

"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024

The Holy Eucharist The Word of God

Prelude Voluntary "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Hymn tune: Azmon Greg Bottomley

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the

Please see page 8

thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthi-

ly magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Canticle of Praise: Glory to God

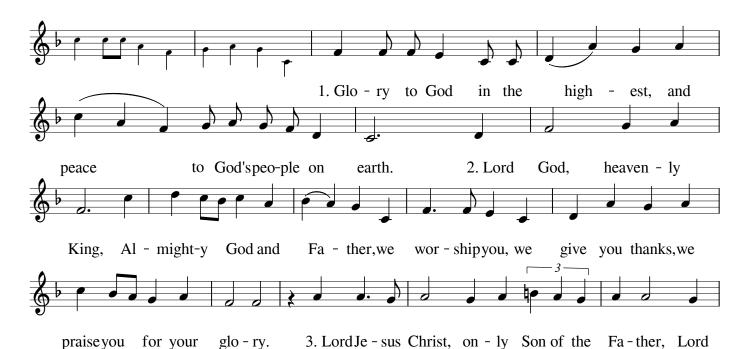
People

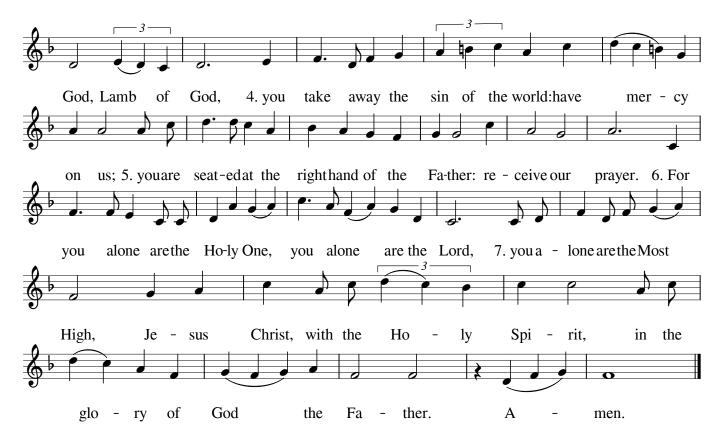
Processional Hymn (Please stand as able)

Hymnal~S280

#569 | "God, the Omnipotent!"







The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People Amen.

First Reading (Please be seated)

Reader A Reading from Deuteronomy:

Introduction to the First Reading

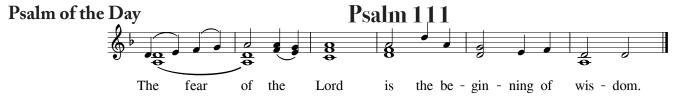
As the Israelite community waits to enter the promised land, Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,

in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the deeds of the LORD!

they are studied by all who delight in them.

[ANT.]

His work is full of majesty and splendor,

and his righteousness endures for ever.

He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

[ANT.]

He gives food to those who fear him;

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works

in giving them the lands of the nations. [ANT.]

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;

all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity.

[ANT.]

He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever;

holy and awesome is his Name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

his praise endures for ever.

Second Reading

Reader A Reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Introduction to the Second Reading

For Paul the gospel means freedom from servitude to the law-a freedom exercised in love. Charity to one's fellow Christians and concern for their opinions and faith should take first place.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn (Please stand as able) – Please see page 9

#371 | "Thou, Whose Almighty Word"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark: Deacon

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Holy Gospel (The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.)

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord. People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed (Please stand as able)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People The Leader and People pray responsively.

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, let us pray for all who need the cleansing power of the Holy One of God.

For the church and all seek the truth of God.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Kevin our bishop, for our parish clergy, Father Tom and Deacon Harry, and for our guest priest, Father Ed, and for all who minister in Christ.

God, hear our prayer.

For prophets in every land who rebuke the spirits of greed and violence, oppression and despair.

God, hear our prayer.

For those requiring ongoing care, for those burdened by anguish or illness, and for those who care for them with love and healing.

God, hear our prayer.

For all those seeking a deeper faith that they may experience the liberation of the spirit.

God, hear our prayer.

For those who have died and are in the presence of God's holy power.

God, hear our prayer.

For the many blessings of our lives, for ourselves and all those we love.

God, hear our prayer.

Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed St. John the Baptist and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

Celebrant

God our Teacher, speaking with holy authority, liberating us from the forces of evil, hear the prayers we offer this day and give us courage as we proclaim your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin (Please kneel as able or be seated)

Reader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (Silence may be kept)

People

Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace (Please stand as able)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

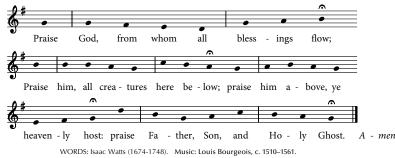
The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to: The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR Securely online through our website - https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html

Offertory Sentence

Doxology (The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung. Please stand as able)



Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

#304 | "I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord"

Hymnal S129

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And also with you. Celebrant Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. People

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.

the name of

comes in

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

- san - na in the

High-est.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed St. John the Baptist, our patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People Our Father, who art in heaven, And forgive us our trespasses,

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.

