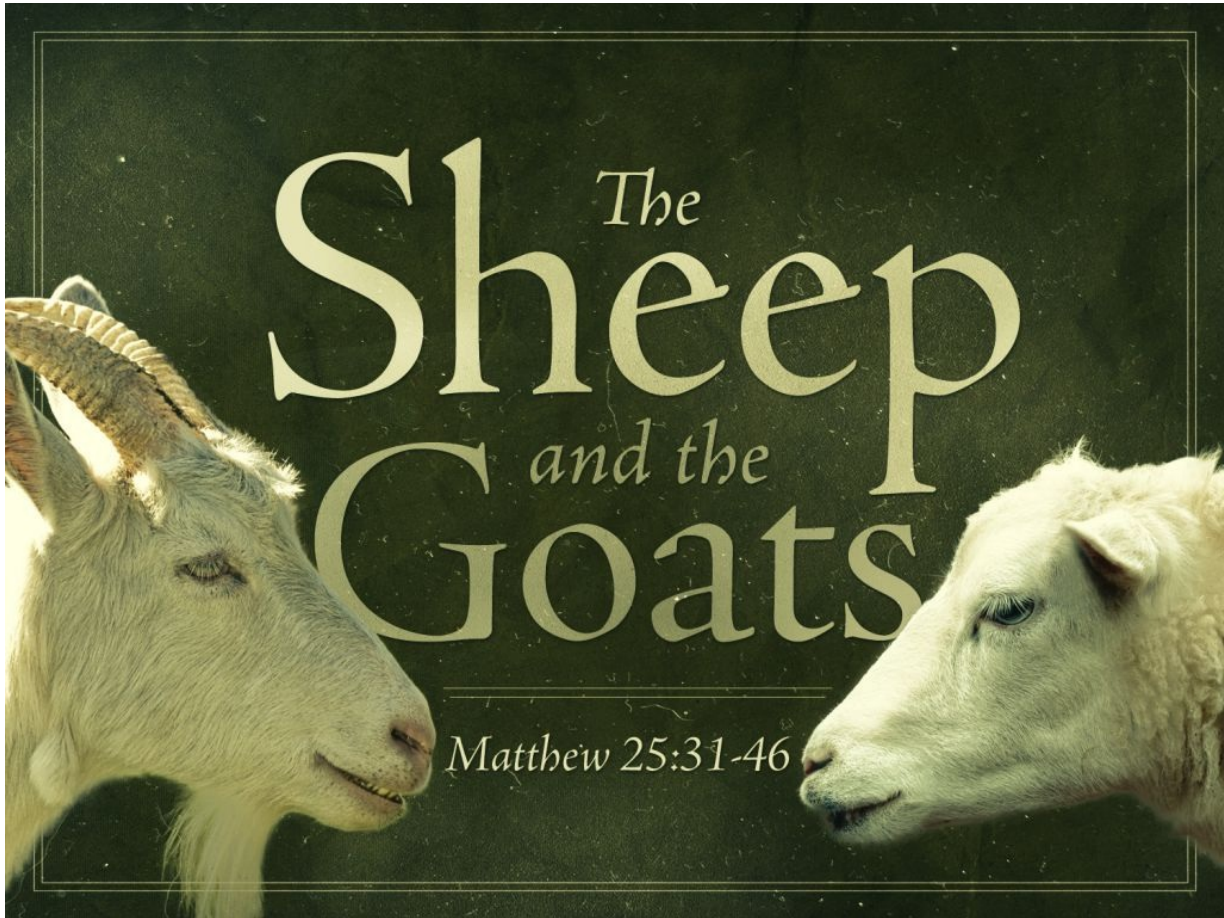


The United Church of Christ of Robesonia

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, November 26, 2023
26th Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday

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 and 3rd 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....

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: [Live Stream](#) at sprucc.org - Live or Watch & Listen Later on [Our YouTube Channel](#)
[Facebook Live](#) at <https://www.facebook.com/www.sprucc.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



www.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 ⑩ (Unison)

Almighty God, present with us in many forms, we hear that the King is coming, the King is coming. Shall we expect him on a white stallion, or walking on the road, or zooming in like an angel? Who is this King anyway? Will we recognize him? So many questions, God Almighty. We await the day! In the name of this King, we pray. Amen.

