The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.



Welcome to our
Worship Service
In-Person & Streaming Online

+ + +

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Trinity Sunday

First Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

May God's loving presence be very real to you, and may you receive strength and guidance today That will enable you to handle life's challenges.



Children's Bulletins

Crayons and activity bulletins are available in the narthex.

The activities match today's Bible readings and are designed for 3-6 & 7-12 year olds.

Biblias en Español

Biblias Bilingües en Español y Inglés están disponible en el vestíbulo narthex en la mesa de visitantes azul. (Bilingual Bibles in Spanish & English are available in the narthex hallway on the blue visitors' table).

Nursery

Persons of all ages (including children) are welcome to participate in the entire worship service. For an additional option, we have a supervised nursery for 0-8 year olds, located on the first floor. Please see Nursery Coordinators, Laurie Ostimchuk, Beth Miller & Geri Gammel if you are in need of the nursery.

Junior Worship

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, following the mini message, the option of "Junior Worship" is offered downstairs for elementary age children to learn more about today's scripture lessons with fellow youth.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located both on the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Changing Tables

All four of our restrooms have changing tables. Each restroom has two "child care protection seats" to keep toddlers safe and secure while their parents use the restroom.

Water Fountains

Water fountains are located on both the first and second floors to the left of the elevator.

Sunday School & Adult Faith Formation Classes

Classes for all ages are held at 9:00am.

Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is held at 10:15am.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for those in grades 5-12 (or ages 12-20 years old), meets on the 2nd and Last Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:00pm. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Young Children & Family Ministries

This ministry's focus is on children younger than youth group and their families, and most of the monthly activities are welcoming of children of all ages. Members and visitors alike are welcome.

Prayer and Care

If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list, or request a pastoral call, please call or email the church office. You are welcome to take home with you a copy of *Our Daily Bread* daily devotional booklet, located on a table in the narthex hallway.

Looking for a Church to Call Home

If you are looking for a new church family home, we would be happy for you to consider United Church of Christ of Robesonia. For more information about our church, we invite you to talk with our pastors, an usher, a greeter, or any member of our church.

More Information...

www.sprucc.org

Additional literature about our missions, ministries, and fellowship opportunities is located on the *Blue Visitor Table* in the narthex hallway, or contact us using the contact information on the front page of this bulletin.

Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you or if there is any way in which we can help make your worship experience more meaningful.

{Symbols used in this bulletin: *= if able please stand; ♪# = Red Hymnal Page; ♬# = Blue Hymnal Page}

Virtual Worship Service

Online: <u>Live Stream</u> at <u>spruce.org</u> - Live or Watch & Listen Later on <u>Our YouTube Channel</u>

Facebook Live at https://www.facebook.com/www.spruce.org/ - Live or Watch & Listen Later

Phone Stream at 1-888-649-5770 - Live or Listen Later

If you have any access problems, please let us know at 610-621-5770 or Office@sprucc.org



Free WiFi

ORDER FOR WORSHIP We Gather

We are coming together as a community of faith to worship our God, and provide for one another our love, support, and care.

A TIME OF GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

{If you have not already done so, please sign and pass the pew welcome pad to the person next to you.}

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP [®] (Unison)

Triune God, known to us in more ways than we can count, we marvel at the mystery of life, and wonder at your attention to our lives. As we ponder the vast expanse of space, we are fascinated by distances too extensive to understand. The times we have measured are a tiny ripple in your eternity. Yet you have honored this planet by revealing yourself in the life and ministry of Jesus and the empowerment of your Holy Spirit. Let us experience your presence in this time of worship. Amen.

PRELUDE "Spirit of God; O Breath of Life"

two hymns arranged for piano by Cindy Berry

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Processional Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

▶ Red #1
Public Domain

*INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of God the Father,

and of God the Son,

and of God the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP ²

Leader: How majestic is God's name in all the earth!

We see God's glory in the expanse of the heavens.

People: All plants and animals are God's creation.

All that God has made reflects God's goodness.

Leader: Gather to praise God and greet one another.

Celebrate all the ways God is revealed to us.

People: We worship the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

We rejoice in Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit.

We Repent

This is a time to confess our wrongdoings and neglects, ask for God's mercy, admit our need for God's forgiving grace, hear the assurance of our forgiveness, and then give God our thanks and praise.

