Sunday, November 29, 2026 9:30 AM

1st Sunday of Advent

Gathered to Worship!



To join worship on YouTube,
use the link below:
https://www.youtube.com/live/T0F2Rcj3WKs

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
142 North Date Street,
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-969-7221
felc@firstevlutheran.com

Pastor Luis Ochoa
480-969-7221
PastorLuis@firstevlutheran.com

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Light one candle for hope
One bright candle for hope
He brings hope to ev'ry heart
He comes, He comes.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

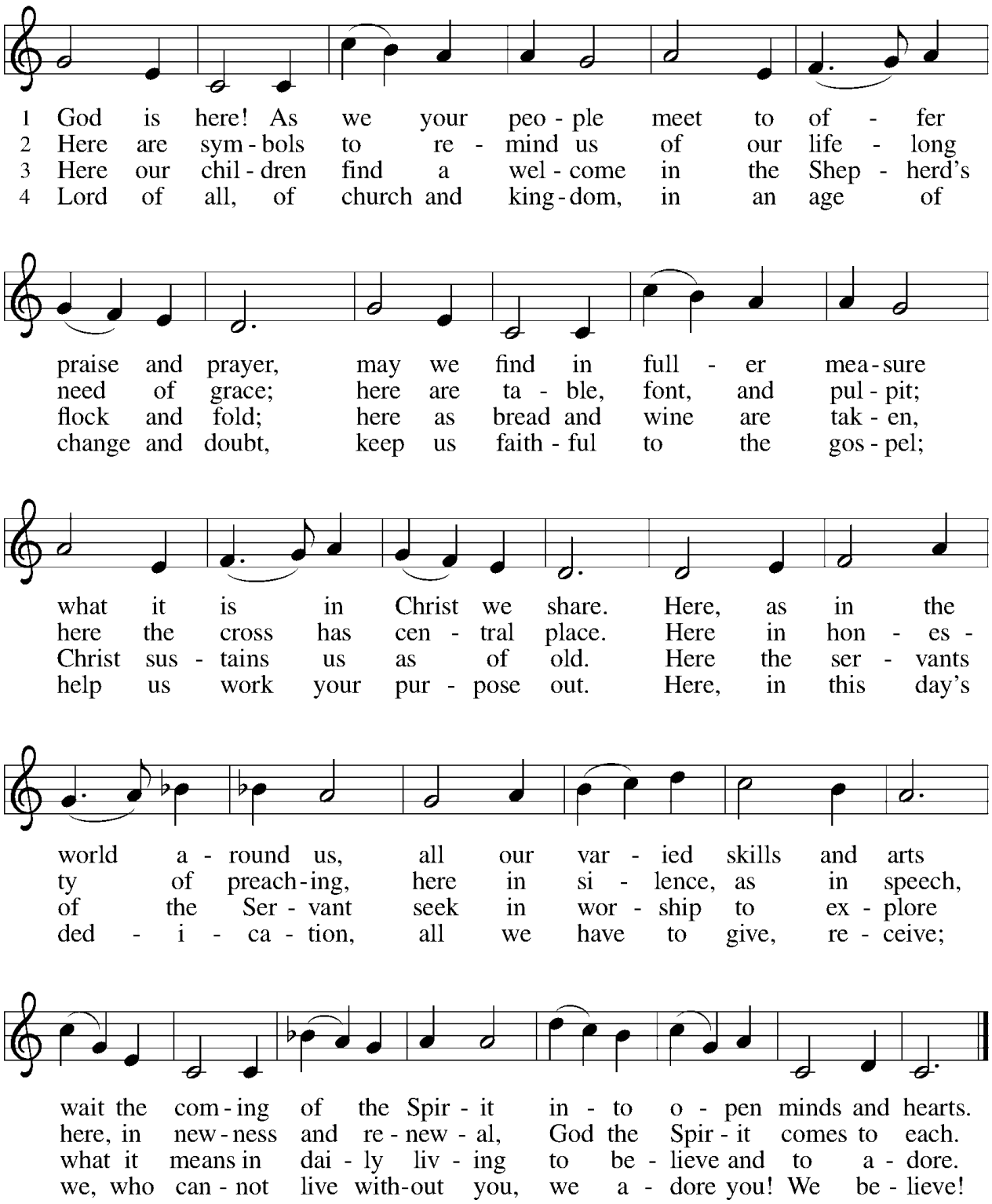
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your 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.**

The assembly stands.



