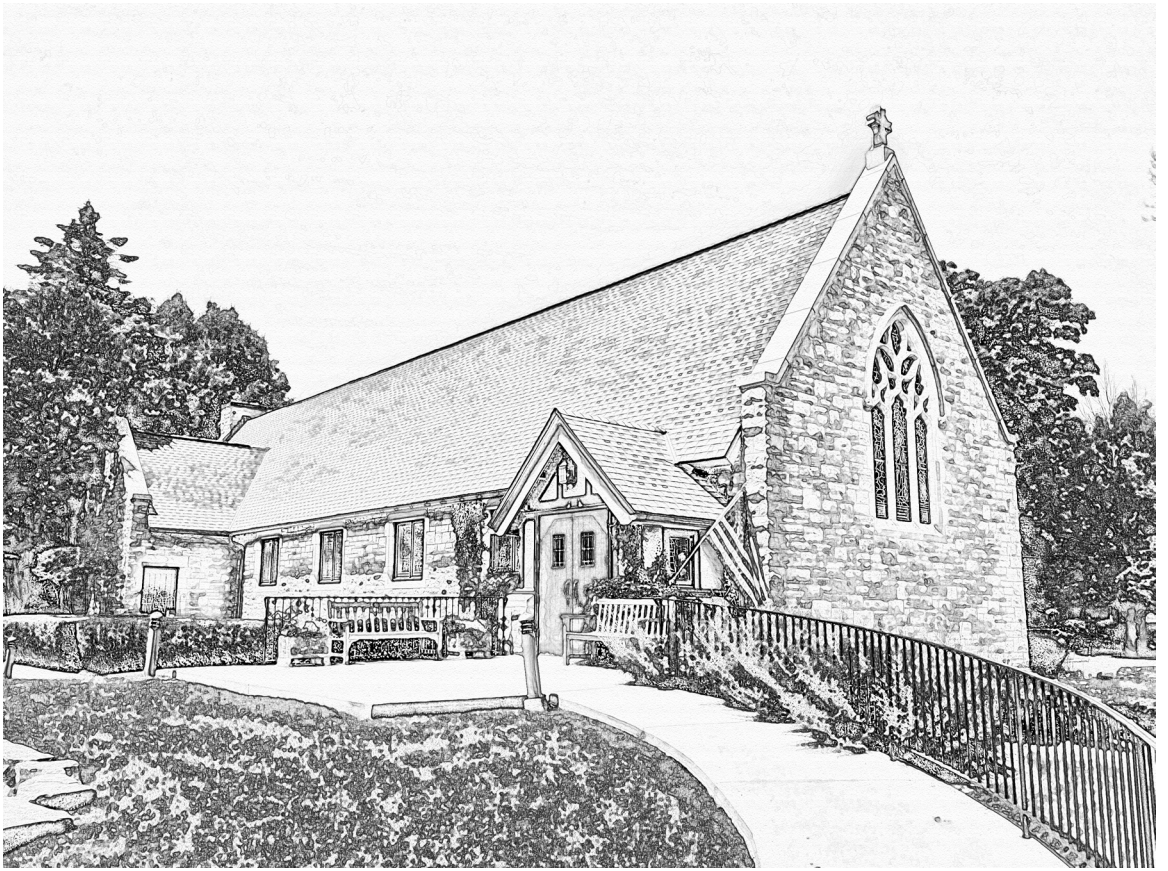
St. Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 10:00 AM

Welcome to Saint Elisabeth's. We are delighted to have you with us today.



This faith community invites all persons to all levels of participation, leadership and decision-making within the church regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, socioeconomic and marital status. We seek to establish meaningful connections with one another through work and play and worship as we strive to understand God's purpose for us in the church and in the world.

Today at St. Elisabeth's

8:00 am – Spoken Eucharist
9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am – Sung Eucharist
11:00 am – Coffee Hour, Sunday Forum, Sunday School
12:00 pm – Hanging of the Greens

Sunday Forum

Each Sunday, we gather after coffee for a discussion on the lessons, music, and sermon from the morning service; with frequent special presentations.

Children's Sunday School

Children of all ages are invited to meet in the classroom on the 2nd floor following the 10 a.m. service to learn about the Bible and have some fun with our Director of Children's Formation, Abigail Pribble.

In the Church Year: Advent

The Christian calendar begins its new year not on January 1, but on the first Sunday of Advent — which is always four Sundays before Christmas (December 25) and the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30). Our word "Advent" derives from the Latin Adventus, which means "coming," and originally referred just to the coming of the feast of Christmas. But over time the season of Advent took on a double meaning. Today it refers both to the "first coming" of Jesus Christ in his birth at Christmas and to his "second coming" at the end of time.

It is important to remember that Advent is not just a season in which we recall an event of the past — Jesus' birth — but also a time in which we look to the present and the future. When will Jesus come again? When will we see the kingdom of God on earth, as it is in heaven? Of course no one knows. And so the more important questions are: What can we do as the Church, Christ's body here on earth, to welcome God's reign of justice and peace today? What can we do as individuals to reorder our lives in the light of God's love? What would it mean to live as a people who believe in Jesus as the Savior of all the earth and who expect him to come again at the fulfillment of time? Each Advent we turn to these questions anew. – *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*

Entering In

The following thought and image are intended to reflect something in today's service. The Practice is intended to offer one practical way of living these reflections.

The Advent cry, "Come, Lord Jesus", is not a cry of desperation, but and assured shout of cosmic hope.

Practice: What expectations and demands of life can you let go of so that you can be more prepared for the "coming" of Jesus?



God's Shining Face– Saint-Nicholas basilica, Saint-Nicolas-de-Port, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Lorraine, France.

The Holy Eucharist – Rite II
The Word of God

Prelude

Please rise as able at the ringing of the bell.

