ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

November 29, 2026 ☩ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In this first Flames for the Faithful service for Advent, we listen and learn from the Prophecy Candle on the Advent wreath all about the announcements God made through the prophets to make his message of salvation known in the shining Light of Christ, who was soon to be born.

☩ GATHERING ☩

Prelude

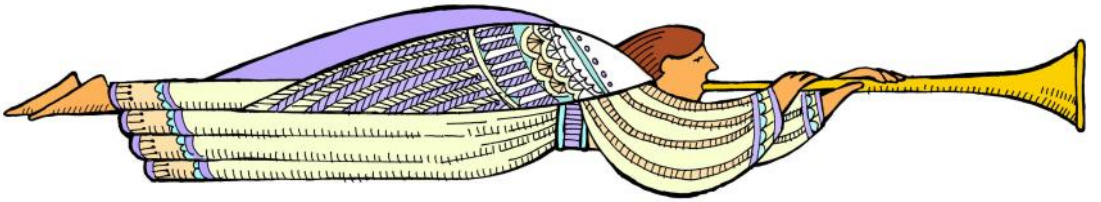
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





The First Sunday of Advent

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Bible tells us that if we truly repent God will truly forgive.
As we await the fullness of Christ's coming,
let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.
(Silence for meditation & self-examination)
Forgive us for our indifference towards your coming,
we confess to you, Lord.

Forgive us for failing to truly love one another,
we confess to you, Lord.

Forgive us for our selfishness and misgivings,
we confess to you, Lord.

Forgive us for our injustices toward people you came to save,
we confess to you, Lord.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
To those who believe in Jesus Christ
he gives the power to become the children of God
and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

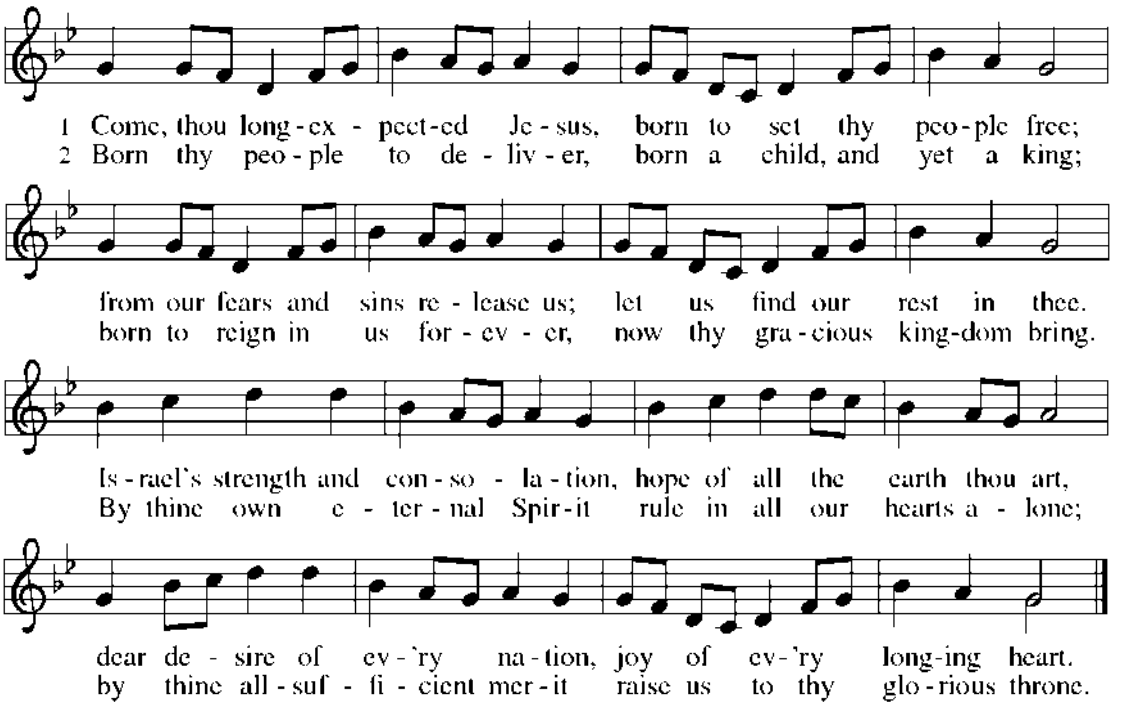
Litany for the New Church Year

God says, "See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!

The God, whose mercies are new to us every morning,
has brought us by His grace to this new day, to this new Advent,
and to this new Church Year.
In the confidence that we are sustained by His grace,
we enter into this new church year.
In the name of the Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

God's abundant and unending love
far exceeds the volume of this year's needs.
Let us rejoice with thanks and embrace another year of God's grace.
God: Father, Son and Spirit dear,
to all our pleas incline thine ear.
Upon our lives rich blessing trace,
in this new year of your unending grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** #254



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835
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Advent Litany

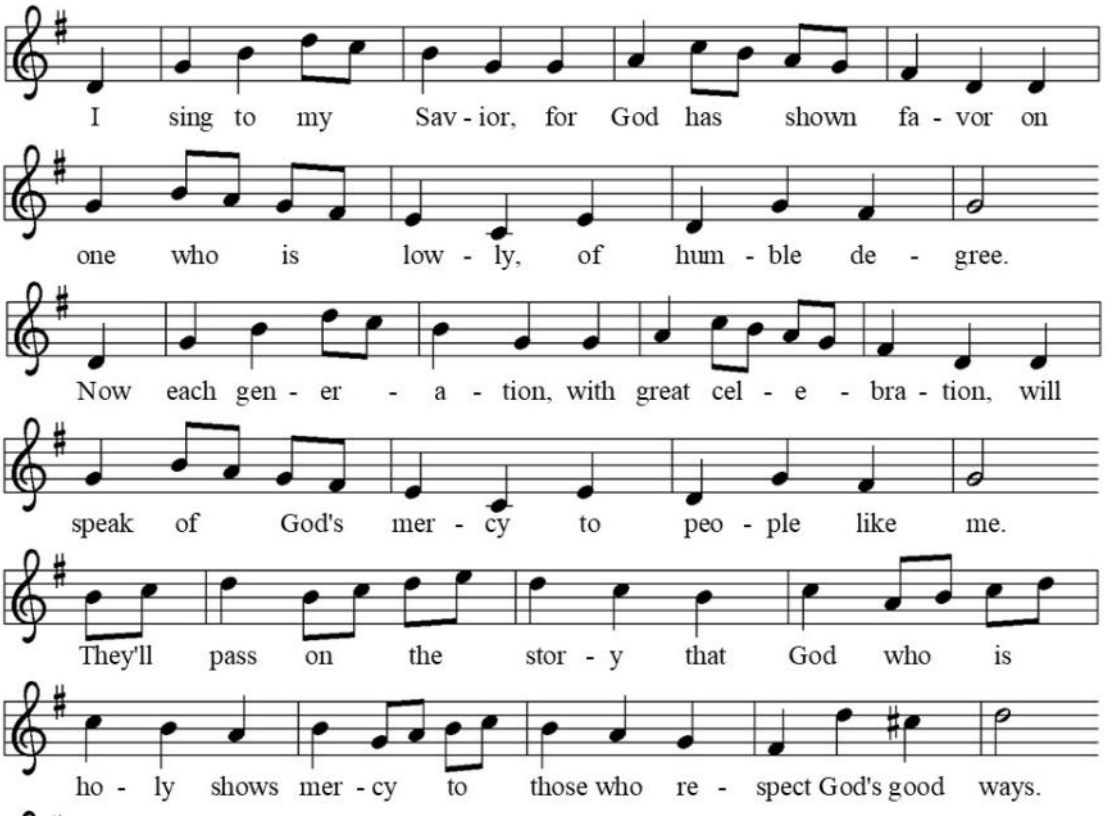
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.
So we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed.

