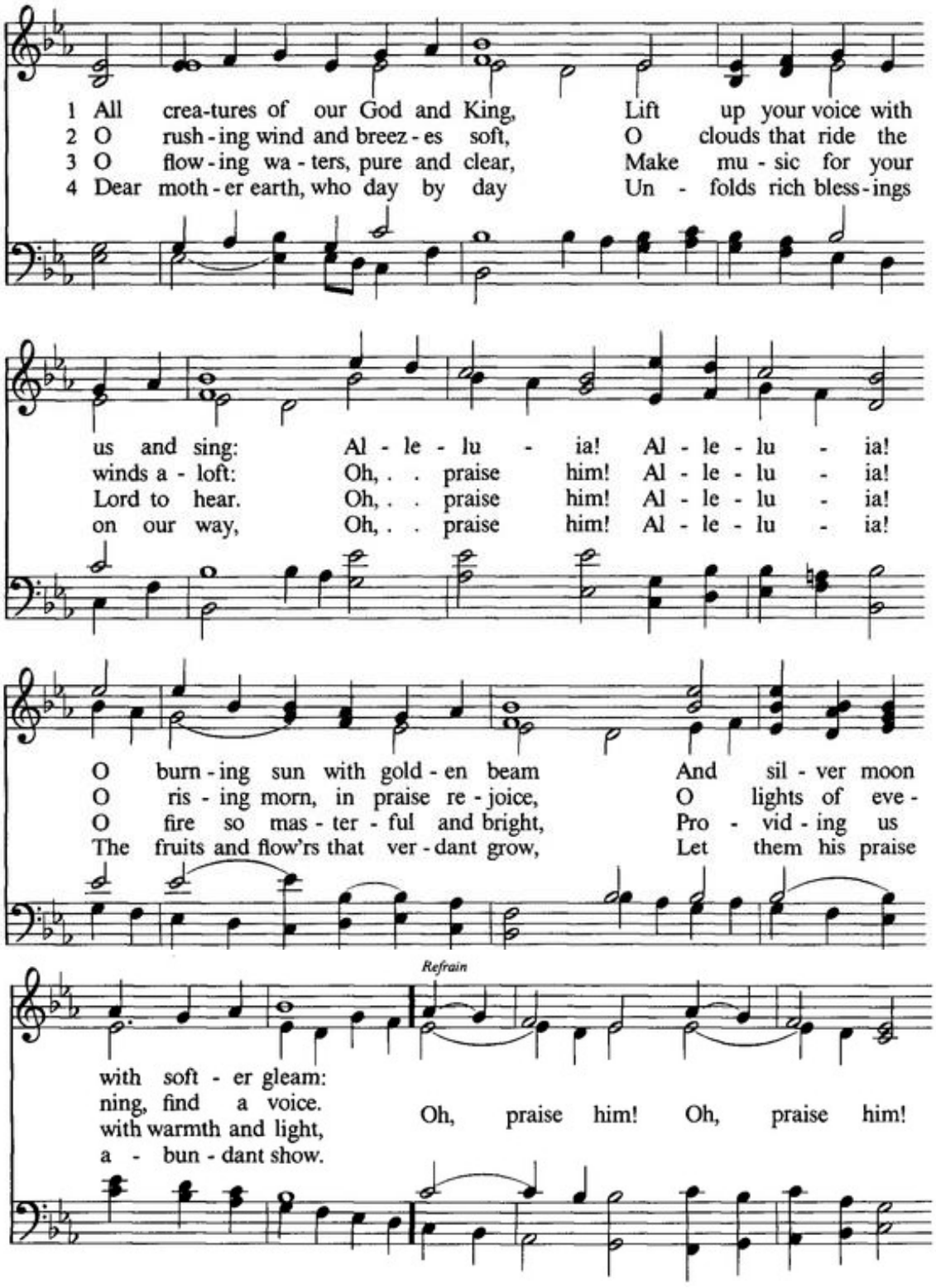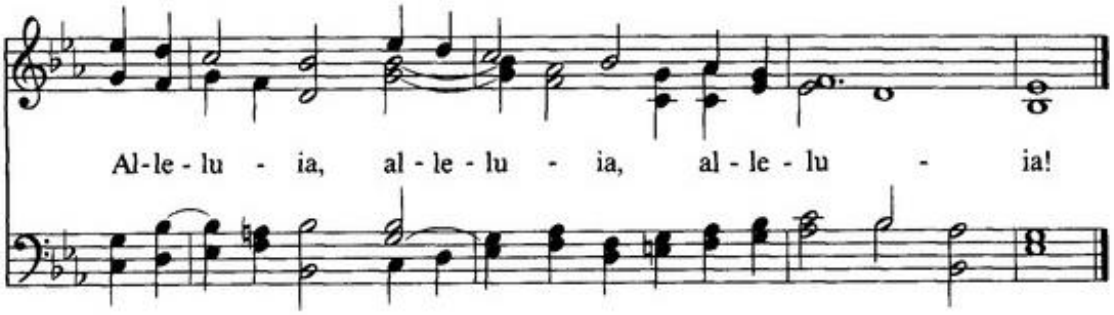October 1, 2023—St. Francis of Assisi

