

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Andrew Stoessel, Celebrant
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Advent 4
December 22, 2024

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: We honor the Indigenous people everywhere, particularly the Wabanaki Nations, acknowledging that the land we now occupy is their ancestral home. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth.
Congregation: **May we find the courage to acknowledge the brutality and violence of our forebears who seized these lands, and may we be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, and for all creation.**

The bell is rung three times

Prelude: This Endris Nyght — Healey Willan

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell

Opening Hymn 54 Savior of the nations, come! *(back of bulletin)*

Celebrant: In this season of Advent, we, like the watchman, strain to glimpse the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the manifestations of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

Congregation: **Lord, by your presence,**
light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Celebrant: We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

Congregation: **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: May God be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15, The Song of Mary: Magnificat S-242 *(back of bulletin)*

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10
When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying.
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 53 Once he came in blessing *(back of bulletin)*

The Gospel: Luke 1:39-55
Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke
Congregation: **Glory to you, O Christ.**
In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."
And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Andrew Stoessel

Silence will be commenced and ended with the sounding of a bell.

Affirmation

We believe in God, the source of love,
who breathed God's Spirit into all of creation,
who created humanity in God's own image and likeness,
and who calls God's children to be about the work of reconciliation
and justice in the world God so loves.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate,
who was born of a woman,
who modeled for us a way of living on the earth,
and whose passionate love for God's creation
led to his Passion and death on the cross.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who moved over the darkness at the beginning to bring light and life,
and who moves over the darkness still,
opening our hearts to God's incarnate presence in our midst
and calling us to be manifestations of incarnation
in the name and in the way of Jesus.

Prayers of the People
Leader: O Holy One, in this season of Advent we wait and pray that you will fill our hearts with joyful anticipation of your coming.
For the Church Universal, its leaders, its people, and the mission given to us by Christ;
Grant us perseverance and urgency to continue Christ's mission.

For our nation and for the whole world; for those who lead us, and for those who cry out for justice, mercy, and peace.

May we and our leaders work towards building a society where all people have an equitable place and the opportunity to thrive.

Your creation cries out from the devastation wrought by our unsustainable use of its resources.
Show us how we might change and advocate for a holy stewardship of the natural world.

For all those in need; the hungry, the poor, and the sick; those who despair in their hearts, and those without hope this day.
Grant them relief, healing, and wholeness, and show us how to be present with them.

For all those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve.
Grant to us and them an entrance into the resurrected life of Christ.

Leader: I invite you to add your own prayers and thanksgivings.

Members of the congregation are invited to add prayers and thanksgivings at this time.

Leader: Do any of you on Zoom wish to add prayers and thanksgivings?

Congregation **God of hope, you call us from our exile with the good news of restoration;**
you build a highway through the wilderness;
you come to us to bring us home.
Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power,
made known in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: **Most Holy God,**
in the midst of this season of listening and waiting, we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love;
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and
we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.
We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy.
Holy Jesus, make us holy.
Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

