Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Todd Bertani

Church Website: smlcestes.org

Office Email: secretary@smlcestes.org 970-586-3900

Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors.



November 29, 2026

1st Sunday of Advent

Celice Clark, *Accompanist*

Prelude: *Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming* *arr: Mark Hayes*

and

Of The Father's Love Begotten *arr: Jay Rouse*

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in ***bold****.*
We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher to use during the service. Please note: The bags contain a treat.
Whether you are first time visitors or long time friends returning to share in worship with us, we are grateful for your presence today.

Liturgy*: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003178.* ***Scripture****: Quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.* ***Music****: Reprinted / streamed with permission under Sunday & Seasons.com #SAS003178 and/or ONE LICENSE #A-707376. All rights reserved.*

Welcome: Pastor Todd Bertani

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor 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.)

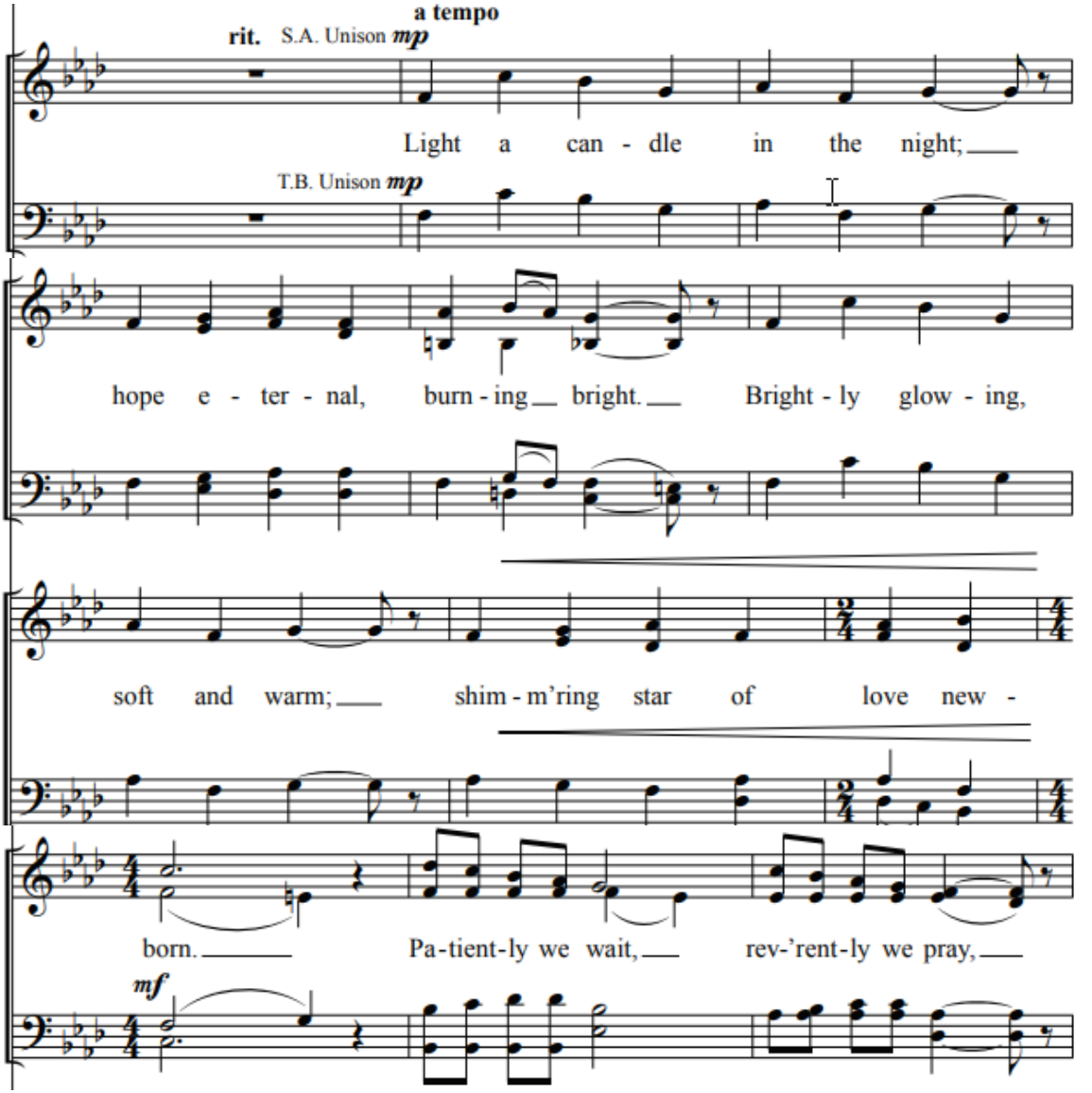
Comforting God, we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as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

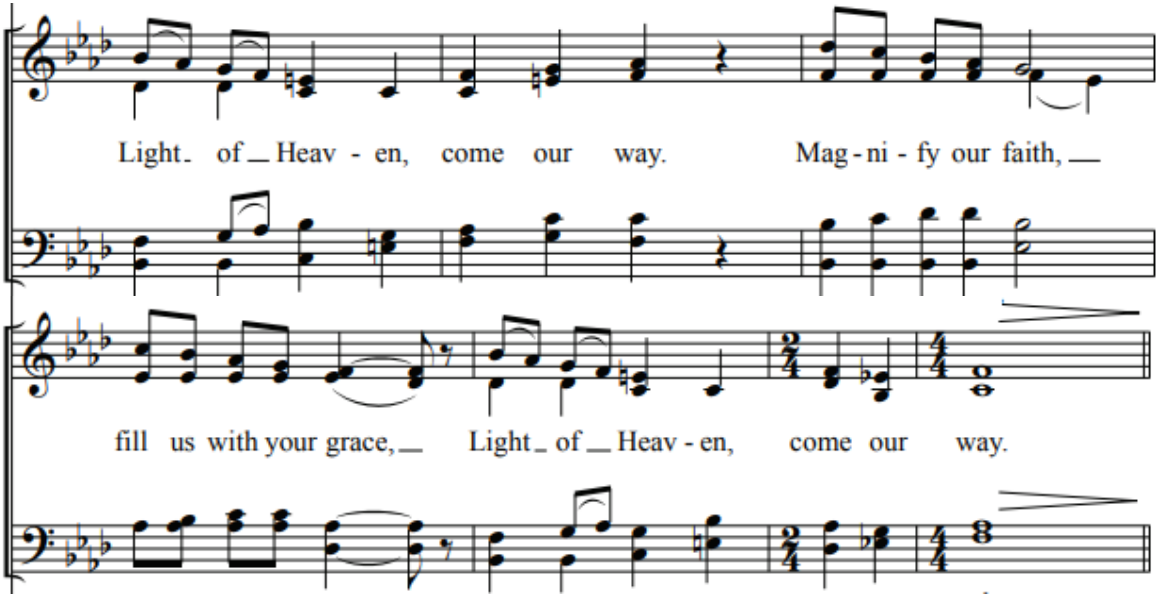
"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

