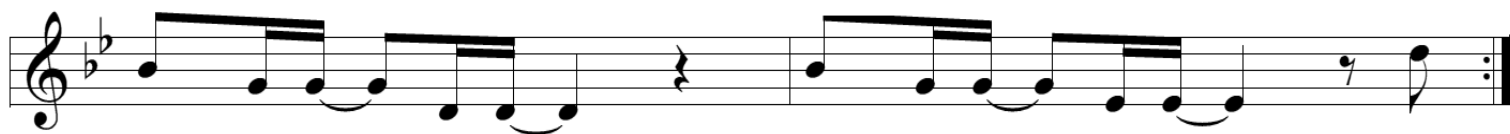


Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son,\_\_\_\_ Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.\_\_\_\_ For





all us love-ly, need - y peo - ple Liv-ing in this world that's spin-ning



Round and round and round, Round and round and round. For



all us love-ly, bro-ken peo - ple Liv-ing in this world that's spin-ning



round and round and round. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.



Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.\_\_\_\_

*⊕ Coda*



Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.\_\_\_\_ There is



mer - cy e - nough; there is grace e-nough. There is



love e - nough for all of us.\_\_\_\_ There is

## Apostles' Creed

*P* Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

*[You may be Seated](#)*

## Prayers of The People

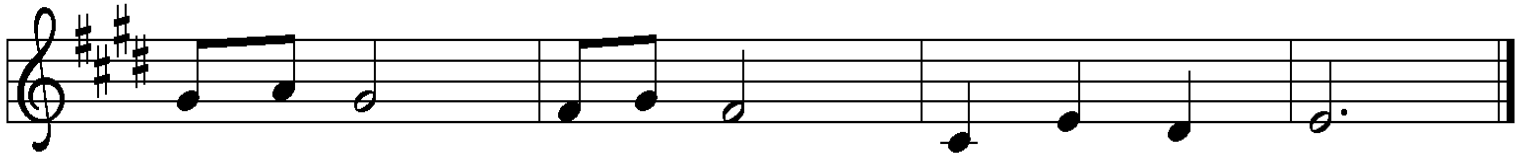
*WA* Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

*(each prayer petition ends with)*

**WA:** Lord, In your mercy,

**All:** You hear our prayer.

## Passing of the Peace

*P* Jesus Christ become peace with you.

**All** And also with you.

## Offertory



Com - ing home, we set our see - ing



to hold on - to dee - per mea - ning;



lov - ing life and mak - ing home a place for



all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

## Offertory Prayer

*P* Let us pray:

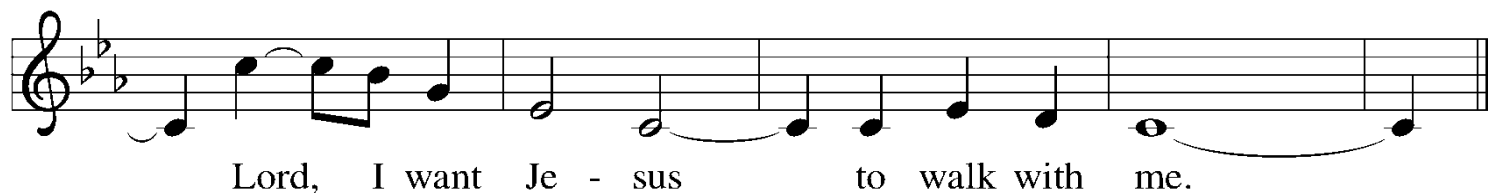
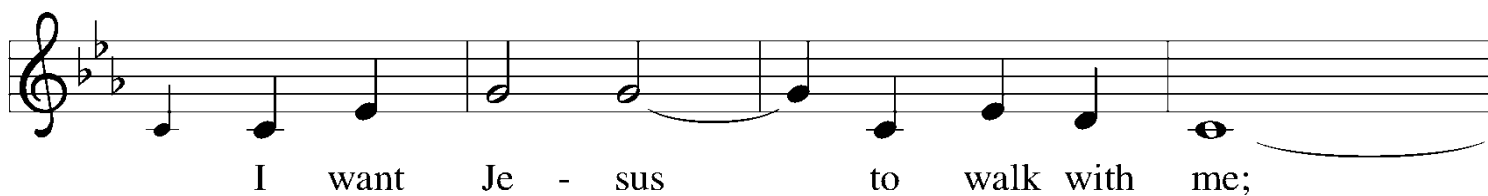
Holy Community of Love,

