

Opening Worship
The Assembly Hall – Mountain Holly/Pinyon Pine
Thursday, April 25 at 4:00 p.m.



Prelude – Andrew Peters, Organist & Director of Music, Augustana L.C., Denver, CO

Thanksgiving for Baptism

(Read by Bp. Dave Nagler from the font - Region 2 Bishops and Rev. Nicole Garcia sprinkling!)

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!
Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Infuse this space – this gathering – with your mighty presence.
In wind, fire, and water your presence is made known to us.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!
Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Here is the water of life! Alleluia!
Here is the water of life! Alleluia!

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of water.
We thank you for snow and rain. For ice and glaciers.
For rivers and arroyos, for streams, lakes, and mighty seas.
For fresh drinking water and salty brine.

Here is the water of life! Alleluia!
Here is the water of life! Alleluia!

In the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve tended the garden fed by Eden's verdant rivers.
Your people followed the trail of water and well through the desert.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered a new life

Here is the water of life! Alleluia!
Here is the water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We remember and rejoice in our baptism.
You are the source of our lives and our hope

Here is the water of life! Alleluia!
Here is the water of life! Alleluia!
Amen

Opening Hymn – Take Me to the Water, ACS 957

Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
 2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
 3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,
 4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
 he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009
 Arr. © 1992 Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Reading the names -- A remembrance of clergy and Office of the Bishop staff who have died since our last Assembly (*Rev. Nicole Garcia*) – (*Bell ringer, Jon Johnson*)

Rev. Lawrence Baietti
Rev. Marvin Ritterling
Rev. Lavonne Johnson
Rev. Dale Bauer
Andrew Nakatani
Rev. Andrea Doeden
Rev. Joy Eisenhauer
Rev. Vic Hoops
Rev. Lloyd W Lorensen

Silence

Poetry (*Bishop Brenda Bos*)
There is no remedy for love but to love more.
—Henry David Thoreau

Blessing for the Brokenhearted by Jan Richardson

*Let us agree
for now
that we will not say
the breaking
makes us stronger
or that it is better
to have this pain
than to have done
without this love.*

*Let us promise
we will not
tell ourselves
time will heal
the wound,
when every day
our waking
opens it anew.*

*Perhaps for now
it can be enough
to simply marvel
at the mystery
of how a heart*

*so broken
can go on beating,
as if it were made
for precisely this—
as if it knows
the only cure for love
is more of it,
as if it sees
the heart's sole remedy
for breaking
is to love still,
as if it trusts
that its own
persistent pulse
is the rhythm
of a blessing
we cannot
begin to fathom
but will save us
nonetheless.*

Greeting and Prayer of the Day (*Rev. Nicole Garcia*)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray . . . **Holy God, in you we live, move, and belong. Teach us to live as your holy people. Humble our egos and unite our hearts in faith and service -- Amen**

Reading -- Acts 8:26-40 (*Bishop Jeff Johnson*)

A reading from Acts

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm 25 duet setting by O.B. Brown – Blake Nawa`a and Emily Murdock

Gospel-- John 15:7-17 (*Bp. Jim Gonia*)

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon – Bp. Jim Gonia

Hymn of the Day -- The Church of Christ, in Every Age, ELW 729 – verse 2 duet

Verse 2 – duet, Emily & Blake

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Prayers of the People (*Bishop Deborah Hutterer*)

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of the universe, your creation is infinitely beautiful and beyond our wildest imagination.

You have blessed us with an intricate, fierce creation. Teach us to be wise caretakers of space. Teach us to tend the land with care and engage in sustainable practices. Heal our stubborn selfish ways, and renew the earth with life.

We pray,

Have mercy, O God

God of our ancestors, we honor all of the saints and sinners who have come before us. May we tell their stories, and in telling their stories, may we learn our own.

We pray,

Have mercy, O God

God of the church, unite us. Heal the schisms of pride. Teach us to partner as equals for the sake of humanity. Transform our institutions and our ministries. Change our hearts so we will be known by our love.