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language

Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

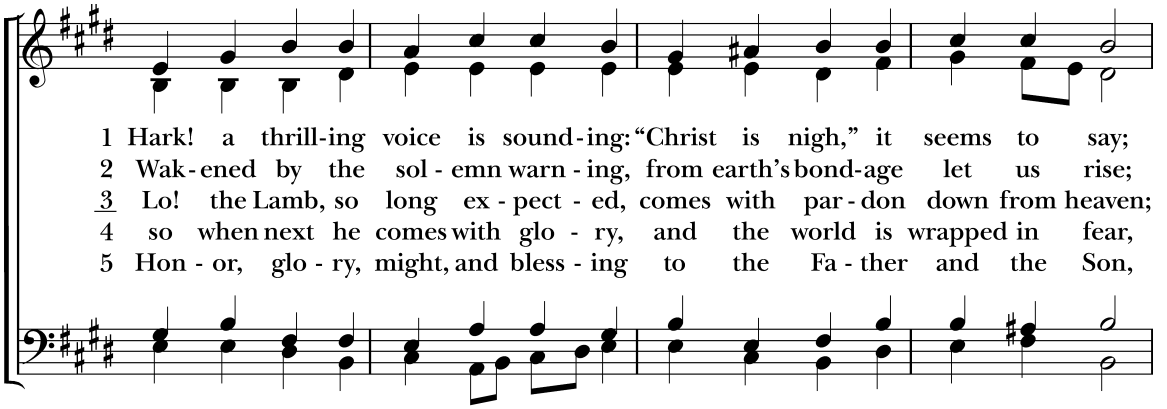
Assembly **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

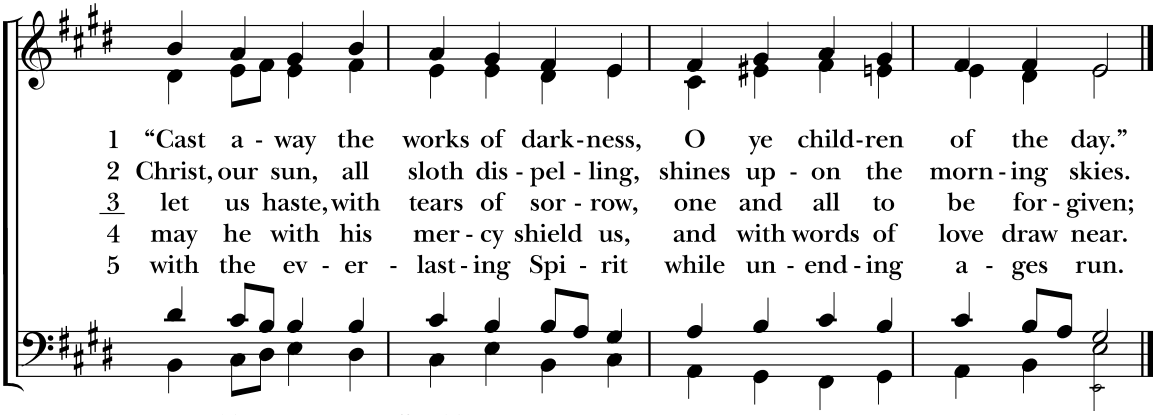
Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Song of Praise

"Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding"





The Hymnal 1982 #59, Text: Latin (6th Century), Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The Collect

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

Presider God be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Creator of the world, you are the potter, we are the clay, and you form us in your image. Shape our spirits by Christ's transforming power, that as one people we may live out your compassion and justice, whole and sound in the realm of your peace.

Assembly **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

The Lessons

The Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

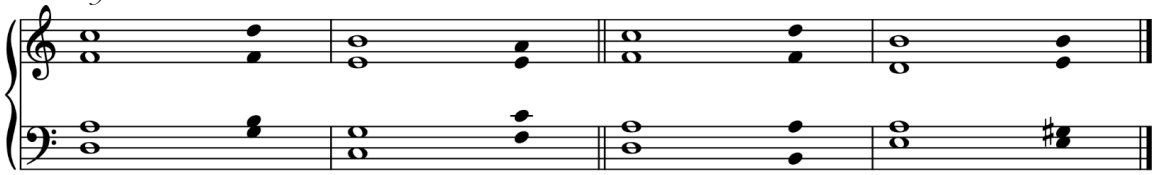
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated for the psalm.

The Psalm

Psalm 80

Assembly



A Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
B In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

A Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
B O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

A You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
B You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

A Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
B Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

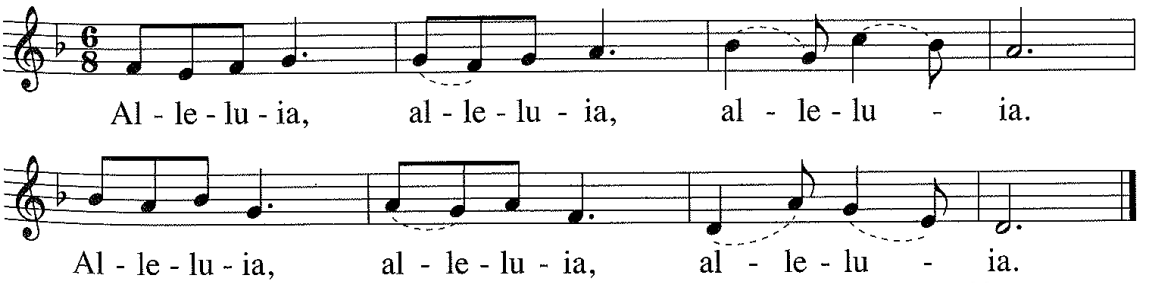
A And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
B Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Response – Gloria Patri

A Glory to the Father, and to the Son
And to the Holy Spirit
B As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn "Alleluia"



Choir Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Assembly **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Choir Show us, Lord, your love;
and grant us your salvation.

Assembly **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Ritual Song#352, Text and Music: Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations

The Gospel — Mark 13:24-37

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Assembly **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 his 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."

