First Sunday of Advent

November 29th, 2026

Service Music: ELW, Setting 10 (ELW, page 203)
Year B, First Sunday of Advent (ELW, page 18)



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!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP – 8:55 a.m.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presiding minister to face the Processional Cross.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: O Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may abide on your holy hill?

C: Those who walk blamelessly, do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

P: Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our God, our Maker.

C: For he is our God. We are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel / and ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here / until the Son of God appear

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel / shall come to thee O Israel

The assembly is seated.

The First Sunday of Advent: Hope

R1: Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means "coming," and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. One of the ways we celebrate Advent is by lighting candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world.

R2: The Advent candles tell us of the light which came into the world with Jesus Christ. The traditional colors of the advent candles, three blue and one rose, are penitential colors, reminding us that we need God's help to be the people we are called to be in our baptisms. The white candle which we light on Christmas Eve signifies the coming of Christ.

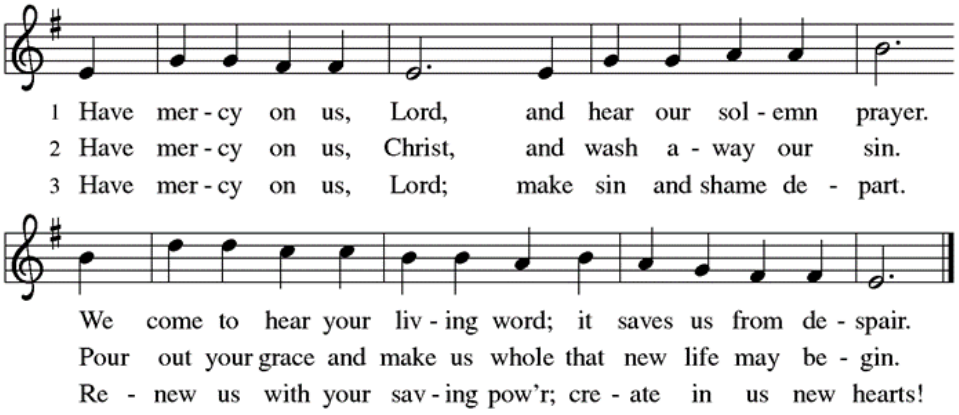
R1: Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.
(*first candle is lit.)*

R2: The people of Israel were called to new ways of living through the prophets. The prophet Isaiah called God the father of his people and used the image of a potter molding clay to ask for God's patience as the people turn away from their sin. We are reminded again and again in Scripture that God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We have hope because God is patient with us.

R1: Hope is a light shining in a dark place. With the lighting of this candle, we celebrate the hope of Israel and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

C: We continue to hope in God's promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace. Thank you, God, for the light of hope.

KYRIE



P: We continue to pray:

C: Repair our relationships, O God, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

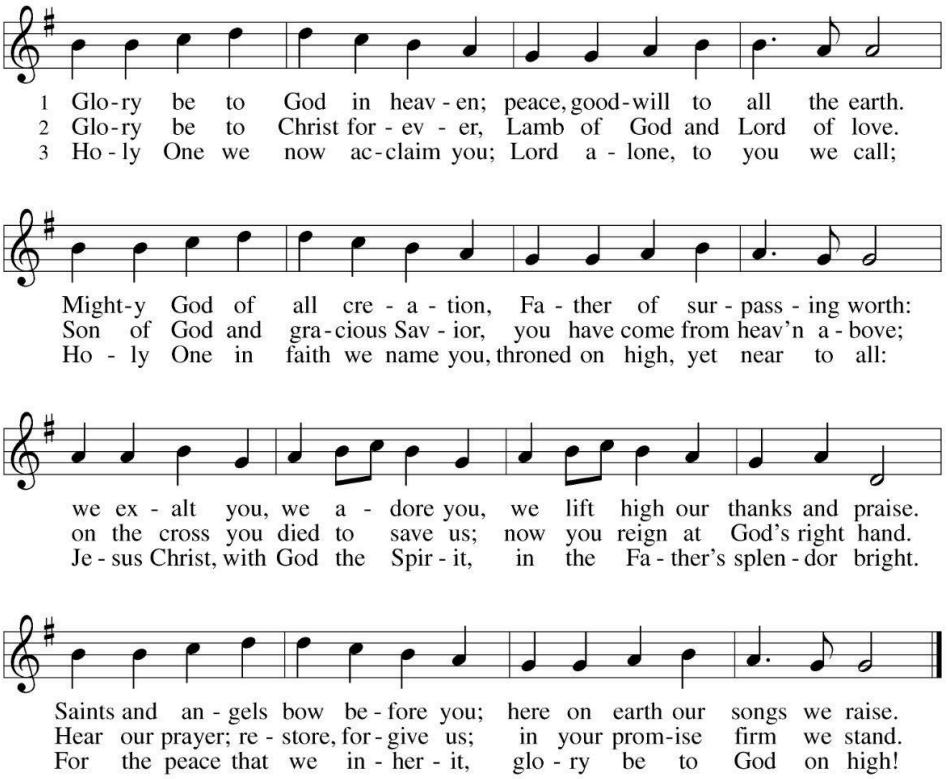
P: Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **C: Amen.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