Celebrant: Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear this good news:
God's mercy is wider than our transgressions.
God's love is deeper than our fear.
God's longing for our wholeness is stronger than our resistance.
We have been freed by grace to be God's people in the world.
Let our lives reflect the light entrusted to us,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn 265 The angel Gabriel from heaven came *(back of bulletin)*
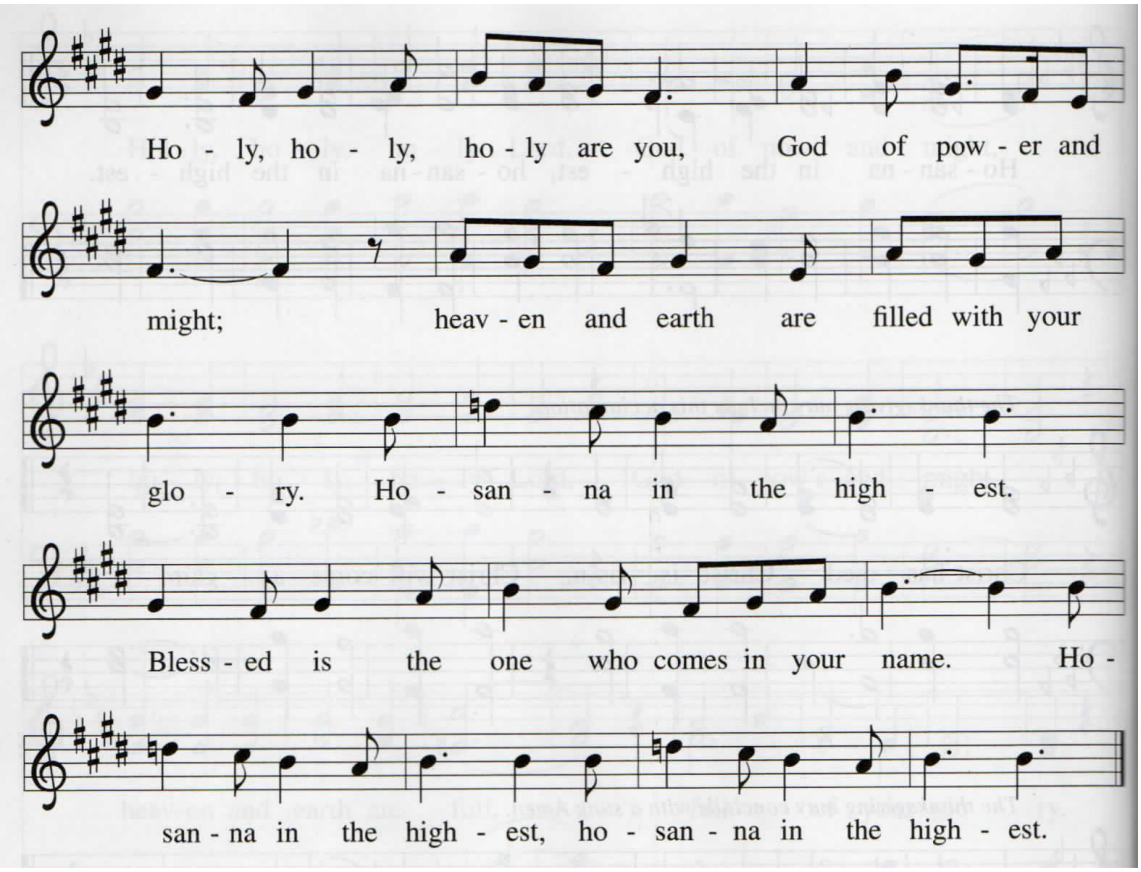
The Great Thanksgiving

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

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.
You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing

Sanctus ELW 191 *(next page)*



Celebrant: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Celebrant and Congregation: **Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.**

Celebrant: In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.
Congregation: **Amen**.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:
Congregation:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant: In recognition with those who are worshiping with us remotely we pray.

Celebrant and Congregation: **Gathered in the name of Jesus, whether we are here or on Zoom, we are united by the power of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine. Called together as a community of faith from far and wide, we know nothing can separate us from each other as we offer our thanksgiving and praise.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God …

Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread.

Celebrant: And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

Post Communion Prayer
Loving God,
We give you thanks for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the center, the focus **of our lives always,**
and particularly in this time of Advent.
May the blessing of Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel, vss. 1, 3, 6 and 7 (*back of bulletin)*

Postlude: Gottes Sohn ist kommen Helmut Walcha

Announcements

Dismissal

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Affirmation written by Elaine Hewes
Confession from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* p. 15-16
Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching Our Worship*