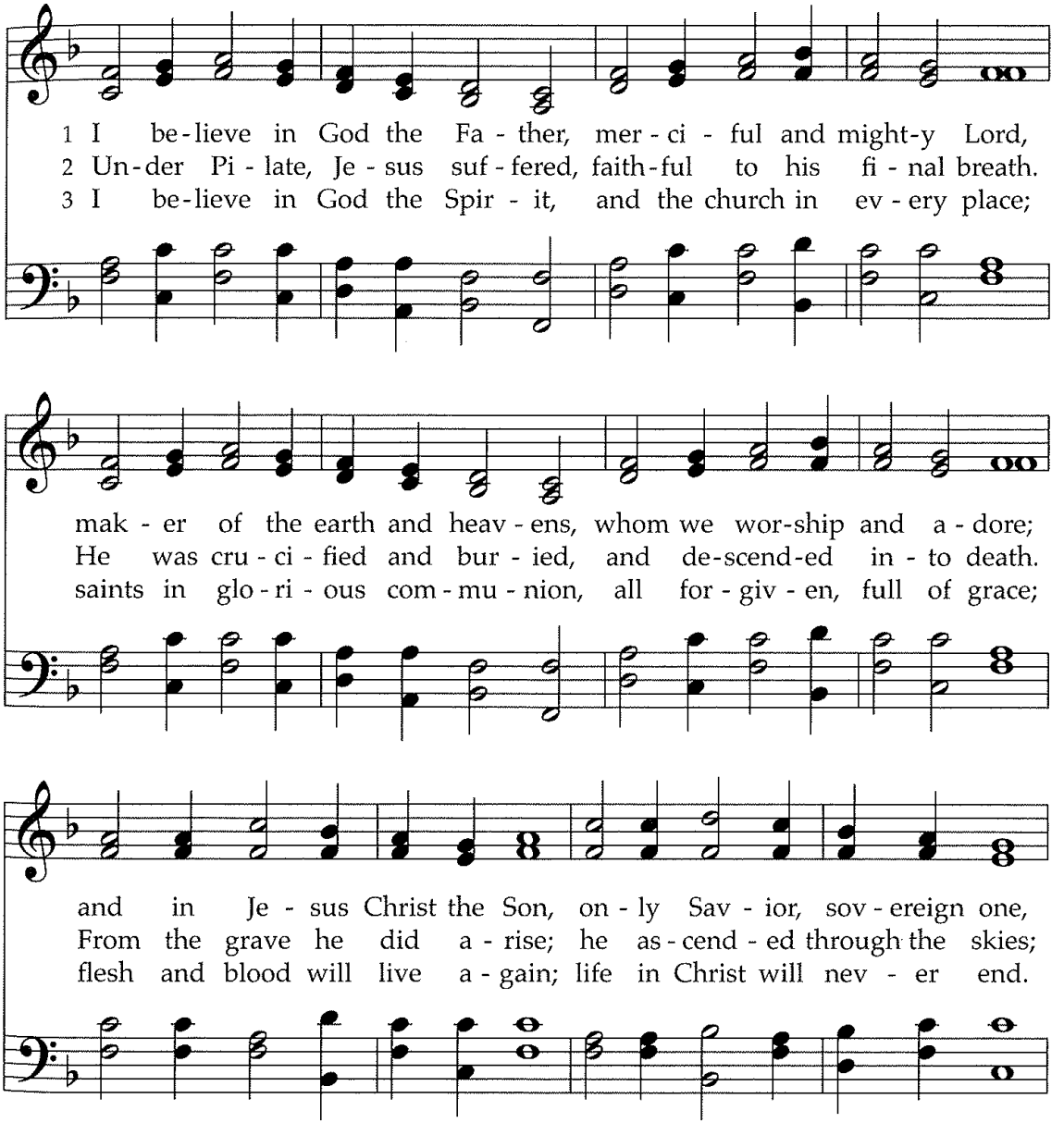
Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

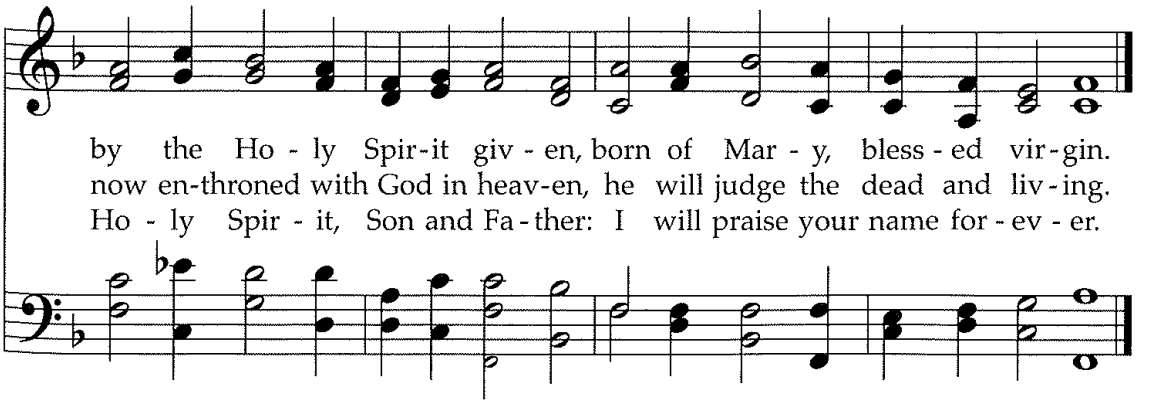
The Sermon — The Rev. Adam Spencer

A period of silence follows the Sermon, beginning and ending with a chime.

Please stand as you are able for the Creed and the Prayers of the People.

The Creed





Glory to God #481, Text: Metrical Apostles' Creed, David Gambrell (2009), Music: *Genevan Psalter,* 1551

The Prayers of the People

Written by the Rev. Samuel Wells

Intercessor God be with you,

Assembly **And also with you.**

Intercessor Let us pray.

