



NORTH WILKESBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WELCOMING • GROWING • SERVING • LOVING

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP • 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 24, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Passacaglia
Marty Franklin

Gordon Young

Words of Welcome

Rev. R.C. Griffin

WE BECOME AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Worship

One: The Lord will guide you continuously
and satisfy your needs in parched places.

Many: We shall be like a watered garden, whose spring never fails.

One: With thanksgiving and praise, we gather together today!

All: With thanksgiving and praise, let us worship God!

***Hymn (#35)**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty!

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S GRACE

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Amanda Horan

***Prayer of Confession**

O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and

alienation, and we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus.
(Silence)

***Responsive Assurance of Pardon**

One: The God who hung the stars and the moon
has come close to each and all with mercy and love.
Join me in declaring the good news of the gospel:

**All: We are forgiven and empowered by God's Spirit
to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Thanks be to God.**

***Sharing a Sign of Christ's Peace**

***Congregational Response (#48, sing 2x)**

Rain Down

*Rain down; rain down; rain down you love on your people.
Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life.*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD TO US

Prayer for Illumination (#452, sing 2x)

Open the Eyes of My Heart

First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 58:9b-14

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Anthem

Oh Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Hal Hopson

Second Scripture Lesson

Luke 13:10-17

*(One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Many: Thanks be to God.**)*

Sermon

Healing Hospitality

Rev. R.C. Griffin



WE RESPOND TO GOD IN FAITH

Commissioning of Faith Formation Leaders

One: God calls each of us to lead using the gifts given to us:

**All: Some to be prophets, some to minister,
some to encourage and some to teach.**

One: There are different kinds of gifts,

All: but the same Spirit!

One: There are different kinds of ways to serve God,

All: but one God to serve and worship!

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn (#287)**

Gracious God, Heed our Pleading

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Call to Generosity

Offertory

Song for Peace

Brian Crain

***Congregational Response (#694, v. 1)**

Great God of Every Blessing

*Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

***Responsive Prayer of Dedication**

One: Lord of the Sabbath,

All: **We rejoice in offering you these gifts,
that our lives may show forth the wondrous healing
of your love in the world. Amen.**

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***Hymn (#183)**

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Martha Sobaje

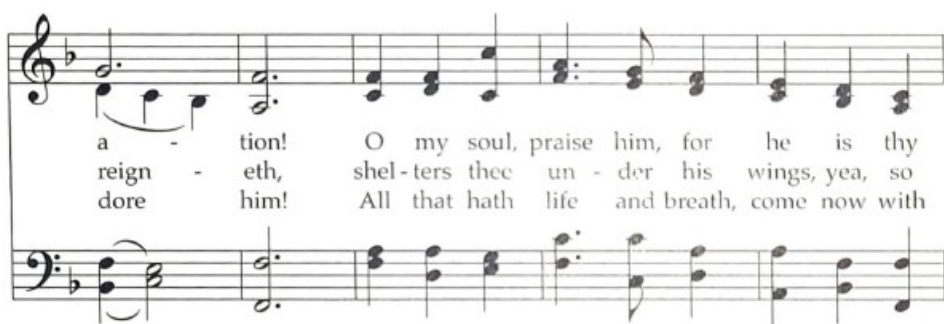
***Please rise, in body or spirit.**



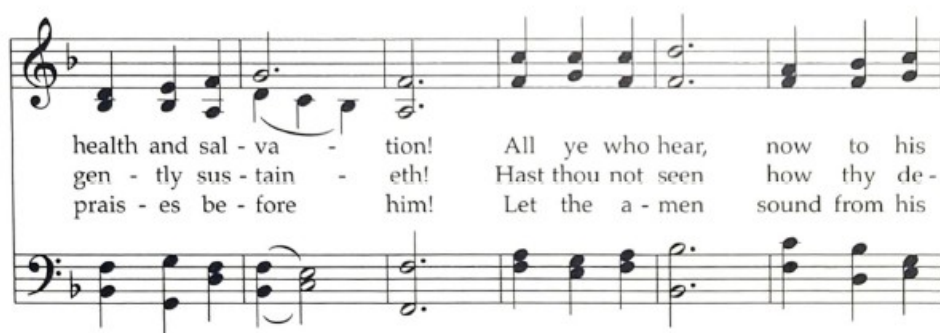
35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty



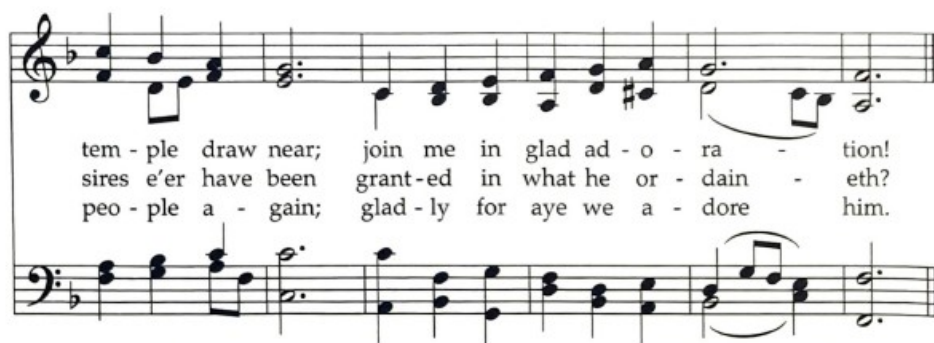
1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sires e'er have been grant-ed in what he or - dain - eth?
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

TEXT: Joachim Neander, 1680; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Stralsund Erneueren Gesangbuch, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN
14.14.4.7.8

Rain Down

48

Capo 3: (D) (F#7) (Bm) (D7) (G)

F A7 Dm F7 Bb

Rain down; rain down; rain down your

(D/F#) (Em7) (A7) (D) (F#7) (Bm)

F/A Gm7 C7 F A7 Dm

love on your peo - ple. Rain down; rain

(D7) (G) (Em) (A7) (G) (D)

F7 Bb Gm C7 Bb F

down; rain down your love, God of life.

This refrain comes from a longer song based on Psalm 33, but the striking image of God's love falling like rain is not actually present in that psalm. That image may be based on Ezekiel 34:26, where God promises to send showers of blessing upon the people of the covenant.

TEXT: Jaime Cortez, 1991

MUSIC: Jaime Cortez, 1991; arr. John Carter, 2001

Text and Music © 1992 Jaime Cortez (Published by OCP)

RAIN DOWN

Irregular

452 Open the Eyes of My Heart

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O - pen the eyes of my heart;

I want to see you; I want to see you;

to see you high and lift - ed up,

shin - ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your

pow - er and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.

The initial petition of this song is based on the language of Ephesians 1:18, while the second part draws on the account of Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:1-5. That event, in turn, is the basis of the threefold *Sanctus* that has become a traditional element in Christian worship.

287 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing;
 2 Come to teach us; come to nour - ish
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing
 4 Not mere knowl - edge, but dis - cern - ment,
 5 Keep us fer - vent in our wit - ness,

fash - ion us all a - new. It's your lead - ing
 those who be - lieve in Christ. Bless the faith - ful;
 done in your ho - ly name. Mo - ti - vate all
 nor root - less lib - er - ty; turn dis - qui - et
 un - swayed by earth's al - lure. Ev - er grant us

that we're need - ing; help us to fol - low you.
 may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.
 to con - tent - ment, doubt in - to cer - tain - ty.
 zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

Refrain

Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Njo - o, njo - o, nj - oo, Ro - ho mwe - ma.

Originally written for the uniting of the Lutheran churches in Tanzania, this prayerful hymn touches on the need of the whole church at all times for the Holy Spirit's guidance and blessing. When appropriate, the refrain can effectively be used alone as a prayer response.

