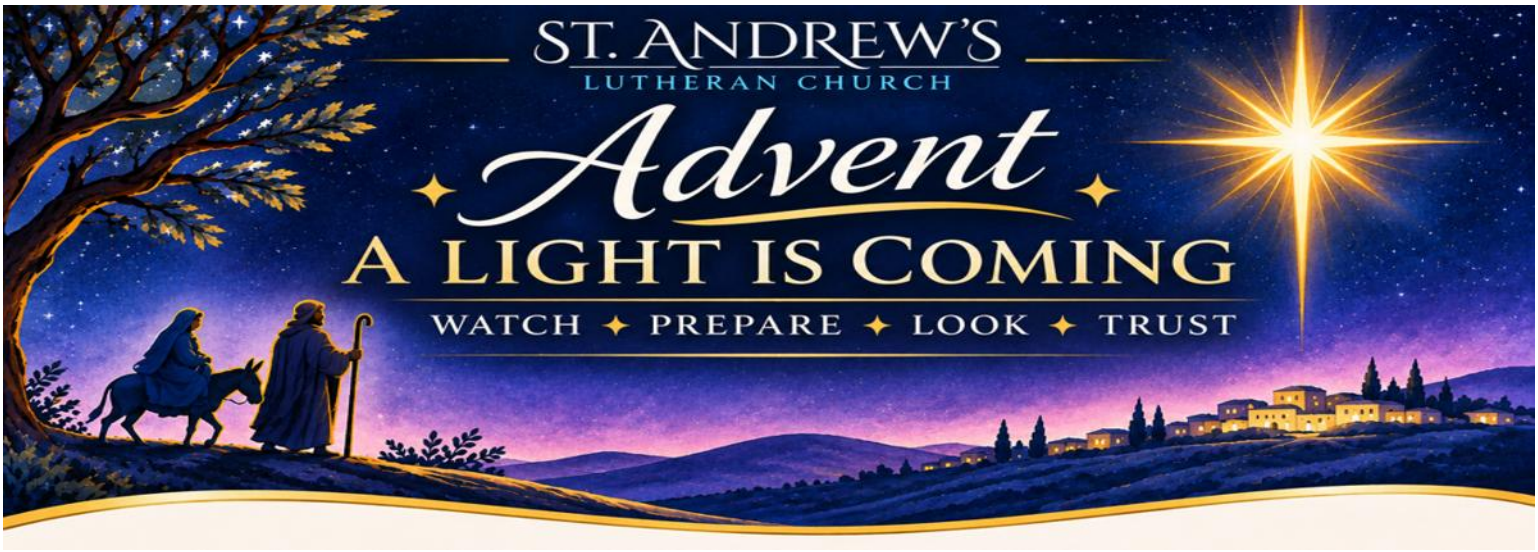

Watch for the Light

First Sunday of Advent

The Liturgy of Holy Communion
November 29, 2026
10:00 am

Ministers, The People of God
MNYS Bishop, The Reverend Dr. Katrina Foster
Reverend Jean Dougherty
Director of Music, Yuxuan (Minerva) Chen
Cantor, Cynthia Davis
Bell Choir Director, Laura Gustavsen
Assisting Minister, Mary Fjellstad
Readers: Chris Lloyd, John Sanzone
Ushers, Steve O'Hagan, Darlene Klouda,
Ron Hendrickson, Kristen Roccisano

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

This is Christ's Church:

There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities, and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. **Those with us for the first time** are kindly asked to introduce themselves to the pastor and greeters and are welcome to sign our guest book in the narthex.

NEED PRAYER? Kindly share prayer concerns at the lectern located at the church entrance to have a name read aloud during worship. Completing a prayer card or calling the office assures the name will appear in print, and you may ask to receive a call from the pastor.

Our Mission:

Because God shows His Love through Jesus Christ,
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, a community of faith,
gathered around Word and Sacrament,
lives to WORSHIP, WITNESS, LEARN, and SERVE,
and welcomes all people to share God's love
and to be workers together in this mission of the Church.

Communion:

St. Andrew's practices eucharistic hospitality.
All are welcome at God's table.
In response to Jesus's command, we celebrate with a worship meal of bread (or gluten-free by request) and white wine or red grape juice (in the center of the communion tray.) It is the Lutheran tradition to commune using both elements. However, we believe Christ is fully present when receiving one kind (bread or wine/grape juice). The living practice of our Lutheran tradition is an open table for the baptized to receive Holy Communion. Those desiring a blessing but not communion are invited forward and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions.

What is Reconciling in Christ?

This means we joyfully welcome all of God's people to worship with us regardless of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, or socio-economic circumstances.