We pray,

Have mercy, O God

God of change, calm our nerves and comfort our souls, as we embrace change in all facets of our lives. Teach us to be strong. Give us courage to face the realities of fear, pain, illness, violence, and death. Tonight we pray for . . . and we remember aloud or in our hearts . . .

We pray,

Have mercy, O God

God of community, be with us as we engage in three days of Synod Assembly together. Open our hearts to someone new. Open our minds to a new idea. Open our hearts to the possibilities.

We pray,

Have mercy, O God

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen

Peace (*Rev. Nicole Garcia*)

The peace of Christ be with you always

And also with you

Offering (*Bp. Jim Gonia*)

For many years, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Lutheran synods in northern Madagascar have accompanied one another in deepening relationships, prayer, and ministry as Companion Synods.

Our offerings throughout Assembly will benefit the RMS "Seeds of Hope" fund that will fund four presidents from the Malagasy synods to visit the Rocky Mountain Synod. The RMS "Seeds of Hope" fund also provides support for Batela Regional Seminary, for its mission of training leaders theologically for work in the Malagasy Lutheran Church.

"Seeds of Hope" or Batela Video

Offertory Prayer (*Rev. Nicole Garcia*)

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and our resources to care for the world. Bless the congregations and communities of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. May the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Batela Seminary know that they are not alone as we support their ministries in prayer and with these gifts -- Amen

Great Thanksgiving (*Rev. Nicole Garcia*)

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn . .

Holy, Holy, Holy

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness, you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 in remembrance of me.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy
Great Thanksgiving

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high est, ho - san - na in the high est." The music is in a major key with a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady, rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The vocal line is simple and follows the rhythm of the piano accompaniment.

Music: Per Harting, b. 1945
MHC © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus!

And let the church say, Amen.

Amen

The Assembly is invited to speak the Lord's Prayer in any language or version

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.

Save us from a time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever -- Amen

Instructions:

Communion will be served tonight by intinction. There will be 7 stations: 3 on each side and 1 in the back. Each station has non-alcoholic and gluten-free options. Please indicate your choice to the servers.


During communion, anointing will be available in five stations up front. Once you have received communion, please come forward for a blessing.

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come, eat, and be blessed at God's table.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Communion Servers – 7 stations/14 servers/2 sacristans
Bonita Knox, Colleen Teeuwe, Garrett Struessel, Brittany Kooi, Teri Hermsmeyer, Korra Looschen, Ann Maki, Dave Risendahl,

Anointing – 5 stations
Bishop Jim Gonia
Bishop Deborah Hutterer
Bishop Brenda Bos
Bishop Jeff Johnson
Bishop Dave Nagler

Communion Anthems:

Stabat Mater by Antonin Dvořák – Blake Nawa`a and Emily Murdock
How Can I keep from Singing? arr Alan Bullard – Emily Murdock
Psalm 25 by Antonin Dvořák – Blake Nawa`a

Congregational Hymns (printed at the end of this document)

Let Us Break Bread Together – ELW 471 – verse 2 Emily & Blake

How Good, Lord, to Be Here - ELW 315

Beautiful Savior - ELW 838 – verse 1 All, verse 2 Emily, verse 3 Blake, verse 4 All

Prayer after communion

God of all creation, you have given us the elements to sustain us, and filled us with good food. Through this meal, we are united with Christ, making us one with all of humanity. Fill us with your grace.