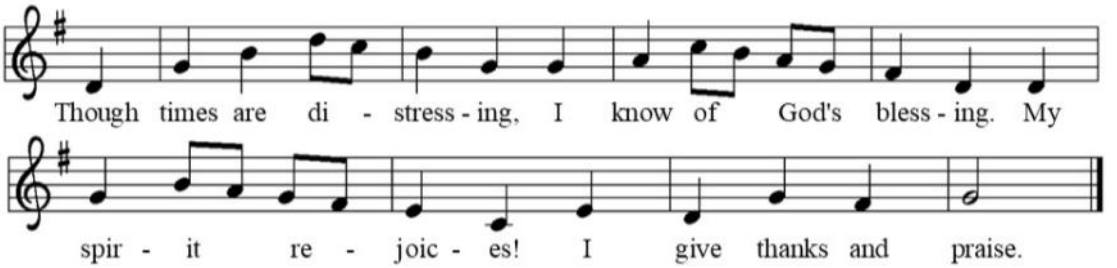
You will do well to be attentive to this,
as to a lamp shining in a dark place,
until the day dawns and the daystar rises in our hearts.

Apostolic Greeting

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near!
God be with you.
And also with you.

Kyrie ***I Sing to My Savior*** *(Tune: #881)*





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Music: Welsh folk tune; Public Domain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray…*(A brief silence is kept.)*
As one candle is lit and our hearts are brightened by its glow,
dear Lord, help us to remember with fondness the prophets of old
who foretold your coming among us to be our Savior.
Let us continue the work of the prophets,
proclaiming to those around us your coming among us at Christmas.
Let us be beacons of light in this dark world as we beckon others
to be drawn to the Light of your love and care for us unto eternity.
In your gracious name we pray. Amen.

Advent Wreath Hymn *(Tune #277)*

In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light
To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.
To greenery circled, the faithful draw near
And longingly listen, God's message to hear.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Send out your light and your truth, O Lord; let them be our guide.
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
And God said, "Let there be light!"

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
Did not our hearts burn within us
while he spoke to us and opened the Scriptures for us?

"Let the prophet who has my word speak my word faithfully,"
says the Lord. "Is not my word a fire?"

(Advent Family lights the first candle as the hymn is sung.)

One candle is burning--through darkness shines light,
As prophets were yearning for God's holy might.
To people in darkness came promises new--
The promise of Jesus is faithful and true.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples.

But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Oh, keep us, Lord Jesus, in your mighty care
As for your arrival your people prepare.
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite

✢ WORD ✢

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-18

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] 15The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like
me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16This
is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the
assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any
more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17Then the Lord
replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up

for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 *(Tune: #257)*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Unto the Lord I lift my soul;
I trust in God to make me whole.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

My voice with joy is raised to sing:
"The Lord has done a wondrous thing!"

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Let all on earth his glory tell,
The Holy One of Israel!

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
just as the rain brings water back to dry riverbeds.

Unto the Lord I lift my soul;
I trust in God to make me whole.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

My voice with joy is raised to sing:
"The Lord has done a wondrous thing!"

Those who wept as they went out carrying the seed
will come back singing for joy, carrying their sheaves.

Let all the earth his glory tell,
The Holy One of Israel!

New Testament Reading Hebrews 3:1-6

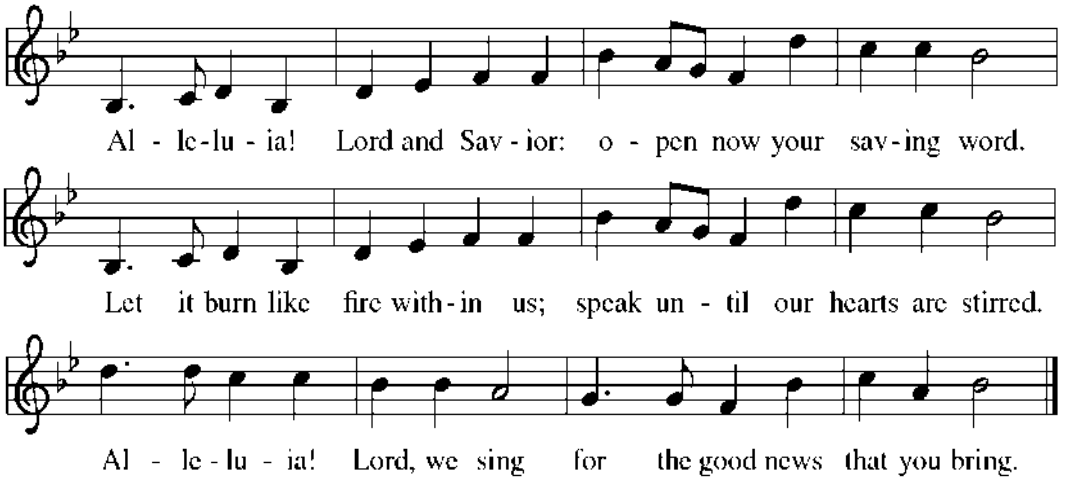
Moses is honored as an exemplary, faithful figure who served loyally within God's household. However, Jesus is superior in that he is the Creator and Son over God's house rather than a servant within it.

A reading from Hebrews.

[1]Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling,
consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, [2]was
faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in
all God's house." [3]Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as
the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. [4](For every
house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) [5]Now
Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things
that would be spoken later. [6]Christ, however, was faithful over God's
house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and
the pride that belong to hope.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse *ELW setting 10*



Holy Gospel Luke 1:5-25

Gabriel tells Zechariah not to be afraid and that his prayer has been heard. Elizabeth will bear a son named John, who will be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth and go forth in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the people for the Lord.

