Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool



First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 9:30am, November 29, 2026
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

Rt. 25A and Sunken Meadow Road
Fort Salonga, New York 11768
(631) 269-6454

The People of God, Ministers
The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor
The Reverend Toby Tobias, Pastoral Associate
Ms. Kathy Pucci, Deacon
Mr. Gavin Schwen, Deacon
Mr. Brian Forberg, Deacon
Dr. Thomas Zatorski, Director of Music
Ms. Lisa Pecchio, Soloist
Dcn. Gavin Schwen, Ms. Lisa McCaffrey, Ms. Doris Meyer, Mr. Jim Meyer, Assisting
Mr. Robert Cubbon, Ms. Jessica DiSalvio, Mr. Marc Sorensen, Readers
Ms. Sydney Martinsen. Ms. Danica Herfel, Acolytes
Ms. Jane Stark, Ms. Jahnae Mickens, Ushers
Ms. Janice Norton, Communion Bread Baker
Ms. Sandra Richards, Altar Guild
Mr. Tristan Minton, Video Production
Ms. Marialaina Sheehan, Preschool Director

Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to Worship!
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
9:30am
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE ***"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"*** J.S. Bach BWV 645

GATHERING – The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.
Amen.

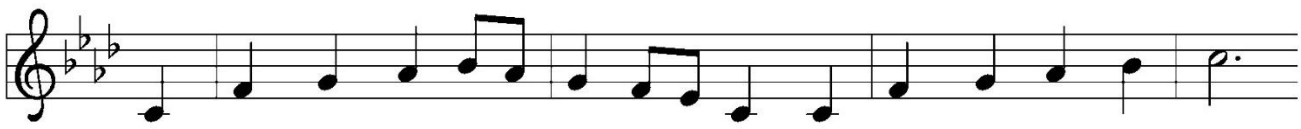
A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"

We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

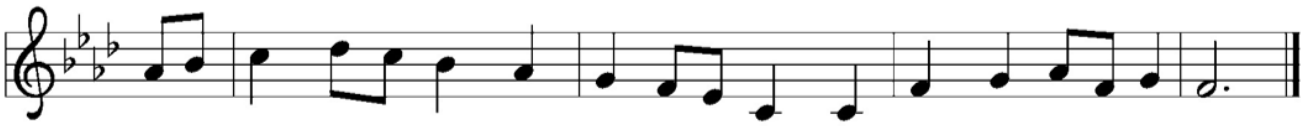
Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ✝ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN 260 *"The King Shall Come"*



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.
Amen.

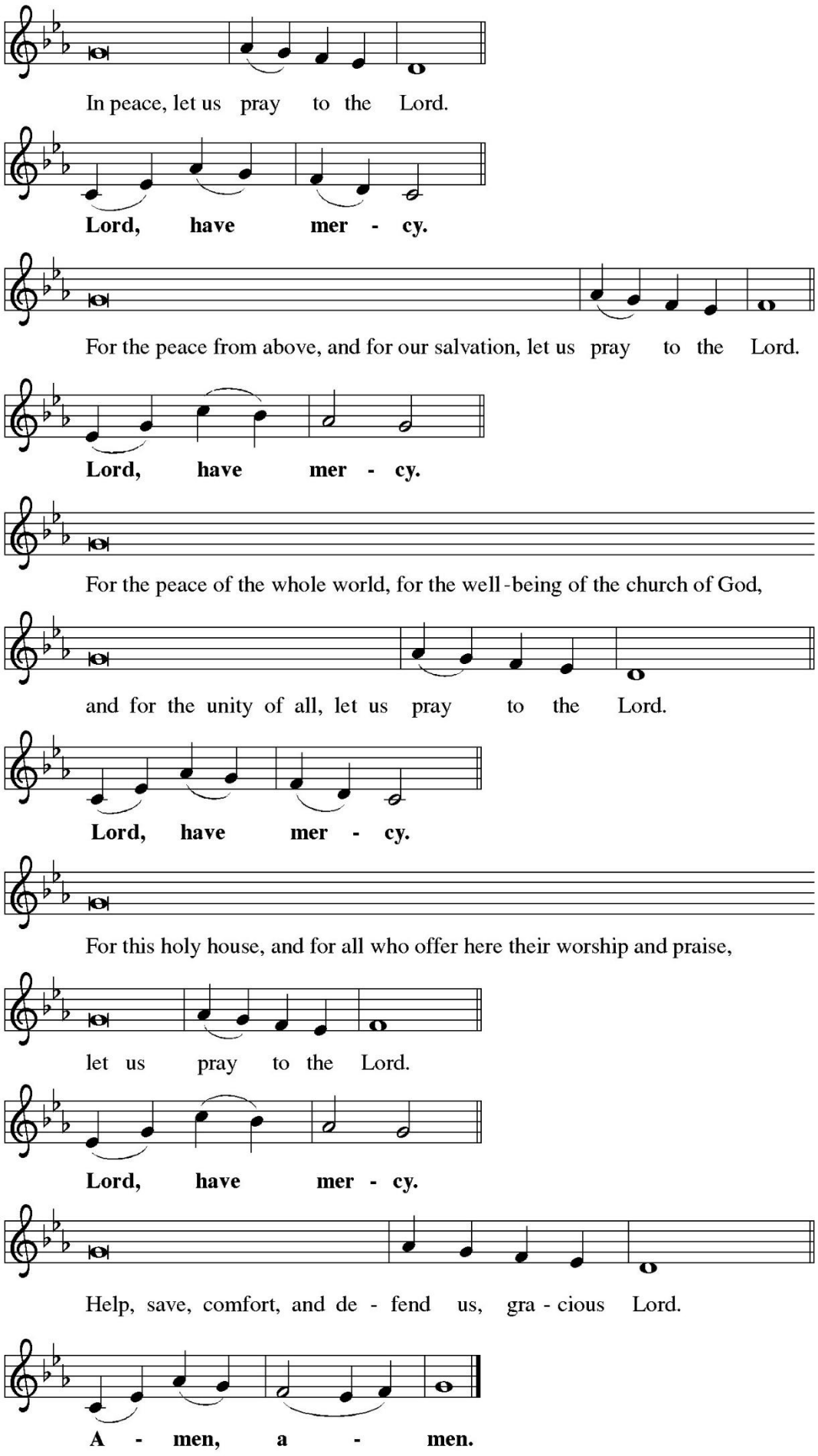
HYMN ***"Light one candle to watch for Messiah"***

