THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK
75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033
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SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 29, 2026



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.

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 *Awake, awake and greet the new morn* Marty Haugen (B 1950)
Setting by David Cherwien

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

*CONFESSION

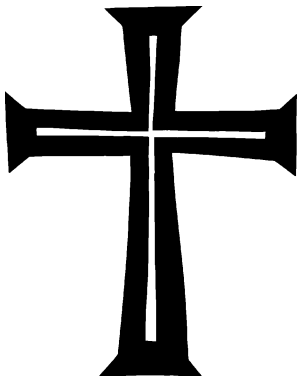
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

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.

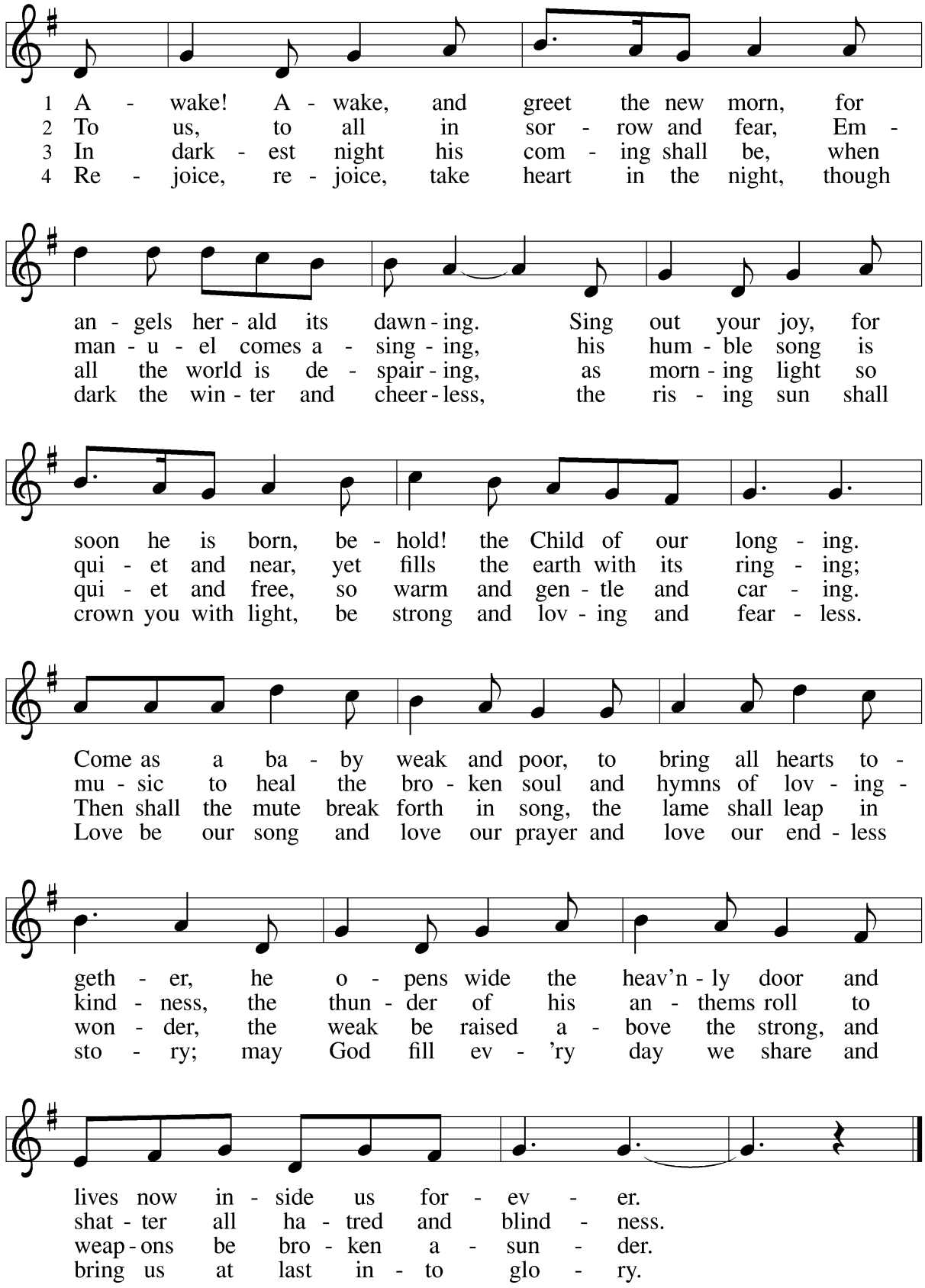
Please kneel or sit for the confession.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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! Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen.**