1173 Wilson Uzazigila, 1965, trans. Howard V. Olson, 1968

140530 Wilson Uzazigila, 1965, arr. Egil Hovland, 1993

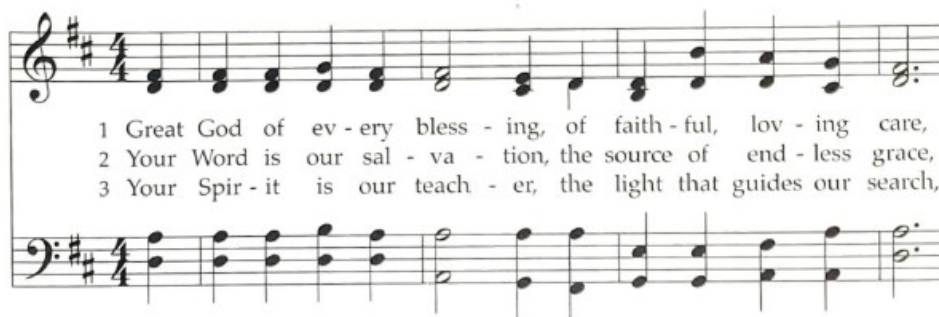
Text and Music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumbwa (Lutheran Augsburg Fortress)

Music Arr. © Egil Hovland

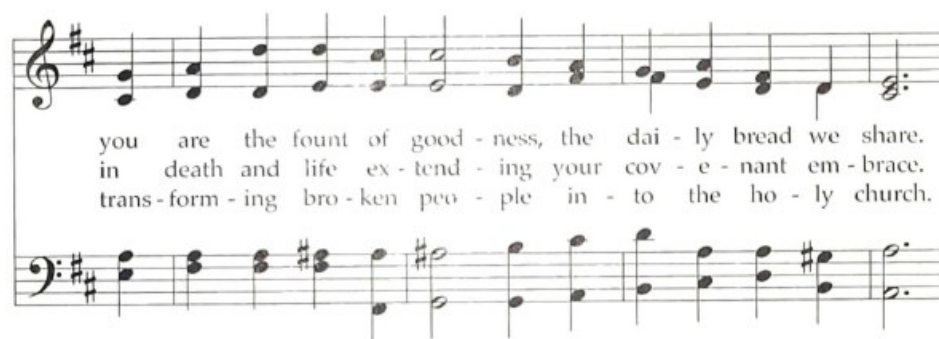
NJRO KAVI TU, ROHO MWEEMA

CM with refrain

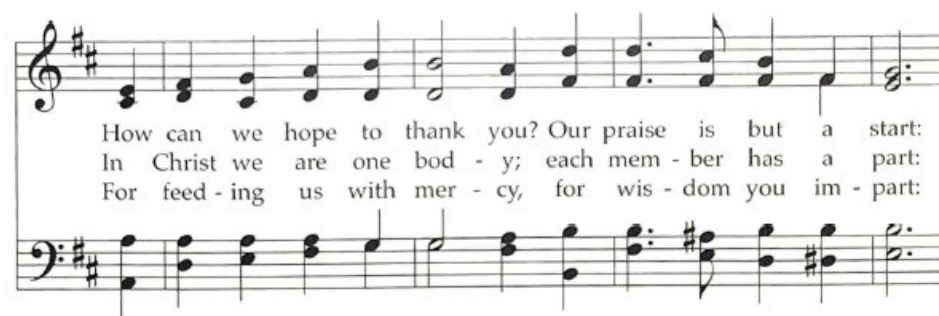
694 Great God of Every Blessing



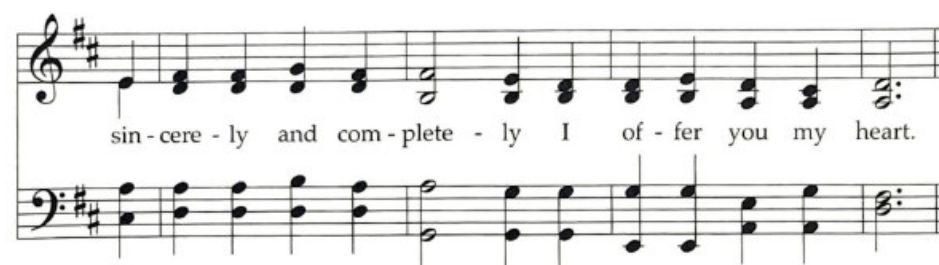
1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,



you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.



How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:



sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler 183



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

This paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28–30 by a Canadian minister is structured so that the first three syllables of each stanza provide the hymn's skeleton and summary. The immediacy of the text is enhanced by the folksong-like setting later composed for it.