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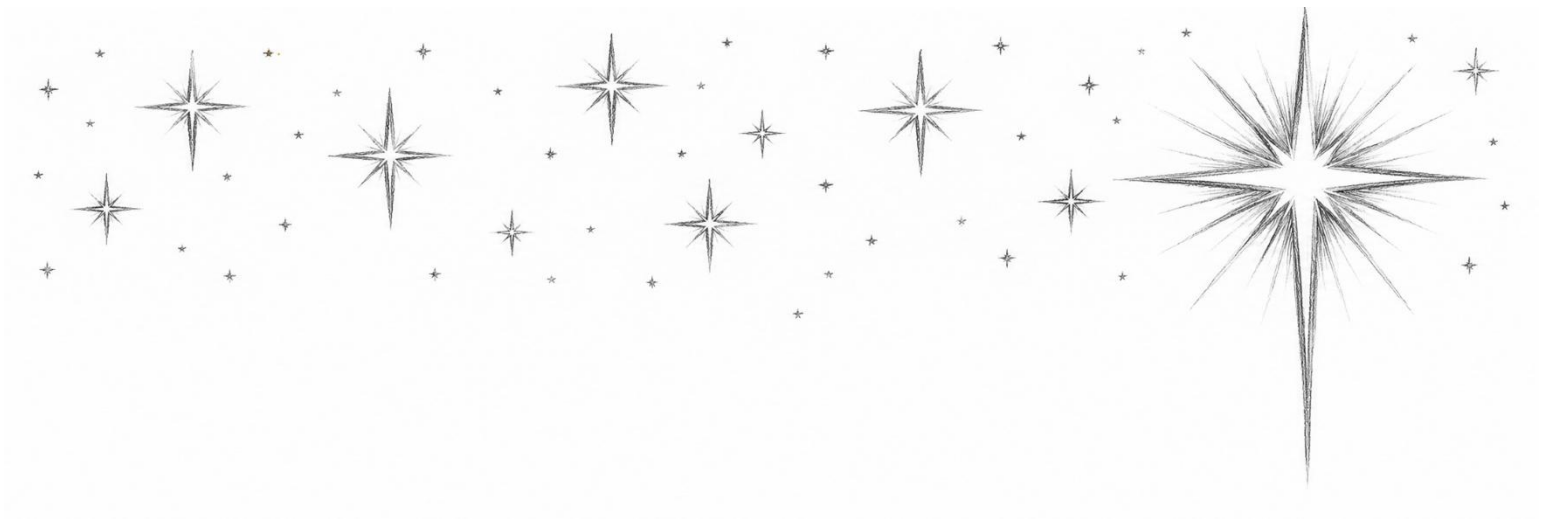
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



WATCH FOR THE LIGHT

The First Sunday of Advent — *The Star of Hope*

"What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Stay awake!'" — *Mark 13:37*

Have you ever looked up at the stars on a dark night?
The darker the sky, the more brilliantly the stars seem to shine. The stars were there all along. We simply needed to look up.
Advent begins with an invitation from Jesus: **Keep awake!**

Not because we should be frightened of what tomorrow might bring, but because God is at work in ways we might otherwise miss.
Sometimes we become so consumed with our worries, responsibilities, and routines that we forget to look for God's presence in our lives.
Yet God's promises remain, even when the way forward is unclear.

The light is coming. Even when the world seems dark, God's promises remain.
This Advent, we are invited to lift our eyes beyond our immediate circumstances and rediscover the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

OUR ADVENT INVITATION
Watch for the light. Where have you seen a glimpse of God's hope this week?

Hope is not believing that everything will turn out exactly as we want.
Hope is trusting that God will never abandon us.

WATCH FOR THE LIGHT. GOD IS FAITHFUL.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME*(presiding minister)*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Based on Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 and Mark 13:33–37*
Shepherd of Israel, hear our prayer! Awaken our hearts and shine your light upon us.
Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved!

In a world filled with darkness and uncertainty, we watch for signs of your coming.
We watch with hope, trusting that your light will break through the darkness.

When the night seems long and our hearts grow weary, remind us that you are near.
Stir up your power, O Lord! Renew our hope and strengthen our faith.

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. We lift our eyes toward the promise of Christ.
We will stay awake! We will watch with hope! For the Light of the World is coming!
O Come, let us worship! O Come, let us worship!

PRELUDE

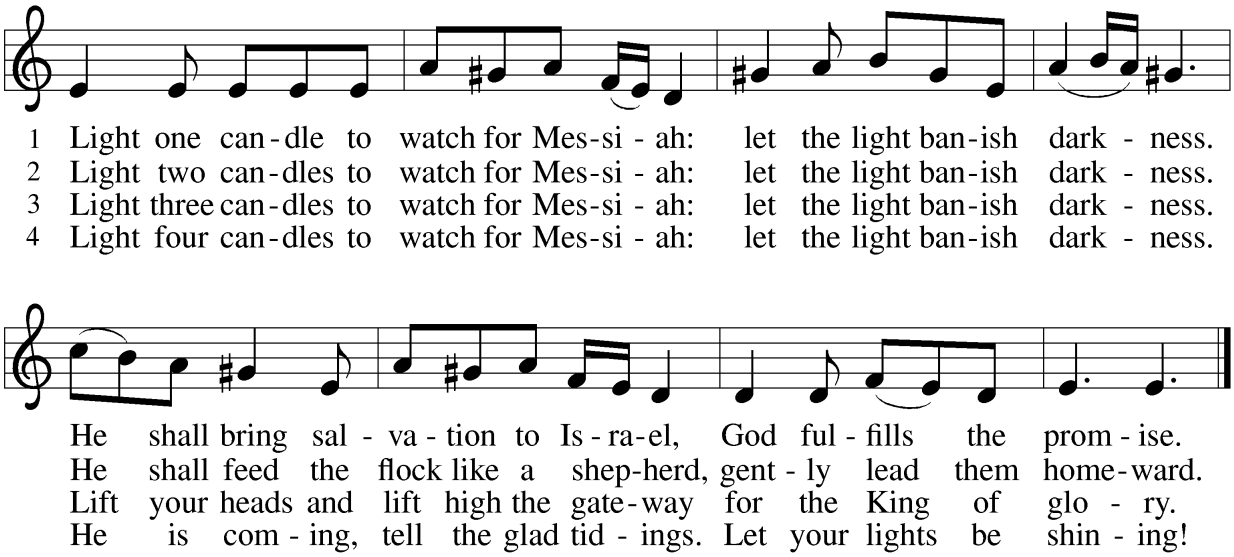
(Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins at the font.)
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