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,

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed

for ever and ever. Amen.

on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You can commune host only, dip the host in the intinction chalice, or drink from the common cup.

Gluten free hosts available, please ask the priest.

Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or be seated)

Celebrant Let us pray.

People God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table

with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy,

send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,

born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Benediction (Please stand as able)

Recessional Hymn (Please stand as able) Please see page 11 #493 | "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Andante Georg Philipp Telemann

We was better to gravity and lower to gravity and the Collaborate for Many this Loyd's Dayl

We are happy to again welcome warmly Father Ed Godden as the Celebrant for Mass this Lord's Day! And we are blessed to have Deacon Harry as the Homilist!

Father Tom is away from the parish, but is always available by phone (301-807-2298) if you're experiencing a pastoral emergency.

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 $\textit{The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector} \qquad \textit{Email-rectorstjohnthe baptist @gmail.com}$

The Rev. Harry Hiltner, Deacon, Homilist & Chalicer

Linda Tuttle, Eucharistic Minister

Elizabeth Scheer, Acolyte

J. Edwin Stout, Lay Reader

Scott Kresge, Minister of Music & Minister of Technology

Elizabeth Scheer, Cantor

Jim Greenwell, Usher

Bel Gwiazdowski & Beverly Obenchain, Fellowship Hosts

Elizabeth Scheer, Jim Mulholland, Susan Mattia, Technology Ministry

Doris Schirmer & Jean Skocypec, Altar Guild

This Week at St. John the Baptist

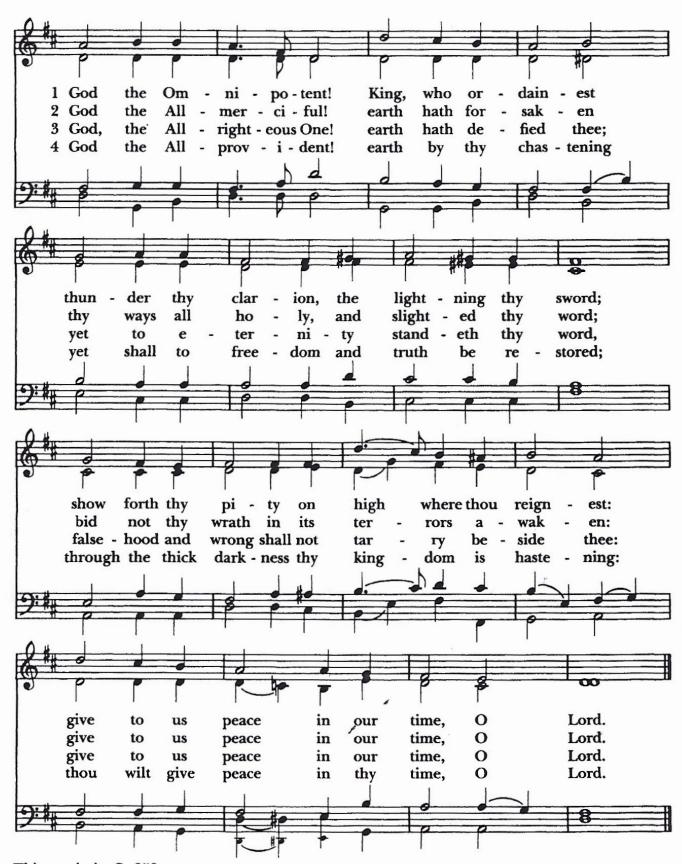
Wednesday - Bible Discussion, 2 pm - Choir Rehearsal, 5 pm

Share Pictures & Videos of Parish Life using this QR Code with Your Smart Phone Camera.



Christian Responsibility

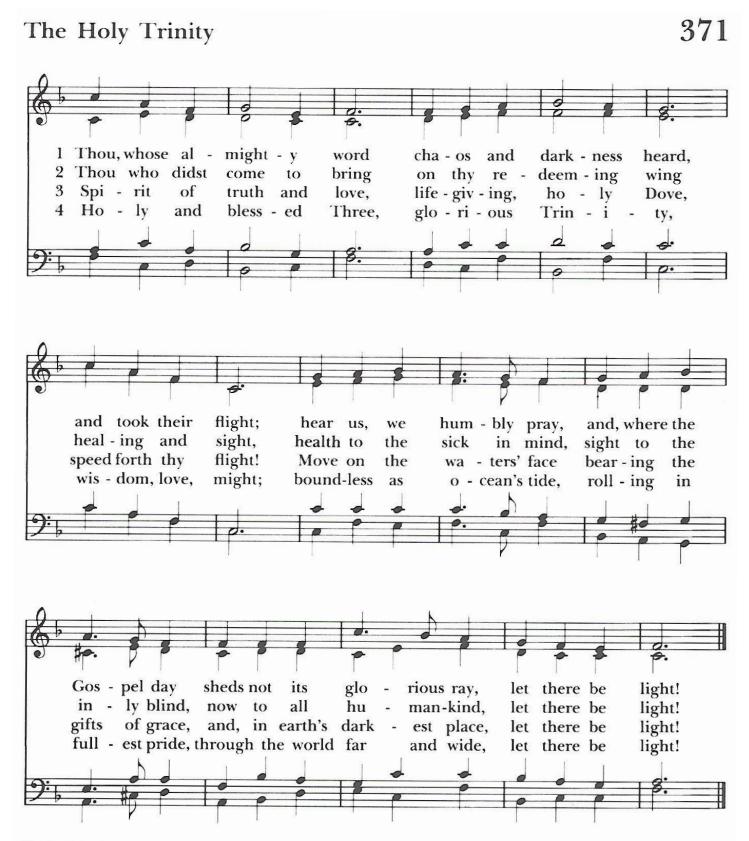
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This music in C, 358.