HANDBELL PRELUDE

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Arranged by Jason W. Krug

{Those who are able, please rise}

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The King of Glory Comes"

*W&R #159
One License #A-728042*

*INVOCATION

Leader: We worship in the name of God the Father, and of God the Son, and of God the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

*CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Psalm 95*

Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Leader: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving;

People: for you, Lord, are a great God.

Leader: The caverns of the earth are yours and the heights of the hills.

People: The sea is yours, for you made it.

Leader: Your hands have molded the dry land.

People: The Lord is our God!

Leader: We are the people of God's pasture.

People: We are the sheep of God's hand.

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 ⑩ (Leader)

God of love and protection and forgiveness, hear now our confession of sins which separate us from you.

*CONFESSION OF SIN ⑩ (Unison)

Lord, we are your sheep and we go astray. Some of us say hurtful things accidentally and sometimes on purpose. Some of us are not generous at the spur of the moment with money, time, or effort. Some of us actually fall off the cliff and are only saved because you caused a small bush to grow there ahead of our falling. Thank you for your saving staff with the lovingly curved top to reach to us and be pulled to safety. Save us, O Lord.

*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

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

*SUNG PRAYER FOR MERCY "God of Pity, God of Grace" vs. 1 & 5 ♪ Red #223 Morris/Filitz; Public Domain

**God of pity, God of grace, When we humbly seek Thy face,
Bend from heaven, Thy dwelling place, Hear, forgive and save.**

**And what e'er our cry may be, When we lift our hearts to Thee,
From our burden set us free: Heal, forgive, and save.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON ⑩ (Leader)

We are blessed, dear people. The King Shepherd has an endlessly forgiving heart. May our hearts be endlessly forgiving also. Let us be open to being the hands and feet of this shepherd. We need to look for the hurting and the hungry. We need to be looking to help the people in prison. We need to spend time with lonely people. The opportunities to feed people are endless. May the King Shepherd be pleased and bless us and continue to call us his sheep.

*SUNG PRAISE "Come, Let us Praise the Lord" vs. 3 W&R #9 Timothy Dudley-Smith/John Darwall One License #A-728042

**In worship bow the knee, our glorious God confess;
the great Creator, he, the Lord of Righteousness.
He reigns unseen: his flock he feeds and gently leads in pastures green.**

{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

The Old Testament Reading: [Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#)

The New Testament Letter: [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Leader: This is the gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

W&R #591
Public Domain

MINI-MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S SONG

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

W&R #344

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus
no turning back, no turning back.

SERMON

"Am I a Goat or am I a Sheep?"

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 Christ.*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)** *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith* ①
(Section One about God)

**All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through
prophets and apostles.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

{Please be seated}

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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.**

SUNG PRAYER RESPONSE *"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" vs. 1*

W&R #484

*Taize/Berthier
One License #A-728042*

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and listen to me.**

{Ushers, please assemble at rear of Sanctuary}

OFFERTORY INVITATION ⑩

Leader: May we give in thankfulness.

People: We do not give in order to receive mercy.

Leader: May we give in thankfulness.

People: We do not give to win a contest.

Leader: May we give in thankfulness.

People: Our gratitude is great! Thanks be to God!

RETURNING GOD'S TITHES AND PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

Online Giving

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

CHORAL OFFERTORY

"O Worship the King"

*Text by Robert Grant (1833);
arranged by Stan Pethel*

{Those who are able, please rise}

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"For the Life That You Have Given"

W&R #684

*Daw/Leavitt
One License #A-728042*

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER ⑩(Leader)**

Bless us as we give this money. Bless this money that we will use it according to your will. Help us to be worthy of the name "church." We are your flock wanting to be called sheep and not goats. **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 ⑩

Leader: King Shepherd, as we go on our journeys near and far,

People: may your mercy come upon us!

Leader: May we be generous with our money, time, and effort,

People: so in the end we will find ourselves being called into your heavenly pasture.