Amen

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

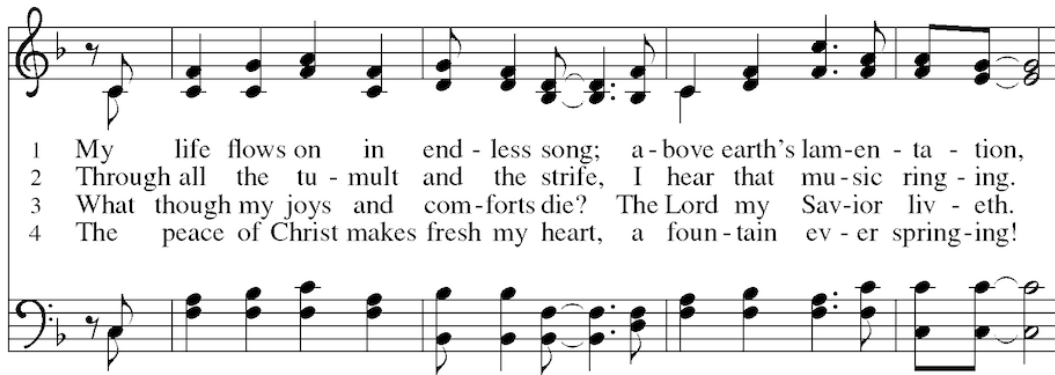
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

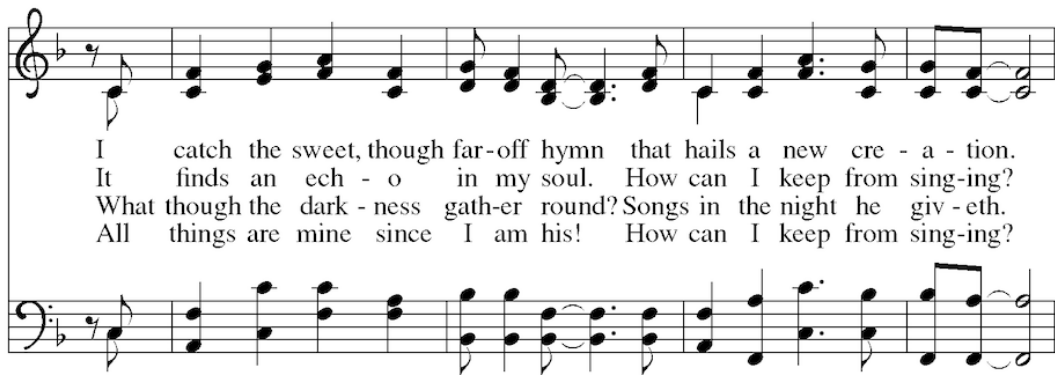
Amen

Closing Hymn – My Life Flows On in Endless Song, ELW 763

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

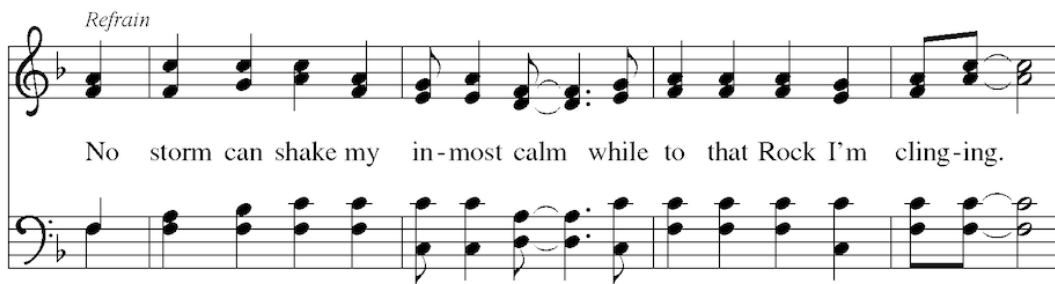


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Sending
Alleluia! Rejoice and be glad.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Verse 2 is a duet (Emily & Blake)

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The treble staff contains three vocal lines with lyrics. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a melodic line.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system continues the musical notation from the first system, with the same three vocal lines and bass accompaniment.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