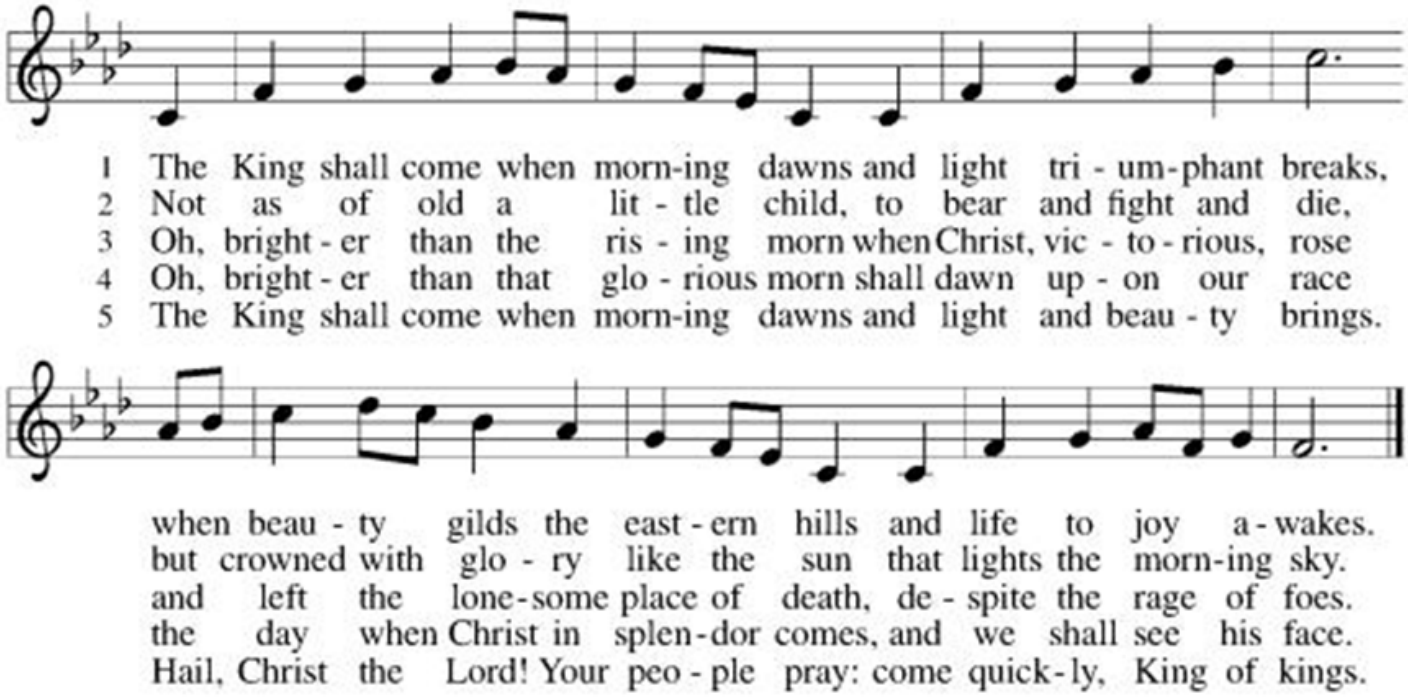
People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace all your sins are forgiven,
and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✢ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
(Please stand as you are able.)

ELW #240 *(first verse only)* **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(lighting the first candle.)*
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.**

GATHERING SONG #260 "The King Shall Come" (Verses 1-3)



(Please be seated)

GREETING THE HIVE *(children are invited forward by the pastor.)*

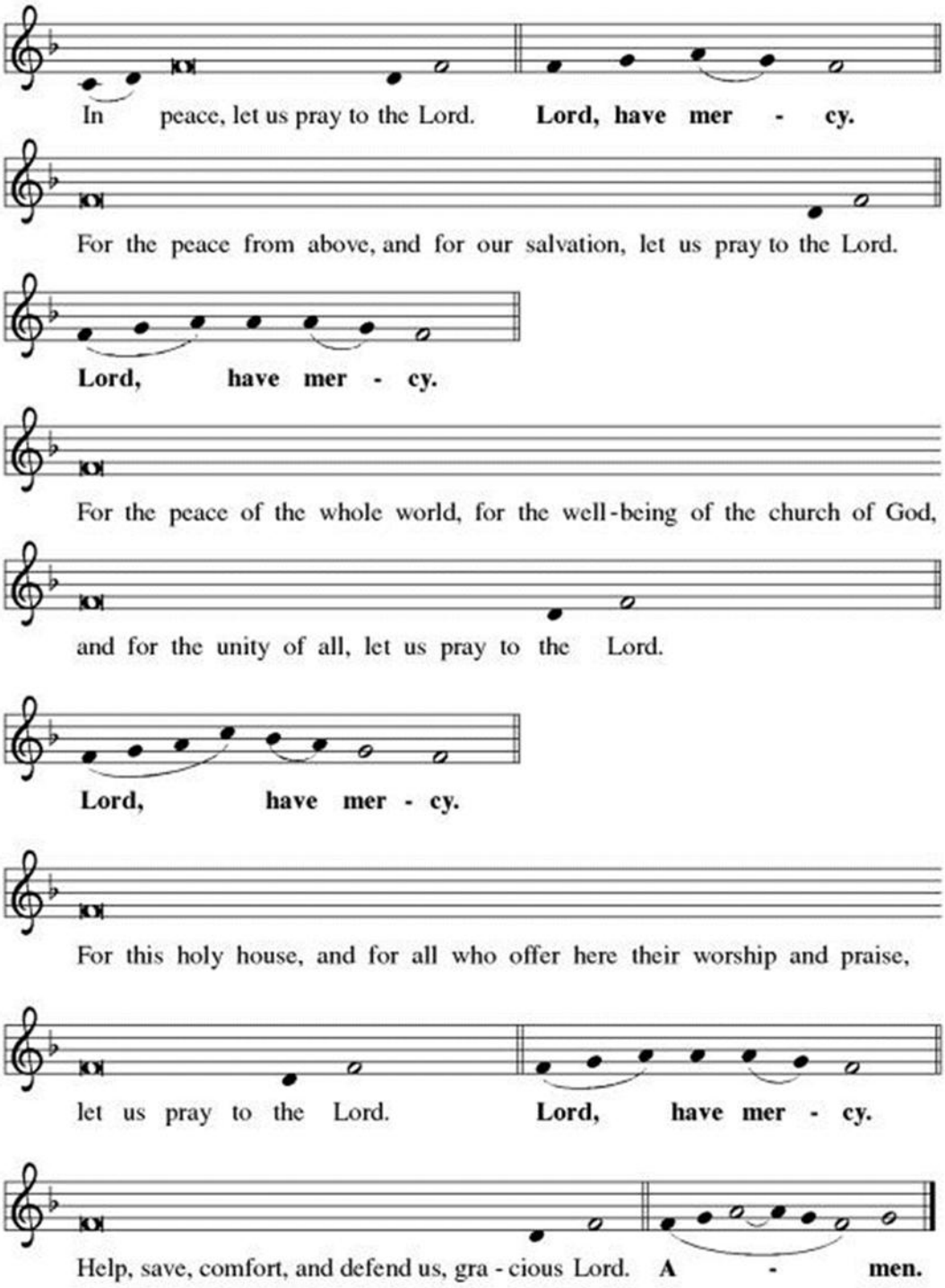
(please stand as you are able)