Intercessor God of glory, your prophet Isaiah prayed that you would tear the heavens and come down. Come down today, that your hungry people may find food and may find their hunger deeply met in you; that your faithless people may see you face to face and find their hope restored; that your lonely people may find companions for their journey and know in you a companion who will never leave them alone; that your grieving people may find a shoulder to share their sorrow and speak with you the words of eternal life, that your angry people may find in you a fire greater than their own and a passion deeper than justice; that your despairing people may find a reason to live and in you see a beauty beyond beholding; that your tired people may find strength to go on and in you find rest for their souls. Bring the hope of your coming kingdom to the fears of Gaza, of Sudan, of Ukraine, of all refugees and migrants, of those living with mental illness and the effects of trauma. In a moment of quiet we ask you to tear the

heavens and come down in a place or circumstance where we know not what might be for the best. *(Silence)*

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. God of wonder and joy, fix our eyes on the form of his appearing, that we may see the wounds his dazzling body bears and in them know the wounds we seek to nurse in one another and fear to reveal in ourselves. Let us know those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree, that we may perceive where terrible crimes take place today, that we may be among those who repent and regret and bewail and lament, and that we may know when it is we who have perpetrated or abetted those crimes through economic interest or political force or social neglect. Give us grace to discover what it means to gaze on those glorious scars with rapture, and so empower us to look back on our own scars, our hurts, our bitterness, our regrets, our failures, or betrayals, and our wounds, and see them transformed by the scars of your Son, so that each scar be a point of entry to your broken body, each nail mark a binding to your sacrifices of love, and each thorn-wound an anticipation of your crown of glory; in you who reigned from the tree and now reigns forever, world without end.

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor O God, we bring to you all those in need of your healing and your help today.

For Sally Graver
Sherry Schellenbach
Isabelle Thomson
Norris Byrnes, cousin of Libby Hinds

Donna, friend of Walter Aldrich
Leigh, niece of Annette & Fred Johnston
Patricia & Richard, friend of Annette & Fred Johnston
Carol Whaley, relative of Kara Superfine
Laurel Ladivich, friend of Robert Fischer
Phil Kasey, former rector of St. Elisabeth
George

Are the others?

We pray also for all those who have died and all those who mourn, particularly those we now name silently or aloud.

Intercessor God in your mercy,
Assembly **Hear our prayer.**

Presider Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. -- *Book of Common Prayer*

Assembly **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language

Presider Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Assembly **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the peace of God.