GREETING

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

CANTICLE: GLORY TO GOD



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

This Little Light of Mine

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

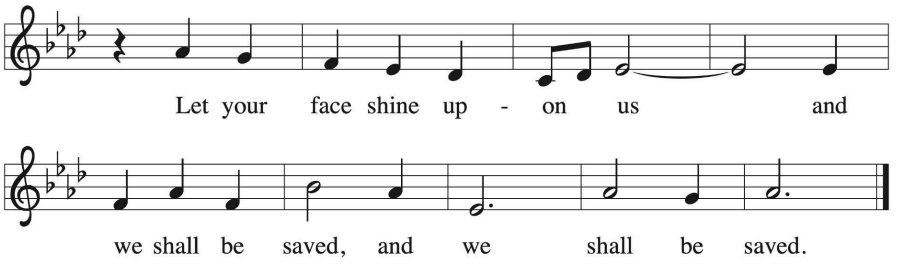
FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(read responsively)*



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon 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. **[R]**
4 O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
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. [R]
17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

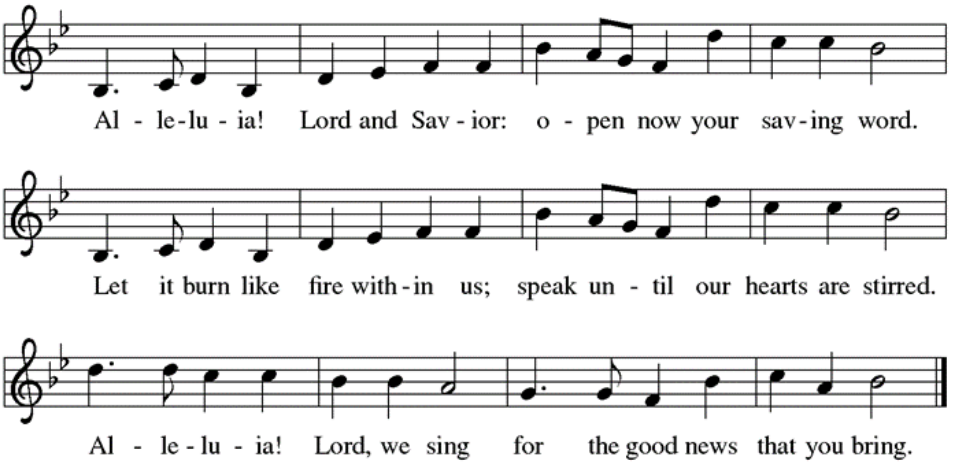
18 **And so will we never turn away from you;**
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. **[R]**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.
A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to **St. Mark 13:24-37**

C: 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."

