Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga

11th Sunday After Pentecost
August 9, 2026

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

Welcome to worship at Prince of Peace! This is a pro-participation, anti-perfectionism worship service. Our ushers are ready guides and your pew neighbor a willing help.

May this time and space be a holy encounter.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *You Are Mine* David Haas, arr. Matthew W. Corl

Welcome

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, saves, and sends us with love that lives forever. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we give thanks for the Great Exchange, the mercy and forgiveness that wrap our true selves in sacred belonging and purpose. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For a word at the dawn of creation, which spoke water and life into being.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

For the great flood that revealed nature's power and God's commitment to life after death. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the river that carried Moses safely, building a bridge between mothers and nations. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the rock split open in the desert, spilling water for those thirsting for freedom. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

For the One who turned water to wine and met a woman at the well with living water. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

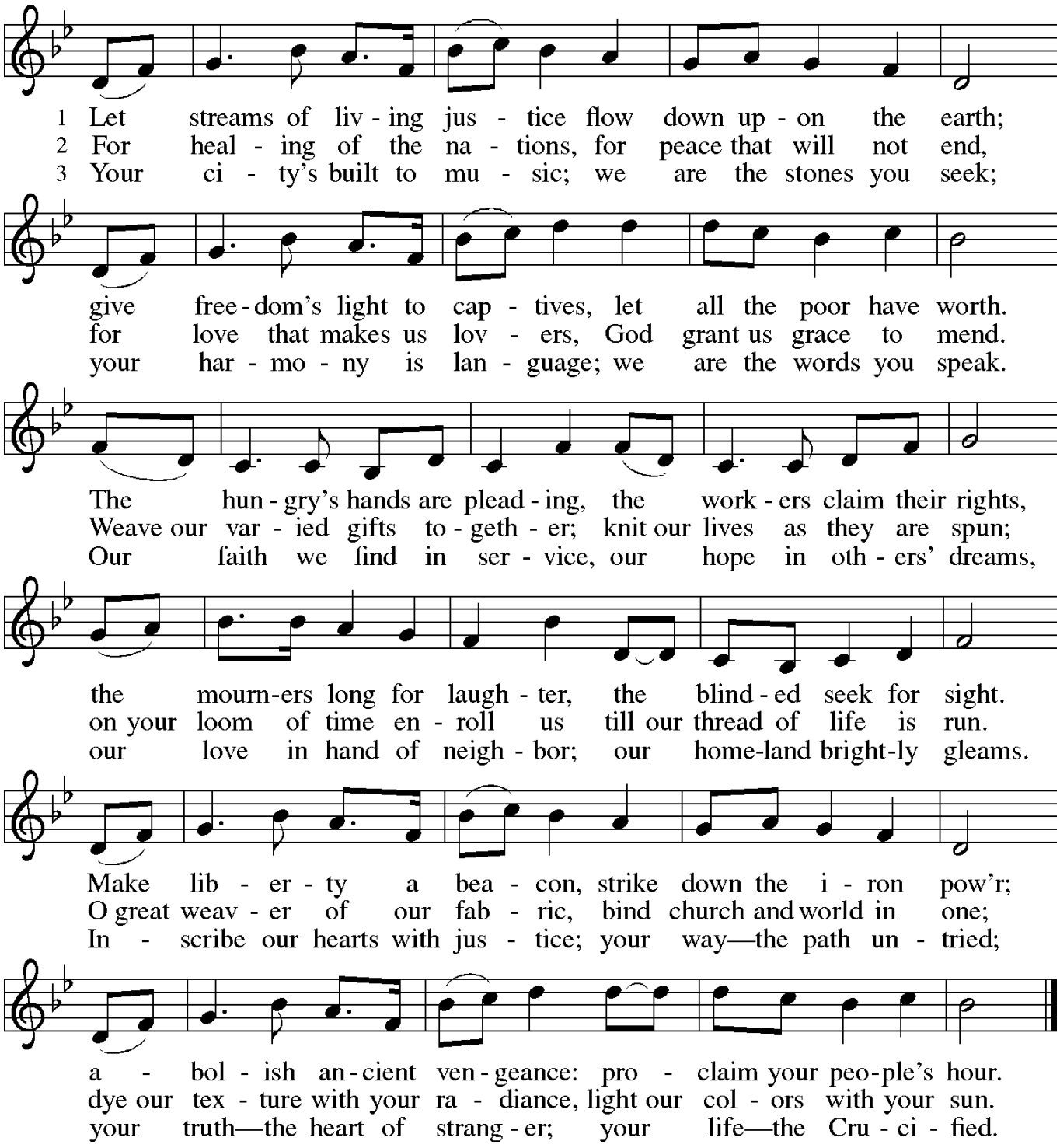
For the gift of holy baptism, which declares there are no more godforsaken places, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.