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD – God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please sit

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

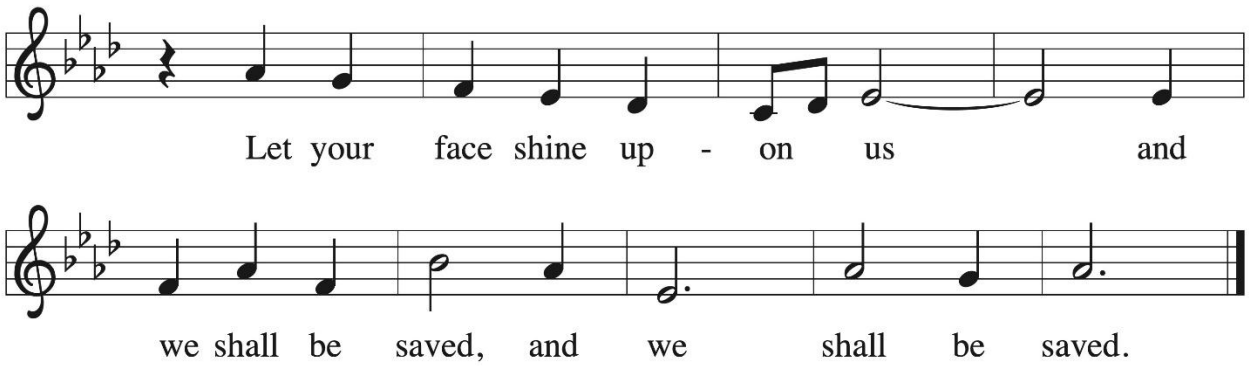
A Reading from Isaiah

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. **Congregation/. Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
(Cantor sings verses. All sing response.)
Response



Psalm 80:7
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1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray? **R**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself. **R**
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

A Reading from 1 Corinthians

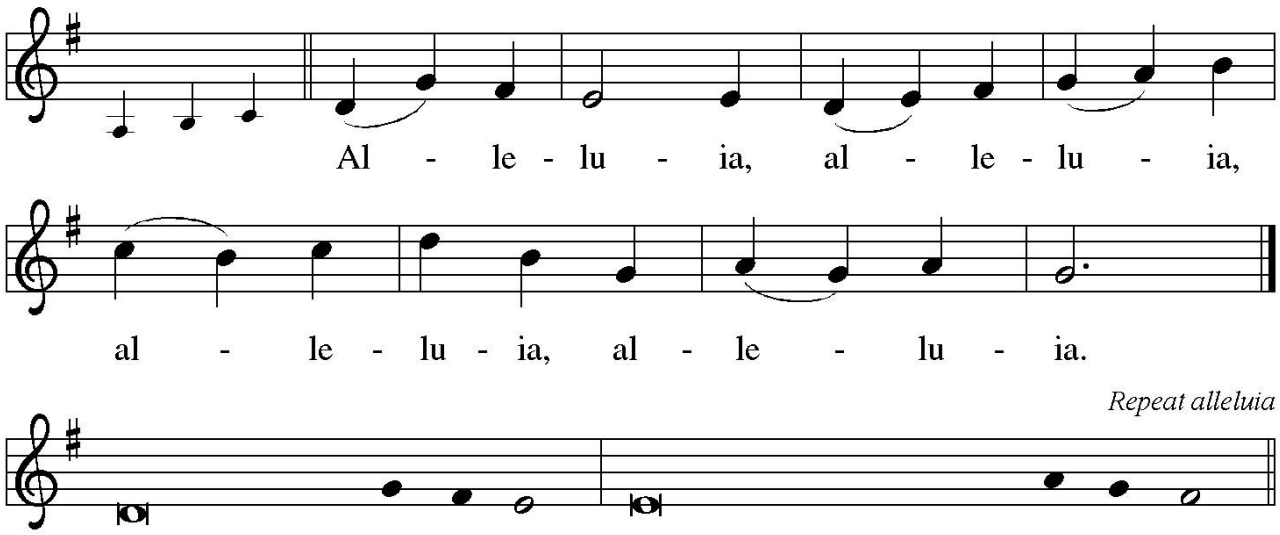
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you

to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. **Congregation/. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL
(Cantor sings proper verse. All sing Alleluia before and after verse.)



Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

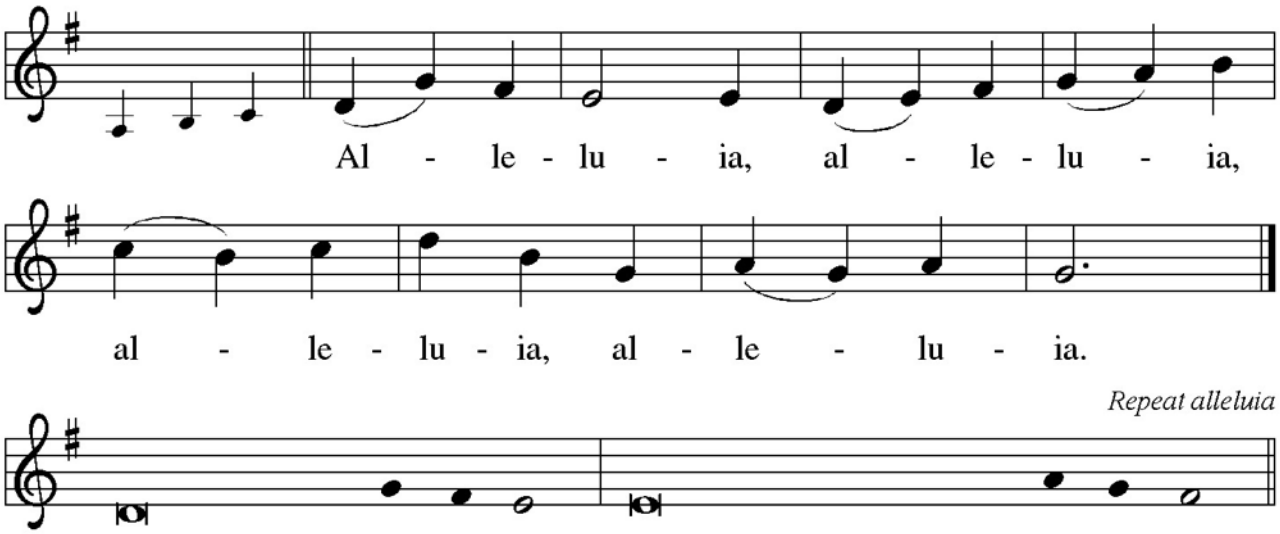
26 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and
glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you
see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have
taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass
away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor
the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when
the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home
and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the
doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at
cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

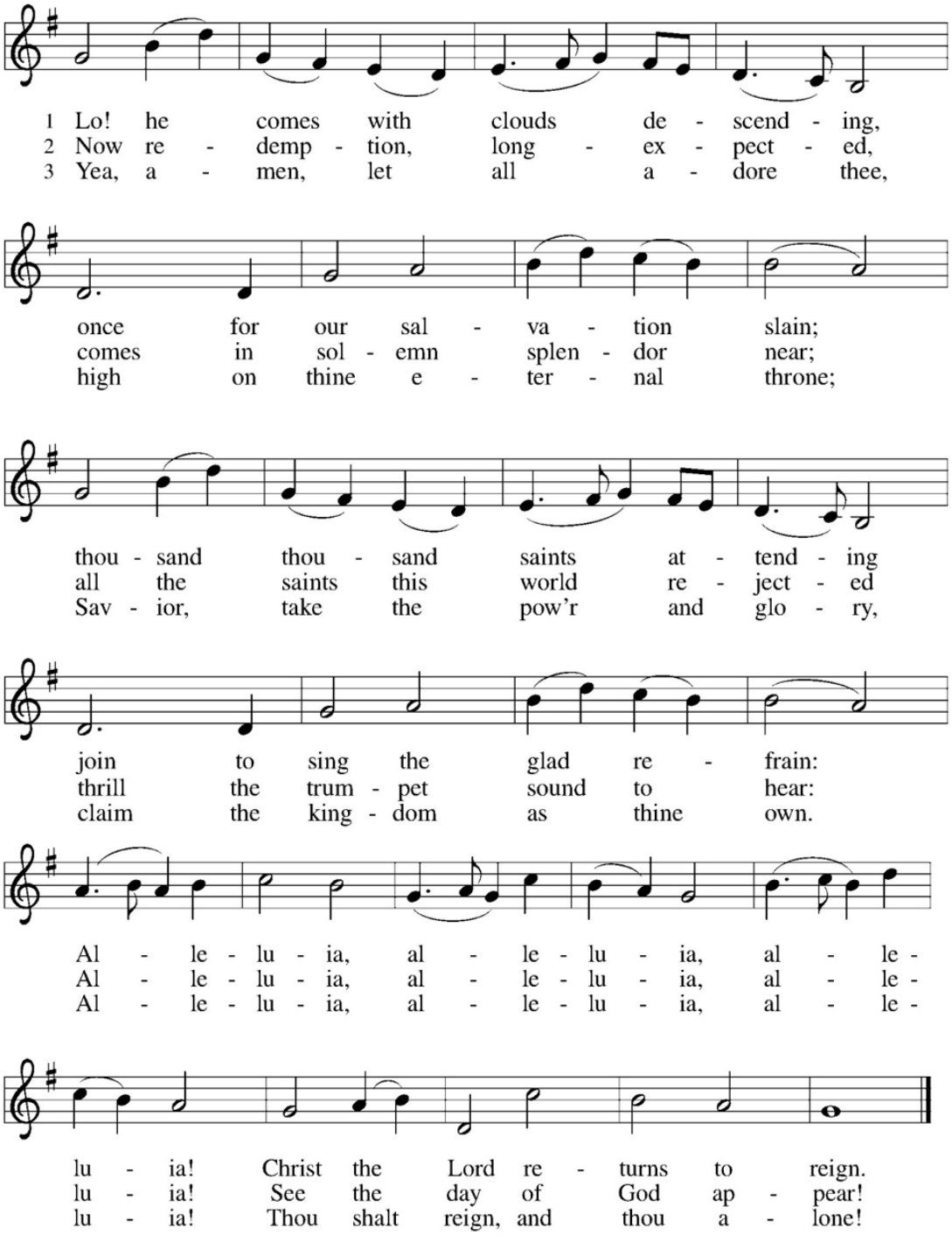


Please sit

SERMON — Pr. Schoepflin

Please stand as you are able

HYMN 435 *"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the + life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: "receive our prayer.")