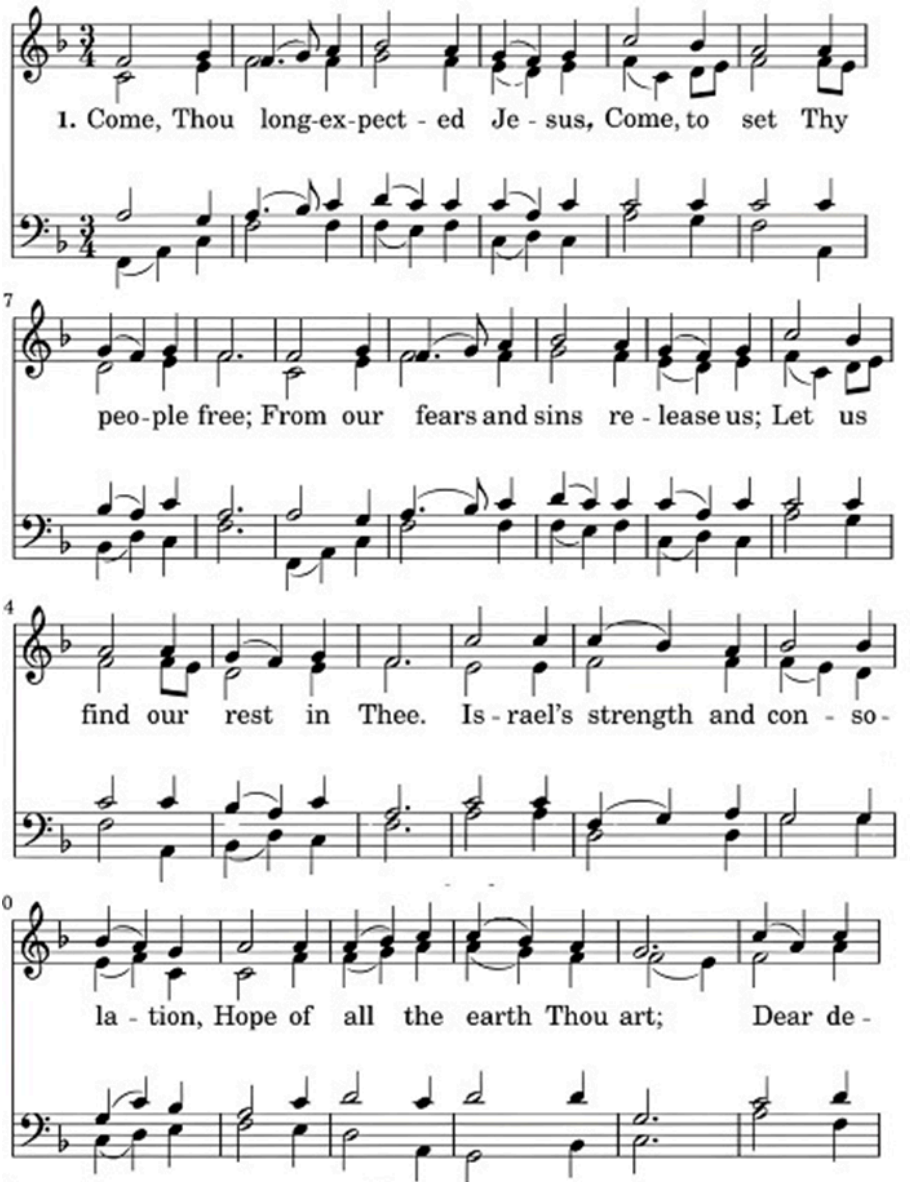
P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

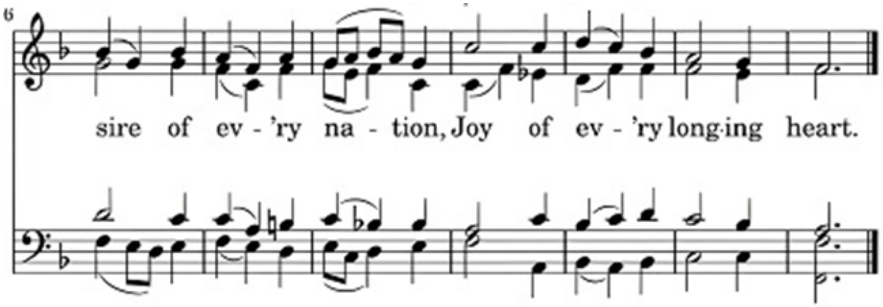
The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*





2 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"
Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
come with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.

4 Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Come to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Share the peace of Christ with one another by shaking hands or with a word or sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A: Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near.
God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. Keep safe those whose duty it is to protect others, especially, **Anthony, Chris, Eli, Nathan, and Tyler.** God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry, especially **Bev, Ed, Frieda, Jeryl, Kaylee, LaVonne, Mary, Sandy, and Shirley**. We also pray for friends and families of our congregation*. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

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

*See page 23 for friends and family of our congregation.