For Christ is risen! **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

God of life, we rejoice with the waters that cover creation; our songs of praise echo their dancing tides and streams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on this community and all of creation. Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions.

Give us mercy and grace to drink so that our whole lives are signs of death defeated and thirst quenched thanks to the risen Jesus, the Son of God. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn Let Streams of Living Justice



***Prayer of the Day**

O God our defender, **storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue us from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us with trust in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Word

***Gospel Reading** **Matthew 14:22-33**

22 [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other
side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.23 And after he
had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.
When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat,
battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against
them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the
sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were
terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But
immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be
afraid."

28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you
on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started
walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the
strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out,
"Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him,
saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got
into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him,
saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

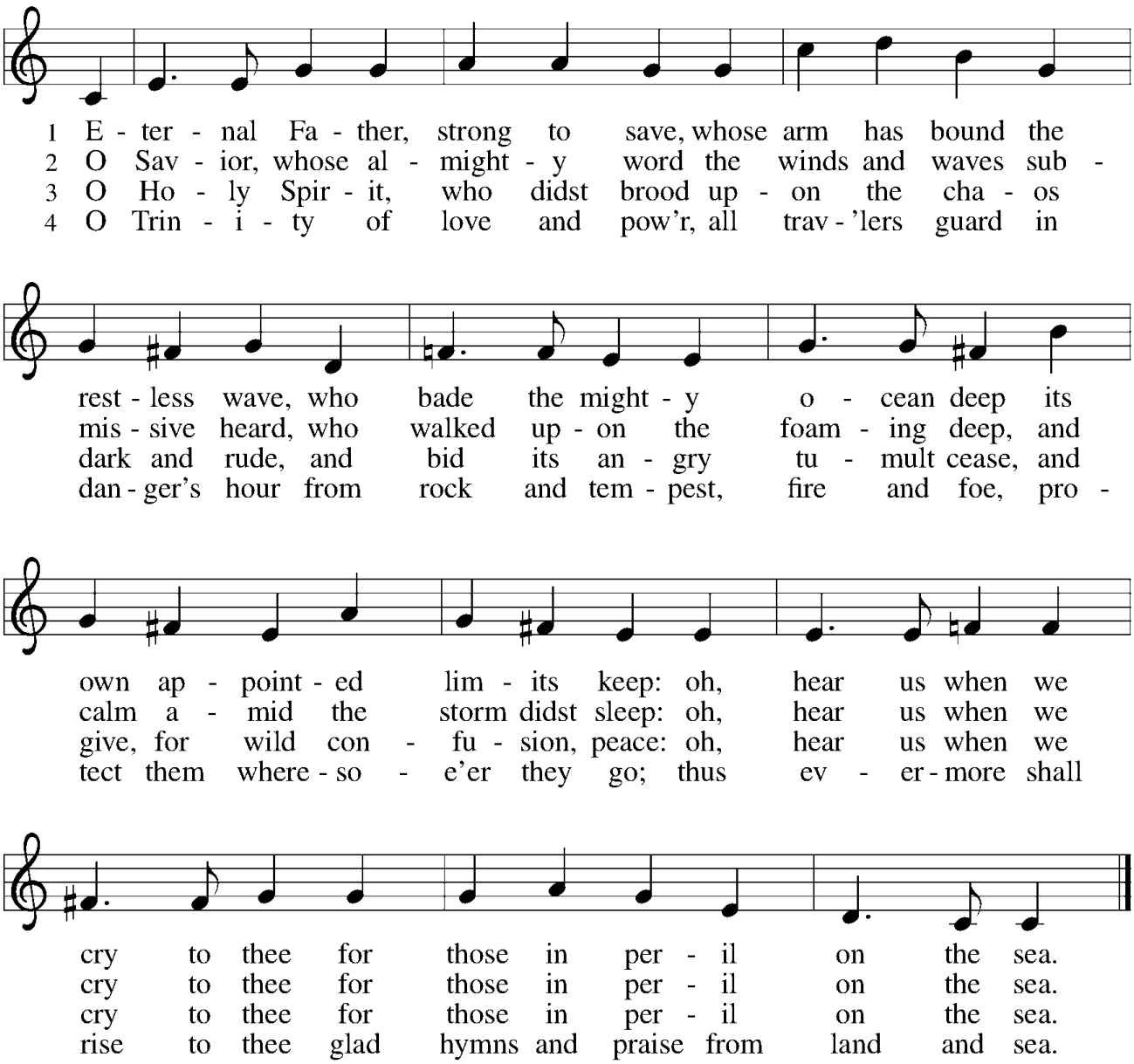
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Sermon Veronica Robb

