POWER IN THE SPIRIT



Saturday, July 18, 2026
Sending Service with Commissioning

Virginia Lutherans
Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO WORSHIP "It Is Well With My Soul" *Bliss/Lanier*

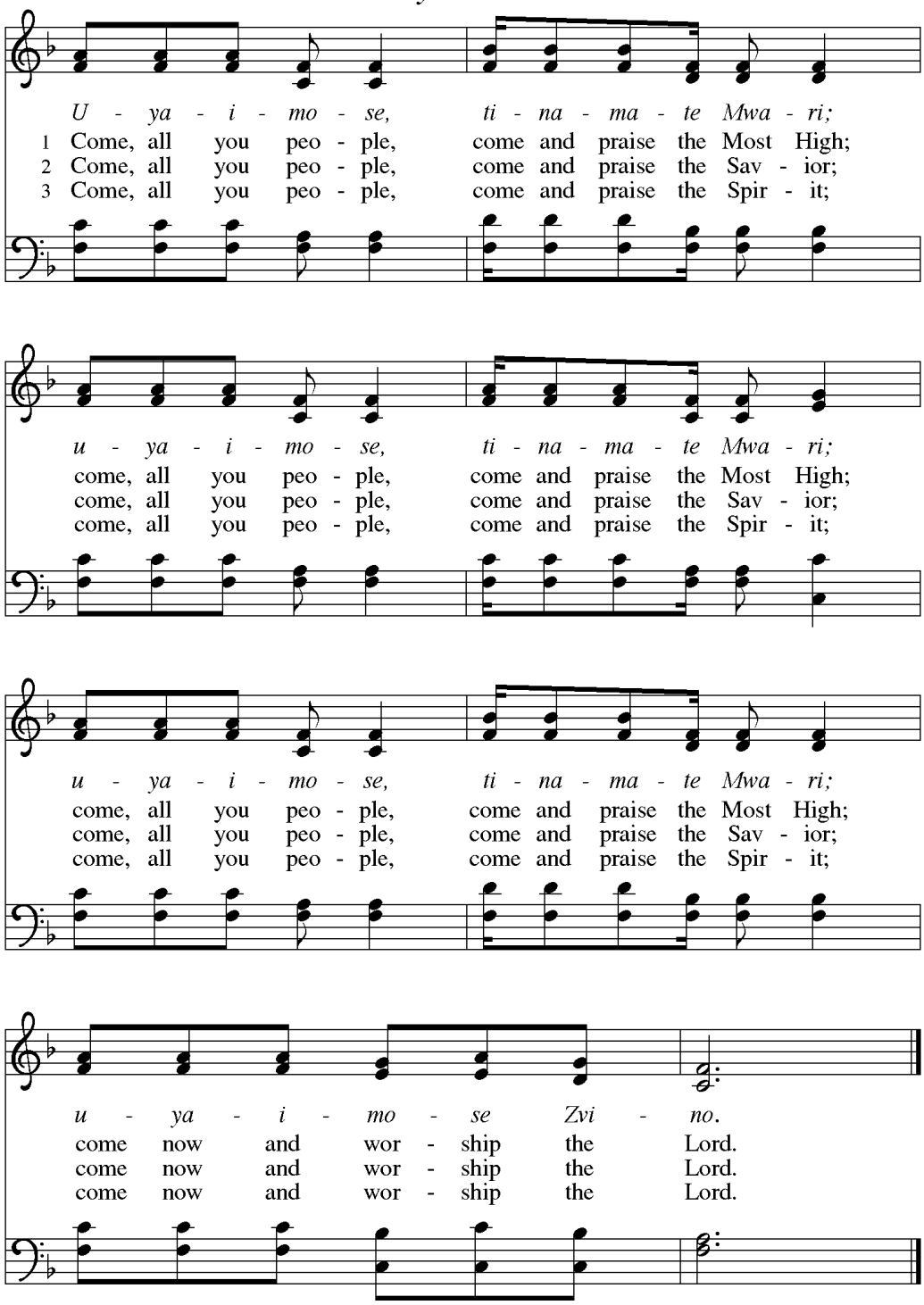
Duet with The Revered Heidi Moore (Flute) and Dante Fowler (Trumpet)

GATHERING HYMN

Please rise as you are able.

