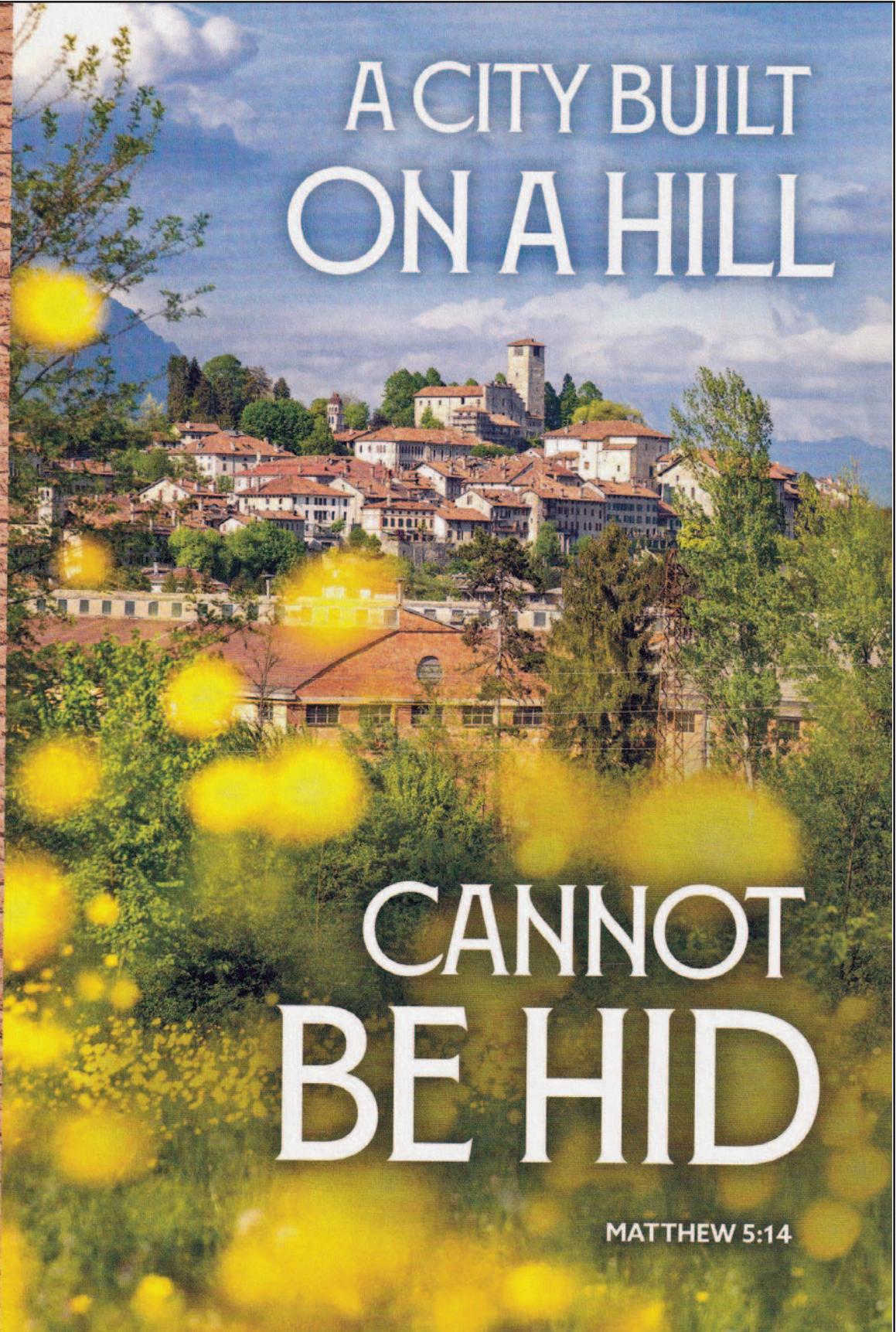


St. John Lutheran Church



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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY • FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C. **Amen.**

P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

P. Most merciful God,

C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Gather Us In (#532)

Apostolic Greeting

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

C. **And also with you.**

Kyrie p. 147

P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**
- Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**
- This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Response: "Light shines in the darkness for the upright."