In the name of † Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

(Please be seated)

Call to Worship "Light of Heaven, Come" *by Karen Crane & Joel Raney*



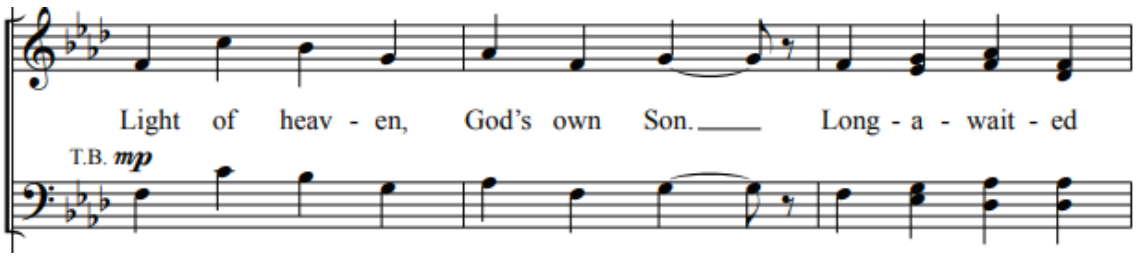


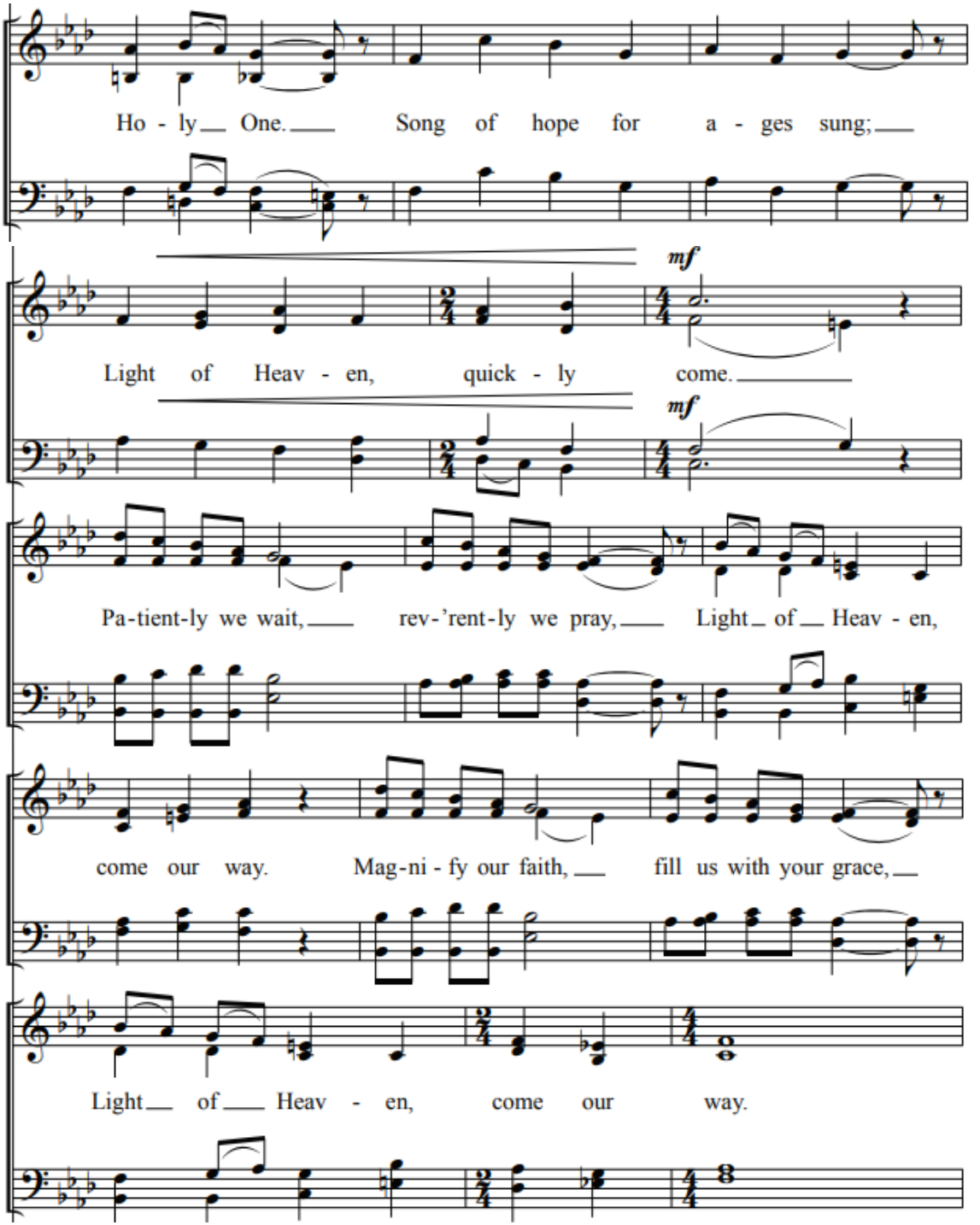
Advent Candle Lighting and Candle Litany

First Sunday – Light of Faith

Advent begins in darkness with 5 candles awaiting a spark. Today, we light the first one, the candle of hope. We light it with faith, which is the courage to trust that this light will grow.

