ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Called by Christ to be a sanctuary that welcomes and serves all.

23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335
www.stjohn-elca.org; om@stjohn-elca.org
248-474-0584

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.



November 29, 2026
10:00 am

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Mark Fisher
Director of Music: Sean Michael Jackman DMA, Ed.D
Director of Mission Advancement: Ashleigh Altemann
Office Manager: Marie Cook

GATHERING

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

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship

PRELUDE: Prelude & Harm. on Veni, Veni Emmanuel (Come, O Come Emmanuel) arr. P. Fey

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand as you are able



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

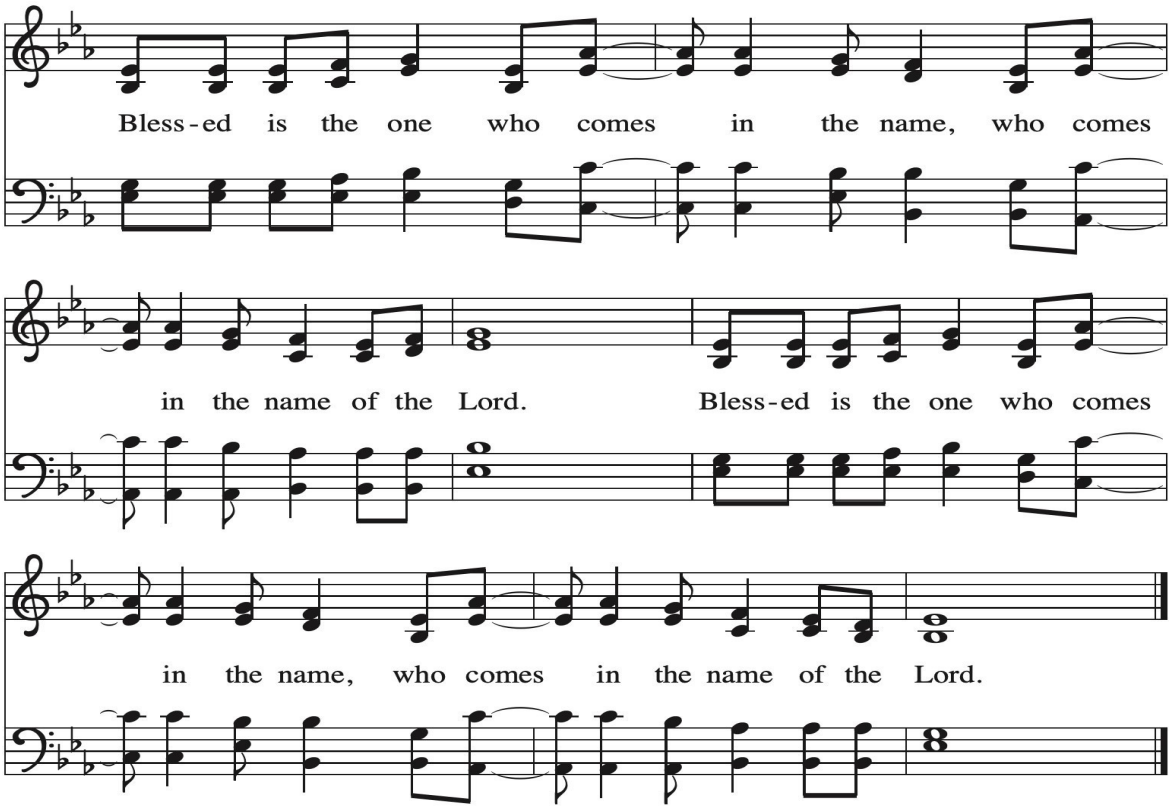
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.

Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Light the first candle.

ADVENT SONG: Blessed is the One ACS 929



Text: Psalm 118:26
Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977
Music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: 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.

