

November 12, 2023
24th Sunday after Pentecost



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Ashton Olsen

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering
in the world, the church, or our own lives.*

But we see Jesus as Lord.

*As he stands at the center of our history,
we are confident he will stand at its end.*

He will judge all people and nations.

*Evil will be condemned
and rooted out of God's good creation.*

There will be no more tears or pain.

All things will be made new.

-A Declaration of Faith

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

Glorify Thy Name

Adkins

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,

shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Awaken your might;

come and save us.

Restore us, LORD God Almighty;

make your face shine on us,

that we may be saved.

***OPENING HYMN**

#362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Even when we were dead through our sin, our merciful and loving God made us alive together with Christ and raised us up through him. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

Merciful and loving God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling to proclaim the good news in word and deed. We are quick to speak when we ought to listen and remain silent when it is time to speak. We put too much faith in our own actions and fail to trust the strength of your Spirit.

O God, forgive our foolish and sinful ways. Strengthen us anew to follow Christ's way of love in the world. By your Holy Spirit, give us the grace we need to be faithful disciples and fulfill our common calling; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

By grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free!

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

The Gloria Patri #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

The people may exchange with their immediate neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We praise you Holy One for the ways you have revealed yourself to people across the ages. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us in the reading and proclaiming of your word, that we may grow in knowledge of you and faithful response to you. In Christ's name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 (NRSV)

1Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3aThen I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

14"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

16Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; 17for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

19But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." 21And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" 22Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 23He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." 24The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." 25So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NRSV)

13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#175 Seek Ye First

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish and five were wise. **3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. **4** The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. **5** The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Keep Your Lamps!

Arr. Thomas

*“Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life”.
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostle’s Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the

right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all compassion, hear now our prayers for the world you created and love.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, for the Presbyterian Church USA, for the churches of Buffalo, and for this congregation. Continue your sanctifying work in us, by the power of your Spirit, and lead us to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to those in need.

We pray for our country and its leaders; may they govern with justice, wisdom, humility, and peace.

We pray for the world; especially for Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, Yemen, and all areas in the midst of war, disaster, and distress.

We pray for your good creation; for all areas experiencing extremes of nature. Bring rain, warmth, cold, sun, shade, and clean air to all places in need of their nourishment.

We pray for those who are in need of your healing mercies and loving care. We pray especially for...

We pray for those who hunger and thirst, for those with no place to call home, for those with no community of support and companionship. Meet their needs O God of provision, and where possible enable us to give of our bounty for their sake.

We pray for those in grief, may they find comfort in the promise that in Jesus death has lost its sting.

We pray for those suffering from stress, anxiety, and loneliness; may they find relief in the loving presence of your Spirit.

We pray for all those who are spiritually hungry, for those who feel far from you, for those who seek your presence. Make yourself known to them, that they may know you as they are known by you.

We pray for all people and situations that have gone unnamed; those held close in the quiet of our hearts and those known only to you...

We pray that you would deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to you and the reign of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Holy One our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people and use us where possible to be the answer to people's prayers.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

*CHARGE

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Now In Peace

Sleeth

sing together once, then 2x through in a round listen for directions

Go Now In Peace

Sleeth

$\text{♩} = 100$

Go now in peace, Go now in peace. May the love of

6
God sur - round you ev - 'ry - where, ev - 'ry - where you may go.

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from Psalm 80.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

MUSIC LICENSES

Glorify Thy Name Text and Music: Donna Adkins ©1976, 1981, arr. 1986 MARANATHA! MUSIC

#362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers | TEXT: Laurentius Laurenti, 1700; trans. Sarah Borthwick Findlater, 1854; alt. The Hymnal 1982 | MUSIC: Welsh folk melody, Llwybrau Moliant, 1872; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906 | Public domain | The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1–13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

#175 Seek Ye First | TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2–3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee | MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971 | Text and Music © 1972 Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com). | The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

Keep Your Lamps! Spiritual Arr. Andre Thomas ©1982 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

#839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! | TEXT: Fanny Jane Crosby, 1873; Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee, 2001 | MUSIC: Phoebe Palmer Knapp, 1873 | Korean Trans. © 2001 The United Methodist Publishing House (admin. The Copyright Company) | Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

Go Now in Peace Natalie Sleeth ©1976 by Hinshaw Music, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Classes, Coffee, & Conversations: Please join us today for a discussion with *Pastor Brian*. Next week, we will have *Conversations-To-Go*.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hygiene Kits: The Faith Formation Committee is putting together Hygiene Kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We are asking for people to help sponsor kits by donating money towards the purchase of supplies and shipping. Each kit costs about \$17. We will be assembling kits during CCC time on Dec 3rd and hope you can join us. Please put PDA in the memo line for any donations made. The deadline for these donations is **November 19th**. For more information about PDA visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

Christmas Banner: Each family in the congregation is asked to take a square of material to use as the background for your "artwork" that will symbolize the Christmas season. Please find the squares and information in narthex. Bring your finished square to church by **Wednesday, November 22**.

