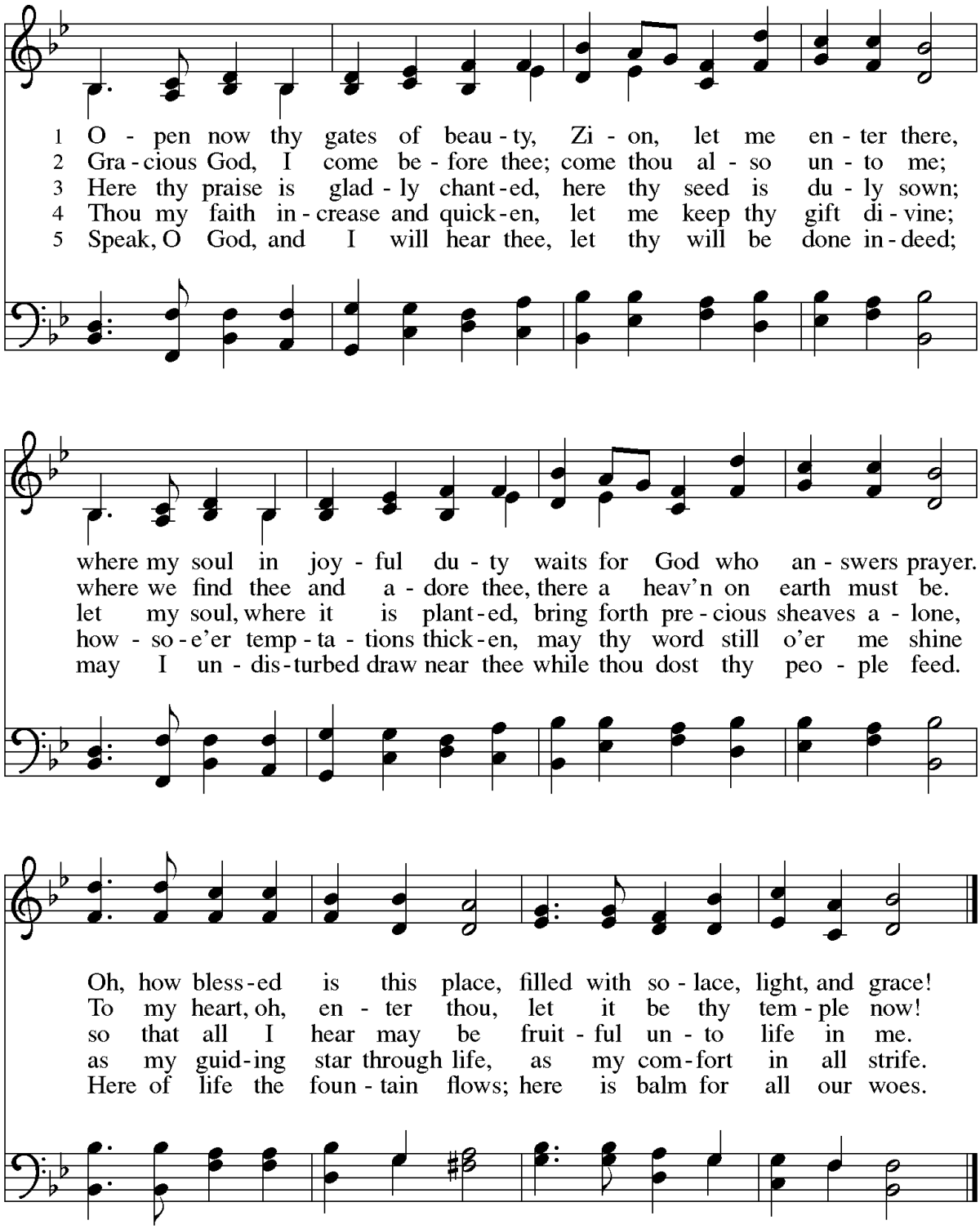July 26, 2026—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude *"Jesus bleibet mine Freude"* by J.S.Bach

Opening Hymn ELW #533 *"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"*



Prayer of the Day
Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

First Reading **1 Kings 3:5-12**

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should
give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father
David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart
toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit
on his throne today. 7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my
father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your
servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they
cannot be numbered or counted. 9 Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern
your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of
yours?"
10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 God said to him, "Because you have asked
this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have
asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 I now do according to your word.
Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like
you shall arise after you."
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem ***"Here I Am, Lord"***