**All** use our gifts as you reach out to heal the broken,

as you take the hands of the lost

and as you pull out a chair to welcome the outcast to your table  
of wonder and hope. Amen.

## Holy Communion



*P* The Holy Living God be with you

**All** And also with you.

*P* Lift up your hearts.

**All** We lift them to the Lord.

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*♪ ♪ When I'm singin' Lord walk with me ♪ ♪*  
*When I'm singin' Lord walk with me*  
*When I'm praisin' all of God's goodness*  
*Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

*P* God of Grace,  
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you.  
Your delight filled the skies and land  
with colors beyond the spectrum of our knowing.  
Your playful creating offered up humankind  
with such diversity that we cannot comprehend it.  
Your breath left waters frothy and lungs exploding  
with the power of life and prophetic utterances.

***All*** **And yet we back away from such promise,**  
**unable to claim your love as ours.**  
**But here you are to meet us—speak to us—once again,**

*P* always faithful, always present  
in this Body, the bale... in this Body the people.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P

And so...

We remember...

We offer ourselves...

We claim a new freedom in this truth.

*I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer...*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the vision of your Reign realized,  
so that we may be for the world your dream come true.

By your Spirit open us to each other and to the world,  
making us one in You, through Christ,  
in the power of Your redeeming Grace!

♪ ♪ **When I'm lovin' Lord walk with me** ♪ ♪  
**When I'm lovin' Lord walk with me**  
**When I'm caring for all God's children**  
**Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

The Lord's Prayer

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

P God in Community, Holy and One,  
we lift our prayers to you, saying ...

**All 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.**

# The Invitation

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant

shed for you and  
for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin



All are Welcome!

## Communion Songs

### What Feast of Love



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?  
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?  
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

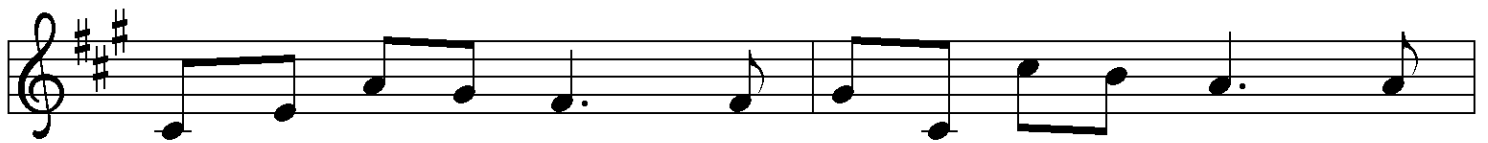
# You Are Mine



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*  
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*  
 all will know my name. *To refrain*  
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



*Refrain*  
 Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*



## Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All Amen**

*P* Jesus, Bread of life,

**All we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.**

**As you have nourished us in this meal,**

**now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.**

**In your name we pray. Amen.**

*You may be Seated*

## Stewardship of Life & Ministry Announcements

### Benediction

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

*P* As you move into this week,  
may your love for self and neighbor reflect God's deep love.

May compassion for yourself and your neighbor flow from within.

May God's vision of the City on a Hill expand our horizons and  
challenge our preconceptions.