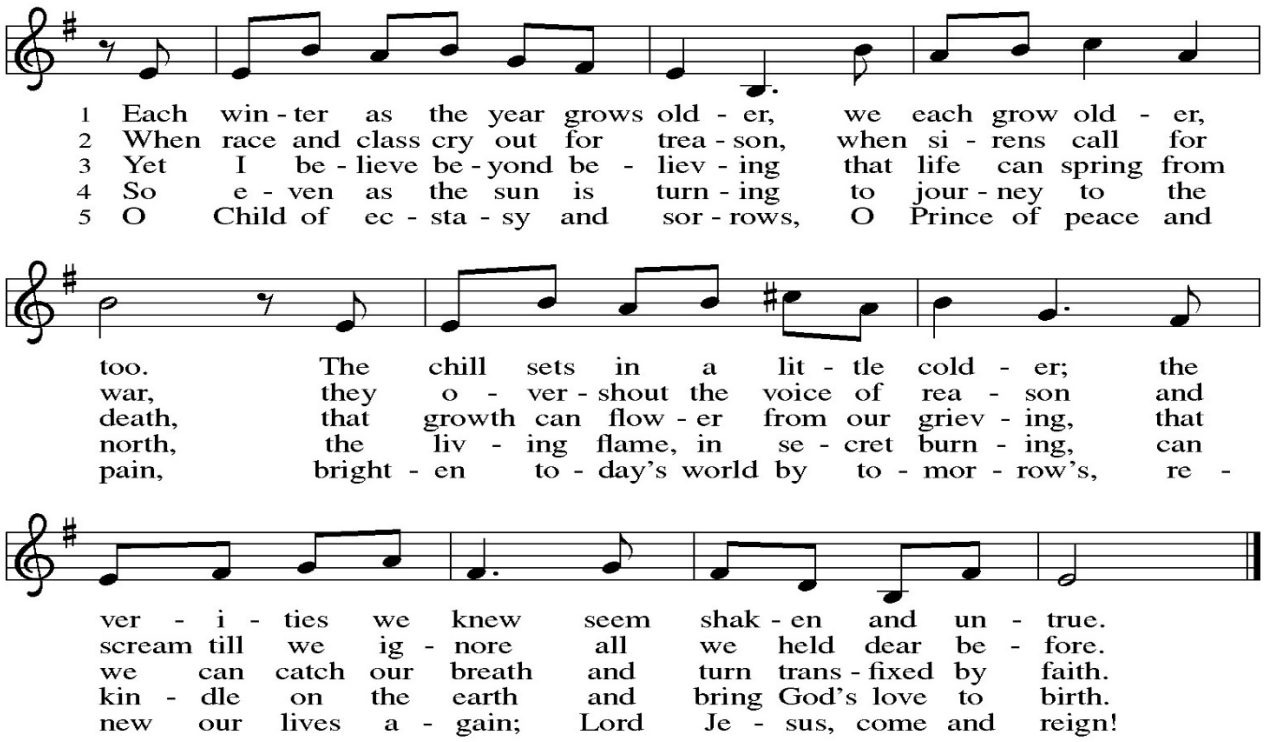
In the name of ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven:

Rejoice in the Lord!

Rejoice in the Lord!

Amen. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN: Each Winter as the Year Grow Colder ELW 252



Text: William Gay, b. 1920, alt.
Music: CAROL OF HOPE, Annabeth Gay, b. 1925
Text and music © 1971 United Church Press.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray… 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.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

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.

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: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

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.
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.
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.**

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.

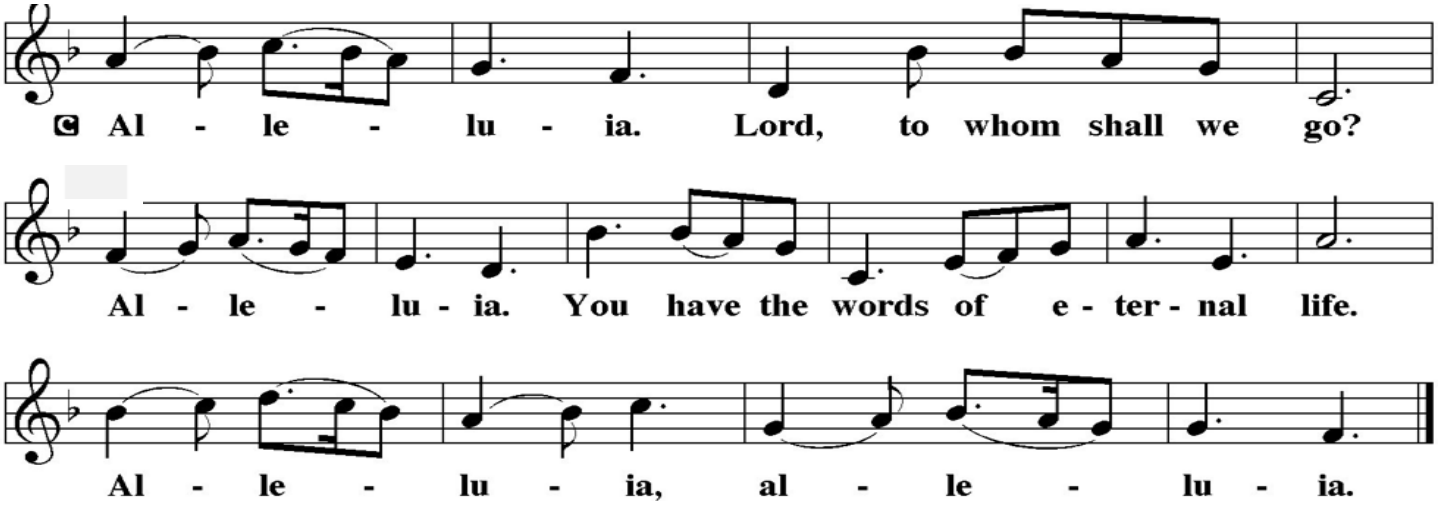
A: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