*Call to Confession ² (Leader)

All that God has created is labeled "very good." Life in all its forms is complex and interrelated. Human life is precious and marvelously linked. Let us confess our neglect and irresponsibility in relation to all creation and to one another.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ² (Unison)

Amazing God, the more we learn of your creation, the more we are filled with awe and wonder. Yet, our vision narrows to our limited concerns, and we forget the immense reaches of the stewardship to which you appoint us. We have not taken good care of your creation, Earth, which is our home. We have not cared well for one another as sisters and brothers. Our doubts outweigh our obedience. O God, help us fulfill our baptism and claim our discipleship, as forgiven and forgiving sinners. Help us to risk reaching out to all people and all nations leading them to the baptism of Christ. Amen.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

{A time to silently offer our personal prayers of confession}

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY

"Kyrie"

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Leader (spoken): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader (spoken): Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Assurance of Pardon ² (Leader)

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed. **Amen.**

*CALL TO PRAISE ®

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise to our Triune God.

People: We sing in praise of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

f Blue #389 Text & Music: Daniel Iverson, 1994 Public Domain

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

{please be seated}

We Hear the Word of God

We seek to learn more about God's love and grace, and how we are to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Bible is our primary text on faith, which we consider to be scripture - sacred writings. We believe the Bible to be the "inspired word of God."

Gospel (which means "Good News") refers to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are Christians' most central books of the Bible.

PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Glory be to God the Father"

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MINI-MESSAGE

SERMON

We Respond with Thanks

We have heard God's call and have come and worshiped, we have confessed our sins and been assured of our forgiveness, we have learned more about God's grace and God's will. We now respond by re-affirming our faith in God,

praying with and for one another, trusting in God's providence in our world, and giving of ourselves for the sake of the mission and ministry of Jesus

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison) "Apostles' Creed"
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten 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, ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

{Please be seated} {Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION [®]

Leader: What will we return to God for all the bounty of the universe we have been given

to enjoy?

People: We cannot count the blessings of life which God supplies to us.

Leader: The mandate of Christ is clear:

People: "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Leader: That means we must, first of all, accept our own discipleship in wholehearted

obedience and self-giving service.

People: God expects no less than all we have and all we are.

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS



{Today, we will be passing the offering plate in person. You may also offer your tithe and offering to God through our secure <u>Online Giving</u> option on our website at **sprucc.org** (<u>Click Here</u>), or you may mail your offering to <u>United Church of Christ of Robesonia</u>; 301 West Penn Ave; Robesonia, PA 19551}.

ORGAN OFFERTORY

"On the tune Kedron (God marked a line)"

from a hymnal of 1799; arranged for organ by Lani Smith

{Those who are able, please rise}

*Offertory Response

"Spirit of the Living God"

♬ Blue #389

Text: Benjamin Motz, 2017; Music: Daniel Iverson, 1994

Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray. Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray. Take them, bless them, use them, grow them. Giving, loving, holy God, receive our gifts we pray.

*Offertory Prayer [®] (Leader)

Amid our doubts and the temptations to grab life's blessings for our own personal use, we come to dedicate our time, talent, and treasure to realize your reign on earth, majestic God. As we enjoy your bounty, we give that all our sisters and brothers might also come to appreciate the amazing gifts you entrust to us. Thank you for life and all its wonders. **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion ^①

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the central act of Christian worship, bringing us more fully together with one another and the Triune God, through the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:20-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:21-30)

*INVITATION

Leader:

Dearly beloved in the Lord: Our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ instituted the Holy Communion of his Body and Blood, that it might be the abiding memorial of his atoning death; the seal of his perpetual presence in the Church through the Holy Spirit; the mystical representation of the sacrifice of himself on the cross; the pledge of his undying love for his people; and the bond of his living union and fellowship with them to the end of time.

ALL: The celebration of the Lord's Supper has ever been regarded by the Church as the innermost sanctuary of the whole Christian worship. What we do here is not merely with signs, but with the realities these signs represent. We seek to approach the Lord's Table rightly, striving to be devout and repentant, with a believing mind.

Leader: We cordially invite to partake of this Sacrament all who are truly grieved and penitent for their sins, who look to the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness and salvation, who abide in the fellowship of his Church, and who desire to possess his Spirit and walk in his ways. To all such the compassionate Redeemer himself says: Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

*COMMUNION PRAYER

People: And also with you. Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Leader:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, who made humankind in your own image, and whose tender mercies are over all your works.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory.

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy and sing....