Holy Communion

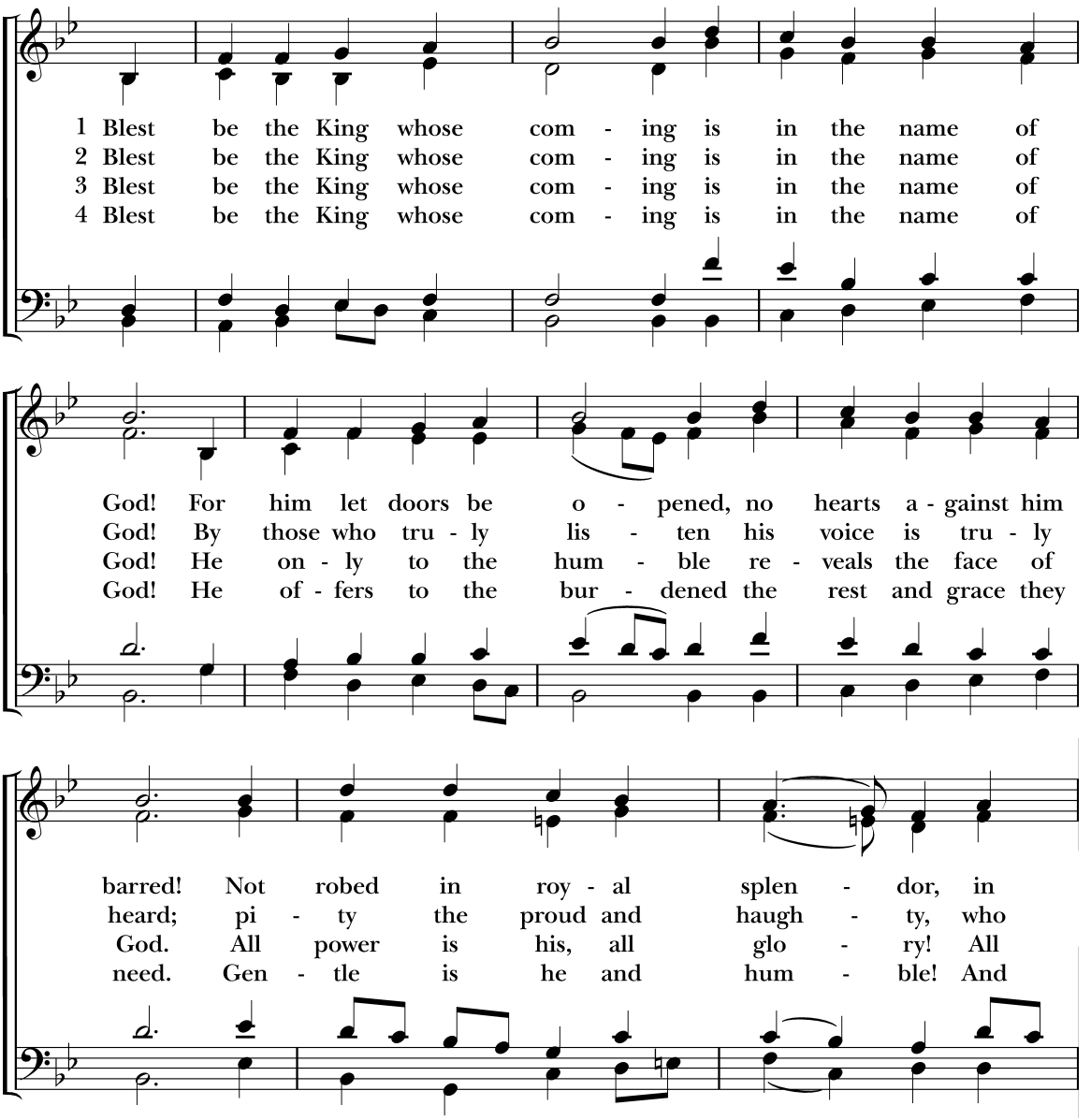
Offertory Sentence

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

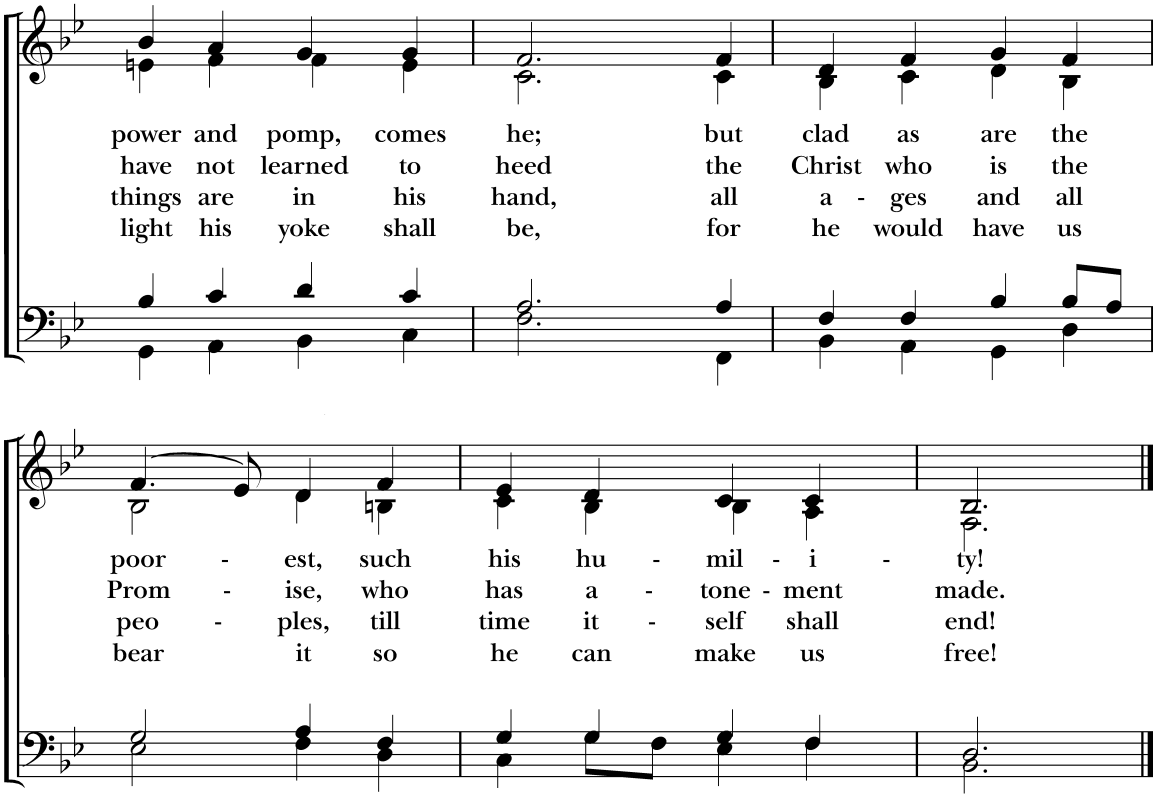
If you are financially able to support the mission of St. Elisabeth's, please put your offering in the collection plate as it is passed or use the QR code to donate online.

Offertory Hymn

"Blest be the King whose coming"



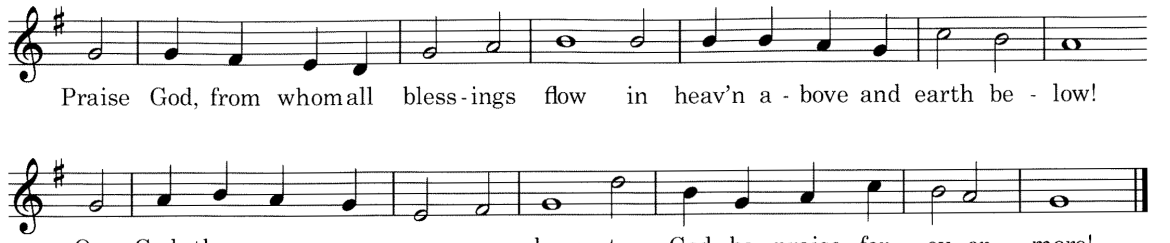
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The Hymnal 1982 #74, Text: Frederico Pagura (b 1923), Music: *Valet will ich dir geben* (1584-1635)

Please stand as you are able.

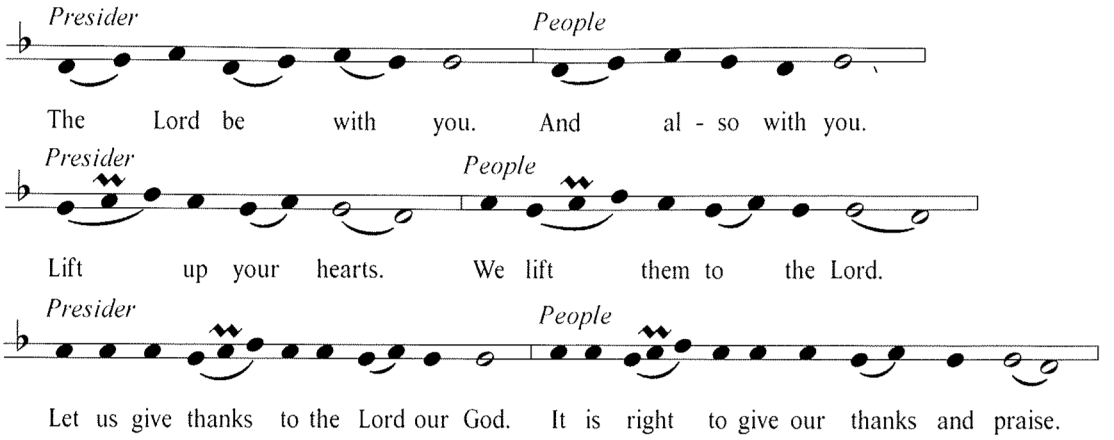
Doxology



Text: Advent Doxology, Music: *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving

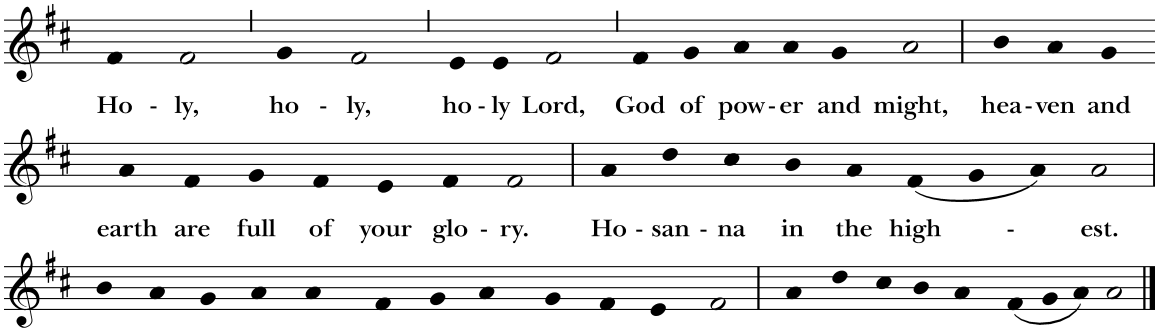
Book of Common Prayer, Prayer B, Expansive Language



Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The Hynnal 1982 #S124, *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember Christ's death,**
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Elisbeth and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

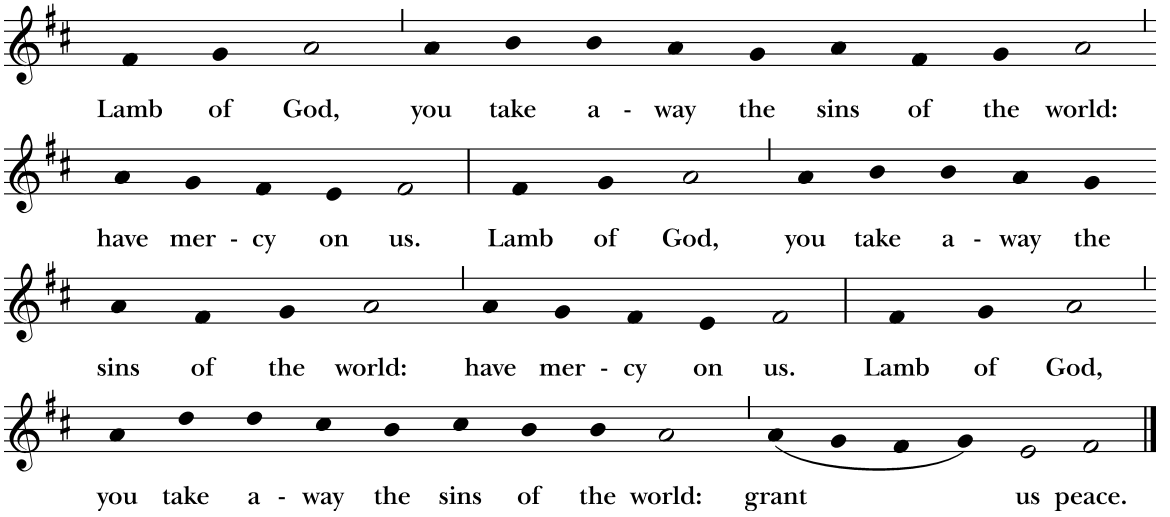
The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.



The Hynnal 1982 #S161, *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

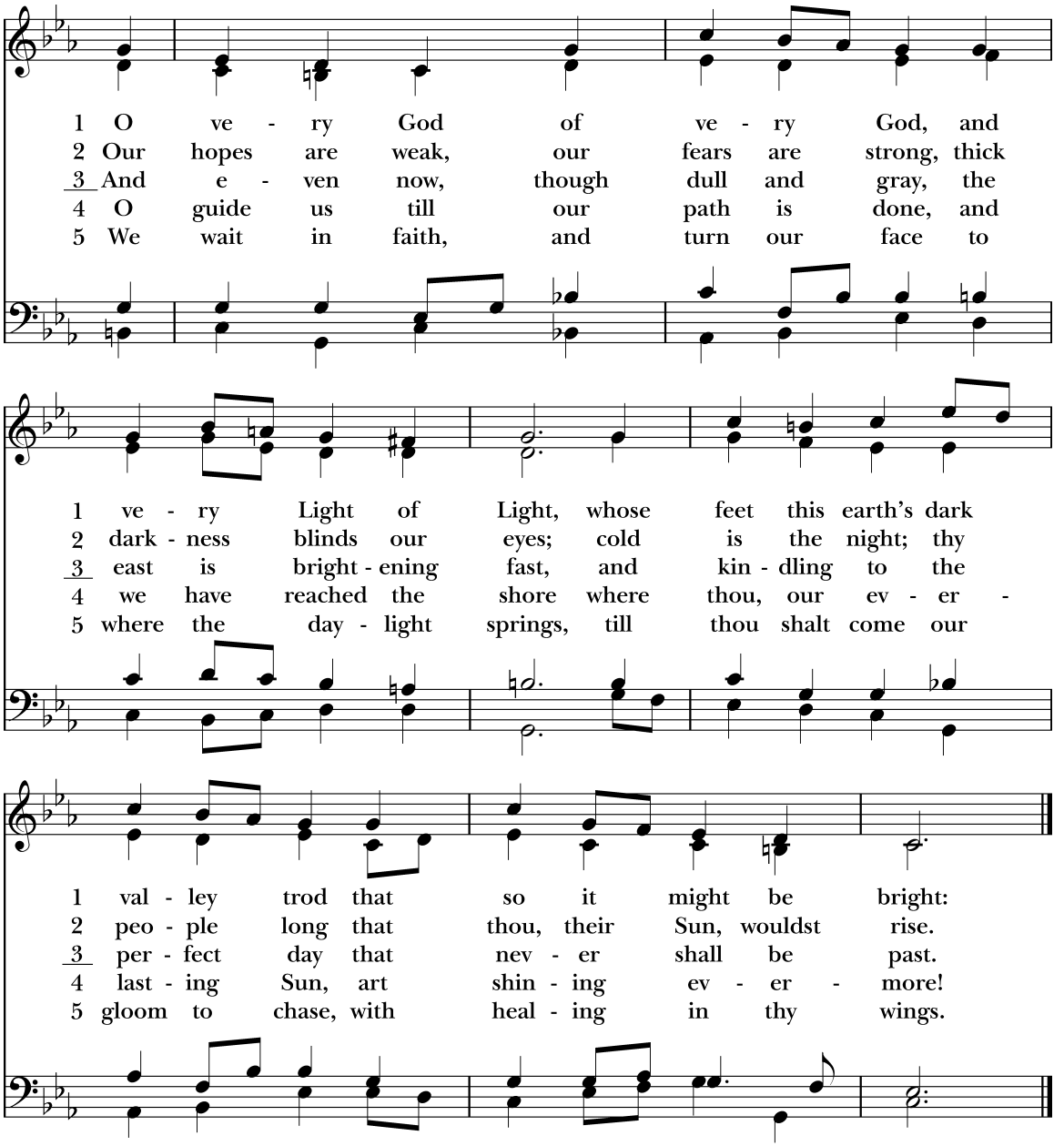
The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a blessing. Please stand or kneel at the altar rail.. Assist the minister to guide the chalice to your lips. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free host available upon request.