GREETING *(presiding minister)*

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 *(The Kyrie is a dialogue between the cantor and the assembly)*



PRAYER OF THE DAY*(presiding minister)*

As we begin this Advent journey, turn our eyes toward your light and remind us that even in the longest night, your promises never fail.

Let us pray together,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come among us. **In a world filled with uncertainty and darkness, awaken our hearts to the promise of your coming. Keep us watchful in faith, steadfast in hope, and ready to recognize your presence among us. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.** Amen.

(The assembly may be seated.)

ANTHEM (St. Andrew's Choir)

WORD

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

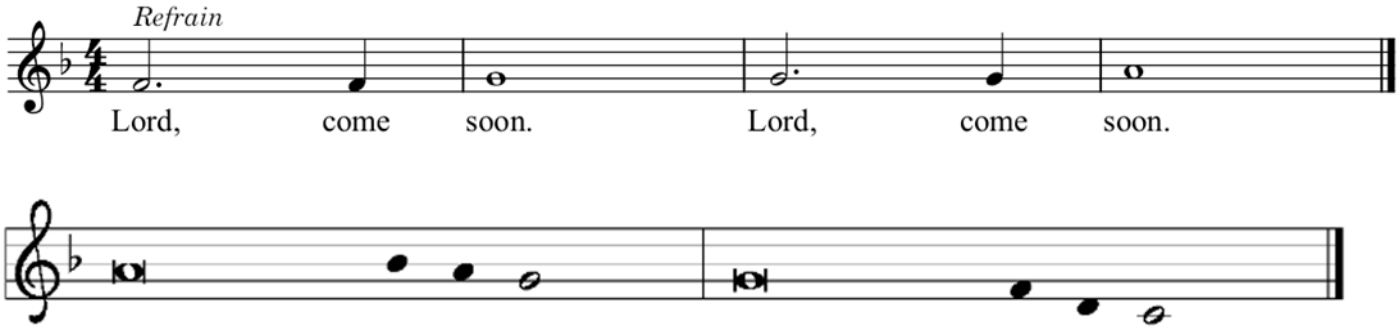
FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.**

PSALM 80:1-4, 17-19 *(Choir introduces the refrain and the assembly repeats. Psalm is chanted responsively with the assembly chanting bold verse.)*



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? Refrain
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.
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 Refrain

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

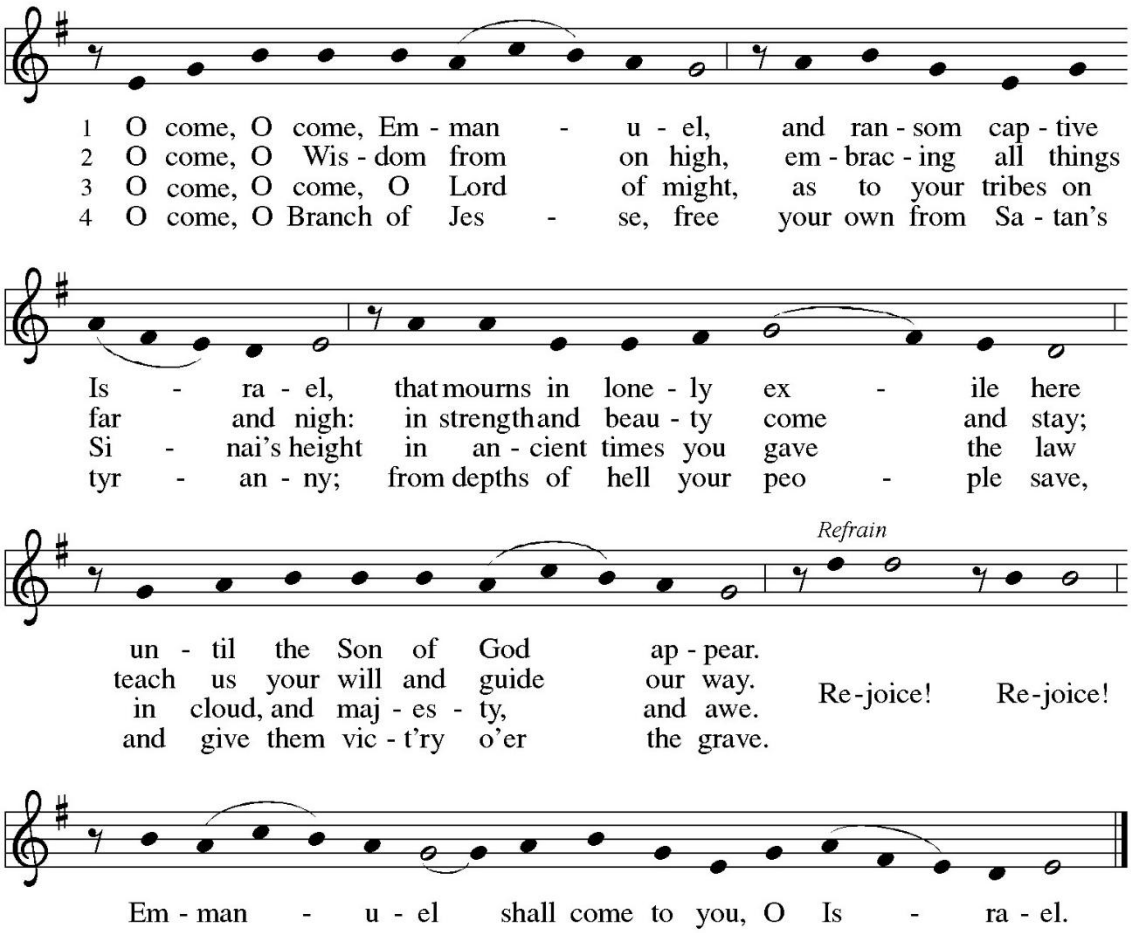
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any 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.**