*GATHERING HYMN *Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn* ELW 242



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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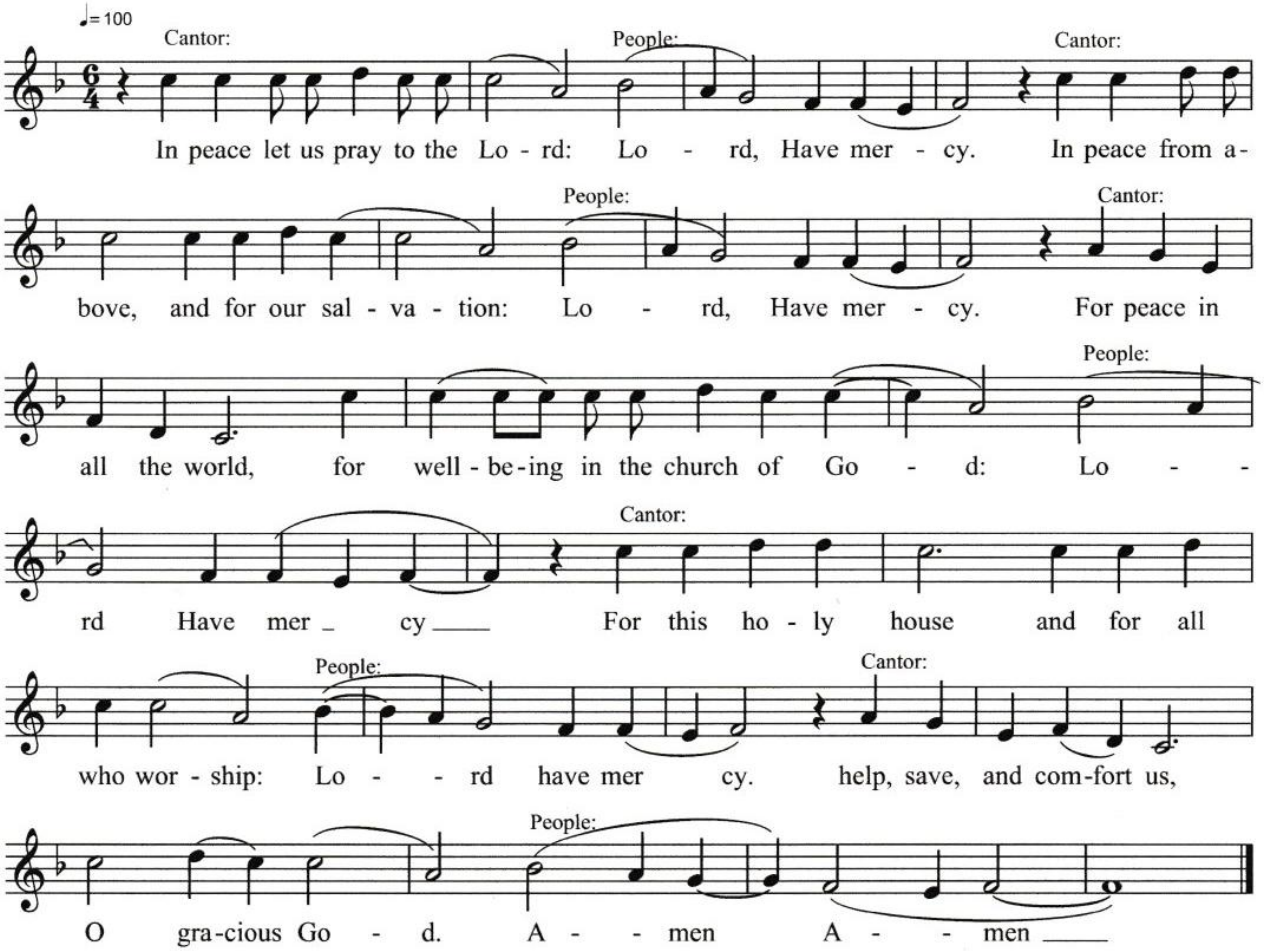
*GREETING

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*)



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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.