GATHERING SONG ***God is Here*** ***ELW 526***

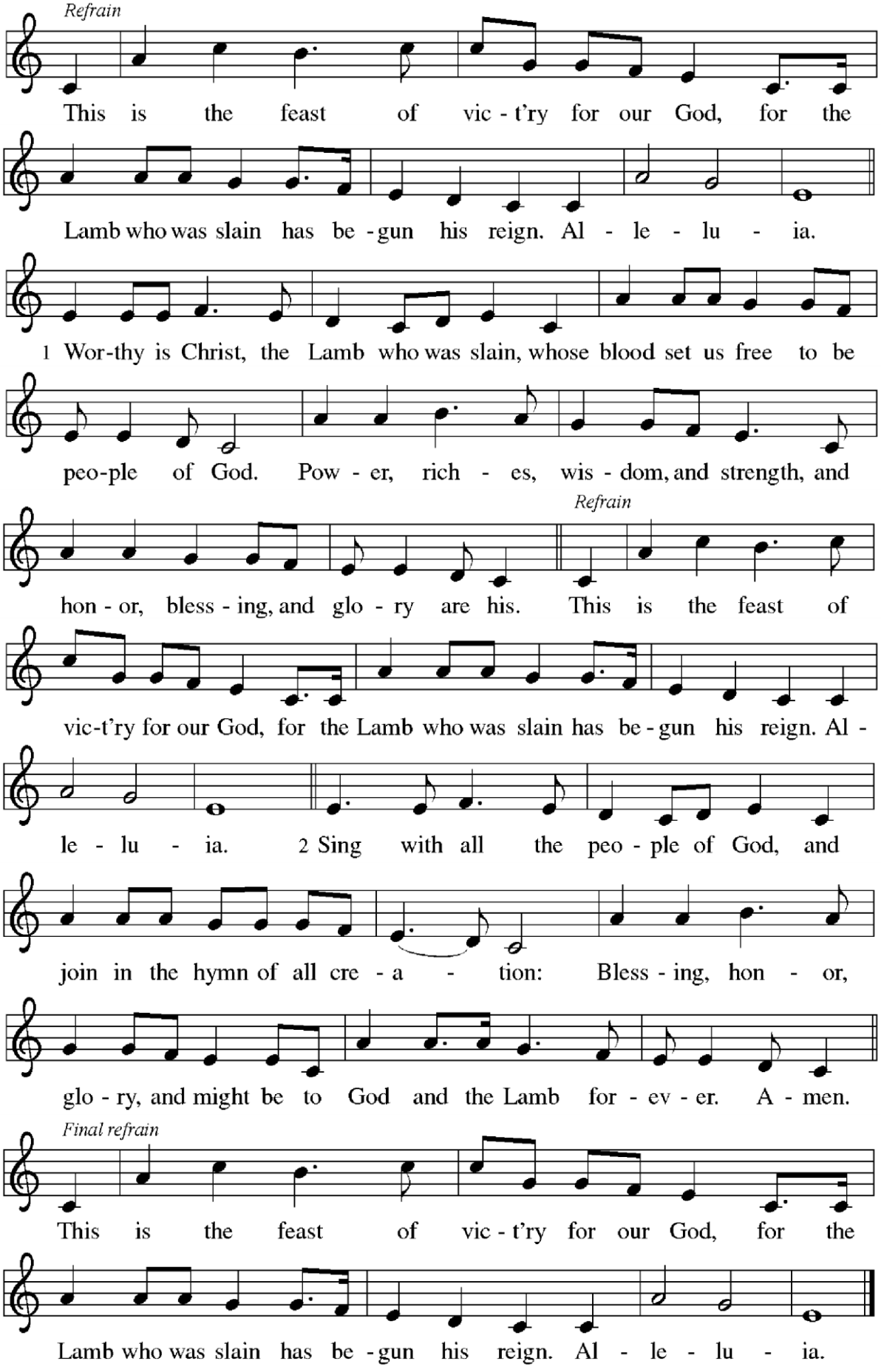


GREETING

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST



PRAYER OF THE DAY

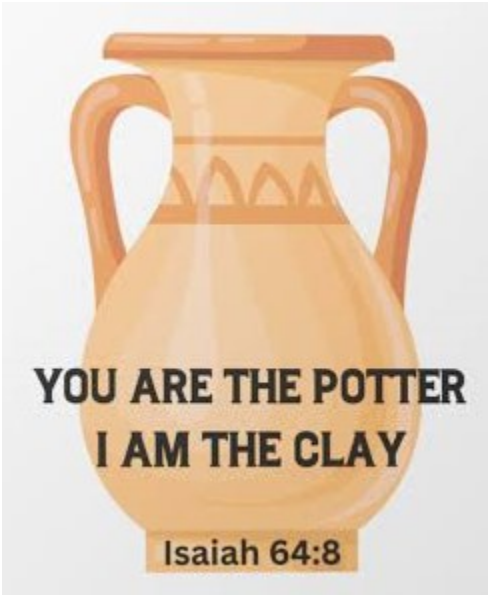
A: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

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.**
You may be seated.

