

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026
Divine Service, Setting 4
10:00 AM

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

465 Pond Path ~ East Setauket, NY 11733
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Mr. Thom Brownworth ~ Deacon
Rev. Charles Bell ~ Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Chris Cuvier ~ Organist

WELCOME TO MESSIAH!

To all who carry a burden of sin and need a Savior; to all who wish to rejoice and give thanks; to all who are strangers and need a Church home; to all who are lonely and long for companionship; to all who worship the Lord, our Creator; to all who hunger for the Word; to all who are weary and need rest, the people of Messiah, in the Spirit and Name of Jesus, say WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, we ask you to please introduce yourself to our pastors (don't worry, they're friendly!) and please sign our Guest Register in the narthex or fill out the yellow card in your bulletin. This will help us to get to know you better!

If you would like us to pray for you (or with you), please see one of our pastors before the church service or write a prayer request on the back of the yellow card.

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church exists in order to lead people to faith in Christ Jesus and Fellowship in His family, to celebrate His presence in worship and the study of His Word, and to use all their God-given Time, Talents, and Treasures according to His Will in the ministry of His church and mission to the world.

PRIVATE PRAYERS FOR BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WORSHIP:

On entering a church
Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Before worship
O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for His sake. Amen.

Before confession & absolution
Almighty, everlasting God, for my many sins I justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, who won for me forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant me a true confession that, dead to sin, I may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant me Your Holy Spirit that I may be ever watchful and live a true and godly life in Your service; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Before communing
Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

After communing
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send me Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

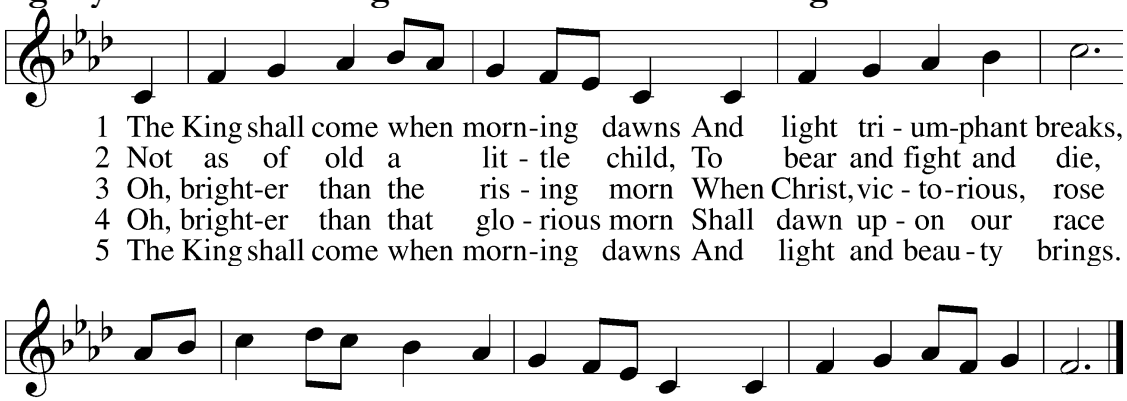
Prelude

Welcome

The order of service for today may be found in the Hymnal, page 203.

Stand

Opening Hymn: 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

L Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Kneel/Stand

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

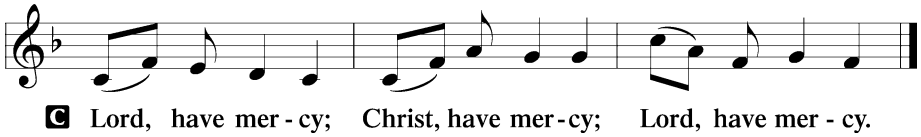
Stand

Service of the Word

Introit *Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

Kyrie *LSB 204*



Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Lectionary Summary

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God "would rend the heavens and come down" (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves "have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for "a long time, and shall we be saved?" (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are "enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge," and so He will "sustain you to the end" (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although "heaven and earth will pass away," His words "will not pass away" (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He "send out the angels" to gather us and all of His elect "from the ends of the earth" to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 64:1–9*

[1]Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might 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,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3]When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4]From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
[5]You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
[6]We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7]There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
[8]But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9]Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