Words: Sts. 1-2, Henry Fothergill Chorley (1808-1872), alt.; sts. 3-4, John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: Russia, Alexis Lvov (1799-1870)

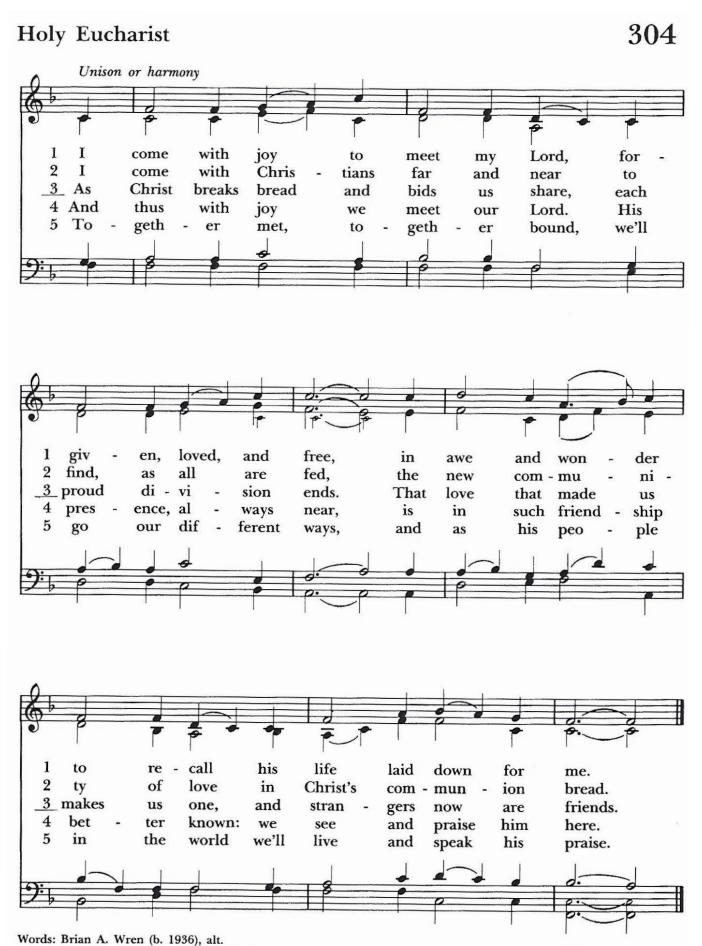
J₌₅₈



Words: John Marriott (1780-1825), alt.

Music: Moscow, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. The New Hymnal, 1916, based on Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

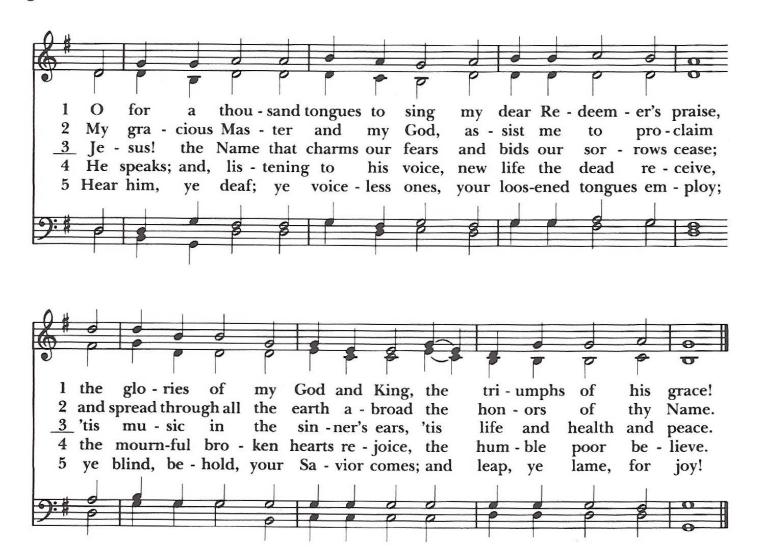
664. 6664



Music: Land of Rest, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

Jesus Christ our Lord

493



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

CM