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need, responding "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry, especially those on our prayer list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

Please sit

ANTHEM ***"Waiting for Bethlehem's Light"*** Charles McCartha
Choir of the Abiding Presence

OFFERING **NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?**
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE

Please stand as you are able

OFFERING HYMN 465 ***"As the Grains of Wheat"***

Refrain
As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;

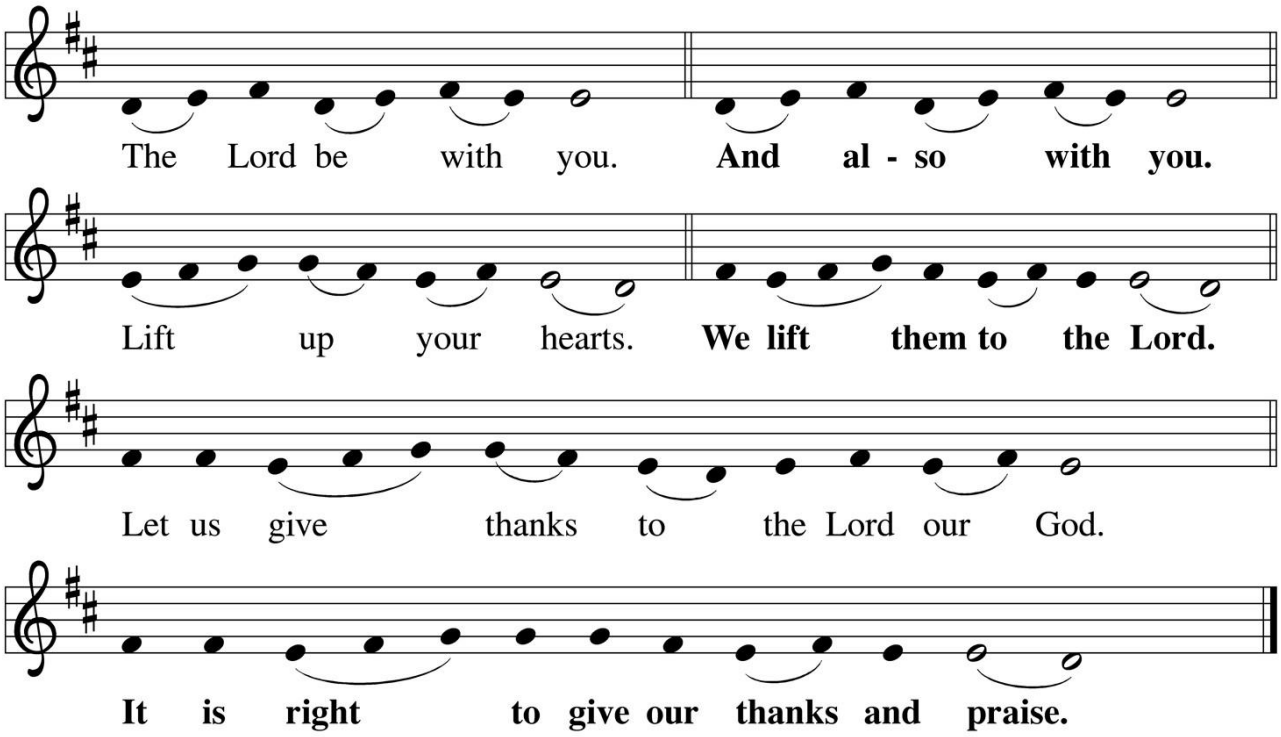
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain

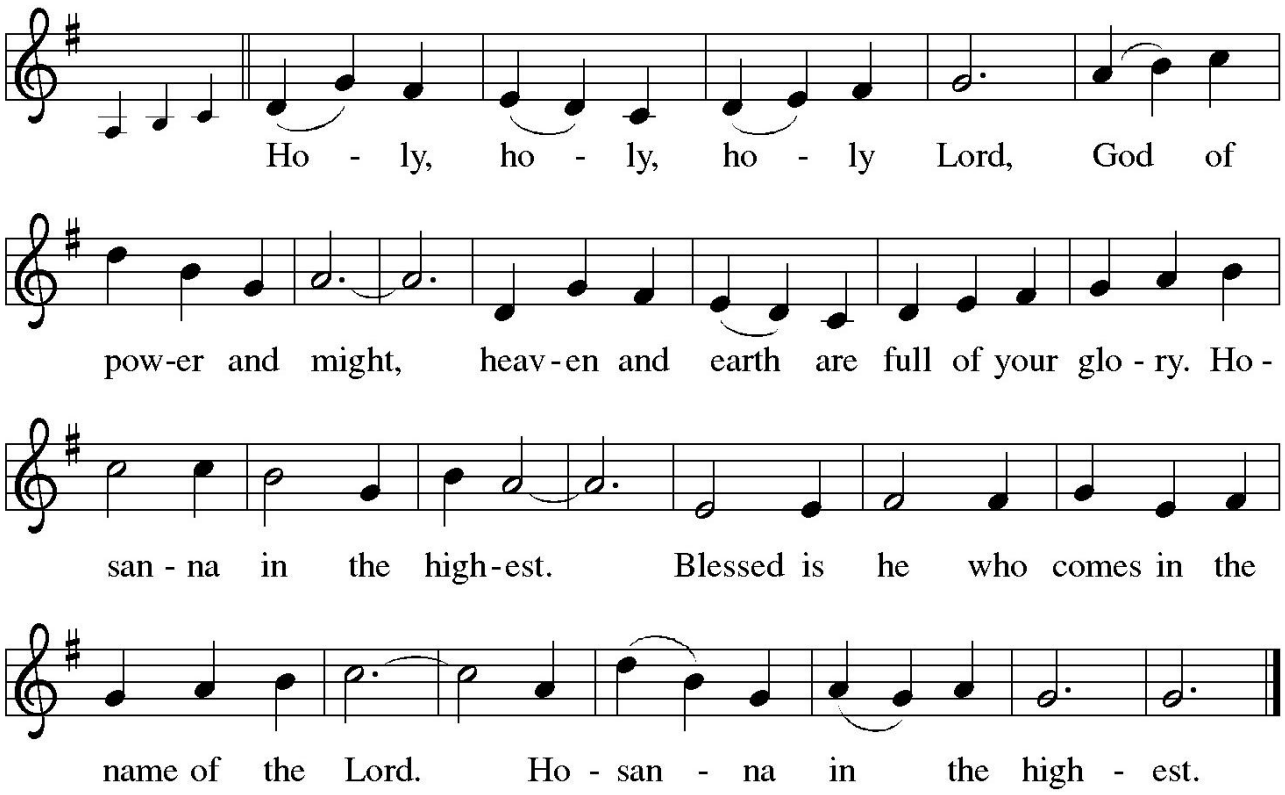
Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray: Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

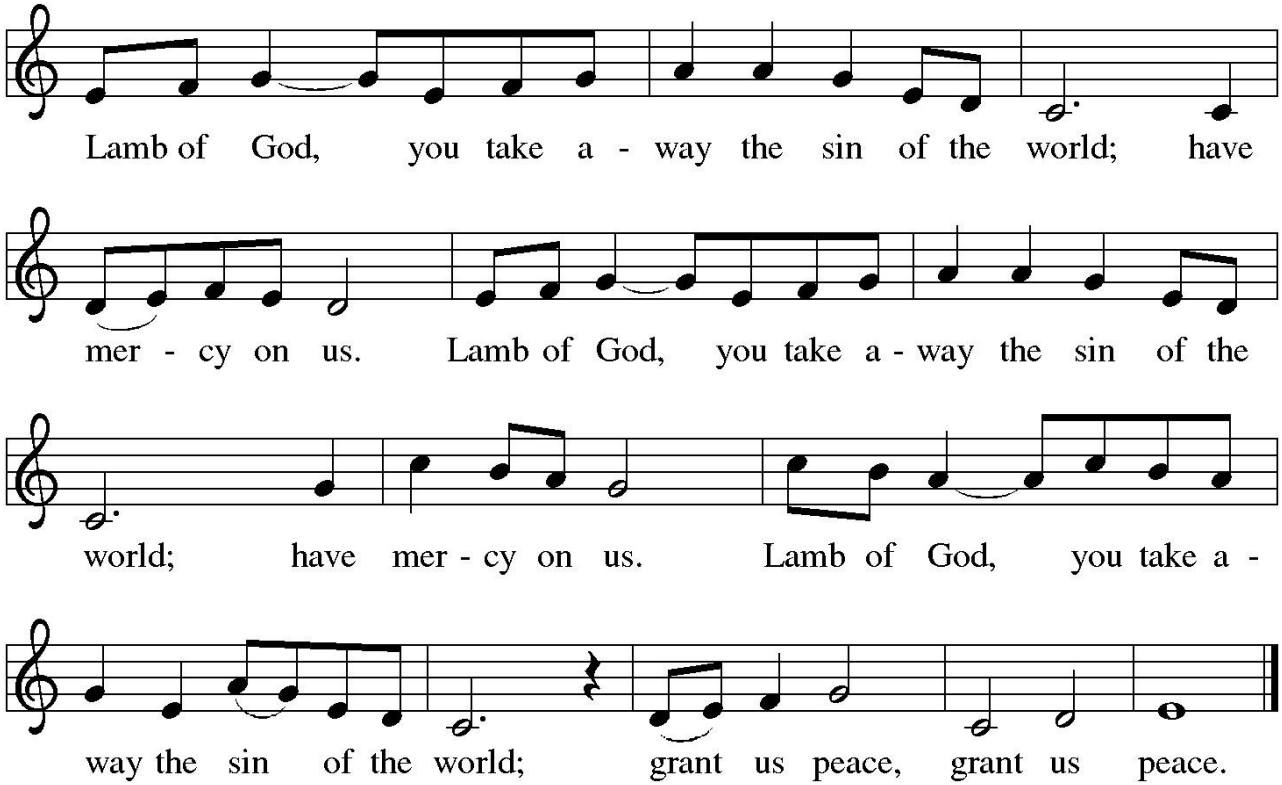
LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.
Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