Come, All You People

Uyaimose



Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.
Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

A LITANY OF THE SPIRIT

The Spirit EMPOWERS the saints to move and work among all of God's people.
Weave us together to spread God's love through our deeds and actions.

The Spirit EQUIPS the saints to teach and preach God's holy word.
Broaden our understanding of God's word.

The Spirit ENLIGHTENS the saints to gain greater knowledge and understanding of your love.
Illumine our hearts with your Holy Spirit, setting our hearts on fire.

GLORIA PATRI

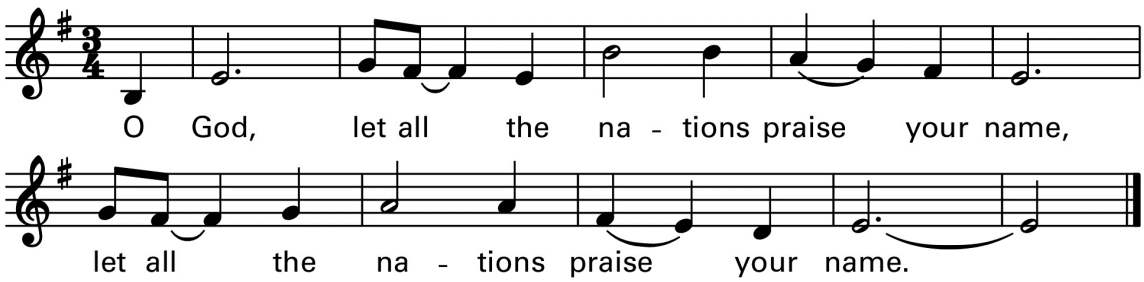
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit move us to work, send us to preach, and fill us with your knowledge, so that we can believe and share the good news that you are healing this wounded world and raising us to the new life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

PSALM 67 Oh God, Let All the Nations Timothy R. Smith

The cantor will sing the verses and the assembly will respond by singing the refrain.



1. Lord, look with favor on us; show us your face.
   Reveal to the faithful your way, Lord,
   salvation for all the world. ***Refrain.***

2. May the nations sing and be glad, for your word governs all the world.
   Your justice will guide all nations, all people
   on the earth. ***Refrain.***

3. Lord, may we sing your praise; may we sing to you all of our days.
   O God, we ask you to bless us,
   as we honor your name. ***Refrain.***

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Acts 10:34-44**

[34] Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, [35] but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. [36] You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. [37] That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: [38] how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. [39] We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, [40] but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, [41] not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. [42] He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. [43] All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

[44] While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.