MEAL

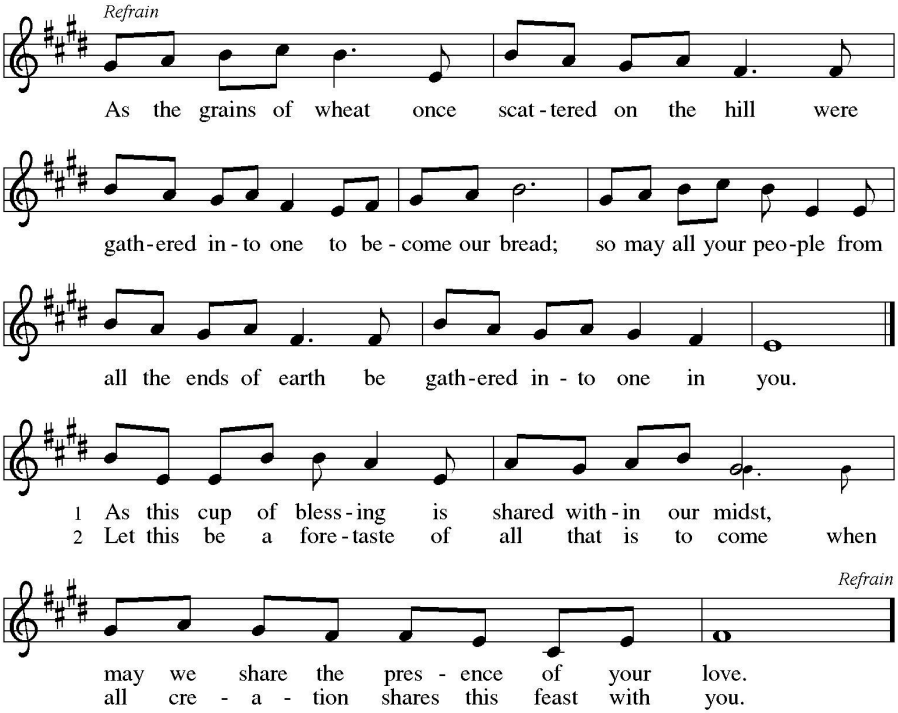
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

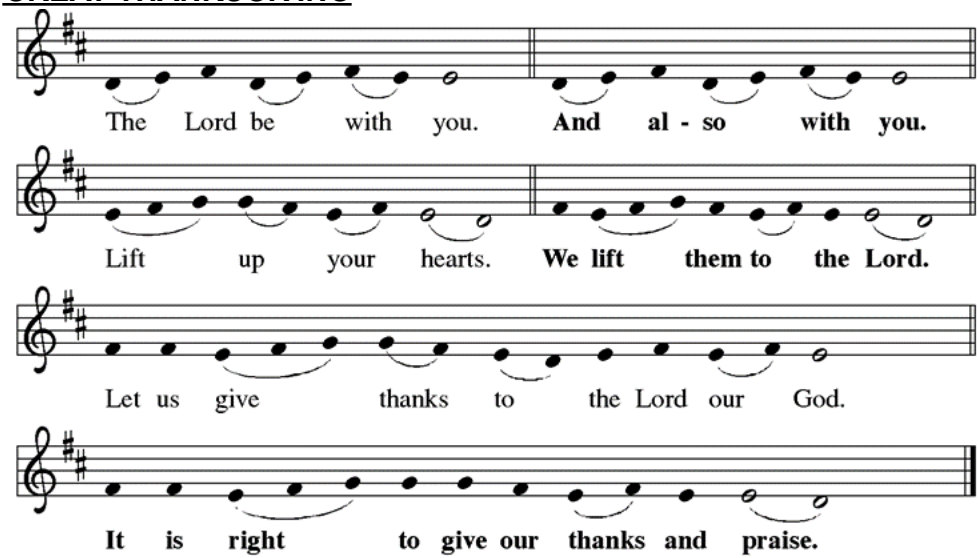
Your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

The assembly stands as the offering is presented at the rail.

