Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent



We go with Good News, teaching, serving, and sharing Christ with our neighbors.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." -Matthew 24:44

This Sunday

8:30am Isaiah Study
(Fellowship Hall)

9am Sunday Discussion Group
(Bethlehem Res. Center)

9:30am Fellowship Time

10:10am Worship

5:30pm Duke Lutherans Prayer Service & Dinner

Connect With Us

www.gracedurham.org

Copies of the week's announcements are located in the Narthex.

If you'd like to receive our eNews via email, please contact office@gracedurham.org

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10

Worshiping with us for the first time?

If you are a first time visitor, welcome! We're glad you're here!
We encourage you to review our Statement of Communion on page 15.
If you have any questions, please take a moment to speak with Pastor Brooks or one of our ushers.

Please fill out a guest card in the pew racks and tell us about yourself.
If you have any questions, please ask an usher or any friendly face you see.

We welcome children in worship services.
Age-appropriate activity bags are located in the Narthex.

INSIGHT INTO THE READINGS

The Lord Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us Now

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem "humble, and mounted on a donkey," riding on "a beast of burden" (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matt. 21:9). For we are called "to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob," His Holy Church, "that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths" (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we "walk in the light of the LORD" (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which "does no wrong to a neighbor" (Rom. 13:10). We "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light," for "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, "for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matt. 24:42).

The congregation is asked to join in with the bold-faced text.

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8)*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,
C **Almighty and gracious Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws.**
We did not do those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
apart from You, there is nothing good in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us in our pride and our misery. In Your love, spare those who confess their faults, restore those who are penitent, and lift up those who are lowly; according to Your promises declared unto us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant that we may go forth to live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of His name.
Amen.

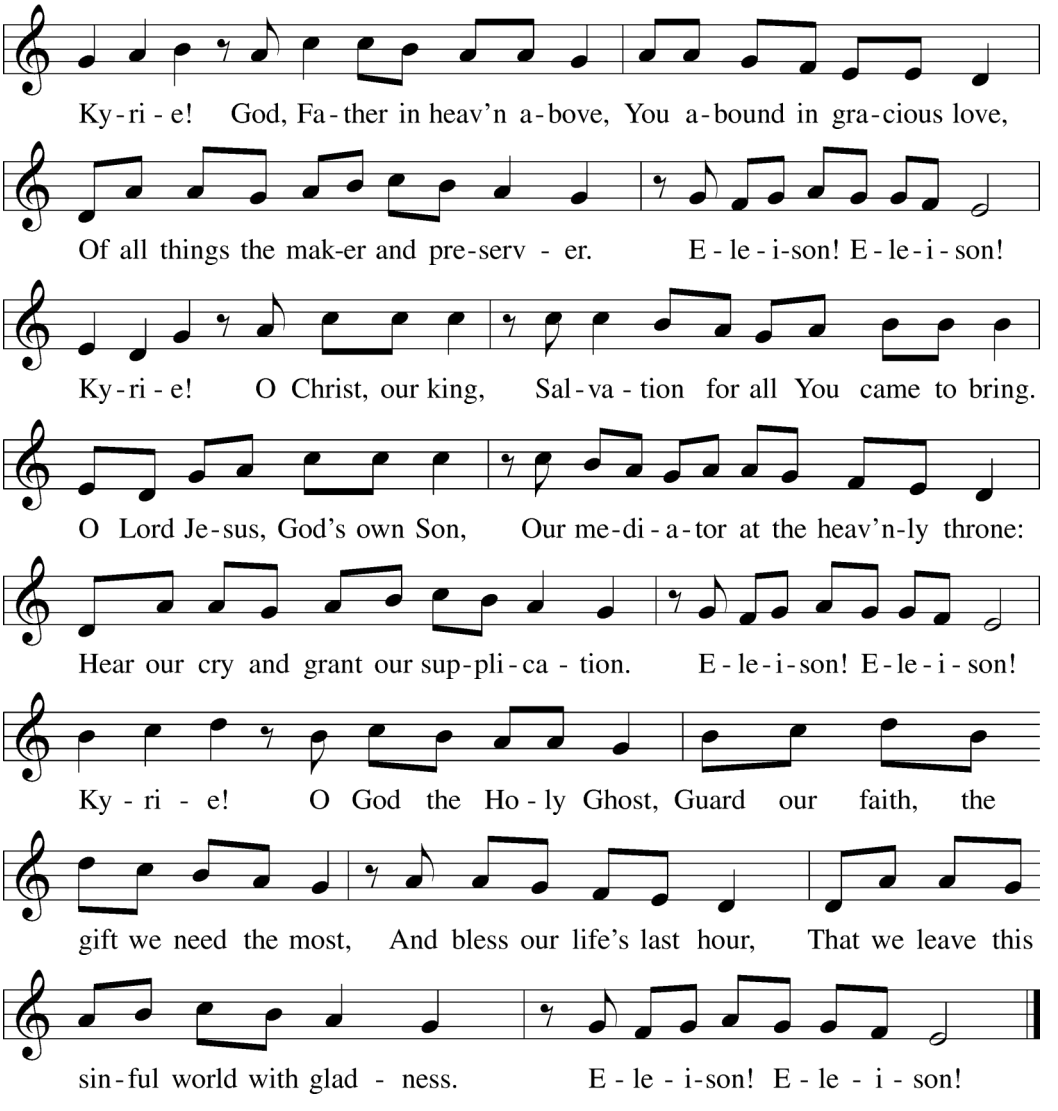
P Almighty God in His Mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *(John 20:19-23)*
C **Amen.**