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. R**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ]

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children’s Sermon

Anthem

Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Xavier Alexander Wilson *(See Baptismal Booklet)*

Prayers of Intercession

As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones (areas of conflict may be named). We pray for our enemies.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (especially).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God’s loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Great Thanksgiving p. 152

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface p. 153

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Communion p. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns: Beautiful Savior (#838)

I Love To Tell The Story (#661)

Let Us Break Bread Together (#471))

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Hymn: Christ Be Our Light (#715)

Dismissal

Postlude

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
	11:15 am	Youth Chime/Vocal Choir
	11:30 am	Bell Choir (<i>every other Sunday</i>)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Monday, February 9th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, February 11th	2:00 pm	Valentine's Tea in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, February 14th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Wednesday, February 18th	Noon	Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, February 18th	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Wednesday February 25th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper in the Ed. Building

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Tracey Drew	Tracey Kelly	Bill Murray	Eric Sprengel
Krystal Booras	Indie Fisher	Carl Knopp	Renate Murray	Bill Steel
Michael Botti	Rhea Fryor	Eunice Knopp	Erica Polito	Bill Todd
Brian Byrnes	Bob Garner	Donna Leek	Samantha Reed	George Vaneman, Sr.
Randy Cantoral	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Kimberly Rickert	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Ashley Rosser	Beverly Warming
Sandra DeRitis	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Larry Mirabile	Dorcas Schellhas	Mary White
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Melanie Miles	Finn Schureman	Helen Yezusko
Frank Donovan	Makenzie Jack	Kent Montford	Gladys Sheppard	Bob Zielsdorf
Marie Lentine Douglas	Ed Kagen	Sue Murphy	Frank Siderio III	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.

WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

The cost (\$23) of the Weekly Worship Bulletin to fully cover the cost of paper and printing is donated by Henry and Marie Fickenscher in memory of their loved ones.

This Worship Bulletin is printed on paper that is made with renewable resources from third-party certified, sustainably managed forests.

Please place any Worship Bulletins to be discarded in the recycle bin in the narthex.

**ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094**

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 9th
7:00 pm in the Parish House



Special Valentine Tea at
St. John's Lutheran Church
Wednesday, February 11th at 2:00 pm
in the Parish House Tea Room
All Are Welcome!

THE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON Saturday, February 14th at 11:30 am in the Ed. Building.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



Ash Wednesday Services
February 18th

Imposition of Ashes: Noon
Ash Wednesday Worship Service: 7:00 pm



Wednesday Lenten SOUP Suppers

FEBRUARY 25th
MARCH 4th • 11th • 18th • 25th
6:00 pm in the Ed. Building

Bring your favorite soup, side or dessert
to share and participate in the Lenten Study.



We are accepting donations of
Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.
Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

Gather Us In

532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing,
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry,
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing,

now is the dark - ness
 we are the old who
 here we will take the
 not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Beautiful Savior

838

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! Man!
 Son of God and Son of Man! spring; high; 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!

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

Musical notation for the first part of the refrain. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, primarily in the soprano and alto voices. The lyrics are: "I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry".

Musical notation for the second part of the refrain. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: "to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love." The bass line provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords.

Let Us Break Bread Together

471

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;

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.

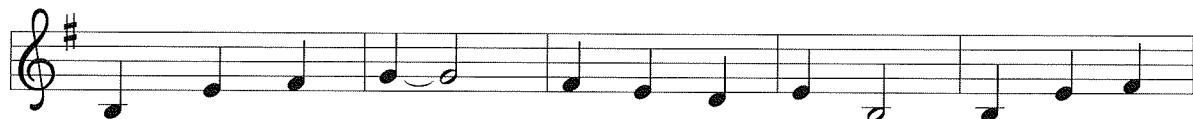
Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Christ, Be Our Light

715



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

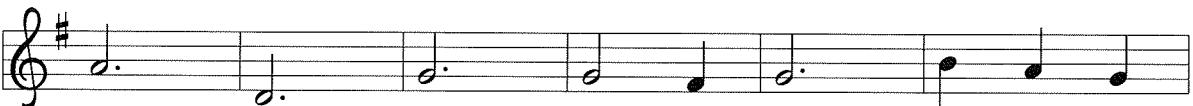


your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
 to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to-day.