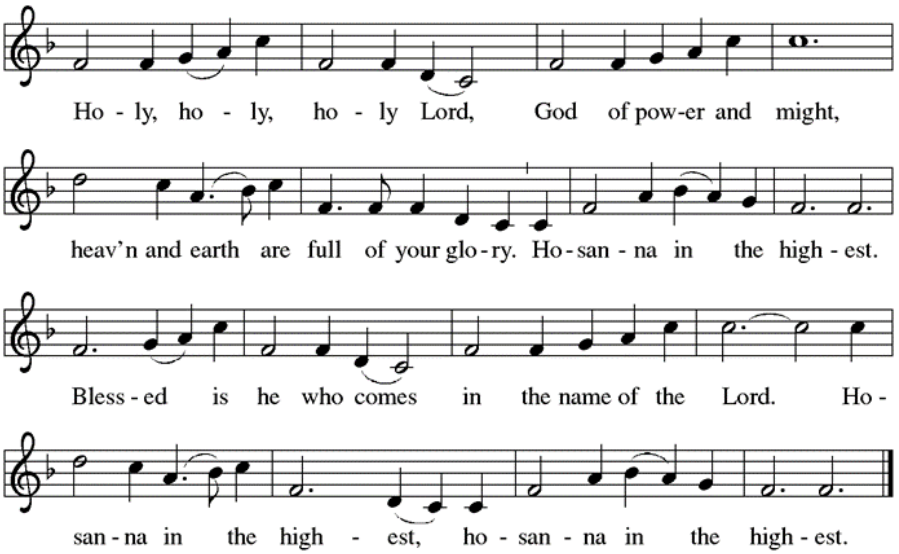
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat



GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: 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:

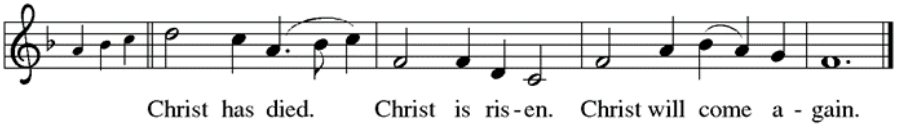


P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

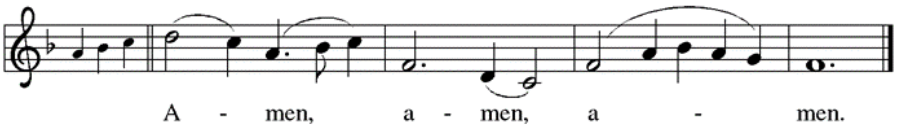
P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



P: 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.
C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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. **C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



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

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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

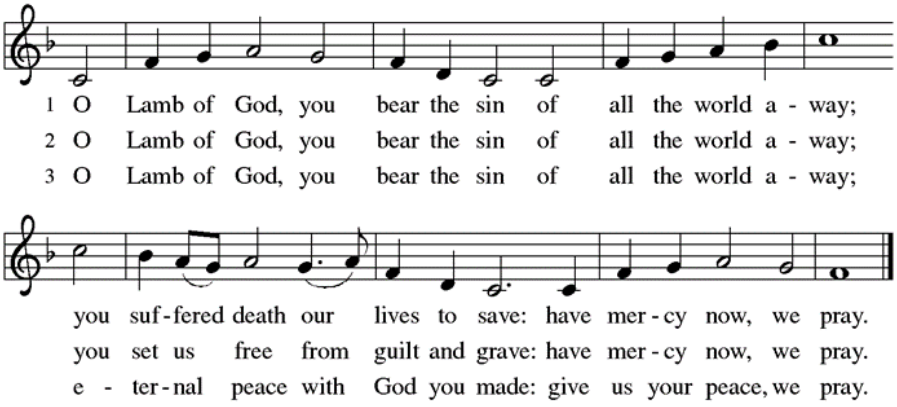
P: The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

C: Thanks be to God.

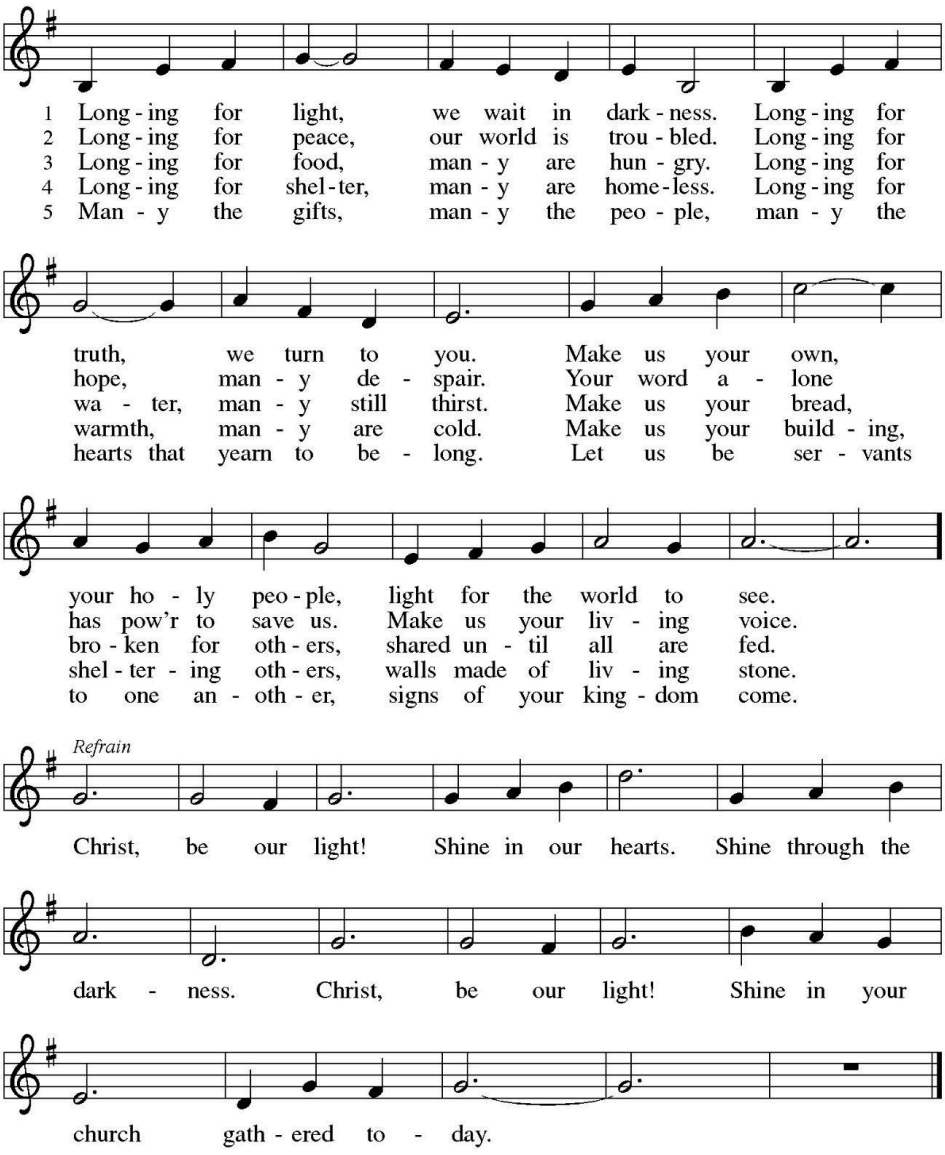
The assembly is seated.

Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Lamb of God



COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 715 *Christ, Be Our Light*



The assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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. **C: Amen**

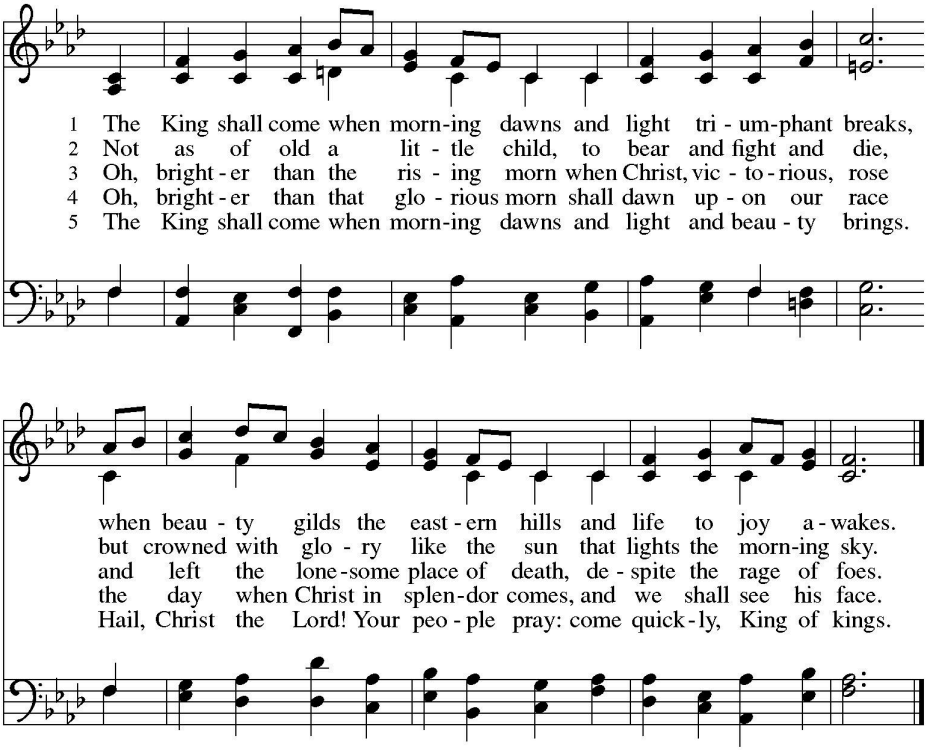
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING BLESSING:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: **ELW 260 *The King Shall Come***



P: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
C: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

12/9 Bonfire Church - For anyone in the 2nd Quarter of life. Meet at Devils Glenn Park, Bettendorf. Contact the church office for details at (563) 355-4161.