Advent teaches us the discipline of expectation – to watch, to listen, and to slow down and wait, choosing to believe that God is drawing near. Advent faith doesn't look back, but rather leans forward, believing that God keeps his promises, and trusting that the light of heaven will soon shine.




Ho - ly One. Song of hope for a - ges sung;
mf
Light of Heav - en, quick - ly come.
mf
Pa-tient-ly we wait, rev-'rent-ly we pray, Light of Heav - en,
come our way. Mag-ni - fy our faith, fill us with your grace,
Light of Heav - en, come our way.

Responsive Advent Litany *(Congregation reads **bold** print)*

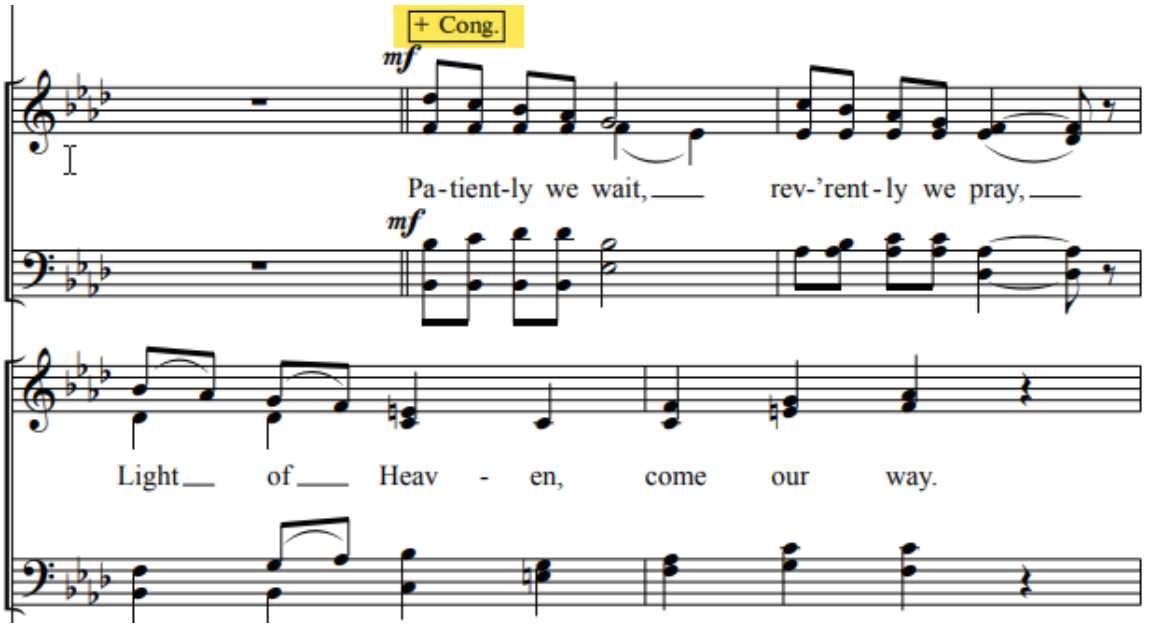
In shadowed days, we wait and pray,
Asking for God to light the way.

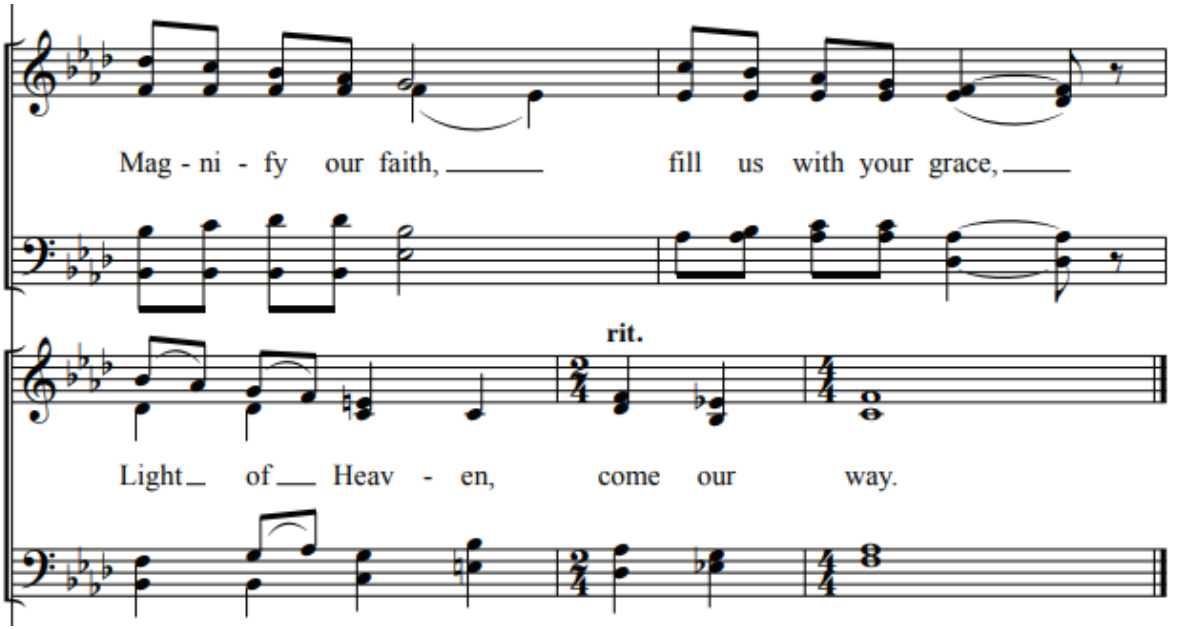
When answers hide and paths seem dim,
We place our faith and trust in him.

