

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK
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Phone: (860) 633-1188
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SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 30, 2025



The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

WELCOME CHILDREN OF GOD TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Conditor alme siderum

David N. Johnson
(1922-1987)

*We gather in the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

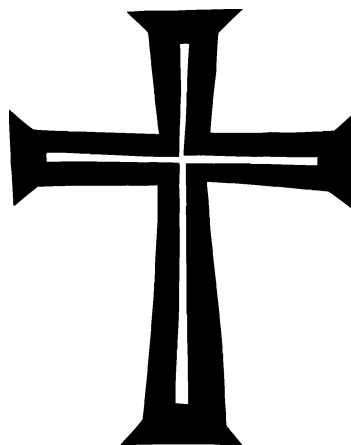
Silence is kept for reflection.

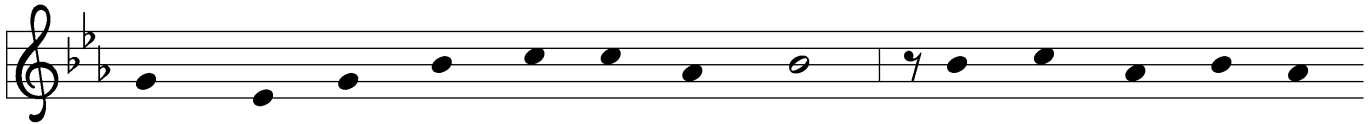
God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We have trusted earthly powers and human authority. We grow fearful and cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors and trusted false promises.**

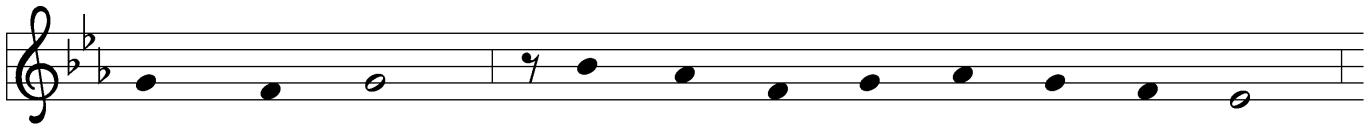
God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us and bring your mercy to live in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. Receive the grace and forgiveness of God, Father, ✠Son and Holy Spirit, trusting that the day of the Messiah draws near. **Amen**

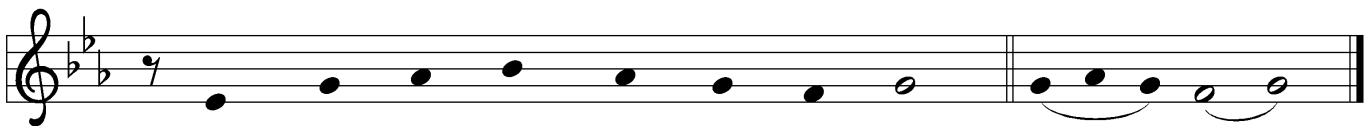




1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

*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

(Tune: *Lo how a rose e'er blooming*)

$\text{♩} = 100$

Cantor: In peace let us pray to the Lo - rd: Lo - rd, Have mer - cy. In peace from a -

People: bove, and for our sal - va - tion: Lo - rd, Have mer - cy. For peace in

People: all the world, for well - be - ing in the church of Go - d: Lo - -

Cantor: rd Have mer - cy — For this ho - ly house and for all

People: who wor - ship: Lo - - rd have mer cy. help, save, and com - fort us,

People: O gra - cious Go - d. A - - men A - - men —

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

A reading from Isaiah:

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his

paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

122

The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

Refrain



Tone



¹ I was glad when they | said to me,

“Let us go to the house | of the Lord.”

² **Now our | feet are standing**

within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,**
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. R

⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**

“May they pros- | per who love you.

⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,**
I pray for | your prosperity.

⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God,
I will seek to | do you good.” **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

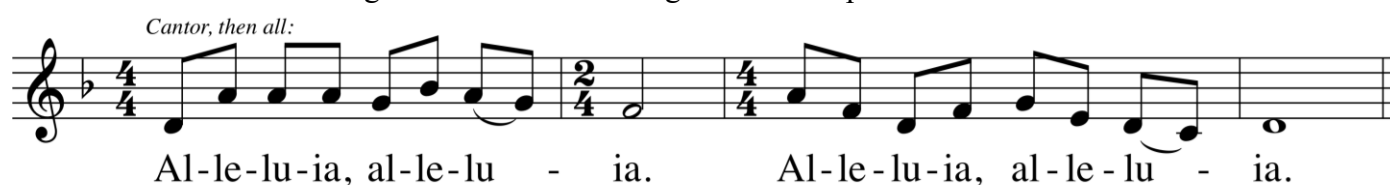
A reading from Romans:

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing refrain. Choir will sing verse. All repeat refrain.



Music: Based on VENI EMMANUEL, Stephen Pishner, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.



GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

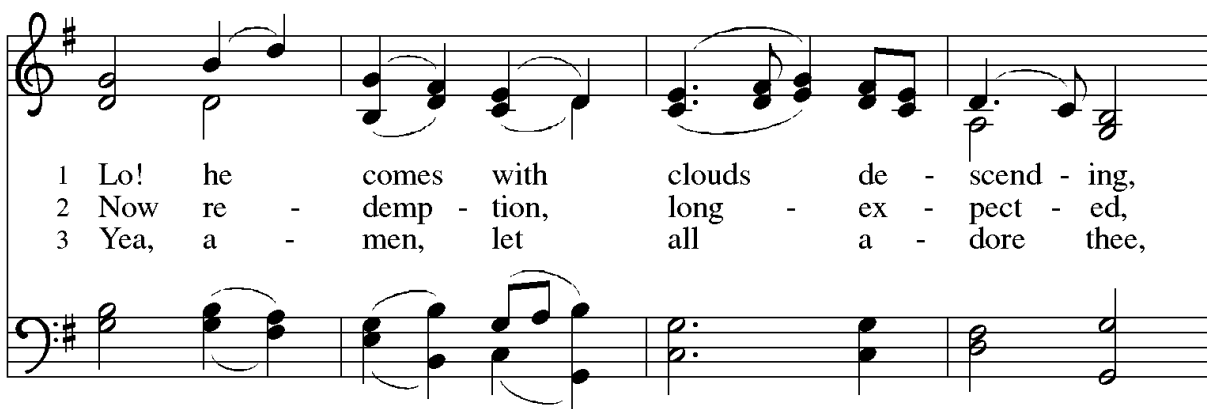
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

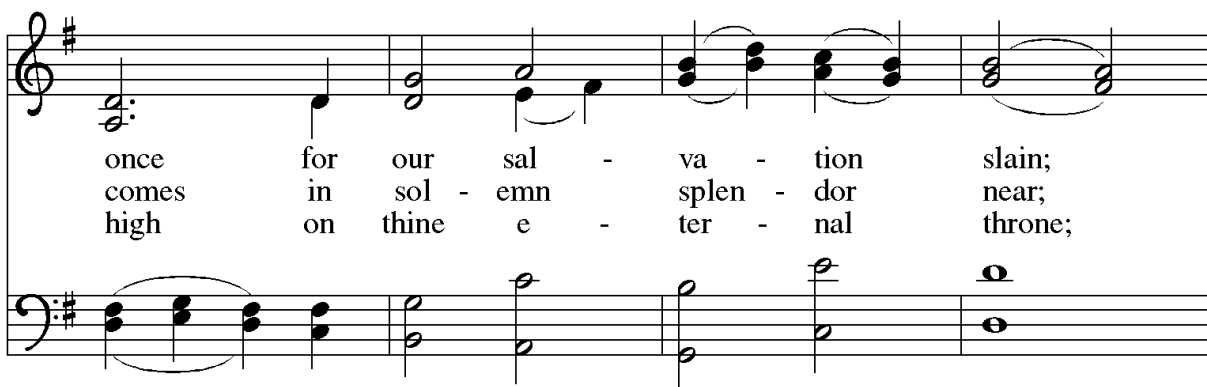
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

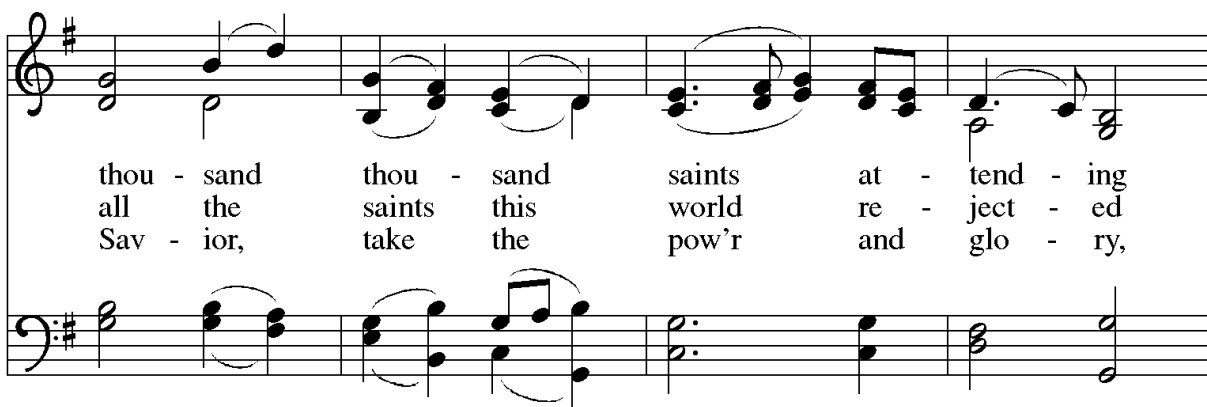




1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill to the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

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

*NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope we confess what we believe.

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 THE PEOPLE

*The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "**hear our prayer.**" and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "**Thanks be to God**" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "**Amen.**"*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Keep your lamps

André J. Thomas

*SUNG OFFERTORY

Create in me (Tune: O come, O come Emmanuel)

$\text{♩} = 120$

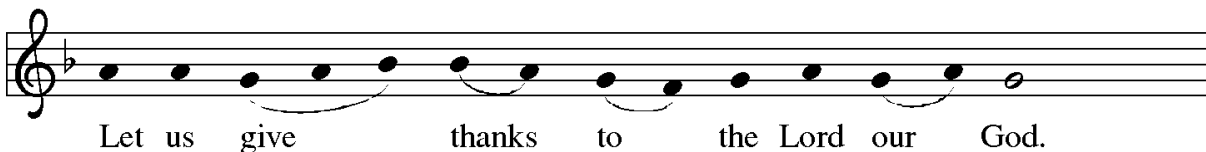
Cre - ate in me a clean heart oh God,
and send a - new your Spir - it true.
Fill up my heart with peace and grace
and let me see you face to face.
Re - store to me the bless - ings of your love,
And lift me up with joy from a - bove.

Arr. Daphne Burt

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the
world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

*PREFACE DIALOGUE

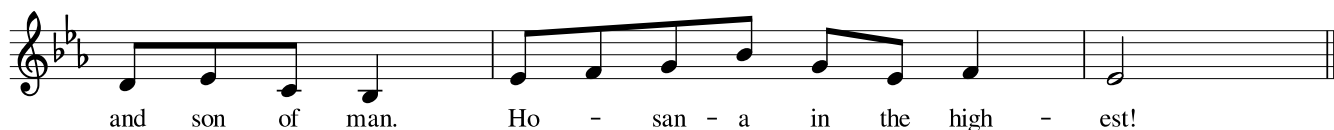
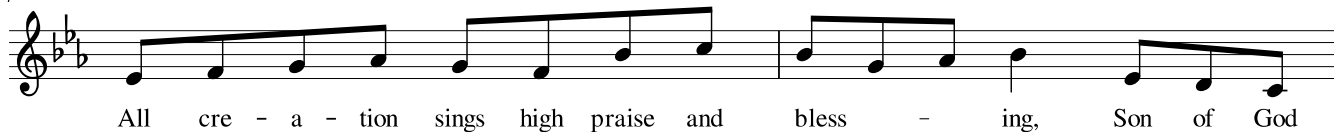
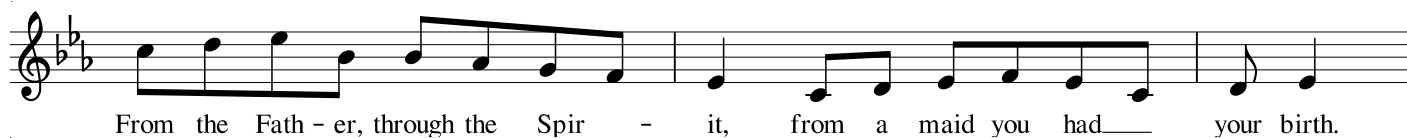
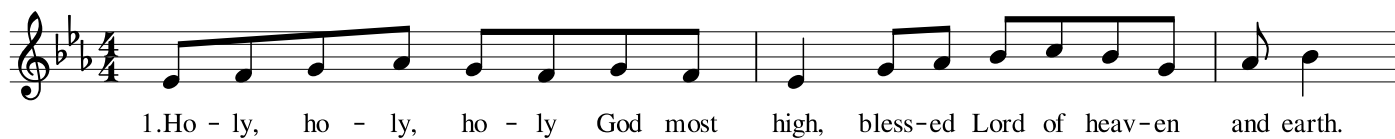


*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

SANCTUS

(Tune: *Of the Father's love begotten*)



*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you... mystery of faith:

O Christ, you are the splendor of life everlasting:

**We laud your death and resurrection,
and await your return in glory.**

Blessed are you... feast shall never end.

Amen. Come, O precious Ransom, come!

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

With boldness and confidence, we pray as Christ taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

*COMMUNION INVITATION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT


*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*



COMMUNION HYMNS


Lamb of God

Cantor:



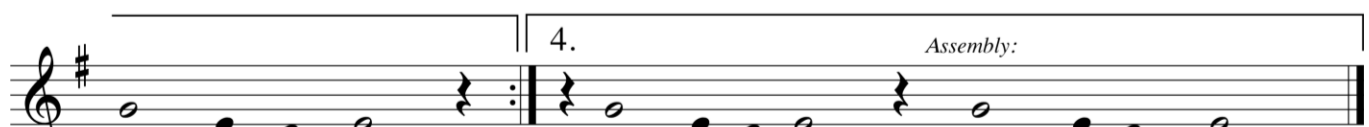
1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you
3. Key of Da - vid and Day-spring from on high:
4. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1., 2., 3. *Assembly:*



take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, have

4. *Assembly:*



mer - cy on us. grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

To you, O Lord

Psalm 25

Based on VENI EMMANUEL
Stephen Pishner



To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. To



you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

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PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. When I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING


ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION


May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**




1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Haf trones lampa färdig

Harvey E. Hahn
(b. 1946)

<p>Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Dave Taylor in celebration of grandson Leo's 6th birthday.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us after worship today to put together Care Bags.**
- Please join us for Advent Weekday Prayer Offices: **Matins via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9:00am. Soup & Bread & Advent Activities on Wednesdays at 6:00pm, followed by in-person and Zoom Evening Prayer at 7:00pm.**
- **The deadline to order Christmas poinsettias is Sunday, December 7th.** Please use the order form included in this bulletin.
- **Christmas Joy Totes - Sunday, December 14 following worship.** Last year, it was so much fun putting together the Christmas Joy totes, and many people said how they'd love to do it again. As you might know, we leave the totes out in the Narthex for our community visitors to take home. So, please plan to come on Sunday, December 14th and stay after service to help stuff the totes with a Christmas card, ornaments, candy, some surprises, and a whole lot of Christmas joy. For more information, contact Jan Frick.
- **The Women's Christmas Party & Yankee Swap will be Tuesday December 16th, 7:00pm, at Betsy Crayton's home, 129 Johnny Cake Lane, Glastonbury.** All women are invited. Bring something wrapped, preferably not new, to put under the tree, and something yummy for the table, and be prepared for hilarity and great conversation. Sign up on the bulletin board! Hope to see you there.
- **The Men's Christmas Party & Yankee Swap will be Tuesday, December 16th, 7:00pm at the Dave Taylor's home, 22 Farmstead Road, East Hartford.** All guests are asked to bring a wrapped gift valued at \$20 or less, along with a snack, dessert or beverage.
- **Gifts for CCGC:** The Community Child Guidance Clinic (CCGC) school in Manchester CT has students between the ages of 3–15 that are unable to thrive in a traditional classroom setting. We are collecting money to purchase holiday gifts for them. These gifts have been chosen to help keep the students focused during their holiday vacation. Please give as you are able by selecting peace cranes in amounts of your choice from the Christmas tree on the table in the entranceway and include the money in your collection envelope with the notation CCGC. Please see Eleanor with any questions.

- Save the Date for the **L'Estro Armonico Christmas Concert at St. Mark!**
Saturday, December 20. Potluck at 4:00pm, Concert at 5:00pm. Please sign up in the narthex to bring a dish for the potluck.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, November 30	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by GF & Friends and creation of Care Bags
	6:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, December 2	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
	4:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
	5:00pm	Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 3	6:00pm	Soup & Bread/Advent Activity
	7:00pm	Advent Evening Prayer (In-Person & Zoom)
Thursday, December 4	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 7	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by Deb's Team
	6:00pm	Bible Study



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