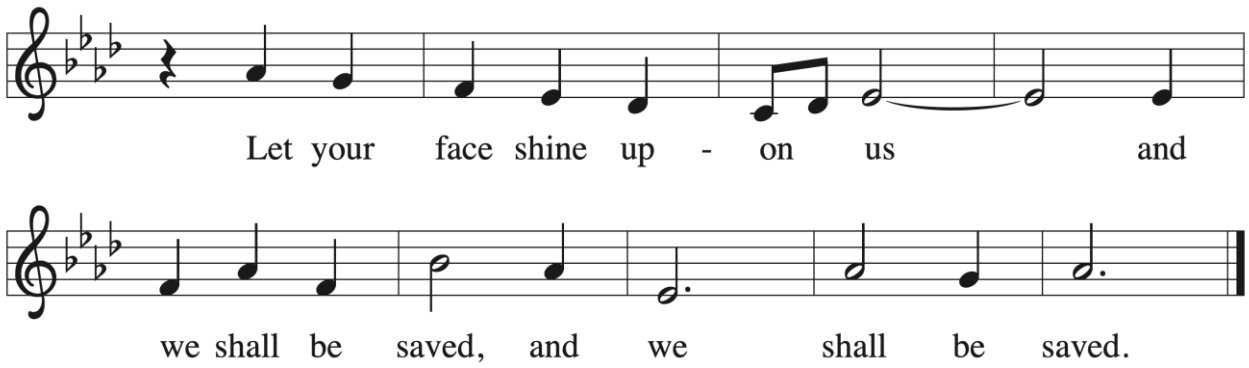
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



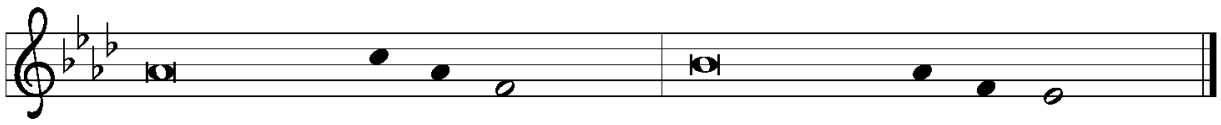
PSALMODY 80:1-7,17-19

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

Refrain



Tone



[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on 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 a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on 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.

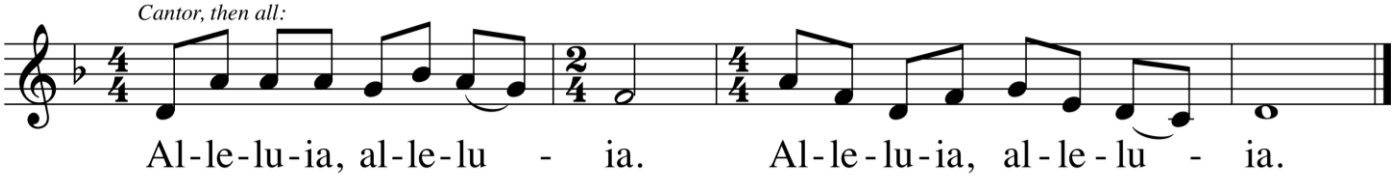
A reading from 1 Corinthians:

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.

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 — 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 St. Mark, the 13th chapter. **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