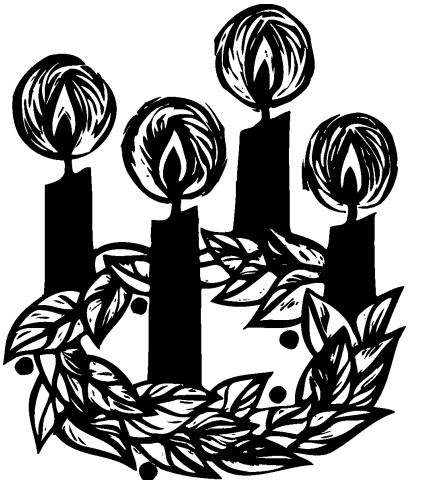
The word of God, both sure and true,
We hold our hope, O God, in you.

As we prepare for Christ's own birth,
We walk by faith upon this earth.

Opening Hymn "Light of Heaven, Come" *by Karen Crane & Joel Raney*
(Congregation joins in with choir)



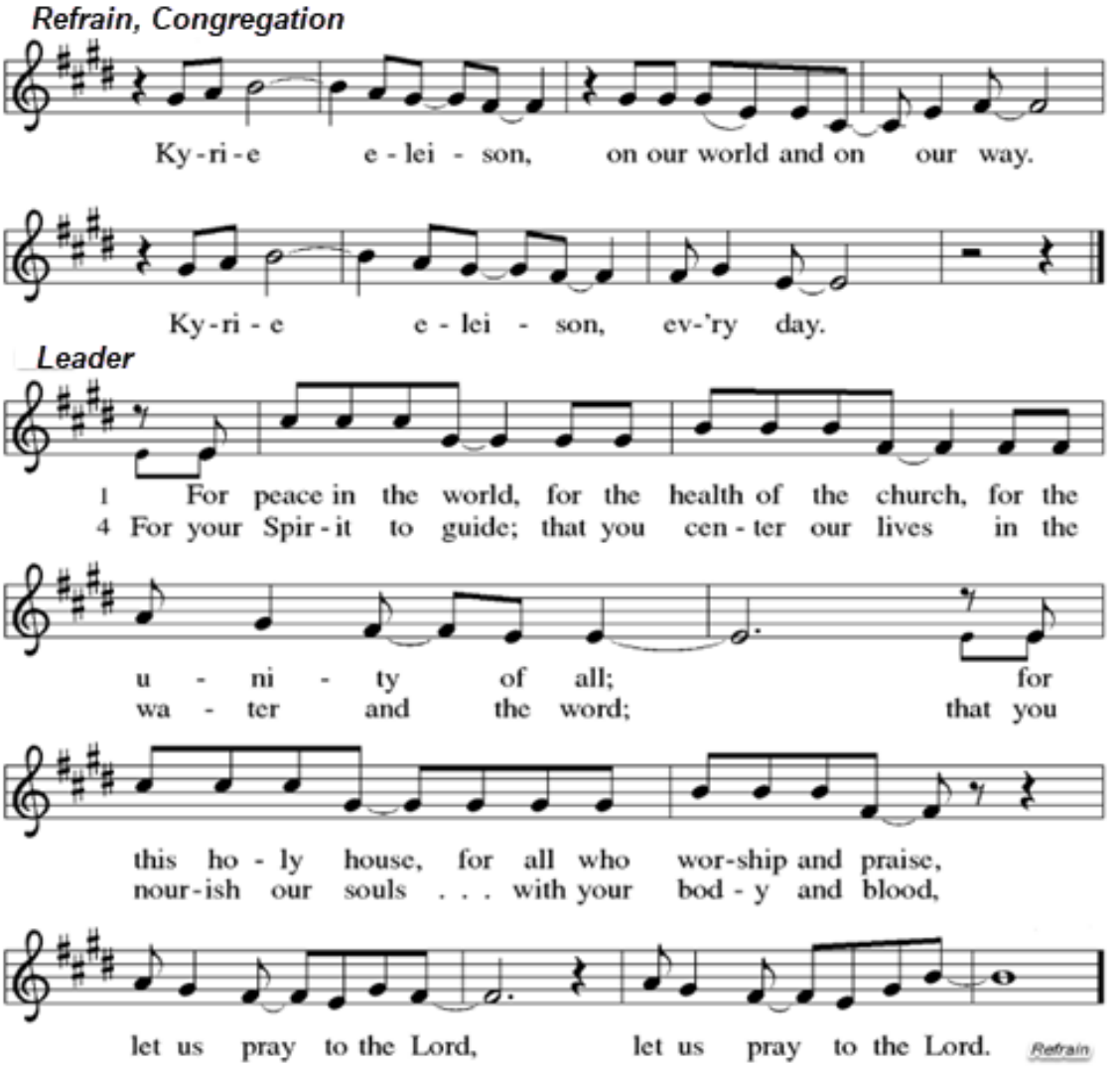




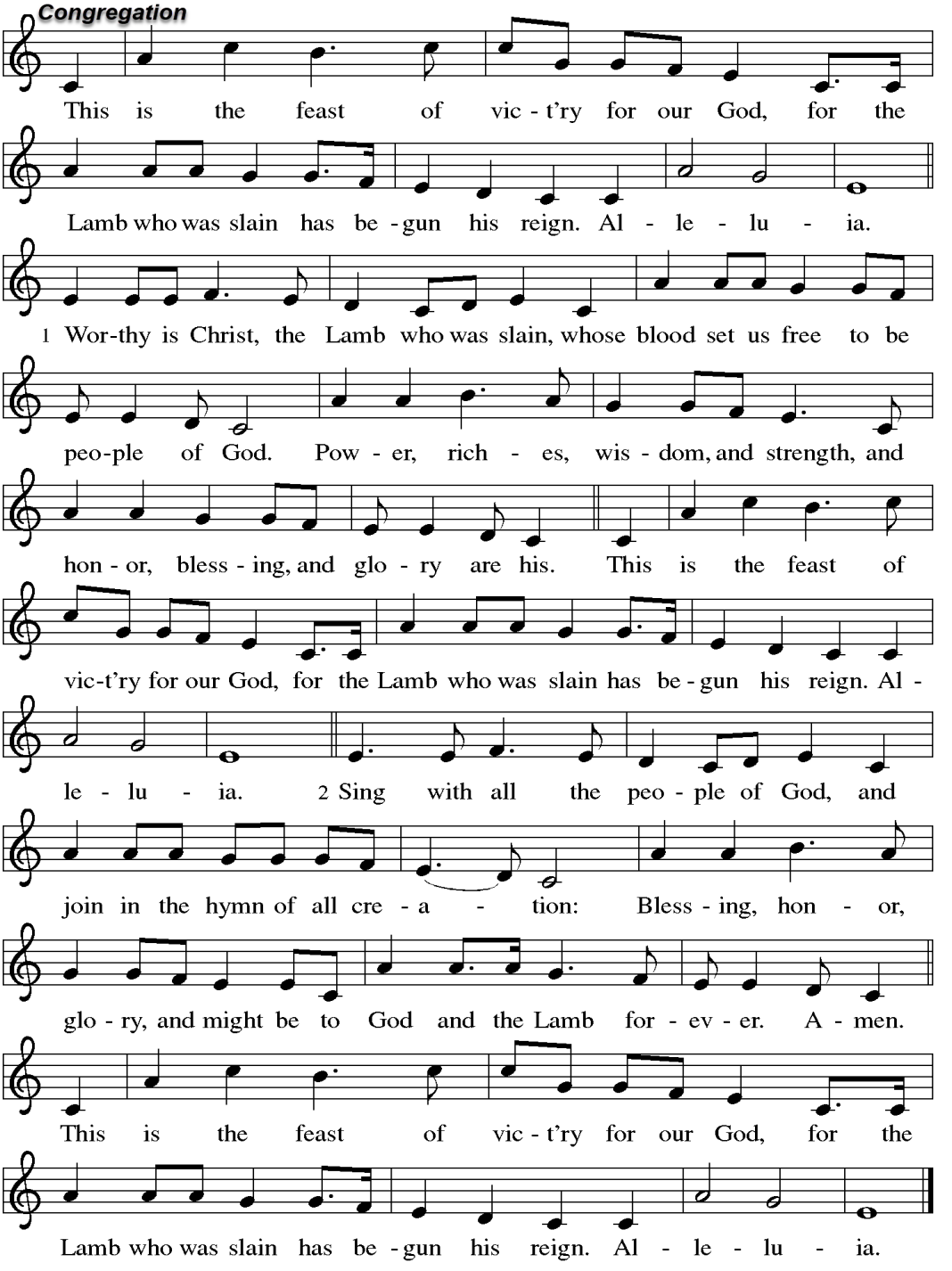
Greeting

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

Kyrie


Refrain, Congregation
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.
Leader
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the
u - ni - ty of all; for
wa - ter and the word; that you
this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
Refrain

Canticle of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, you proved your faithfulness to your people when they cried out to you in distress. Be present in our distress, and show us how to be faithful to you in the midst of suffering. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-7, 2:1-4

1:1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. 2 O Lord, how long shall
I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you
will not save? 3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at
trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention
arise. 4 So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked
surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted.
5 Look at the nations and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is