Communion Music

"O very God of very God"



The Hymnal 1982 #672, Text: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), Music: *Bangor,* 1734

Post Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language

Presider Let us pray.

Assembly **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.**

Welcome and Announcements

Those traveling and those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries are invited to come forward for a blessing.

The Blessing

Book of Occasional Services

Presider May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

Assembly **Amen.**

Presider May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

Assembly **Amen.**

Presider May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

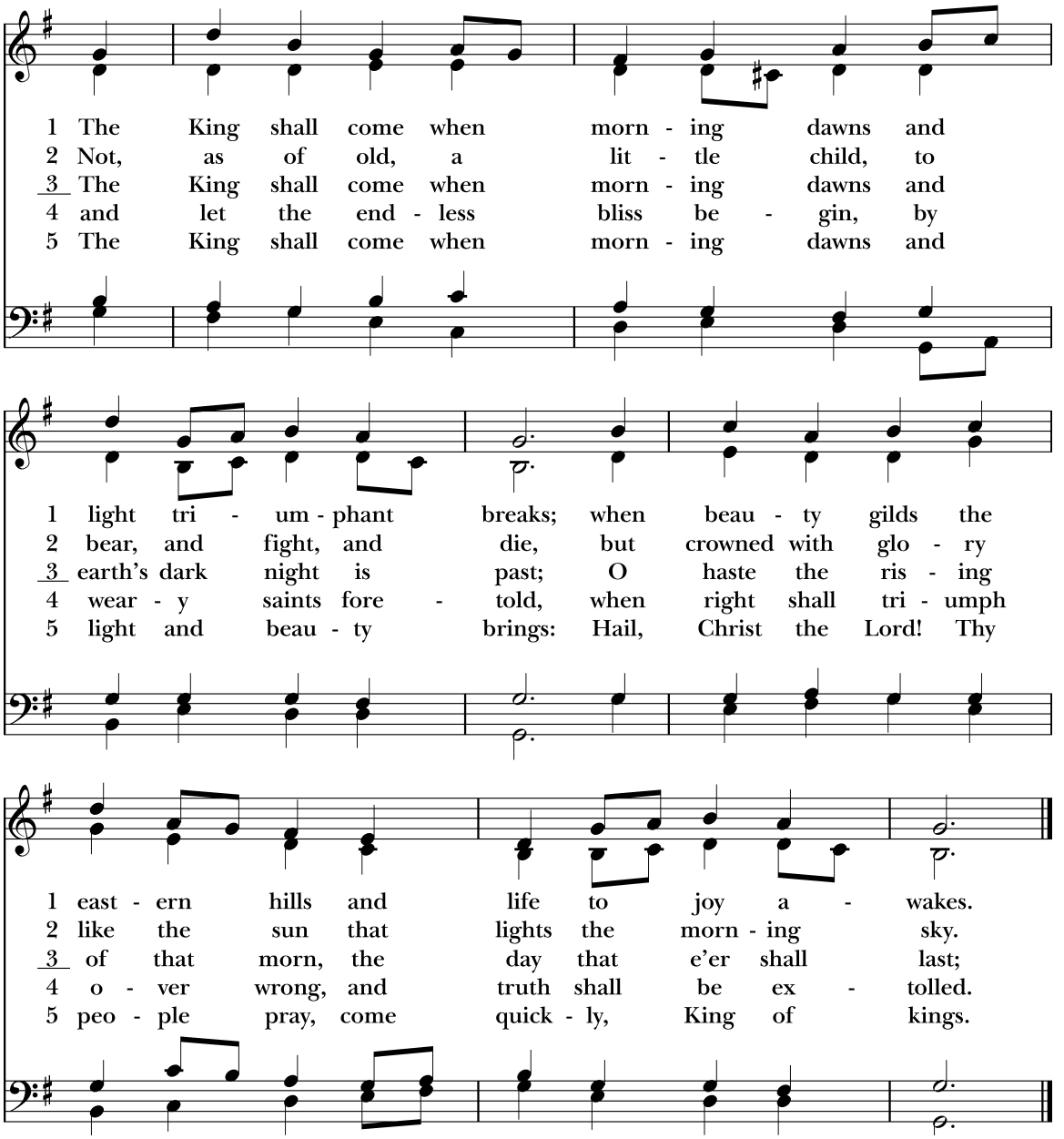
Assembly **Amen.**

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

Assembly **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"The King shall come"



The Hymnal 1982 #73, Text: Greek, Music: *St Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800)

The Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Coming Up at St. Elisabeth's

Hanging of the Greens

Whether you're a wreath-hanging hero, a garland-stringing elf, or simply someone whose Christmas spirit is stronger than their biceps (we'll take that too!), come join the fun **today** following the 10:00 am service. Together we'll make the church sparkle for the season!