WORD

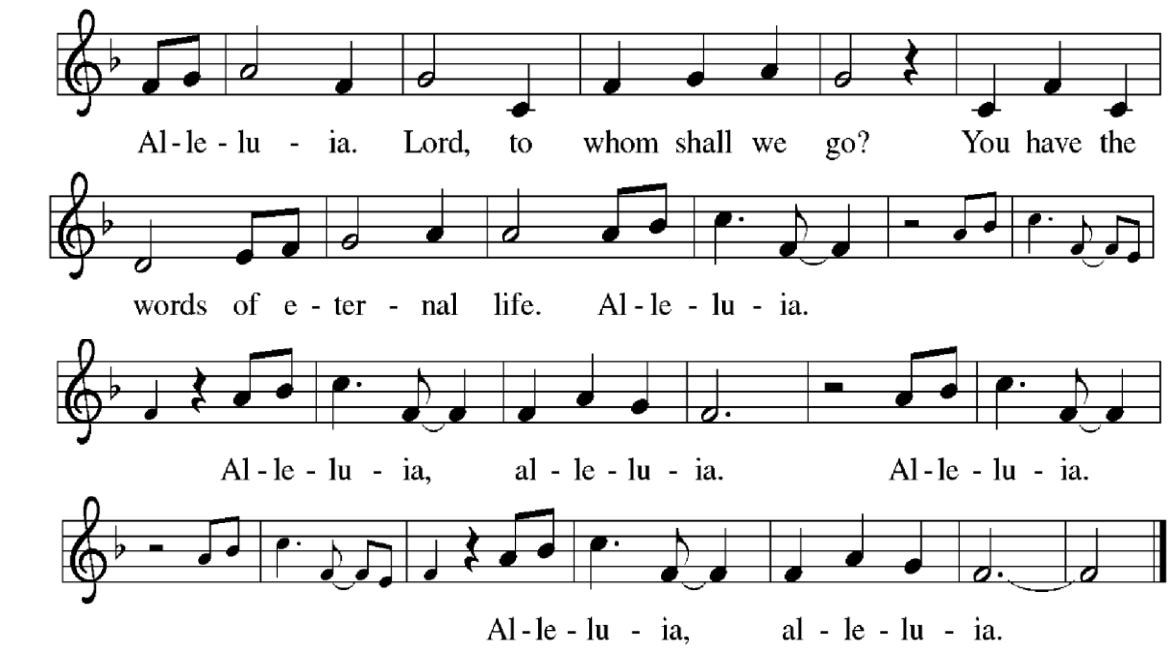
FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW page 188**



GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

The good news according to Mark.

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.

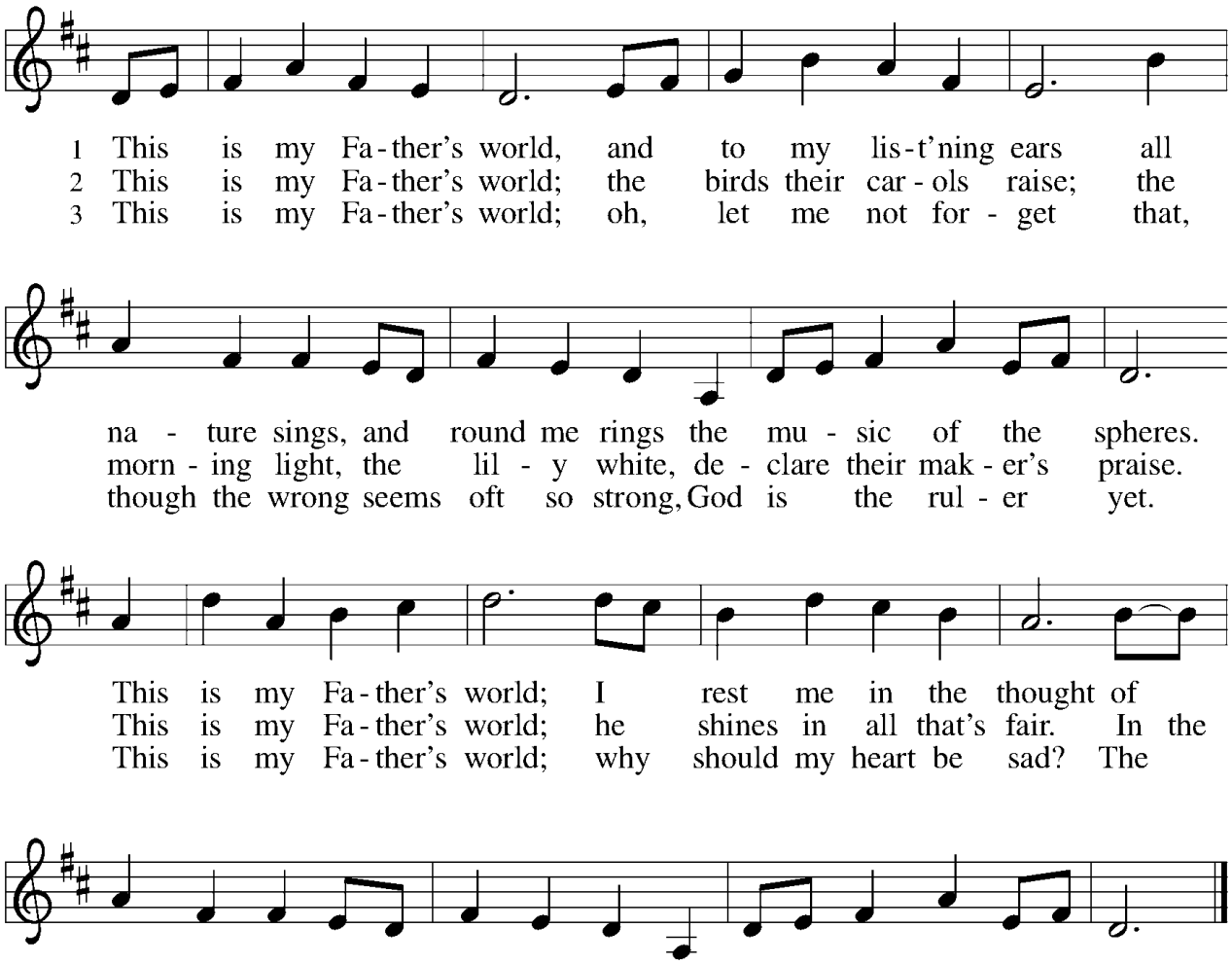
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the 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 Word of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON **Pastor Melinda Gapin**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***This is My Father's World*** ***ELW 824***