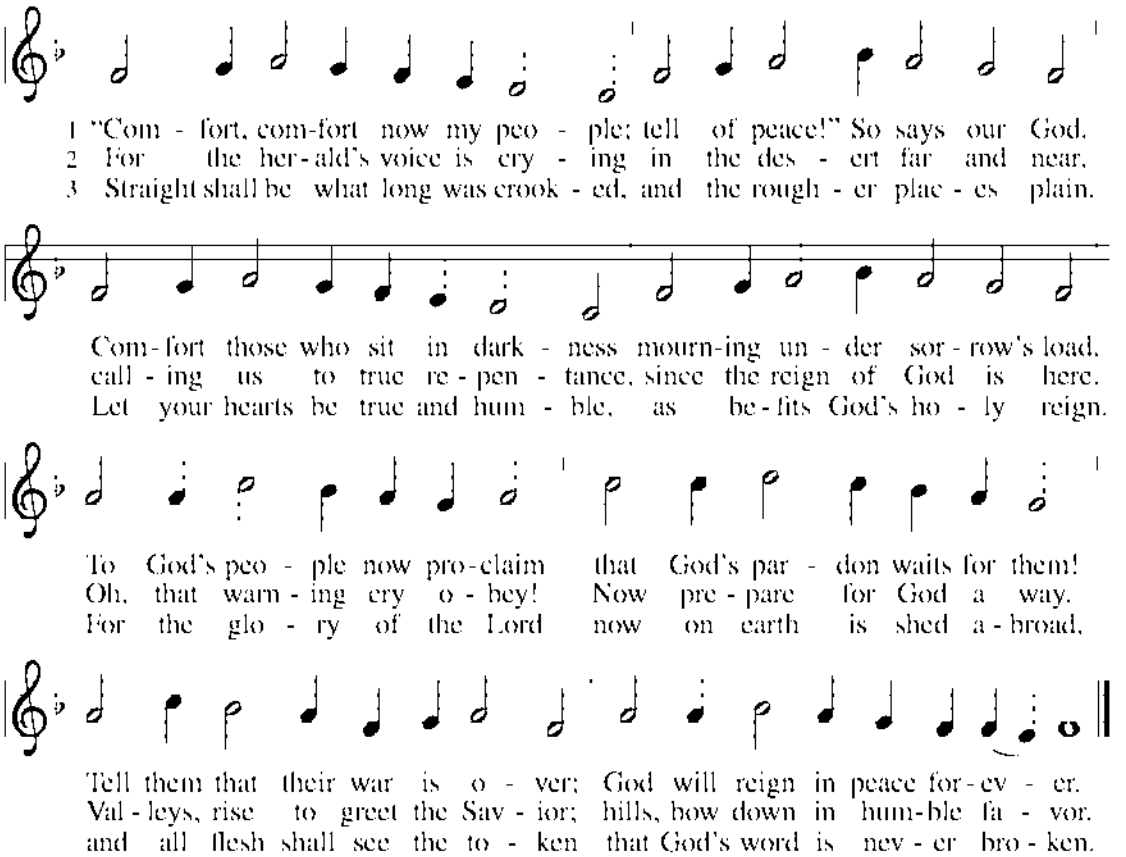
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named
Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a
descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both of them were
righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the
commandments and regulations of the Lord. 7 But they had no children,
because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.
8 Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was
on duty, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the
priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. 10 Now
at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was
praying outside. 11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord,
standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw
him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. 13 But the angel said
to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.
14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,
15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine
or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy
Spirit. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God.
17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the
hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of
the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am
an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." 19 The angel replied, "I
am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to
speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 But now, because you
did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will
become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."
21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered
at his delay in the sanctuary. 22 When he did come out, he could not
speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the
sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.
23 When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

[24]After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, [25]"This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time
Sermon ***The Prophecy Candle***

Hymn of the Day ***Comfort, Comfort Now My People*** #256



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: Trente quatre pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551
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Nicene Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

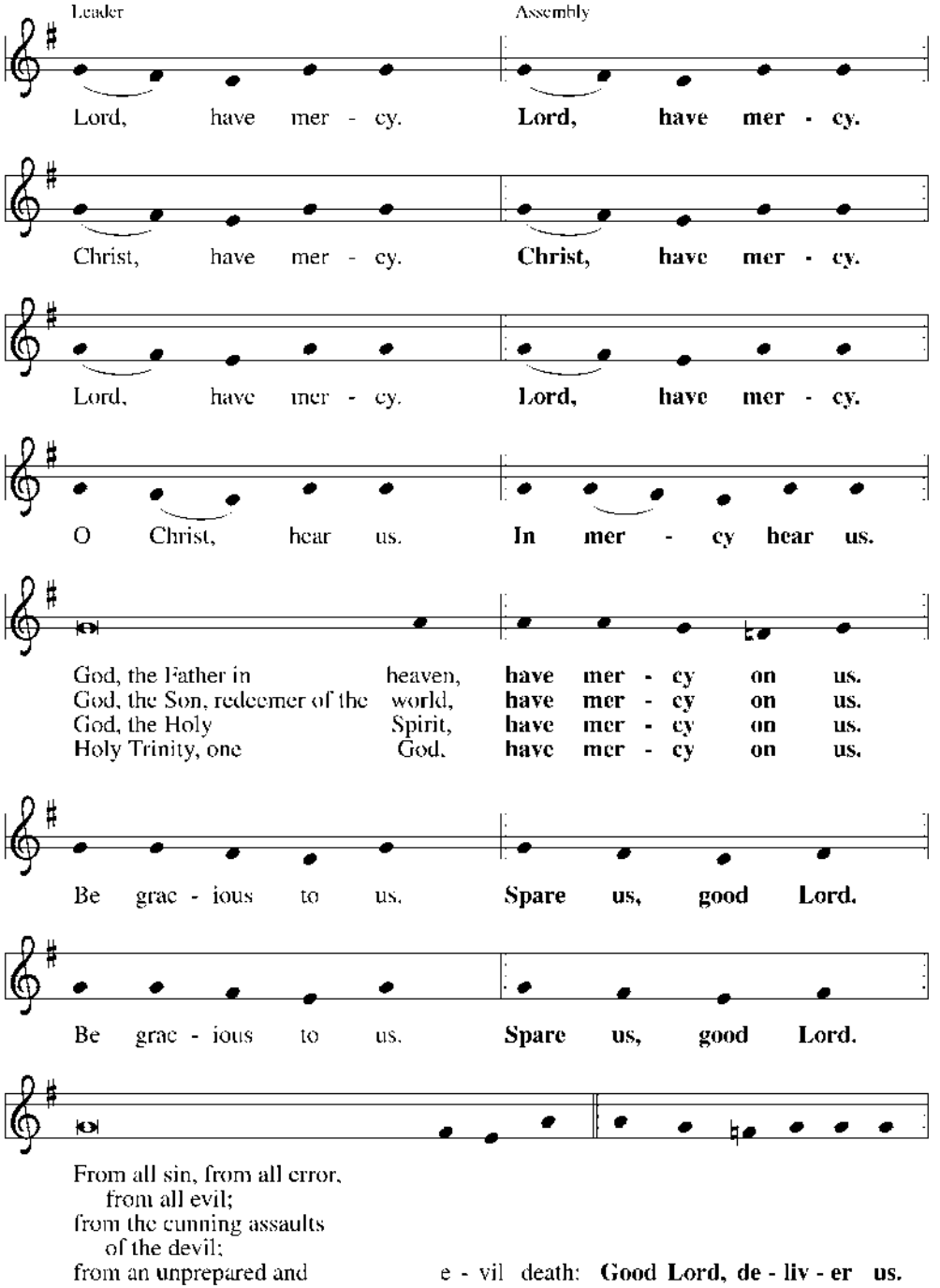
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