Advent Lessons & Carols

Begun in Truro, England, in the 1880, the Festival of Lessons and Carols has become a favorite holiday tradition in Anglican churches around the world. St. Elisabeth's will celebrate our Lessons and Carols service at 10 am on **Sunday, December 6.** Please join us for this special service as we enter more deeply into the Advent and Christmas season.

Sunday Forum: The 2027 Budget

You are invited to join the wardens and members of the vestry at **1:00pm on ZOOM on Sunday, December 6,** for a presentation and discussion of the draft parish budget for 2027. The budget team would like your input before finalizing the budget for vestry approval. The Zoom link will be sent out in the e-news as well as by special e-blast the morning of the 6th. Bring your questions and thoughts! For more information, talk with our wardens, Robert Fischer or Carrie Miller-Mygatt.

December Book Group

On **Tuesday, December 8**, at 1:00 pm, St. E.'s Book Group will discuss two short stories by American author Raymond Carver: "Cathedral" and "A Small Good Thing." The Group meets in the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month and welcomes drops in.

Questions, contact Joyce Newcomb either by text (224-628-2041) or email(JoyceRNewcomb@gmail.com).

Die größeste unter ihnen: A Doctoral Recital

Dear Friends, as many of you know I'm partway through my "Doctor of Music" program at Northwestern, and I've been so grateful for your support through the process. One of the program requirements is for me to complete a series of milestone performances - the first of which many of you came to see when I performed in *Carmen* last spring. For the second of these performances, I will be presenting a solo recital on **December 10 at 6:00 pm** at Northwestern's Bienen School of Music, and it would mean a great deal to me if you could attend. The program is an hour of German Romantic Lieder (19th-century German poetry set to music for voice and piano) exploring themes of love, longing, and loss, through the music of Brahms and Schumann. It has been a large undertaking and a great joy to create this program, and I would love to have you there! - Walter

Sunday Forum: A (Re)Introduction to Christian Teaching and Practice

On **Sunday, December 13,** Adam will continue the Sunday Forum series, focusing on the book written by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Willaims, *Discovering Christianity: A Guide for the Curious*. We will be reading and discussing Chapter 3, "Why Church?" Copies of the chapter will be available at the back of the church. Feel free to get a copy of your very own from your favorite local bookstore or from anyplace online where books are sold.

Christmas Pageant Prep

Sunday, December 13 -- Calling all families! Please join us after church to discuss roles, explore costumes, and begin sharing the story of Baby Jesus.

Tuesday, December 22 – A rehearsal of our pageant, time is TBD. Any questions regarding the pageant please talk to Carrie at 202-714-7741 or Abigail after church.

Christmas Flower & Music Donations

A donation card is included in this issue of The Voice, and may also be found in the back of the church. Please return your card to the office by **Thursday, December 17**, for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Family Eucharist with Pageant
9:00 pm – Sung Eucharist with Choir

Christmas Eve

10:00 am – Eucharist with Carols

Partners in Outreach

Caring for Children

Bundled Blessings is a diaper bank in Evanston, operated by the First United Methodist Church and provides over 47,000 diapers monthly to more than 900 children through 21 partner agencies. Bundled Blessings addresses diaper need—a widespread issue not covered by programs like SNAP or WIC. During the month of November, the monies from the Sunday non-pledge offerings will go to support this program.

Making Christmas Special

This year we will once again be participating in the ReVive Christmas Basket Program to provide Christmas gifts for clients of the ReVive Center for Housing and Healing in Chicago. The signup sheet and information/gift packets will be available beginning next week in the Guild Room. Pick-Up day is **Friday, December 11**: All boxes and donations are due at St. Elisabeth's by 9:00 am that morning. If you have any questions, please contact Rene Surgi. Phone: 847-835-0983 Mobile: 847-254-0934.

Living in Community

St. Elisabeth's Bible Study

The St. Elisabeth's Bible Study group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm in the Chapel. All are welcome!

We are currently reading *Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World* by historian Tom Holland. A history of the Christian idea throughout time, as the dust jacket says, "From Babylon to the Beatles, Saint Michael to #MeToo, Dominion tells the story of how Christianity transformed the modern world." For more information, contact Chuck Chadd.

St. Elisabeth's Choir

All are invited to join the St. Elisabeth's Choir. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings, beginning at 7 p.m. (Please note the earlier start time this year.) All are welcome - no experience, background, or skill is required. If you have any questions, you can reach Walter at music@steglencoe.org or catch him after a Sunday service. See you there!

Prayer List

After the last Sunday of each month, the prayer list is reset. Submit prayers and thanksgivings by the first of each month to Caryl in the office at office@steglencoe.org

Pastoral Needs and Pastoral Visitation

If you have a pastoral need or emergency and would like to speak to Fr. Spencer, or know of someone who would like to schedule a pastoral visit, please contact Adam by phoning the office at 847-835-0458. You can also email Adam at rector@steglencoe.org

The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop*

Saint Elisabeth's Episcopal Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Adam Spencer	*Rector*
The Rev. Larry Handwerk	*Priest Associate*
Walter Aldrich	*Director of Music*
Caryl Medsker	*Director of Administration*
Abigail Pribble	*Director of Children's Formation*
Elizabeth Clemmitt	*Associate for Spiritual Wellness*

2026 Vestry

Polly Baur
Robert Fischer, *Warden*
Hall Healy
Fred Johnston
Jamie Kim
Carrie Miller-Mygatt, *Warden*
Kara Superfine
Mark Tilton, *Treasurer*
John Tuohy, *Asst. Treasurer*

Sunday Schedule



8:00 a.m.	Spoken Eucharist: Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal (September – June)
10:00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist: Rite II
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour, Forum, and Sunday School

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday – 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We at St. Elisabeth's share an adventurous spirit and a commitment to radiate God's love within and beyond our red doors.