C **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.**
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle *1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

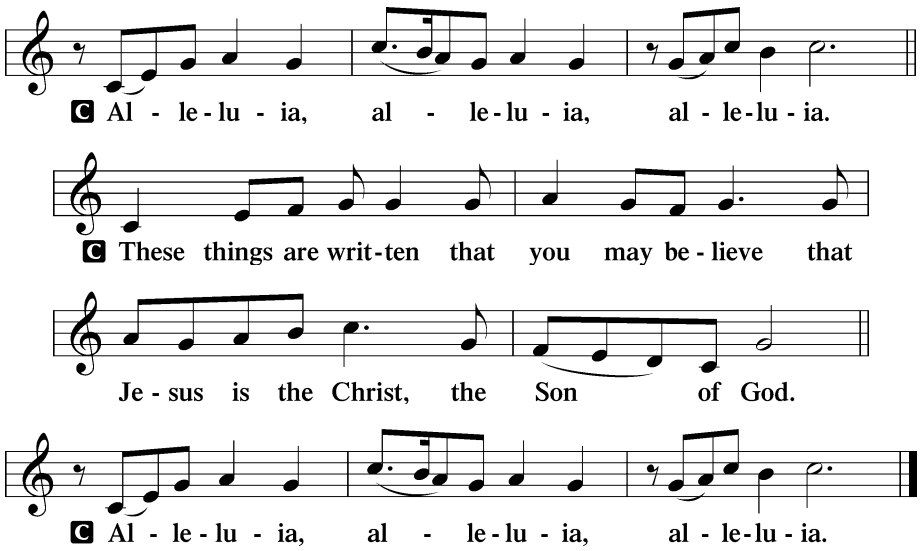
[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
[4]I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, [5]that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—[6]even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—[7]so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [8]who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel *Mark 13:24–37*

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[24][Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, 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]And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. [27]And then he will send out the angels and gather his 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 out 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 say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

[32]"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Be on guard, keep awake. 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 servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. [35]Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— [36]lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. [37]And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

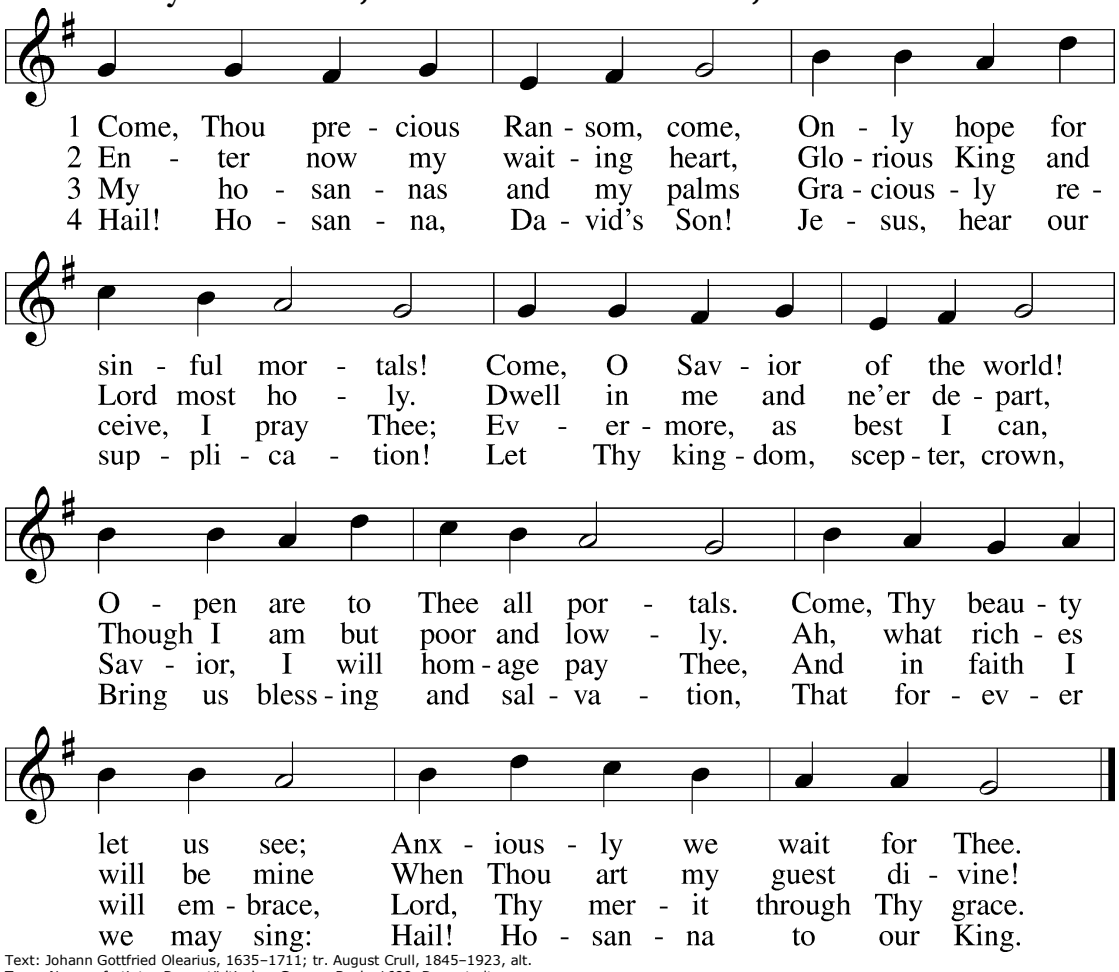
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message