Sermon Pastor Sara Pearson

***Hymn of the Day** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* *(Next page)*

Eternal Father, Strong to Save



Text: William Whiting, 1825–1878, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*Prayers of the People

P: God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

The Passing of the Peace & Offering

We celebrate the gift of God-with-us as we offer to one another greetings of peace via handshake, hug or wave. Please practice consent when passing the peace by asking if someone wishes to be hugged or touched. This respects everyone's sensitivities and helps make worship more comfortable for all.

Your offerings help support the many ministries of this congregation. You may place offering in the plates at the back of the church; If you wish to give your offering electronically, please scan this image. Thank you!

The Meal

Holy Communion is by invitation of Jesus Christ. All people who desire to experience the grace of God are welcomed regardless of age, race, faith, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientations, gender expression, political party, or physical ability.
If you do not wish to receive communion, you may also come to altar with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing instead..

Please note the different format of communion this week and follow the ushers' guidance.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed…

Lord's Prayer

You are invited to pray in the style and language most familiar to you.

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.

Welcome to Communion

*Communion is one of two sacraments in our ELCA Lutheran tradition. A sacred-moment combines God's promises with a tangible object. At this table you can receive the grace, goodness, and strength of Christ. And remember…**All** are welcome.*

Communion Music *Children of the Heavenly Father*
Swedish melody, arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Anthem *May We Have Faith* Debbie Friedman, arr. Hughes

The Sending

De-installation of Rev. Sara & Release from Call

We are glad for the relationships you have built in this community; your pastoral leadership in our joys, sorrow, and growth; and the deep spiritual connections you have to members of this congregation and their families.

But today your role in the lives of these members is changed. You are no longer our pastor, which means you must decline the invitation to officiate our baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. This will allow us to build trust, grow, and grieve with our next pastor.
Do you promise to honor this boundary for the sake of the health of this congregation and its leadership? *I do.*
Do you receive our grace and release for anything that feels unfinished in your ministry here? *I do.*
Do you trust our gratitude as you move forward into a new chapter of life and ministry elsewhere? *I do.*

Let us pray. Gracious God, bless your servant Sara. Surround her with our gratitude and love in this season of change, that she would sense your presence and delight in her daily life. Thank you for giving Sara to us to know as a sibling in Christ, a steward of your mysteries and a worker for peace. We release her from her call to pastor, trusting that you will continue to use Sara to bless the church and the world through Jesus, who is transformed and transforms us. **Amen.**

Creating God, who makes all things new, prepare your heart and mind for new beginnings. Jesus the Christ, whose story makes us whole, knit your love for this call into the fullness of who you are. Spirit of Mystery, who comes beside us with power, guide your discernment and delight from this day on and forevermore. **Amen.**

Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn *Christ be our Light (next page)*

