Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: YouTube.com@princeofpeacesaratoga

18th Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 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 *El Flautista Alegre* Ramón Noble

Welcome

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

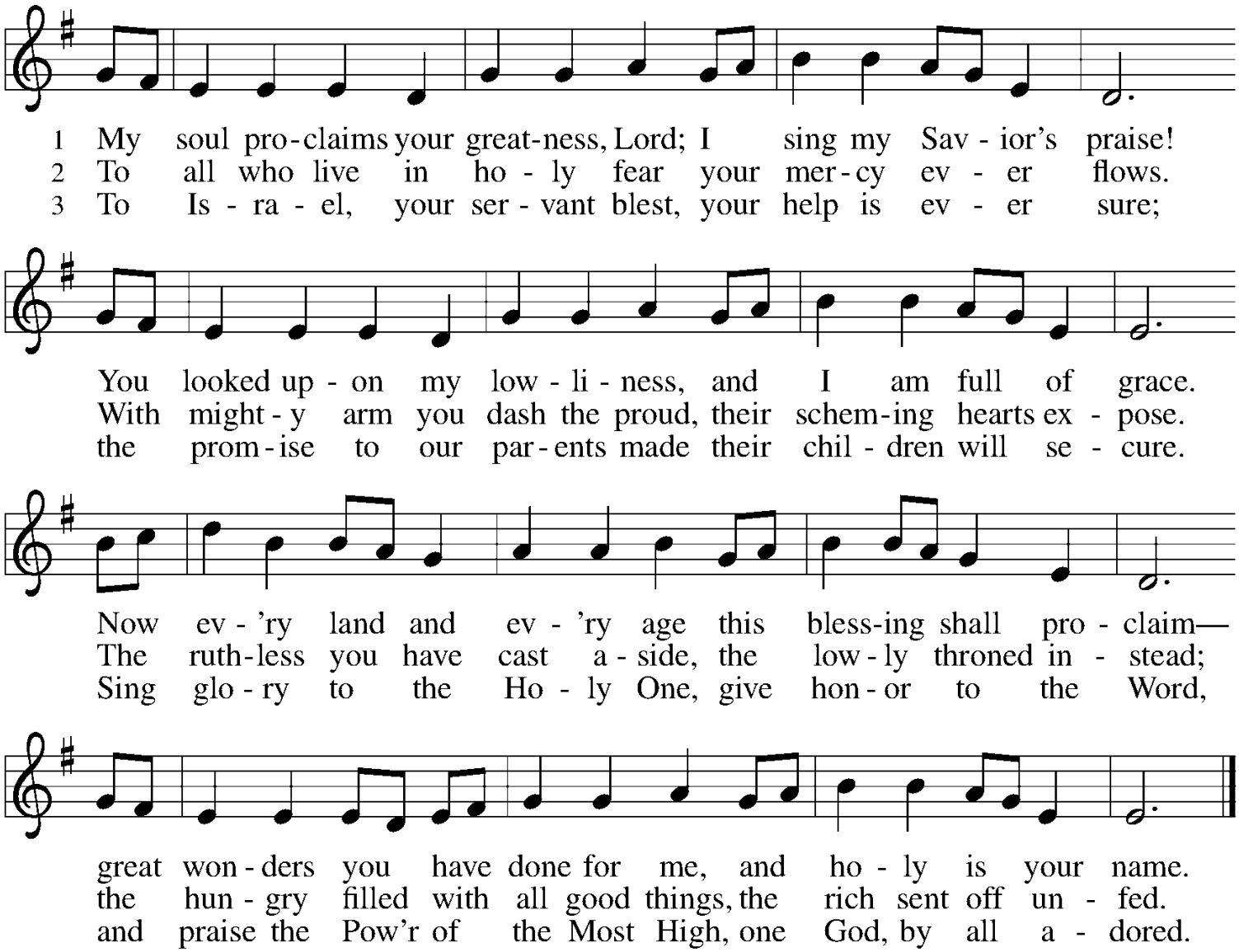
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

(next page)

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

***Prayer of the Day**

God of love, **giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Word

First Reading — Philippians 2:1-13

1 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any
partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, 2 make my joy
complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord
and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in

humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not
to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in
you that was in Christ Jesus,
6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human, 8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.\

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in
my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own
salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*Gospel Reading Matthew 21:23-32

23 When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the
people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are
you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to
them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will
also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the baptism of John
come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one
another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you
not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the
crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We
do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what
authority I am doing these things.

