SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The First Sunday of Advent

November 29th, 2026

10:30 A.M in the Church

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector

Welcome to our Church

WELCOME

to

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

Services are available: Recent services are available on our website: https://stpaulwilkesboro.org

Newsletters: Sign-up today to receive our weekly electronic newsletter! Email the church office at of-fice@stpaulwilkesboro.org to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697
336-667-4231
www.stpaulwilkesboro.org
E-mail: office@stpaulwilkesboro.org
Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:

The Gathering

Prelude

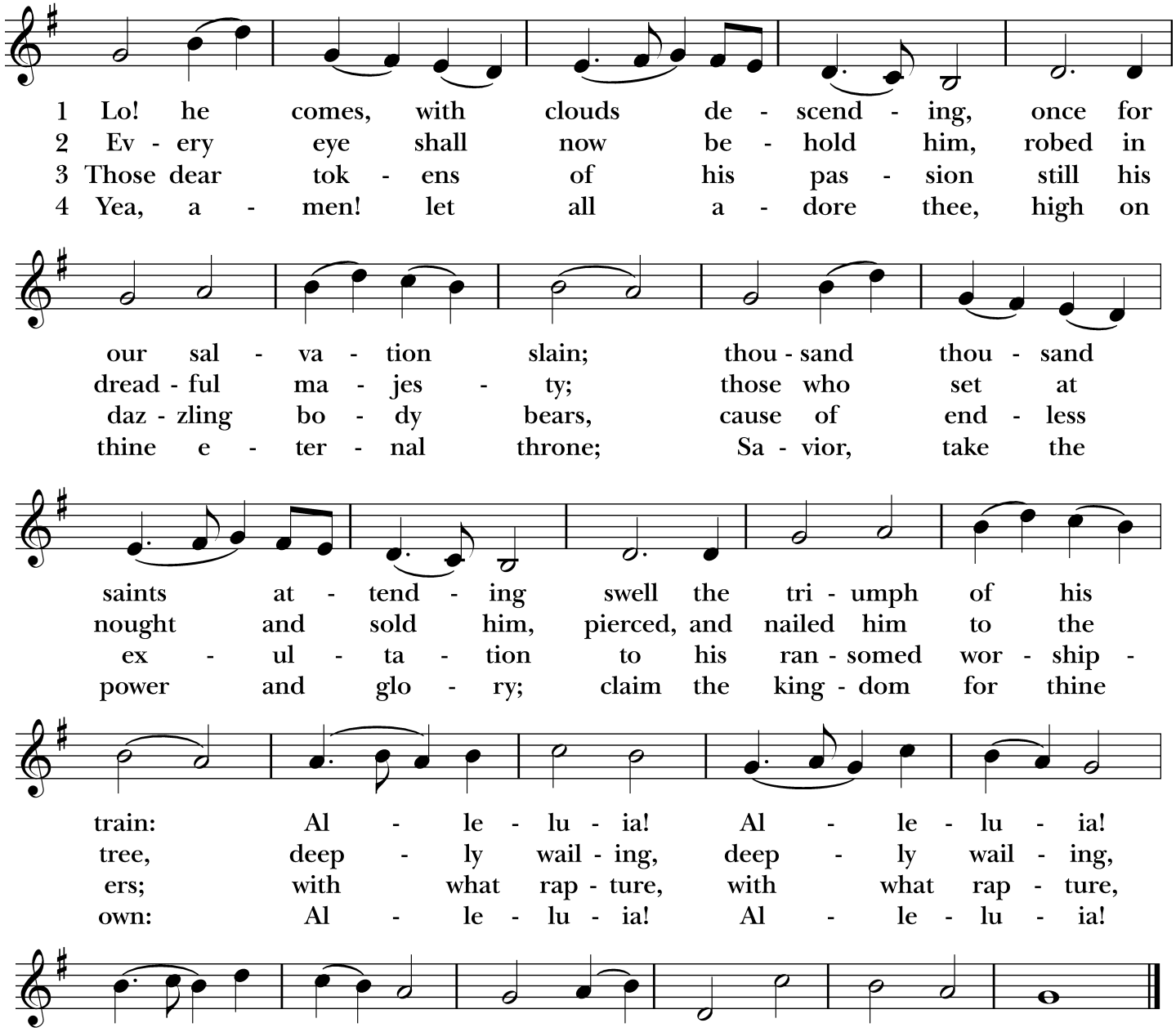
Savior of the Nations, Come

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Processional Hymn #57 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

(stanzas 1-2 and 4)



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

Advent Wreath Prayers

Please stand, as you are most comfortable.

Hope

Dear God,
As we begin our Advent pilgrimage,
grant us the courage to hope.

Hope for your presence,
Hope for your peace,
Hope for your promise. Amen.

We light the first blue candle.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Wait for the Lord Taizé

Sing 2 times

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading — Isaiah 64:1-9

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

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response — Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

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; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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 spiritual 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 him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

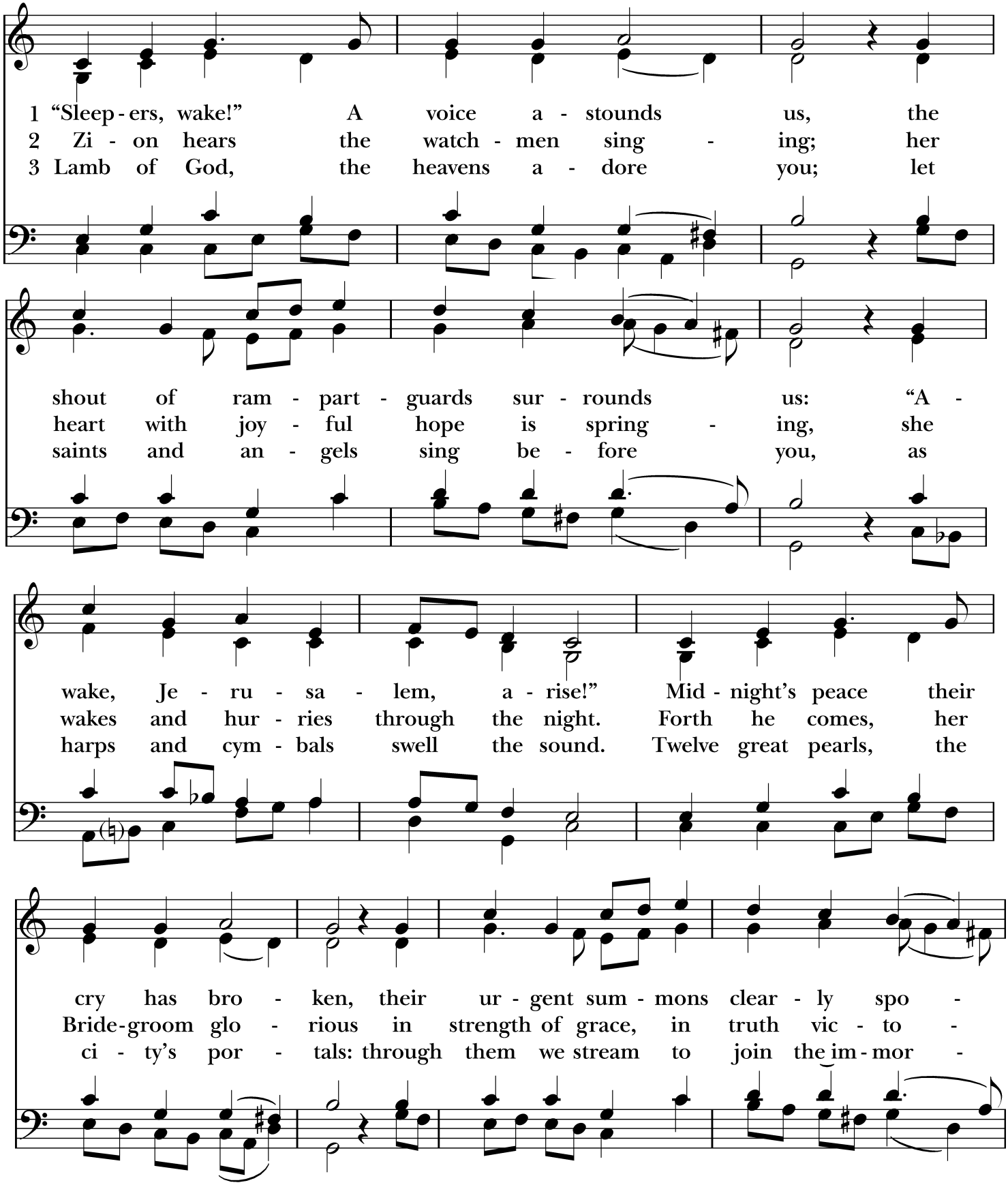
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

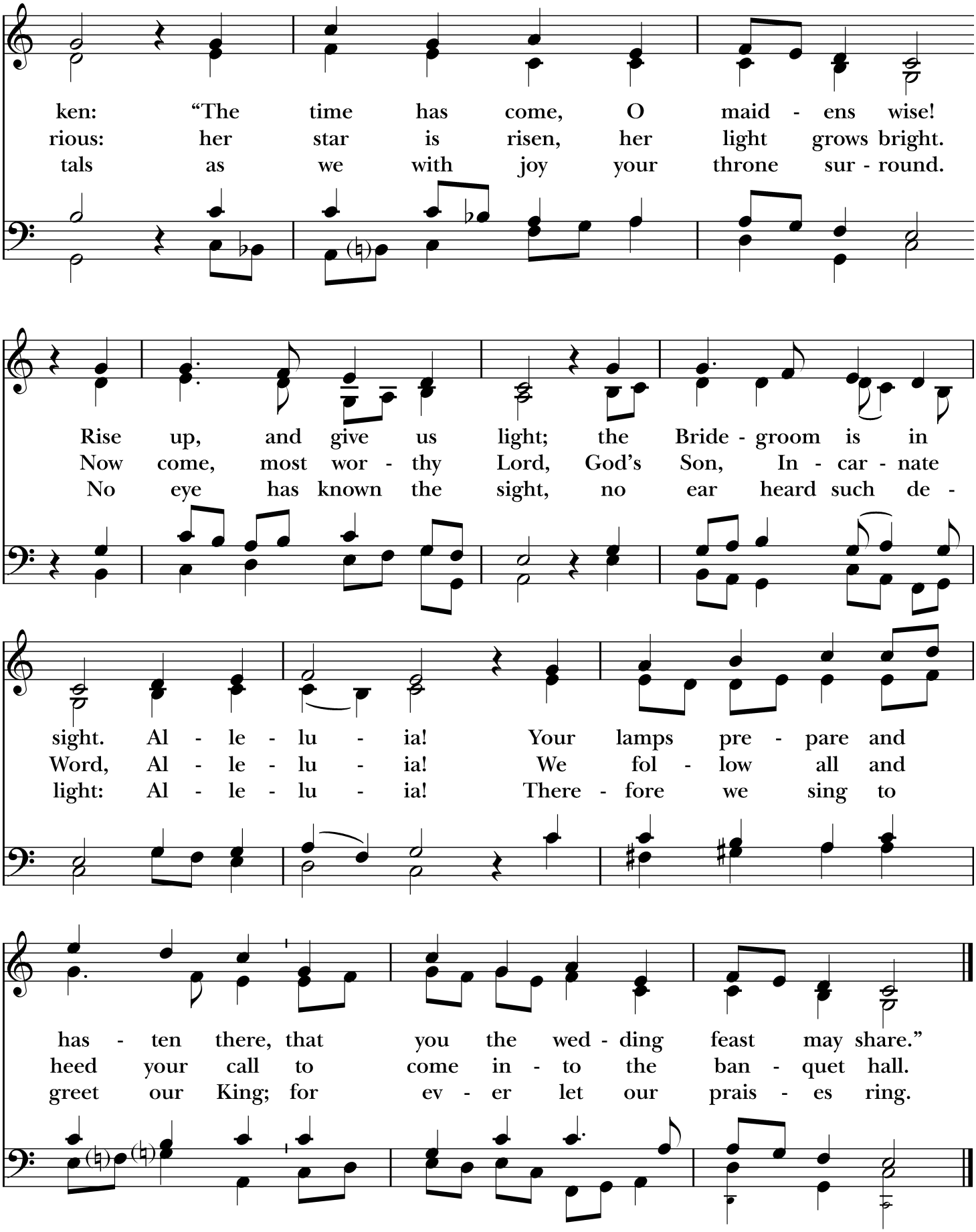
All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are most comfortable

SEQUENCE HYMN #61 "Sleepers, Wake" A Voice Astounds Us

(stanza 1 only)





Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

The Gospel — Mark 13:24-37

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 his 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."

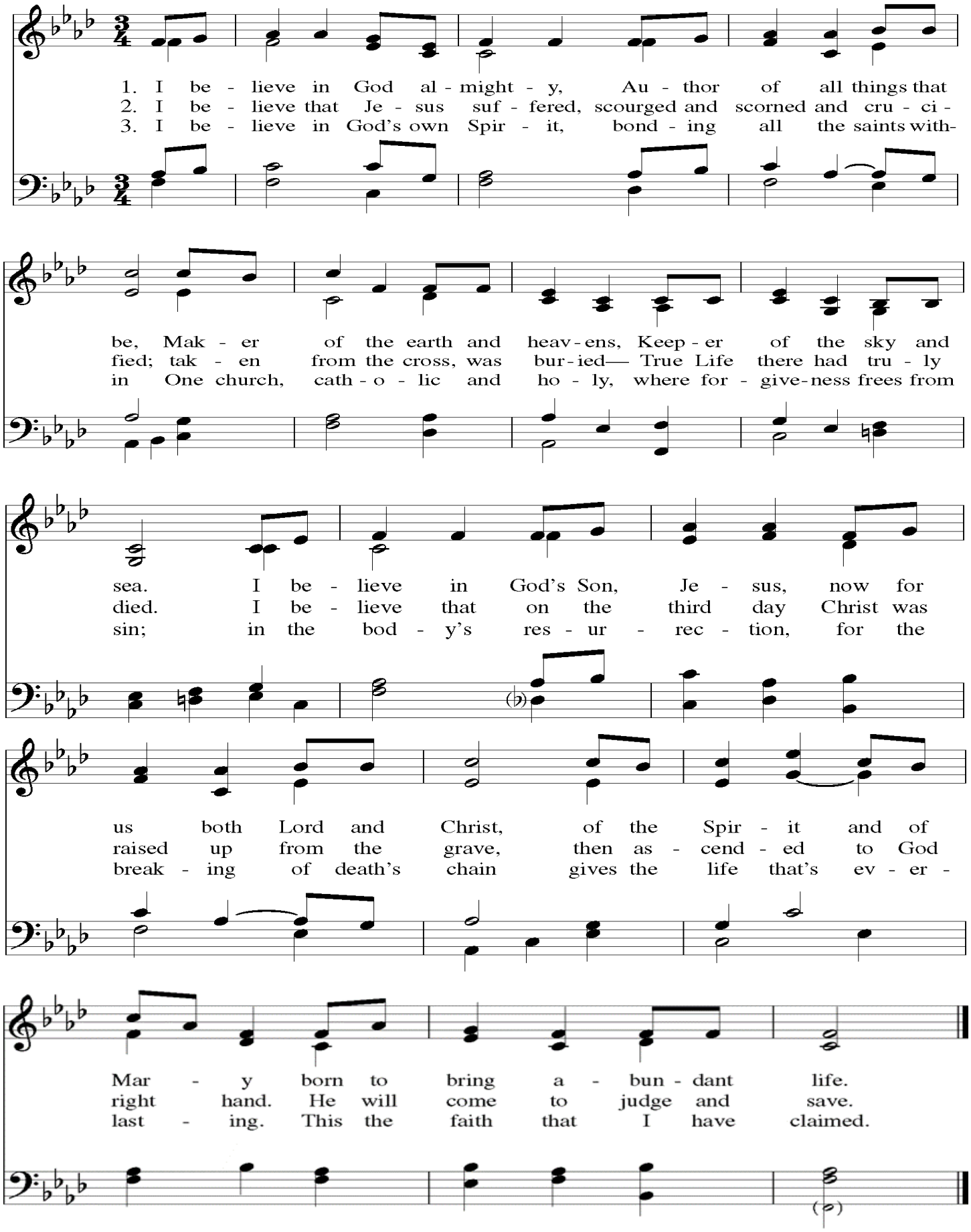
Presider: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All are seated.

The Sermon — *The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

A time of silence following the sermon.

The Nicene Creed—Wonder, Love & Praise



Prayers of the People

Plenty Good Room

Leader: Jesus said, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” Trusting in God’s abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Leader: Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this Financial Giving Invitation, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need [*especially those you would name silently or aloud*]. Surround them with your healing and your peace.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, [*especially those that you would name silently or aloud*], confident that they now rest in your embrace.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Presider: Loving God, you call us into your Abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children and plentiful resources for all to have enough. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remain standing or kneeling as desired.

Confession of Sin

Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable *New Zealand Prayer Book*

God has promised forgiveness
as a gift of freedom and grace.
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Moment of silence observed.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in
ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins

through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and

by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

✧***"The Peace"*** *is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, "Peace be with you." "The Peace" may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God's house model what we are called to do in the world.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving

Offertory Anthem

Creator of the Stars of Night *plainsong*
(for text, see Hymn #60)

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able. *Eucharistic Prayer 2, EOW page 60*

Sing

Presider *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

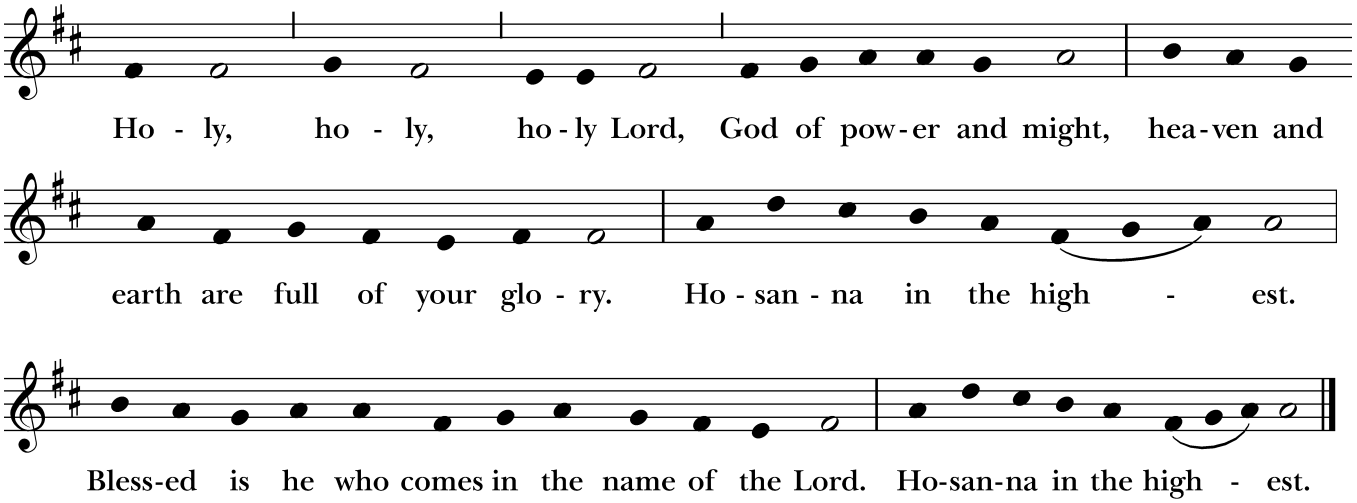
Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Presider *continues*

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Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, pursued and betrayed, he gave himself over to death.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with our Patron Paul and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. AMEN.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction

Eat This Bread Taizé
(Sing 2 times)

Eat this bread, drink this cup:
Come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God…

God's holy food for God's holy people.

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

In one kind--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.

In two kinds--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Please stand or kneel as desired.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray,

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Please stand.

The Blessing

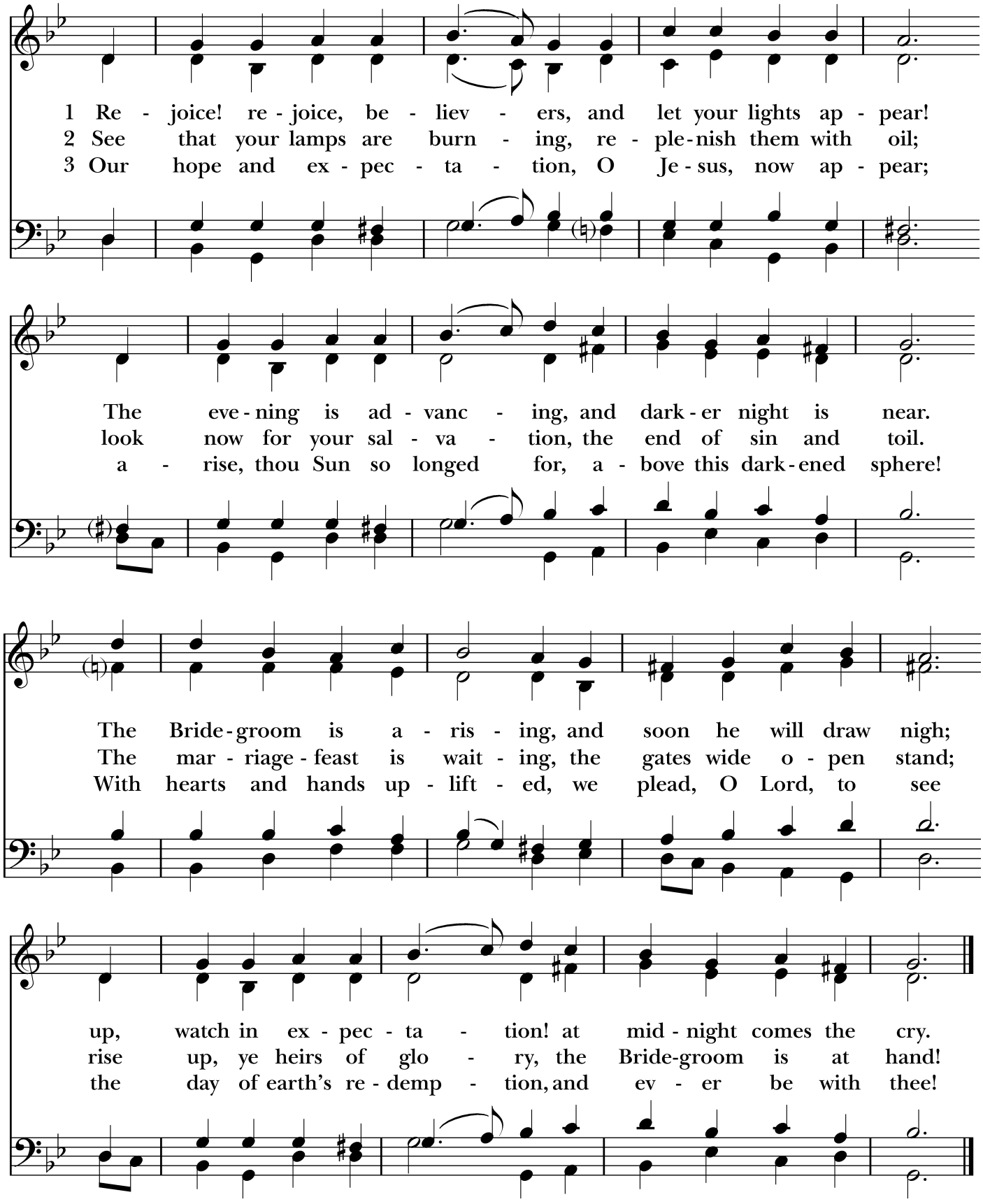
Go from here with confidence and hope.
Strengthen those who are tired and exhausted;
comfort those who are anxious and fearful.
Say to them all:
"Be strong, and do not fear!
For God is coming—

Indeed, God is already here!

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon this day an d remain with you always! **Amen!**

Please rise as comfortable.

Recessional Hymn #68 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Sleepers Wake! *J.S. Bach*



Altar Flowers Given Today by Ron & Tana Myers
in honor of their wedding anniversary.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers: All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

Short-term

Carol Canter, Ann Reid, Elenor Wilborn, Sloan Bodford, Willie Barber, Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

Long-term

Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Shane Jenkins, Da'Shon Horton, Rose Andrews, Margo Hurd

For the Departed
Ken Asel

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code below, or by contacting the office.



November 29th - Maggie McCann
December 1st - Devvie Asel
December 3rd - Sarah Fesperman
December 4th - Cynthia Smith

November 29th - Ron & Tana Myers



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Laurie Love, Reba Whittington, Kendall Forester

Reader: Joe Fesperman

Acolyte: Linda Schneider

Usher: TBD

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Vestry Lock-Up for November: Julie Koch

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

St. Paul's Vestry 2025

Jeff Beard

Chuck Forester, *Jr. Warden*

Ruth Harris

Julie Koch

Scott Jessee, *Sr. Warden*

Tana Myers

Diane Peabody

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Linda Schneider, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*
rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*
office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Dean Carlton, *Sexton*