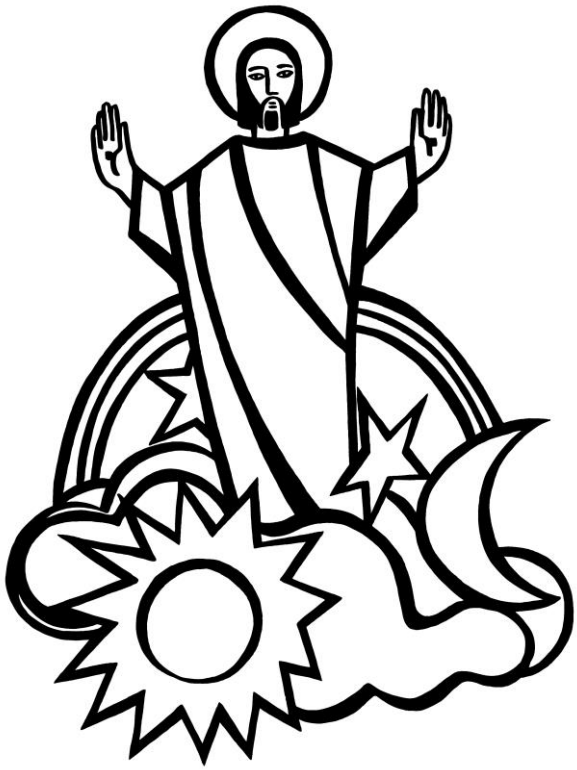
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Sunday, November 29, 2026

8:15 and 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly. We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.

SUNDAY SERVICE

8:15 AM | Holy Communion
9:00 AM | Choir Practice
9:30 AM | Education Hour: Adult Forum
10:30 AM | Holy Communion
livestreamed

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on our Facebook page StPaulArlingtonMA. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, but without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY

Kelli Oliver and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Claudia and Mikayla N., *Acolytes*
Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*
John Turner, *Lector*
Taryn Walsh, *Assisting Minister*
Mat Carter and Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast Team*
Peter & Hollie Schmidt and Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

WE WELCOME PASTOR GREG MILESKI AS A SHORT-TERM PASTOR

St. Paul welcomes Pastor Greg Mileski to serve while Pastor Don Larsen is out. Pastor Greg recently preached and led the adult forum on October 8th. We are excited to welcome him back! Pastor Mileski is currently a doctoral candidate and Boston College School of Divinity. Pastor Greg begins his service at St. Paul on November 16. He will lead worship each week, advise the church council and lead the weekly staff meetings.

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the ☒, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.*
*The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE C. G. F. Handel (1685-1759): Sonata in D-major 1. Andante
Joan Ellersick, viola
Ana Zecic Jeffers, piano

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.
Amen.

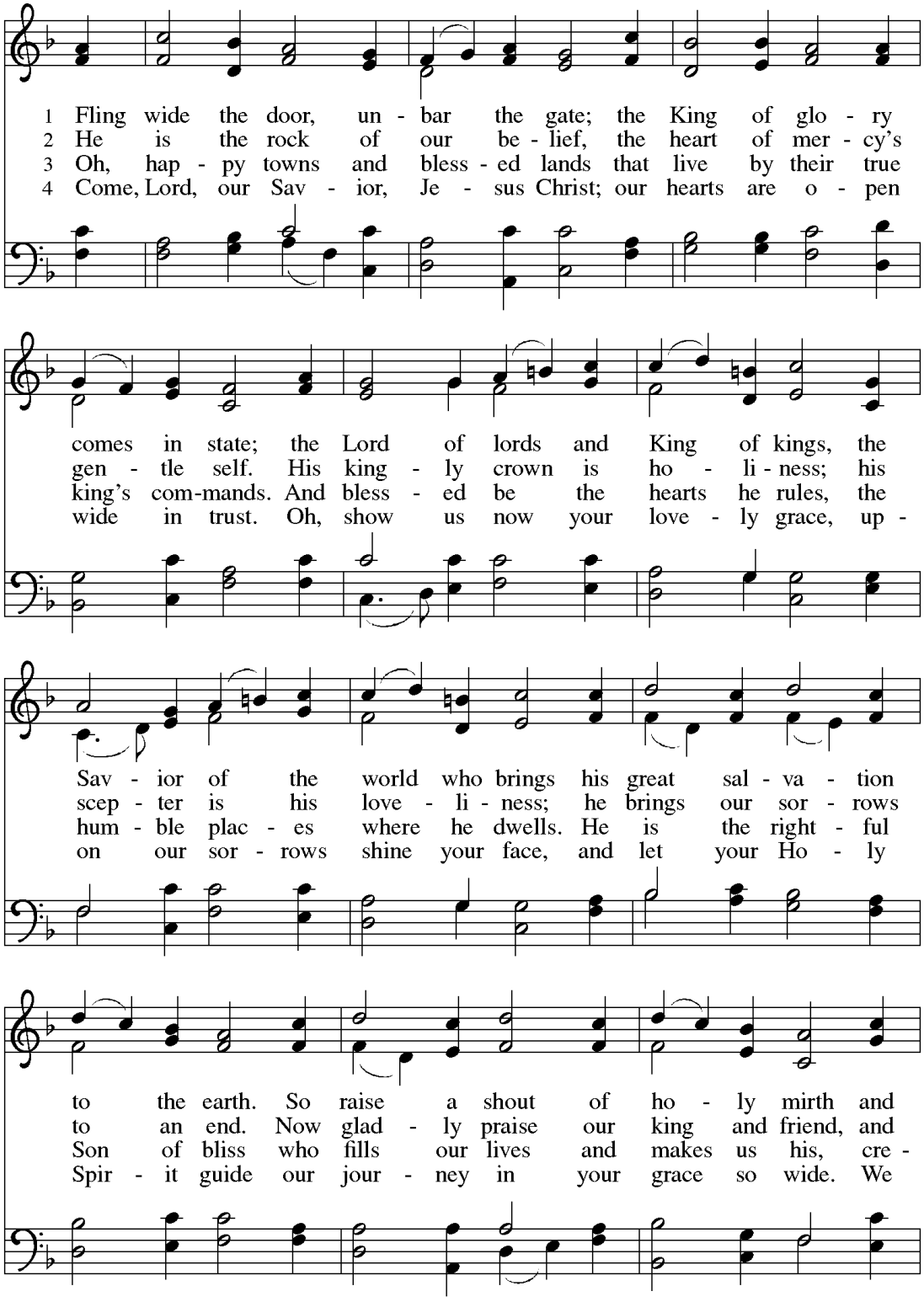
Silence is kept for reflection.