Second Reading **Romans 8:26-39**

26 The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very
Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches hearts, knows what
is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called
according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to
the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those
whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom
he justified he also glorified.
31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did
not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us
everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is
to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God,

who also intercedes for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? [36] As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

[31] [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;[32] it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

[33] He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

[44] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; [46] on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
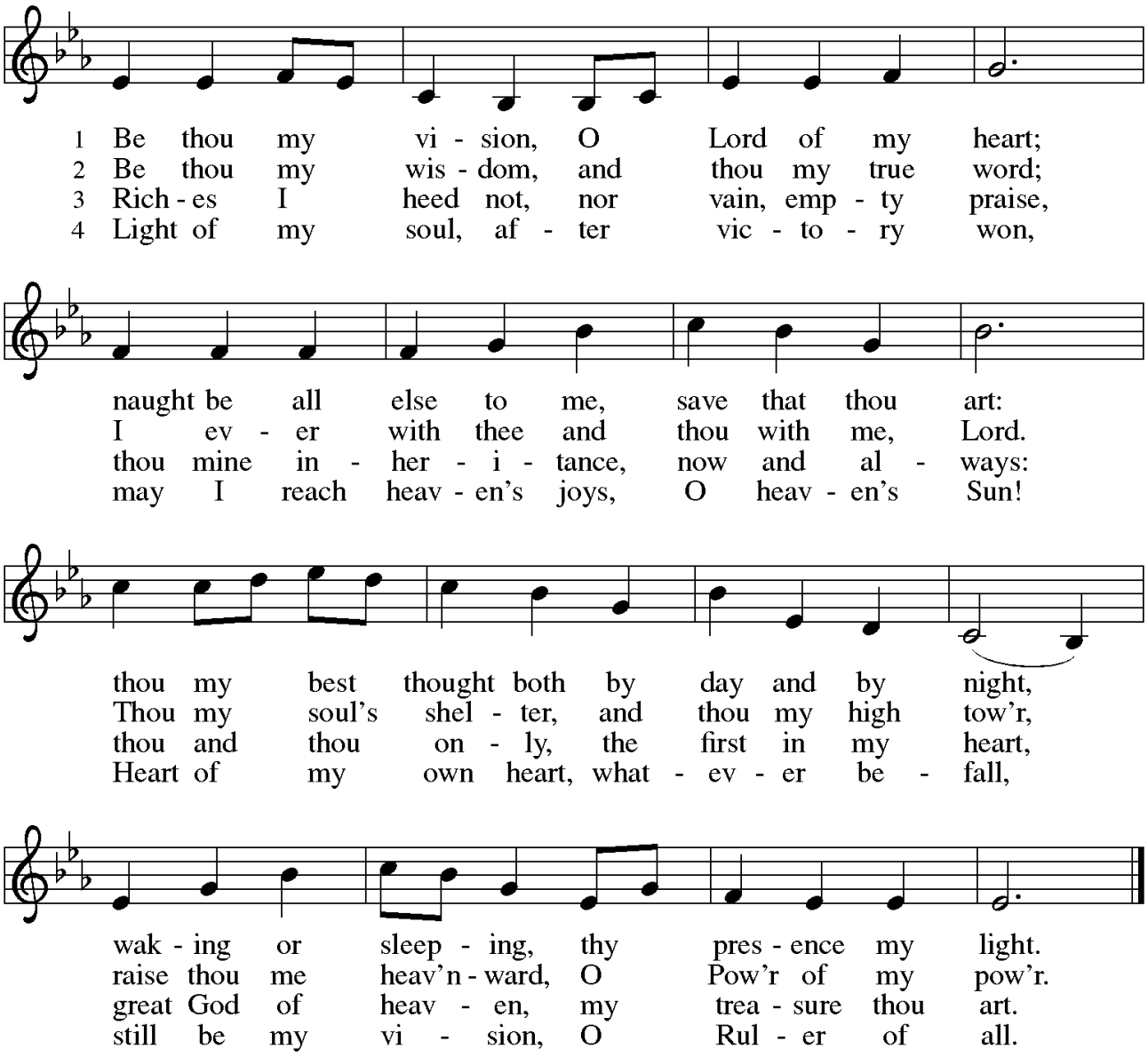