{Sanctus is Latin for "Holy." Seraphic Hymn refers to the song of the Seraphim Angels. Sabaoth is a Hebrew name for God, referring to God as both creator and ruler of the world}.

Holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

{Please be seated}

Words of Institution

Leader:

Lord, we remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Ordained Minister:

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We offer you our gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, both here at this table in this sanctuary and in the homes of those who are gathered as the church; even though separated by physical distance, we are one in your spirit, and bless us that as we receive them, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united in communion with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND RAISING CUP

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

People: grant us peace.

CALL TO THE SUPPER

Leader: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come, for all things are ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

{This morning we will be partaking of communion in small groups in front of the Chancel Rail.

The choir will come forward as the first group.

The ushers will then guide persons a few pews at a time down the center aisle.

You may stand or kneel at the rail.

The Pastor will distribute the bread, then instruct to consume at the same time. For those preferring **gluten free bread**, please pick up a piece as you approach the Chancel Rail.

The Elders will distribute the **red wine** and **white grape juice** and the Pastor will then instruct people to consume at the same time.

The Pastor will dismiss persons to return to their pews using the side aisles, and you can place your empty cup in the tray as you depart.

The Pastor and Elders will bring communion to the pews for those who cannot come forward.}

{We invite all baptized Christians who profess a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this congregation or of the UCC to participate in Communion.

Children who are not yet communing may come forward to receive a blessing. To indicate that you prefer a blessing, simply keep your hands by your side.}

{As you receive the elements, you may say the following...}

Pastor: The Body of Christ broken for you.

Individual: Amen.

Elder: The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Individual: Amen. or Thanks be to God.**

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Leader: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by

granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing

in the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

We Are Sent Out

In response to God's love and grace, we go out into the world to share God's Good News through our words and actions.

*Commission ²

Leader: God has given us stewardship over creation.

We are given the care of every living thing.

People: Land, sea, and air are ours to enjoy.

All are entrusted to our careful watch.

Leader: Generations before us have passed on God's gifts.

Generations to follow depend on our faithfulness.

People: We pray for insight and generosity in our stewardship of creation.

We go into the world to lead all to Christ.

ALL: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

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*Sending Hymn "Come, Thou Almighty King"

*▶ Red #4*One License #A-728042

{Acolyte carries the light back into the world, leading us, as we now go to carry God's light and love back into the world.}

Postlude

Join Us For Fellowship and Food in Miller Fellowship Hall

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest **Password** (for both): iamheretoserve

The Flow of the Worship Service

Our worship service has an intentional order to it. The flow of worship is called the liturgical movement. The movement reminds us weekly of our journey in faith of moving from being separated from God by sin, to being restored by God's grace as disciples of Christ. It is based on the sixth chapter of the Biblical book of Isaiah.

(1) God welcomes us and invites us

(2) We respond to God's call by worshiping Him

(3) We confess our need for God's forgiveness and grace

(4) We are assured of God's forgiveness and grace

(5) We learn more about God's will through scripture, song, and sermon

(6) We grow closer to God and one another through prayer

(7) We give God thanks by offering our time, talent, and treasure

(8) We experience greater oneness with God and each another through Communion

(9) God sends us into the world to share His love and grace with others

Worship Service Resource Credits

Biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible (1989) by the Division

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2 Gathered By Love by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
 3 Reprinted with permission from Sundays and Seasons. (2020). Augsburg Fortress.

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₱ Edmonds, Robert Lee (Editor). (2008). In Our Own Way; Living a Scouting Life Through Faith; A Handbook of Prayer and Devotion. Dallas, TX: Red Honor Press

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Miller, Earl D. (1994). Consecrating Stewards. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz

The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

Occasional Sérvices; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).

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Consistory President: Elsa Wertz Consistory Vice President: George McLain Consistory Secretary: Geri Gammel

About Today

Church Season: Pentecost -which is the season of the church in mission. It is the time between the ascension of Christ and his second coming, which is the time we are presently living in today, and as such is the longest season of the church year. The day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church.

Color of the Paraments (cloths on the altar and pulpit):

White - used on Trinity Sunday - symbolizing the holiness of our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost)

The suggested scripture lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which selects passages throughout the Bible over a three year cycle. The RCL is the most common lectionary used by Christian churches. We are in **Year A**, which emphasizes the Gospel of Matthew.