(The assembly stands as they are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(verse one and refrain only)*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark
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.**

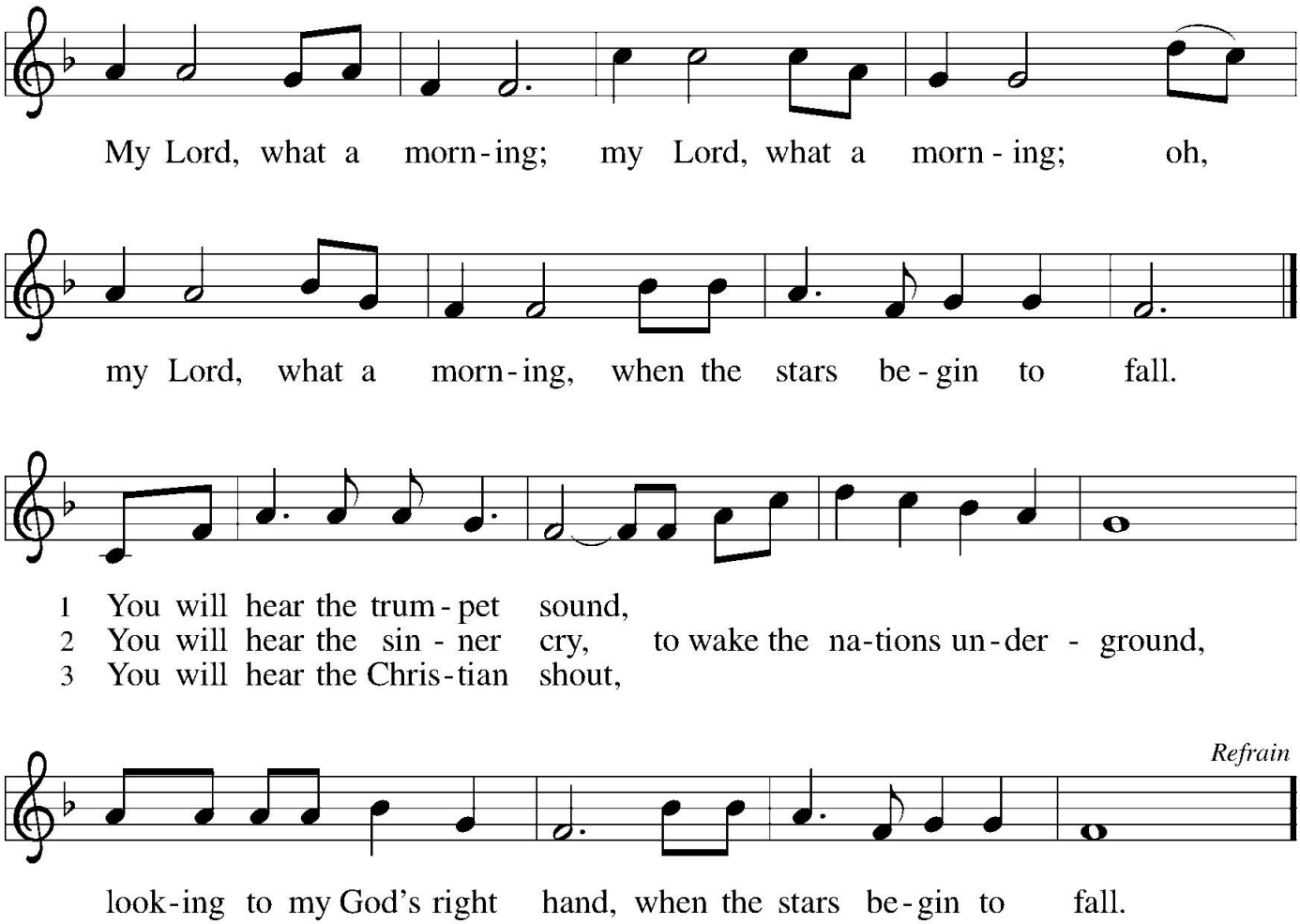
Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

(please be seated)
SERMON *(presiding minister)*

(please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY #438 My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain



NICENE CREED

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 INTERCESSION
In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.
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, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry all on our prayer list and those we now name silently or aloud. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and those who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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, **receive our prayer.**

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home, especially Xavier Taylor & Kim Fey. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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