Giving our Priorities Shape (GPS) Action

Love in Action
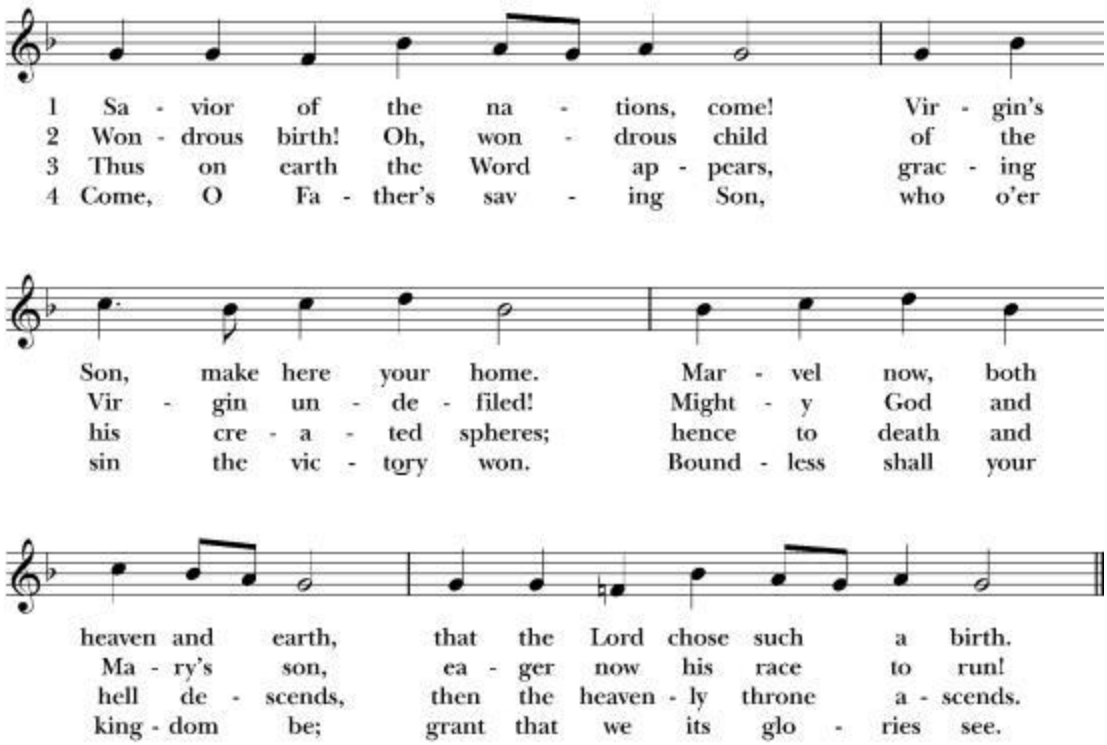
During the season of Advent, our GPS flag has been the Episcopal flag with the sign "Love in Action." As Advent draws to a close this Sunday and families gather for Christmas celebrations, we might think of reaching out to neighbors or friends, near or far, who do not necessarily have a family with whom to celebrate the season. A phone call, a letter, an in-person visit, or an invitation to lunch, dinner, or breakfast might lift someone's spirit at a time when they are feeling more alone than usual. A gift of our time and attention is more precious and more of what we all need than anything we can buy at a store.

CALENDAR

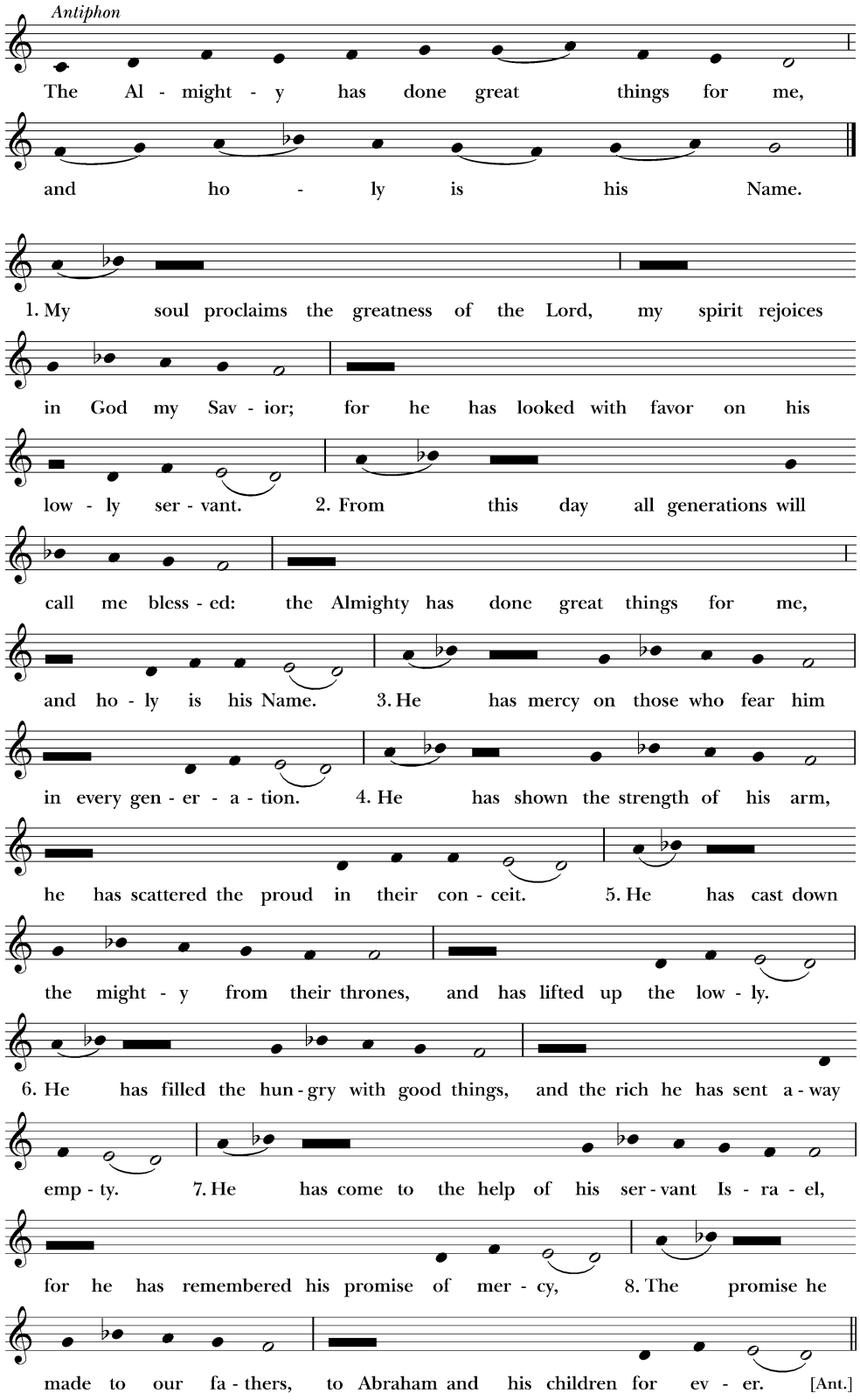
All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.

Monday, December 23	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols with Pastor Elaine Hewes preaching
Wednesday, December 25	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day service at St. Francis by the Sea
Sunday, December 29	10:00 a.m. Healing Service, Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

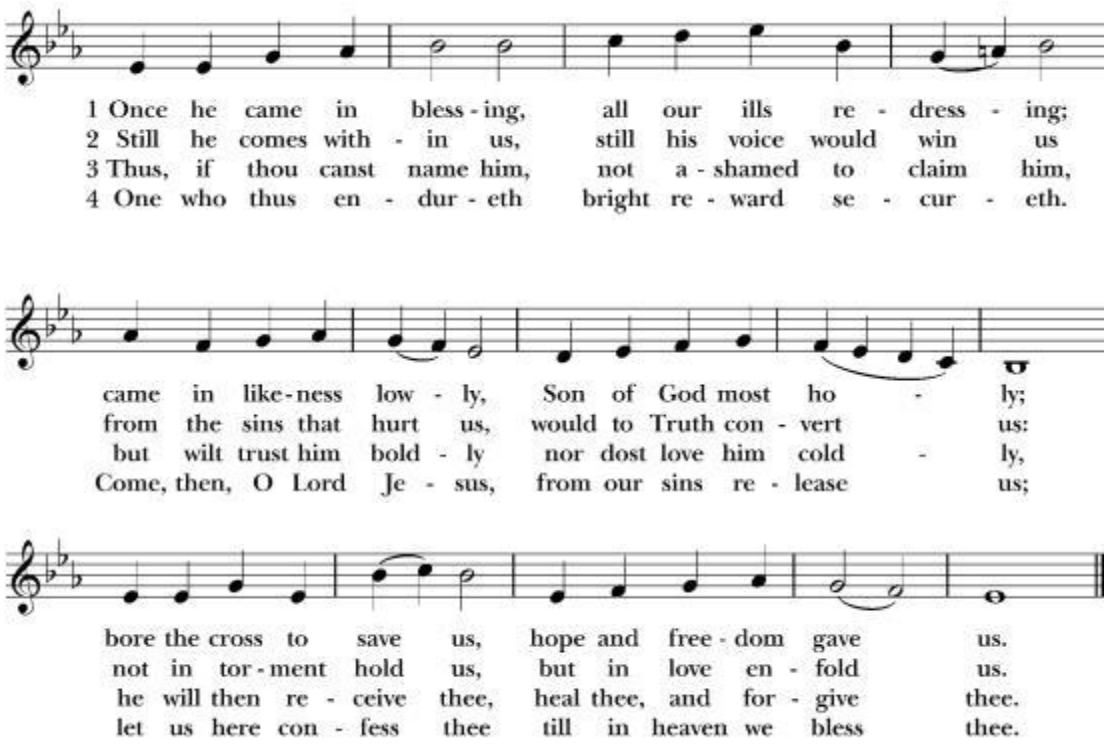
Savior of the nations, come! *The Hymnal 1982*, #54
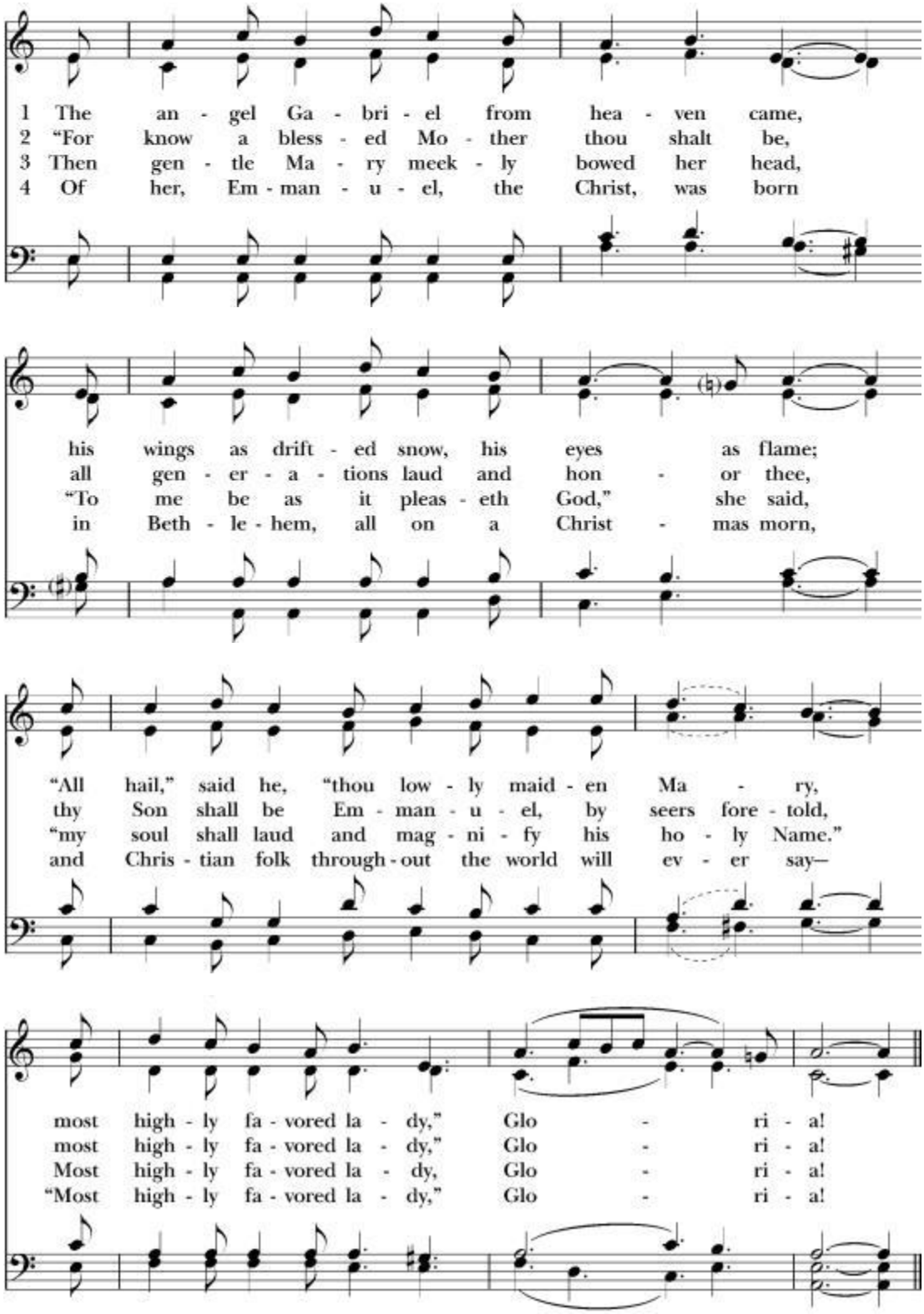


Canticle 15, The Song of Mary: *Magnificat* *The Hymnal 1982*, S-242



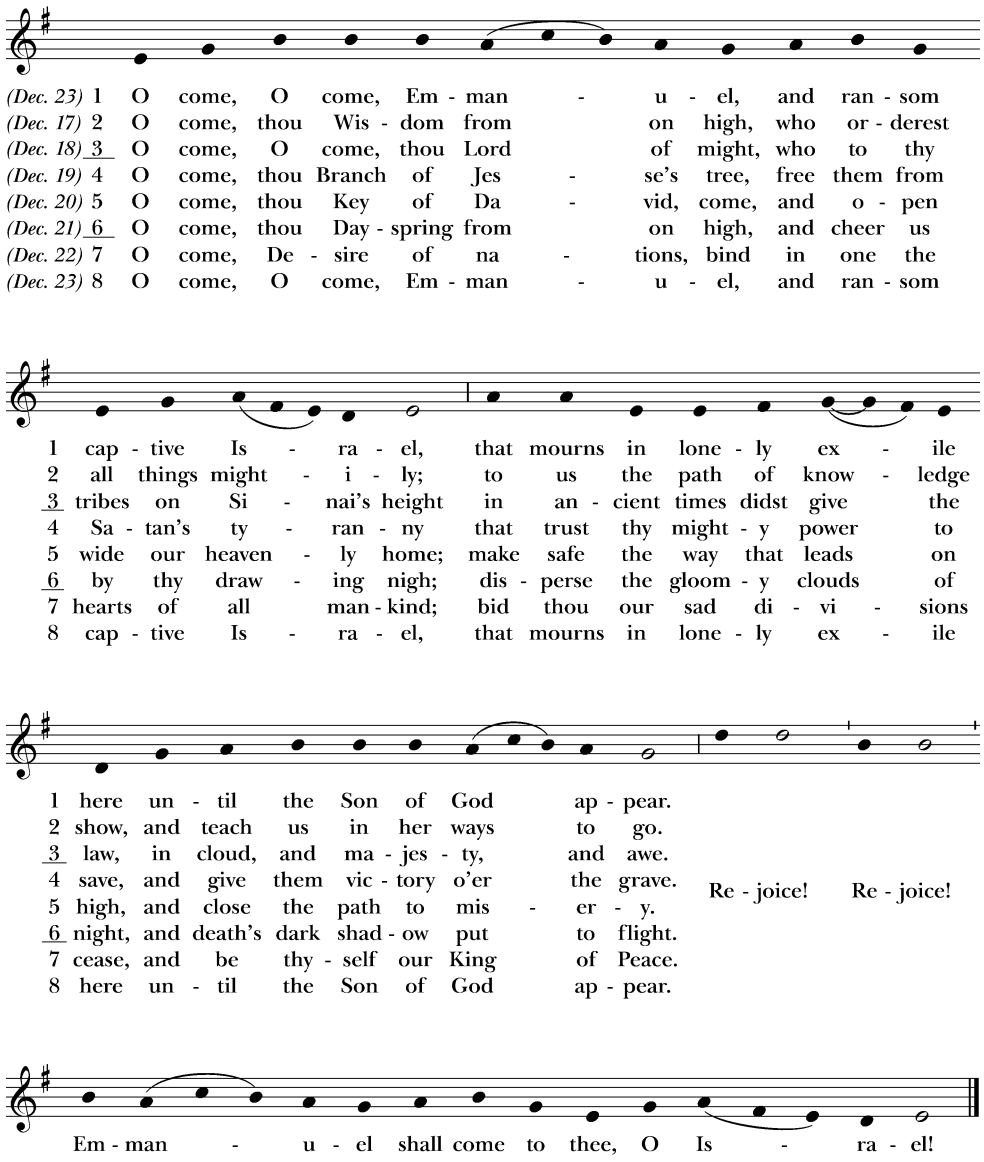
Once he came in blessing *The Hymnal 1982*, #53



The angel Gabriel from heaven came *The Hymnal 1982,* #265



O come, O come, Emmanuel *The Hymnal 1982*, #56



The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).