Any children present (and Mom and Dad, too!) are encouraged to come up to the chancel.

Hymn of the Day: 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon ~ "Blessings?"

Stand

Prayer of the Church

The response for the prayers of the church is as follows:

L ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3). You are invited to greet one-another in whichever manner you are comfortable.

Sit

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. Therefore, we invite all baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Christian faith and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table. If you have any questions about this, please speak to our pastor. He will be happy to discuss it with you.

If you do not wish to commune or have not been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. When you come forward toward the altar, please ask the pastor if he would bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!

Stand

Preface *LSB 208*

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Lift up your hearts.

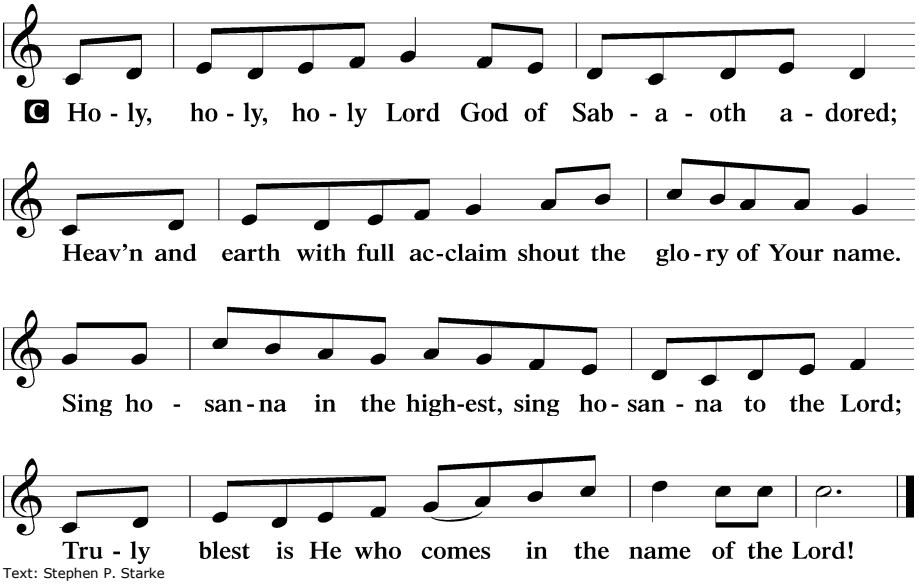
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

L It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.