The Bible is in two sections: Old Testament - OT (scripture prior to Christ's birth), located in the first 2/3 of the Bible; and New Testament - NT (about Christ & early church).

This Sunday, June 4, 2023, Lectionary Reading for Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

Genesis

The book of Genesis (OT) is a part of the Pentateuch (first five books of the OT or Torah or one of the five most central books in Judaism). Genesis means beginning. The book of Genesis tells about the creation of humankind and the entire universe by the will and power of God. Genesis creates a context for the reading of the entire rest of the Bible. The book is traditionally attributed to Moses, who led the Israelite people from Egyptian slavery to freedom, through the saving grace and divine providence of God.

Psalm 8

This is an OT hymn of praise for God's exalting humankind. This psalm is attributed to David, who lived from 1040–970 BC. "The Gittith" refers to the kind of melody to which this is sung.

The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

This NT Epistle (letter) was written by the Apostle Paul between 50-56 A.D. to a gentile congregation he had founded several years earlier in Corinth (the capital city of the Roman province of Achaia, a large and prospering urban center that was ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse). This letter is believed to be a compilation of fragments of multiple letters. This letter is in response to Titus' glowing reports and other negative reports Paul has received about this church. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and church leader, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. Paul wrote more of the NT than any other person.

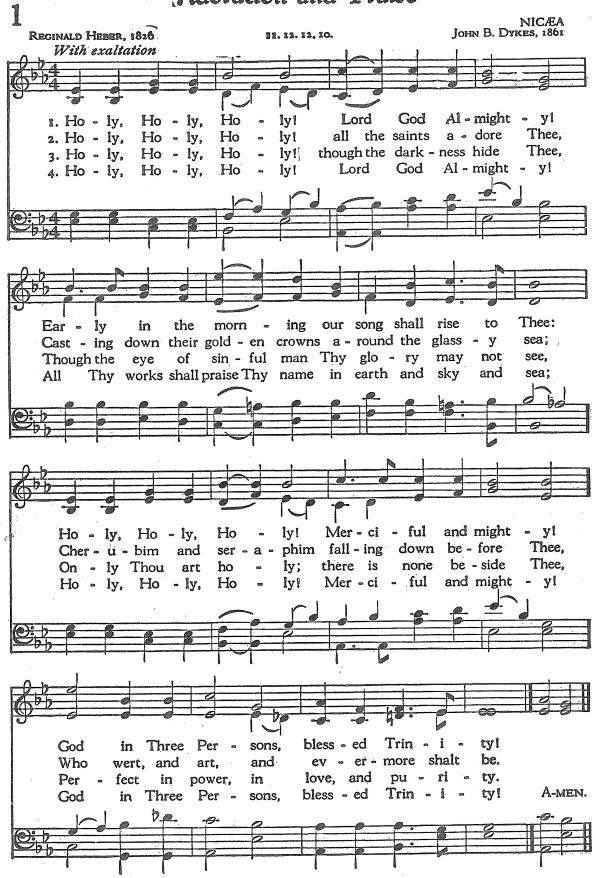
The Gospel According to Matthew

Matthew's Gospel was written around 80-90 A.D. in Antioch, Syria by a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian. The first writing was probably by a Christian scribe who wrote in the name of Matthew. Matthew was a disciple who knew Jesus personally.

Next Sunday, June 11, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9 *and* Psalm 33:1-12 *or* Hosea 5:15-6:6 *and* Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Adoration and Praise



The Holy Trinity

194

ST. PETER'S WESTMINSTER 8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7. JAMES TURLE, 1802-1882 HORATIUS BONAR, 1808-1889 With marked and joyous rhythm 1. Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to God the 2. Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and 3. Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the Church's 4. "Glo - ry, bless-ing, praise e - ter - nal!" Thus the choir of an - gels stain, King, sings; to God the Spir - it— Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign! the King of na - tions! Heaven and earth, your prais - es bring; Glo - ry be Glo - ry be Glo - ry rich - es, power, do - min - ion!" Thus "Hon-or, its praise cre - a - tion brings; Glo-ry, glo-ry, Glo-ry, glo-ry, While e-ter-nal a-ges run!
Glo-ry, glo-ry, Glo-ry, glo-ry, To the Lamb that once was slain!
Glo-ry, glo-ry, Glo-ry, glo-ry, To the King of glo-ry bring!
Glo-ry, glo-ry, Glo-ry, glo-ry, Glo-ry to the King of kings!