A: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P: The holy gospel according to Mark the 13th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[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.

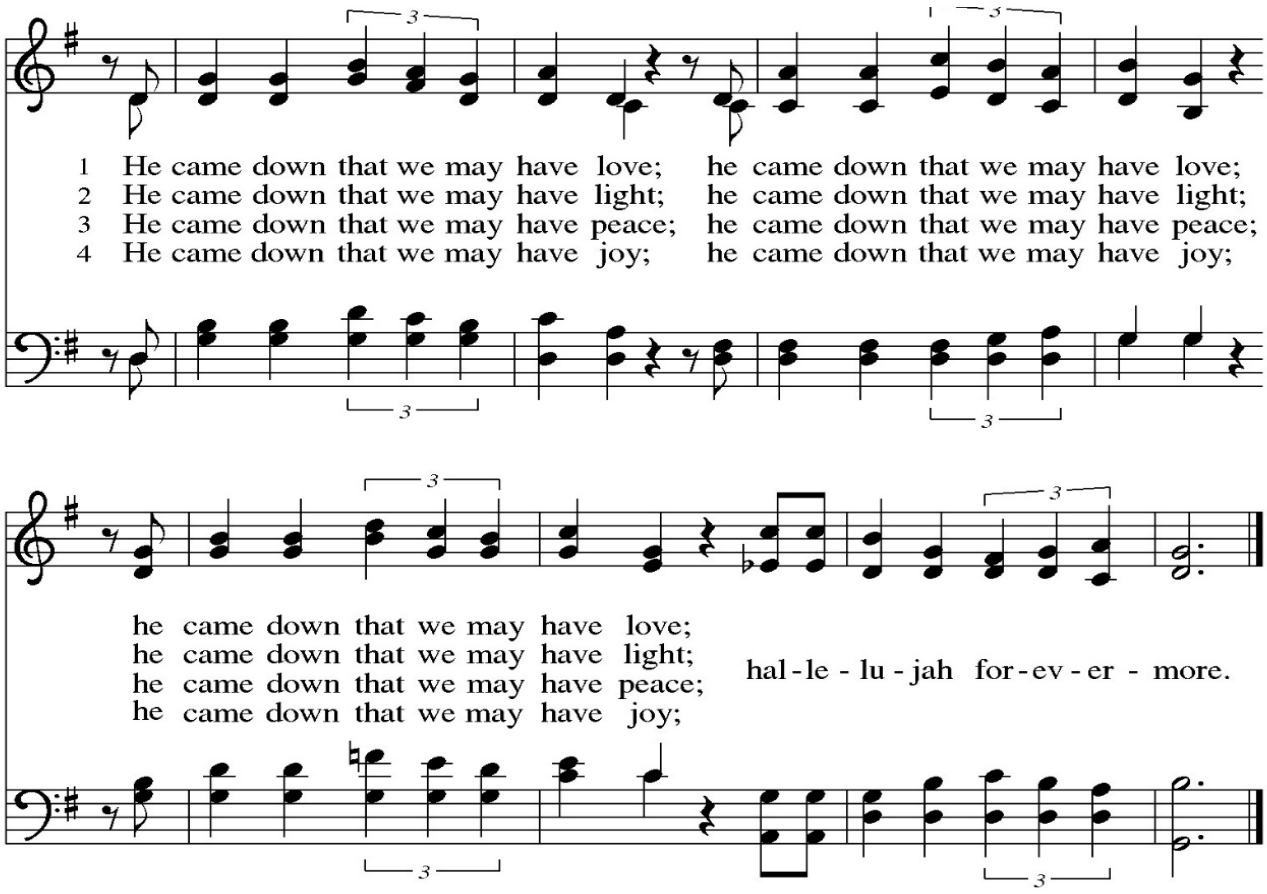
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the 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.**

Please be seated.