being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told.
6 For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who
march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own.
7 Dread and fearsome are they; their justice and dignity proceed from
themselves.
2:1 I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will
keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer
concerning my complaint. 2 Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.
3 For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and
does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not
delay. 4 Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the
righteous live by their faithfulness.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**.

Psalm 130 ***(****Congregation reads* ***bold*** *print****)***

[1] Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
[2] Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

[3] If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
[4] But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

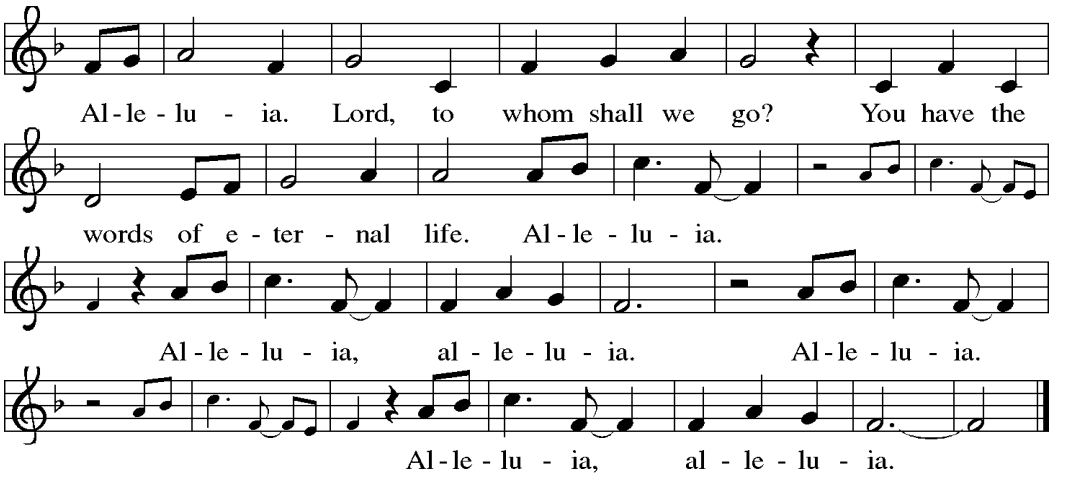
[5] I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
[6] my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

[7] O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
[8] It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 24:42-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew Chapter 24.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