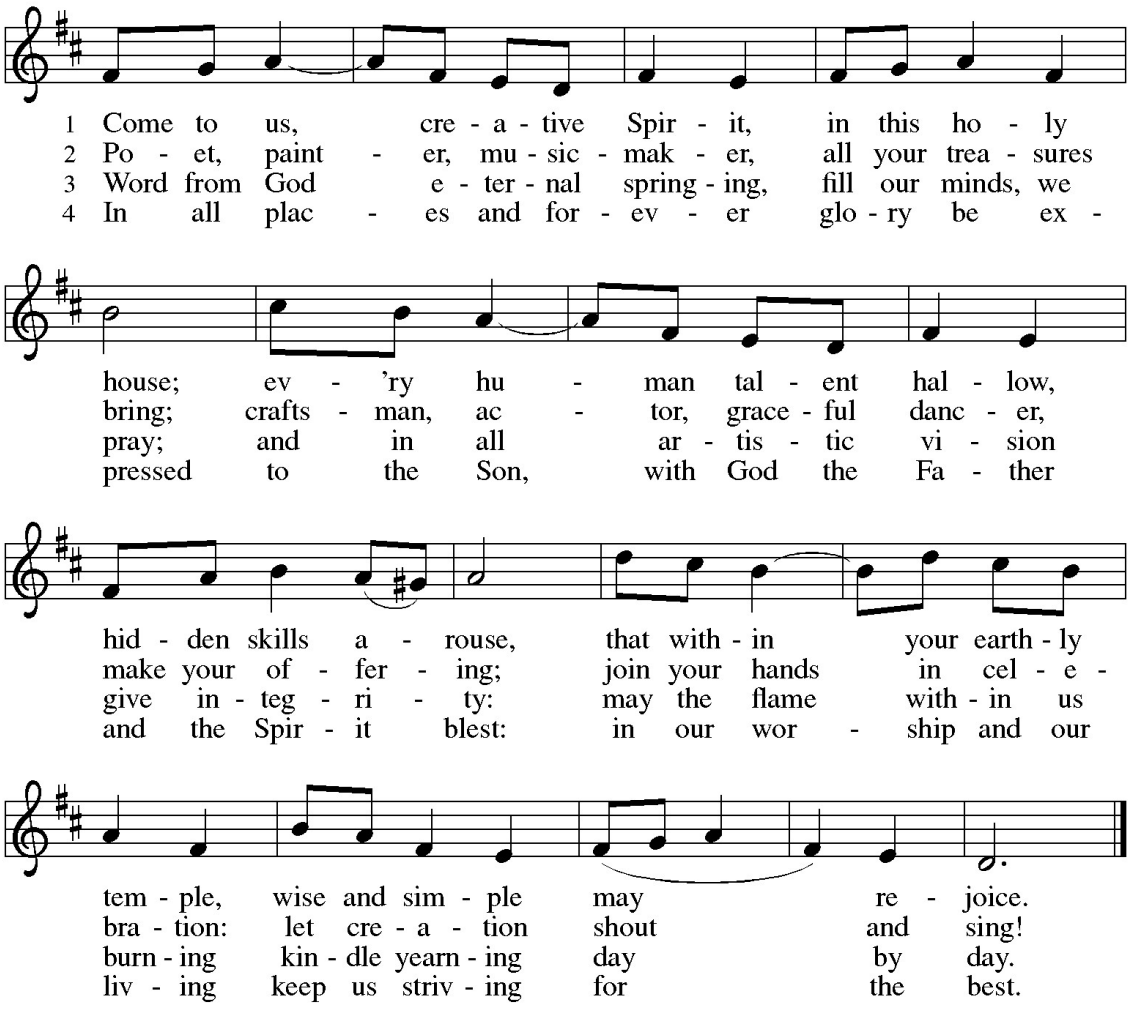
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Spirit Does What?* Martin Paulson, SAM, Shiloh Evangelical Lutheran Church

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Us, Creative Spirit



Text: David Mowbray, b. 1938
Music: CASTLEWOOD, Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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COMMISSIONING OF VIRGINIA SYNOD LAY MINISTERS

Affirmation of Baptism – by the Assembly

The assembly stands. The presiding minister addresses the whole assembly.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism
as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.
Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own
by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called us to yourself,
enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished us in the community of faith.
Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

Profession of Faith

The leader addresses the assembly, all of whom are making affirmation of their baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Affirmation

The leader continues to address the assembly.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The leader addresses all who are present.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The assembly is seated.

Commissioning of Synod Lay Ministers

Presentation

A member of the Lay Ministry Academy Team addresses the assembly and invites Virginia Synod Lay Ministry candidates to come forward and stand before the bishop.

Members of the Lay Ministry Academy, as well as any Virginia Synod Lay Ministers, who are present are invited to come forward and stand to the side, in support of these Commissioned Lay Ministry candidates.

After prayerful consideration, we certify that these faithful and gifted children of God
have been identified, instructed, formed, and equipped for service
as Virginia Synod Commissioned Lay Ministers:

The leader speaks the NAMES of Lay Ministry candidates to be commissioned.
The names may also be spoken by Lay Ministry Academy leaders, if present.