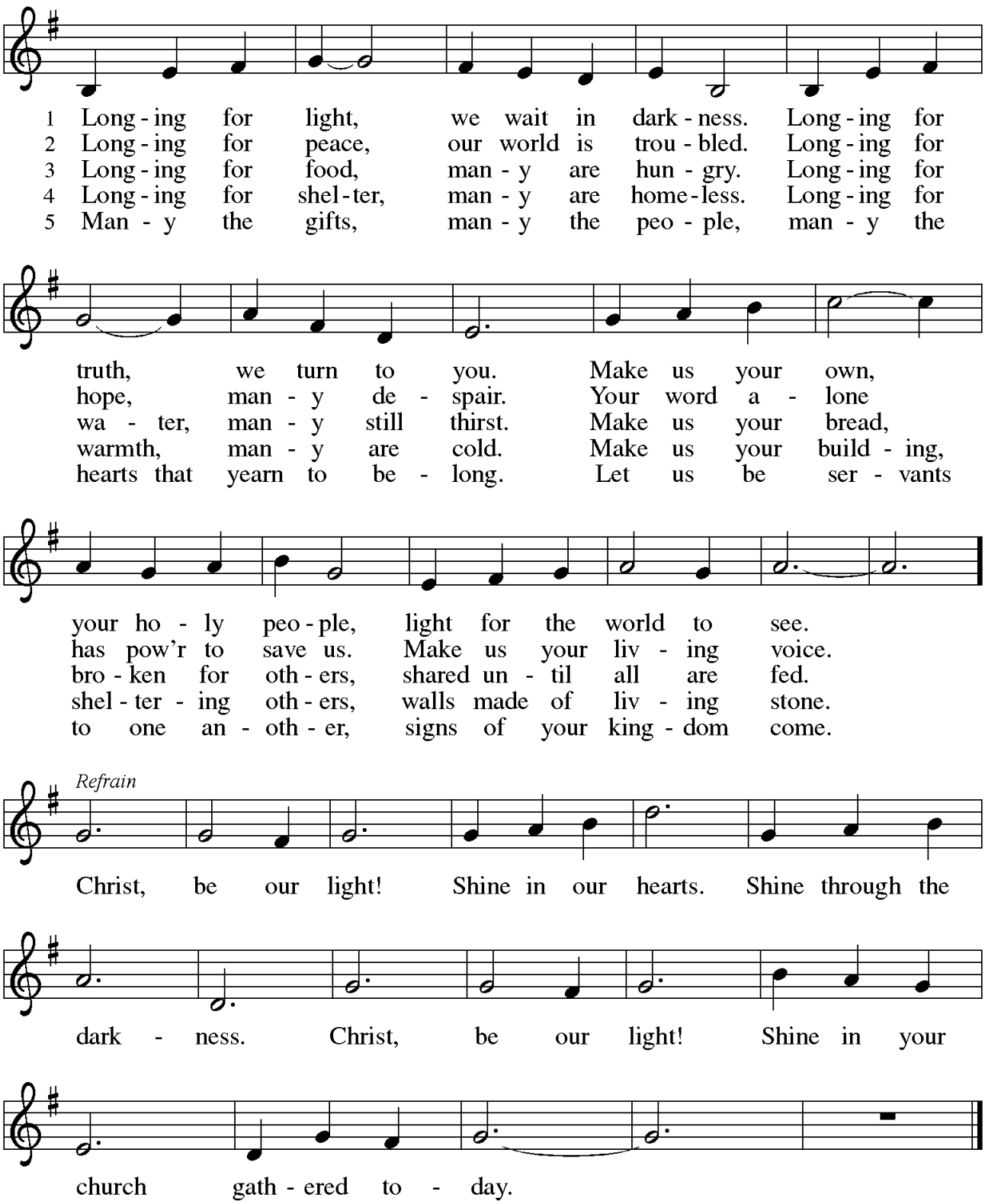
Dismissal

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **C: Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude *Partita on "Allt man behöver är kärlek"*

S. Carabajo, on a trad. Swedish tune

Christ, Be Our Light



Thanks to our worship participants:
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Ushers: Todd H.
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