PEACE*(presiding minister)*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly may be seated. An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. ***Children are invited to collect food donations from pews.***

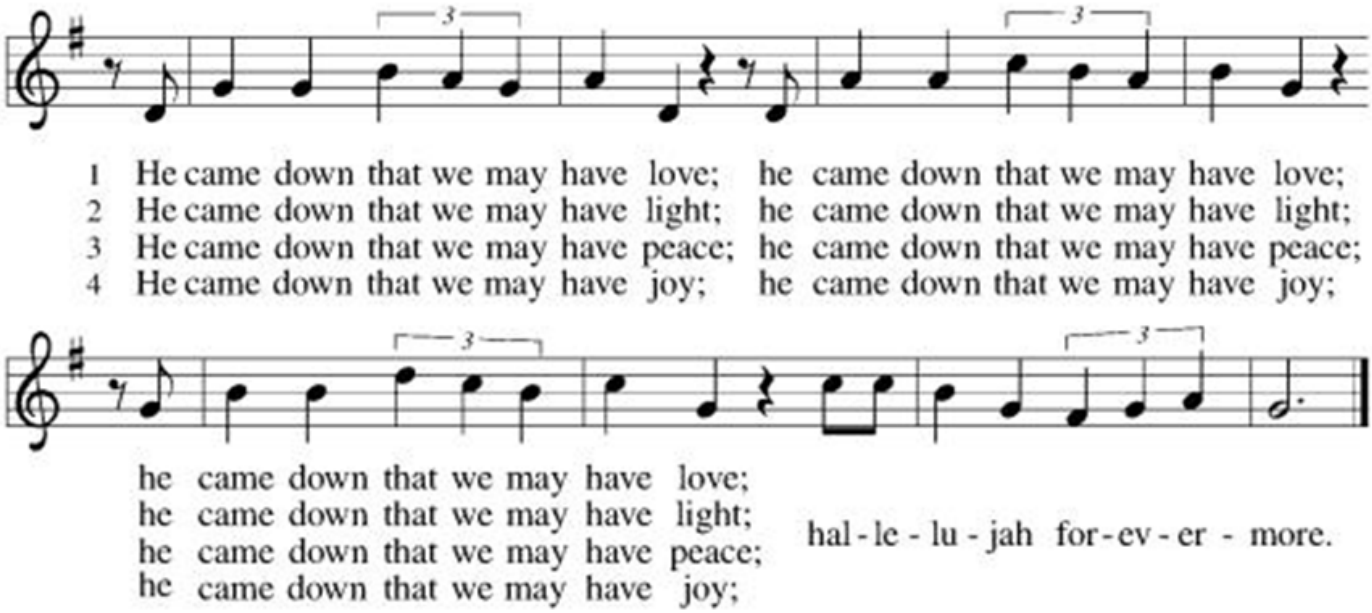
@SASMITHTOWN

venmo

OFFERING

(When Jesus fed the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, he was showing us how God's love can multiply the effects of our generosity [see Mt. 14:13-21]. Thank you for sharing from the abundance you have received. Offerings may also be given online at the church website.)

OFFERING HYMN #253 He Came Down



(please stand as you are able)

OFFERING PRAYER *(assisting minister)*

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.**

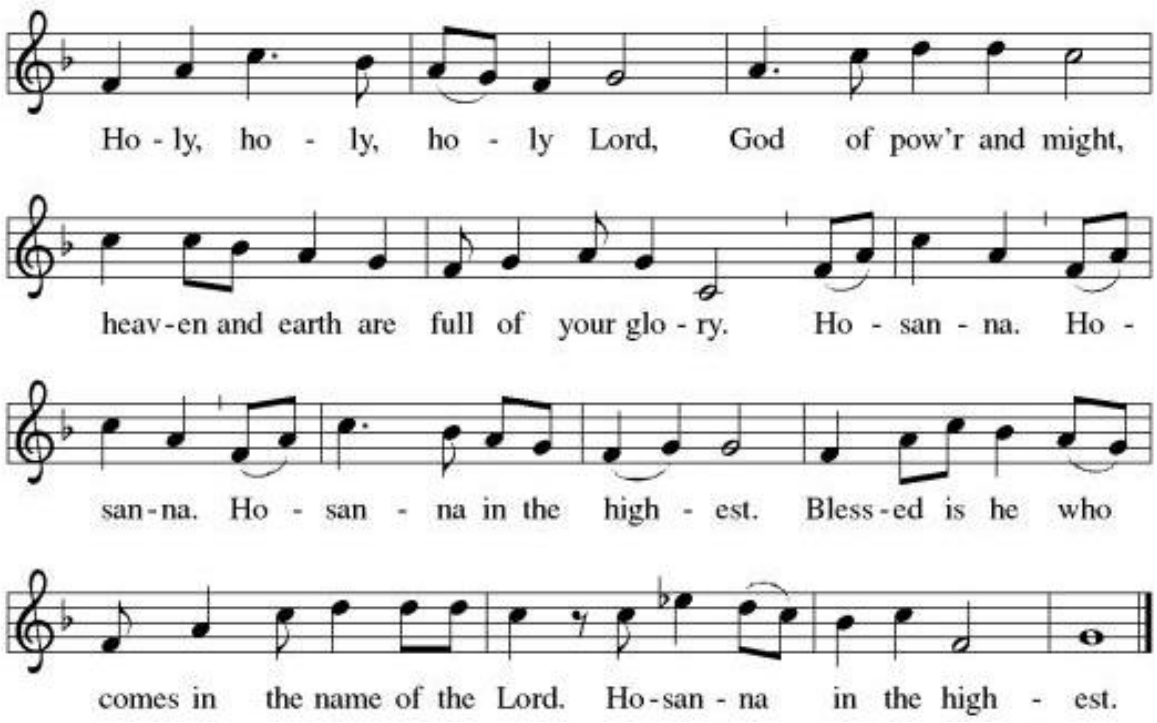
***GREAT THANKSGIVING**
DIALOGUE AND PREFACE *(presiding minister)*