12/12 Annual Nativity: A Night in Bethlehem - There is a pink binder in the Narthex to sign up to volunteer for our annual Nativity. We are also looking for some cardboard boxes to use for decorations - if you have any, please drop them off to the church office!

12/21 7PM Longest Night Service

Today! Christmas Poinsettias - Poinsettias are available to order through today! Find an order form in the Connections Corner in the Narthex.

Attendance last week:
Saturday: No Service Sunday: 63 YouTube: 7 Total: 70

Year to Date Financial Summary:
Contributions: $140,525.78 Spending: $137,150.40 Balance: $3,375.38

Birthdays this week: 12/4 Harlen Briggs

Anniversaries this week: There are no anniversaries this week.

Flowers this week: The flowers today are given by Sherry Germanio in memory of Lynn Chamberlain and family.

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

YouTube Link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g_QWtn_I2SqpL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS:
Andrew, Apostle
Monday, November 30, 2026
The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552
Thursday, December 3, 2026
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).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749
Friday, December 4, 2026
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.

Worship Assistants

November 29	**9:00 AM Worship**
Presider	Vicar Bryce Hewlett, SAM
Assisting Minister	Justina Pessein
Reader	Kaylee Pessein
Advent Readers	Shirley Richlen & Dee Worley
Acolyte	Edi Southwell
Music Minister	Steve Abel
Ushers	Jerry & Yvonne Nichols
Altar Guild	Ellen Hogbin & Audrey Lovell

December 6	**9:00 AM Worship**
Presider	Vicar Bryce Hewlett, SAM
Assisting Minister	Jason Forari
Reader	Pat Larson
Advent Reader	Judie Brooks
Acolyte	Dex Hewlett
Music Minister	Steve Abel
Ushers	Melissa Forari & Anna Forari
Altar Guild	Marilyn Pieart & Diana Worley

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Bev** Chappen, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **Jeryl** Krumbholz, **Mary** Meumann,
LaVonne Mienke, **Shirley** Niewald, **Kaylee** Pessein

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), **Annette & Rick** (Steve & Sue Miller & Pat Sorenson's sister & brother-in-law), **Brenda** (Friend of Janene Anderson), **Carol** (friend of Joleen Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Elliot** (Gary and Eunice Grell's great grandson), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister), **Heather** (Jason Forari's Sister-in-Law), **Jack** (family of Martens/Schmidts), **Jane** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Jason** (Sherry Germanio's son), **Jim** (Pat Larson's nephew), **John** (Pat Larson's brother), **John** (Frieda's nephew), **Karen** (Shirley's Aunt), **Kayla** (friend of Angie Schmidt), **Larry** (family of Doug Larson), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari), **Pat** (Judy Larson's Sister-in-Law), **Peg** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Stacy** (Fritz' son's cousin), **Steve** (friend of Sue Miller), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
LCDR Chris Tribble USN (Erik & Joleen Bakken's friend).
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler McLaughlin, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	11	2	3	4	5
9AM Worship			6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Choir Practice	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM BHCC Service		5PM Worship
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9AM Worship 12PM Confirmation @ Zion Lutheran		4:30PM Property Mtg.	6PM Bonfire Church 6-8PM Food Pantry	9AM Finance Mtg. 9-11AM Food Pantry		8AM Men's Prayer Breakfast 4PM Annual Nativity No 5PM Worship
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9AM Worship 10AM Coffee & Convo		1PM Sarah Circle	8AM Worship & Music Mtg. 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Choir Practice	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM BHCC Service 11:30AM GANG 2:30PM Bingo @ BHCC		5PM Worship
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9AM Worship 11AM Service in Dixon		No Quilting	6PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry 4PM Family Worship 11PM Classic Worship *Christmas Eve*	*Christmas*	No 5PM Worship