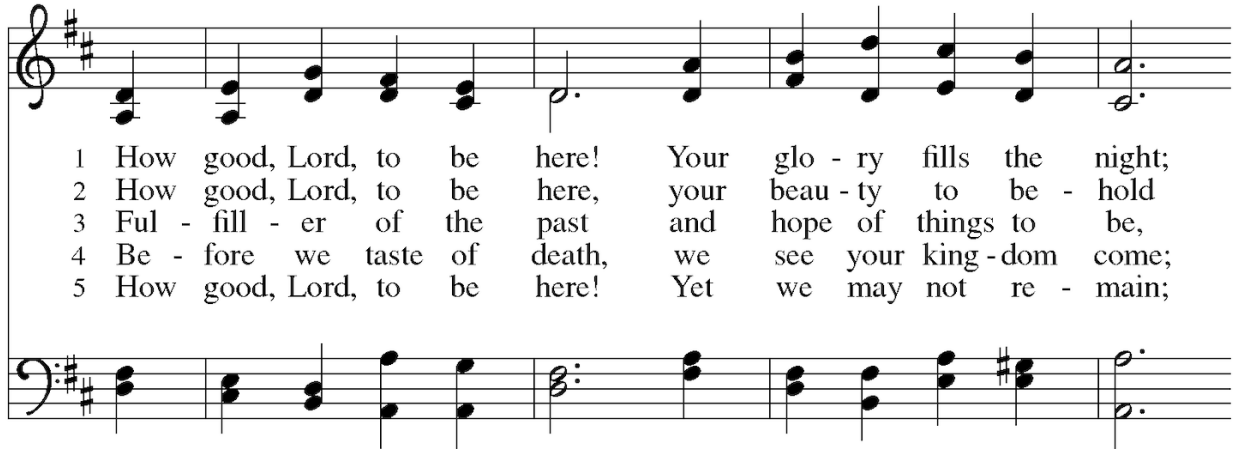
The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a single vocal line with lyrics. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

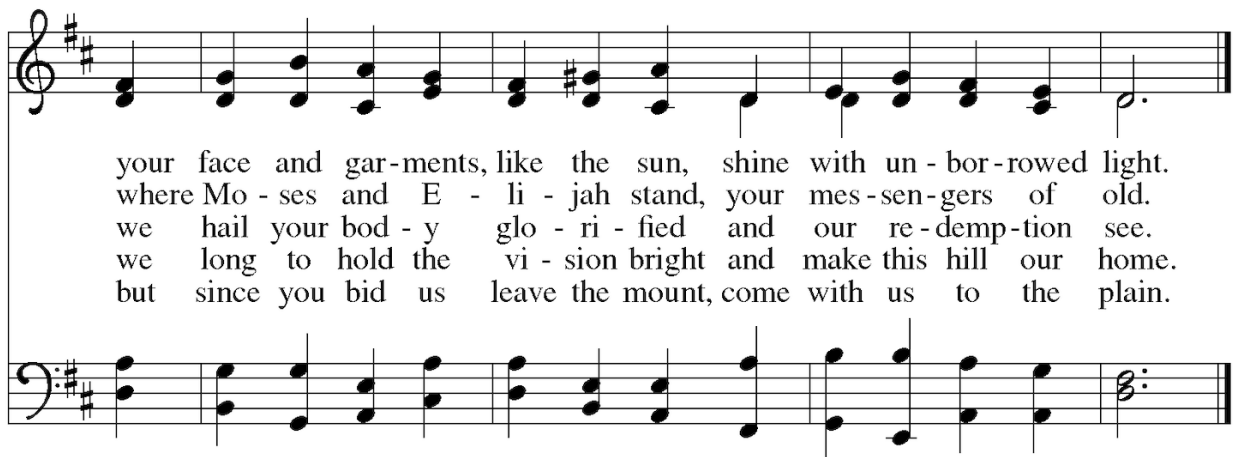
The second system of the Refrain continues the musical notation, ending with a double bar line and repeat sign.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

verse 1 All, verse 2 Emily, verse 3 Blake, verse 4 All

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!