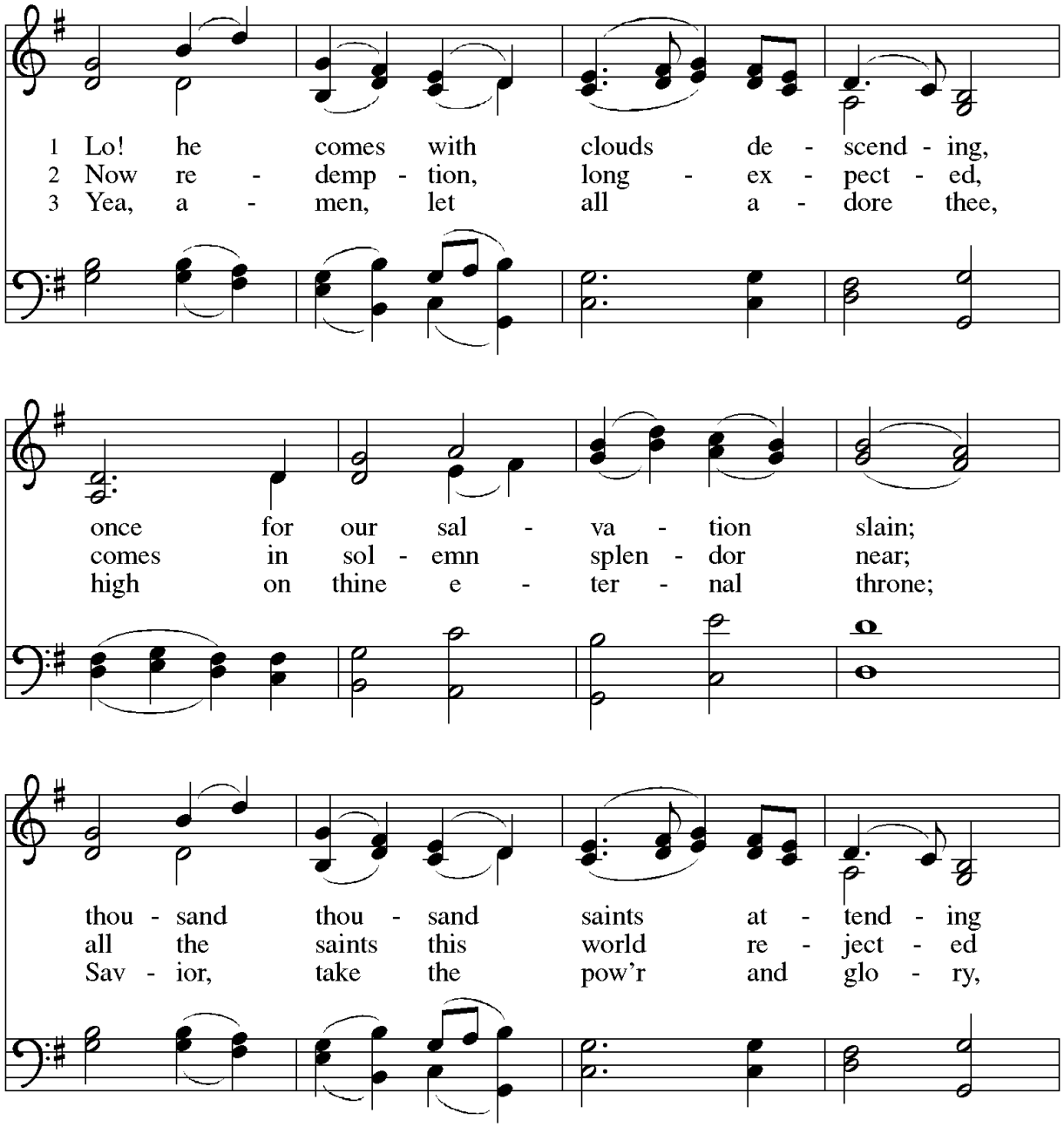
will come. [34] It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

[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.**

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *Lo! He comes with clouds descending* ELW 435



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill 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 *He Will Come* John Bell (b. 1949)

1. He will come when we're least expecting him, when the world is unprepared as if orphaned from its destiny, as if no creator cared.

   Refrain: Though for us, it's out of season, God decides the place and time.

2. He will come when we're least expecting him, when agendas have been set, and the deadlines have been finalized through which needs are seldom met.