David Broyles	**William Luders**	**Wendy Miller**
Karen Nguyen	**Diane Strait**	**Russell Strait**

Address

The presiding minister continues:

All baptized Christians are called to share
in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world,
to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

These candidates for Virginia Synod Commissioned Lay Ministry
are our co-workers in the gospel,
gifted by God and authorized by the bishop of the Virginia Synod
to serve as Commissioned Lay Ministers
within the congregations and ministry sites to which they will be appointed.

Readers address the Lay Ministry candidates:

A reading from Romans: Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. *(Romans 12.4-8 NIV)*

Questions

As you begin this new chapter of ministry,
responding to God's grace and gifts in your life:
Will you continue your study of the holy scriptures
and be faithful in your use of the means of grace?
All respond together:
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you serve following the holy scriptures,
and with the creeds and confessions of the Lutheran church?
All respond together:
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you serve in partnership with the Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop and the
ministers of Word and Sacrament and the ministers of Word and Service in the ELCA?
Will you encourage and support the ministers and the congregations
of the Virginia Synod in their ministries?
All respond together:
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.
The assembly responds:
Amen.

Blessing
Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The blessing is repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head or shoulders of the person and say:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in *NAME* the gift of your Holy Spirit;
confirm *her/his/their* faith,
guide *her/his/their* life,
empower *her/him/them* in *her/his/their* serving,
give *her/him/them* patience in suffering,
and bring *her/him/them* to everlasting life.
Amen.

Once each person has received a blessing, the presiding minister continues:
Let us pray:
Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit
you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name.
Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation
of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I commission you as Virginia Synod Lay Ministers
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Acclamation
The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

HYMN "Jesus, You Once Called Disciples" Tune: Ode To Joy

Jesus, you once called disciples, choosing twelve to follow you:
Simon (also known as Peter), Andrew and Bartholomew,
Philip, Thomas, James and Matthew, Simon, Thaddaeus, John, and James —
Then there was the one called Judas. These were your disciples' names.

Women, too, were your disciples, sitting, learning, at your feet.
Mary knew your word was precious, even more than food to eat.
Martha trusted in your power when her brother Laz'rus died.
Women shared your journey, Lord, and stayed when you were crucified.

Lord, so many heard and followed, like the woman at the well.
Meeting you, the living water, she sought others she could tell.
Like the boy with loaves and fishes, like Zacchaeus in the tree,
Many gladly heard your message; many shared your ministry.

Jesus, still you call your people, "Come and follow me today!"
Some, like Paul, feel sudden wonder; some are brought up in your way.
Lord, no matter how we meet you, by your Spirit, make us new.
May we know your living presence; may we daily follow you.

BLESSING OF *PASTA WITH A PURPOSE* FOR ROANOKE COLLEGE

Lord, bless these gifts of sauces, pasta, and seasonings for Roanoke College students. Let these items be symbols of love and support we give to the young adults of God in this community throughout the year. Help us to look upon everyone in this community as one of our own, helping them to grow in their academic, behavioral, vocational, and developmental goals. We pray this in the name of the one who gives growth to all, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OFFERTORY "In Christ Alone" Townsend/Getty/arr. Angerman

Power in The Spirit Conference Choir

This year's worship offering will go to The Horizon Apprenticeship Program. You can use the QR code below if you wish.

Horizon Apprenticeship Program is an innovative, year-round initiative that empowers youth and young adults, ages 16-20, from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds to grow as leaders through hands-on ministry, mentorship, and community engagement. Through the program, they will:

- *Develop practical leadership skills in a supportive, faith-based environment*
- *Make a meaningful impact in your congregation, camp, or community*
- *Connect with a network of peers and mentors from across the ELCA*
- *Earn a stipend while growing in purpose and confidence*