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

In hope and expectation,……

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
….. in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**



SHARING THE PEACE

A: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

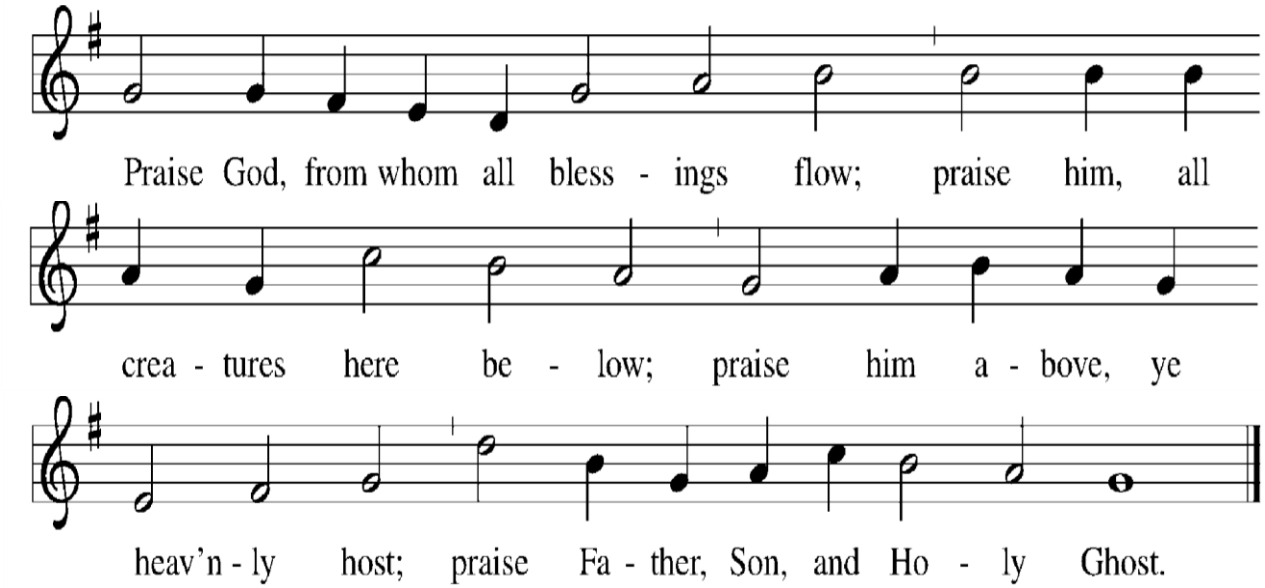
A: Let us share a sign of God's peace.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OFFERING

ANTHEM **"Peace in the Valley"** **Richard Renzema, soloist**

THE DOXOLOGY **ELW 884**



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

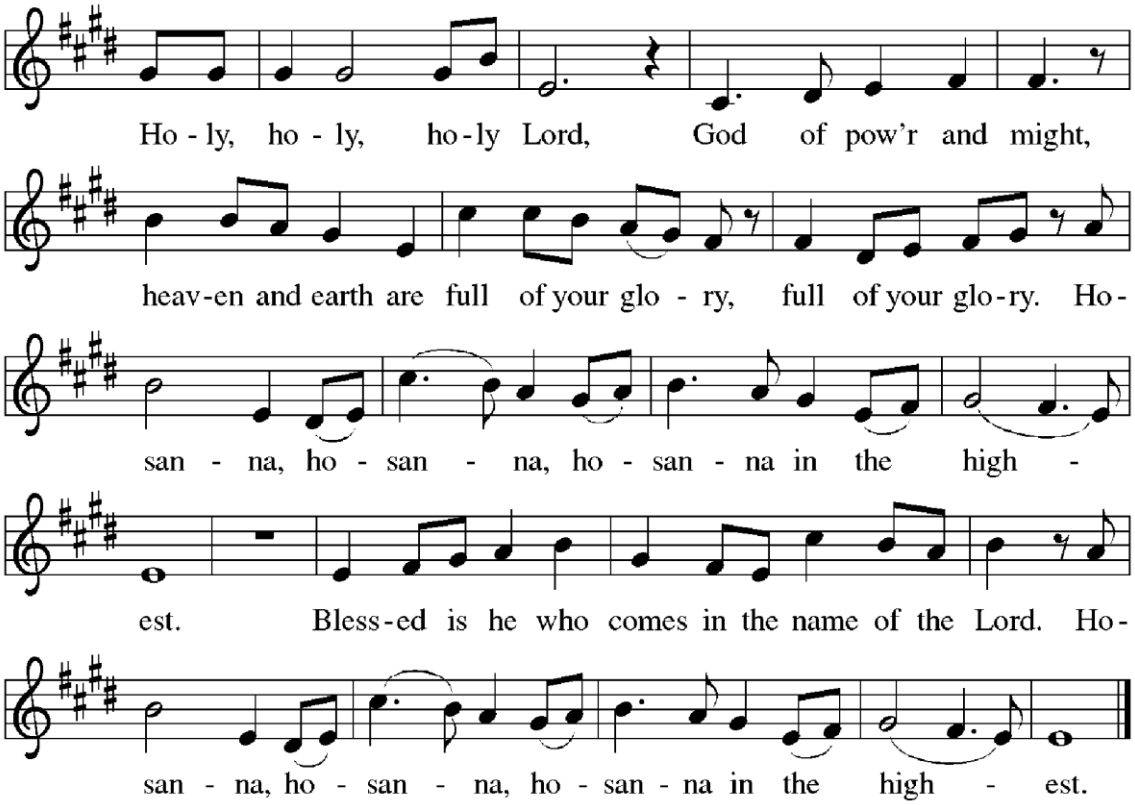
DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you:
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts:
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Give thanks to the Lord our God:
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: 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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