The Words of Our Lord

L ***The elements for today's communion have been pre-consecrated by Pastor Bell.***
He spoke:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

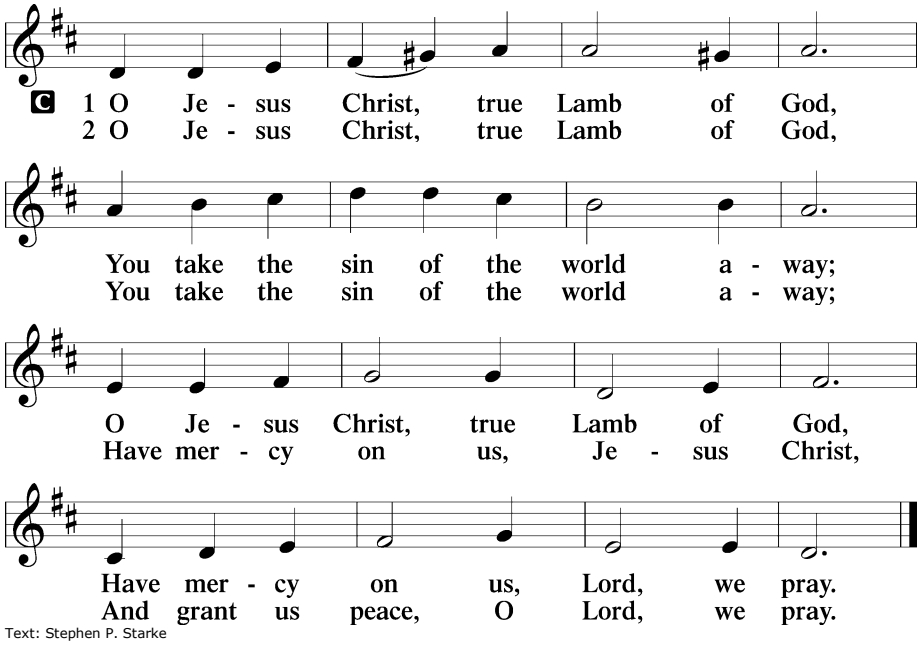
Come now and receive the gifts of God for the people of God.