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, 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:

SANCTUS *ELW setting three pg 144*



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *(presiding minister)*

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.**

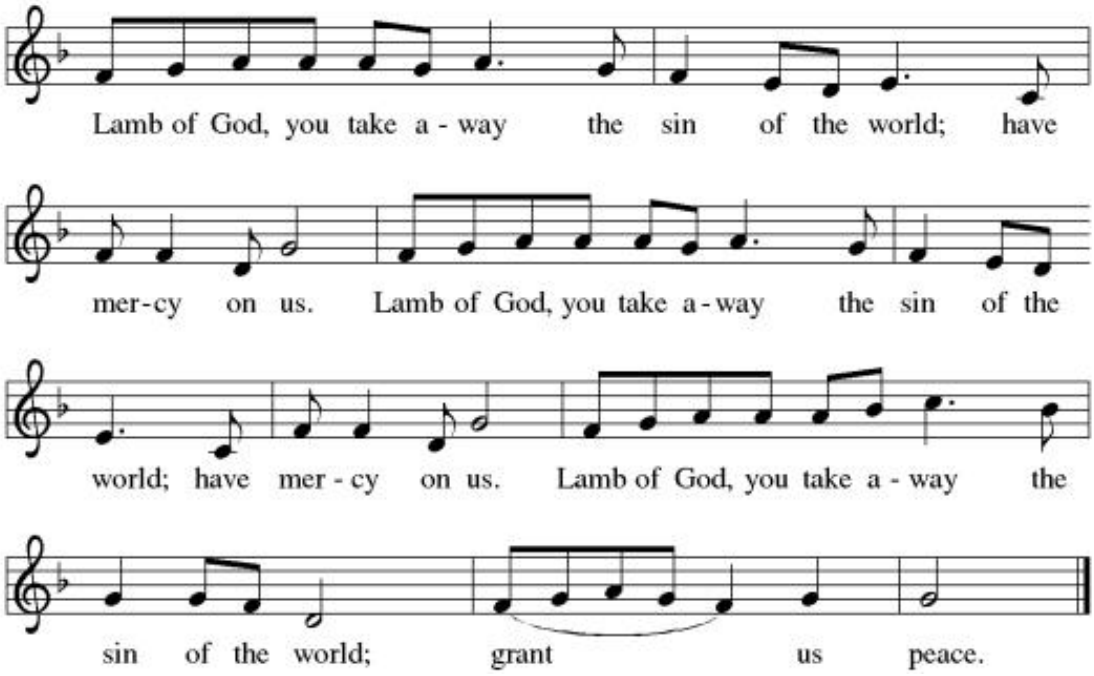
LORD'S PRAYER *(presiding minister)*

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.

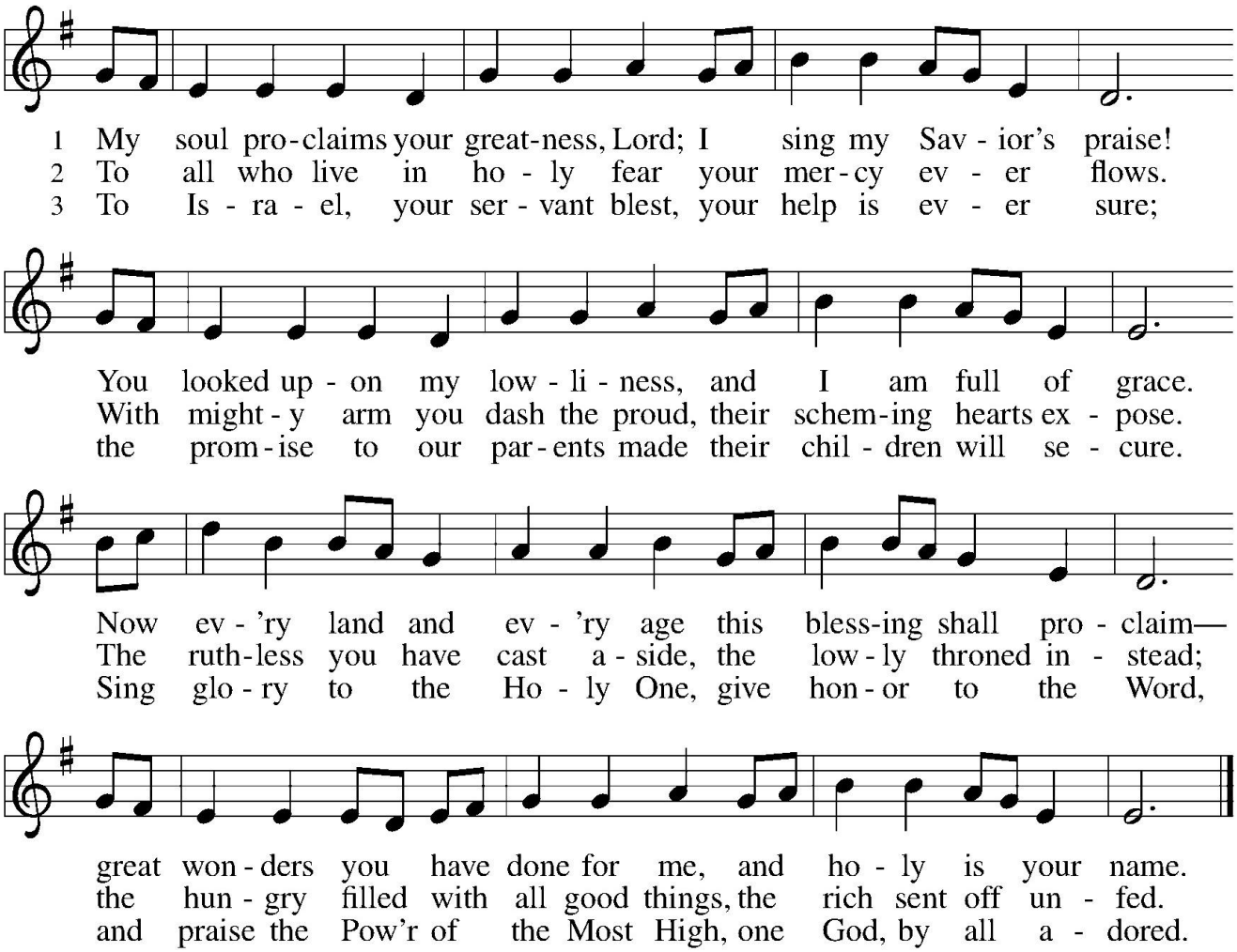
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
As we wait and wonder, let us also be fed. Jesus welcomes all to this table. Come!