Community Thanksgiving Service: Please join us on **November 22nd at 7:30pm at Zion** Lutheran Church. We are still looking for 6-8 ushers for this service. Please sign up outside the office if you are interested.

Deck the Halls: Come help us decorate the church for advent! We will be decorating on **November 26th at 10:30am**.

Poinsettia Order: Please fill out an order form and turn in your money by **November 28th**. Order forms are available outside the office.

SPOT: Our last Spiritual Practices of Today of 2023 will be on **Saturday Dec. 2nd at 10am**. We'll focus on some common Advent spiritual practices that can be done individually or as a household/group. Join us as we begin preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth!

Special Congregational Meeting: The PC(USA) Book of Order states that the church's congregation must annually review the adequacy of the staff's compensation, approve the minister's term of call, and have the opportunity to comment on the church's annual (2024) budget. The Session's practice has been to take up those three items at a special congregational meeting each December. Based on actions at the meeting the Session will be able to approve a final budget in December. This year's meeting will be **Sunday, December 3, at 10:30 am** following worship.

Rivers of Hope Holiday Program Gift Card Drive: Donated gift cards will be given to families and youth experiencing domestic violence during the holiday season. Gift cards in any amount are welcome and popular options include Target, Walmart, and gas stations. Please drop these into the BPC Office Drop Box by **December 3rd**.

Generations of Sweetness Bake Off: Youth and adult volunteers will be paired up to bake a batch of cookies on **December 9th at 10am**. These cookies will be judged by the congregation on **December 10th during CCC**. Please sign up outside the office if you are interested in participating in this.

Love INC Volunteers Needed: We need you! Join the team at the Love INC Thrift Store. Talk to Mary or Karen at the store or call 763-682-8820.

How can we pray for you? Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

Al DeBellis
Daniel Elliot
Erva Hance
Barb and Tom Stone
Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
Jake, a friend of Pastor Brian
Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
Arv Klemz
Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
Amy Grittman
Brittany Daniels
John and Charlotte Collins
Janice Sorby
Mark and Michele Lawlor
For all people and places recovering from disasters both natural and human caused.
For peace in Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, Sudan, and around the world.
For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
Pastor Brian
11:30a Deacons Pack Care Packages

Monday

5:30p Fellowship Committee Meeting
6:30p PEO
7:00p AA

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
5:00p Missions Committee Meeting
6:30p Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith Online
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

8:30a 150th Planning Meeting
9:30a Worship
10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-
Conversations-To-Go