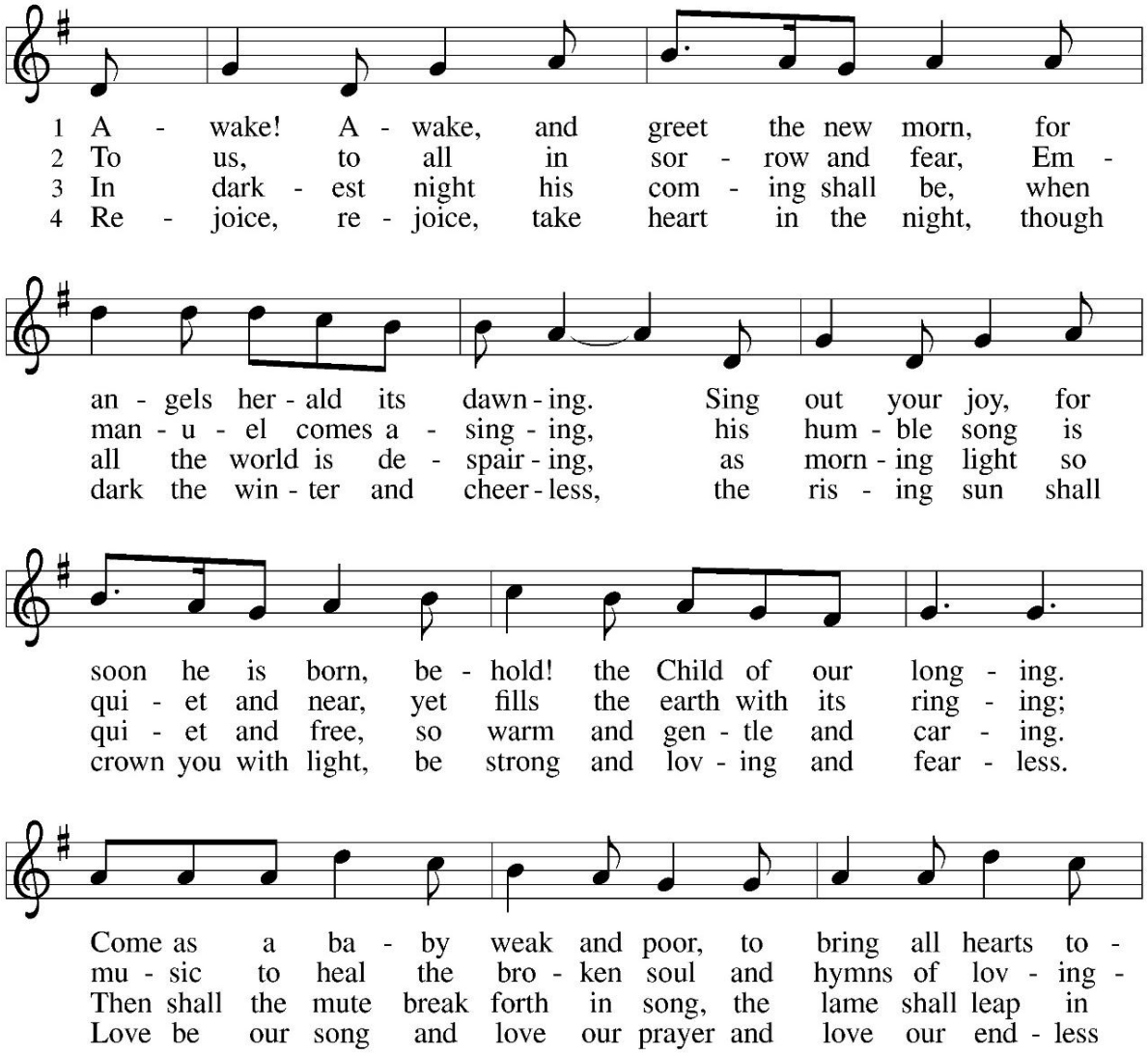


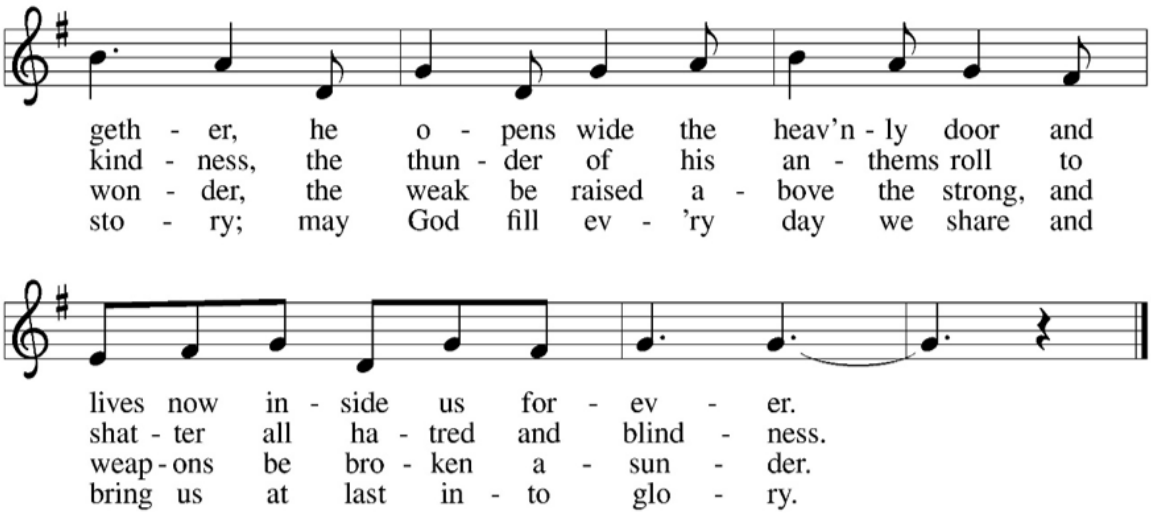
Please sit

THE DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that along with the bread and wine we receive the true Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to the Lord's table to receive the Sacrament. The Sacrament will be distributed in one or two continuous lines at the main aisle. The bread is received in the hand and the communicant then proceeds to a gold chalice for intinction or to a crystal chalice to drink from the common cup, or if so desired, the communicant may receive only the bread. Please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten free wafer. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

COMMUNION HYMN 242 *"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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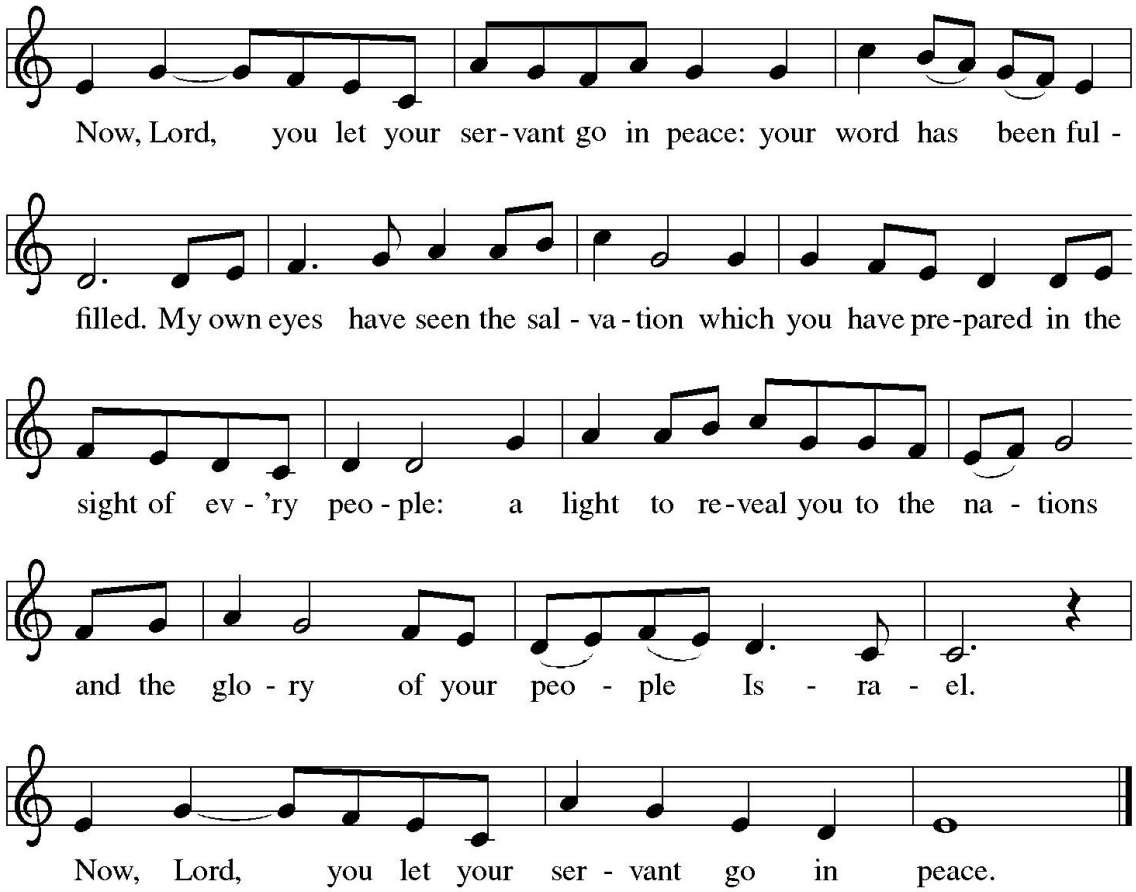
Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION HYMN *"Now, Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace"*



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance
you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence in the way
of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

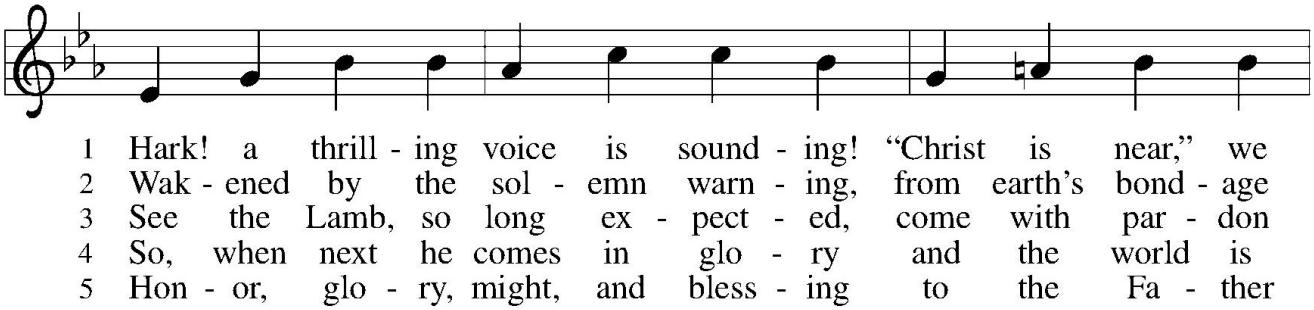
SENDING – God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

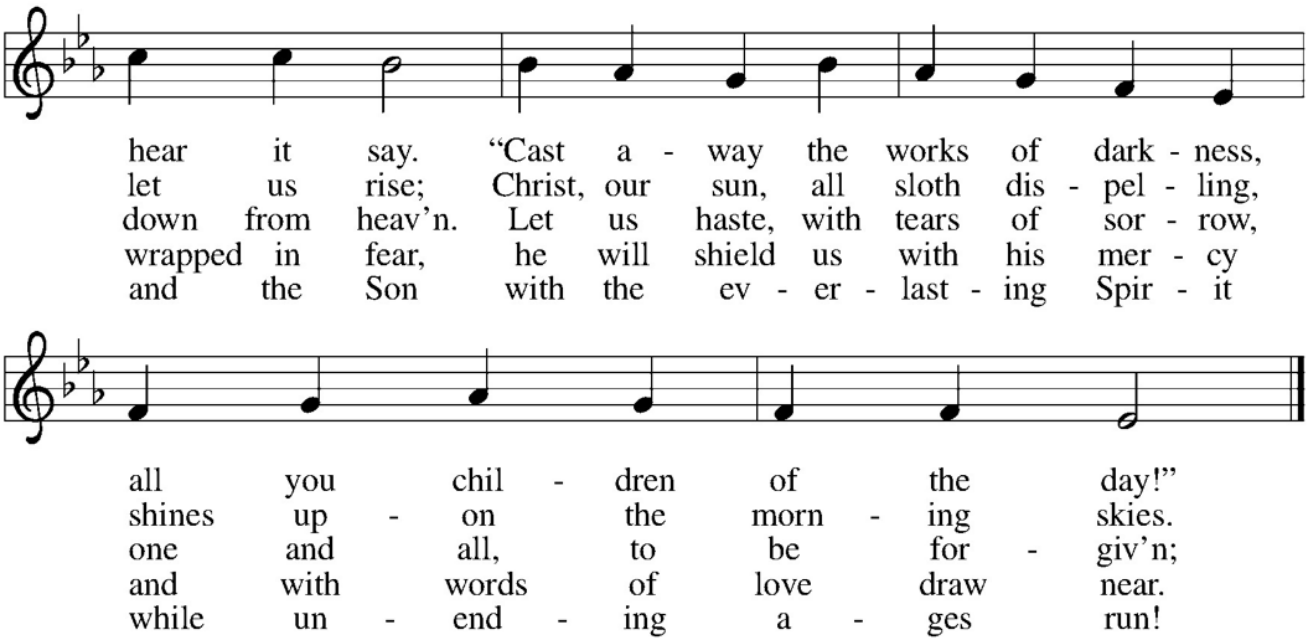
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 246 *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"*





Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889

DISMISSAL

Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve.
All are welcome!
Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ***"O Come O Come Emmanuel"*** J. William Greene

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IN OUR PRAYERS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING ARE: Alie, Rakel Anderson, Annette, Jean B., F. Bauer, Margaret Belt, Allison Bender, Michael Bender, Rich Bender, Betsey Berry, Anthony Bonello, Betty Bose, Brenda, Bobby Burns, Connor Burke, Annabelle Carini, John Carini, Fran Casola, Claire, Anthony Ceriello, Lindsey Ann Clark, Christel Clausen, Nancy Couture, Mitch Crowley, Vania Davis, Avery Doino, Mary Donnelly, Jeff Eisner, Elaine, Wayne Ericksen, Paul Farber, Felix, Melinda Geis, Ella Giana, Sal Giannotta, Jim Gill, Frank Gonzalez, Kristen Bruce-Gonzalez, Gregory, Thomas H., Ed and June Heidelberger, Jennifer Hoffman, Josephine Hoffman, Jennifer Howard, Dylan Israelian, Joanne, Joe, Cliff Johnson, Jean Johnson, Kathy, Brian Kennedy, Kristen Kern, Denise Krack, Lia Krautmanis, Erik Krisch, Melissa L., Terry Lago, Lauren, Douglas Lozel, Marissa Luethi, Gene Maccarone, Laurie Mandel, Mark, Mason, Katie McGowan, Mel, Melissa, Stancy Mentnech, Herb Menzel, Doris Meyer, Debra Michels, Carol Minton, Terry Moore, Jennifer Morrell, Debra Morsello, The Murphy Family, Steven N., Matthew Naeher, Kim Nallan, Lindi Nubel, Jane O'Brien, Lucille Ochal, Pamela, Rose P., Patrick, Paul, Richard Pecchio, Dorothy Philcox, Keith Philcox, Nicholas Pohlmann, Ned Price, Joshua Pryce, Jessica Pucci, Ron Pucci, Joseph, Joan and Matt Reilly, Matt Reilly's of Albany, Grace Revere, Lynn R., Margaret Rizzo, Doris Roche, Charlotte Roessle, Jim Rogin, Nancy Rosen, Ruth, Jordan S., Sal, The Seale Family, Joan Sepp, Jeff Smith, Jeffrey Starke, Stephen, Austin Stone, The Strumza Family, Suzanne Stoklosa, Annette Swanson, Gavin Tarsio, Todd, Peter T., Anna T., Julie Tiberie, Michael Wagner, Diane Wattecamps, Donna Weaver, Bill Wegener, Peter Weichner, Bill Witte, Claire Zatorski, Kathy Zieran, Erwin Zimmermann.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Courtney Burke, Paul Cassuti, John Delano, Jonathan Dixon, Walton Delano Gouldin, Eric Hank, Jr., Michael Hewson, Alycia A. Howard, Claire James, Justin MacDonald, Katie Mayer, Daniel Murray, Richard Mutari, Jake Sass, Kaitlin Stark, Bryce Michael Wheeler, Rachel Williams.



THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by The Williams Family in loving memory of Karen Schifellite. We love and miss you Karen, you are forever in our hearts.

Daily Bible Readings for Year B (November 29 – December 6)
From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Sun 11/29 *First Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Mon 11/30 Psalm 79
Micah 4:1-5
Revelation 15:1-8

Andrew, Apostle
Ezekiel 3:16-21
Psalm 19:1-6
Romans 10:10-18
John 1:35-42

Tues 12/1 Psalm 79
Micah 4:6-13
Revelation 18:1-10

Wed 12/2 Psalm 79
Micah 5:1-5a
Luke 21:34-38

Thur 12/3 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Hosea 6:1-6
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Fri 12/4 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Acts 11:19-26

Sat 12/5 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Ezekiel 36:24-28
Mark 11:27-33

Sun 12/6 *Second Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

THE PARISH COUNCIL

If you would like contact information for the council members listed below, please call the church office at 631-269-6454.

Joanne Pitfick, President
Pr. Robert Schoepflin, Vice-President
Brian Ansink, Fellowship
Karen Garone, Finance
Joie Burkhardt, Treasurer
Karen Garone, Assistant Treasurer
Mark Waldron, Assistant Treasurer
Barbara Kaifler, Secretary
Marina Bedrossian, Youth
Paul Fick, Property
Karen Wallin, Social Ministries
Betty Bose, Music and Worship
Aubrey Minton, Christian Education
Paul Farber, Stewardship
Lauri Christiansen-Wegener, Outreach and Marketing (Evangelism)

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