First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 at 8:45am & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD
www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE Peaceful Meditation
Paul Fey (b.1998)

WELCOME

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.

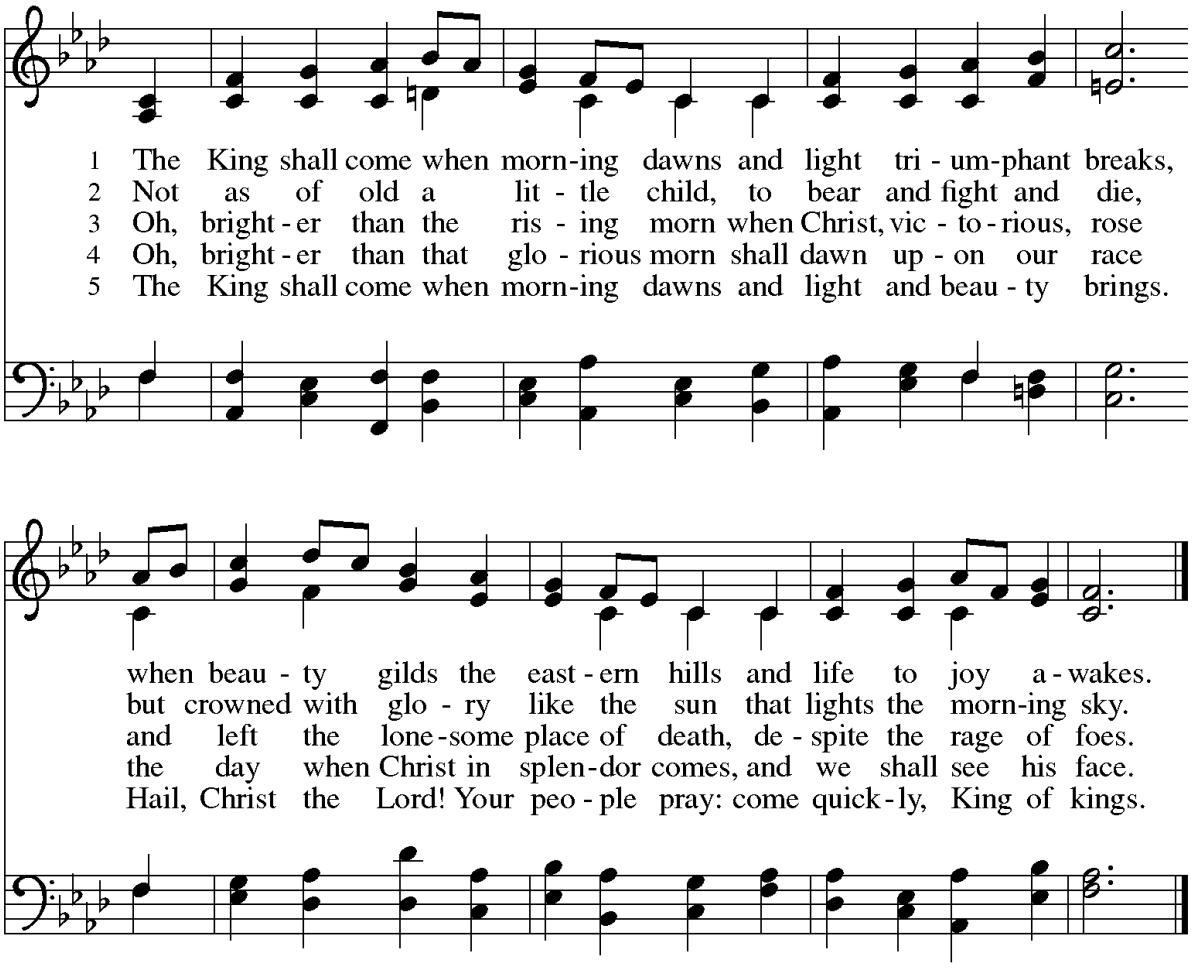
Silence is kept for reflection.

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! Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN ELW 60–The King Shall Come



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

O Lord, have mercy and come to us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation: **Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: **Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.**

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: **Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

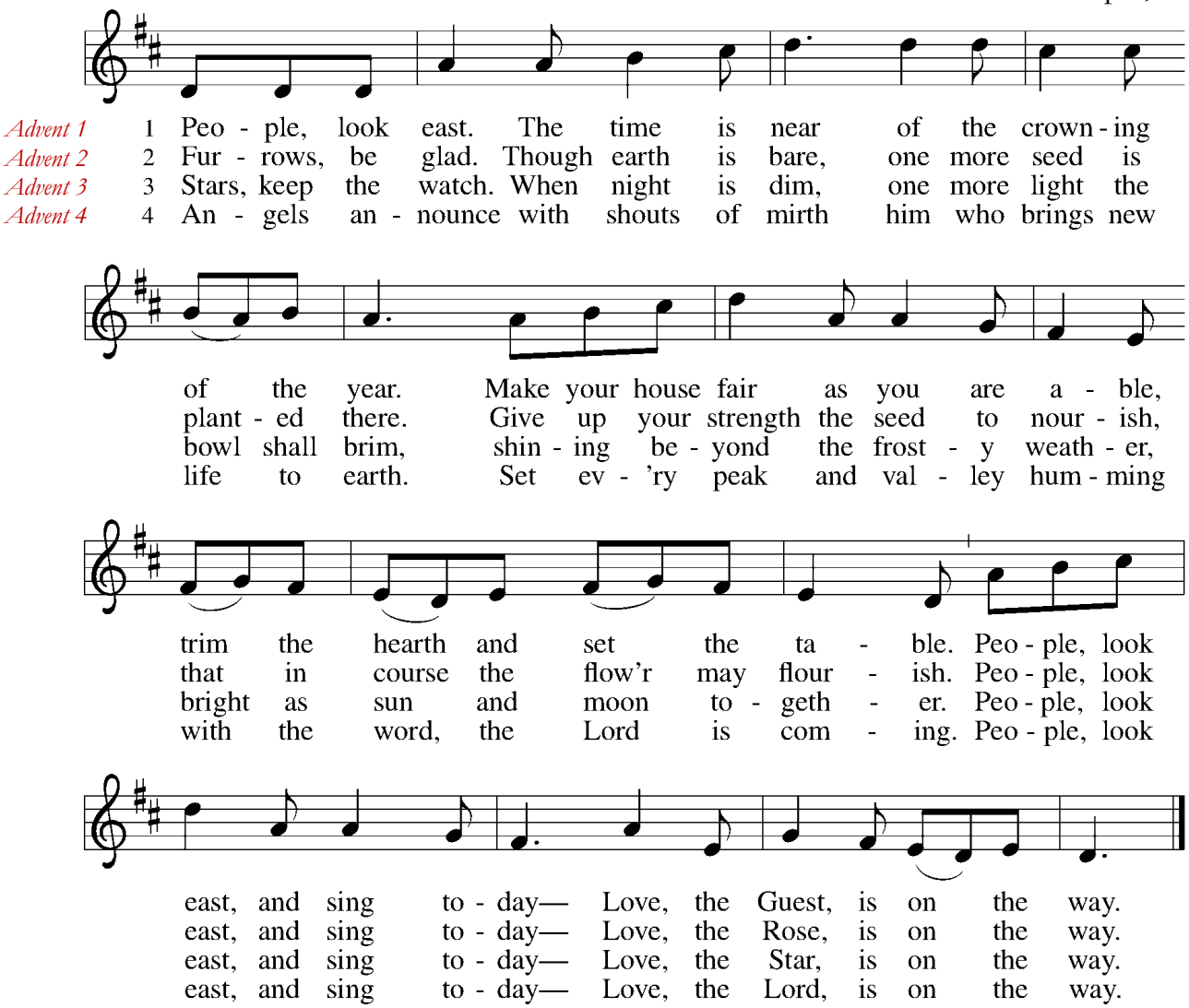
Let us pray.

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.

LIGHTING HYMN

ELW 248 – People, Look East



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE 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.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. 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. 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. 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. 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. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 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.

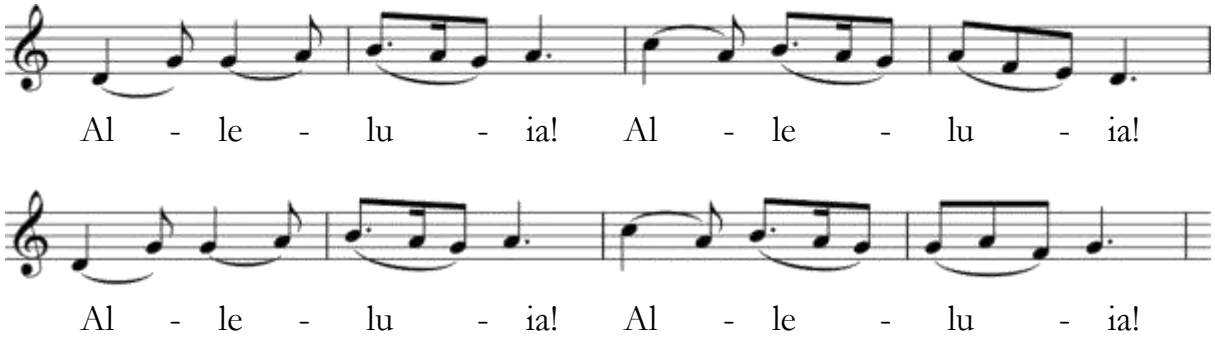
SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 Celtic Alleluia



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 Saint Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

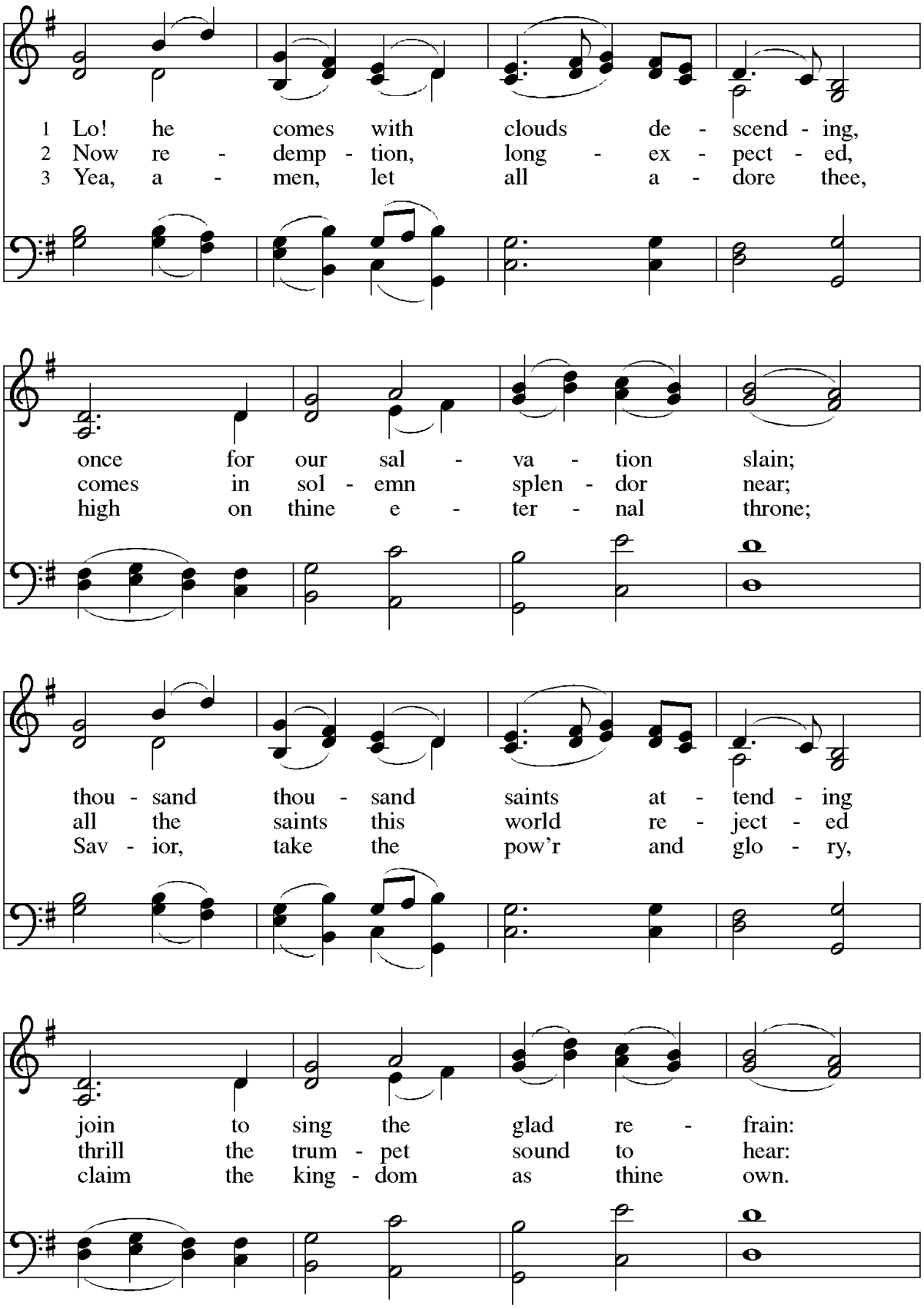
[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

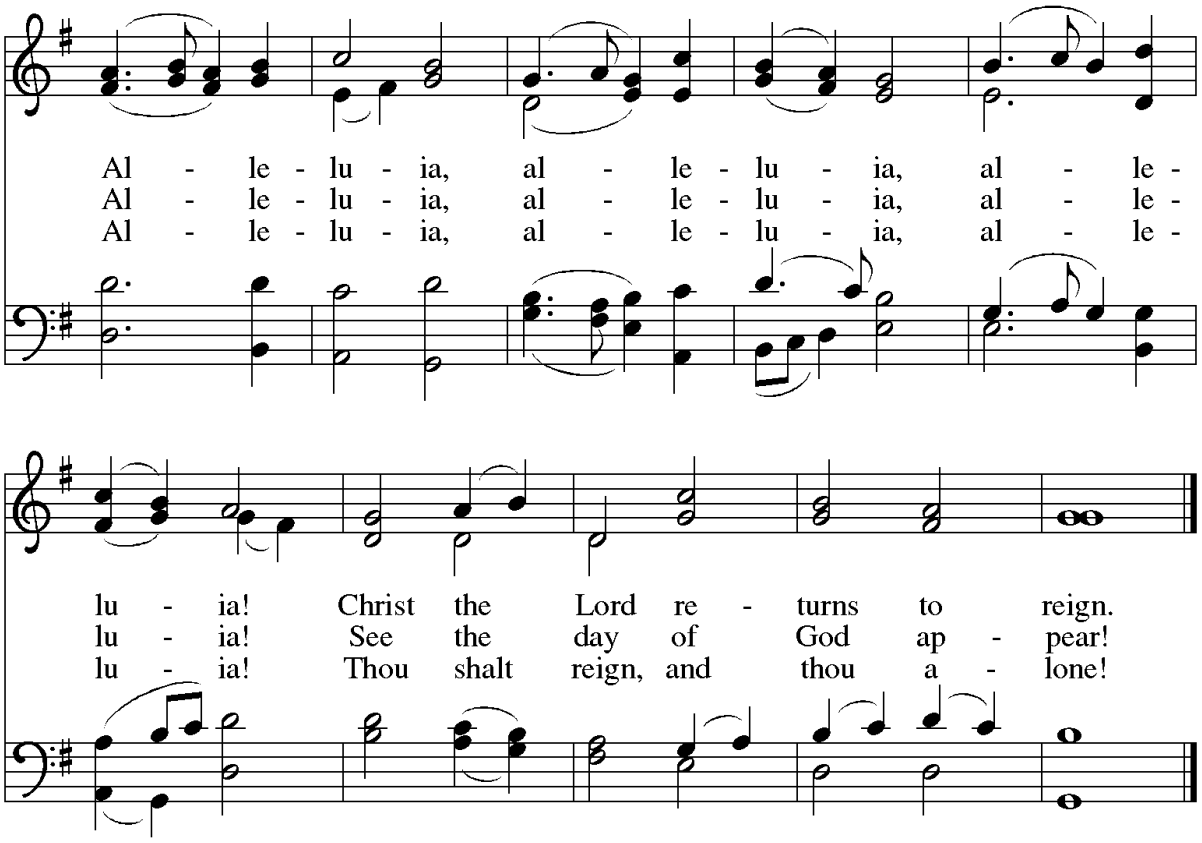
SERMON Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 435–Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



(Continued on the next page)



APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each portion of the prayers:

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

PEACE

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

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate, or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFERTORY MUSIC (8:45)

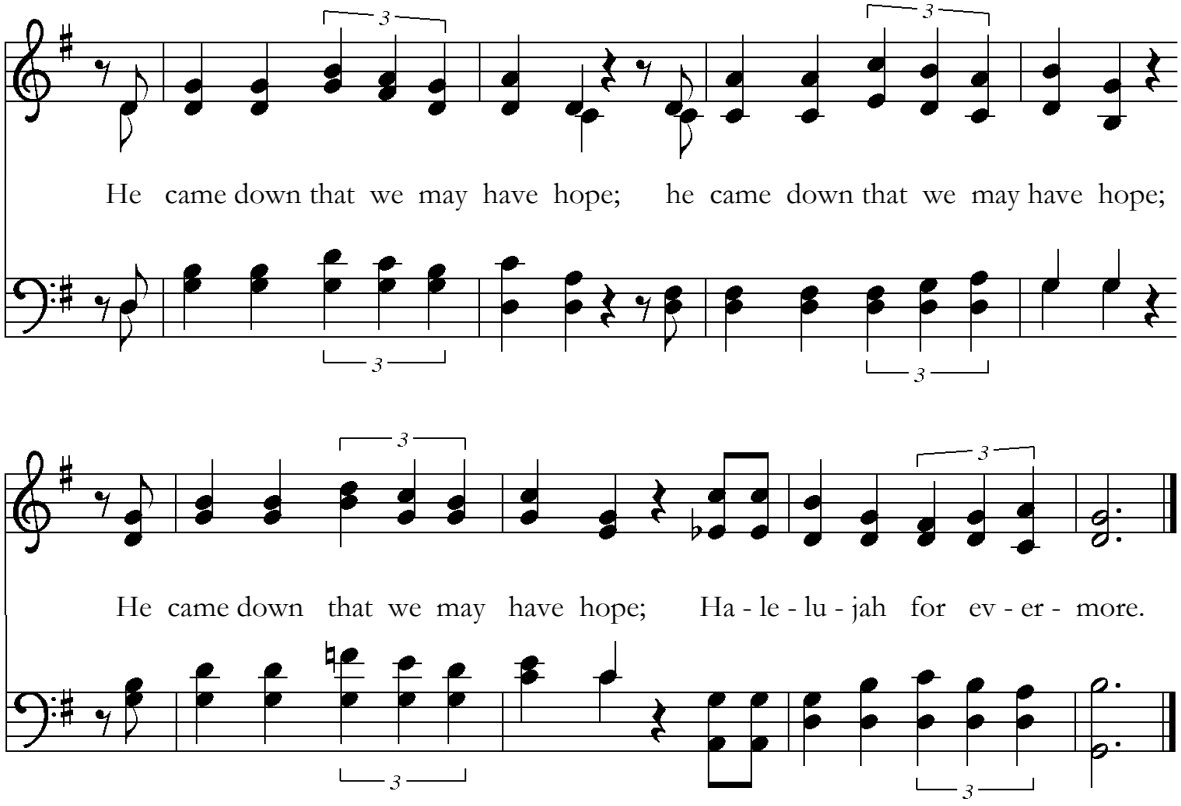
Prepare the Way, O Zion
Larry Shackley (b.1956)

OFFERTORY MUSIC (11:15)

VENI EMMANUEL
arr. Marshall McDonald & Steven Sharp Nelson

The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand as you are able for the Offering Hymn.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 253 – He Came Down



OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

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

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.

It is indeed right that we should give thanks and praise, for 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.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosostros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

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

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.
(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

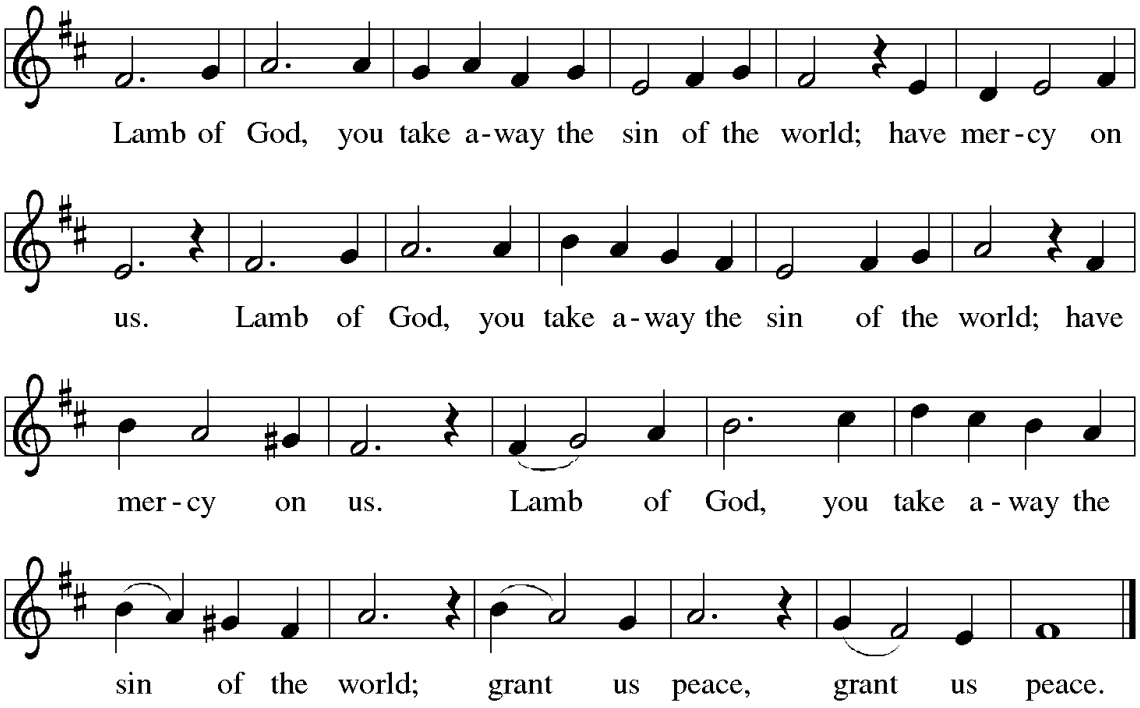
Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen.**

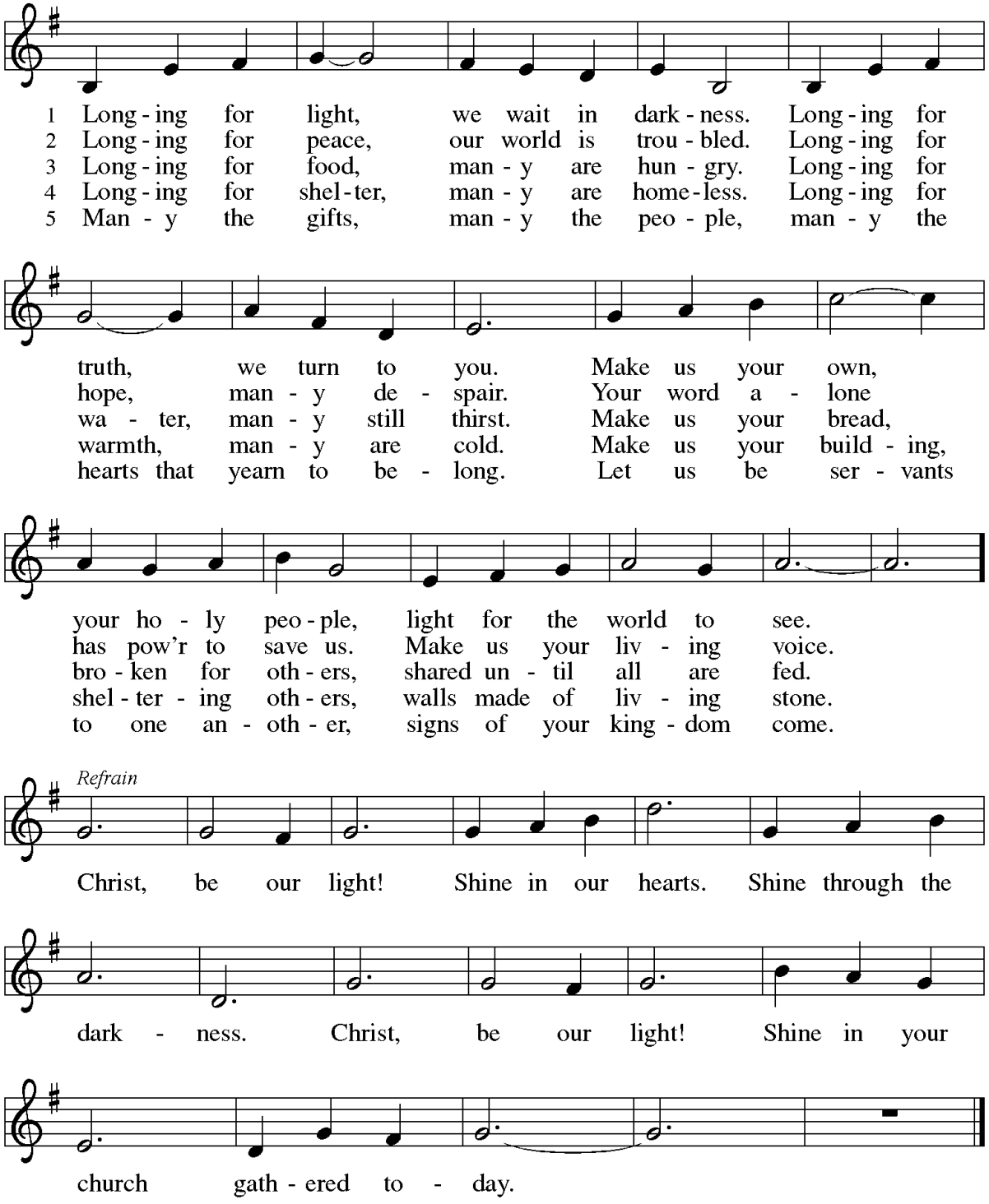
AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting Four



COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 715 – Christ, Be Our Light!

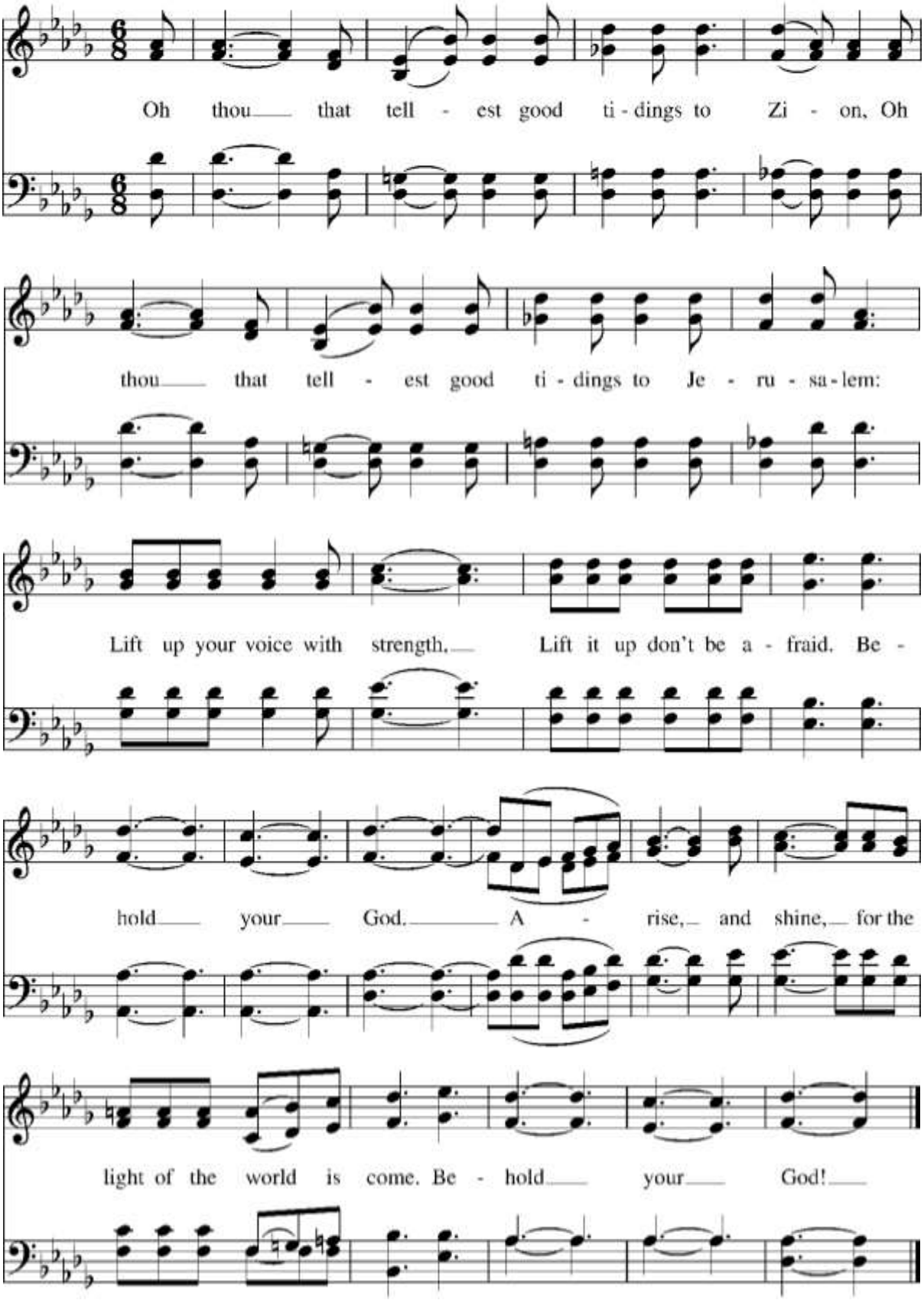


POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE LEVAS II – Behold Your God!



Prayer after Communion

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.

Blessing

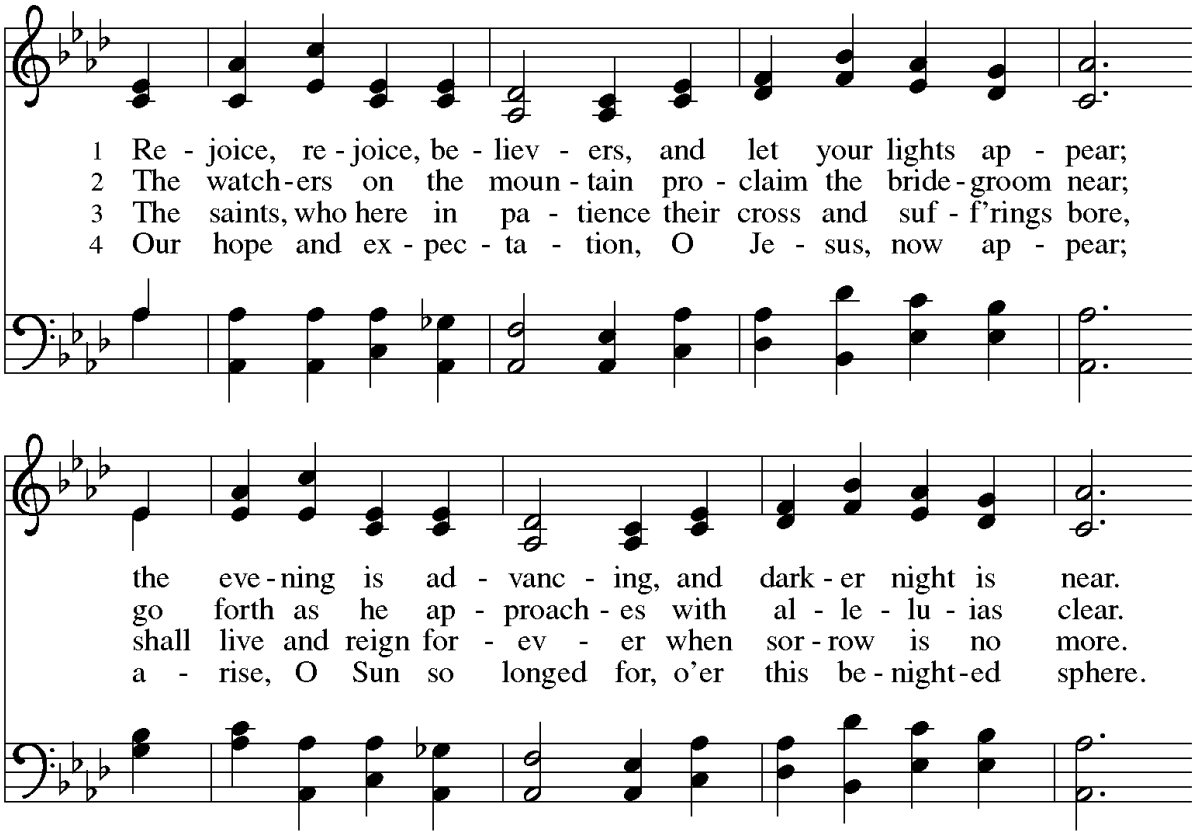
God our provider, God our feast,

God our companion, ✠ bless you now and forever.

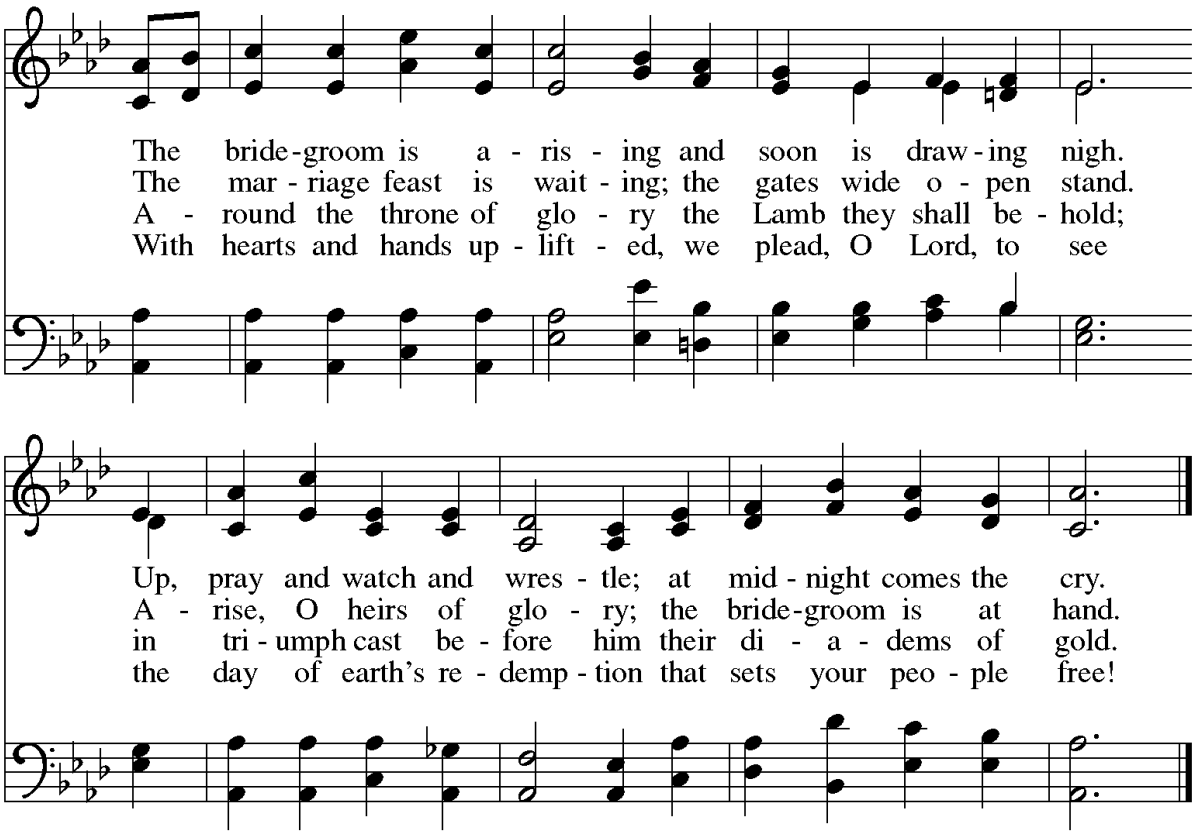
Amen.

Closing Hymn

ELW 244 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



(Continued on the next page)



DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE People, Look East!
Dale Wood (1934 – 2003)

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WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS
The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER
Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

COMMUNION SERVERS
Becky Unkenholz **8:45**
Gerson Vasquez **11:15**

CRUCIFERS
Becky Unkenholz **8:45**
Jacob Bolleddu **11:15**

READERS
Jeff Groen **8:45**
Ruth Manchester **11:15**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH
Liz Garifo and Jenny Steinbach **8:45**
Debra Johnson **11:15**

MUSICIANS
Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Schola Cantorum

Sarah Aderholdt
Cello

Barbara Sanders
Carillon Guild

ADVENT

THE ROYAL BLUE OF HOPE surrounding us this morning tells us that we have begun a sacred time of preparation for the birthday of our Savior as well as the time he returns in all his glory. It is Advent, the first week of this four-week journey. We light a candle on the wreath, but soon it will be filled with beaming flame - Christ comes. During this season we hope for the birth of the baby Jesus in our hearts, and we look to the coming of Jesus when he comes to usher in the kingdom. Christ came, Christ comes, Christ is coming.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

THE ADVENT WREATH has a long history. Have you ever thought about the image of light in the middle of winter darkness? Let us think also of the unbroken circle of greens, clearly a symbol of eternal life and the everlasting love we have in Jesus.

COMING SOON - ADVENT SERIES: BE NOT AFRAID
A 3-week series at LET'S TALK by Pastor Dean
10:10 a.m. December 6, 15, 20

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

LA SAGRADA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS
DEADLINE SUNDAY DECEMBER 6

This year, like last, we will be **giving the families gift cards to purchase the children's Christmas Gifts.** If you can help, please click below. Pastor Miller and Suleyma Alfaro will coordinate the gift card distribution with the families in time for them to make purchases for Christmas. Again, deadline for giving is Sunday, December 6. We will offer special dedication prayers that day for the funds received. Thank you so much.

Go to www.saintlukegive.us and click *Children's Gifts*

POINSETTIA FOOD CARDS
DEADLINE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16



Again, this year, due to so much food insecurity, the new kind of Christmas Poinsettia looks a lot like a gift card for food. What a wonderful way to hnor or remember a loved one.

Please consider giving a card, or cards, for food and know all dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve and Day worship bulletins.

Go to www.sldedication.us to make dedications and purchase *Poinsettia Food Cards*

HAT, MITTEN AND SCARF TREE
DEADLINE DECEMBER 13



The Saint Luke Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) are collecting **new and warm** hats, scarves and mittens to distribute to children in need. These items will be collected in the Fireside Room. Look for the tree. Thank you.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS



A Goat or a Pig for Christmas? Check out the **ELCA Good Gifts catalog** online at www.elcagoodgifts.org or pick up a brochure on the credenza at Saint Luke in the narthex, and discover the many ways you can support a variety of ELCA projects around the globe and give someone a unique Christmas gift. Also, ELCA Good Gifts are year-round.

A FEW REMINDERS

THIS WEEK, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 6:30 p.m.

Tree Lighting: 40 Foot Tree and a Campus of 50,000 Lights
Refreshments, Carols, Fun
Saint Luke Front Yard

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
Dedication of Gift Cards for La Sagrada Familia Children

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
8:45 Baptism and Reeption of New Members
11:15 Christian Day School, La Sagrada Familia music students, Sunday School children sing



CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service
7:00 p.m. Misa Navidad – Children Friendly (Worship is in Spanish)

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

Today's Music:

ELW 260
The King Shall Come
Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A.
Tune: CONSOLATION

ELW 248
People, Look East
Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Tune: BESANÇON

ELW 435
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
Tune: BESANÇON

ELW 253
He Came Down
Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Tune: HE CAME DOWN

ELW 715
Christ, Be Our Light!
Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: Bernadette Farrell
Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

LEVAS II
Behold Your God!
Text: Kenneth W. Louis, 1956
Music: Kenneth W. Louis, 1956
Tune: O THOU THAT TELLEST

ELW 244
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907
Music: Swedish folk tune
Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

COMMEMORATIONS:

Tuesday, December 3–Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552: A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Wednesday, December 4–John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749: A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Friday, December 6–Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342: Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

Sunday, November 29
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
7:45 AM Handbell Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship
10:00 AM The Gathering
11:15 AM Worship

Monday, November 30
8:30 AM CDS Classes
3:00 PM Stewardship (Online)

Tuesday, December 01
8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM CDS Music
7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 02
7:00 AM Faith Connections (Online)
8:30 AM CDS Classes
10:00 AM Women in Community
10:00 AM CDS Pastor Chapel
3:45 PM La Sagrada Familia- After School Tutoring
6:30 PM Tree Lighting and Fellowship
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum

Thursday, December 03
8:30 AM CDS Classes
4:00 PM La Sagrada Familia- En Camino Tutoring
7:30 PM AA
7:30 PM Centering Prayer (Online)

Friday, December 04
8:30 AM CDS Classes
3:30 PM CDS Staff Meeting
3:45 PM La Sagrada Familia- Music
6:00 PM AA

Saturday, December 05
9:30 AM AA
11:00 AM Al-Anon
8:30 PM AA

Sunday, December 06
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
7:30 AM Tech Rehearsal
8:00 AM Schola Cantorum
8:45 AM Worship (English)
10:00 AM The Gathering
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism
10:00 AM SLSHY+
10:00 AM Up for Discussion
10:10 AM LET'S TALK
11:15 AM Worship (English)
1:00 PM Worship (Spanish)
2:00 PM The Gathering