Buffalo Presbyterian Church

507 County Road 134, Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

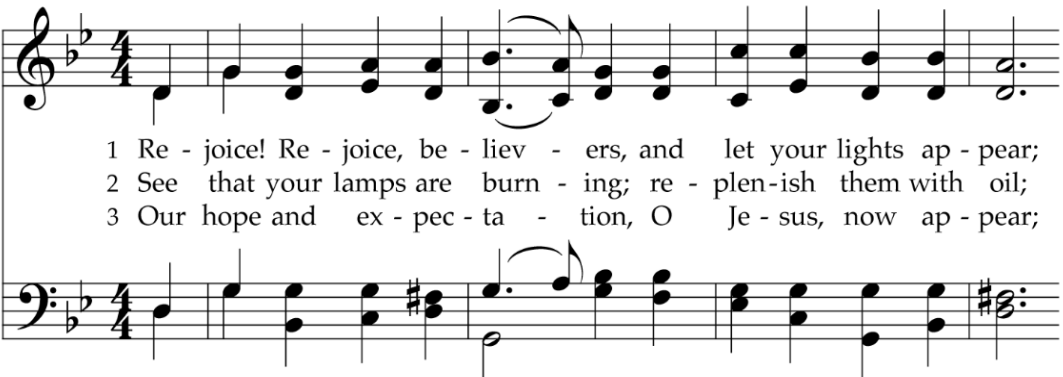
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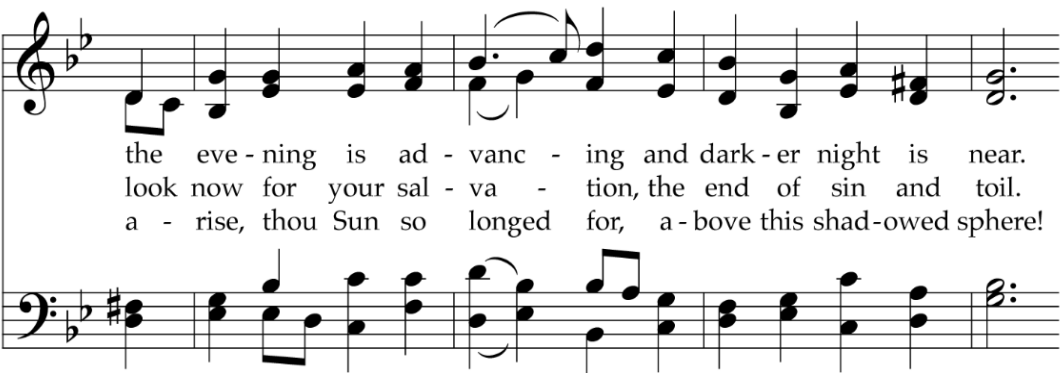
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Mike Agre, Choir Director
Ralph Johansen, Organist
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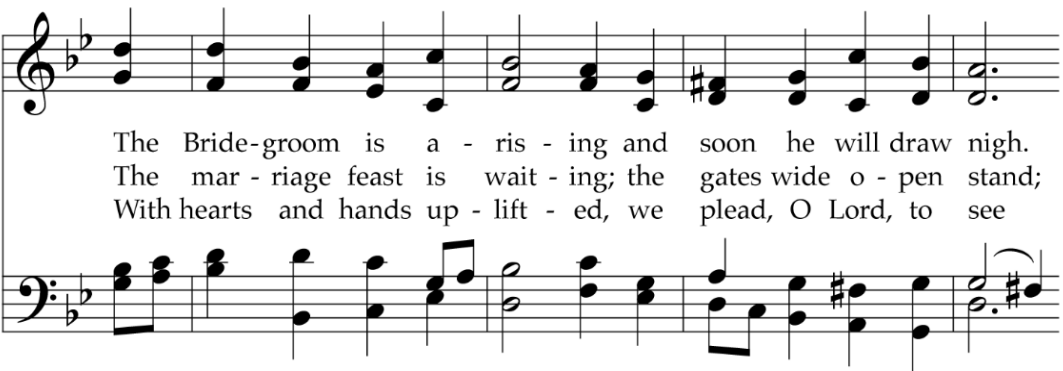
362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad-owed sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Latin original of this text based on the parable of the wise and foolish maidens (Matthew 25:1–13) consisted of ten stanzas, but this briefer version is more appropriate for its message of urgency. It is set to a spirited minor Welsh tune named for a Pembrokeshire village.

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2–3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
 Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music – Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music
 (admin. Universal Music – Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY
 Irregular



al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.



al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 Busca primero el reino de Dios
 y su perfecta justicia,
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
 Alelu, aleluya.

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
 그의를 구하-면
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라
 알렐-루 알렐루야

839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion,
 rap-ture now burst on my sight; an-gels de-scent-ing,
 Sav-ior am hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing,

pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry; this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior

Sometimes this prolific 19th-century hymnwriter wrote texts for others to set, and sometimes she created words for tunes others had composed. This text was of the second kind, and the resulting close fit between words and music has made them both popular and inseparable.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

KOREAN

- 1 예수를 내가 주로 믿어
성령과 피로써 거듭나니
이세상에서 내 영혼이
하늘의 영광 누리도다
- 후렴 이것이 나의 간증이요
이것이 나의 찬송일세
나사는 동안 끊임없이
예수 내 구주 찬송하리
- 2 온전히 주께 맡긴 내영
온전한 기쁨을 누리면서
자비와 사랑 속삭이는
하늘의 천사 보리로다 후렴
- 3 예수께 맡긴 나의 영혼
주안에 복되고 평안하니
세상도 없고 나도 없고
사랑의 주만 보이도다 후렴