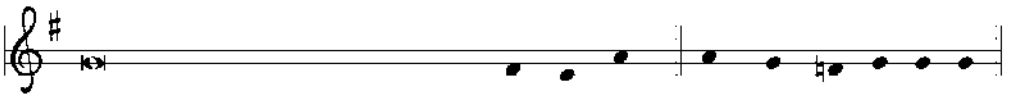
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate 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.



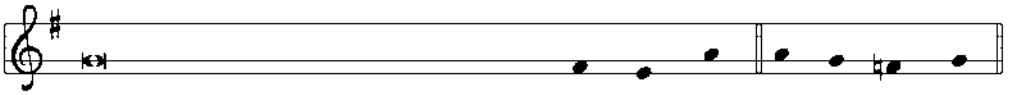
The Great Litany #238





From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedi - tion and treason: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**

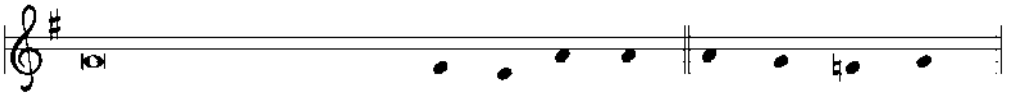
From epidemic, drought, and famine;
from fire and flood, earthquake,
lightning, and storm,
and from ever - last - ing death: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**



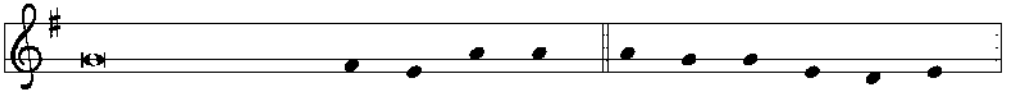
By the mystery of your incarnation; by your ho - ly birth: **Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering; by your death and burial: **Help us, good Lord.**

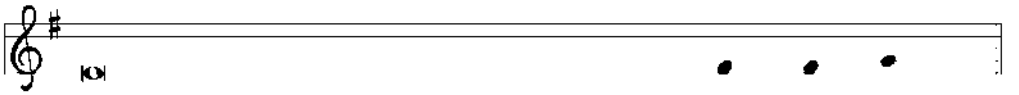
By your resurrection and ascension;
by the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Help us, good Lord.**



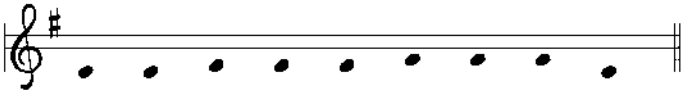
In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment: **Save us, good Lord.**



Though unworthy, we im - plore you **to hear us, Lord our God.**



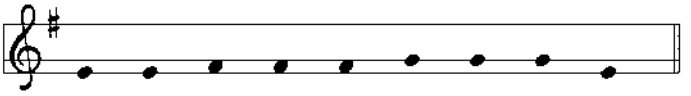
To rule and govern your holy catholic church;
to guide all servants of your church
in the love of your word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms
and causes of offense to those who would believe;
and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone a - stray:



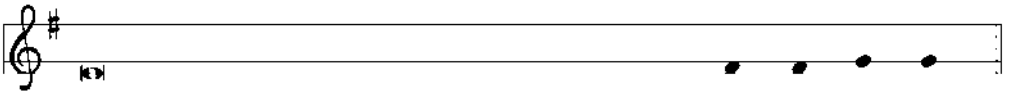
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall
and to strengthen those who stand;
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the dis - tressed:



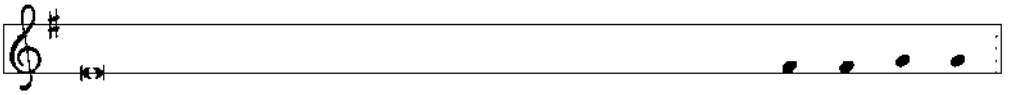
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



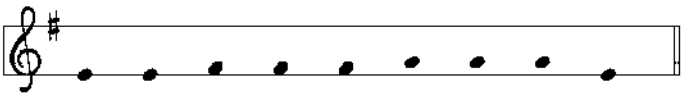
To give to all nations justice and peace;
to preserve our country from discord and strife;
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
and to bless and guide all our peo - ple:



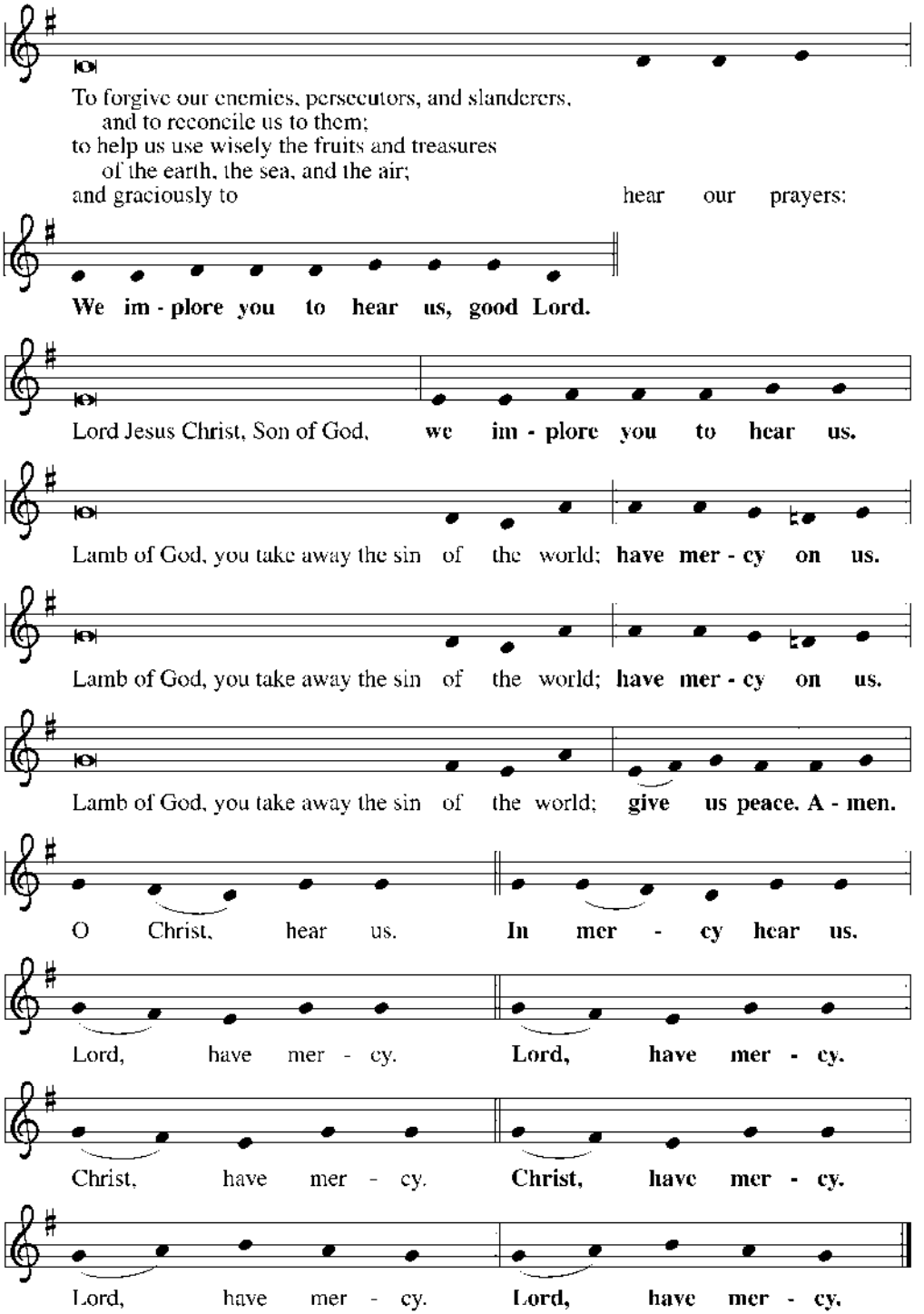
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
to watch over children and to guide the young;
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
to support, comfort, and guide
all orphans, widowers, and widows;
and to have mercy on all your peo - ple:



We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.

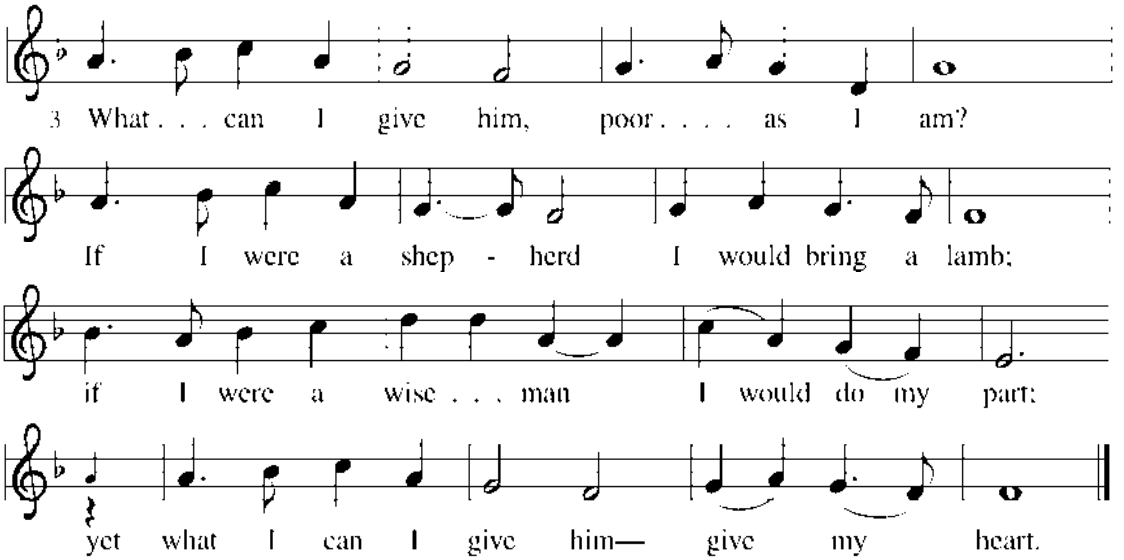

To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
and to reconcile us to them;
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
of the earth, the sea, and the air;
and graciously to hear our prayers:
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we im - plore you to hear us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; give us peace. A - men.
O Christ, hear us. In mer - cy hear us.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✢ OFFERING ✢

Offering Response ***In the Bleak Midwinter*** #294 *(v. 3)*



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934
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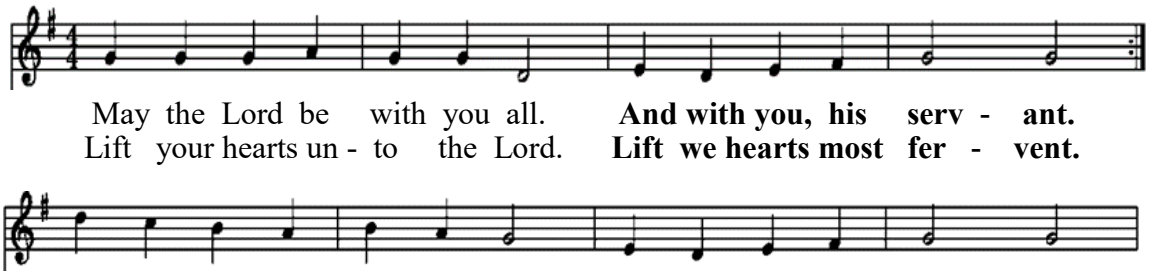
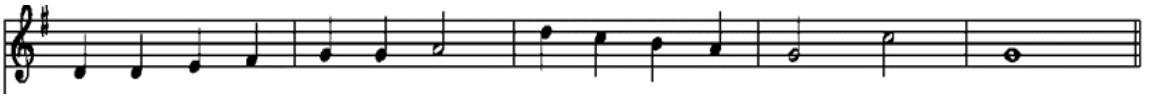
✢ MEAL ✢

Great Thanksgiving *(Tune: Good King Wenceslas)*

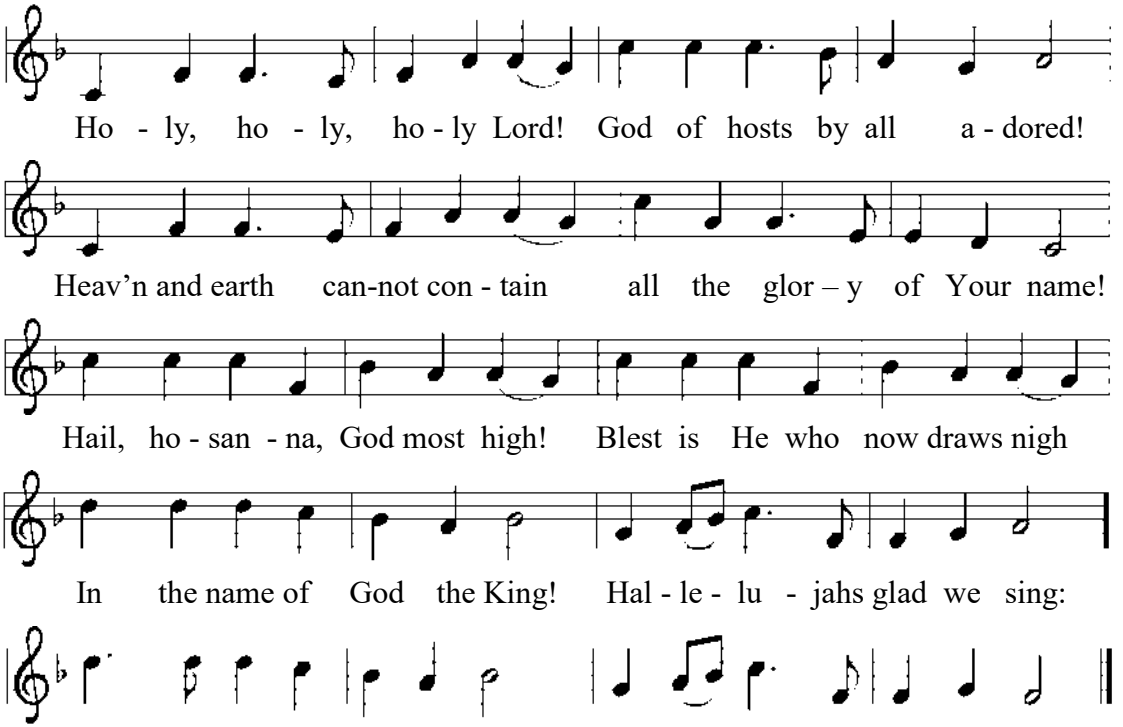




Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** *(Tune: #270, Hark!)*



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

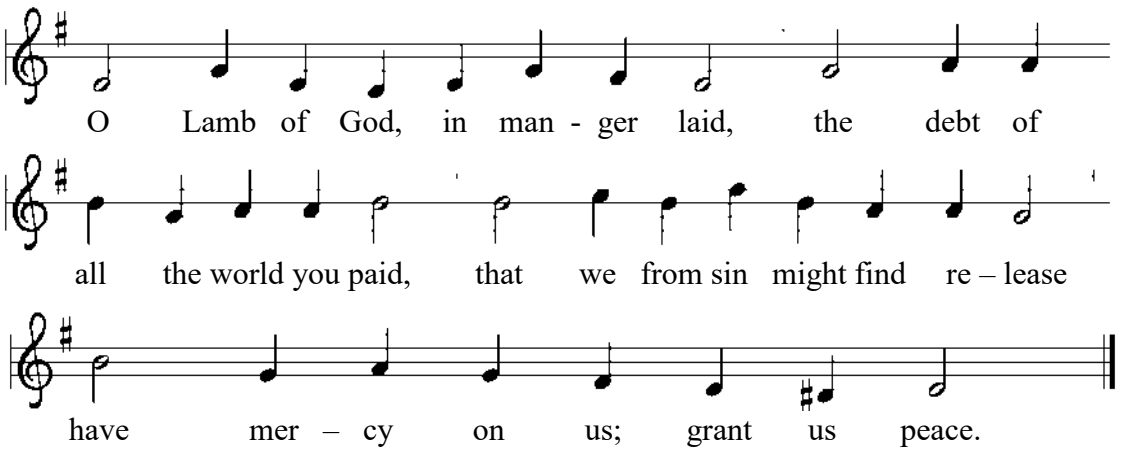
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

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 ***Lamb of God*** *(Tune: #517)*



Public Domain

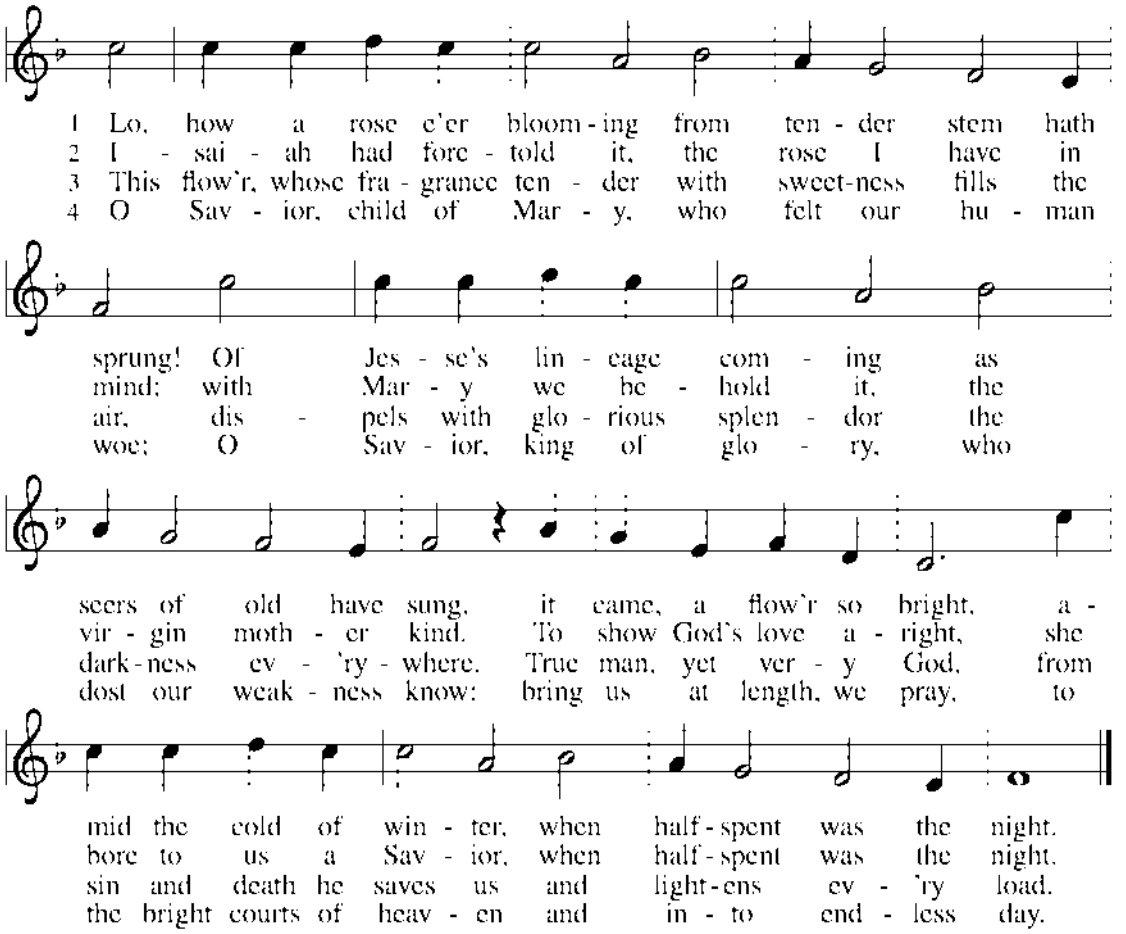
Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. ***Amen.***
The blood of Christ, shed for you. ***Amen.***

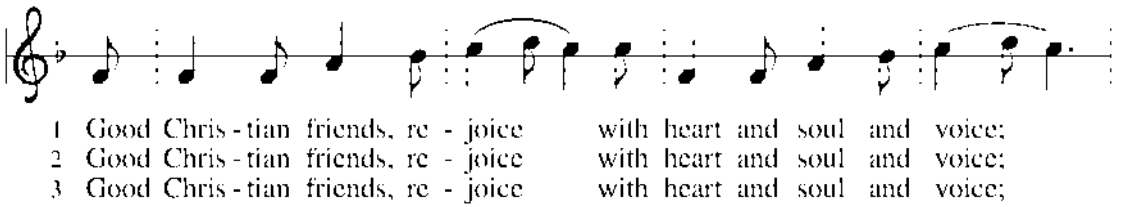


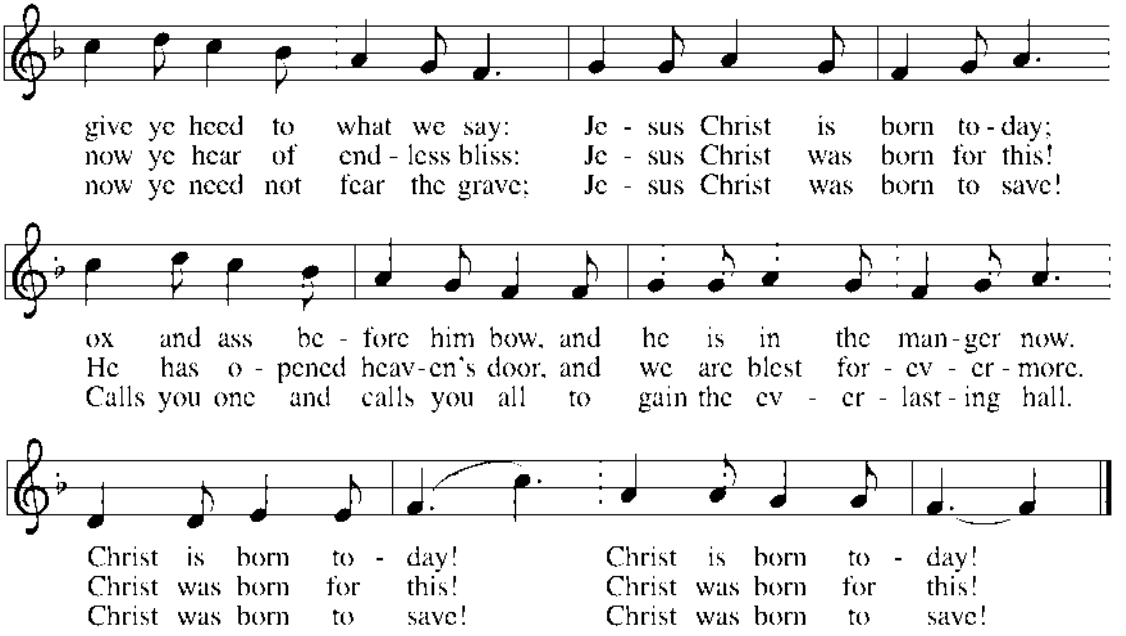
Distribution Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #272



Text: German carol, 15th cent.
Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621
Public Domain

Distribution Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* #288





Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856
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Table Blessing

May the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his light and grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray… *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you
for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence
in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