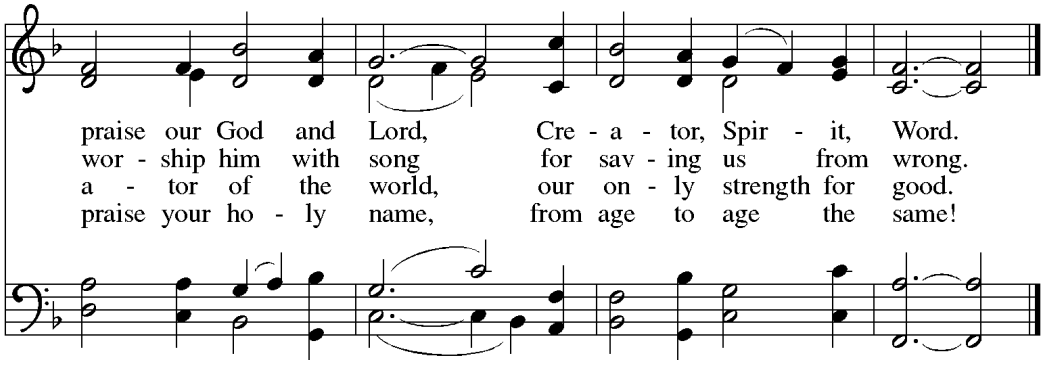
Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. Thanks be to God!