And may the Creator continue your unfolding,  
the Christ accompany your deeper knowing,

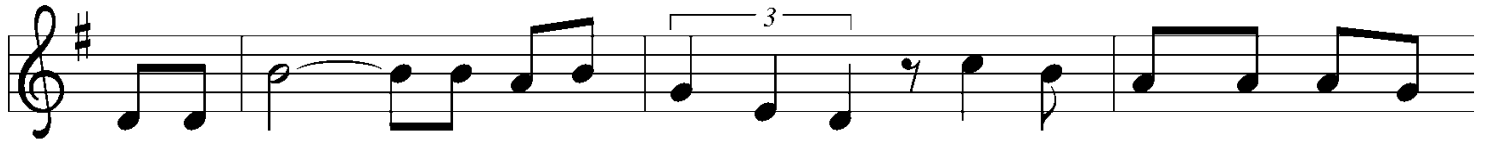
the ✝ Spirit enliven your growing,

until one day we all gather in the Kin-dom of Love.

**All Amen.**

# Sending Song

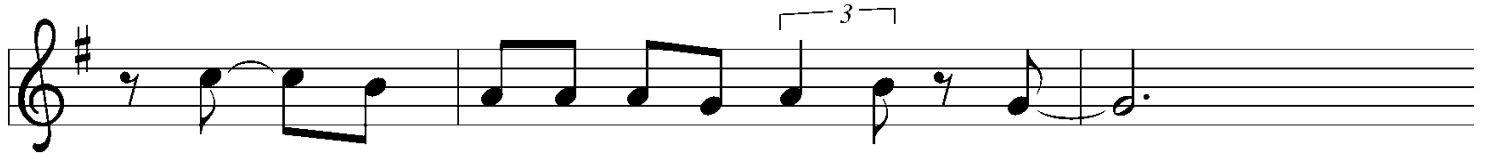
## We Are Marching in the Light of God



We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



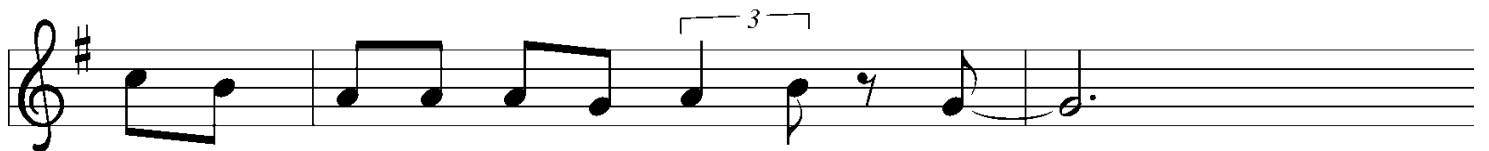
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



we are march-ing in the light of God.



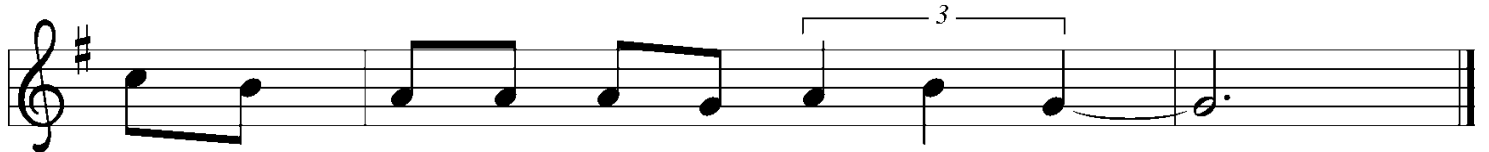
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



we are march-ing in the light of God.



We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984  
Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional  
Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

## Dismissal

**WA** In all your travels,...remember...  
We are the walking feet of Jesus.

**All** Thanks be to God!

Readings for next Sunday,  
Aug 18<sup>th</sup>  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**First Reading:**

Proverbs 9:1-6

**Psalm:**

Psalm 34:9-14

**Second Reading:**

Ephesians 5:15-20

**Gospel:**

John 6:51-58



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