*BENEDICTION

*THREE FOLD SUNG AMEN

♪ *Red #558*
Public Domain

*SENDING HYMN

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

W&R #440
Public Domain

*{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): iamheretosome



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 worshipping 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) 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 of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

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- ① United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need (NIN) 2023 Resources.
- ② *Gathered By Love* by Lavon Baylor. (1994). United Church Press; Cleveland, OH.
- ② *Occasional Services; A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. (1982).
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- ⑥ scouting.org - resources for Boy Scouts of America
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- ⑦ *Lecturn Resource*. (2014). Logos Productions, Inc.; Grove Heights, MN.
- ⑦ 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
- ⑧ Reprinted with Permission from *Lecturn Resource*. 2014. Logos Productions, Inc., Inver Grove Heights, MN.
- ⑨ Miller, Earl D. (1994). *Consecrating Stewards*. Ohio Conference, United Church of Christ.
- ⑩ The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Motz
- ⑩ The Rev. Mary Etta Mest

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Treasurer: Terry Pastor

Financial Secretary & Assistant Secretary: Geneva Aulenbach

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 - symbolizing the purity of the Kingdom of God, which we inherit through the grace of God and our baptism in Christ.

Green - the color of growing life, symbolizing the life God brings and the growth of the church, especially through our mission work.

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, November 26, 2023, Lectionary Reading for 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *and* Psalm 100 *or* Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *and* Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Ezekiel

The book of Ezekiel (OT), is attributed to the priest and prophet Ezekiel, who was born of the priestly family of Zadokite, married, then widowed, and prophesied from 593 to 571 B.C. Ezekiel proclaimed that the Israelites were defeated and exiled by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. as a just punishment from God for their idolatrous behavior (i.e. not putting God first in their lives); they need to repent (change direction heart and mind towards God), for only God can breathe life back into their dry bones. A prophet is one who is divinely appointed by God to lead and instruct.

Psalm 95

This is an OT hymn of praise and admonition, which most likely was a part of the temple liturgy. Verses 1-5 would have been used for the procession into the sanctuary, verses 6-7a involves humbly prostrating before God's holy presence, and verses 7b-11 are penitential words of admonishment to prepare worshipers to hear the reading of the Torah (the first five books of our OT).

The Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

The Epistle (letter) to the Gentile church in Ephesus is attributed to the Apostle Paul, written in the first century A.D. This is an open letter to many churches in response for the life-changing radical transformation in our personal and social life as we become a part of Christ's family. Paul was a Christian, Jew, Pharisee, Roman citizen, and leader in the Christian church, who had a direct encounter with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus after Jesus' ascension into heaven. He wrote more of the NT than any other person. The title of this letter "Hebrews" presumably refers to the original audience of this letter as primarily Jewish-Christian.

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, December 3, 2023, Lectionary Reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

The King of Glory Comes

Refrain (Unison)

Em Bm7 Em Bm7 Em

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

1-4 Final ending

Em Bm7 Em Bm7 Em Em

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es. voic - es.

sfx

Verses

G Am7 G/B C D7 Am/C G/B G

1 Who is the King of glo - ry: what shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion,
 4 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Em D Cmaj7 G/B Cmaj7 D G to Refrain B7+5

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life 591

Ab Eb7/Bb Ab/C Bbm/Db Eb7 Db/Eb Edim7 Fm Bb7 Eb/Bb Bb/Ab

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the
 4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to
 5 Till all the world shall learn your love and fol - low

Eb/G Cm Fm/Ab Eb/Bb Bb Eb Ab Eb7sus/Bb Eb7/Bb

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -
 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less
 where your feet have trod: till glo - rious from your

Ab/C Ab Dbmaj7/Bbm/Db Ddim7 Eb Edim7 Db/F Fm Bbm/Db Ab/Eb Eb7(no3) Eb7 Ab

self - ish strife we hear your voice, O Son of Man!
 lures of greed we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion of your face.
 throngs a - bide, O tread the cit - y's streets a - gain,
 heaven a - bove shall come the cit - y of our God.

WORDS: Frank Mason North (1850-1935)
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
 L.M.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 440

D A D A7 D A D A7 D

G F# E A A A7 A A7 D

1 Sav - ior, like a Shep-herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;
 2 We are thine, do thou be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us do thy will;

D A D A7 D A D A7 D

G F# E A A A7 A A7 D

in thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre-pare:
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
 thou hast mer-cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill:

G D A Bm7 A7 D

C#

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee;
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

G D A7 D

bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
 bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.