(The assembly may be seated during distribution. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those desiring a blessing but not communion are invited forward and may cross their arms to indicate their intentions. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.)

LAMB OF GOD *ELW setting three, pg 146*



COMMUNION HYMN #251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



(After all have received, please stand as you are able.)

EUCHARISTIC BLESSING *(presiding minister)*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace and peace. **Amen**.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(assisting minister)*

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(presiding minister)*

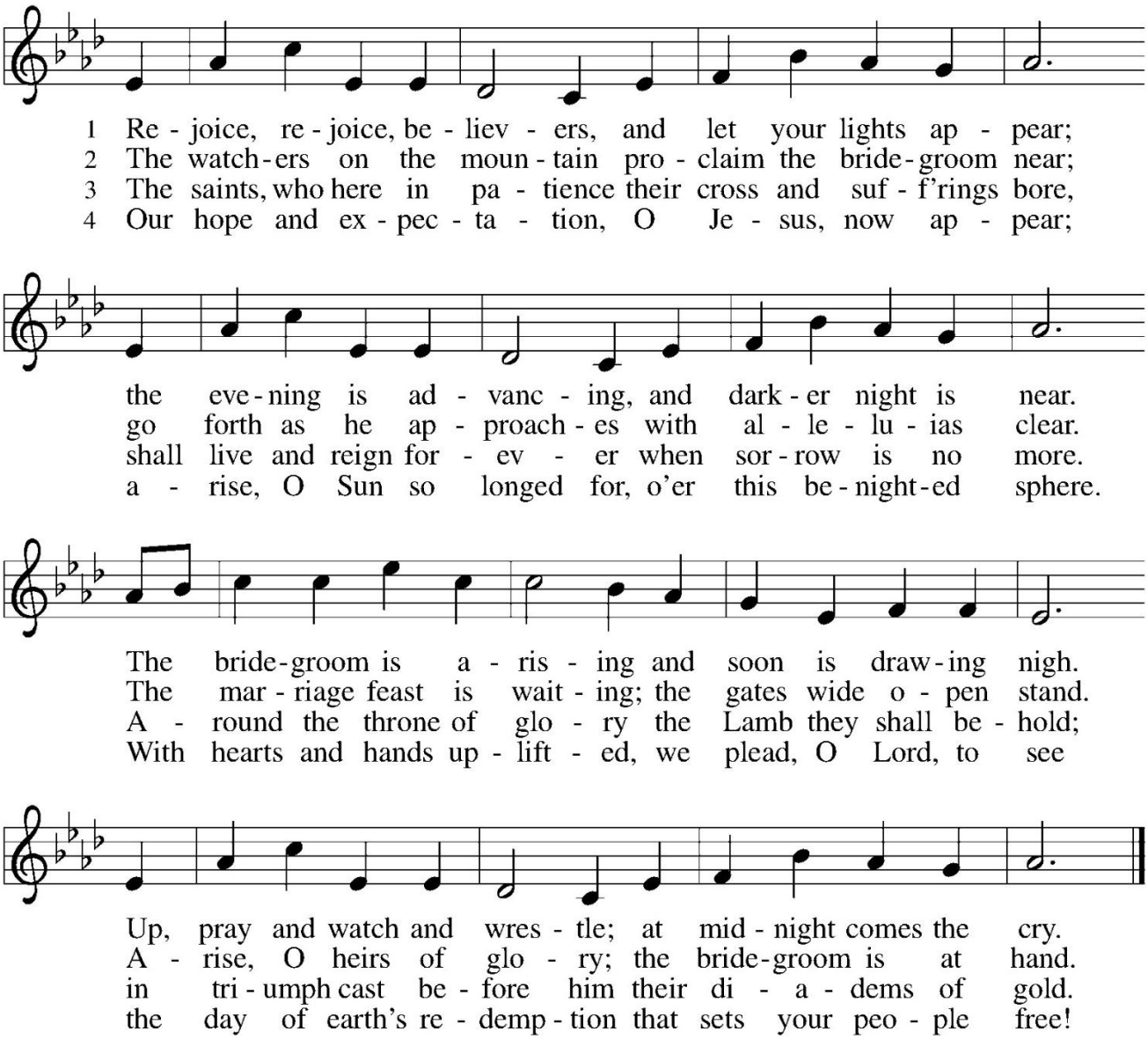
(please stand as you are able)

BLESSING *(presiding minister)*

May the God of hope awaken your hearts to the promise of Christ's coming.
May the light of Christ shine upon you, even in the darkest nights.
May the Holy Spirit keep you watchful in faith, steadfast in love, and joyful in hope.

And may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #244 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



DISMISSAL *(assisting minister)*

Go in peace. Watch for the Light!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE