First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2026

10:30am

Liturgical Setting: from Schubert's Mass in G

Grace Lutheran Church
Wenatchee, WA



Welcome to Grace!

The stained-glass windows in our church display a beautiful collection of glass pieces, each one unique and important. The same is true for all of God's children. As people of Grace Lutheran Church, our diversity makes us stronger and more resilient.

We strive to welcome all. We want to be a church where all are safe, all are welcome. Believers, non-believers, doubters, seekers, and questioners: You are welcome here. Old and young. Able or disabled. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities: You are welcome here. Rich and poor. Black, brown, and white: You are welcome here. Jeans and a t-shirt or a suit and tie. Addiction and mental health concerns: You are welcome here.

You are welcomed and valued here, because we are all pieces of stained glass, broken and beautiful in our own way.

As a church, we resolve to open our hearts, our minds, and our doors. We seek to reconcile ourselves to one another and to God, the master artist.

Holy Communion: We celebrate the grace of God with Holy Communion each Sunday. All are welcome!

If you are worshipping with children: Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship! We have a few options especially for our young worshipers. **Children's bulletins** are available from the ushers. We have a **Cozy Corner**, with books and quiet activities, in the back part of the sanctuary. We also have a staffed **nursery** available during our worship gathering. You will find it down the administrative wing, on the left. We also encourage parents and guardians to point out **Kids' Cues** during the service, as a way to help younger worshipers be more fully engaged.

Our Mission Statement: "To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission."

Grace Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

Introduction to the day
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.

+ + + GATHERING + + +

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

A note to children and families: watch for "kids' cues" throughout today's service. These are opportunities to engage in worship and stay connected as all generations of Grace worship together. Parents and other helpers - we encourage you to help your children notice these cues and participate at whatever level is appropriate for them.



WELCOME & KIDS' TALK

PRELUDE *The King Shall Come* Wilbur Held

Please stand as you are able.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
We praise you, God! You save us, and you are close to us. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives and you surprise us. Bless us as we light this candle to wait for your arrival. We trust you even though we do not know the day or the hour. Hurry and gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**



Kids' Cue

Join Pastor at the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary, whose word 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.

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.

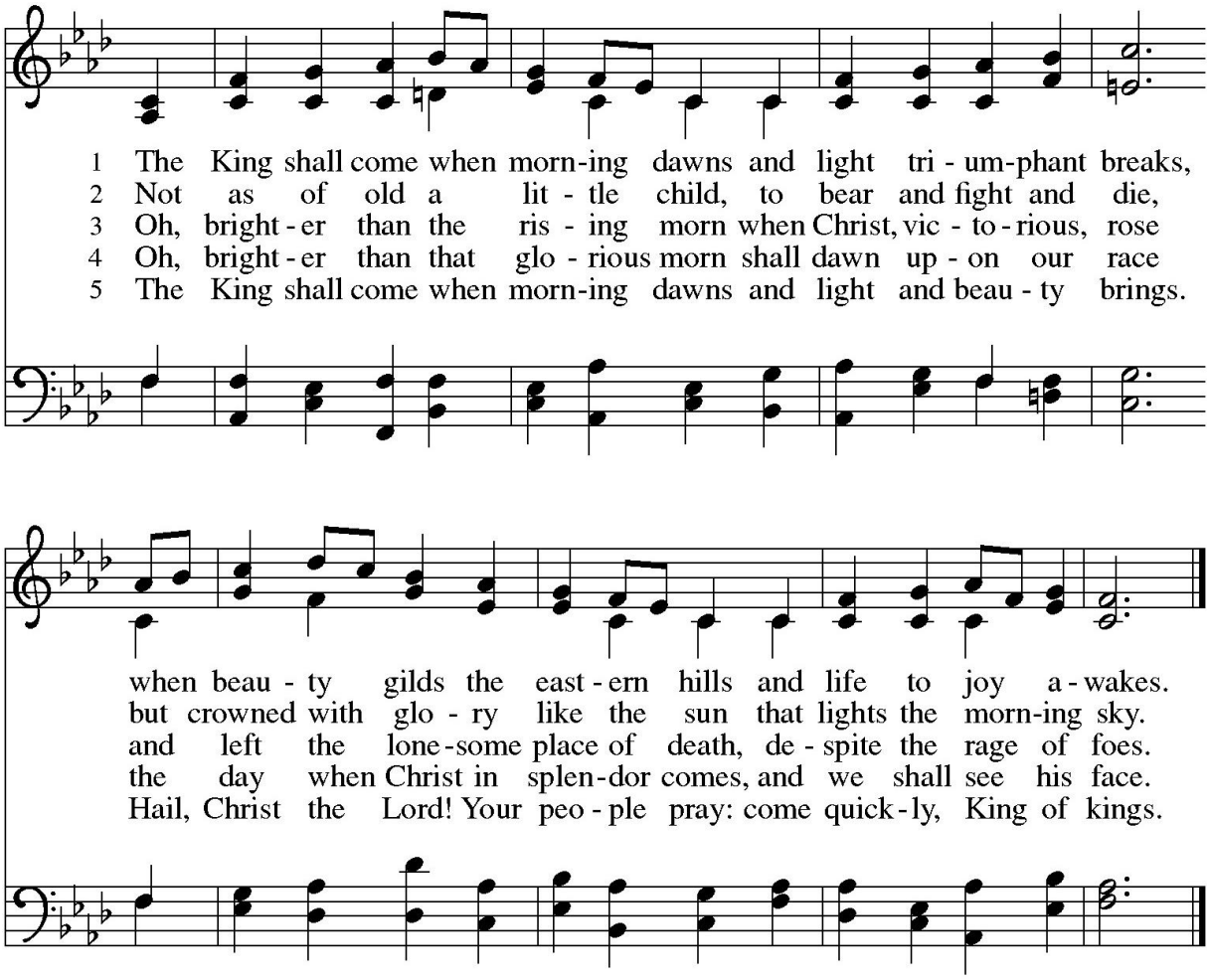
"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen.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



Kids' Cue

Walk with Pastor to the front, then go back to your family.

GATHERING SONG ELW #260, *The King Shall Come*



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
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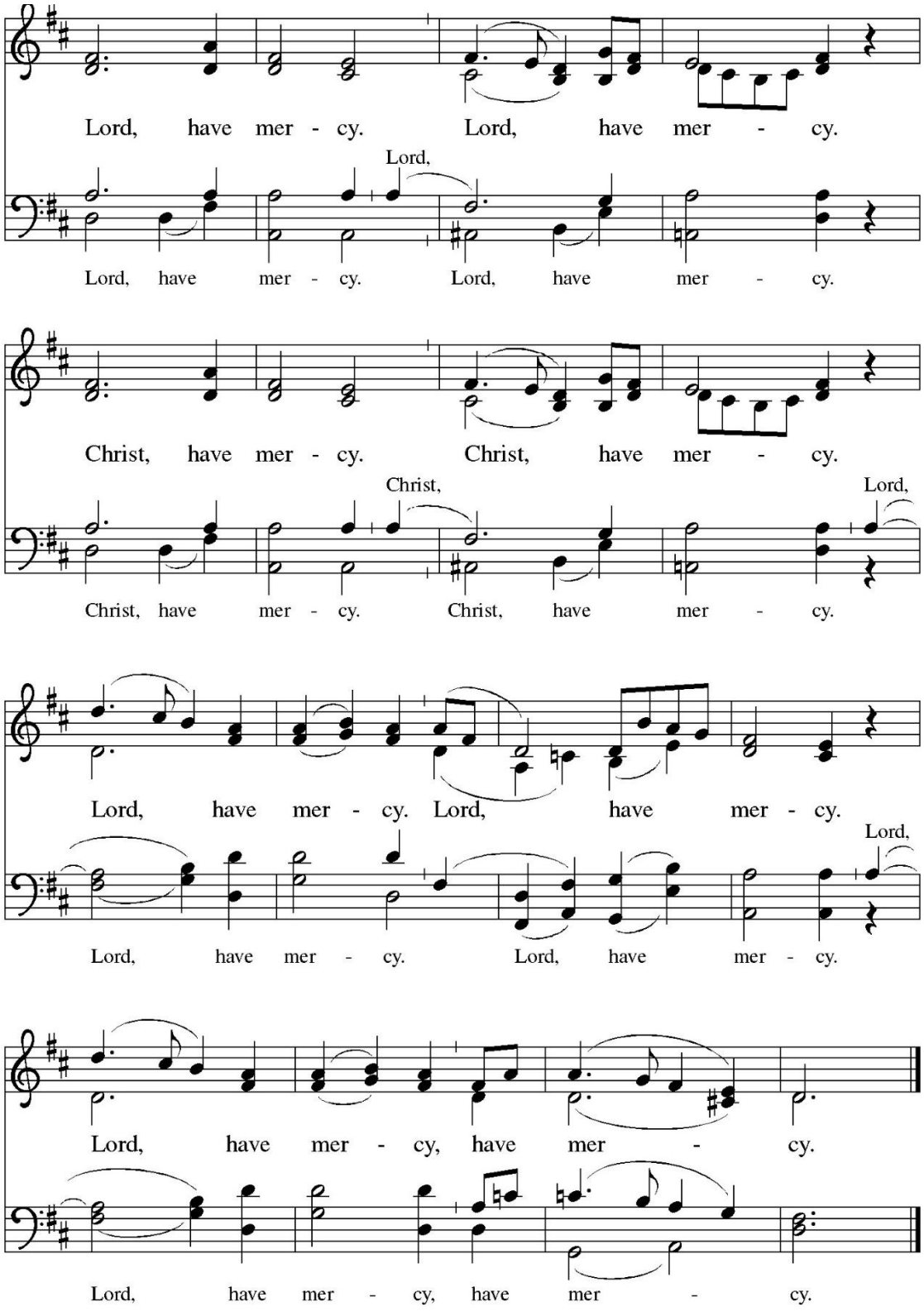
Kids' Cue

Extend your hands to also share your blessing with Pastor.

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

Sing in harmony.



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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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.**

Please be seated.

+ + + 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.

A reading from Isaiah.

[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.**

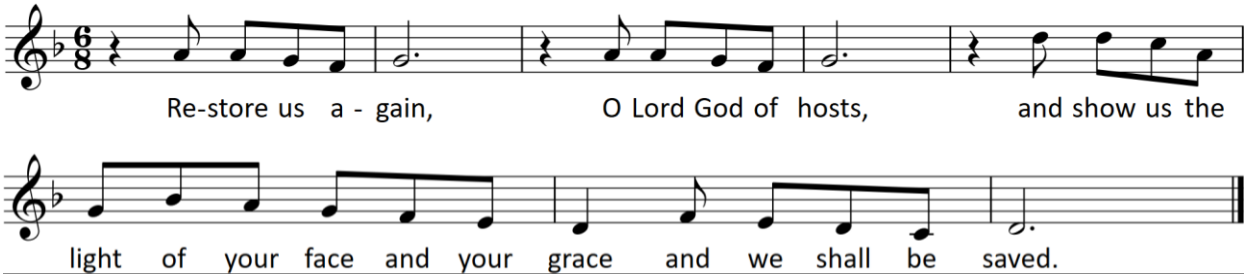


Kids' Cue

Draw God coming down to us from up above.

PSALM 95:1-7, 17-19

The cantor introduces the refrain; all repeat it.
The cantor sings verses. All sing the refrain as indicated.



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; 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? ***Refrain***

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. ***Refrain***

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; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ***Refrain***

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.

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

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.



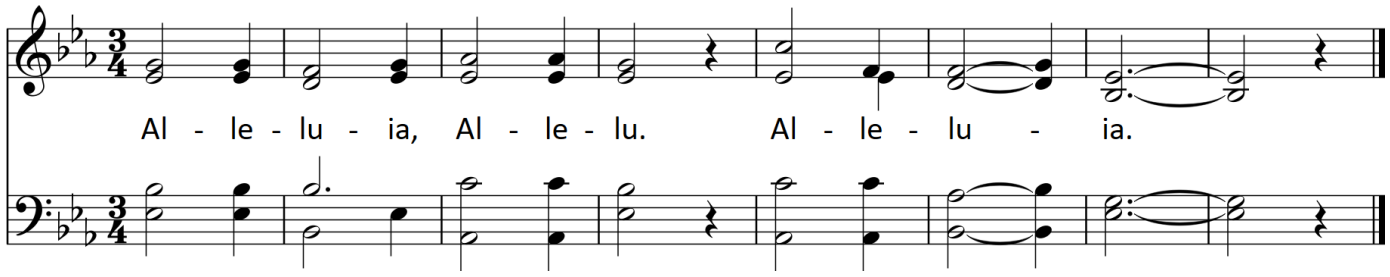
Kids' Cue

What is one of God's greatest gifts to the world?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sing in harmony.*



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.



Kids' Cue

Draw a tender leaf coming out of a branch.

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

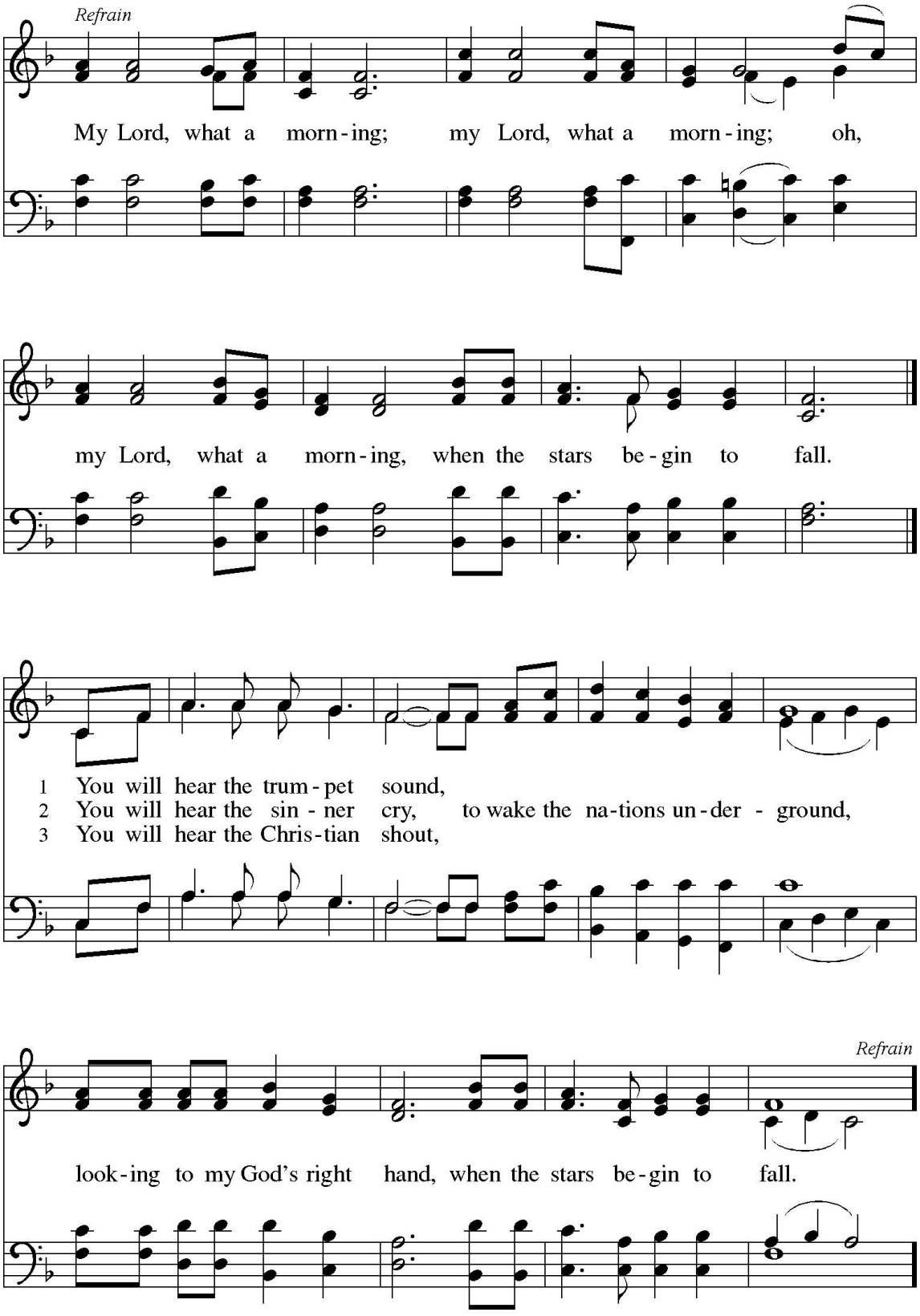
Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #438, *My Lord, What a Morning*

Sing in harmony.



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

After each portion of the prayers:
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.

Please be seated.

+ + + MEAL + + +
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

To donate electronically, use this QR code.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Keep Your Lamps!* arr. Andre Thomas
Voices of Grace, congas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Please stand as you are able.

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.



Kids' Cue

What are "offerings" for in church?

GREAT THANKSGIVING

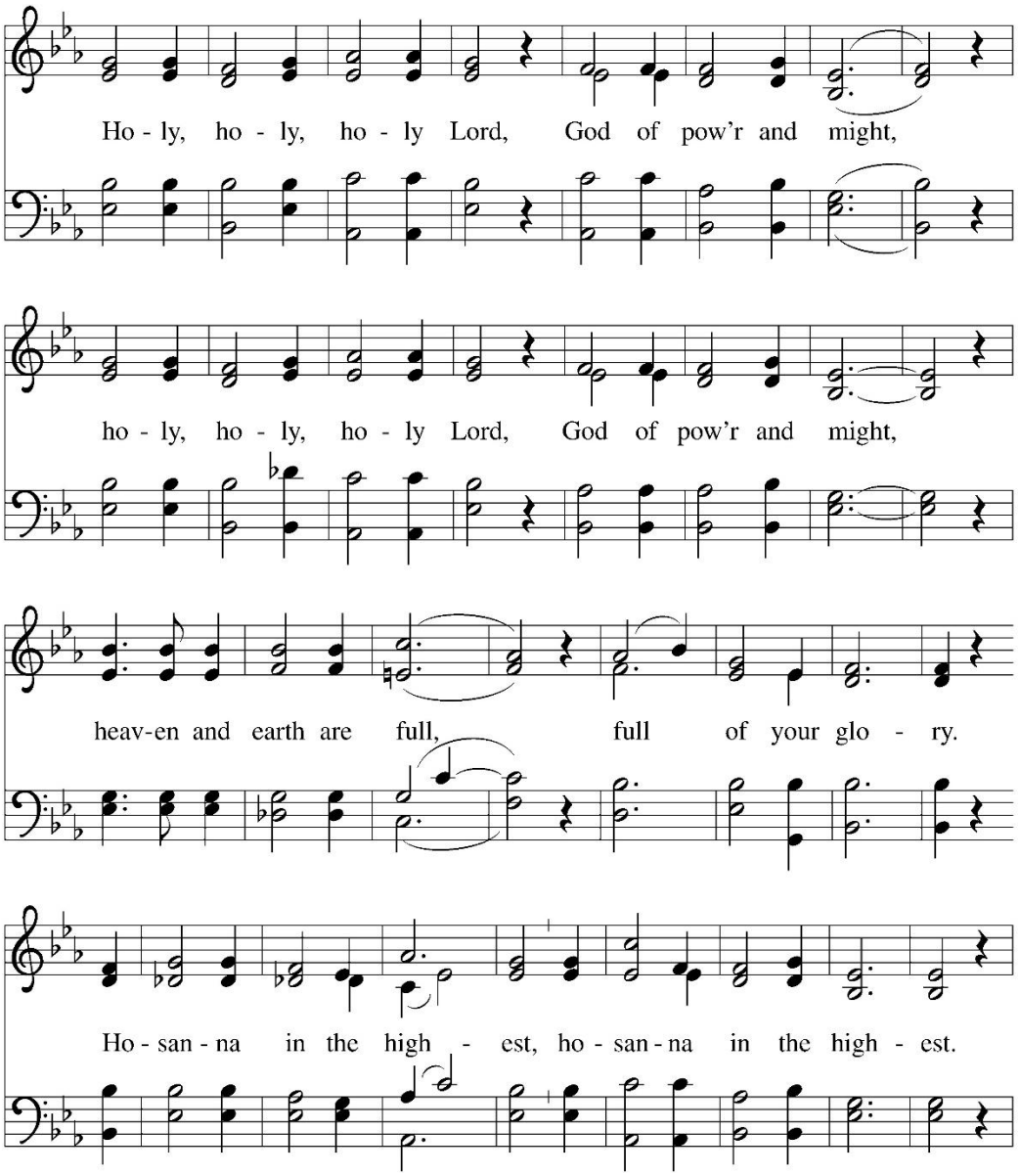
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

PREFACE
It is indeed right … we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sing in harmony.*



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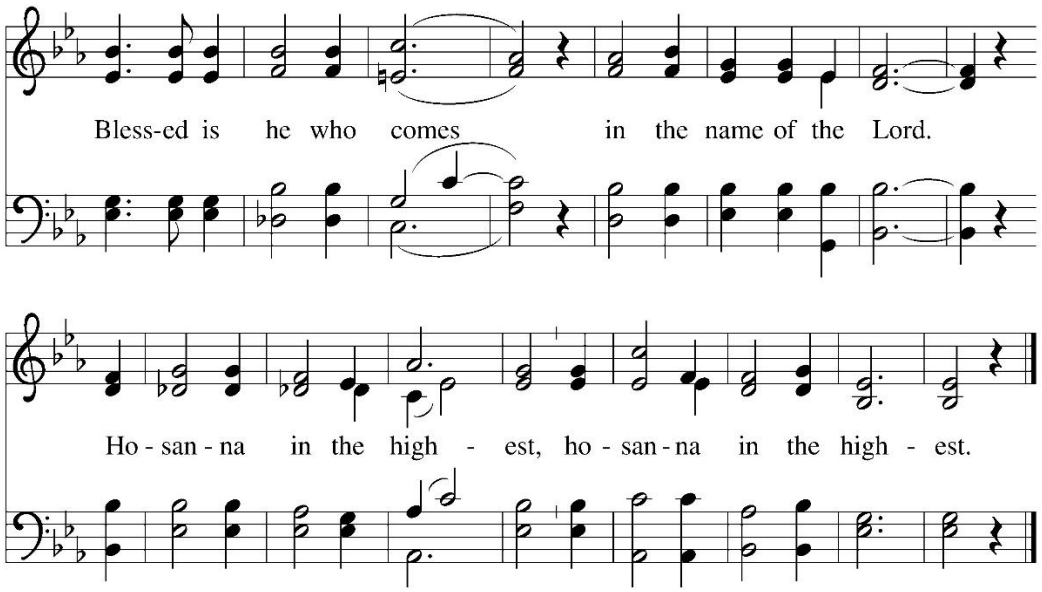

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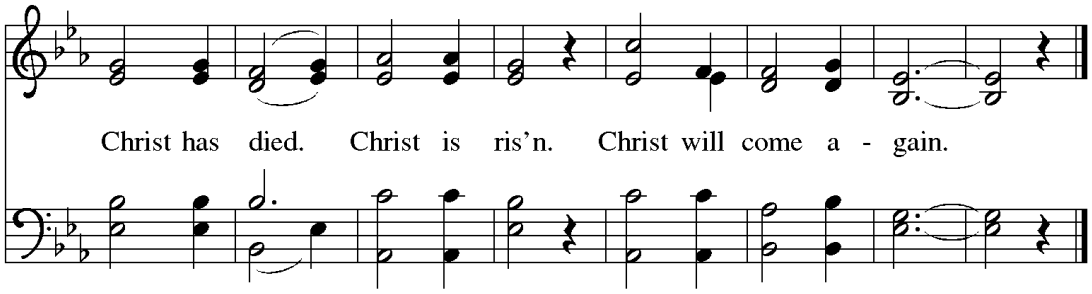
Kids' Cue

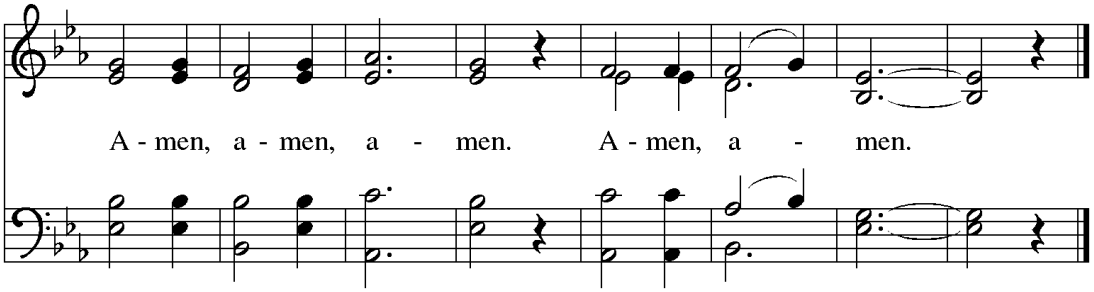
Watch for Pastor to lift up the bread and then the wine.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy… we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering therefore … now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 forever. Amen.



Kids' Cue

What does God's glory look like?

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

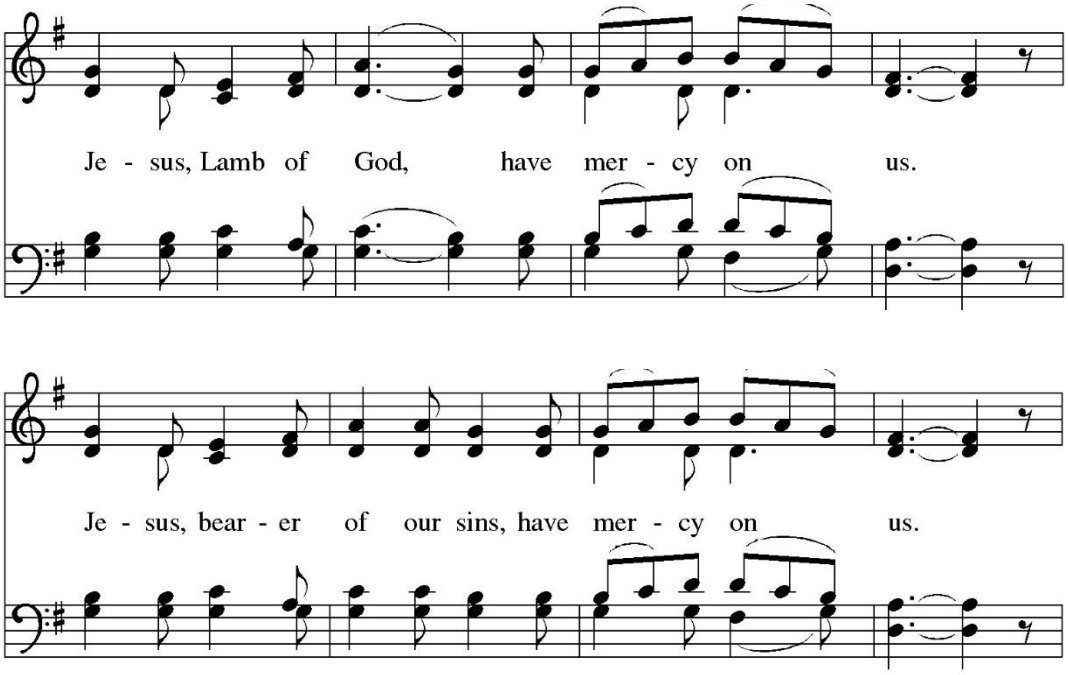
The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *Sing in harmony.*



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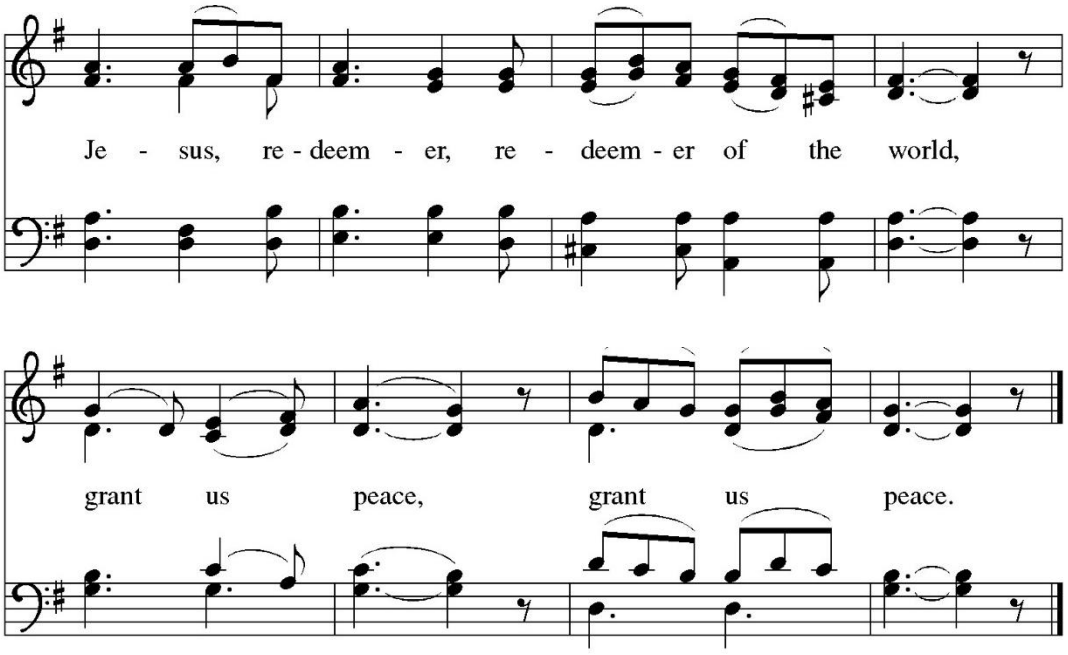

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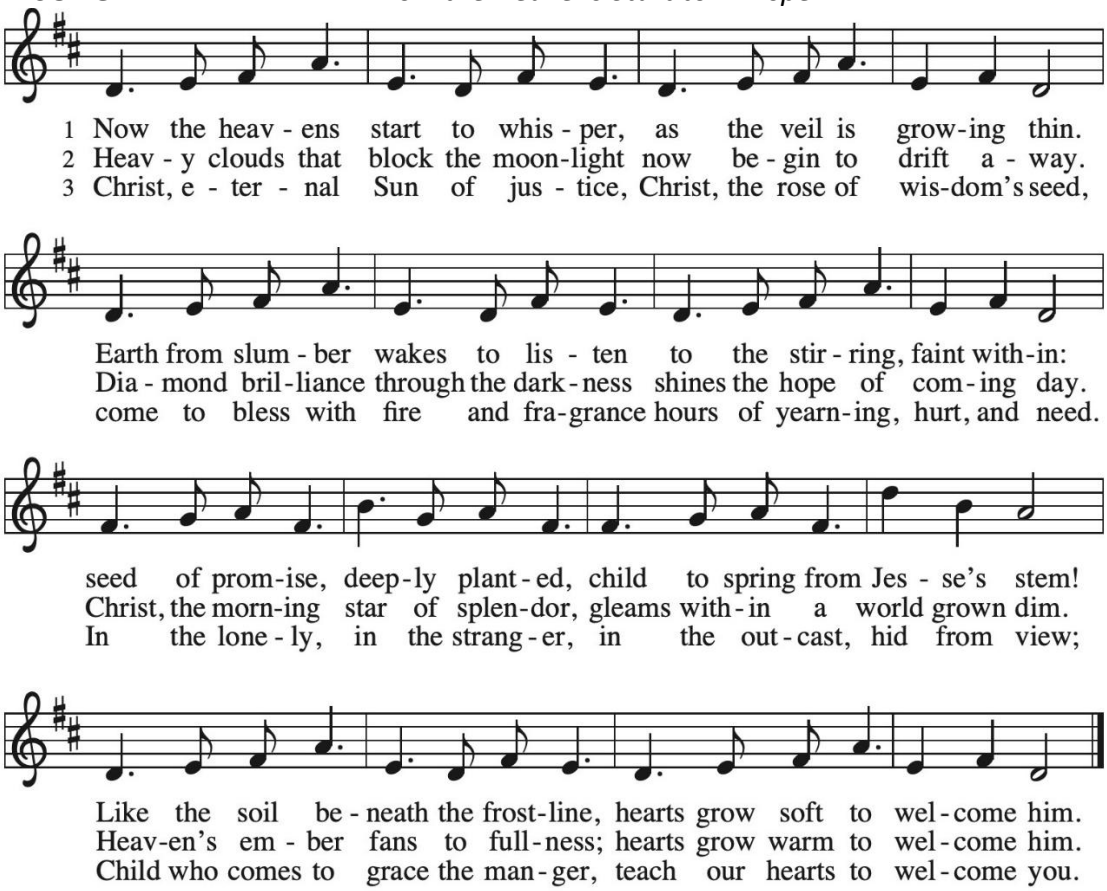
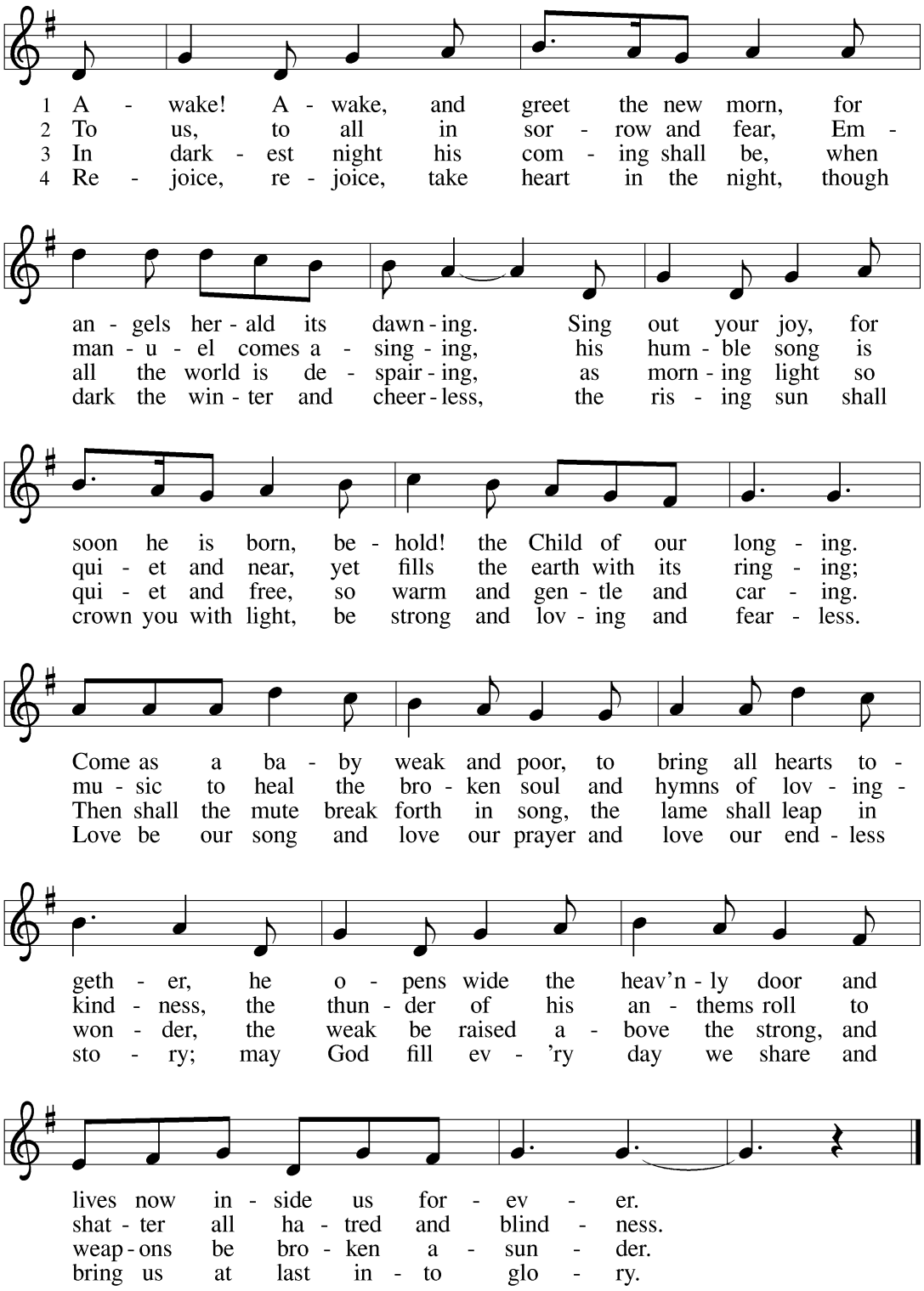
DISTRIBUTION SONG *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*



DISTRIBUTION SONG ELW #242, *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Please be seated.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.