Pax Domini

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

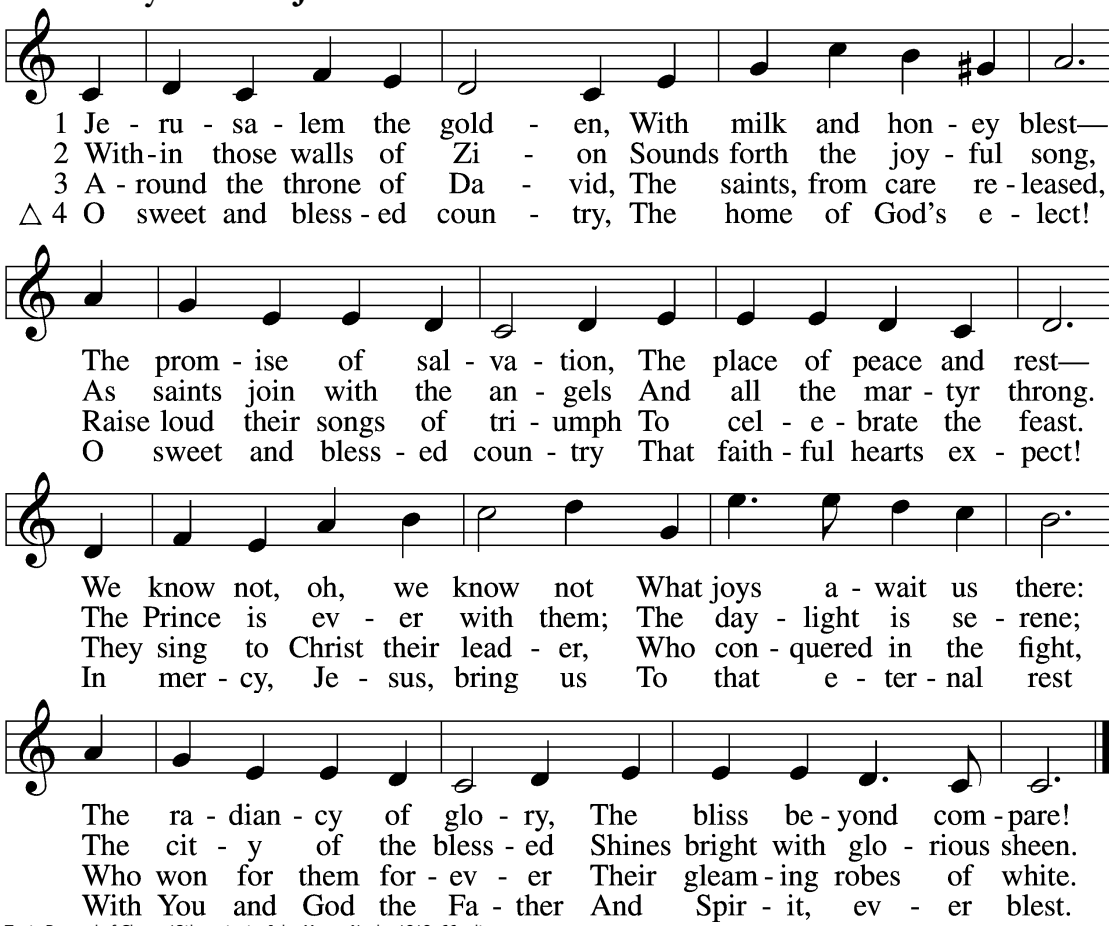
Distribution

Prior to the communion liturgy, we ask that all attendees fill out the yellow attendance card in the pew.

When the usher dismisses your row to go to the altar, please hand your yellow card to the usher.

If you are unable to go up to the Communion Rail and need assistance, please fill out the Red Card and hand it to the Usher. *Thank you!*