Opening Hymn — *Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates* (WOV 631)



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Kyrie



Text: German version, Ordenung der ceremonien, 1537/38, Naumburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.; Text and tune: Latin, 9th cent.; Tune: adapt. Kirchen ampt Deutsch, 1525, Erfurt; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227; Tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect for the Day

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

P Let us pray . . .
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

OUR LORD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 2:1–5 (pg. 567)

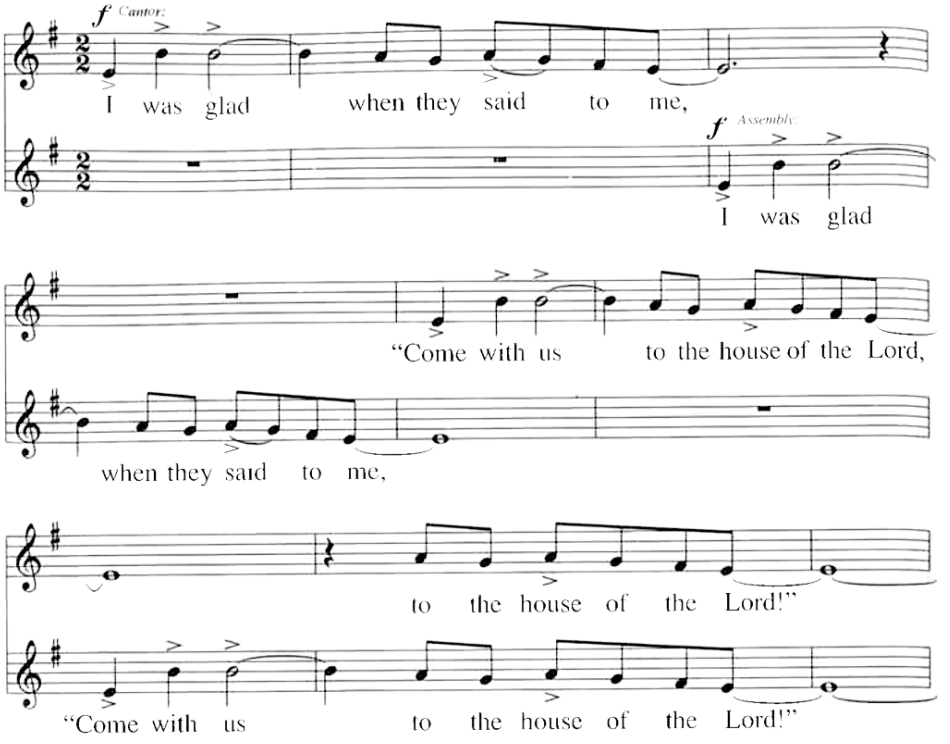
The Old Testament Lesson is from the 2nd Chapter of Isaiah.

[1]The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
[2]It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the
Lord shall be established as the highest
of the mountains, and shall be lifted up
above the hills; and all the nations shall
flow to it, [3]and many peoples shall come,
and say: "Come, let us go up to the
mountain of the Lord, to the house of the
God of Jacob, that He may teach us His
ways and that we may walk in His paths."
For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
[4]He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many
peoples; and they shall beat their swords
into plowshares, and their spears into
pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up
sword against nation, neither shall they
learn war anymore. [5]O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122— *I Was Glad* (Gather 121)

(Congregation sings refrain)



1 I was glad when they said to me:
"Come with us to the house of the Lord." Now our feet are standing firm within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Refrain

2 Jerusalem– strongly built, walled around with unity. It is there that the tribes of God are lifted high to the mountain of God!
Refrain

3 Israel, this is your law: to praise the name of the Lord. Here are placed judgement seats for the just, here the house of David!
Refrain

4 For the love of my family and friends, "May the peace of God be with you!" For the love of the house o God I will pray, I will pray for your good!
Refrain

Text: Psalm 122; David Haas. Music: David Haas. Reprinted / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-701734. All Rights Reserved.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 13:8–14 (Pew Bible, pg. 948)

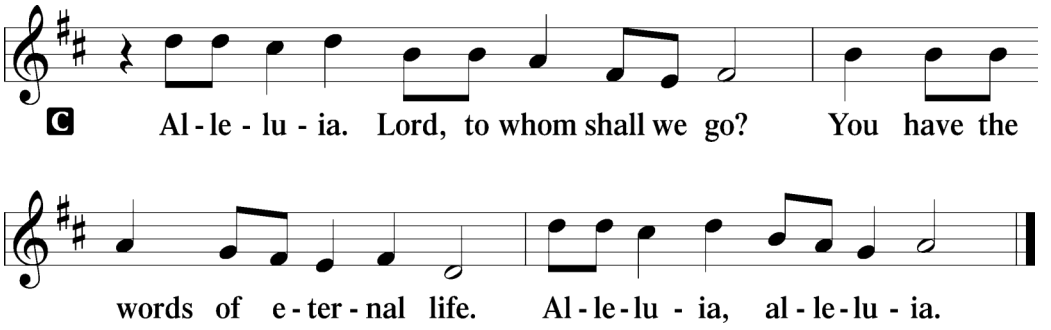
The Epistle Lesson is from the 13th Chapter of Romans.

[8]Owe no one anything, except to love
each other, for the one who loves
another has fulfilled the law.
[9]The commandments, "You shall not
commit adultery, You shall not murder,
You shall not steal, You shall not covet,"
and any other commandment,
are summed up in this word:
"You shall love your neighbor as
yourself." [10]Love does no wrong to a
neighbor; therefore love is the
fulfilling of the law.
[11]Besides this you know the time,
that the hour has come for you to wake
from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us
now than when we first believed.
[12]The night is far gone; the day is at hand.
So then let us cast off the works of
darkness and put on the armor of light.
[13]Let us walk properly as in the daytime,
not in orgies and drunkenness, not in
sexual immorality and sensuality,
not in quarreling and jealousy.
[14]But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for the flesh,
to gratify its desires.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36–44 (Pew Bible, pg. 830)

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th Chapter.

ℂ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[36][Jesus said:] "But concerning that day
and hour no one knows, not even the
angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the
Father only. [37]As were the days of Noah,
so will be the coming of the Son of Man.
[38]For as in those days before the flood
they were eating and drinking, marrying
and giving in marriage, until the day when
Noah entered the ark, [39]and they were
unaware until the flood came and swept
them all away, so will be the coming of
the Son of Man. [40]Then two men will be
in the field; one will be taken and one left.
[41]Two women will be grinding at the mill;
one will be taken and one left.
[42]Therefore, stay awake, for you do not
know on what day your Lord is coming.
[43]But know this, that if the master of the
house had known in what part of the
night the thief was coming, he would
have stayed awake and would not have
let his house be broken into.
[44]Therefore you also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour
you do not expect.

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ℂ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

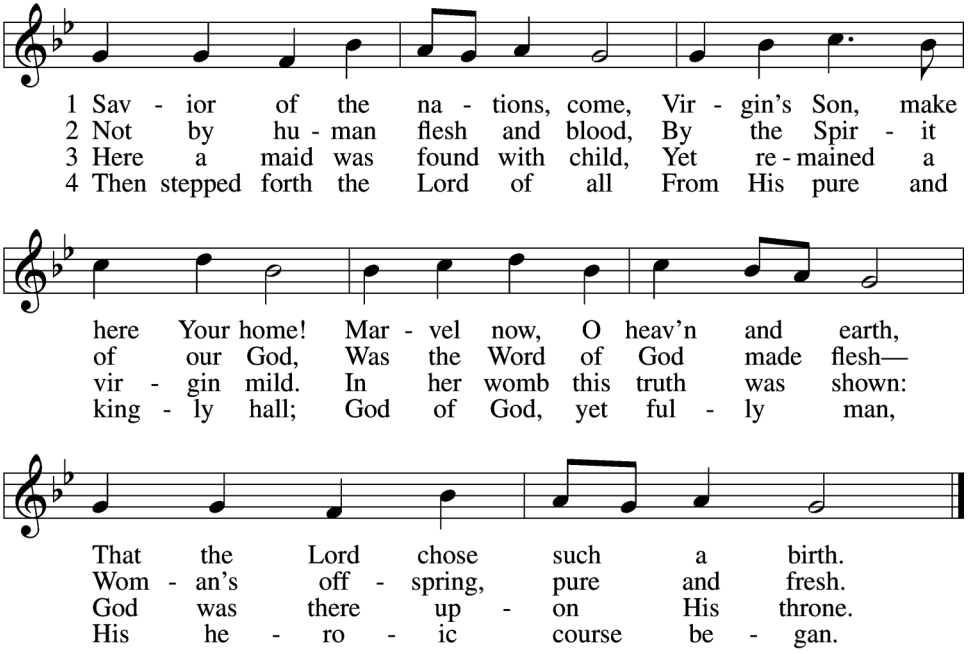
℗ We praise You, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when He comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with Your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome Him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, Whose coming is certain and Whose day draws near.

ℂ **Amen.**

(The first candle is lit.)

Sermon—*The Rev. Dr. David H. Brooks*

Hymn of the Day — *Savior of the Nations, Come* (LSB 332)



5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan; German version, Martin Luther, ; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds;
(sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004227 Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

Nicene Creed *(spoken in unison)*

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit,
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

† *meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of the Christian doctrine*

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs. . .

After each prayer, the congregation responds:

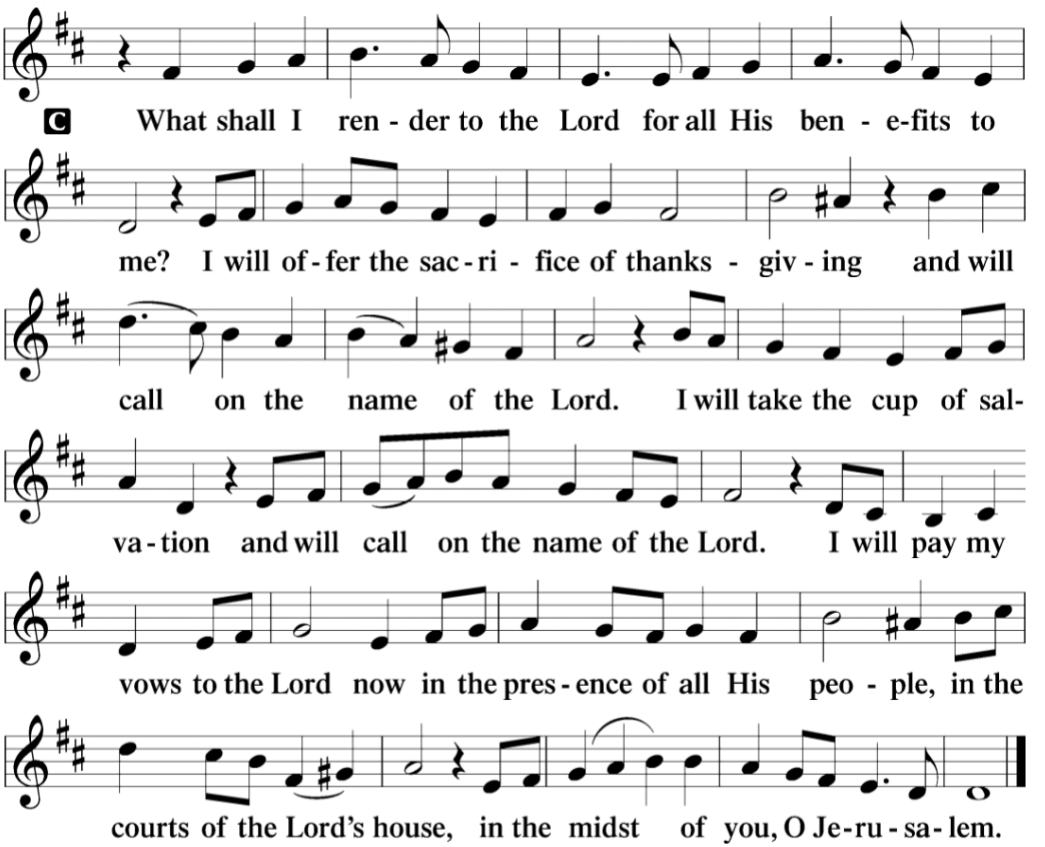
P Lord in Your mercy, **C** **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, with the 'hand wave of peace', as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

Offertory Music

Offertory



Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.



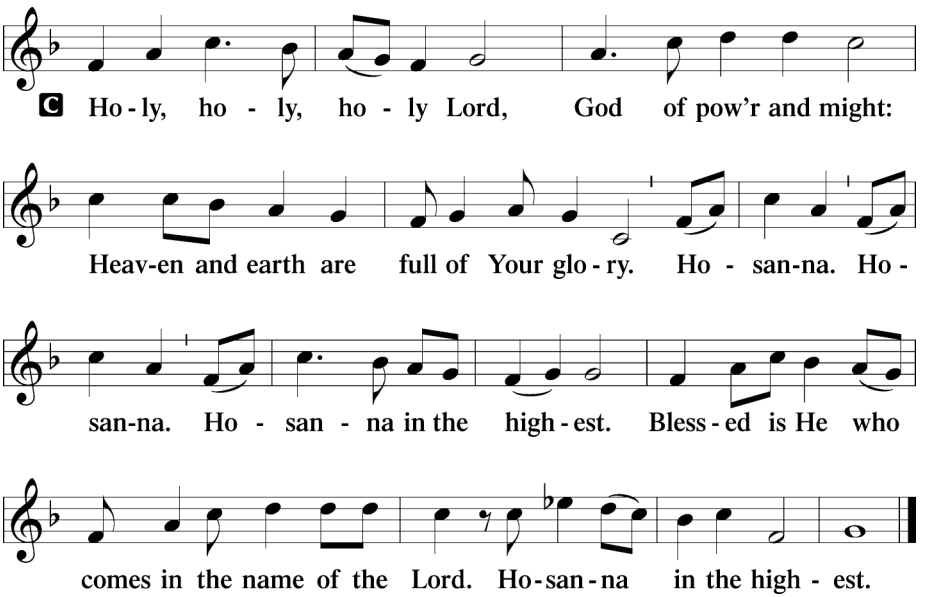
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



P It is truly good, right, and salutary … and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You are the King of glory. You, Who are Light inaccessible, sent Your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our lives to be a light among us, the light of Your grace and truth. In obedience, He took on our flesh to live and grow as a son of Adam. Obedient in all things, He taught the truths of Your kingdom, stretching out His hands in suffering that He might free from suffering all those who call on Your name. Obedient even unto death, You freed Him from death and won for Yourself a holy people. For all this, we give You our thanks, O God, as we live in the promise that He will come again to share with us the great feast of Your heavenly kingdom.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Words of Institution

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed…

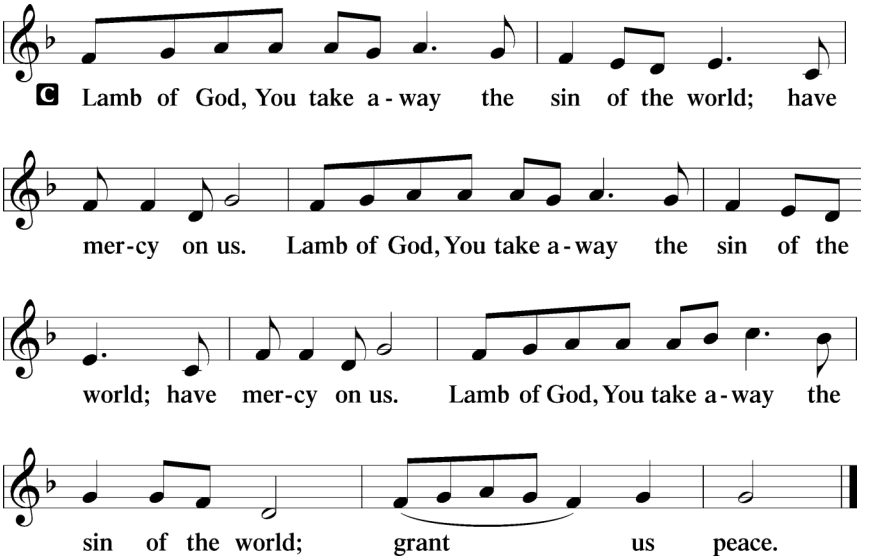
P As we prepare for this great gift, let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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; 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.

Agnus Dei



Holy Communion

Receiving Holy Communion

As Lutheran Christians, we believe, teach, and confess that Jesus Christ gives us His own true Body and Blood via the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10:16).
We trust His promise that this Supper is for the forgiveness of our sins, the increase of our faith, and the strengthening of our life as the Church. Baptized Christians who share our confession, repent of their sins, and seek the Lord's blessing are welcome to receive. *First time guests are kindly asked to speak to our pastor or an usher before receiving communion.* Those not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

[For silent prayer before communing]
Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this Holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[For silent prayer after receiving the Sacrament]
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having With my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Distribution Hymn — *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (LSB 347)



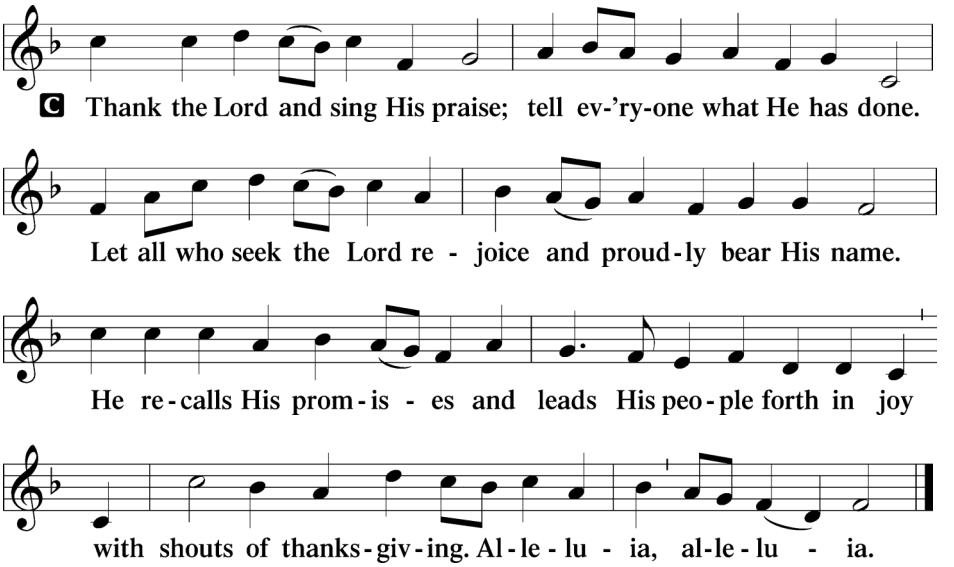
Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn — *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (LSB 359)



Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
Mighty God, we praise You, for You look with favor upon those who are lowly, and You fill the hungry with good things. Let the good things we have received at this altar strengthen us in faith, that we may with all Your people keep watch for the signs of our Lord's coming, that we may enter into the feast of the Lamb that has no end; through Jesus Christ,

C **Amen.**

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US OUT

Benediction

P In every darkness, be not afraid, for the light is dawning:
May the Father of lights give you strength
May the Christ guide you by His wisdom
May the Holy Spirit be your comfort ✢ and peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn — *The Advent of Our King* (LSB 331)



5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

P Now go and keep watch, for we do not know the hour when we will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.
Be faithful in service, and persistent in prayer, loving and serving the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

SERVING YOU TODAY

Ushers
Dave Pittman
Tom McGill,
Acolyte

Communion Assistants
Joe Wethman
Gary Stuhlmiller

Altar Guild
Amy Robertson,
setup & clean up

A/V Operator
John Kolba

Reader
Joyce Rea

Greeter

GRACE STAFF

Pastor
Rev. David Brooks

Parish Administrator
Kim Romigh

Director of Christian Outreach
Deaconess Anna Voelker

Music Director/Organist
Erin Hodge

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Livestream

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Meeting ID: 847 8043 7557

Passcode: 9196826030

Giving

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