SERMON Pastor Mark Fisher

HYMN OF THE DAY: He Came Down ELW 253



Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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CONFESSION OF FAITH: A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified
and risen,our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ST JOHN CHOIR ANTHEM: Song of Hope arr. H. Hopson

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE REPORTS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

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,

receive our prayer.

A: 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.

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 (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

A: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry (*especially*). Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

receive 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,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: 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. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

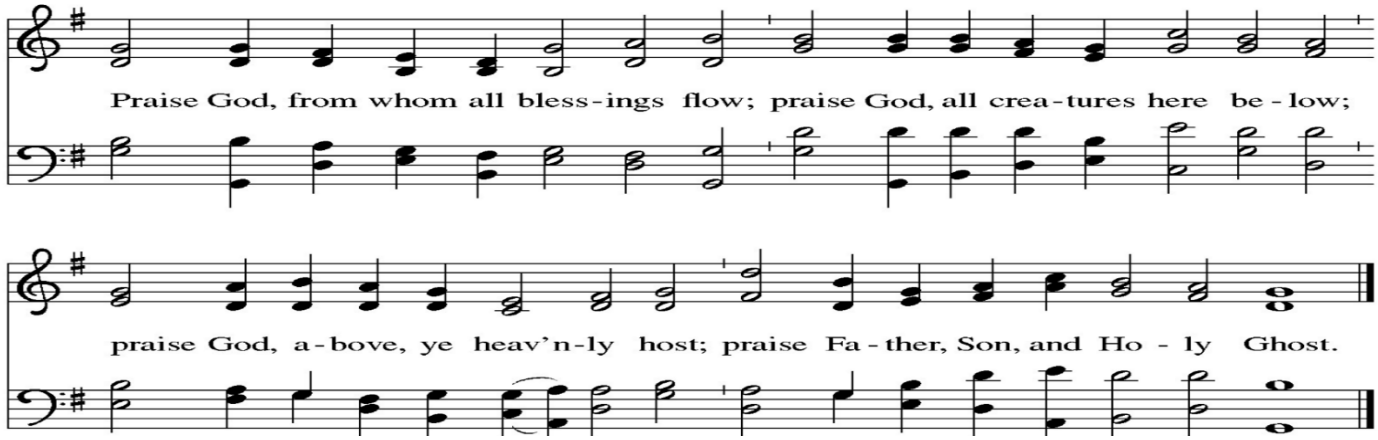
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING MUSIC: Snow is Dancing C. Debussy

Doxology ELW 885 (please stand as offering is brought forward)