Kids' Cue

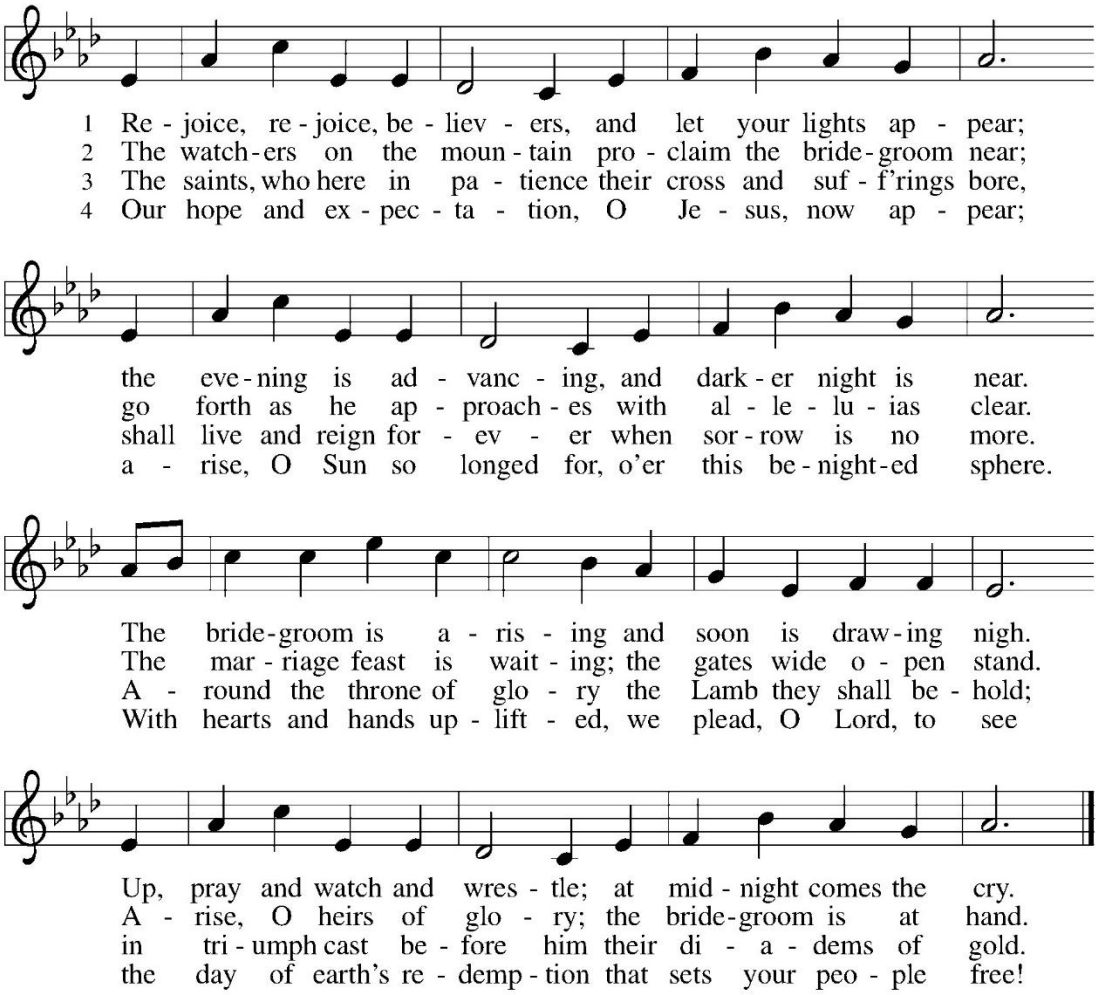
Try holding your hands out, like you are receiving a big gift.

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG ELW #244, *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



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



Kids' Cue

Respond with loud joy.

POSTLUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* Margrethe Hokanson

+ + +

Serving in Today's Worship

Presiding Minister:	Rev. James Aalgaard
Assisting Minister:	Mary Ann Arndt
Director of Music Ministries:	Deacon Ruth Anderson
Organist's Assistant:	Kristi Lee
Ushers/Greeters:	Nancy O'Donnell & Carson, Adaline & Masyn
Lector:	Riva Morgan
Altar Guild:	JuLee Fiebelkorn
Congas:	Marlena La Paz
Tech:	Phil Gregg

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A note regarding livestreaming at Grace: With your participation in our worship services, we assume you have granted us permission to include you in our videos. If you have a concern about being included, please let the staff know, and we will help find a solution that meets your needs.

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Now the Heavens Start to Whisper Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody. P.D.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907. P.D. Music: Swedish folk tune. P.D.

+ + +

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