[47] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; [48] when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. [49] So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous [50] and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[51] "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." [52] And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
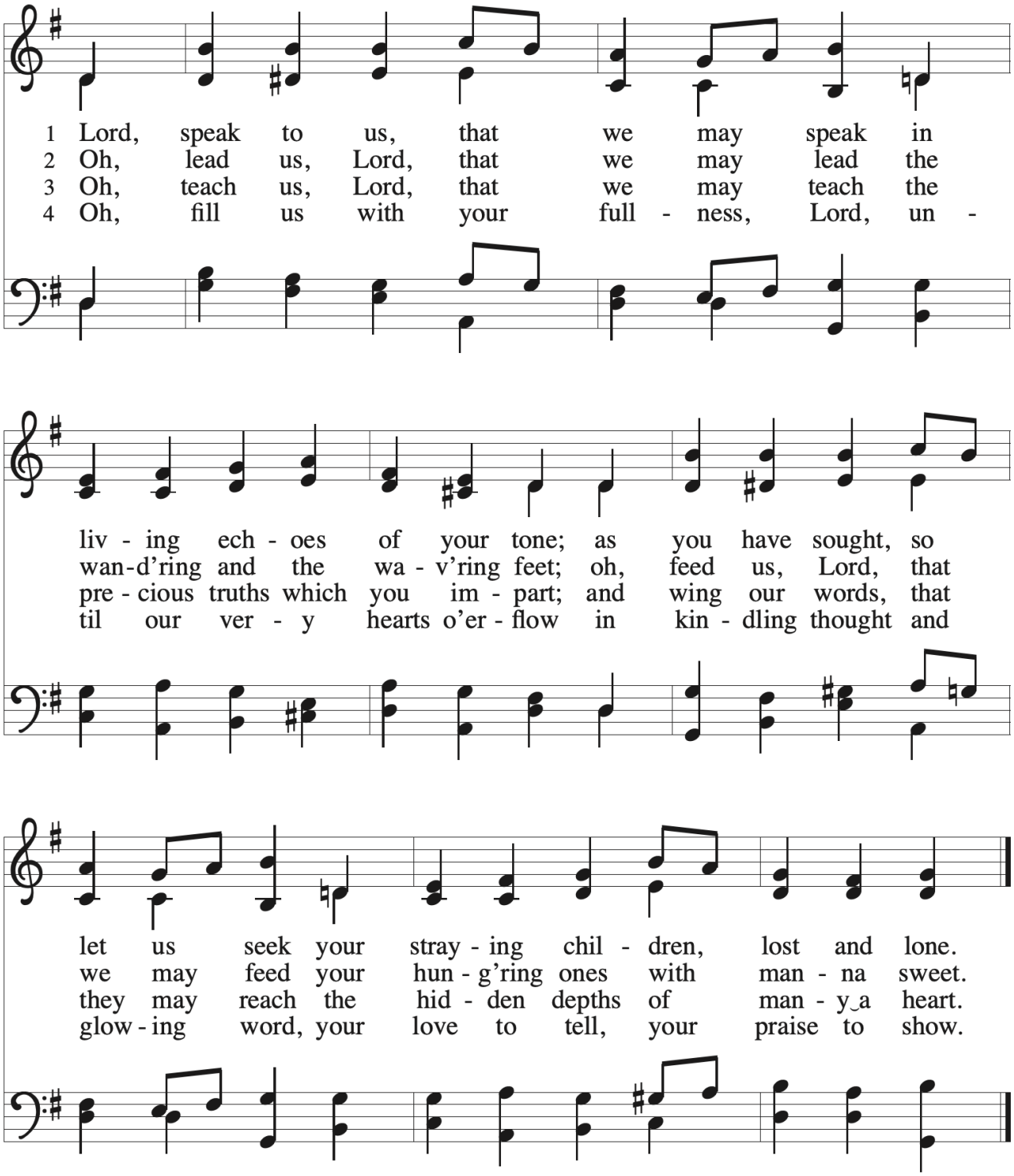
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day **ELW #793 "*Be Thou My Vision*"**



Communion Anthem **"*Feet O Jesus*" Composed by Florence Price, Text by Langston Hughes**

Closing Hymn ELW #676 *"Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak"*



Postlude Aria from *'Goldberg Variations'* by J.S. Bach

Today's celebrants:
Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Zook
Deacon: Christina Mitchell
Lector: --
Soloists: Jade Dasha, Benjamin Burney
Organist & Choir Director: Oleg Bellini

Copyright Information:

Below is a list of the hymns we are using in today's service with the copyright information located with them.

Opening Hymn **ELW #533** ***"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"***

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER. Joachim Neander. 1650–1680

Hymn of the Day **ELW #793** ***" Be Thou My Vision"***

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Closing Hymn **ELW #676** ***"Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak"***

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856