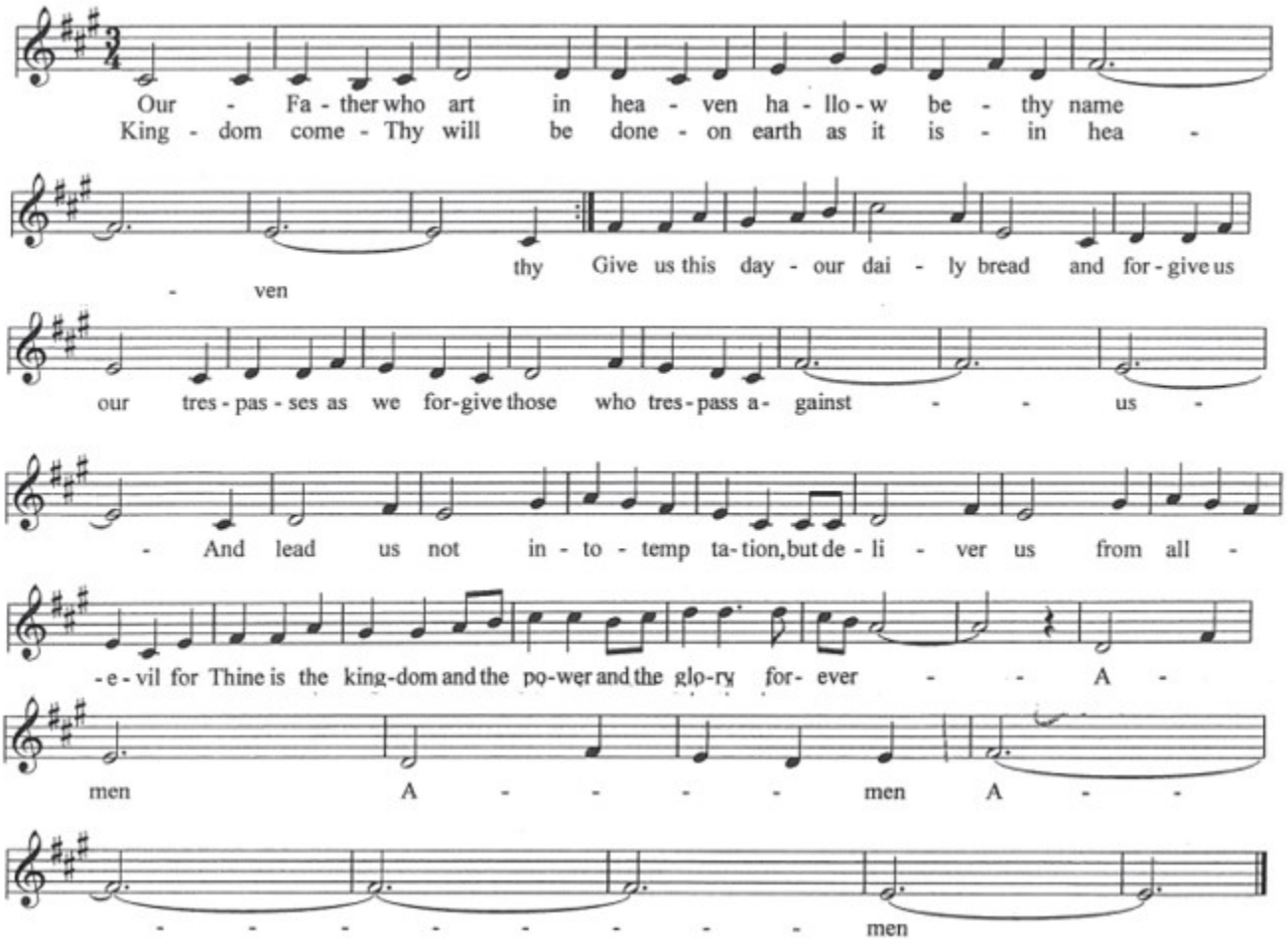


P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
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.

The LORD'S Prayer

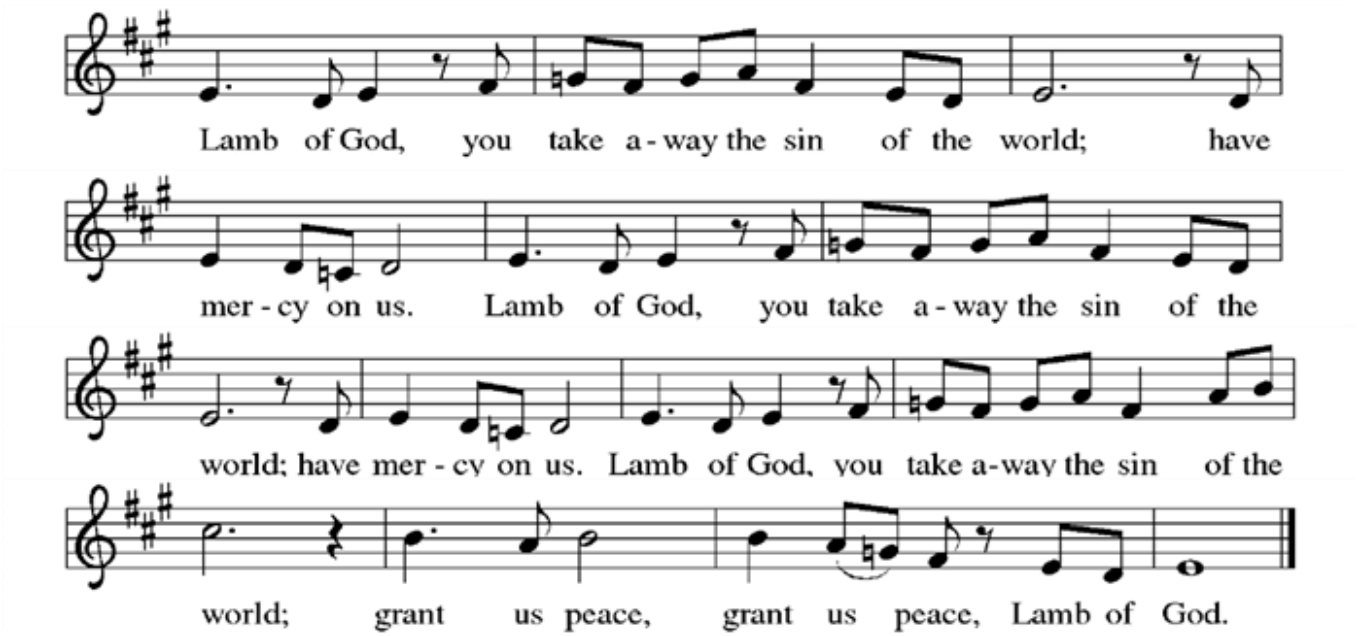
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The Gifts of God for the people of God. **C: Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



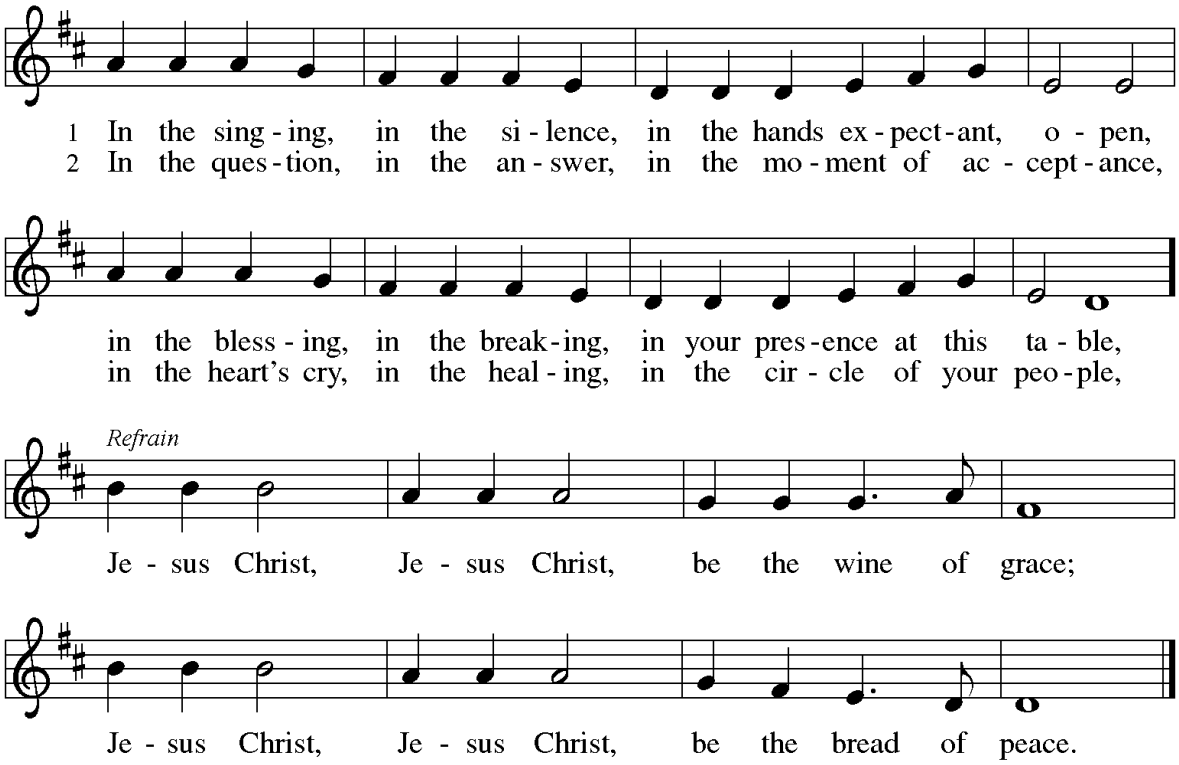
The assembly sits. We receive communion by kneeling at the altar; after receiving communion you may return to your seat.

COMMUNION



P: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION SONG *In the Singing* *ELW 466*



BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray**.**

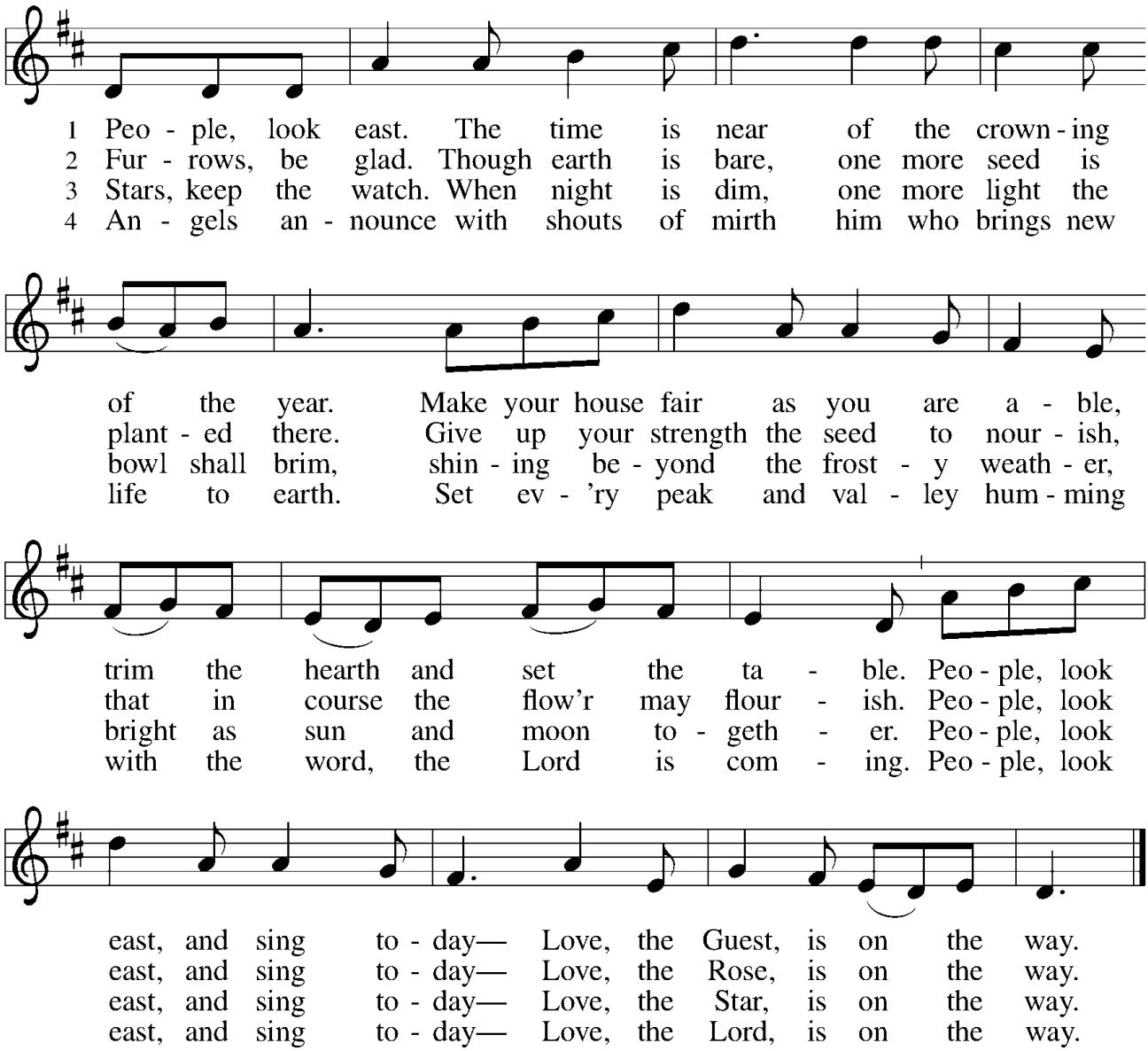
God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and may the blessing and peace of God be with you and the whole world. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *People Look East* *ELW 248*



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.



TODAY
Opening Prayer: Diane Johnson
Assisting Minister: Traci Laasch
Lector: Sharon Shields
Communion Asst: Ellen Riske
Altar Guild: Sharon Shields
Sunday School: Susan Potter

December 6
Opening Prayer: Corinne Cursi
Assisting Minister: Diane Johnson
Lector: Laura O'Connell
Communion Asst: Sharon Shields
Altar Guild: Traci Laasch
Sunday School: Traci Laasch



Choir rehearsal is on Wednesdays at 6:30 - 7:30 PM in the Great Room.



Sunday School
Join us for a time just for kids
Children grades K-5 are welcome.
They will be dismissed from the church service after the Opening Prayer.

Confirmation Class will take place the 3rd Sunday of each month.



Adult Morning Bible Study
Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Great Room



We are studying the Old Testament.

This study will take you beyond mere head knowledge to help you encounter God's Word as an active, transformational force in your daily walk—guiding your decisions, refining your motives, and anchoring your soul.

Change for Change



Until the end of the year, we'll be collecting items for Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest. You can donate these items through December or place money in the Change for Change Jar and we'll shop for you.

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

LSS-SW Resource Center on our campus has a Wish List:

Baby wipes, baby toys, sanitary napkins, hair clips, brushes, belts, socks.
Gift cards for hair cuts.
Personal items like soap, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes.



Christmas Gift for Pastor

If you would like to contribute to Pastor Luis' Christmas gift, you may do so by cash, check, PayPal or Zelle.

Let's make sure he knows how much he is appreciated and loved!

Christmas hand bell choir soon!



Rehearsals begin on Sunday, November 29
right after church.
We will rehearse Sundays, following the church service
and/or on
Wednesdays from 7- 7:30. Any questions?
Call Sharon at 480-216-1859



The 2026 series is The Songs of Christmas:
Unwrapping the Theology and Wonder of Christmas Carols



<u>December 2</u> we will explore PEACE using he theme: *Reconciliation and peace between God and humanity.* "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is the carol to point us toward peace.

<u>December 9</u> we unwrap JOY as the focus while singing "Angels We Have Heard on High". *Heavens declaring peace and uncontainable joy to a weary world* is the theme.

<u>December 16</u> LOVE, *the quiet, humble arrival of divine love* theme is encapsulated in the carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem".



Join the Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, December 9 11:30 AM

Famous Dave's at Mesa Riverview
1011 N Dobson Rd, Mesa 85201





All are welcome to join our annual event!

Friday, December 18

A Posada procession will begin in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church courtyard at 6 PM.

Following the procession, a celebration will be held in the Great Room.

Food, Fun, Fellowship!

And of course, piñatas!



Sunday, December 20, 3 PM
Great Room

Join the community as we make the season's special holiday food!

PLEASE sign up on the office door or call/text Pastor Luis so supplies can be purchased.

December 20
after worship>>>>>



CHRISTMAS GARDEN OF POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM



You can provide poinsettias to adorn the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.
This year's cost is **$13 per plant**.
Orders need to be submitted by **December 13.**



Donated by _____

○ In Loving Memory of _____

_____

_____

○ In Honor of _____

_____

○ To the Glory of God