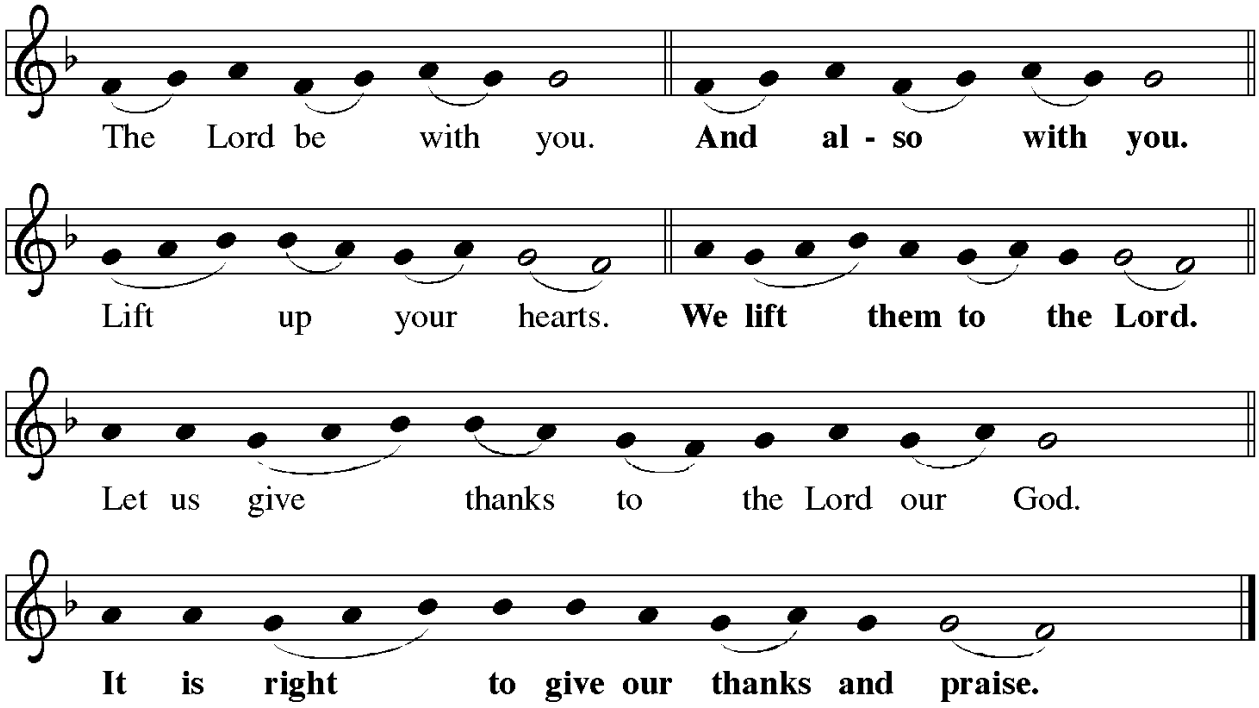
3. He will come when we're least expecting him, not to parliament or queen, nor to capitol or capital, blessing what has always been.

4. He will come when we're least expecting him, as a baby at the breast, with agnostics in the dining room in the answer no one guessed.

*The Offertory Prayer

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.

*Preface Dialogue

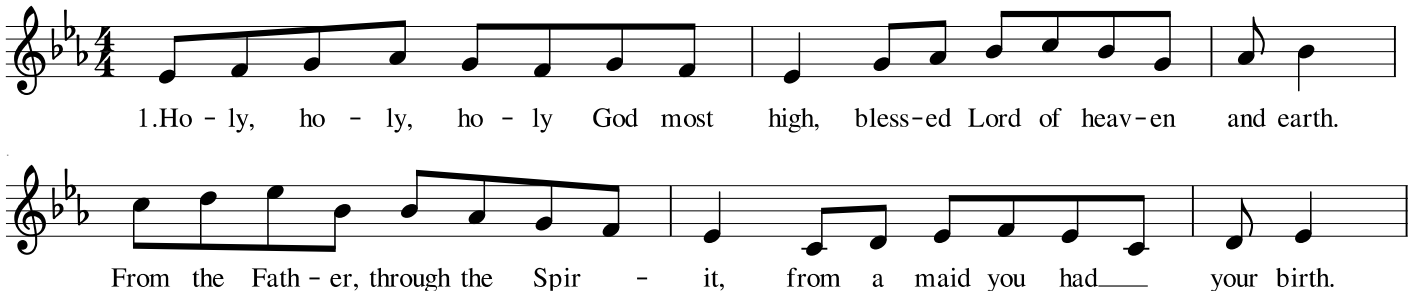


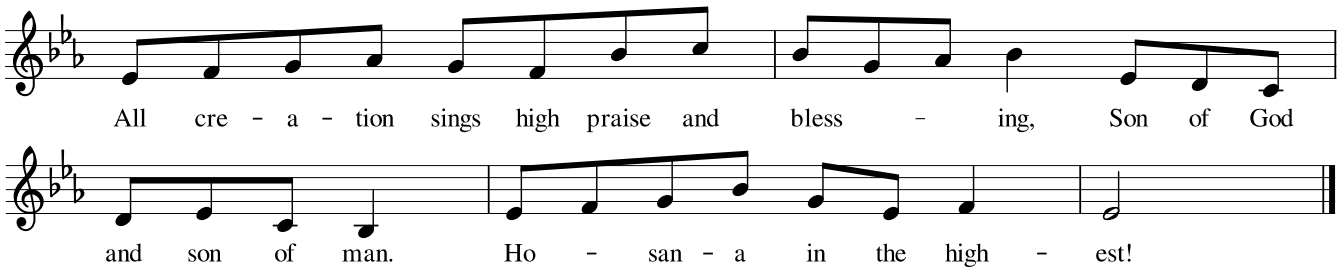
*Proper Preface

It is indeed … unending hymn:

Sanctus

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





*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*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

The glory of the Lord is revealed!

Come and taste God's presence.

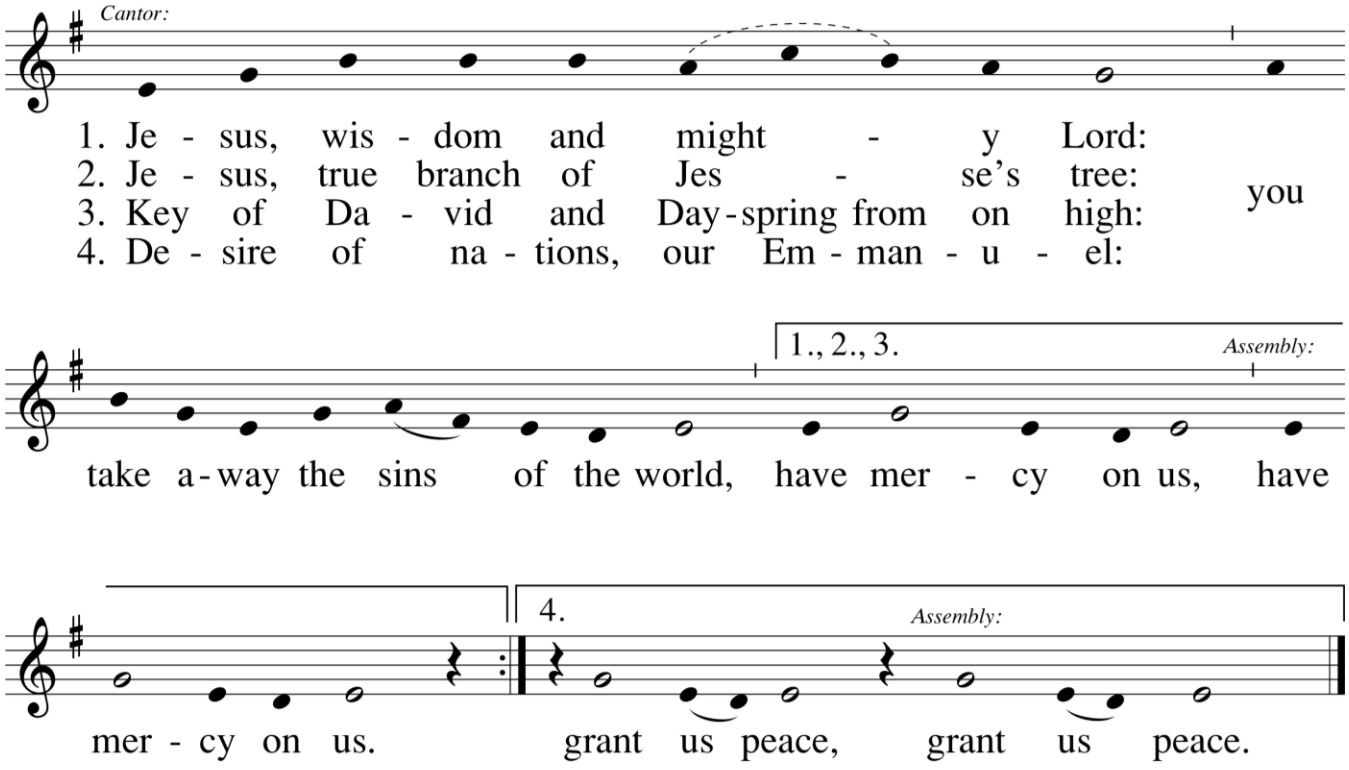
ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*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