Distribution Hymn: 672 Jerusalem the Golden



Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

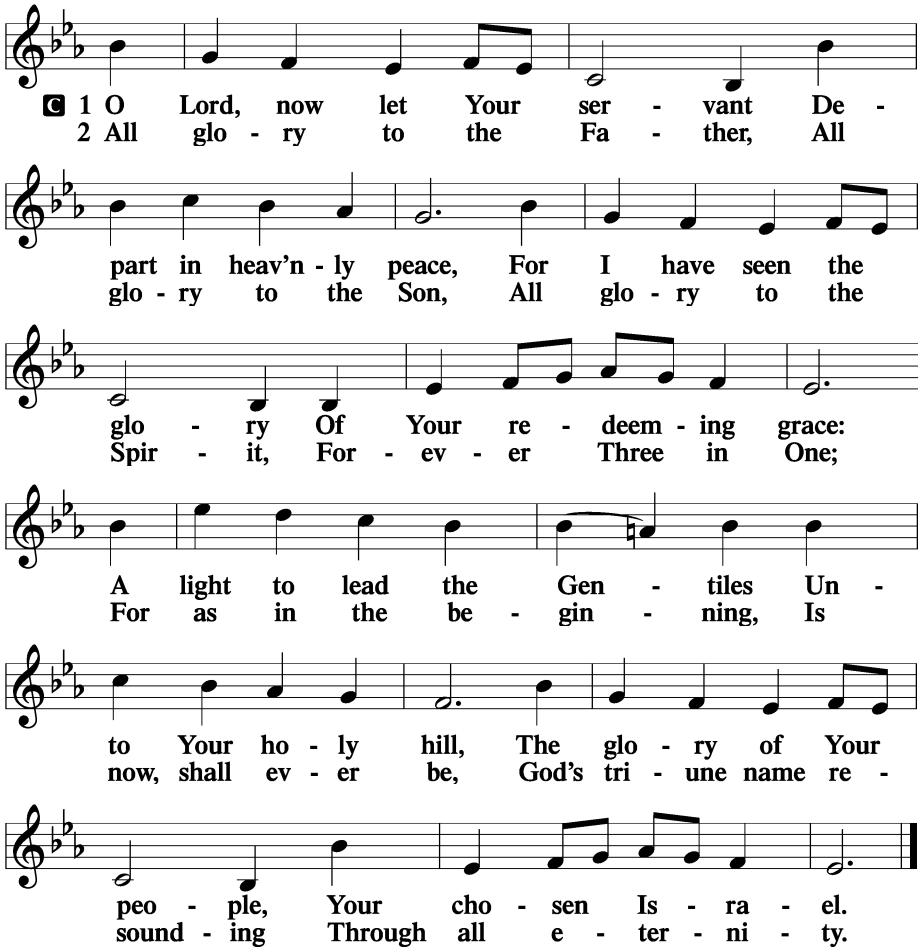
The Dismissal

L The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

L The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

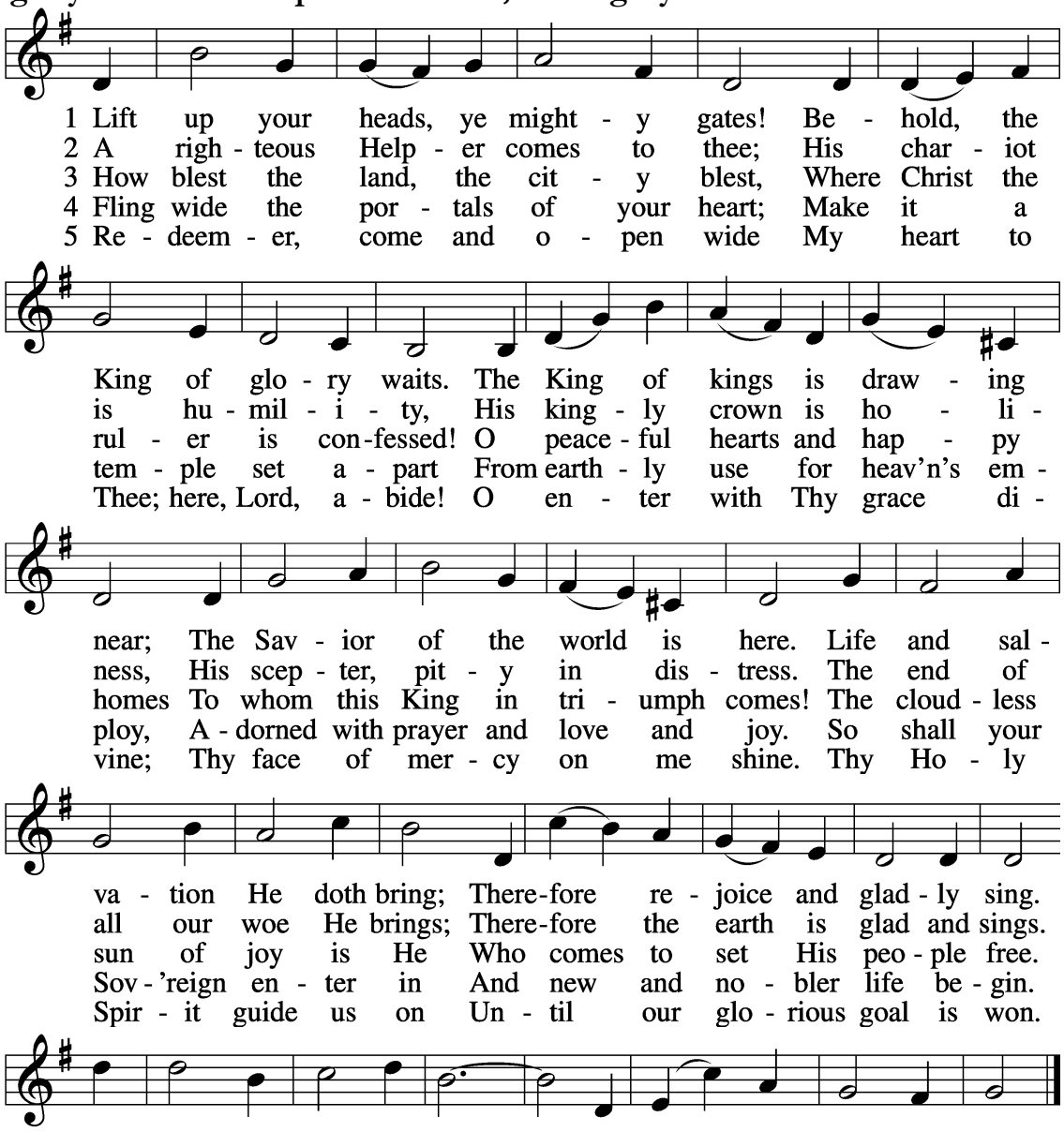
C **Amen.**

Sit

Matters of Importance

Stand

Closing Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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