FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

+ November 29, 2026 +
10:00 am



Redeemer Lutheran Church
300 O'Neal Road
Greer, South Carolina
Office (864) 877-5876

OLD PROBLEMS NEW BEGINNINGS

By now the last of the leaves have likely fallen from trees in northern climes, and any still holding on look dry and dead. In some places, snow has arrived, and its thick blanket shows the stains of filth and grime, reminding us of the waste we are pouring over the land and into the water. This is the season we begin a new year in the life of the church and, as with our worship, we begin with a confession of our participation in the world's suffering.

Heavy hearts and burdened consciences will relate to the prophet's confession, "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" (Isa. 64:6). Just as nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, Mark addresses us with promises that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will include the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Hold on, there is hope!

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).



Ministers	The People of Redeemer
Pastor	The Rev. Elise T. Stringer
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Jackie Pitts
Director of Music Ministries	Mrs. Donna Cotter

Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US this First Sunday of Advent. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts at (864) 877-5876.

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.

WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND SPEAK QUIETLY.

PRELUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**

The prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism.

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

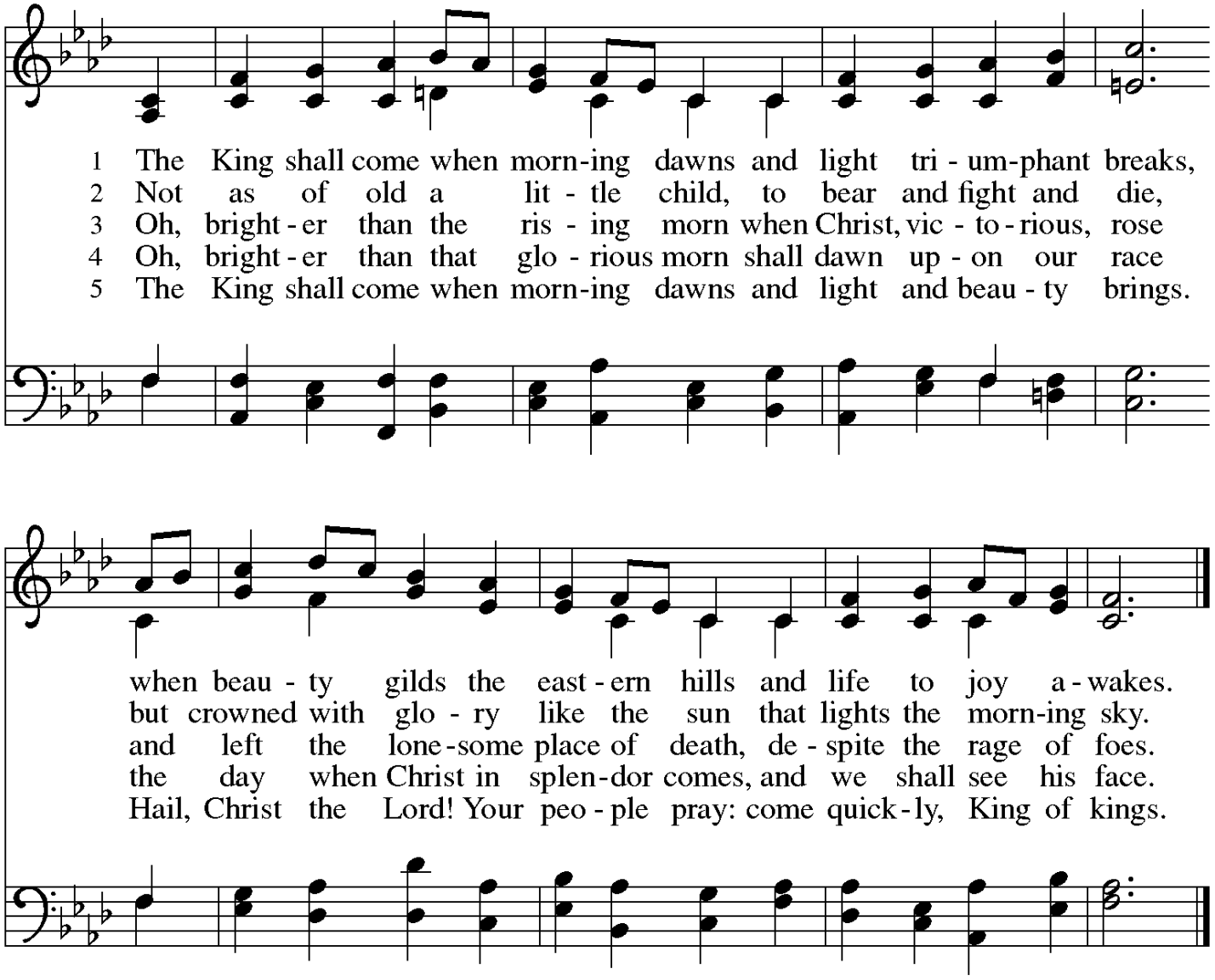
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *THE KING SHALL COME* **ELW #260**

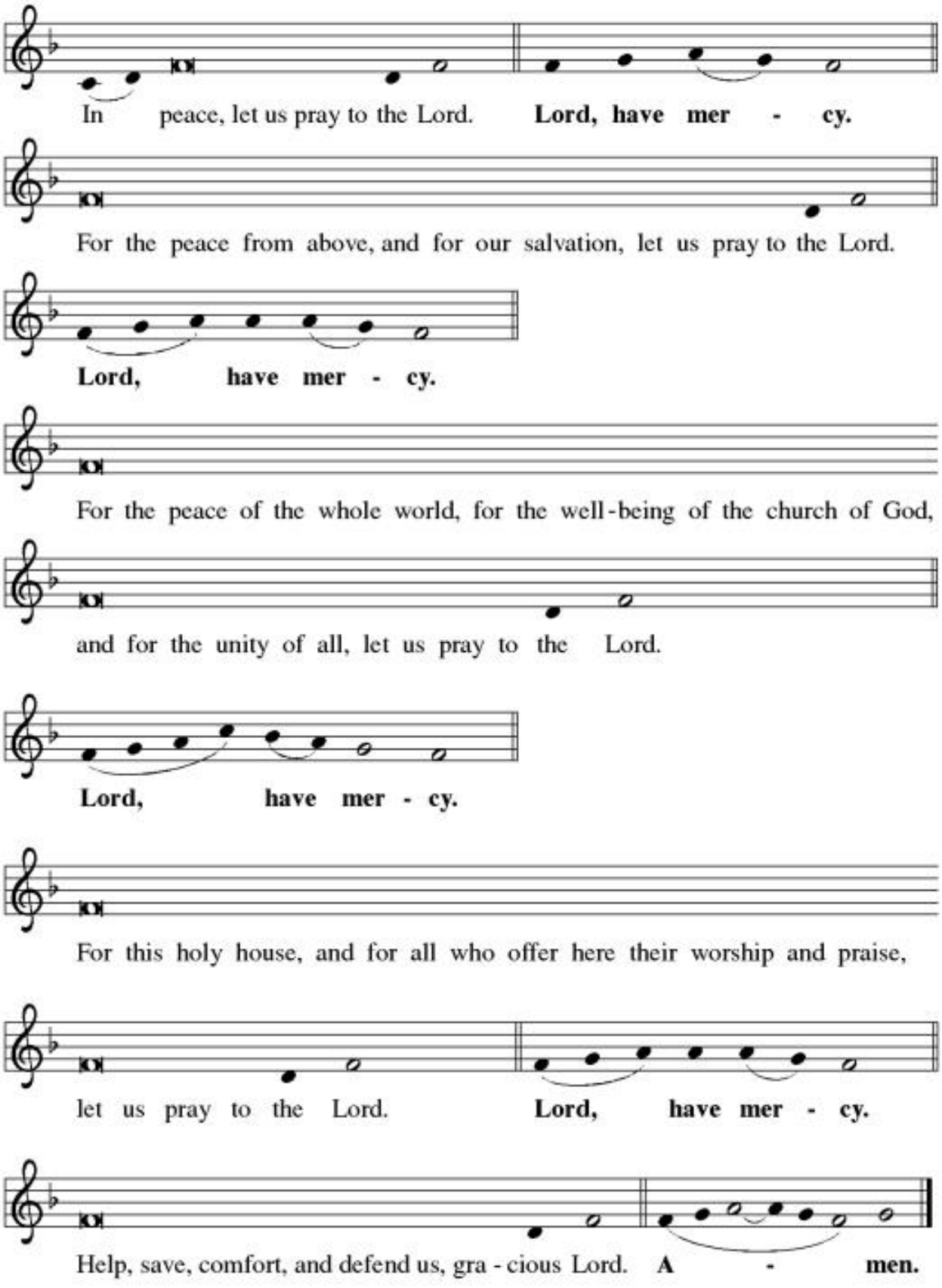


Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

GREETING

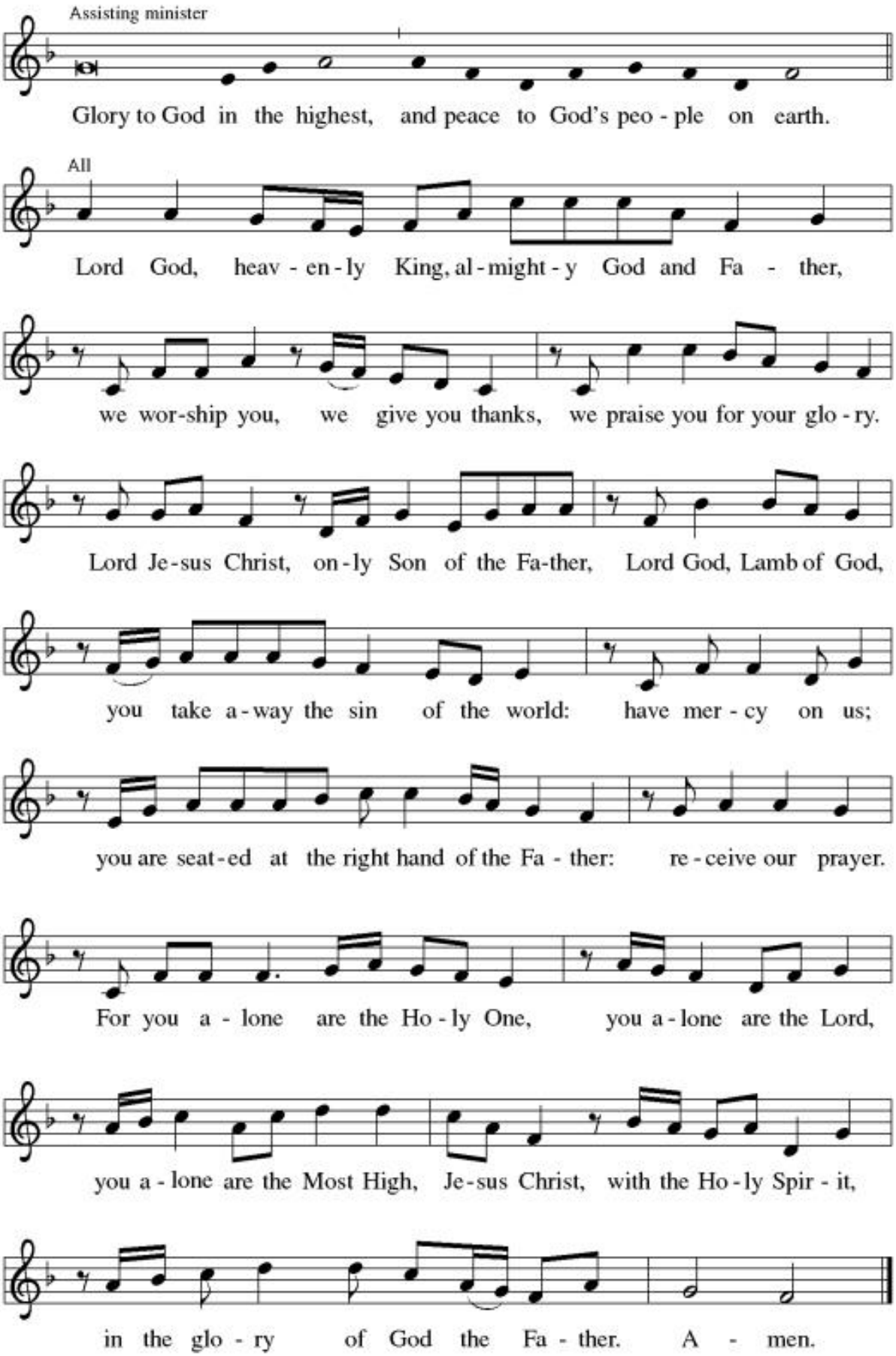
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE **ELW p. 138**



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 139



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.**

We Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON **Pastor Elise Stringer**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64: 1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account – to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.. (not read aloud)

A reading from Isaiah Chapter 64:

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.**

PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **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

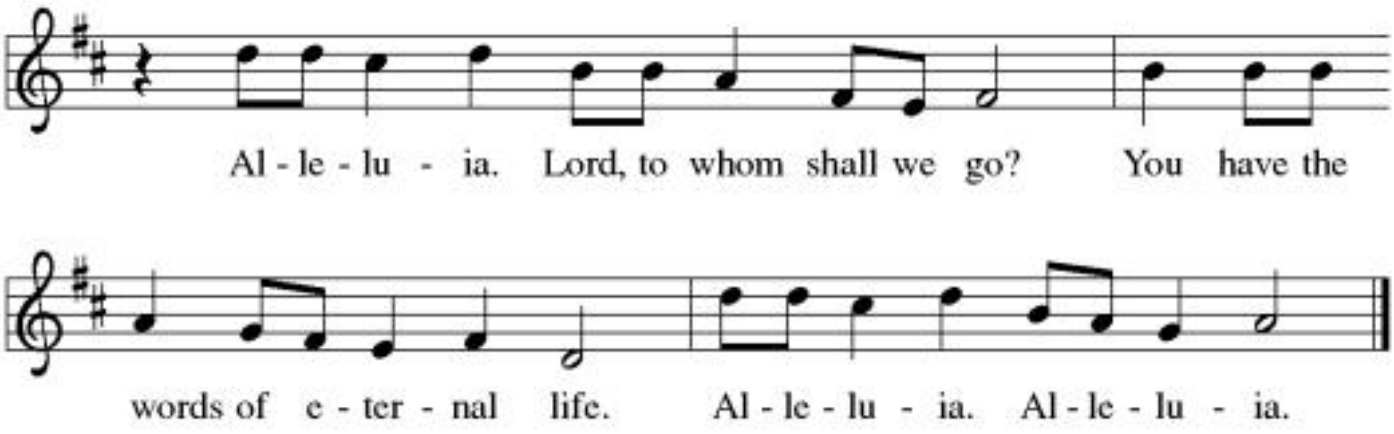
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord. (not read aloud)

A reading from 1 Corinthians Chapter 1:

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 **ELW p. 142**



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

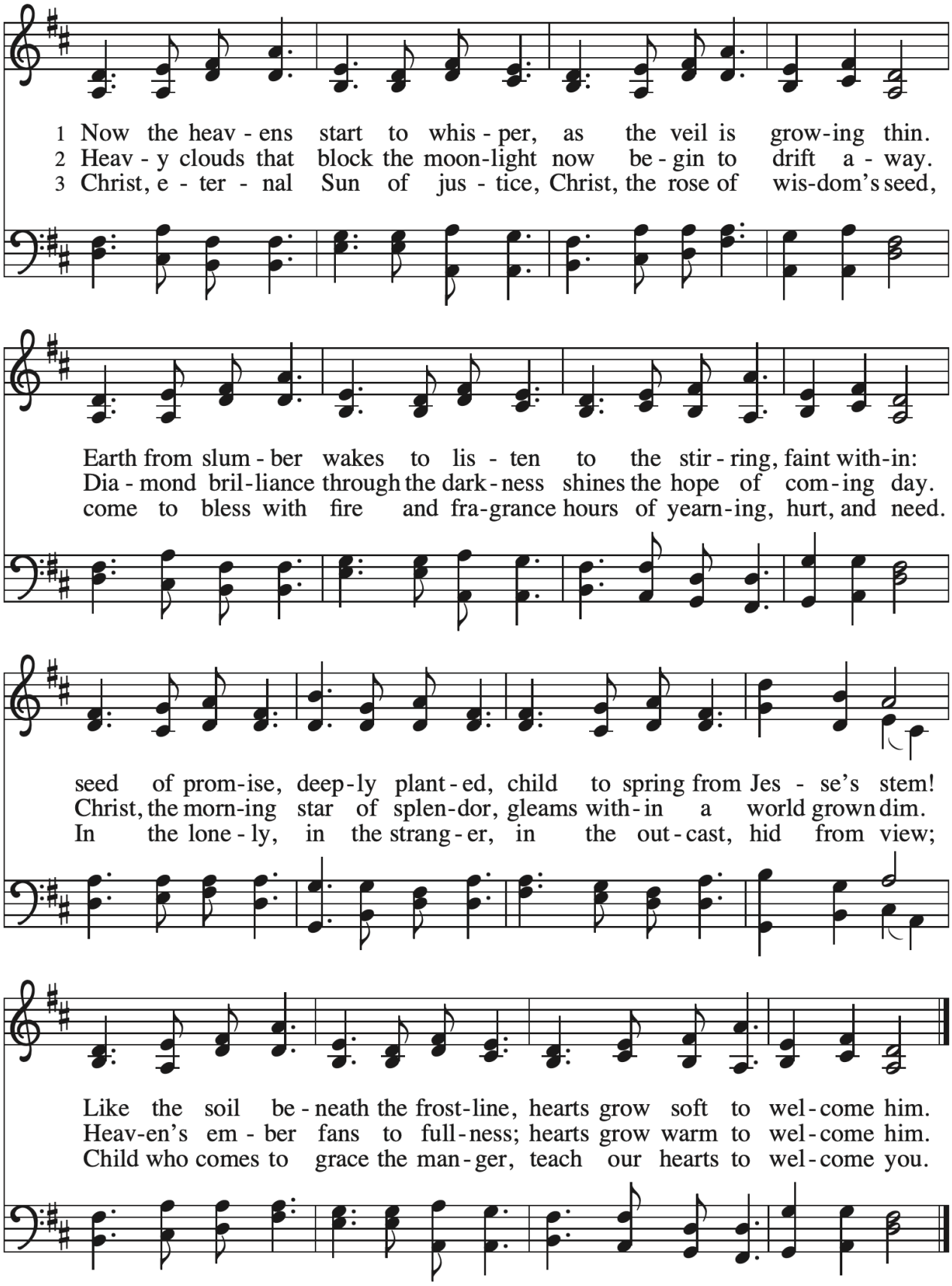
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**

THE SERMON **Pastor Elise Stringer**

HYMN OF THE DAY *NOW THE HEAVENS START TO WHISPER* **ACS #901**



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.
Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' 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
Offered by the Assisting Minister

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 those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. 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.**

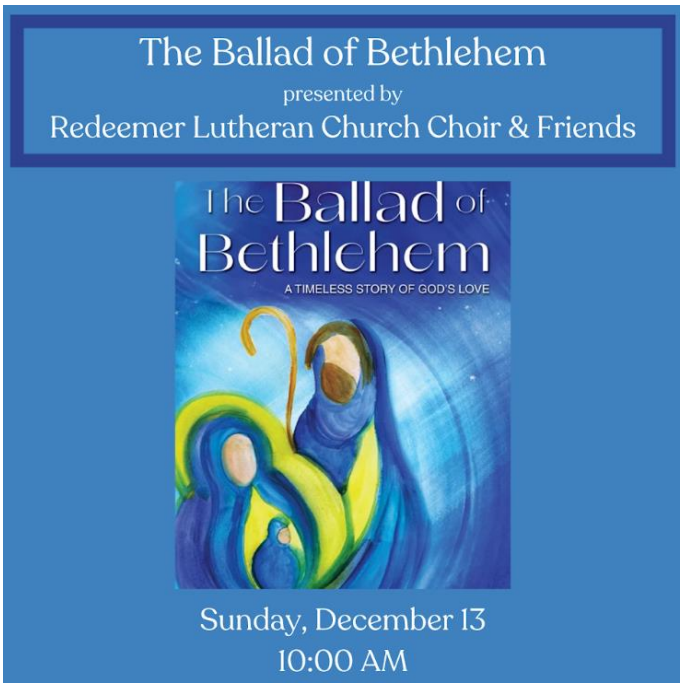
You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

PEACE

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

We share a sign of peace with others as we are comfortable. We sit.



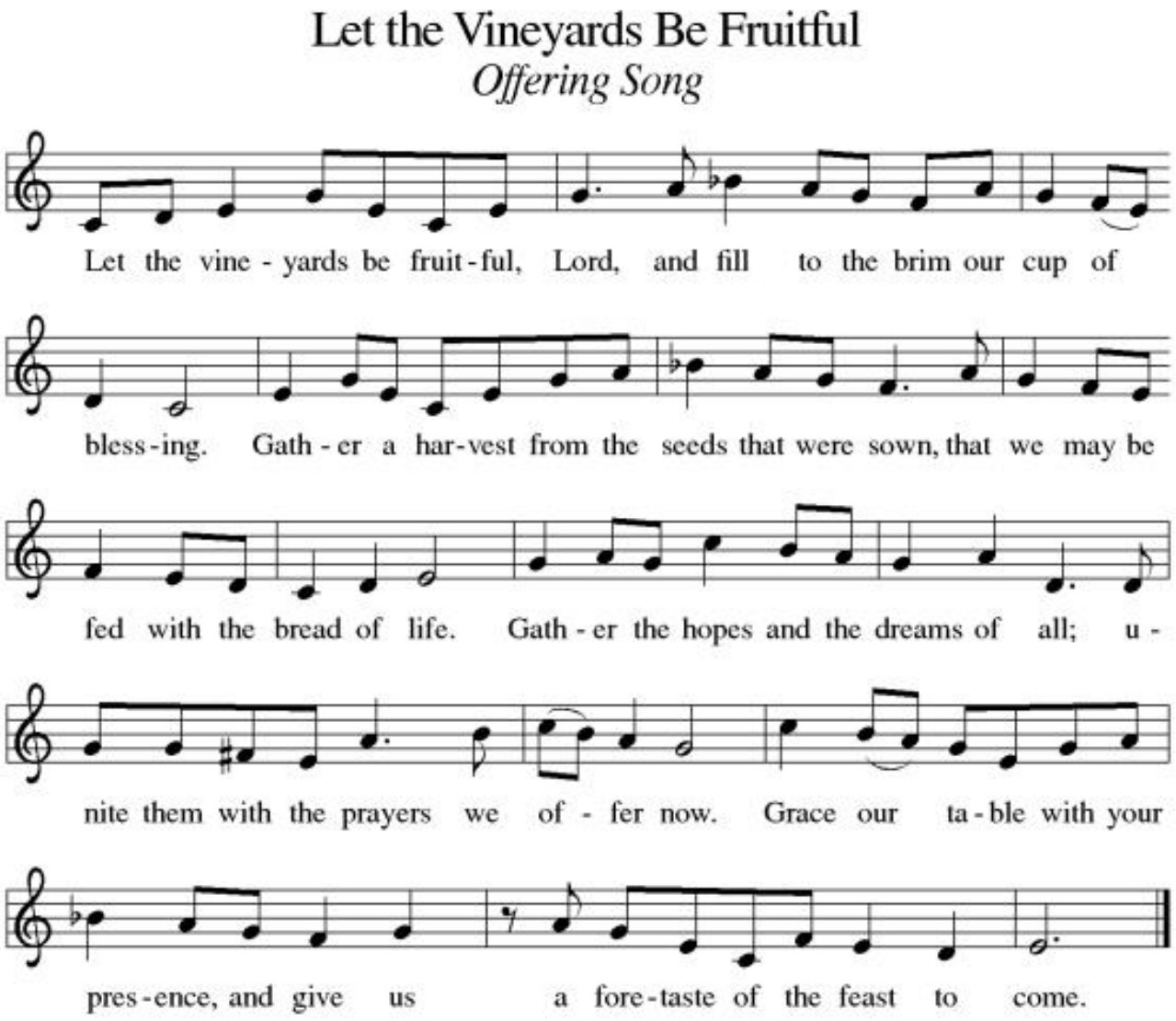


MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING *MY LORD WHAT A MORNING* **Sarah Owens**

OFFERING HYMN



OFFERING PRAYER

Offered by the Assisting minister and congregation.

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

The Presiding Minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

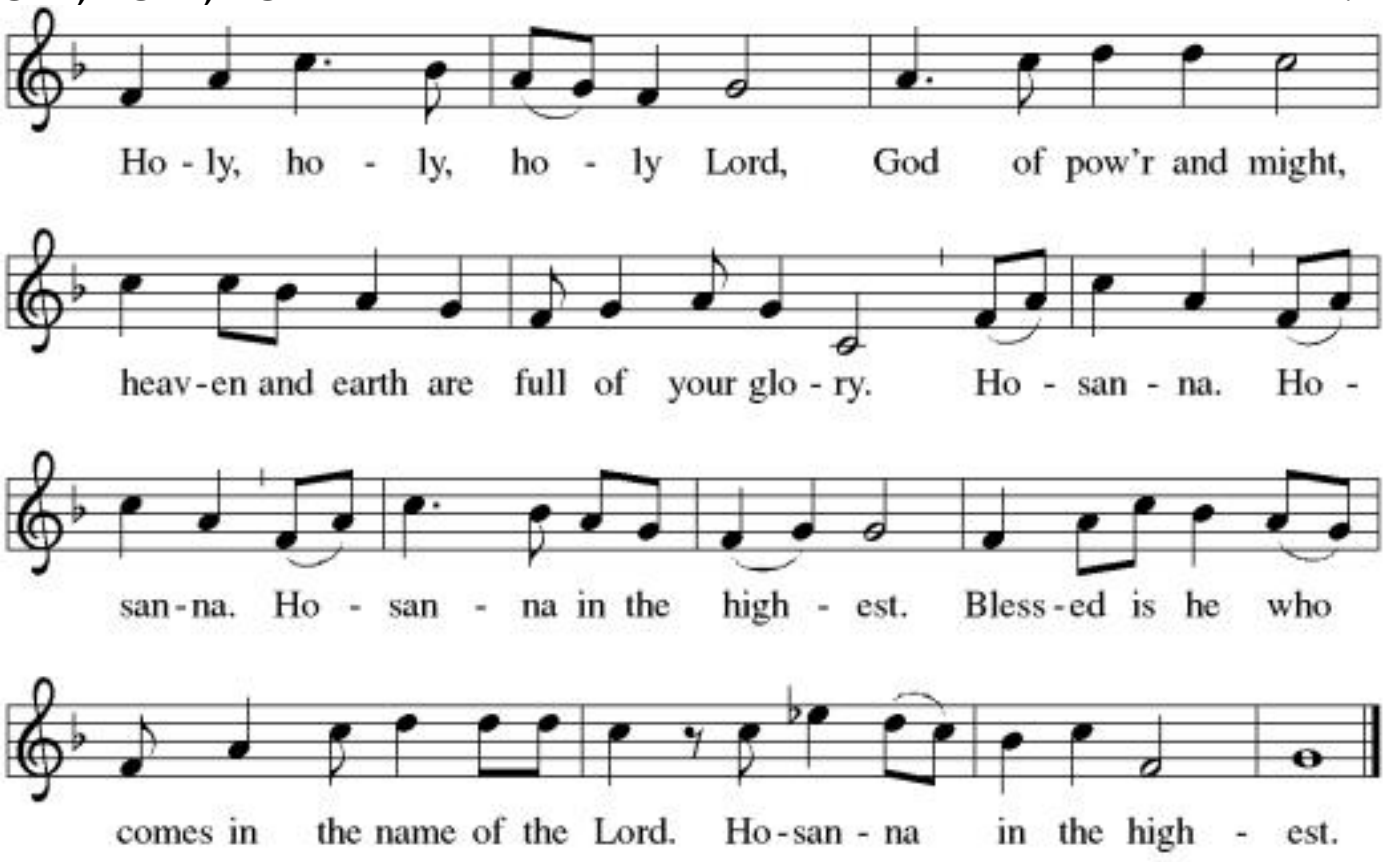
The Lord be with you.	**And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.	**We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	**It is right to give our thanks and praise**.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.**

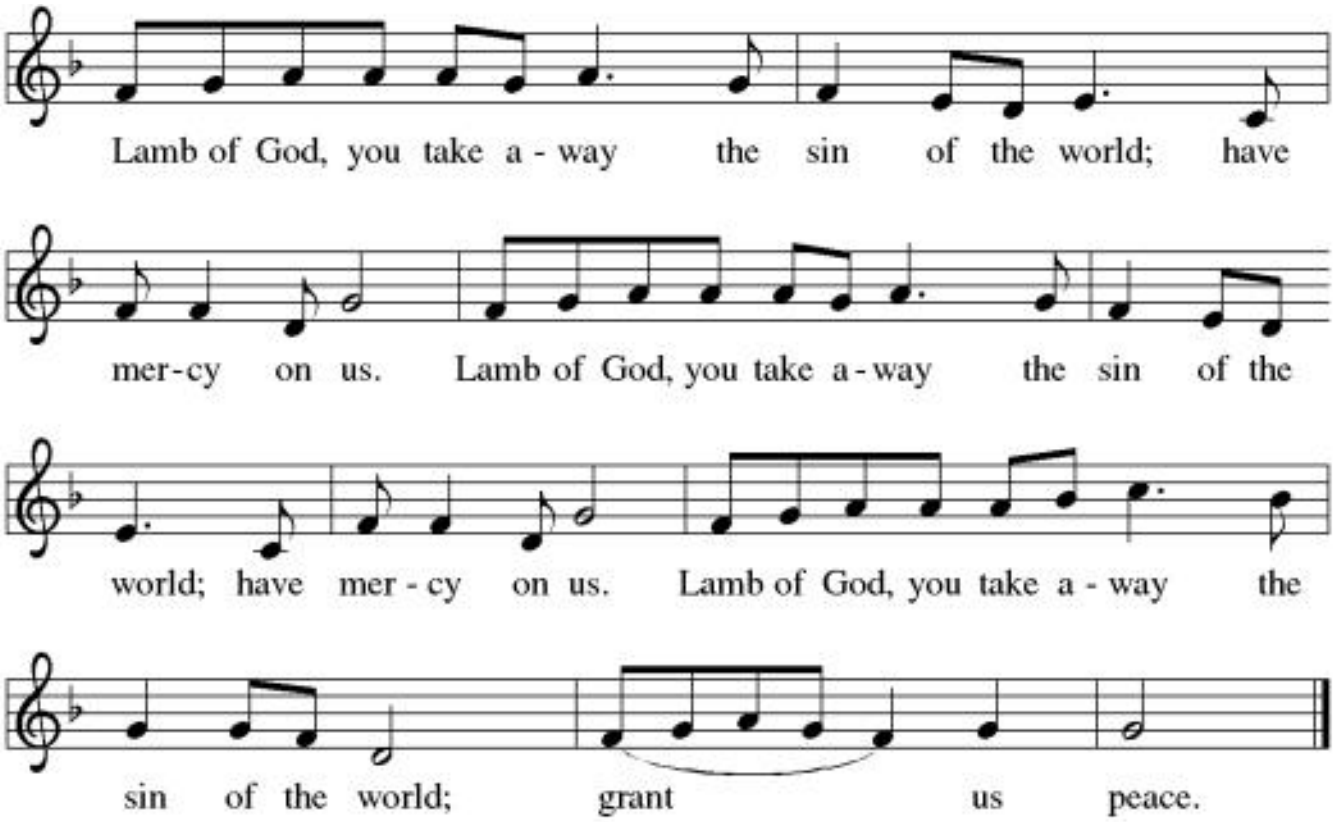
LORD'S PRAYER
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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. **Amen**.

COMMUNION HYMN: *LAMB OF GOD* **ELW p. 146**



HYMNS DURING COMMUNION
Congregation is encouraged to sing.

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME **ELW #623**
ABIDE WITH ME **ELW #629**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING
Please stand.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Offered by Assisting Minister.

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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.
Amen.

REDEEMER'S MISSION

Redeemer's Mission is: **A lifelong family ministry of God's love!**

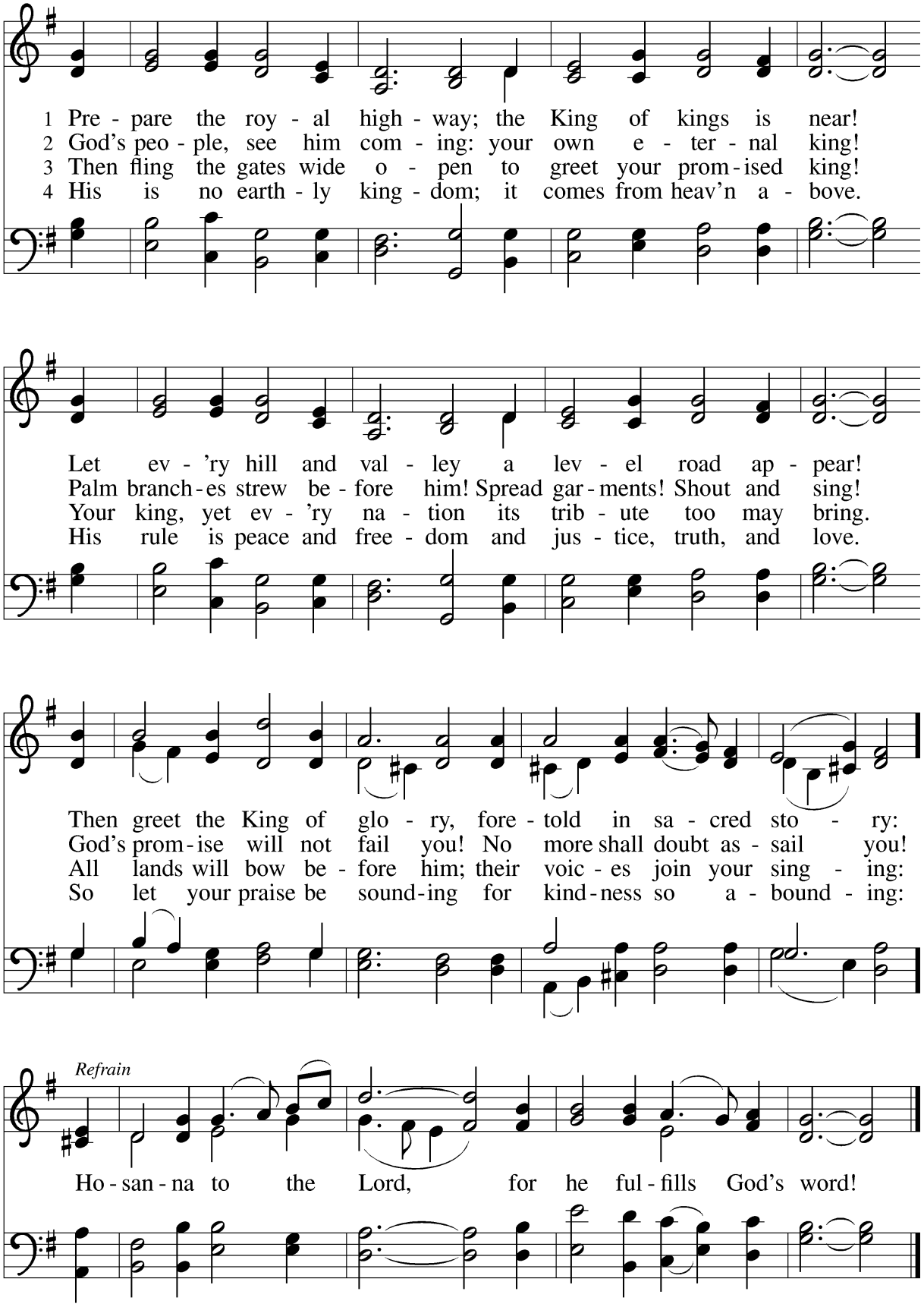
SENDING HYMN *PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY* **ELW #264**
(printed on next page)

DISMISSAL
Offered by Assisting Minister.

Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE **Donna Cotter, Organist**

Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Serving Today

Ushers:	John and Sharon Fouke
Greeters:	Wade and Barbara Tate
Assisting Minister:	Catharine Kirby
Lector 1:	Janet Thomas
Lector 2:	Renee Phillips
Acolyte:	Ari Damian
Crucifer:	Lily Childers
Cantor:	Chuck Pegram
Counters:	Sonny Lybrand, Brenda Van Putten, Aaron Cornwell
Altar Guild:	Brenda Van Putten
Flowers:	Given by Lyn and David Turner in thanksgiving of our new church family
Sheepdogs:	Phil Rhoads, Seth Brandt, Mike Miller
Nursery:	Jessica Johnson and Aurie Damian

Serving Next Week – December 6, 2026

Ushers:	Tom Lewis and Aaron Cornwell
Greeters:	Tom Stires and David Henderson
Assisting Minister:	Kyle Henderson
Lector 1:	Al Ludwigson
Lector 2:	Chuck Pegram
Acolyte:	Harper Meloon
Crucifer:	Jacob Lybrand
Cantor:	Cathrine Kirby
Counters:	Sonny Lybrand, Brenda Van Putten, Aaron Cornwell
Altar Guild:	Donna Norman
Flowers:	Given by Fred Brandt in memory of Sarah Brandt
Sheepdogs:	Sonny Lybrand, Michael Lybrand, JJ Johnson, Aaron Cornwell YY – Mike Miller LCY – Michael Lybrand
Nursery:	Kim Zumstein and Aurie Dill

NOTES