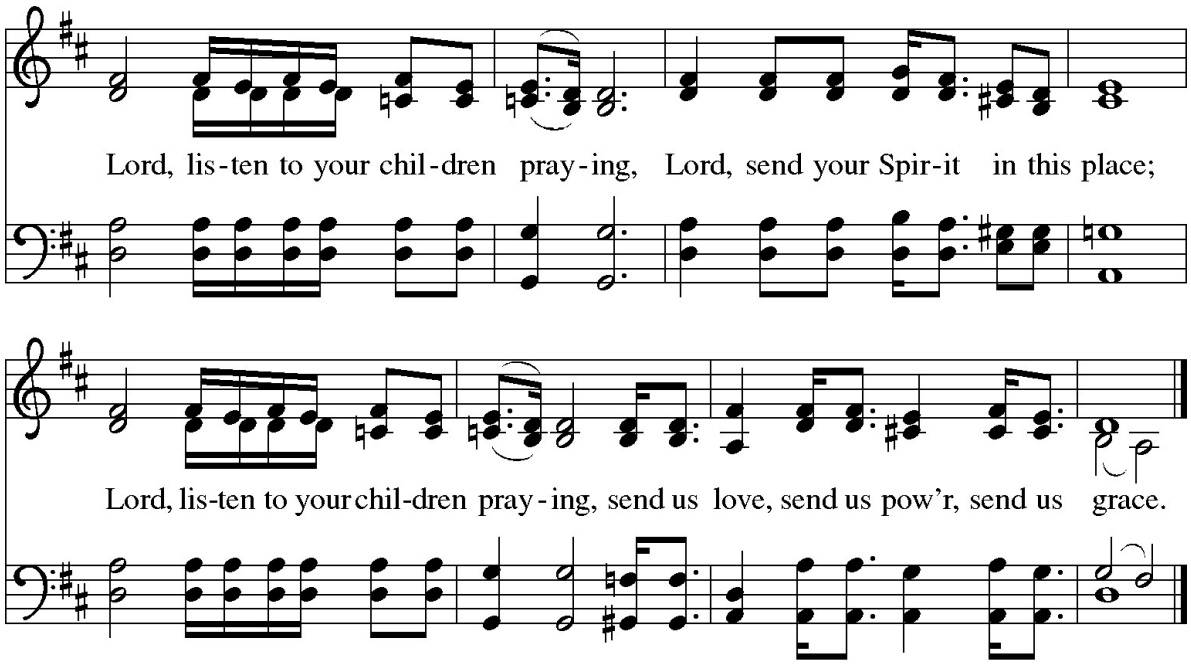
Join in shaping the future of the church and the world.

Worship continues with the Prayers of the People

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We will begin the Prayers of Intercession with the following hymn and then after the prayers end with the same hymn. Each petition ends with: Spirit of God. The response is: **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943
Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema
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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

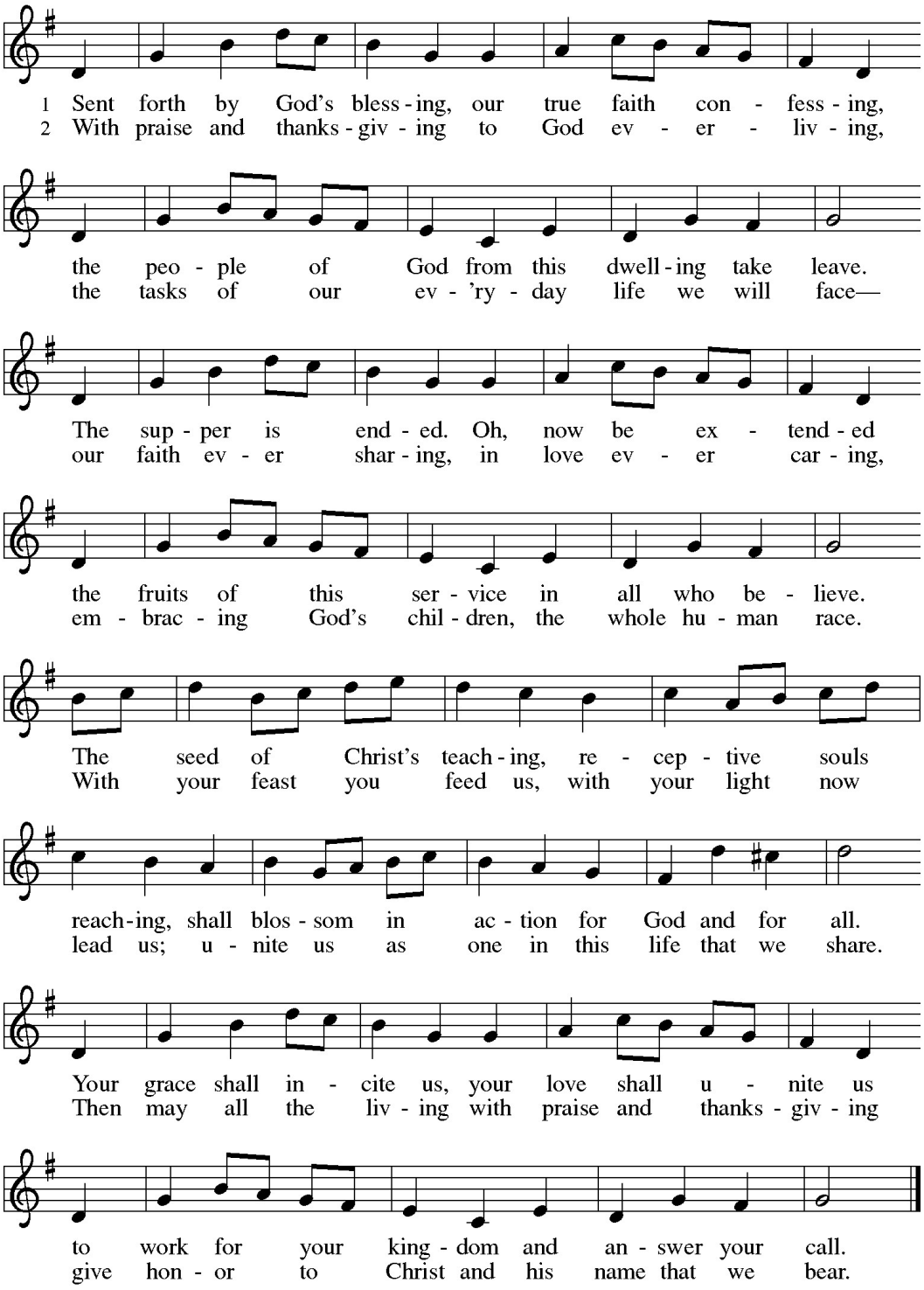
SENDING

May the Spirit of God EMPOWER, EQUIP, and ENLIGHTEN all of God's children, fill us with hope, joy, and peace as w go forth from this event filled with *Power in The Spirit*. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Spirit. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE "He Never Failed Me Yet" Dr. Robert Ray

Alli Beck, Soloist, and the Power in The Spirit Conference Choir

Worship leaders are:

Preacher—Martin Paulson, Synodically Authorized Minister, Shiloh, Christiansburg, VA

Presider of Commissioning—Bishop, The Reverend Doctor Phyllis Blair Milton, Virginia Synod

Installation assisted by—The Reverend Colleen Hetrick, Assistant to the Bishop, Virginia Synod

Members of the Lay Ministry Academy Team

Assisting Minister—Donna Gum

Music Director—Michael Benshish

Musicians—Alli Beck, Soloist; The Reverend Heidi Moore, Flute; Diane Colin, Flute; Dante Fowler, Trumpet; Suzanne McGuire, Soprano/Alto Section Leader; Larry Giddens, Tenor/Bass Section Leader; the Power in The Spirit Conference Choir

Liturgy, Come, All You People, We Are All In One Mission,, Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying, and, Come to Us, Creative Spirit From Sundays and Seasons.com.

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Tune: Ode To Joy, Beethoven, Public Domain

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Thank you for joining us at the
2026 Summer Power In The Spirit!

Travel home safely and please do not forget to fill out the evaluation form!