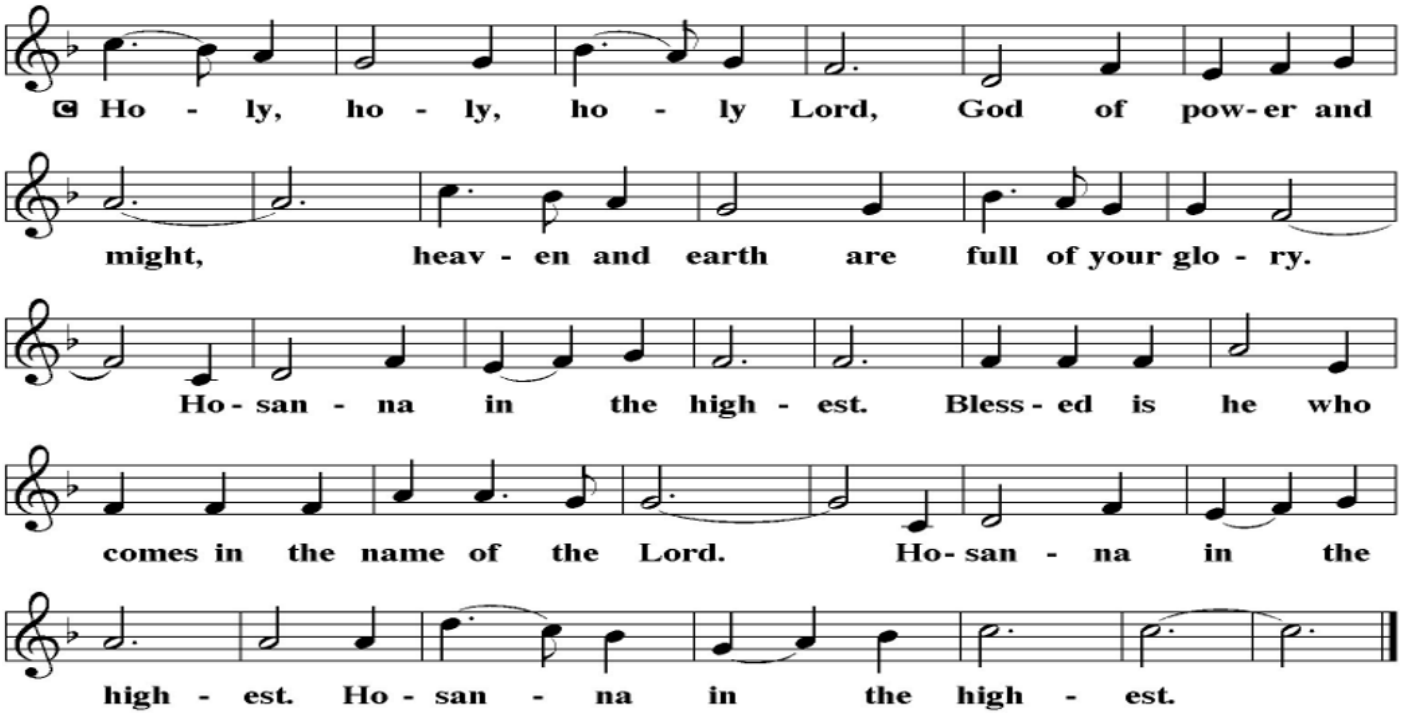


OFFERING PRAYER:

A: 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, 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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

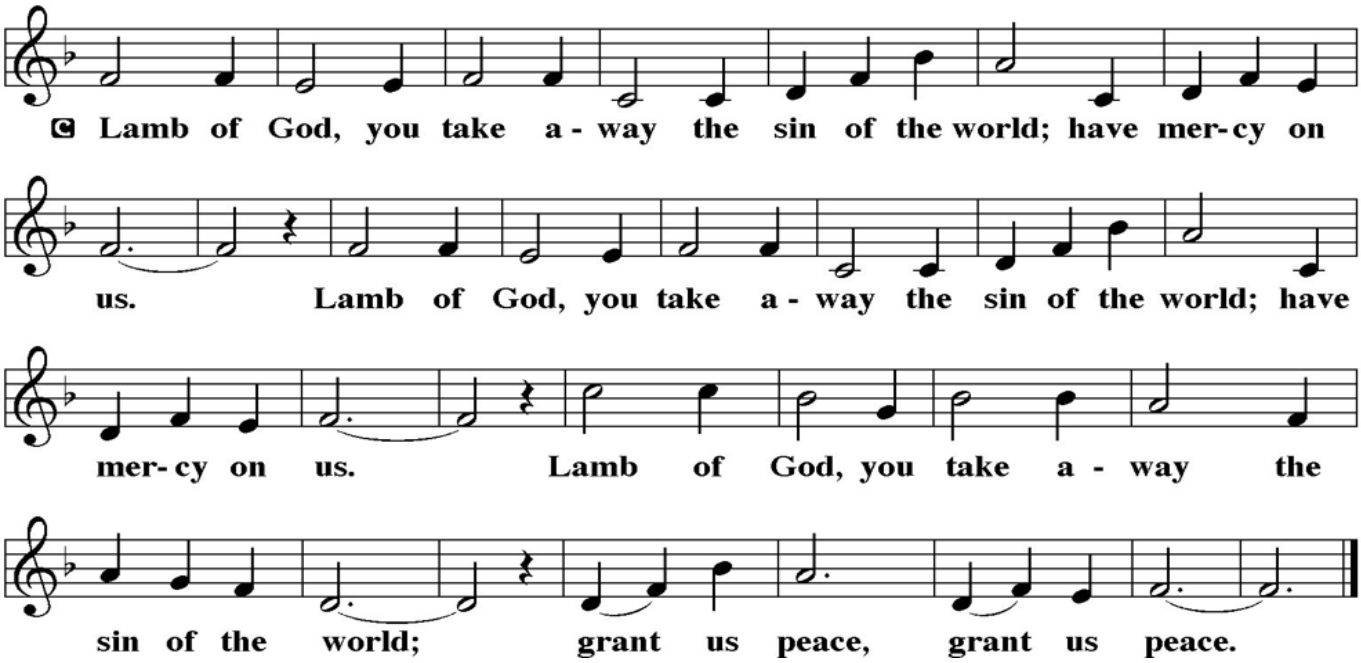
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