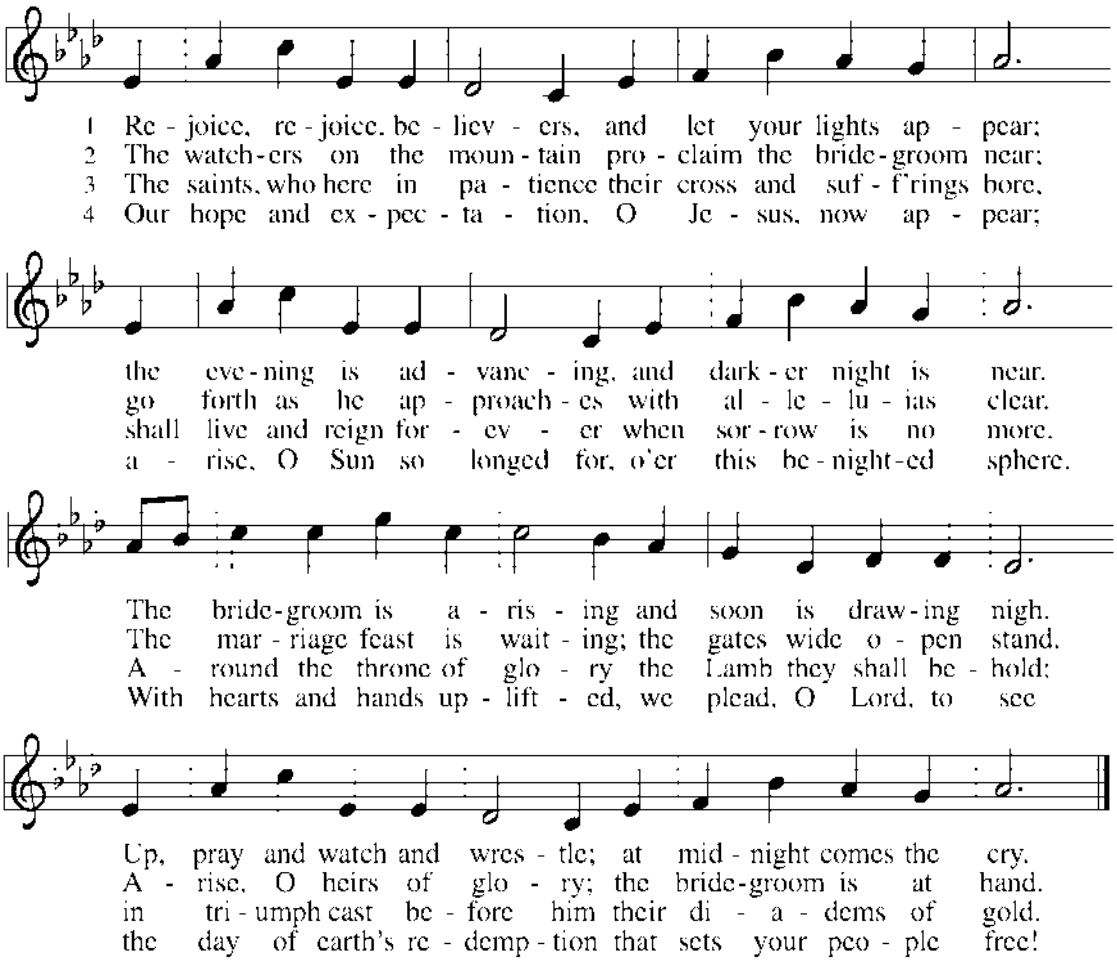
✢ SENDING ✢

Announcements

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make the light of his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you
with the brightness of his favor and grant you his peace.
Amen.

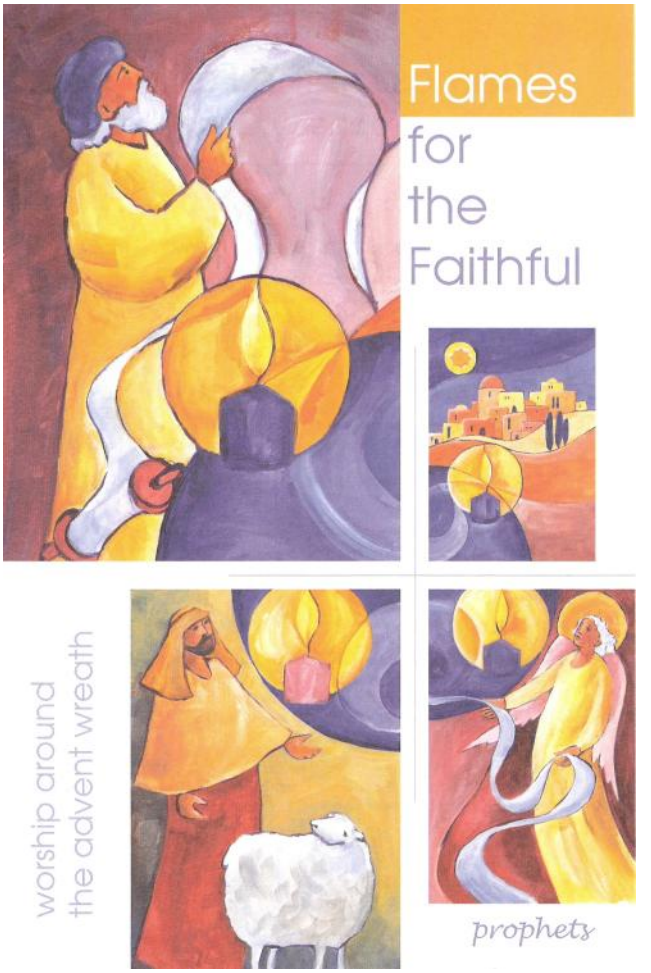
Closing Hymn ***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*** #244



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907
Music: Swedish folk tune
Public Domain

Dismissal

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



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Prophecy Candle Word Search

Advent
Angel
Baby John
Barren
Bible
Blessings
Candle
Christ
Deuteronomy
Elizabeth
Faithful
Family
Father
Fear
First Sunday
Flame
Heart
Hebrews
Holy Spirit
Glory
God
Grace
Holy Communion
Holy Gospel
Hope
Hymns
Jesus
Joy
King Herod
Kyrie
Life
Lord
Love
Luke
Mute
New Year
Nicene Creed
Old

A	L	B	I	B	L	E	M	A	L	F	D	O	R	E	H	Z
H	D	O	R	I	C	H	O	C	K	E	F	D	W	P	I	T
E	Y	V	A	A	E	C	A	R	G	I	E	N	S	O	N	Y
A	B	N	E	W	E	N	E	J	H	R	A	Y	N	H	R	A
R	A	P	Y	N	D	H	E	W	C	Y	R	L	R	J	O	D
T	B	E	E	L	T	S	H	A	R	K	U	N	G	O	D	N
S	I	C	E	A	U	W	S	I	U	T	E	L	L	Y	T	U
G	I	R	F	S	I	K	R	T	H	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S
N	E	E	I	N	S	E	E	E	C	F	U	L	E	G	N	A
I	E	E	S	P	A	N	R	F	A	M	I	L	Y	D	F	C
S	M	D	N	D	S	A	Y	I	O	T	O	P	E	Z	I	R
S	I	N	M	E	N	A	T	L	L	R	H	U	M	J	R	A
E	T	Y	Y	L	O	H	L	Y	D	A	T	P	I	O	S	M
L	W	C	H	E	F	E	R	M	I	E	E	K	G	H	T	E
B	O	E	N	U	N	O	V	R	R	E	B	E	N	N	S	N
A	R	H	L	I	L	O	A	O	T	H	A	Y	I	O	I	T
R	S	P	E	G	A	H	N	U	L	I	Z	L	K	M	R	S
R	H	O	L	Y	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	R	H	H
E	I	R	O	E	M	G	O	S	P	E	L	H	O	E	C	A
N	P	P	Z	Y	E	S	W	E	R	B	E	H	O	S	T	P

Peace
Prayers
Prophecy
Psalm
Read
Sacraments
Sacred
See
Sermon
Sin
Sing
Son
Story
Tell
Time
Wait
Word
Worship
Wreath
Zechariah
Zion Lutheran Church