Opening Hymn ELW #527 "*All Creatures of our God and King*"

verses 1, 2, 4, 5





5 O ev'ryone of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day:
O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading **Micah 6:6-8**
With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.
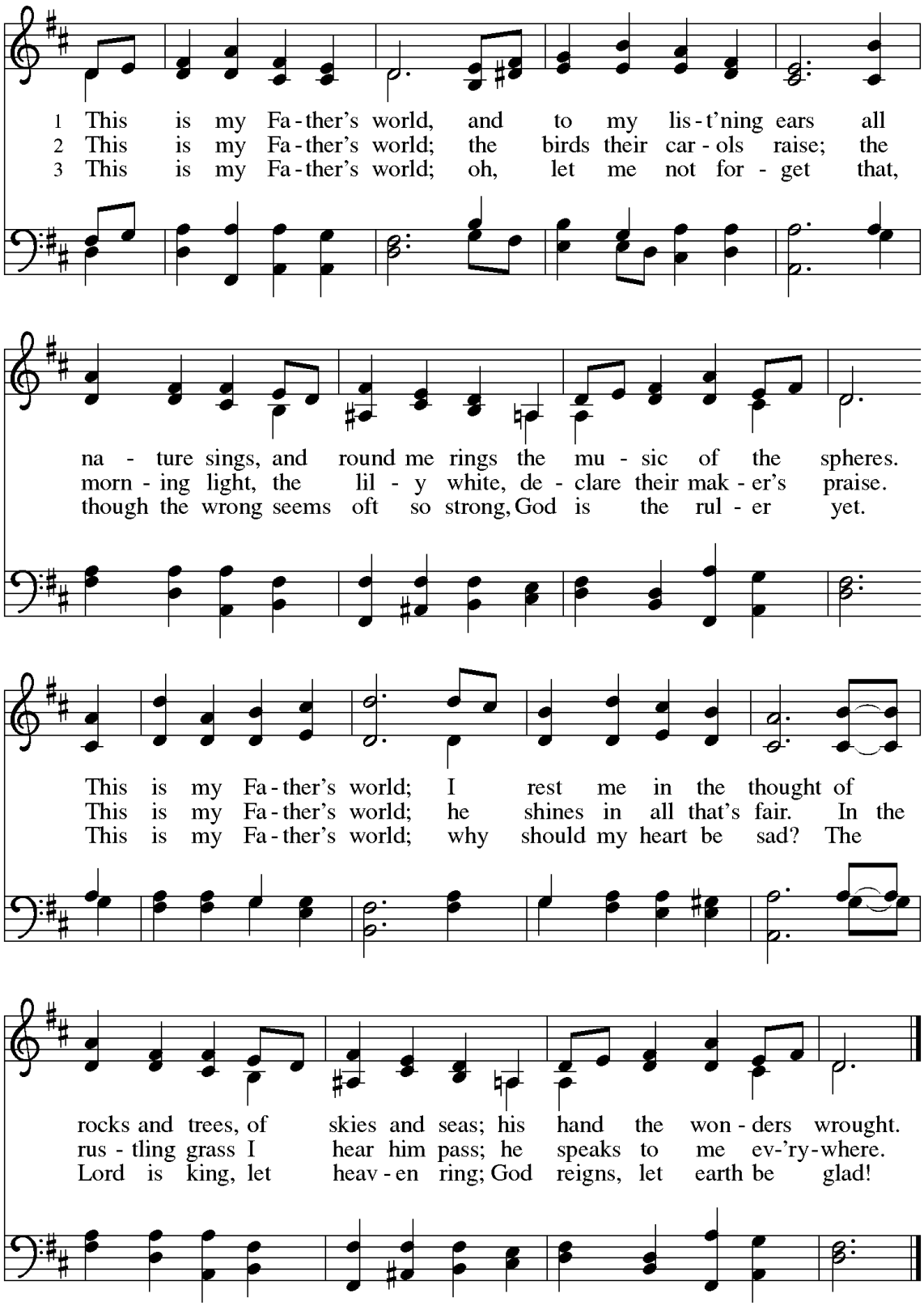
Second Reading — Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel — Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day ELW #824 "*This is My Father's World*"



Add to Prayer Petitions

Prayer Petitions
A: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you create the animals
and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.
C: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

A: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us
even as you care for the birds of the air.
C: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

A: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort
you give us domestic animals as companions.
C: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Benediction

You are invited to bring your pet to the altar for the blessing

P: The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.
They share in the fortunes of human existence
and have a part in human life.
God, who confers gifts on all living things,
has often used the service of animals
or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.
Animals were saved from the flood
and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

We ask God's blessing on our pets.
As we do so, let us praise the Creator
and thank God for setting us as stewards
over all the creatures of the earth.

Prayer of Blessing
P: Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.
You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.
We ask you to bless our companions we share our lives with in your creation.
By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan.
May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.
Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

P: May God, who created the animals of this earth,
continue to protect and sustain us all,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn **W&P #95 "*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*"**