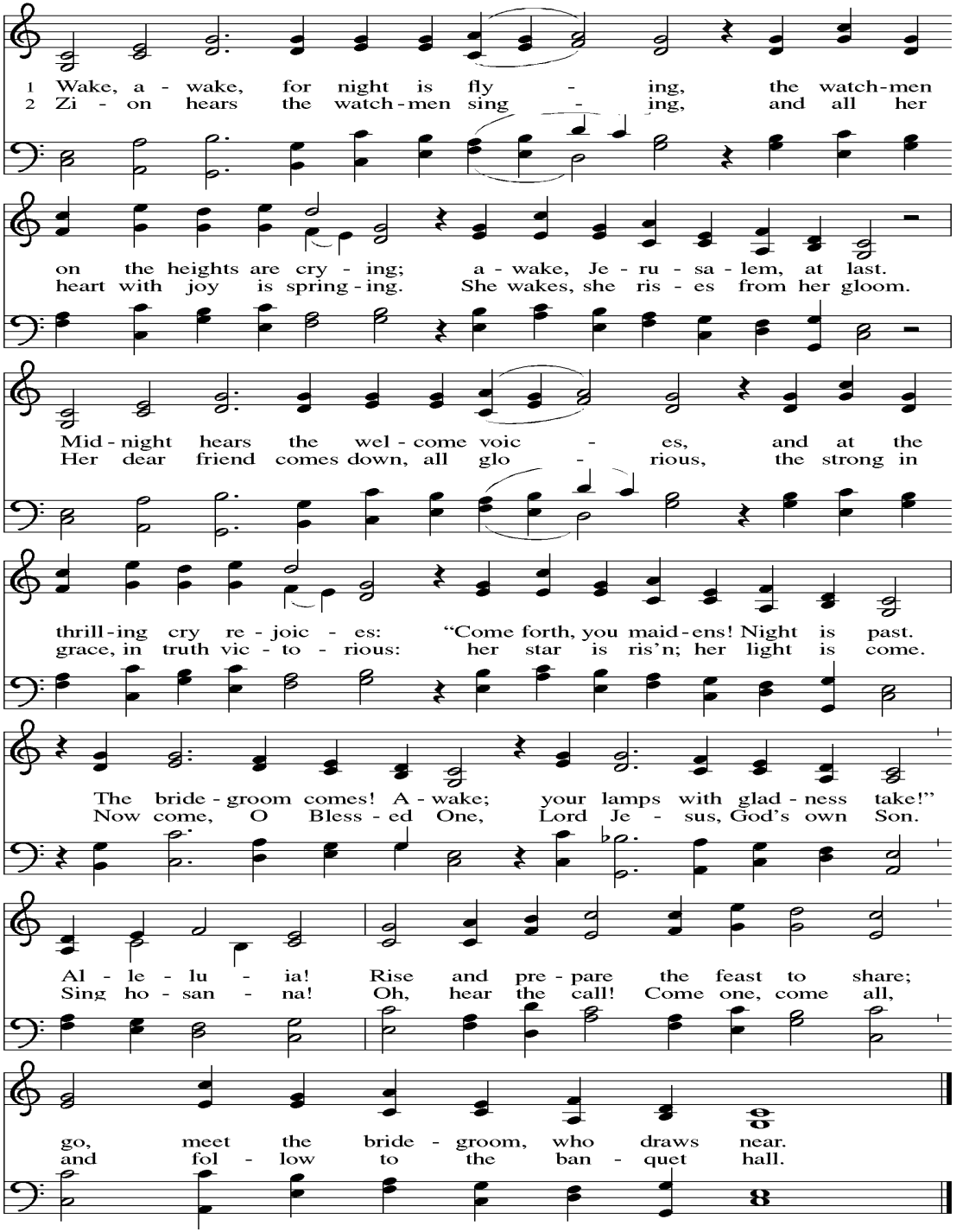
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Notes

Sermon Hymn: "Wake Awake, For Night is Flying" *Hymn 436*



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Intercessory Prayer

After each petition : "God, in your mercy"
Congregation Response is **"receive our prayer."**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Online Giving

Choir Anthem: "Will We Know Him?" *by Don Besig and Nancy Price*

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Receiving of Gifts

Offering Prayer

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

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with You.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

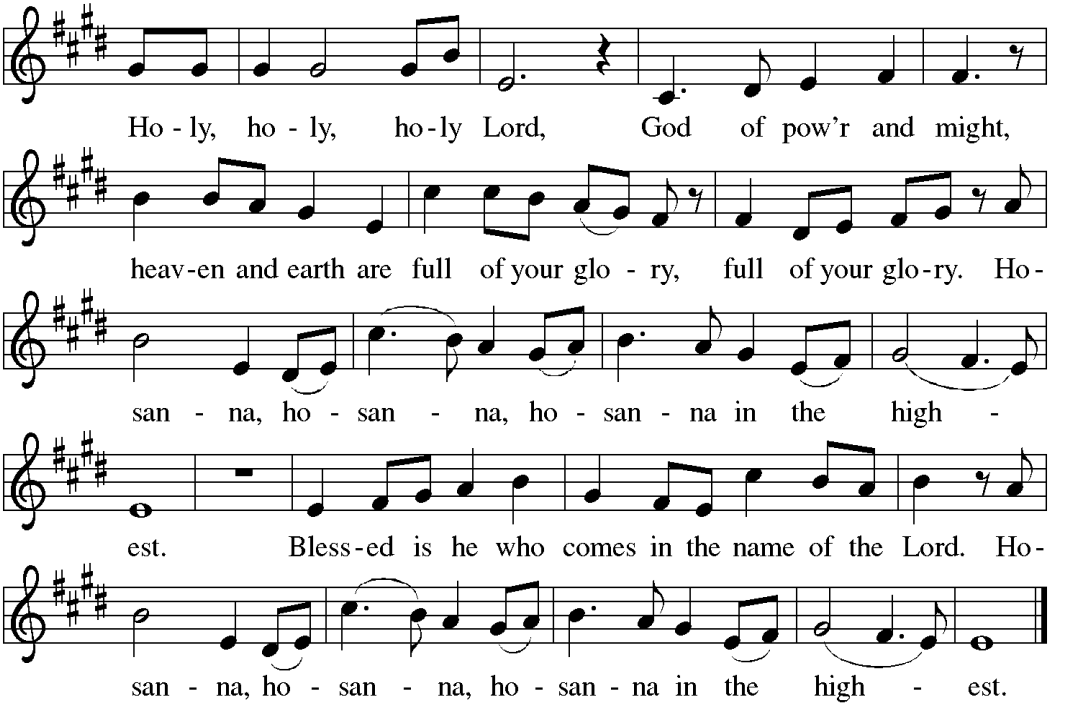
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Preface

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:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"



Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

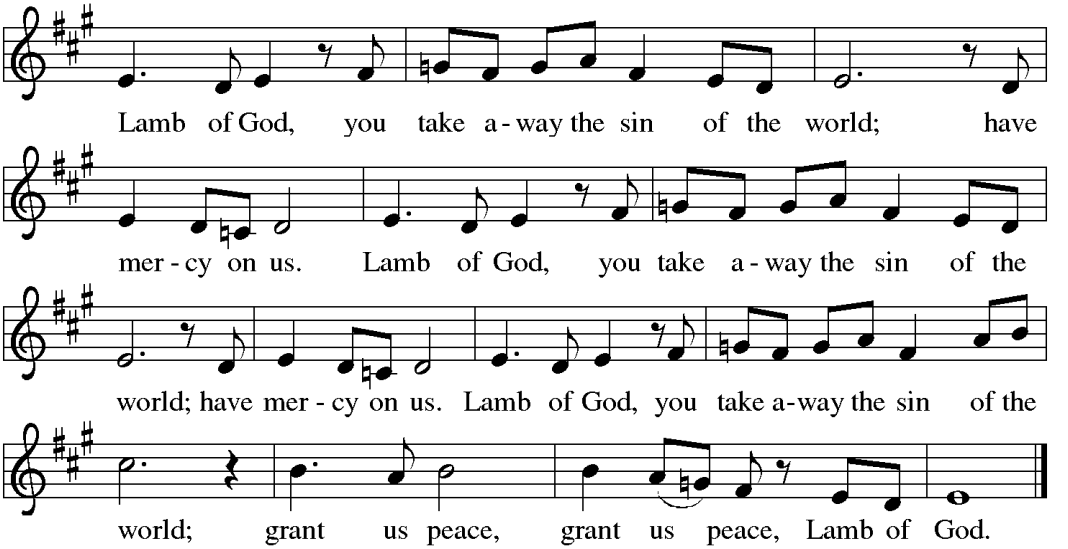
Invitation to Communion

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

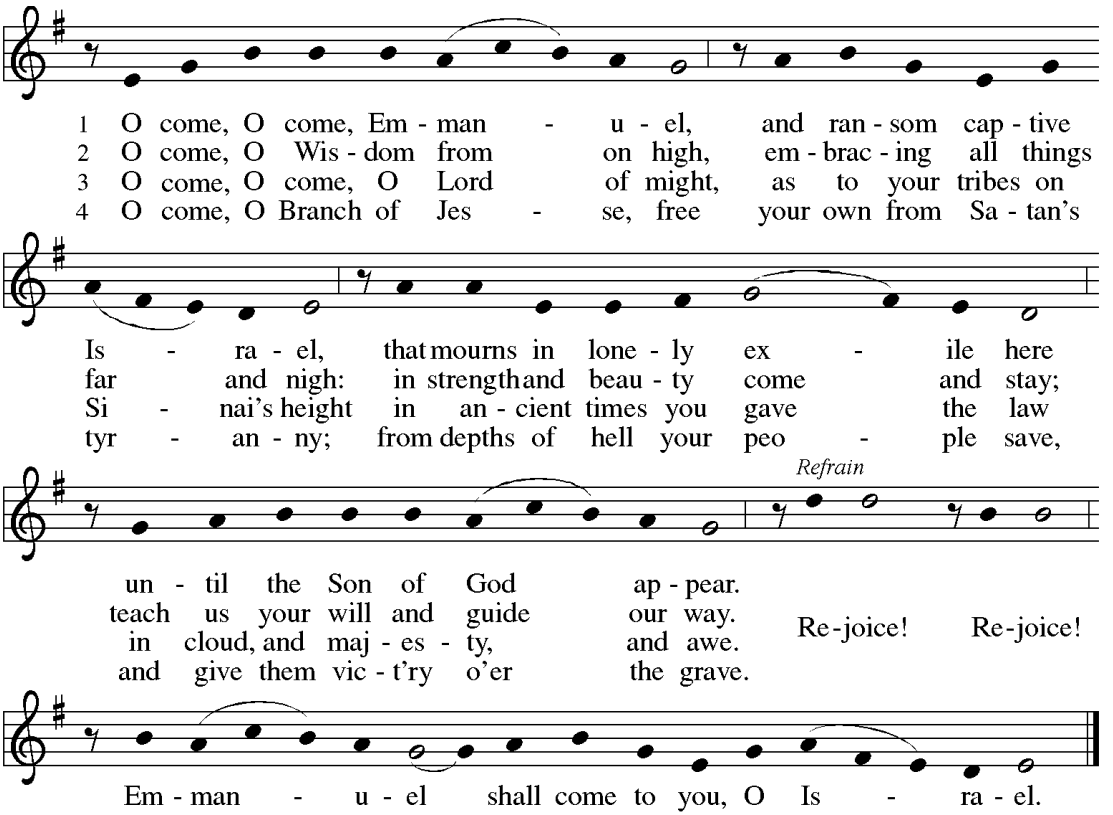
We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.
*We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God



Communion Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *Hymn 257*



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Post Communion Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **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.

Ministry Calendar

November 29—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—**First Sunday in Advent**
Good Gifts will be available for purchase

Special Visitor Today ….

***December 01*—Tuesday:**

Pastor Out of Office

***December 02*—Wednesday:**

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space, Zoom
1:30.p.m.: Advent Afternoon in the Sanctuary
3:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

***December 03*—Thursday:**

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

December 06—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—**Second Sunday in Advent**
Temple Talk—Stewardship
Good Gifts will be available for purchase

***December 07-08*—Monday & Tuesday:**

PEO HF Christmas Luncheon (prep and gathering)

***December 09*—Wednesday:**

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space, Zoom
1:30.p.m.: Advent Afternoon in the Sanctuary
3:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

***December 10*—Thursday:**

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

***December 11*—Friday:**

11:00 a.m.: Good Sam Service

***December 12*—Saturday:**

11:00 a.m.: GTO—Girls Time Out—Cookie Exchange

December 13—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship
4th Quarter Offering—Estes Dementia Day Center
***Last day for* Good Gifts after church**

***December 14*—Monday:**

9:00 a.m.: PEO IU Meeting

***December 16*—Wednesday:**

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space, Zoom
1:30.p.m.: Advent Afternoon in the Sanctuary
3:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

***December 17*—Thursday:**

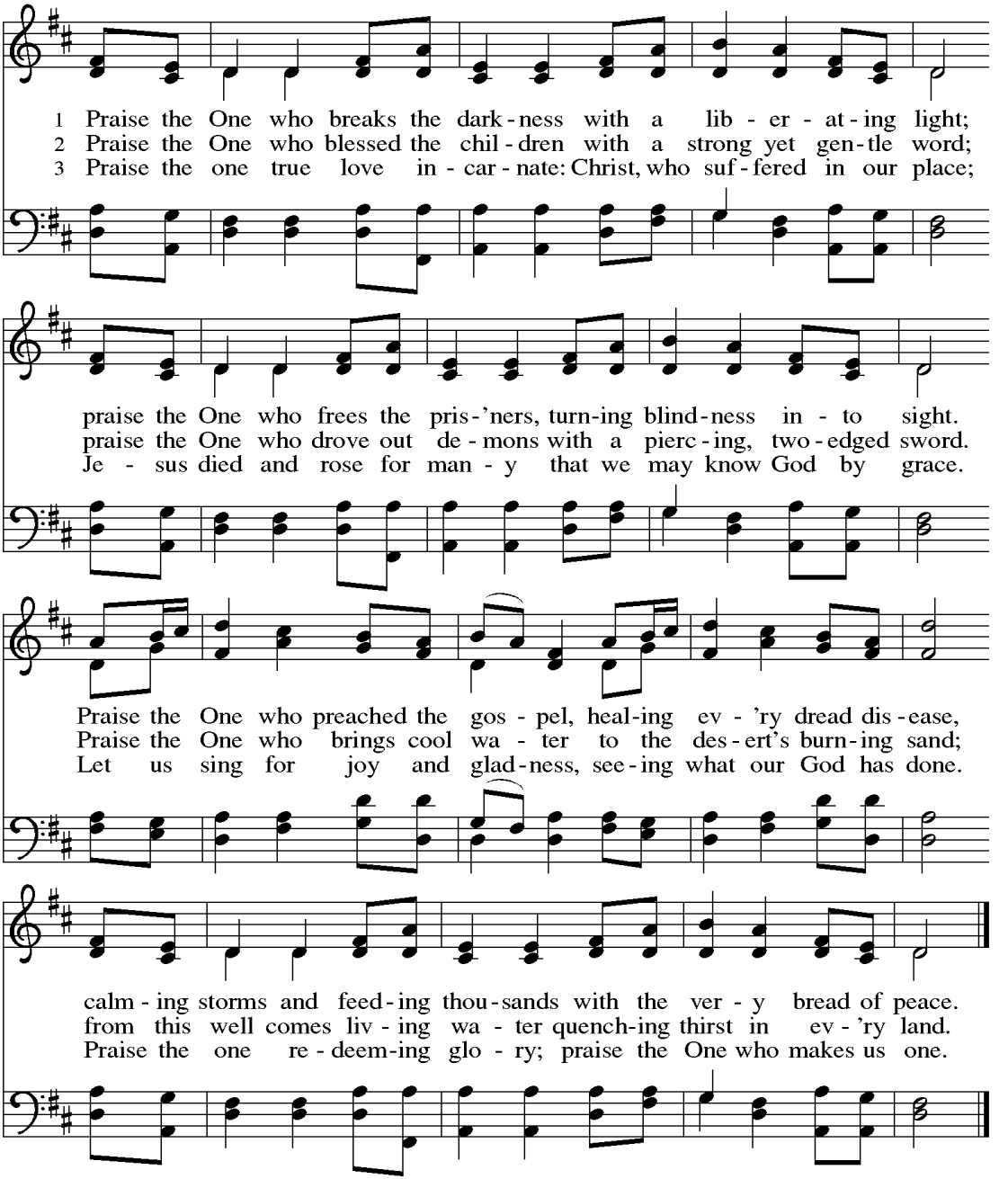
9:30 a.m.: Council Meeting
1:00 p.m.: Quilting

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" *Hymn 843*



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: ***Toccata on "Picardy"*** **-** *Gordon Young*



Thank you for serving!		
	November 29	***December 06***
Accompanist:	Celice Clark	Julie Varilek
Choir Director:	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
Lector:	Linda Schlitt	Miriam Deffenbaugh
Ushers:	Mike Wold Heidi Schweikart	Mike Wold Julie Wilson
Tellers:	**OPEN** **OPEN**	**OPEN** **OPEN**
Altar Care:	Tara McConnell	**OPEN**
Communion Asst:	**OPEN** **OPEN** **OPEN**	**OPEN** **OPEN** **OPEN**
AV Engineer:	Bruce Adams	Steve Peter
Fellowship Hosts: ***See Fellowship Host Calendar***	Roxy Hause	**OPEN**
Flower Sponsor:	Mary Settje *IMO Earl & Virginia Serbu*	Sallie Brackman *IMO Bruce Brackman*
Flower Arranger:	Susan Anderson	Susan Anderson