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

Pastor/Presider extends invitation to online participants to partake of communion The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. Amen



BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING

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

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. **Amen.**

RINGING OF THE BELL

BLESSING

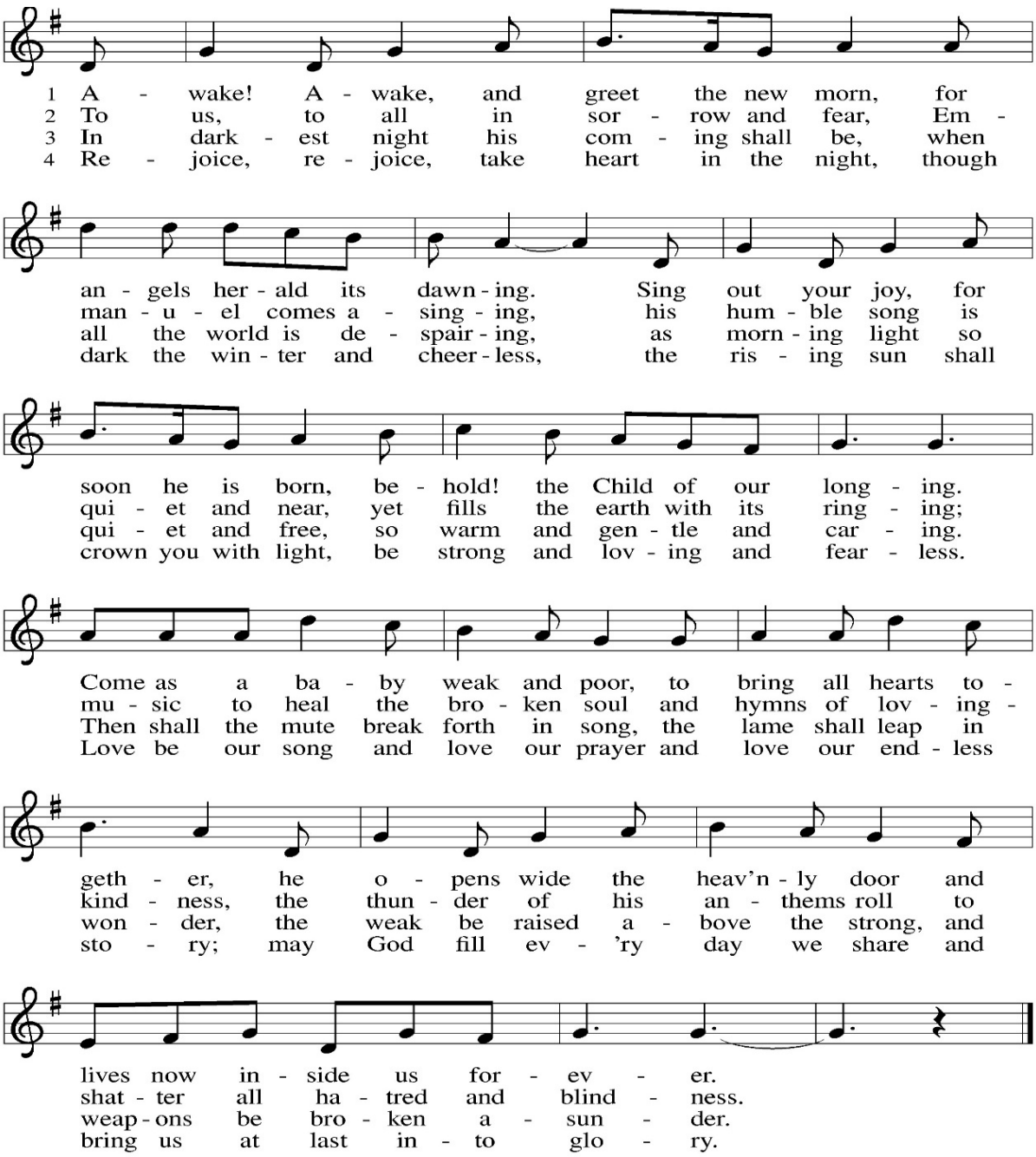
P: May God bless you with discomfort, at easy answers, half-truths,
and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation
of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears, to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection,
hunger, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make
a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. Amen

SENDING HYMN: Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ELW 242



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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DISMISSAL

A: We are called by Christ

C: **to be a Sanctuary that Welcomes and Serves All.**

A: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations Come) arr. J. Walther

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA