Saint Nicholas
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Please be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is a house of prayer for all people.

PRELUDE

All stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL | Hymnal 57 — Lo! He comes with clouds descending *Helmsley*

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE — Sheri Cody

Hymn: *O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel*
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The following will be read responsively.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We join with sisters and brothers around the world, lighting candles to mark our steps in this Advent journey.

Today, we light the candle of Hope.

The first candle is lit.

Even though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of Christ is coming. The face of our Lord will shine, and we shall be saved!

Testifying against all suffering and darkness, we kindle this light.

Together, we proclaim to the world that, in Christ, we have hope.

God who has come and is coming again, stay with us while we wait.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

GLORIA

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

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. **Amen**.

Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT | Isaiah 64:1-9

Lector: A reading from the Prophet 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.

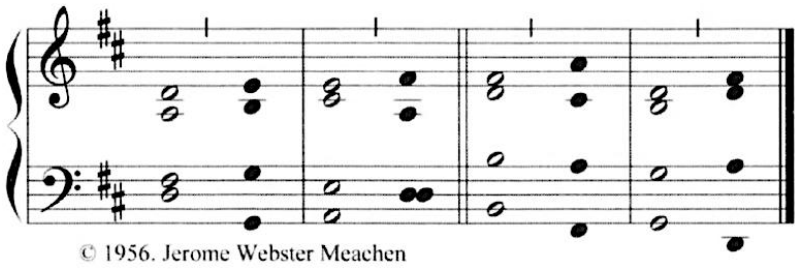
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

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

THE PSALM | Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson. You're welcome to join in. If you don't read music, the note changes on the italicized words.



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 of *hosts*; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be *saved*.

4 O Lord God of *hosts*, * how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your *people*?

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*; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be *saved*.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right *hand*, * the son of man you have made so strong for *yourself*.

17 And so will we never turn away from *you*; * give us life, that we may call upon your *Name*.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of *hosts*; * show the light of your countenance, and we shall be *saved*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Lector: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

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

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

All stand as able and sing. It is traditional to bow your head as the cross and Gospel book pass you, and turn toward it as it processes down the aisle.

SEQUENCE HYMN | Hymnal 65

Prepare the way, O Zion
Bereden väg för Herran

THE GOSPEL | Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **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.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated for the sermon.

THE SERMON Rev. Bob Farrow

All stand as able.

THE 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: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
for the 1st Sunday of Advent

From *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People For the Revised Common Lectionary*

Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Intercessor and People pray responsively.

God of anticipation, listen and respond as we raise our voices in prayer, saying, “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

For your church that it may be a herald of the age to come and a bastion of hope in the world today. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For leaders in our civic and communal lives, that they might look beyond the quarrels of today to lay the foundations of justice and mercy for tomorrow. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For this congregation, that we might rest in your promises as we prepare ourselves for the work of being the body of Christ in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For our environment, that it might be restored and sustained and that its life-giving abundance might be preserved. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families, and for the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For the sick, the suffering, the anxious, the despairing, and for all in need of your healing presence, that wholeness, reconciliation, and peace might be theirs. Especially we pray for Ryder, the Vinson family, Bailey, Dick, Ken, Tommy, Katherine, David, and Hollis. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who have died, and those who are dying, that through the power of your promises they may come to know the joy of your eternal presence. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

As we enter this time of waiting, strengthen and enliven our faith that we may know the joy of your presence and that our lives might be a reflection of your glory. All these we ask through Jesus Christ, the light of our lives. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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 your Son 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.

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

STEWARDSHIP STORY Sheri Cody

If you brought your pledge card today, please place it in the offering plate to be blessed.

OFFERTORY HYMN | Soon and very soon

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

3 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're are goin' to see the King!

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

BLESSING OF THE PLEDGES Rev. Bob Farrow

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

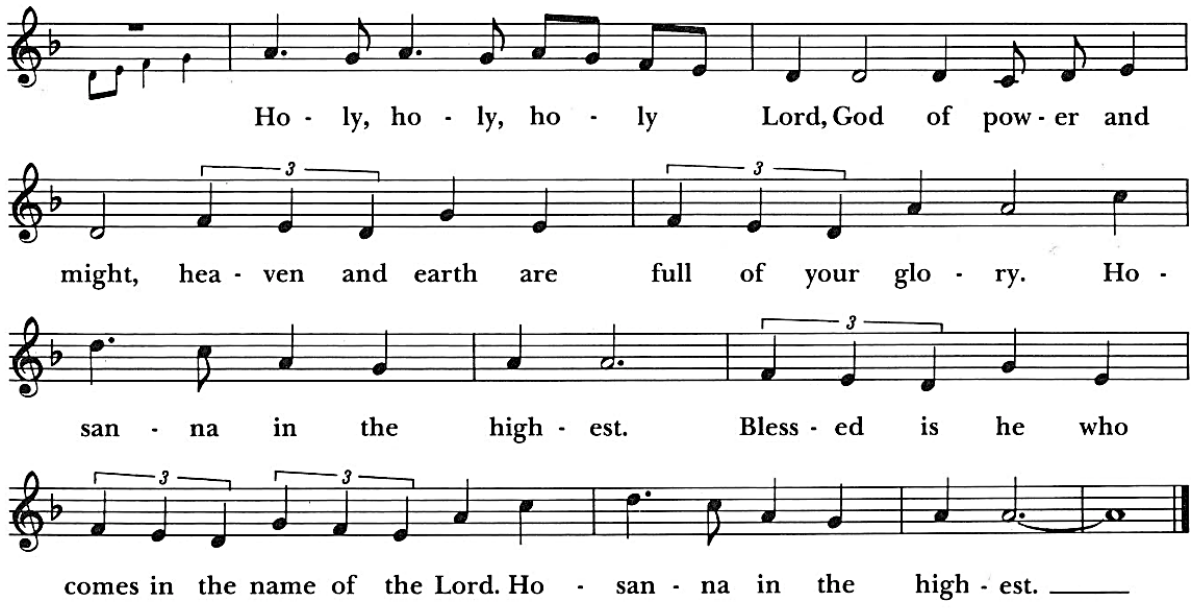
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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:

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy Lord



Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The people stand or kneel as able.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus

Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

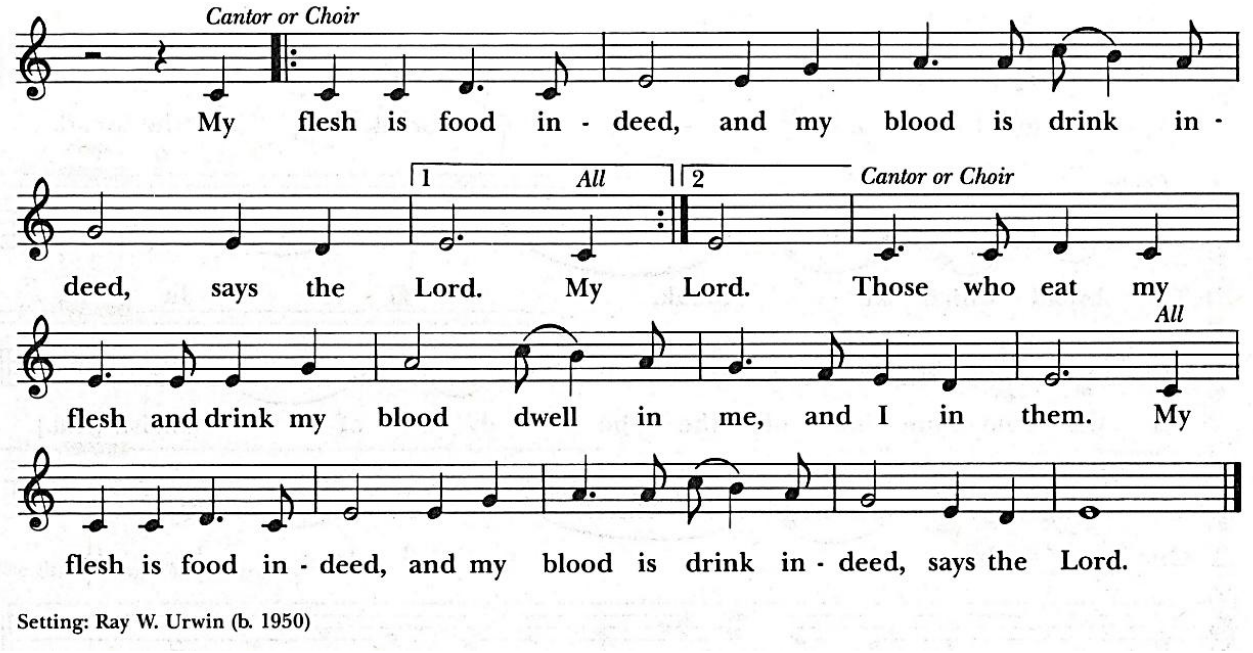
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM Hymnal S 169



THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Celebrant:

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All people are invited to receive Communion. The ushers will come stand by your pew, at which time you may go kneel or stand at the railing. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have mobility challenges and need communion brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMN | Have thine own way, Lord

The hymn will be performed by Kevin Anderson.

BLESSING

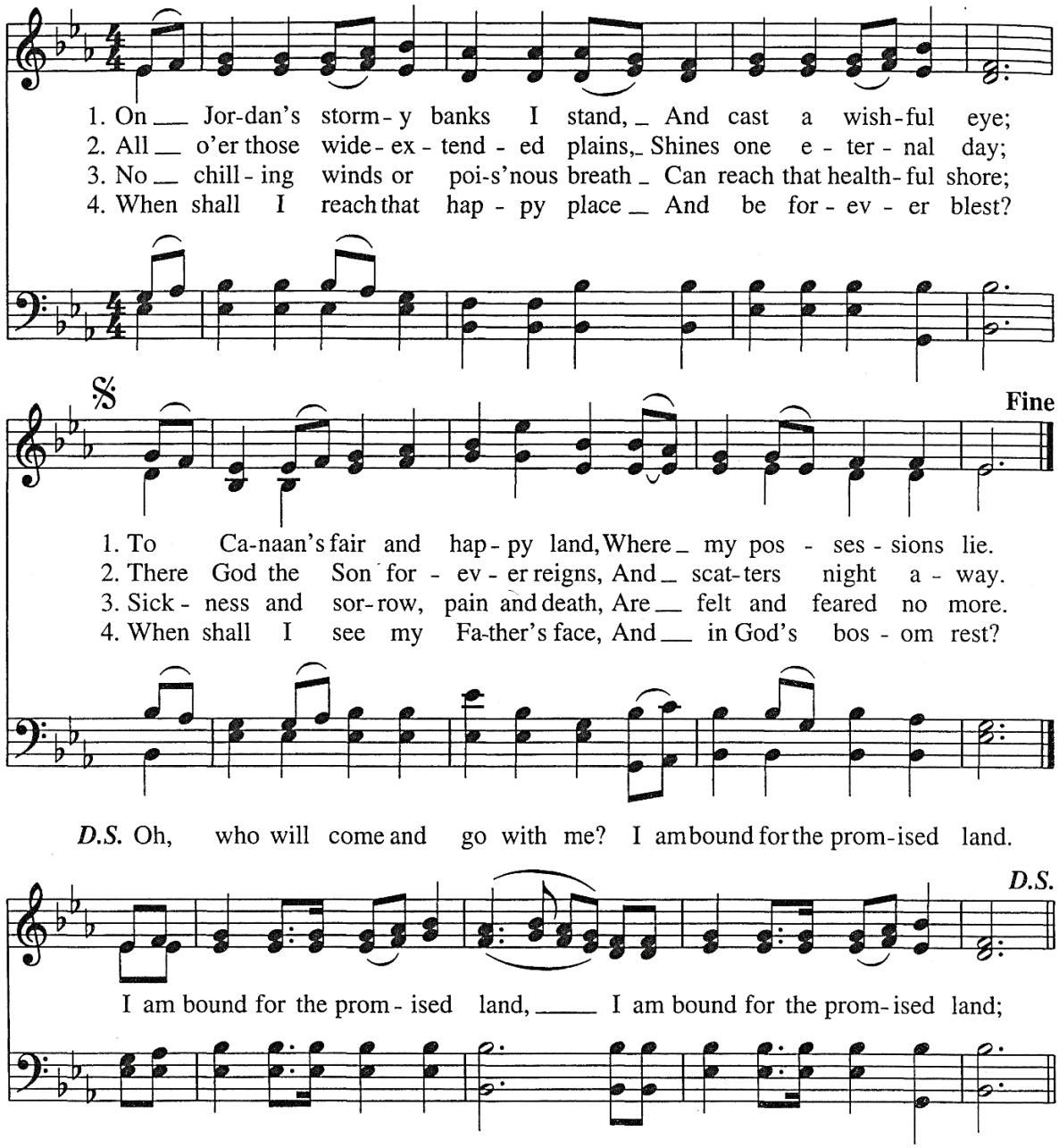
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECESSIONAL



Words: Samuel Stennett (1727-1795)
Music: American Melody; adapt. Rigdon McCoy McIntosh (1836-1899); arr. Norman Johnson
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DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Response: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room, to the left as you exit the nave.

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Ryder Hughes, the grieving family of Carey Washington Vinson, Bailey Brown, Dick Wood, Ken Crew, Tommy Goodman, Katherine Johnson, David Mullins, and Hollis Hale. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, Nonie Bueche, and Mary Butcher.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry, and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: Sheri Cody
Usher: Sheri Cody
Virtual Ministers: William Morgan & Steve Morse
Eucharistic Minister: Connie Blackmon
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Flower Guild

UPCOMING

TODAY:	Adult Forum: Advent 1
	Walking With the Word Begins!
	Trim the Christmas Tree after the service
DEC 2:	Advent Evensong 5 pm
DEC 5:	Pine Mountain Christmas Parade 2 pm
DEC 6:	Adult Forum: Advent 2
DEC 9:	Dinner and Caroling at 5 pm
DEC 13	Adult Forum: Advent 3
DEC 20:	Adult Forum 4
	Christmas Concert 4 pm
DEC 25:	Christmas Day Morning Prayer 10 am
DEC 27:	A Service of Lessons & Carols
JAN 3	**Annual Parish Meeting after the service**
JAN 6:	Epiphany Evening Prayer

Christmas Tree Trimming: TODAY

It's getting close to time to set up our Christmas tree!! Please plan to stay after the service on Sunday, November 29th to trim the tree, socialize, and enjoy some treats, spiced cider and coffee.

Pine Mountain Christmas Parade: Saturday, December 5

Let Steve Morse or William Morgan know if you would like to ride on the St. Nicholas fire truck in the Pine Mountain parade on Saturday, December 5th. You will need to be at the field behind the public safety building about 20 minutes before the parade starts.

It's used shoe collection time again! Now through the end of January, St. Nicholas will again participate in Keep Columbus Beautiful's Shoe Recycling drive. Bring any kind of shoes you're ready to get rid of. Rubberbanding them together is helpful, but condition does not matter. Those that can be worn will be sent to those who can use them; those that can't will be recycled – either way, they stay out of the landfill! Use the bin in the narthex.

SHARE! Social media, as you may know, can tend to become a bubble – meaning, you only see the things you already know you want to see. How can you help St. Nicholas's Facebook page break out of that bubble? By sharing St. Nicholas news and events to your personal Facebook feed. If we're doing something you think your family or friends might be interested in, hit "share" and spread the news!

Get all the news: Use this QR code to go to the most recent newsletter!

