

## Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Livestream at 11:00 a.m.



Icon 1, Advent 3, Sundays and Seasons

**FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY**  
**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Rev. Alejandro Mejia, Interim Senior Pastor  
The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Interim Associate Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.

*Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Joyfully. Serve Christ Faithfully.*

## ✦ GATHERING ✦

### Prelude

*My Soul Proclaims*

arr. Lloyd Larson

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

**P** *Everlasting God,*

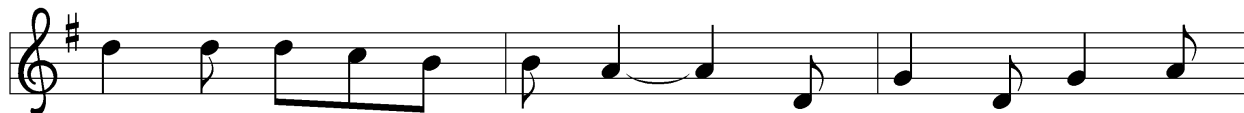
**C** **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

**P** *Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.*

**C** **Amen.**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less




geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

**P** *The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*  
**C** **And also with you.**



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm  
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

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

**P** *Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,*  
**C** **and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ✦ THE WORD ✦

### First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**A** *A reading from Isaiah. <sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the*

*year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.*

*<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

**A**    *The word of the Lord.*

**C**    **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 126  
Read responsively.

**A**    *<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.*

**C**    **<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue  
with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done  
great things for them.”**

**A** *<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.*

**C** **<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

**A** *<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.*

**C** **<sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

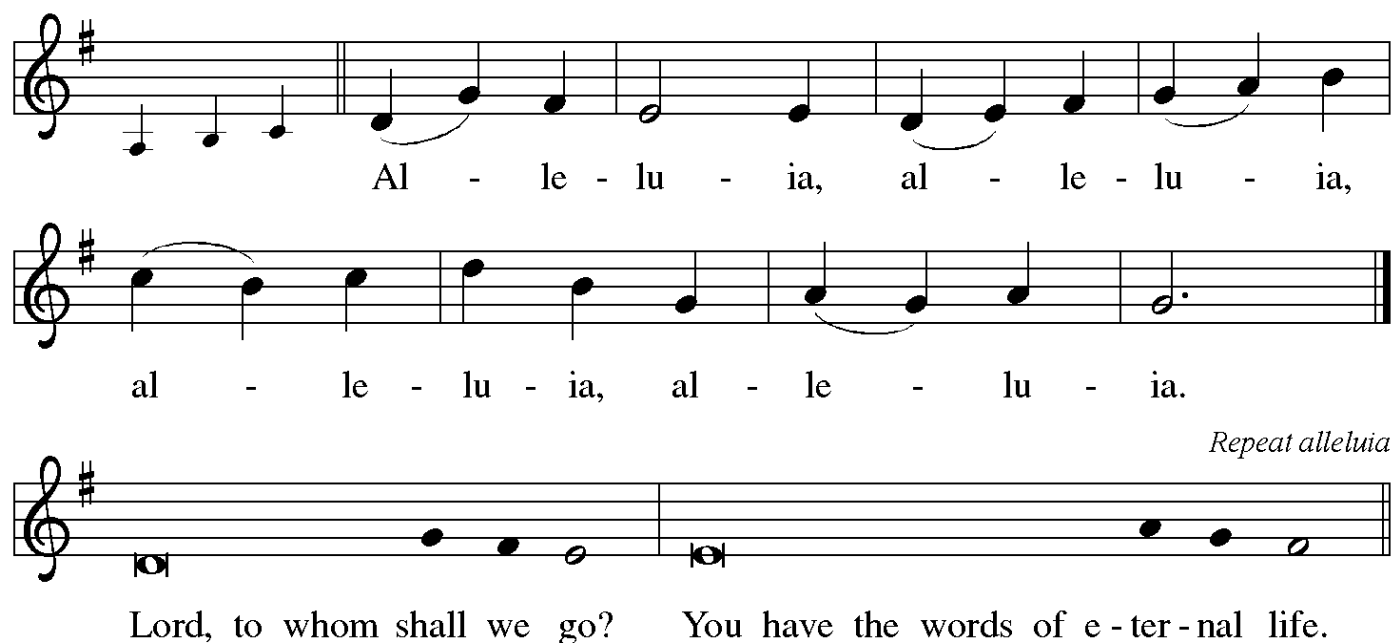
**L** *A reading from first Thessalonians. <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.*

*<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.*

**L** *The word of the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*



## Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

**P** *The Holy Gospel according to John the first chapter.*

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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him,

*“Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing*

**P**    *The Gospel of the Lord.*  
**C**    **Praise to you, O Christ.**

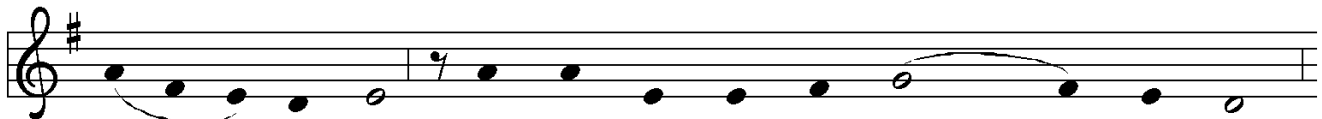
*Please be seated.*

## **Advent Wreath Lighting**

*Three candles of the Advent Wreath are lit as stanza 3 of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is sung.*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.



**Hymn of the Day**

*Soon and Very Soon*

No. 439



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon

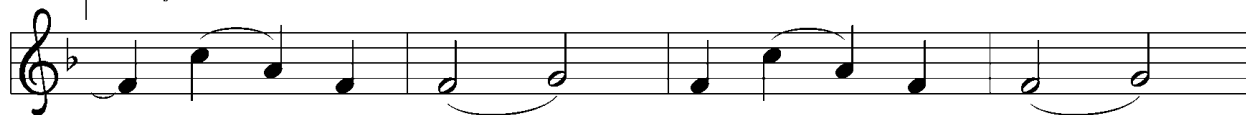


soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

*Coda after stanza 4*



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

- A** *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*  
**C** **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

**A** *With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.*

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** *Merciful God,*

**C** **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** *Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C** **And also with you.**

*After sharing the peace, please be seated.*

**Offering and Offertory**

*Still, Still, Still*

arr. James Mansfield

*As the gifts are presented, please stand as you are able.*



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



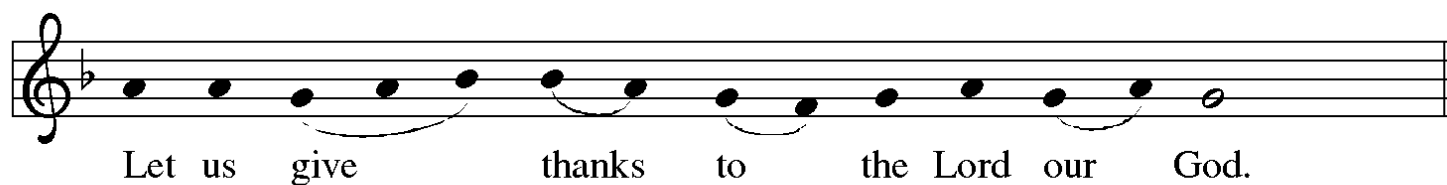
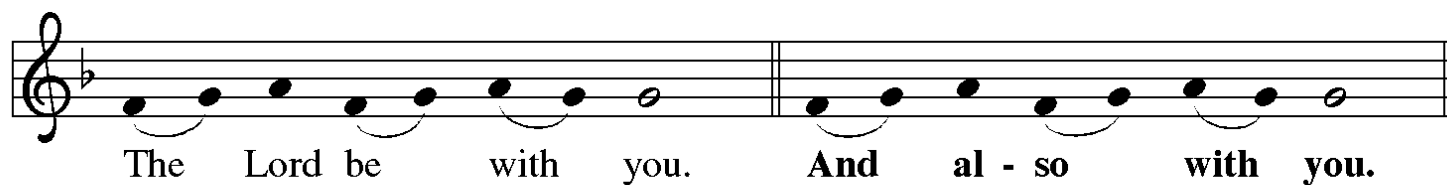
and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

**A** *Let us pray. God our provider,*

**C** **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.**

**Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## ✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦



*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season; the congregation responds:*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



<sup>2</sup>  
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

**P** *Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:  
Your mercy endures forever.*

**C** **Your mercy endures forever.**

**P** *By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,  
granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of  
your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness.  
Your mercy endures forever.*

**C** **Your mercy endures forever.**

**P** *By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing  
them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a  
blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation  
and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures  
forever.*

**C** **Your mercy endures forever.**

**P** *By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us  
into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-  
giving love.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed....*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,...*

**P** *With this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**C** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** *Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.*

*With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:*

**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.**

**P** *In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

*We welcome to the table all who proclaim with us that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice. Just let the Pastor or Assistants know.)*

*If you require communion to be brought to you in the pew, please alert an usher.*

*During the distribution of communion, the following is sung:*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.



# Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

No. 808



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*  
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



*Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,*  
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:  
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



*car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:*  
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



*Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.*  
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

# All Earth is Hopeful

No. 266



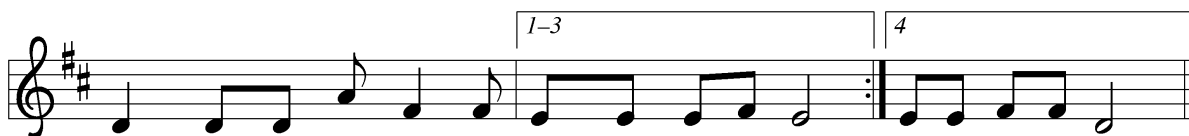
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

*After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray. Generous God,*  
**C** **in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

✦ **SENDING** ✦

**P** *The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.*  
**C** **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

No. 251



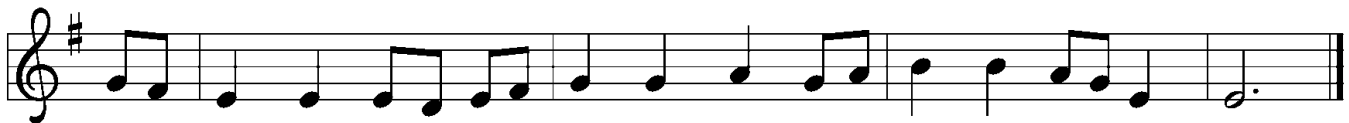
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

**A** *Go in peace. Keep awake.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*People, Look East*

arr. James Mansfield

*We welcome and thank Barbara Skillman for leading our music  
during worship this morning!*

**The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by**

*Phyllis Berger in memory of Jack Berger*

**Pray for Those That Need God's Healing**

*Ray, Darius, Lynn, Donald, Al, Donna, Lind, Joan, Ed, Marion, Betty,  
Doris, Karen, Theresa, Elaine, Georgeann, Jean, Marge, Nicholas, Lois,  
Barbara & Bruce*

**Announcements**

Blue Christmas service is this Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:45. This service is for those who prefer a more meditative and less jolly Christmas worship experience. Light refreshments will be served in the Narthex.

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**SERVING TODAY**

Greeters

Assisting Minister

Communion Assistants

Ushers

Acolytes

Livestream

**8:30 a.m.**

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Shirley Ernst

Doyle McCracken

**11:00 a.m.**

Marilyn Tober

Maureen Stark

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Brynn Raedeke

Tina Zimmerman

Weston Shook

Joel Raedeke