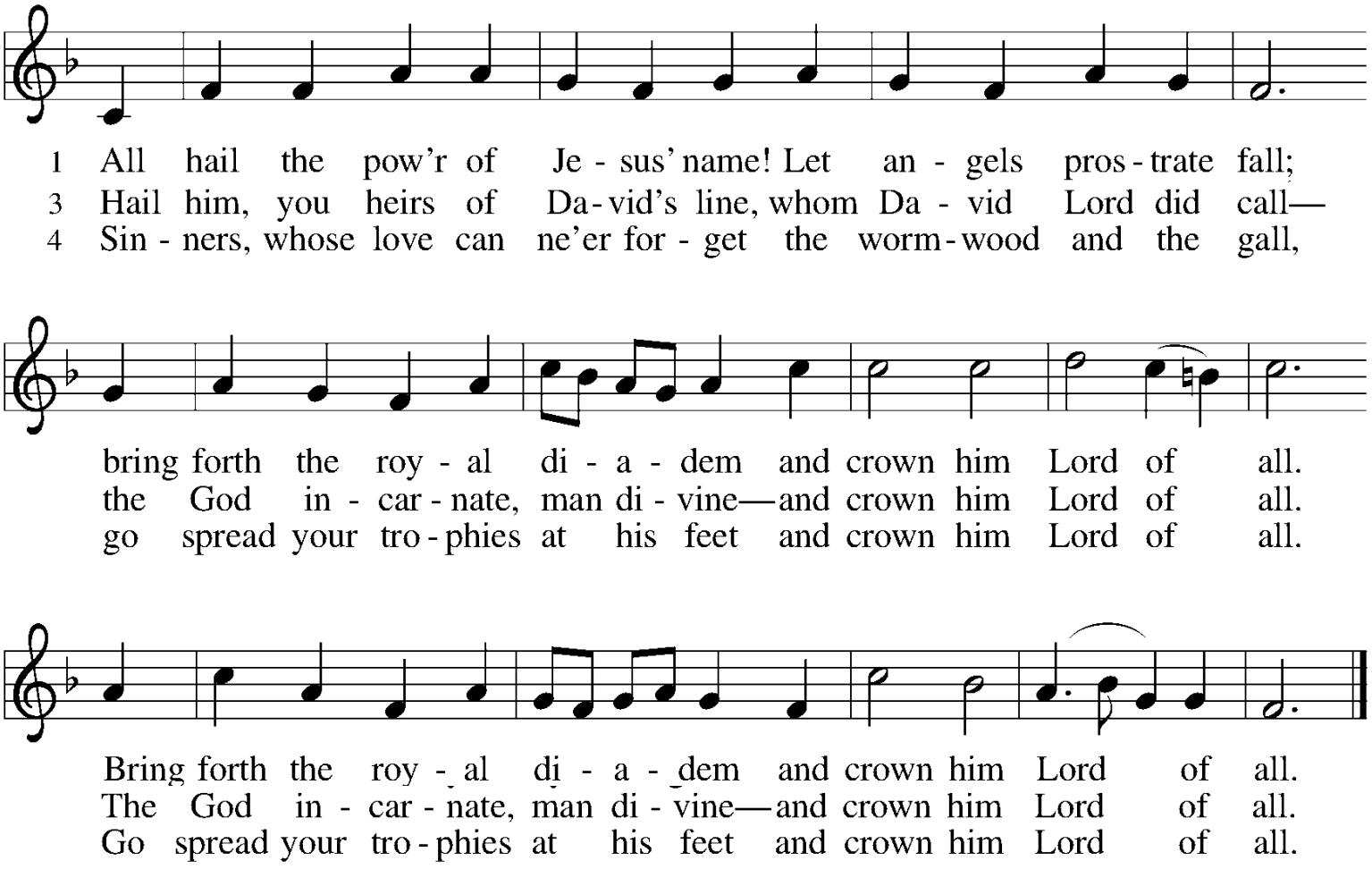
28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and
said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,'
but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second

and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Kid's Sermon Veronica Robb

Sermon Pr. Tita

***Hymn of the Day** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*



Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5–6
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

*Prayers of the People

P: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

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!

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with 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..

*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 *Preghiera* Oreste Ravanello

Anthem *Shout for Joy* Theron Kirk

The Sending

Announcements

*Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn *Oh, Sing to God Above* *(next page)*

Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **C: Thanks be to God.**
(But please stay to vote at the Congregational Meeting!)

Thanks to our worship participants:
Tech Team: Ethan W., David L., Leila S.
Guest Preacher: Pr. Tita Valeriano
Ushers: Todd H.
Reader: Satish R.
Altar Guild: Carol B. & Dave B.
Coffee Host: Karen H.