*** GATHERING HYMN**

"Fling Wide the Door" ELW 259

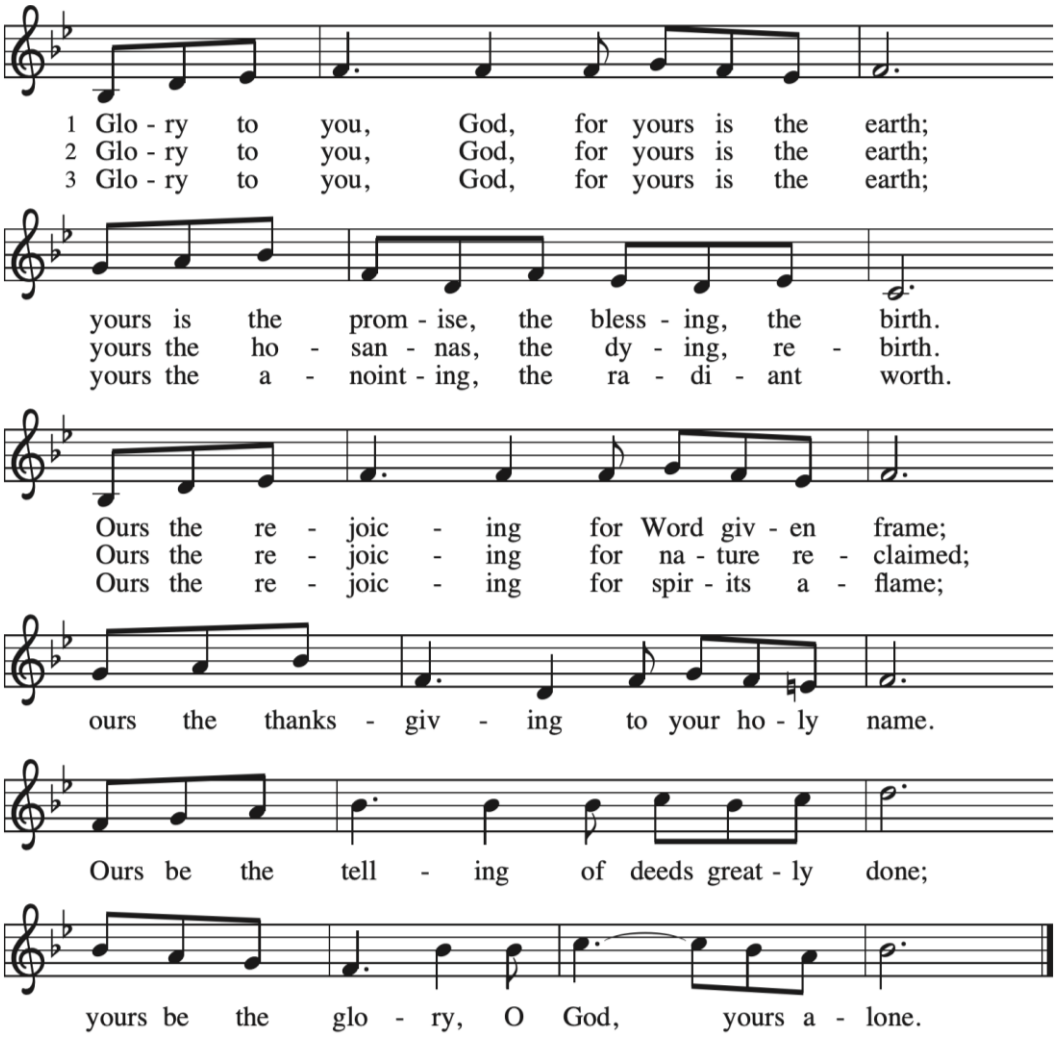




*** GREETING**

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

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

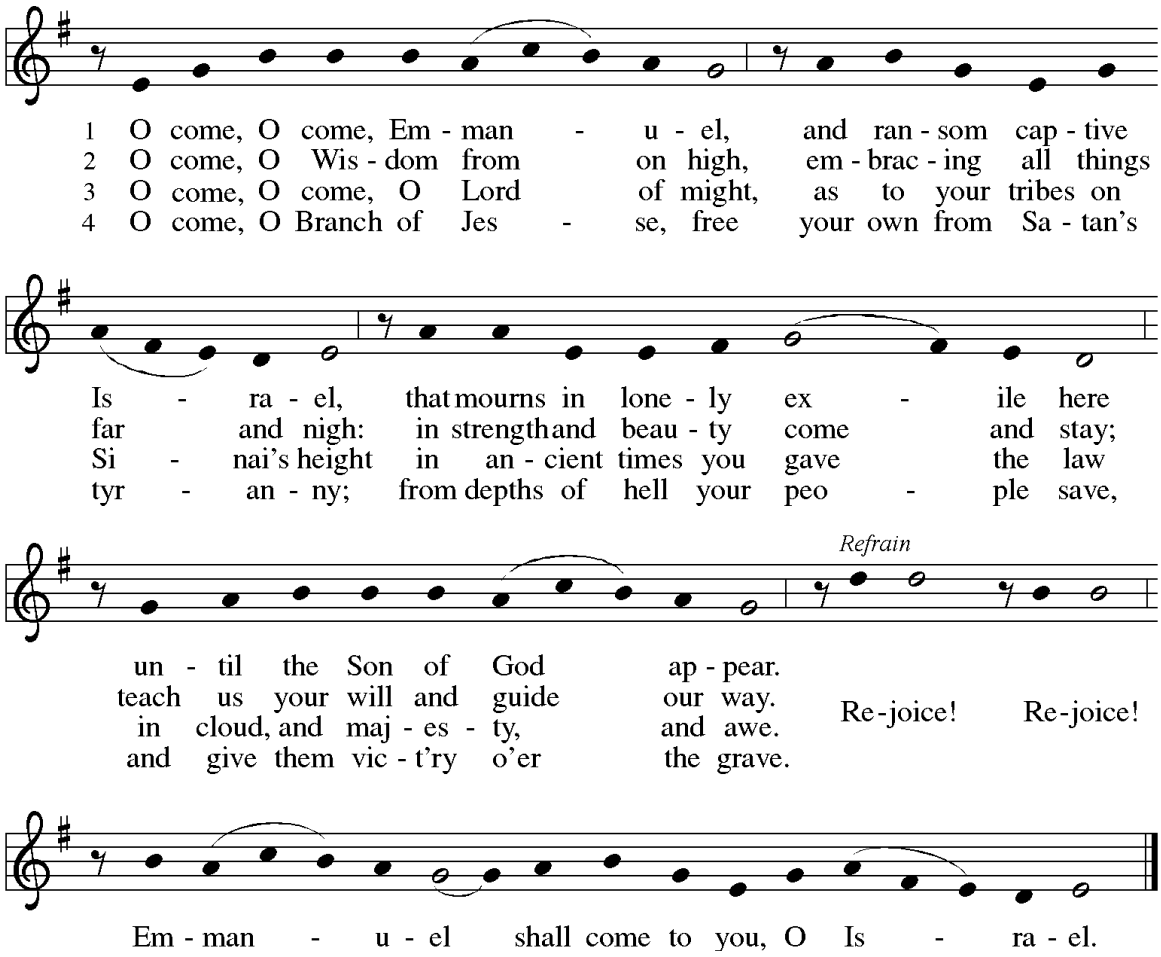


*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" *(verse 1 only)* ELW 257



FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

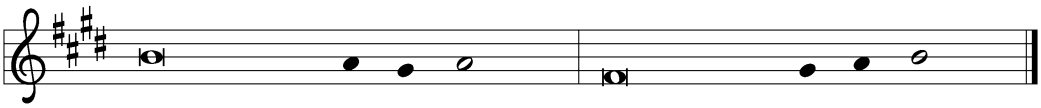
A reading from the prophet Isaish.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(spoken at 8:15)* Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
O Lord | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

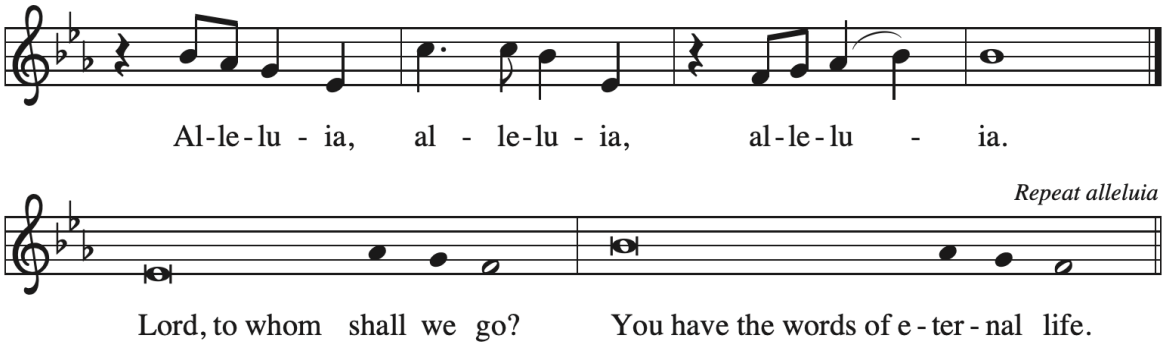
A reading from First Corinthians.

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 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 whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



*** GOSPEL** Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Marc.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 the 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.

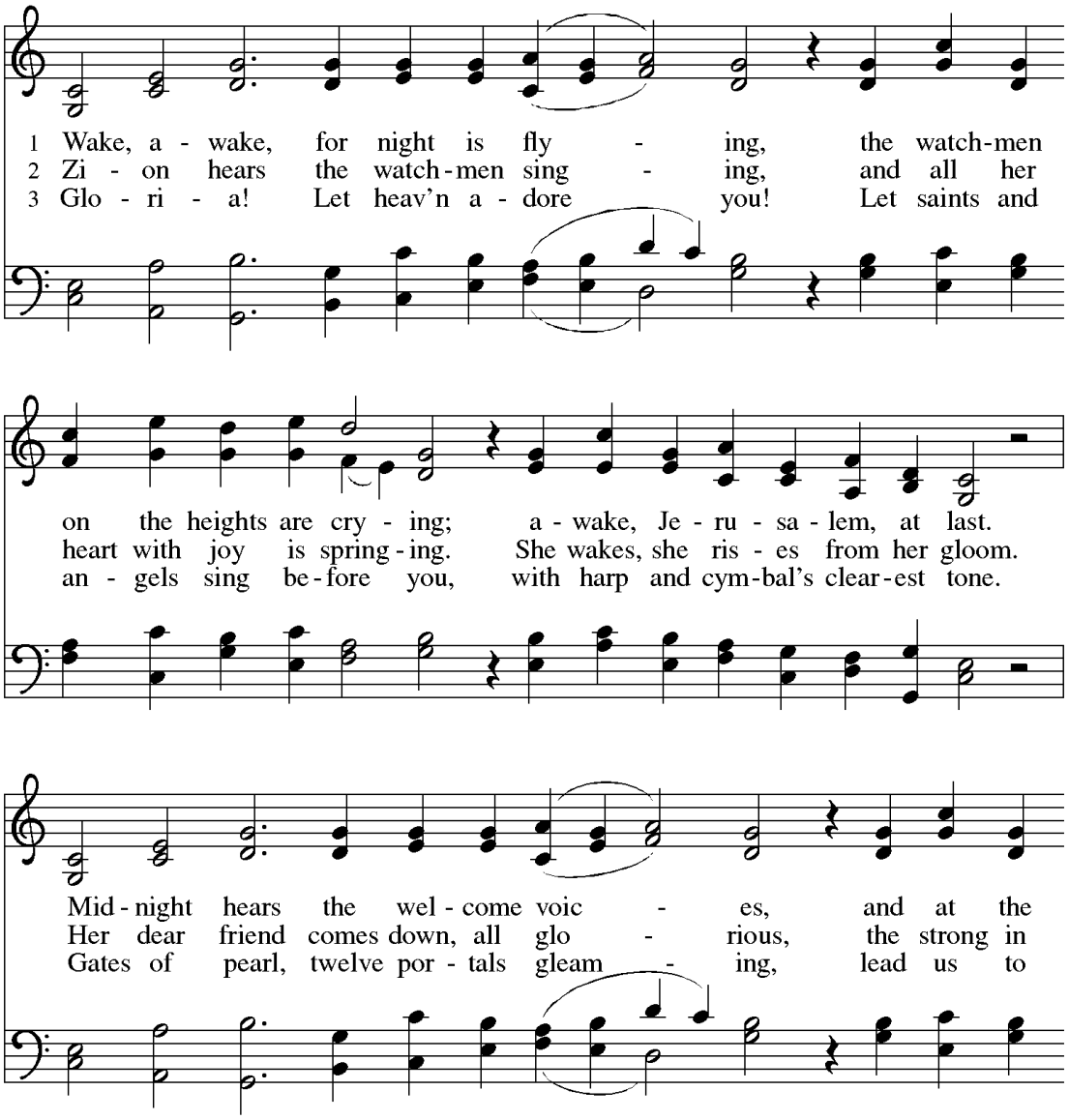
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and

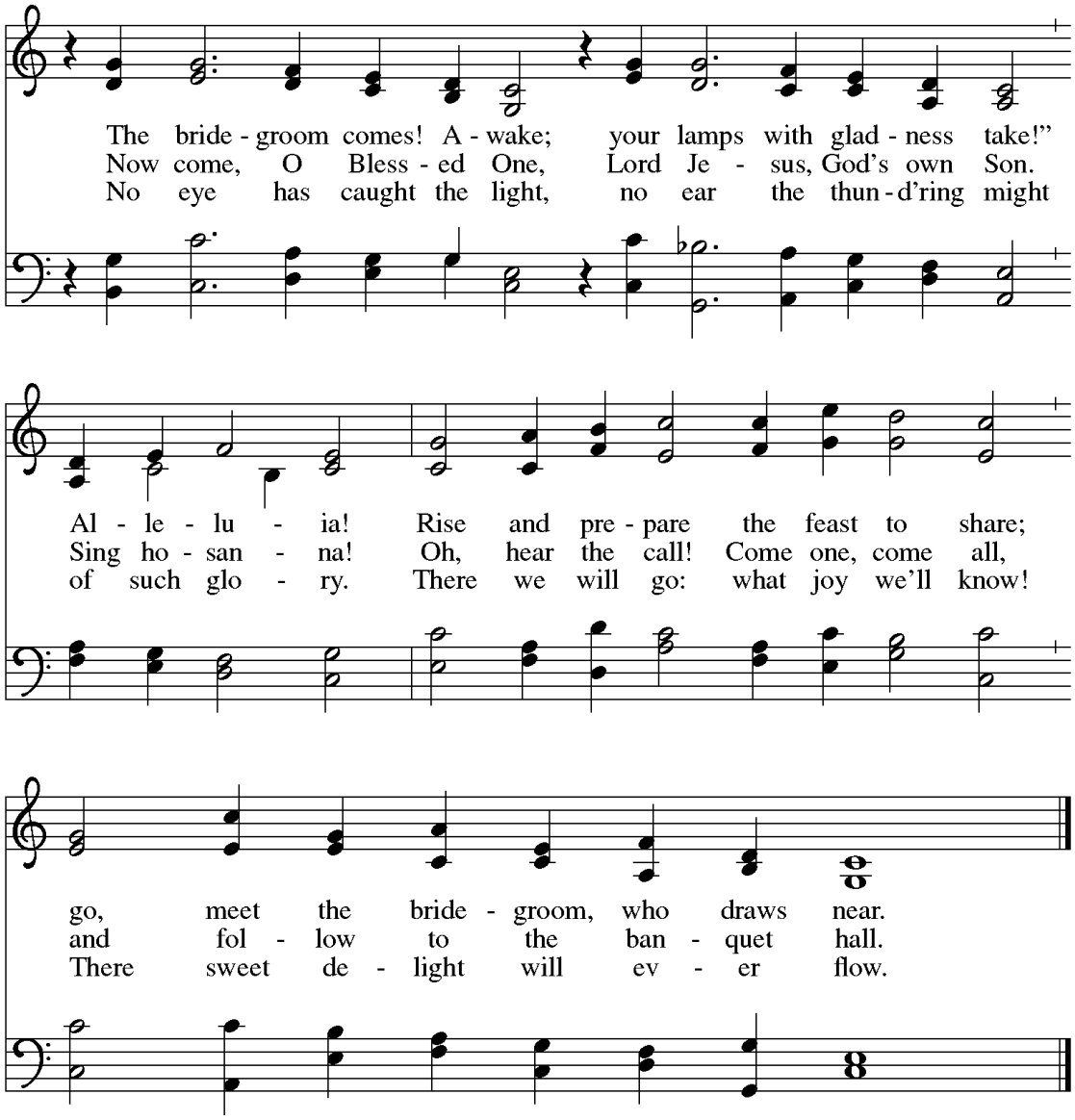
commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME AND SERMON Pastor Greg Mileski

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**
"Wake, Wake for Night Is Flying" ELW 436





NICENE CREED

With praise and gratitude, we 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.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As is our custom, please face one another across the center aisle. The deacon invites us to prayer and offers the first intercession. As you are moved to pray, you are invited to pray any of the following intercessions aloud.

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry especially Bobby, Dan, Don, Heather, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

*** PEACE**

Keep your hands together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

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

ANTHEM Craig Courtney/Susan Bentall Boersma: The Yearning

MEAL

***OFFERING PRAYER**

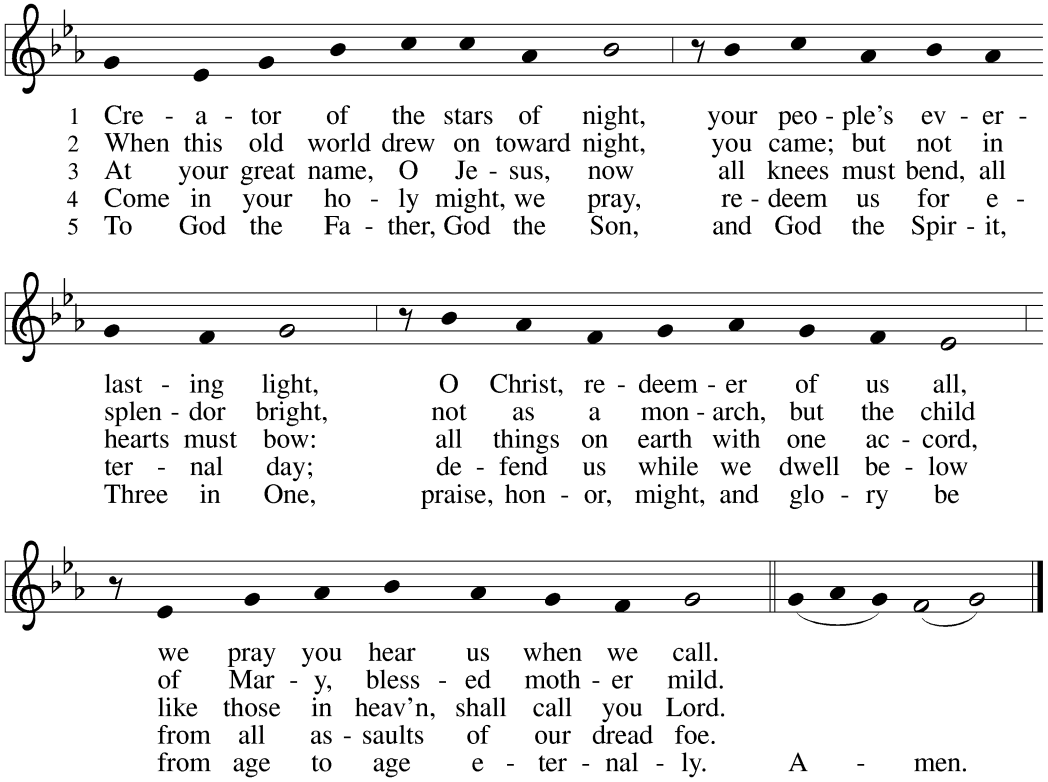
Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning the QR code. You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate as it passes through congregation.

***OFFERTORY**

Creator of the Stars of Night *(verses 1 and 2)* ELW 245

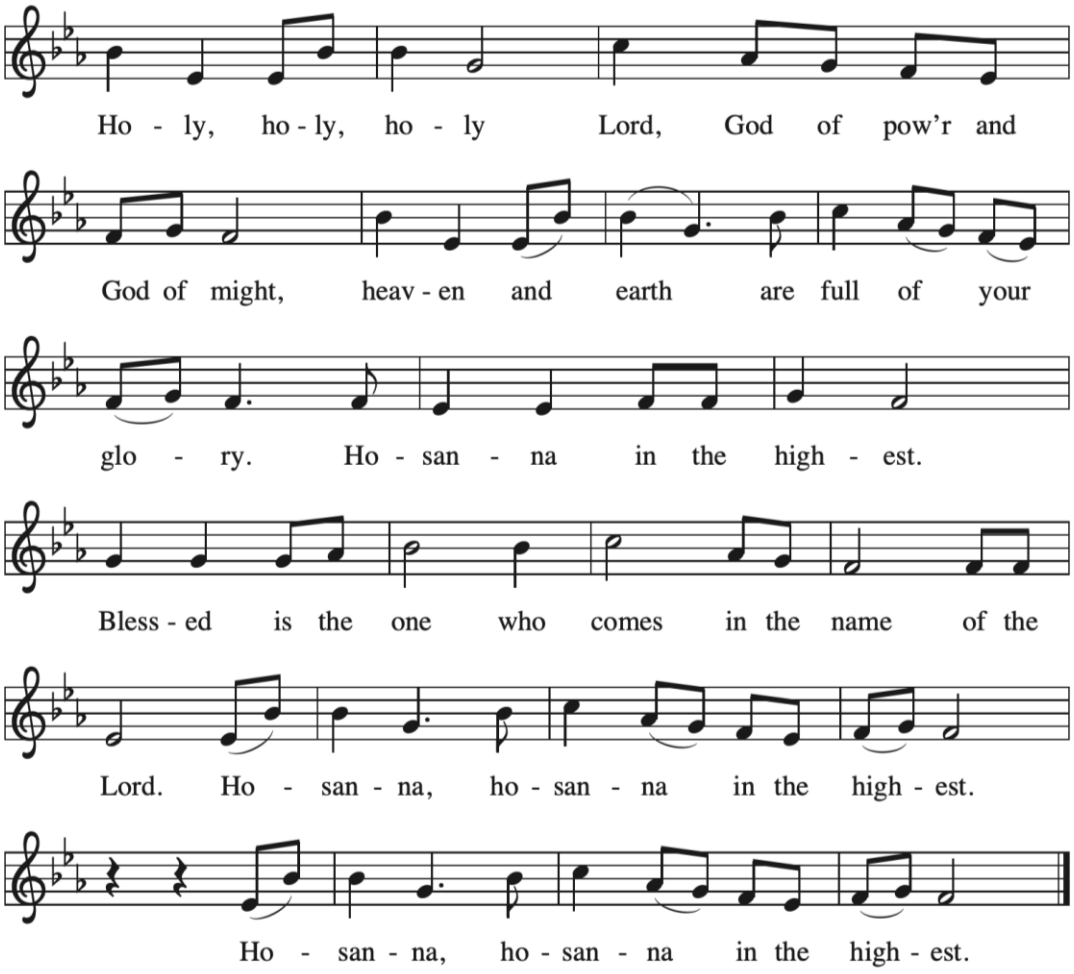


*** GREAT THANKSGIVING**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and raise 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:



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, he 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.

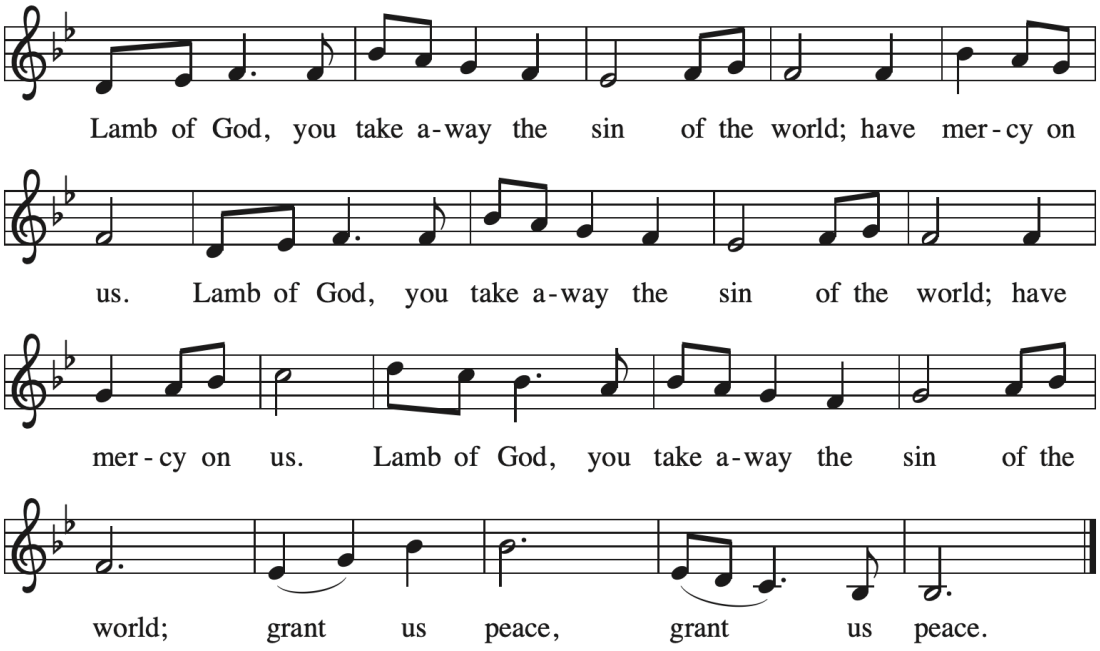
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

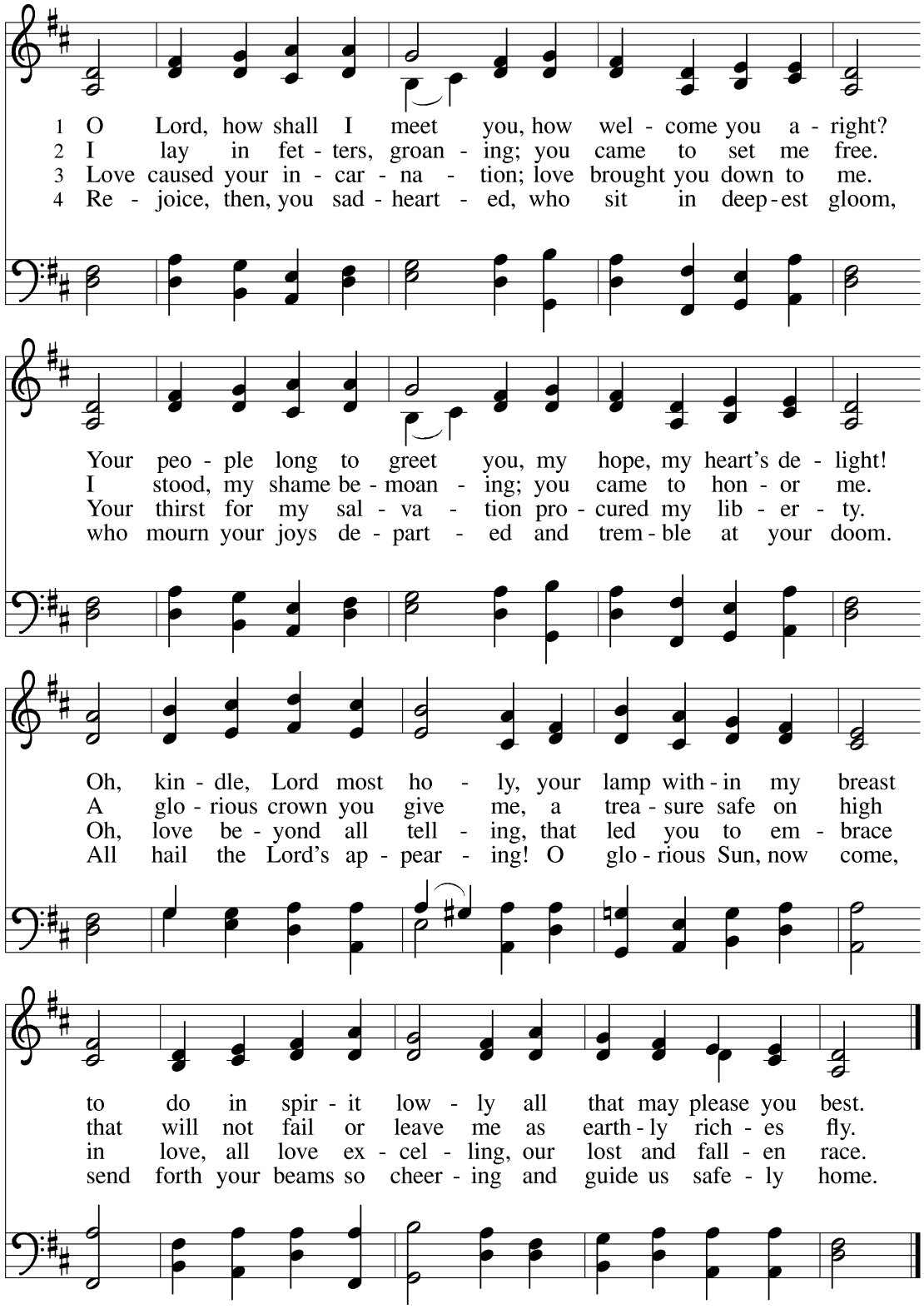
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray. Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



COMMUNION HYMN *(10:30 only)*
"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" ELW 241



*** TABLE BLESSING**
The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

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

*** BLESSING**

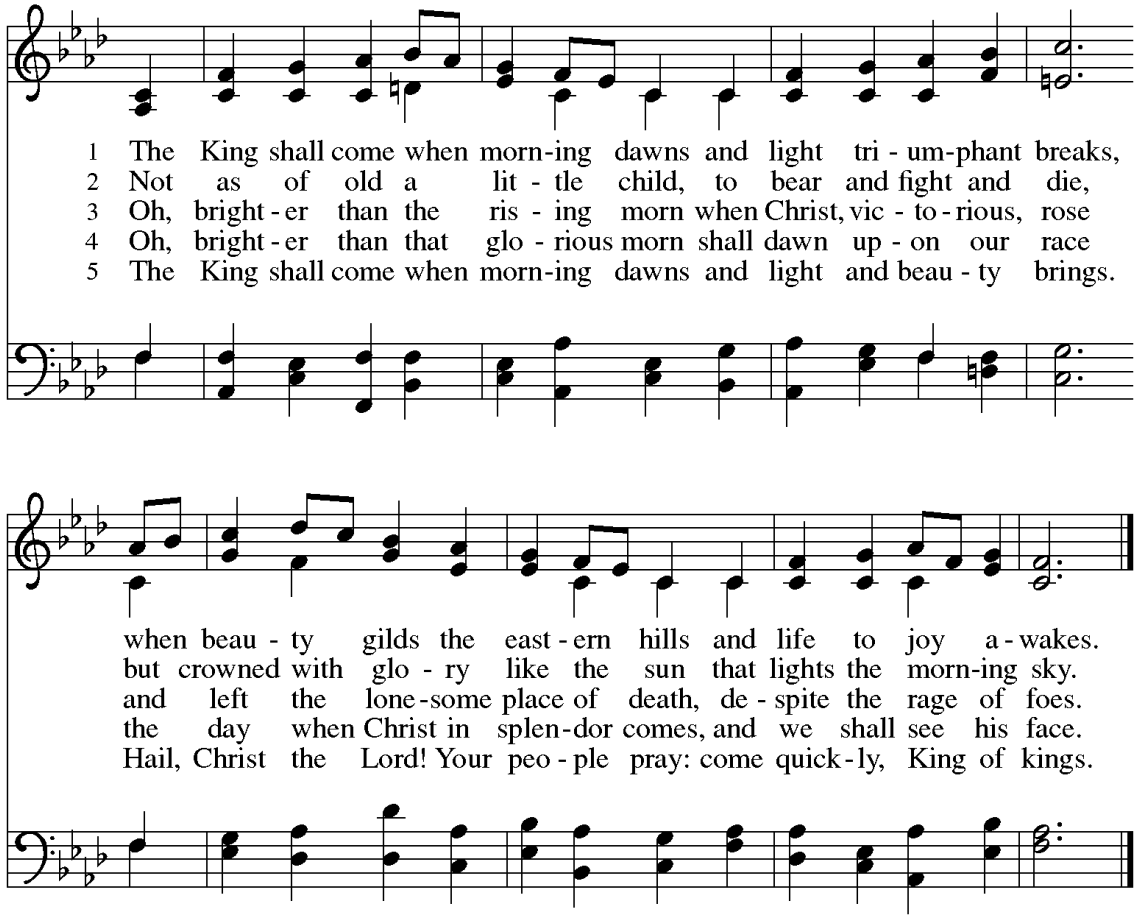
God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** SENDING HYMN**

"The King Shall Come" ELW 260



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE G. F. Handel (1685-1759): Sonata in D-major 2. Moderato

Joan Ellersick, viola

Ana Zecic Jeffers, piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CONGREGATIONOF ST. PAUL CALL PASTOR ALISSA OLESON!
Pastor Alissa Oleson will be St. Paul's next pastor! The members of St. Paul voted to call Pastor Alissa at a congregational meeting on November 8. She will be wrapping up her time with her current congregation and after some time off will begin her ministry at St. Paul on January 11.

Pastor Alissa was an intern at St. Paul in 2015-2016. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Alissa, her husband Aaron, and daughter Kora!

ADULT FORUM | Sundays at 9:30 AM
November 29 and December 6 - Professor Charles Hallisey will present his insights on points of contact between Shinran Buddhism and the New Finnish Interpretation of Luther's theology. Hallisey is the Yehan Numata Senior Lecturer on Buddhist Literatures at Harvard Divinity School. He happens also to be a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge. You can learn more about Professor Hallisey by listening to a faculty focus interview here: https://www.hds.harvard.edu/news/2023/4/14/faculty-focus-charles-hallisey-beauty-world-buddhist-studies-harvard.

THREE CONTEMPLATIVE WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT SERVICES | Wednesdays on December 2, 9 and 16 at 7PM in the sanctuary.
We'll welcome the advent season on Wednesday 12/2 with Holden Evening Prayer. The next week, on 12/9 we'll use meditative Taizé music and a guided relaxation and in the third week we'll use traditional Advent hymns in Prayer Around the Cross. All are welcome and there are opportunities for you to contribute to music leading, spiritual reflection, or other contemplative activities. Please contact John Christianson if you are interested or have questions: johnchristianson@me.com

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT | Sunday, December 21
We are holding our Christmas Pageant on December 21, during the learning hour. We invite all of our youth to join in. We have a variety of roles for all ages. You can sign up here: https://forms.gle/mGdbMN8Ng15NC6KPA or talk to Sarah Carter about your interest!

THANKS FOR THE GOOD START!
This year's pledge season is off to a good start. As of Nov 18, we have received 46 pledges committing just over $202,000. At this stage of 2027 budget development, the estimated target for congregational giving is $295-300,000. If you have pledged in the past but have not yet done so for next year, please pitch in as we prepare ourselves to enter this chapter of St. Paul's life on a strong financial footing. If you have not pledged in the past, this is a great moment to become a first-time pledger! Pledge cards are available in the upper narthex and can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

POINSETTIAS ORDERS | Due Sunday, November 29
An order form and be found by clicking here or paper order forms are in the upper narthex during Sunday Services. They are $12 and are in pink, white and red. Kelli Oliver will be collecting forms and payments if not paying for them through Givelify. Take them home after the 8PM Christmas Eve service.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION CLASS on NOVEMBER 29
We will not be having Sunday School or Confirmation Class on November 29. Instead, all are invited to join us in the Middle School Classroom for an advent craft.

ASCENTRIA HOLIDAY GIVING
Thank you to everyone who volunteered to fulfill the wishes of individuals in the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and Children Program. **The final day to bring gifts to church is this Sunday November 29.** We will be delivering the gifts to Ascentria early in the week so they can be wrapped by a different set of volunteers before giving them to the recipients.

SAINT PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*	stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com
Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*	anazecicjeffers@gmail.com
Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*	stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com
Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*	parishadmin@stpaularlington.org
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*	

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*
Sandy Walker, *Vice President*
Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*
Piercen Oliver, *Secretary*
Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*
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Eric Carlson
Elizabeth Heichler
Dave Hering
Kathleen Kean
Kevin Kreutter
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Altar Guild	Kelli Oliver
Faith Formation Committee	Bev Hjorth
Intern Committee	Kristen Anderson
Social Ministry Committee	Janice Sniffen
Nomination Committee	Taryn Walsh
Worship & Music Committee	John Christiansen
Finance Committee	Eric Haugen
Audit Committee	Eric Haugen
Usher Committee	Dan Ries & Andy Airasian
Property Committee	Eric Carlson
Call Committee	Sandy Walker

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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