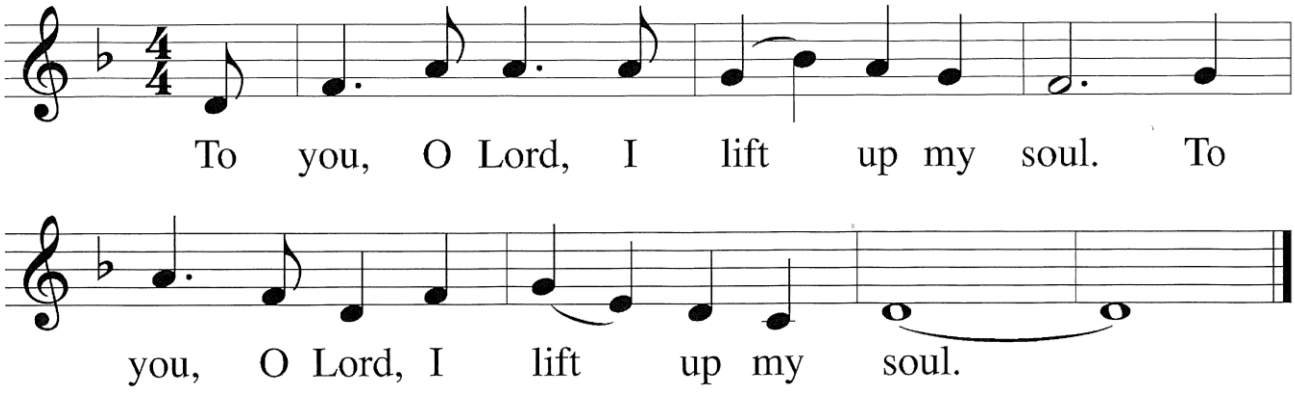


Music: *Missa Emmanuel,* Richard Proulx, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

To you, O Lord

Psalm 25

Based on VENI EMMANUEL
Stephen Pishner



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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

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.

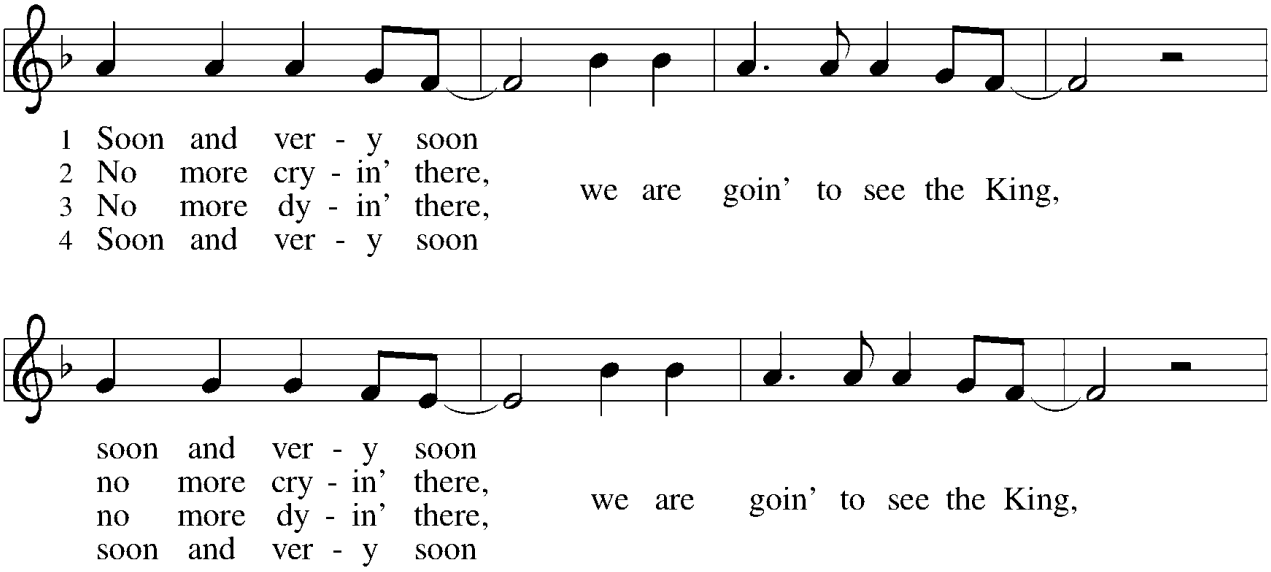
SENDING

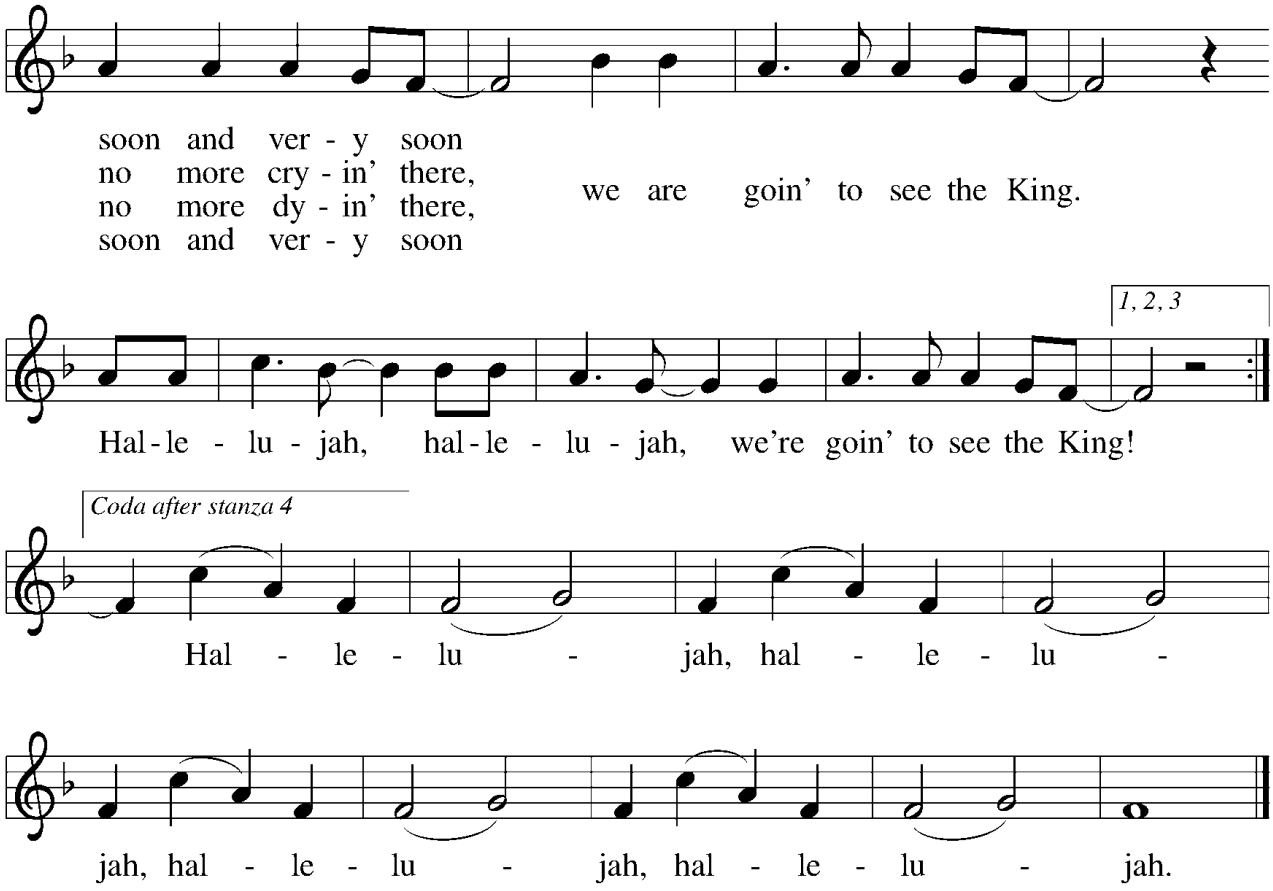
ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN *Soon and very soon* ELW 439





Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Betsy Crayton
in celebration of Mark's 70th birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Join us for Matins via Zoom on Tuesdays at 9:00am The link is available on our website.
- During Advent, Wednesday evening Vespers (December 2nd, 9th, and 16th) will be held in-person starting at 6pm with a lite meal and devotional activity. Worship will be at 7pm. The theme for this Advent is 'Comfort and Joy.'
- Please join us next Sunday, December 6th following worship service, to assemble the Christmas Joy Totes. There will be a box in the lounge area for donations of candy, Christmas ornaments, fun items, etc., for stuffing the totes.
- The ministry of Carol's Closet at St. James is once again be collecting coats for November, December, and January. We at St. Mark have been supporting the Carol's Closet ministry over many years, as the needs of our neighbors are ever present. If you have any spare coats that are in good condition, then please consider donating them. You can bring them to church and leave them in the Carol's Closet baskets located in the St. Mark coat closet. If you have any questions, then please contact Jan Frick.
- Mark your calendars to celebrate on Monday, December 7 at 6:00pm! The Women's Christmas Party & Yankee Swap will be hosted by Jan Frick, and the Men's Christmas Party & Yankee Swap will be hosted by Dave Obedzinski. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, November 29	9:00am	Advent 1 Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by GF & Friends
	5:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, December 1	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
	4:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 2	6:00pm	Advent Supper & Activities
	7:00pm	Advent Vespers
Thursday, December 3	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 6	9:00am	Advent 2 Service of Word and Sacrament Followed by Coffee Hour Sponsored by Godfellas & Assembly of Christmas Joy Totes

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