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Prince of Peace Staff
Anne Hess, *Office Administrator*
Veronica Robb, *Dir. Youth & Family Services*
Barbara Day Turner, *Music Director Emerita*
Daniel Hughes, *Interim Choir Director*
Michael Touchi, *Organist*
Katie Hoffman, *Office Associate*
Kerry Lewis, *Music Staff Associate*

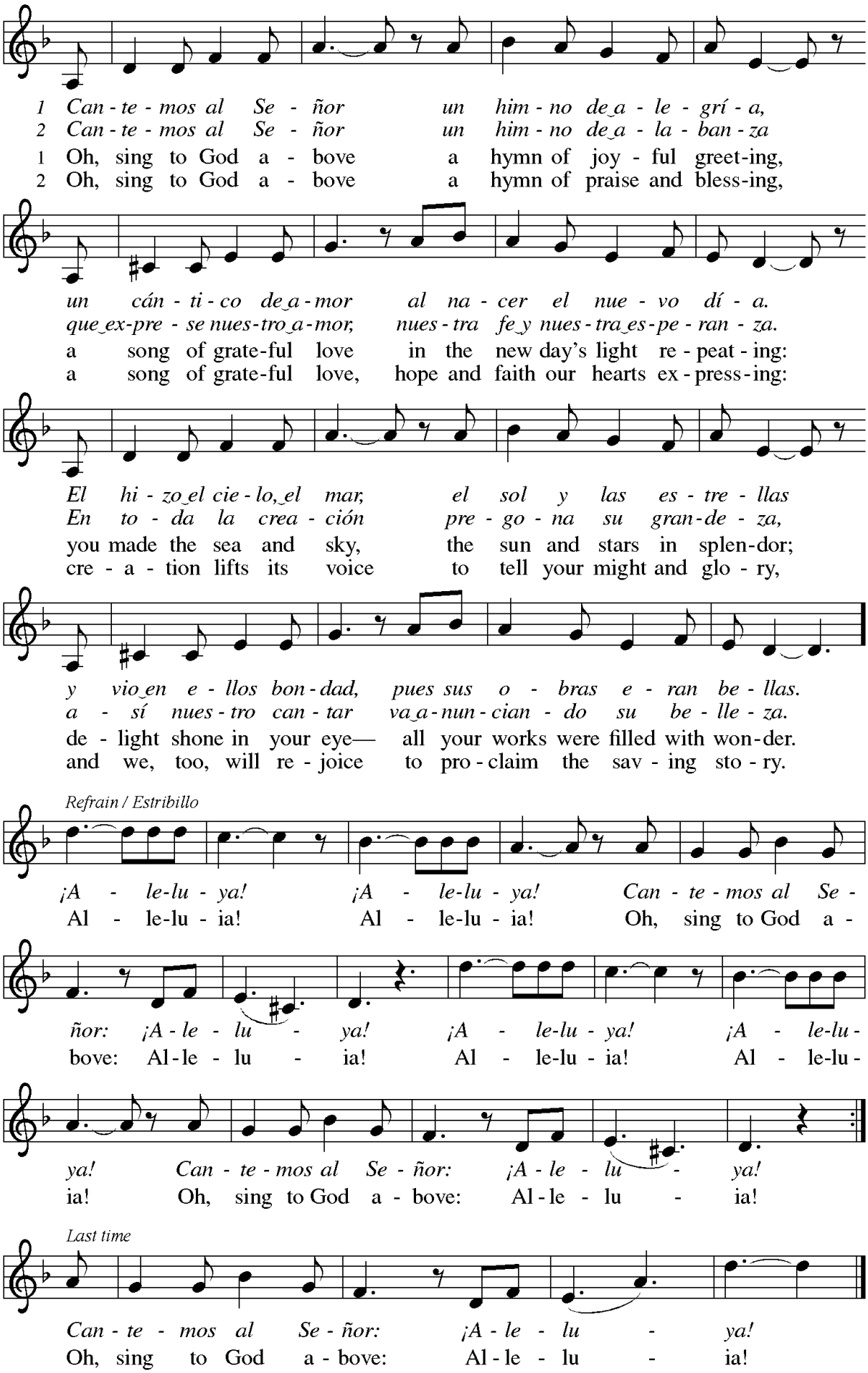
Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us! If you feel inclined, and want a follow-up, use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate so our volunteers can deliver a welcome gift. Learn about upcoming events: ask for a copy of the "Peace Notes", our printed announcements and calendar.

We invite you to learn more about us on our website at propeace.org. Prince of Peace is a congregation in the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA.

PoP is also a member of NAMI-FaithNet, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.

We are proud to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to both racial equity and being a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQIA+ people and their families.

Oh, Sing to God Above

Cantemos al Señor