St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
SUNDAY November 29th, 2026



WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Sue Ambrosic in honor of all God's Kitchen Angels.

Introduction

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Readings and Psalm
Isaiah 64:1-9
Prayer that God would come with power and compassion
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. *(Ps. 80:7)*
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end
Mark 13:24-37
The sudden coming of the Son of Man

Today's Hymns from the Tower Church Carillon

The Westminster Strike
Announcements
Prelude: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645- Johann Sebastian Bach

First Week for Advent Prayer - Hope Candle

Scripture Reading:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. - Isaiah 9:6-7

Wreath Prayer:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Keep us watchful and ready for the signs of your return, keep us from being overcome with anxiety and sorrow, and keep us faithful to the end; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

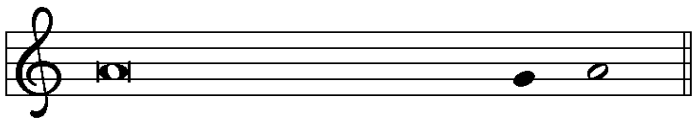
Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the old testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture.

That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

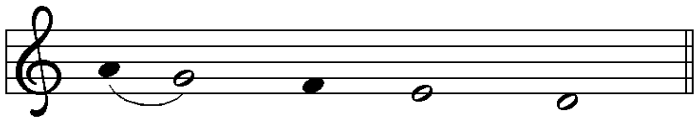
GATHERING SONG Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending **ELW 435**

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.

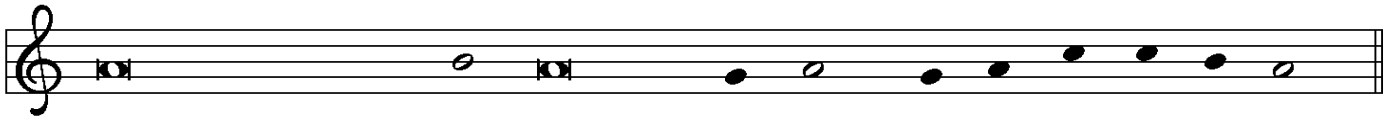
KYRIE



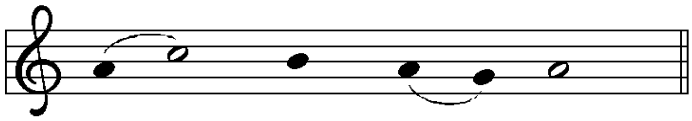
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



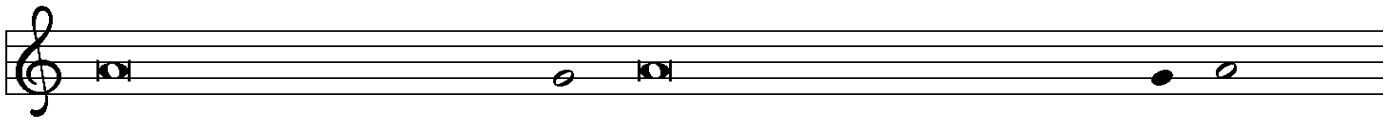
Lord, have mer - cy.



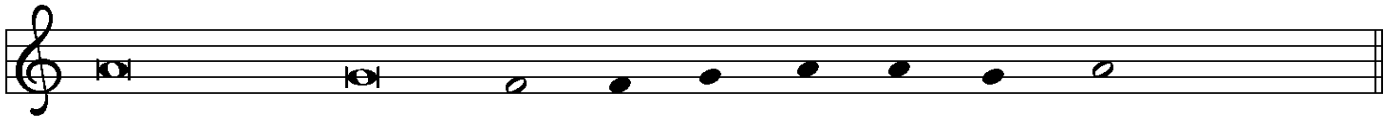
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



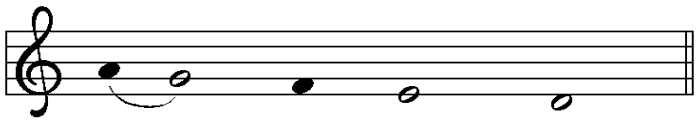
Lord, have mer - cy.



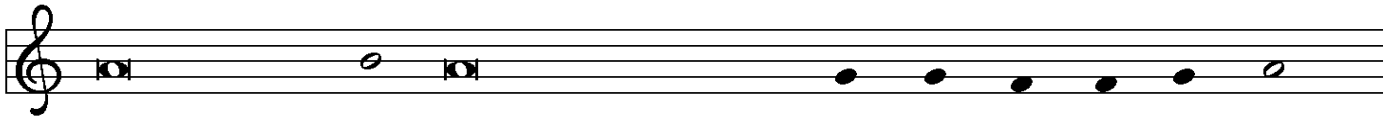
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



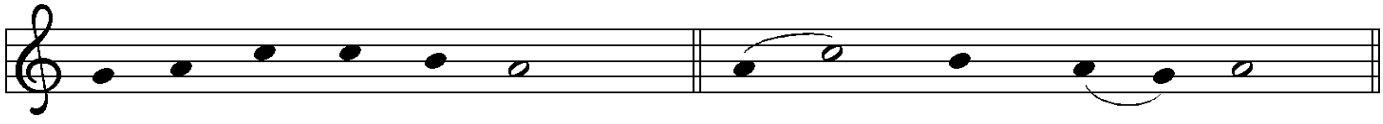
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



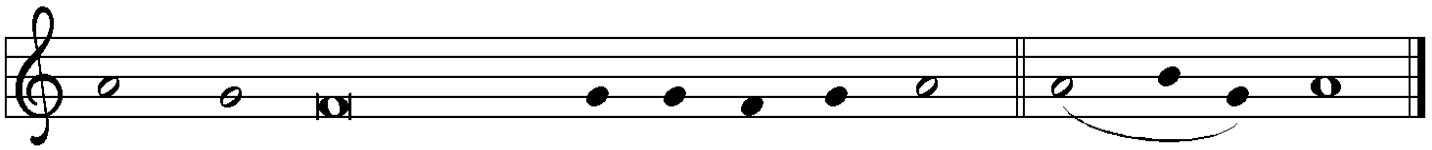
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
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.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 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!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 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.
5 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.
6 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.
7 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.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 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.

Anthem O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. Patrick Liebergen
Sammy Kay Smith, soprano

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel. O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

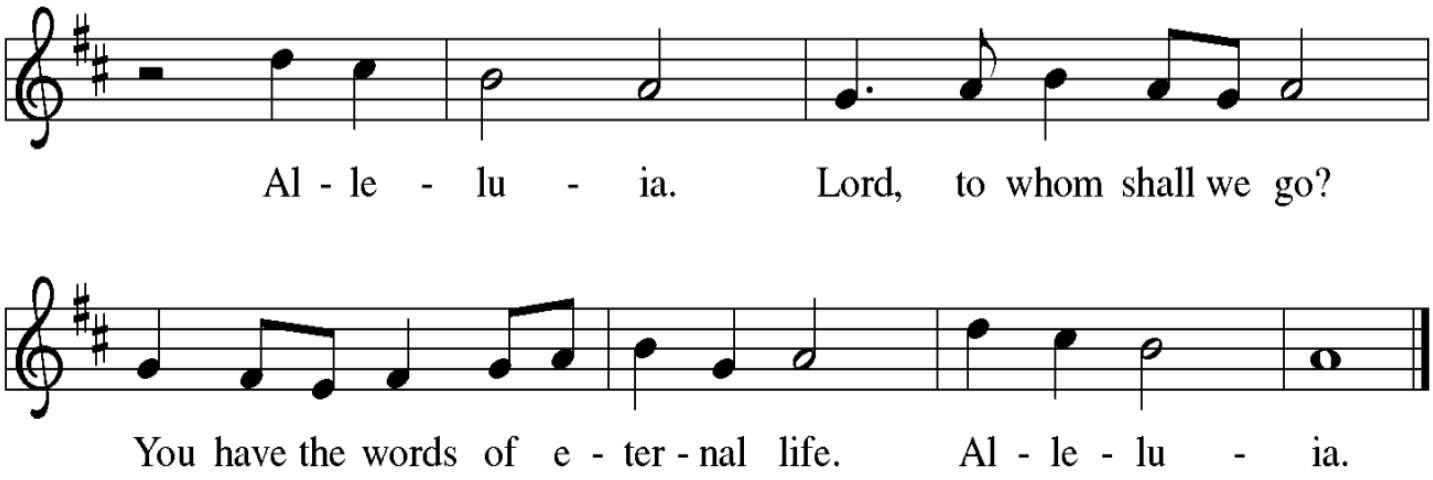
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in
speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been
strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for
the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so
that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 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 Mark, the 13th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 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.

28 "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. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 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. 35 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, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

SERMON *Rev. Mark Kreemer*

HYMN OF THE DAY Christ, Be Our Light **ELW 715**

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each petition the following response is given:
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

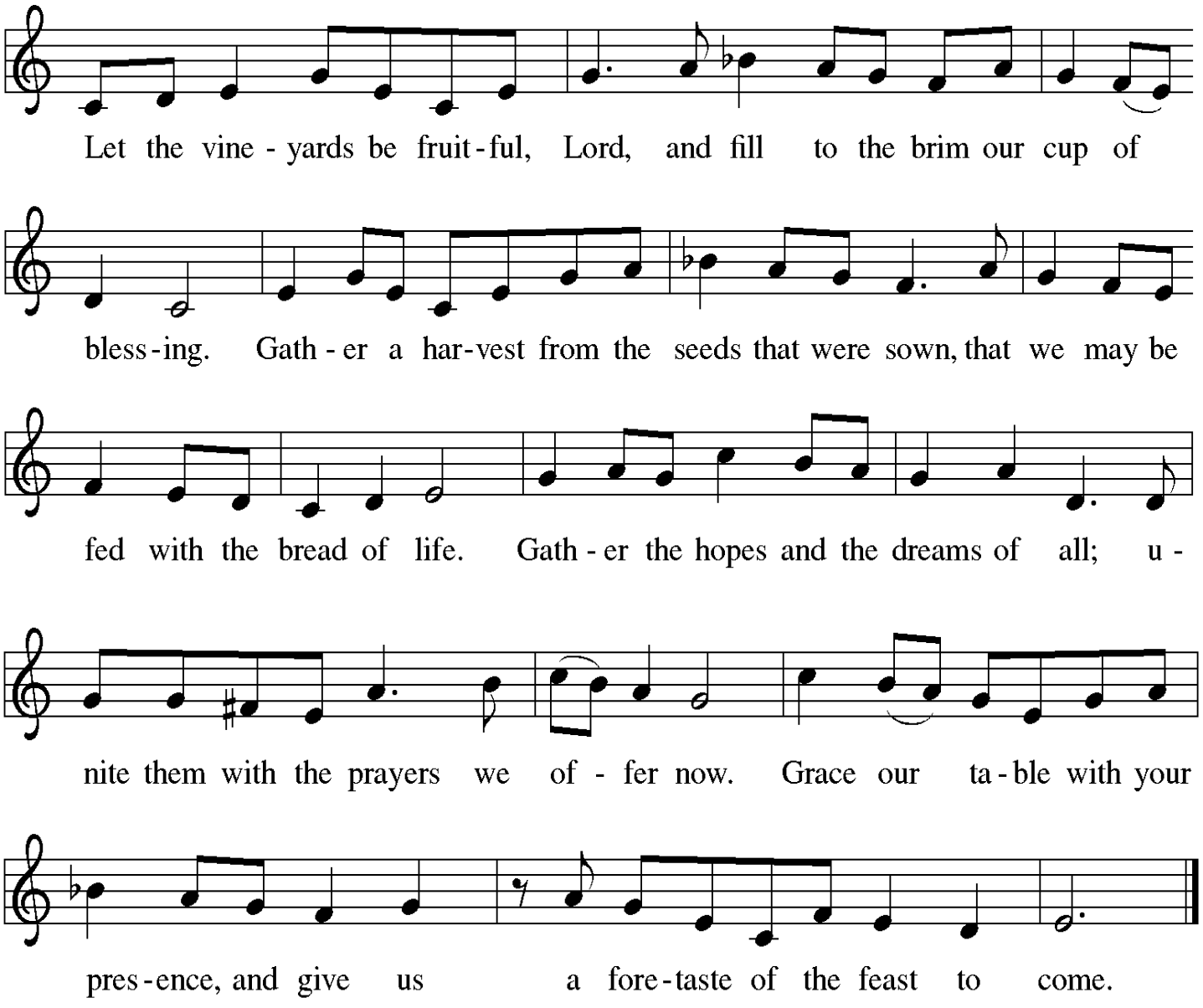
We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Offertory: Prepare the Way of the Lord Penny Rodriguez

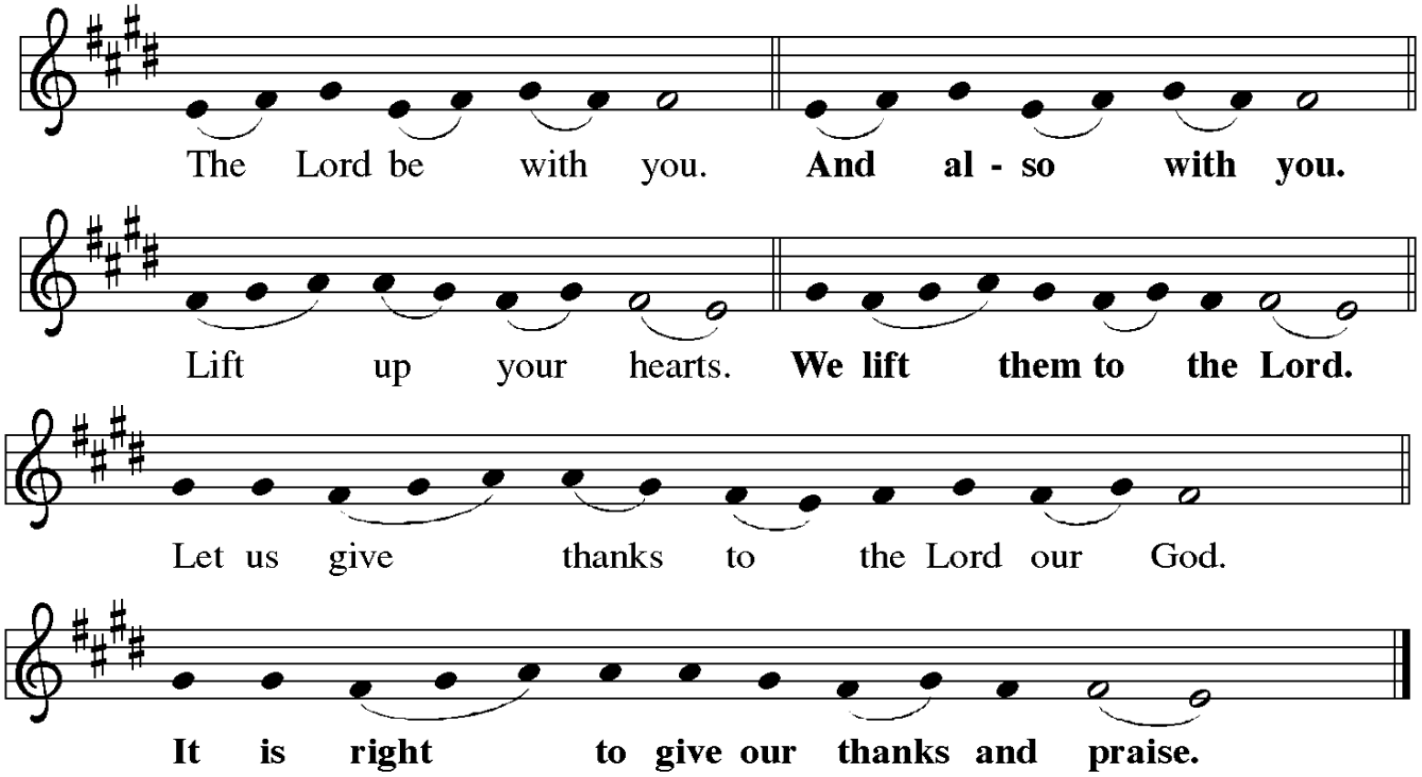
Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
The mountains made low, the rugged places plain.



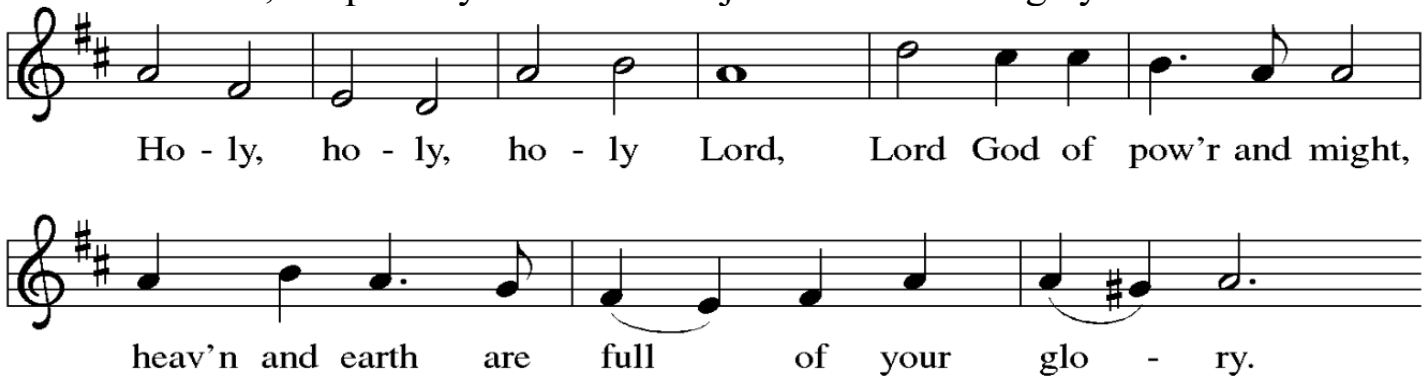
OFFERING PRAYER

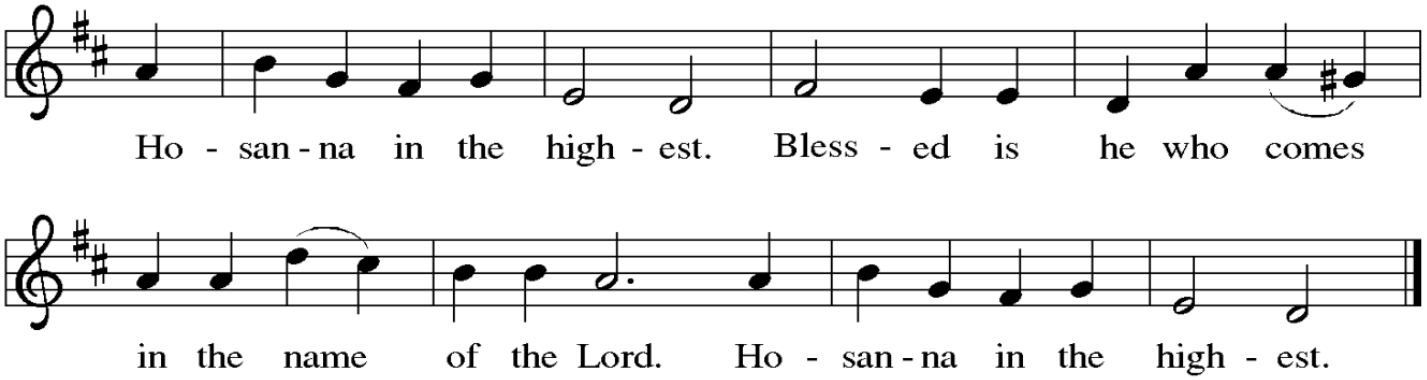
Let us pray.
Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places…. 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:



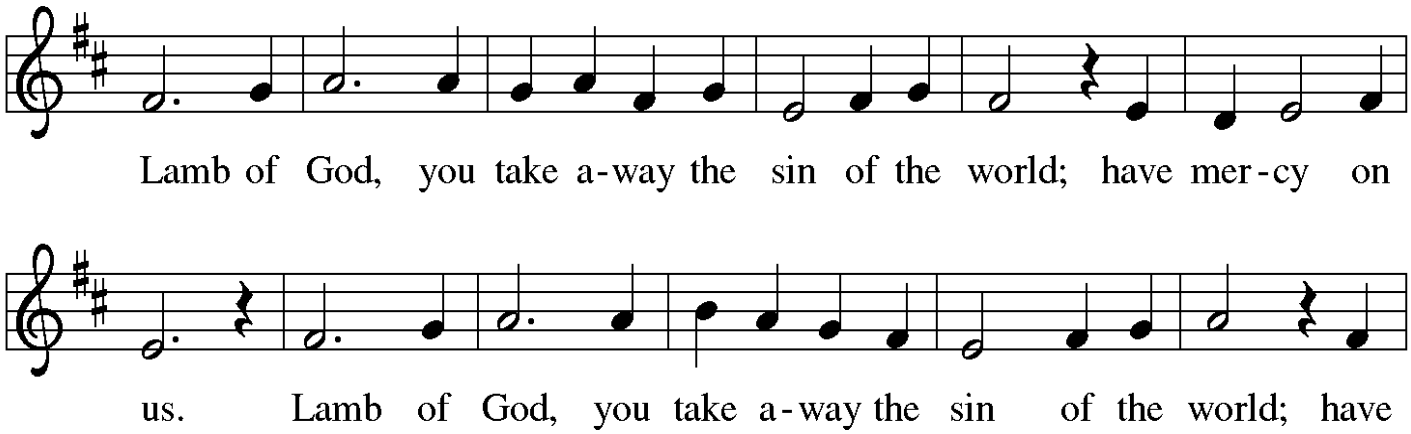


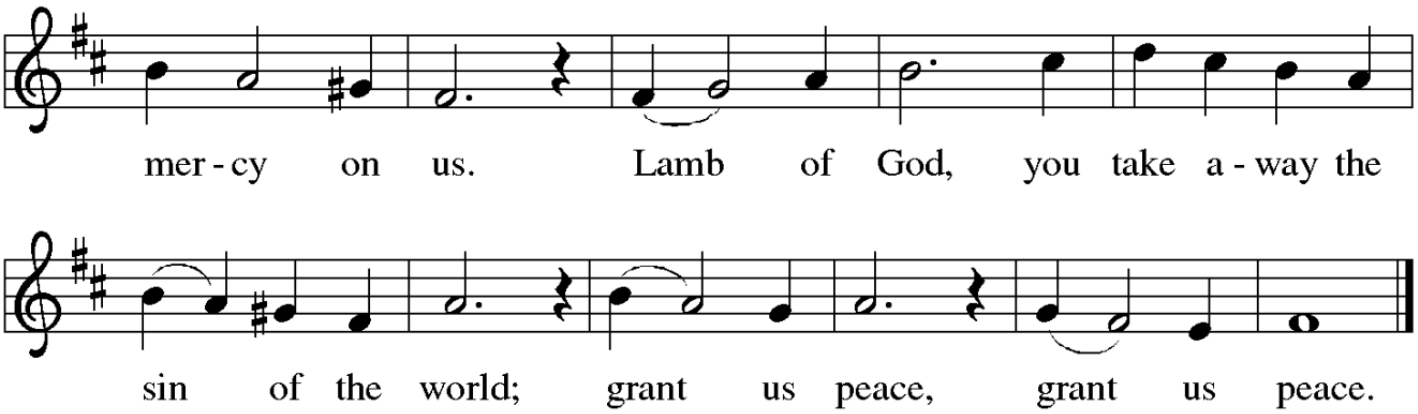
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Invitation to Communion
The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.





COMMUNION HYMN: Suite No. 1 In G Major, BWV 1007- Bach
Eleanor Manes, steelpan

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 SONG Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding **ELW 246**

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

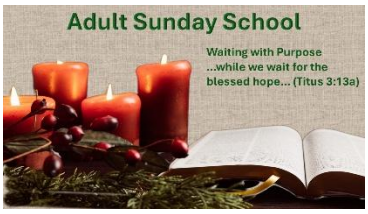
Postlude: Fughetta on 'People Look East'- Richard Shepard (1949-2021)

In our prayers today we will remember
The Fox Family, Ken Mifflin, Mary Ellen Gresser, Cindy Lash, Gary Maurer, Richard Green, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Judy Hall, Sandra Jelen, Jimmy Southard, Mark Gergley, Chad Byington.

Adult Choir Rehearsals

Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am
All are welcome!
Join us at 8:30 AM in the choir room to make a joyful noise. All are welcome!





Adult Sunday School
Waiting with Purpose

…***while we wait for the blessed hope***… (Titus 3:13a)

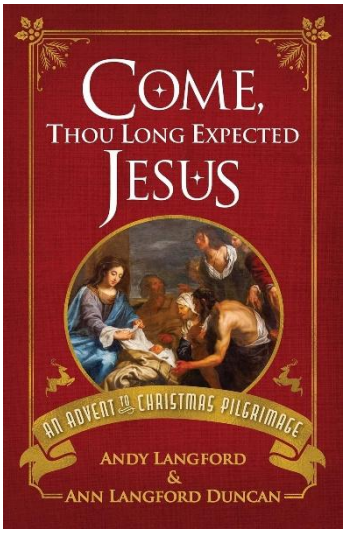
The Season of Advent is all about waiting. But how should we wait? Does more clearly understanding what we are waiting for affect how we wait? We will complete our study of Jeremiah and let God's message through the prophet help us answer these questions. The class gathers for Bible study and fellowship at 11:30, top floor Parish Hall, following Sunday morning worship. An elevator is available for easy access. Come and meaningfully wait with us!



Let us know you are here.

Please sign the St. Paul's Friendship Register at the end of your pew.





Thursday Morning Bible Study @ 10:00 am

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
by Andy Langford

Open your heart to the good news of Christmas

The Christian year is fundamentally a roadmap for pilgrims, as biblical witnesses lead spiritually hungry people on a journey to receive the full riches of God's grace. During Advent, we take the first steps.

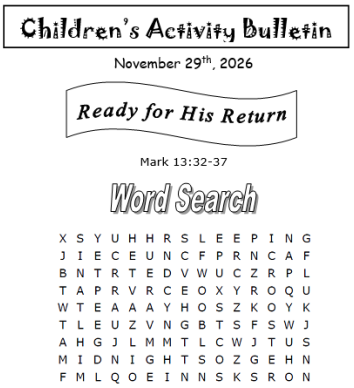
In *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*, Andy Langford and Ann Langford Duncan invite you on an Advent-to-Christmas pilgrimage to draw closer to Jesus and invite others to join you on this journey. Traditional Scripture readings and acts of worship reveal anew the treasures of God's grace for all people. Let this book guide you to open your heart to the priceless gifts of the good news. Start your pilgrimage today and experience the full riches of God's love.



Color the picture of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Then, beginning December 1st, color one star each day until Christmas.

Children's Activity Bulletins

Crayons and Children's Activity Bulletins are available at the side entrance. These are a fun way to spread today's Gospel to our younger ones.


Children's Activity Bulletin
November 29th, 2026
Ready for His Return
Mark 13:32-37
Word Search

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



Handbell Choir

The Handbell choir will rehearsals on **11/11**, **11/18**, and **12/2** in preparation to ring on **December 6** in worship **AND** for the **Candlelight Walk**.
We meet at 6 pm. All are welcome, but please, please let Abby know if you plan to ring so she can prepare music for you!



Our homebound members' Christmas gift bags will be available for delivery December 10th.

Organ Repair Donations

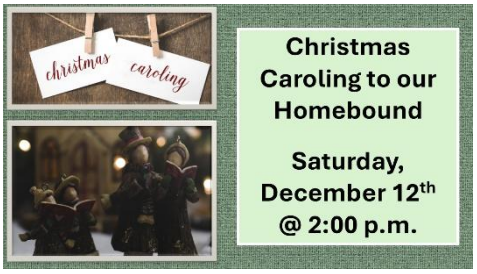
If you wish to make donations specifically for organ repair, please mark your envelopes as such. If you give electronically, see Dan Farrar for details.





St. Paul's Steelband

Join us for weekly classes at **6pm**. The focus is on learning. If you've never walked near a steel drum, and want to learn, we have something for you!
Please join us on any Wednesday!
*** *On **12/2, we will hold class at 5 pm due to bell choir practice.***



Christmas Caroling to our Home Bound

Make plans to join us for Christmas caroling **on Saturday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m**. This is a great chance to feel and share the true spirit of Christmas with our homebound members. We will break into groups and go off in different directions to sing and bring Christmas cheer to these special members of our congregation. When the singing is done, plan to return to church to share a meal together.
Please help us plan for dinner by signing up. Signup sheets will be in the lounge and the portico.

Angel Tree Gift Tags

- Angel Tree gift tags are available in Portico
- The tags will have suggested gift ideas for children and families in need this Christmas Season.
- Please return your ***unwrapped*** **gift** to the church by **December 10th**, you may also drop them at the Salvation Army.



Parents and children will then get to pick a gift for their loved one and wrap it themselves.
****If you have a specific gift for a specific child, please see Barb Palmer.**

Massillon's Community Candlelight Walk - Dec. 6th – 5 to 7:30pm

Take a self-guided stroll through downtown Massillon among luminarias and Christmas lights to visit nine historic churches and six community attractions. Stops include live music, storytelling, free refreshments, and entertainment. Free maps will be available at any venue where walkers begin their routes. The free public event will culminate in a musical program and Massillon's traditional candle lighting ceremony at St. Mary's Church.



Scan the QR code for more information.

Christmas Food Baskets

Welfare and Social Committee will collect nonperishable food and miscellaneous items for our Community Meal families for Christmas. The items will be distributed at our Community Meal on Friday, December 11th.



We will begin collecting in October. Please place your donations in the box located at the side entrance of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have questions, please contact Barb Palmer at 330.244.1602.

- Oct. 18th – Tea and coffee
- Oct. 28th – Peanut butter and jelly
- Nov. 1st – Canned soups and pork & beans
- Nov. 8th – Cereal and mixes (cake, brownies, muffins)
- Nov. 15th – Canned fruits & vegetables
- Nov. 22nd – Spaghetti sauce, pasta, instant potatoes
- Nov. 29th – Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper)
- Dec. 6th – Bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrush

Advent Services



All Advent Services will be held at 7 pm at a different Massillon Lutheran Church

Pastor Ash December 2nd Faith Lutheran
Why did God choose such an ordinary and vulnerable way to enter the world?
Primary Scripture readings

- **Luke 2:1–20** – The birth of Jesus in a manger, announced first to shepherds. God enters the world without earthly privilege, power, or recognition.
- **Philippians 2:5–11** – Christ empties himself, taking the form of a servant. This passage offers a theological explanation of God's humility in Jesus.
- **Isaiah 9:2–7** – The promise of a child who will bring light, justice, and peace.

Pastor Mark December 9th Holy Trinity
What does it mean to celebrate Christmas when someone is experiencing grief, loneliness, or hardship?
Primary Scripture readings:

- **Isaiah 9:2–7** – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. Christmas is a promise of hope even when life feels dark.
- **John 1:1–14** – The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. God enters our human experience rather than remaining distant from it.
- **Luke 2:25–38** – Simeon and Anna have waited through long seasons of life before encountering the Christ child. Their stories speak to waiting, hope, and faithfulness.

Pastor Tina December 16th Christ Lutheran
Why did Herod feel so threatened by the birth of Jesus?
Primary Scripture readings:

- **Matthew 2:1–18** – The visit of the Magi, Herod's fear, the slaughter of the innocent children, and the flight into Egypt.
- **1 Samuel 18:6–16** – King Saul becomes jealous and fearful of David's growing popularity and sees him as a threat.
- **John 18:33–37** – Jesus speaks with Pilate about his kingdom and the nature of his kingship.

Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.

You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the WaveCAST app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: Network: sound media Password: Sound127



Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "**My Church**" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing **STPLC APP**.
Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search ***"Massillon Area Churches"***

Facebook, Search ***"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon"***

Or ***"Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's***



Church Directory

The Church Directory is now available on request. A printed copy will cost $2.25 An electronic copy (PDF) will be free of charge
You can request either or both formats by contacting the church office:
330.832.7409 or officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org
No copies will be issued to non-members.

Scholarship Application/Renewal Deadline Approaching



It's time to apply for/renew scholarship applications for the 2027 spring semester.

All renewal applications are sent via email to the recipients from the previous semester.

New applicants can request an application **starting November 1st** by emailing the church office at OfficeAdmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

DEADLINE to be considered for the scholarship is **December 1st, 2026**. Scholarship recipients will then be voted upon by the Scholarship Committee. Recipients will be notified, and rewards will be sent via postal mail to the address on the application within the month of December.

Christmas Eve Services

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Choose one or both of our Christmas Eve Services

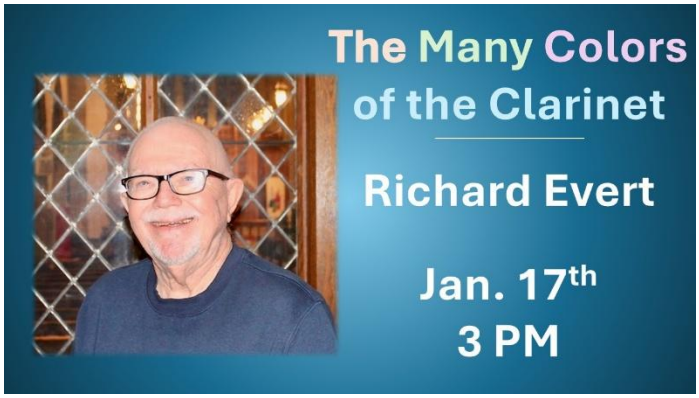
- 7 PM - Family Service & Special Solo Music
- 10 PM - Brass Music
- 10:30 PM - Worship Service with Special Music by the Choir



The Many Colors of the Clarinet – Richard Evert

Join us on January 17th, 2027 at 3 PM as we celebrate Richard's 76 years of playing the clarinet. Included will be music by Rael, Joplin, Mangani, MacNaughton, and others. Richard will be assisted by:

- Abby Haake, piano
- Heather Evert, violin
- Eleanor Manes, Drum



Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister	**Rev. Mark Kreemer**
Director of Music	**Dr. Abigail Haake**
Assisting Minister	**Karl Kalk**
Lector	**Scott Larson**
Greeters	**Jackie Pritchett**
Communion Assistants	**Lynda Klein & David Stoner**
Sacristan	**Becky Johnson**
Ushers	**Chuck Gesen, Dick Longworth, Chuck Richards & Mike Skelly**
Acolytes	**Scott Larson, Thomas Haake**
Soundboard	**Jim Johnson**
Video/Live-Stream	**John Stanko**

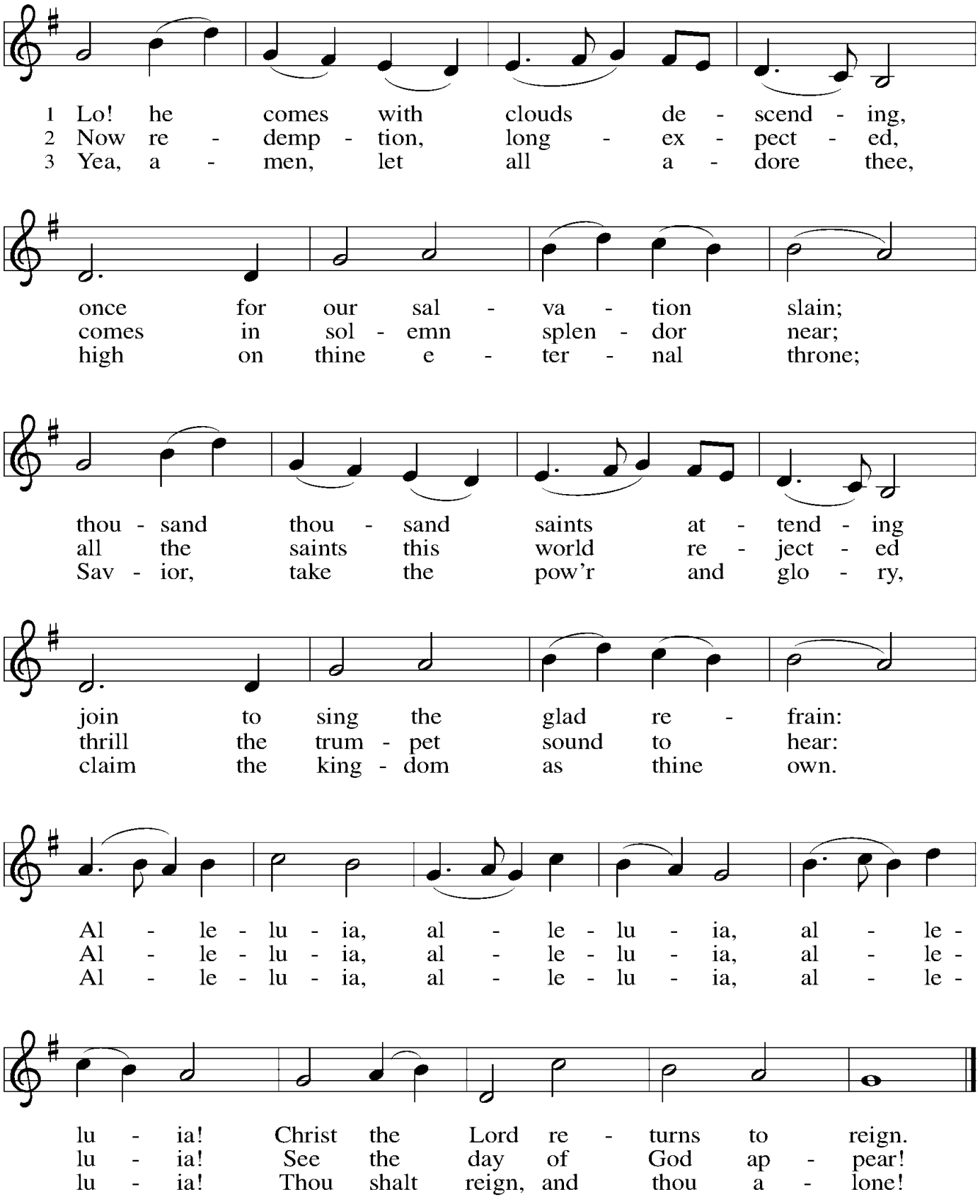
Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # **SAS027923**
Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

GATHERING SONG Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending **ELW 435**
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

HYMN OF THE DAY Christ, Be Our Light **ELW 715**
Public Domain

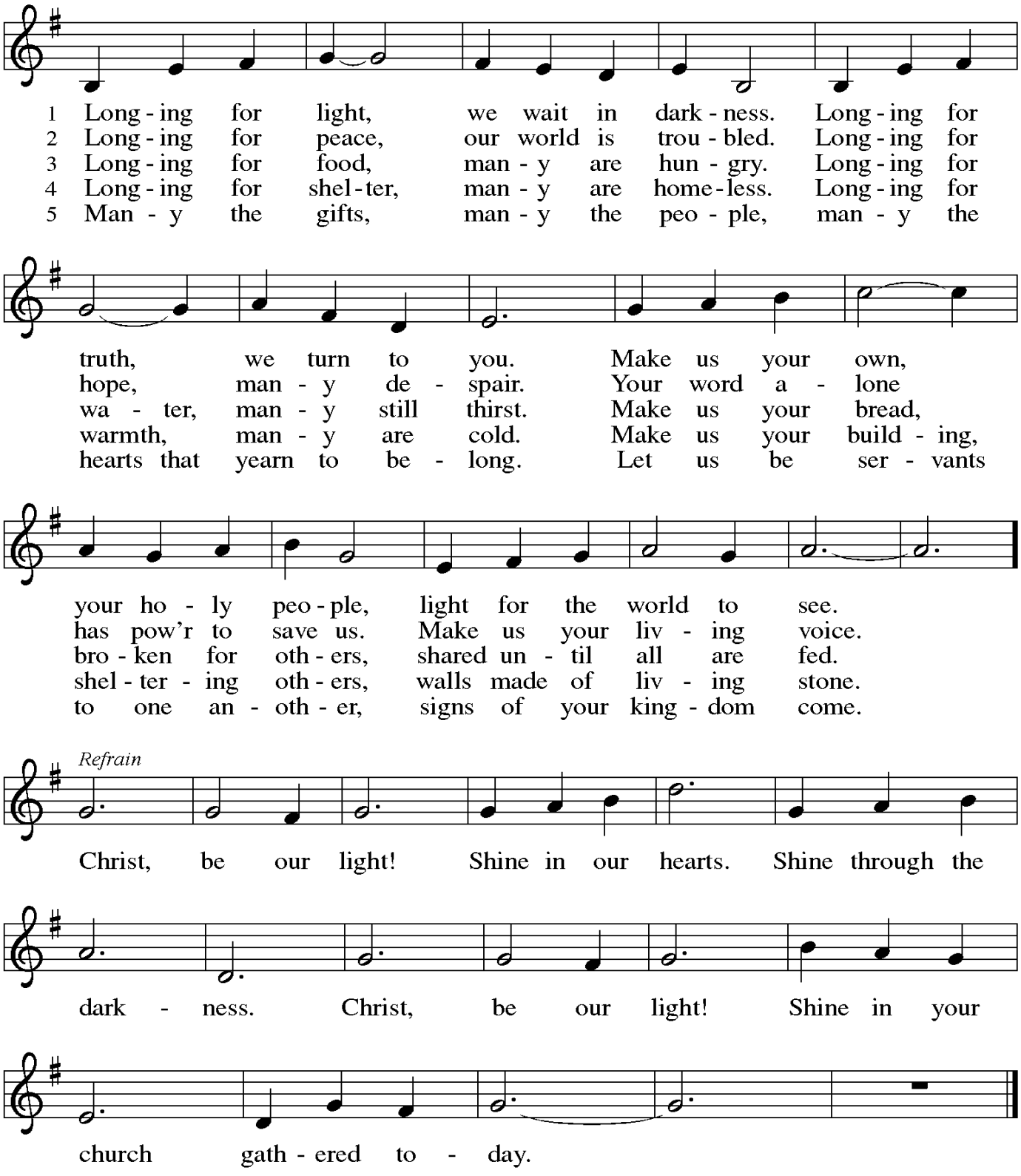
SENDING SONG Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding **ELW 246**
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

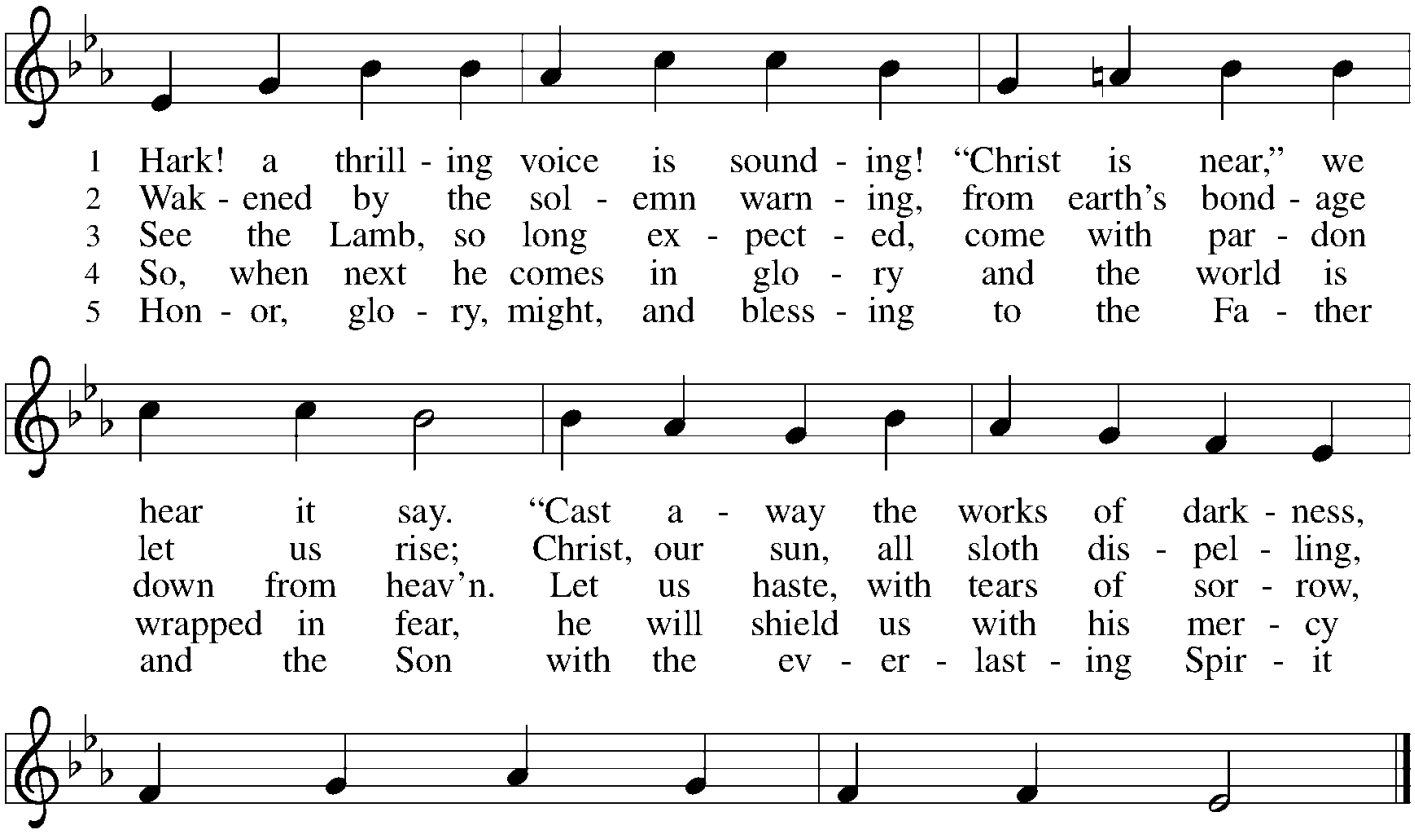
Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889