



**First Sunday of Advent**

**November 30, 2025**

## **We hope you feel welcome here.**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

St. Thomas is located on the ancestral homelands for the myaamiaki, Lénape, Bodwéwadmik, and saawanwa people. We acknowledge and give thanks that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations, and we celebrate the continuing contributions to the life of this region by the Indigenous People who call this land their home.

## We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Today's worship service is printed in this bulletin; the hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) found under the seat in front of you. Places to stand are marked with \* and to respond are indicated with bold type.

Please sit, stand, and move as you need to be comfortable. Use a blue chair with arms or move orange chairs to accommodate mobility needs. Assisted hearing devices and large-print worship aids are available from an usher.

Our youngest worshipers may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the worship space or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

## **We hope you know Holy Communion is for you.**

At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

## **We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.**

Gifts placed in the offering plate during the worship service contribute to this mission. Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

## **We hope you know we pray for you.**

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

## **+ GATHERING +**

### **PRELUDE**

Wake, Awake, A Voice is Calling

J.S. Bach

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: To you, O God,

**C: all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

P: 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 word and sacrament in 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.

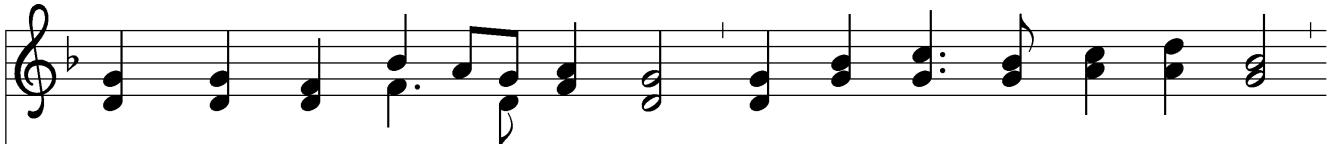
**C: Amen.**

\*ENTRANCE HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW#263

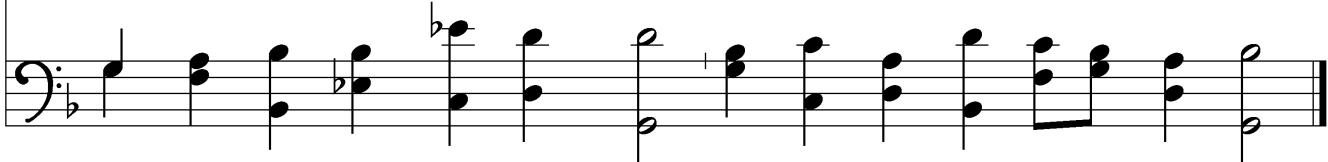
## Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## \*GREETING

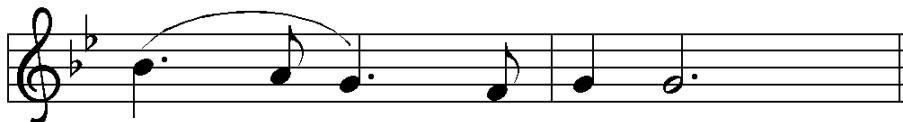
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

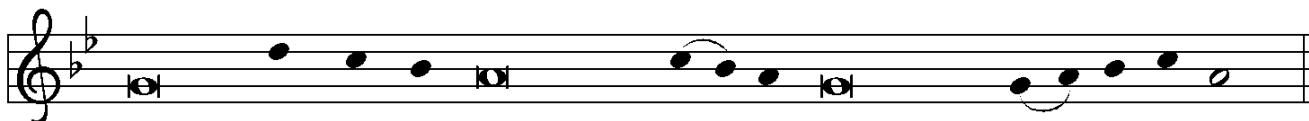
# \*KYRIE



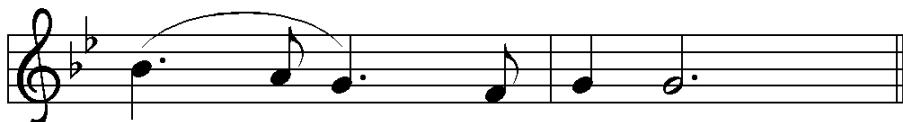
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



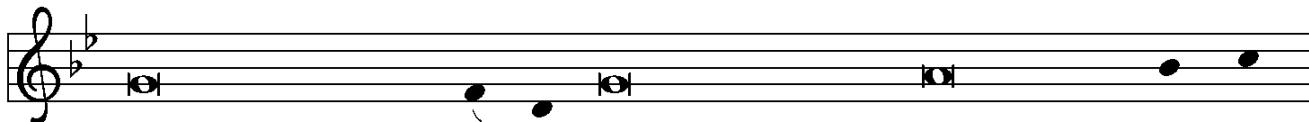
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



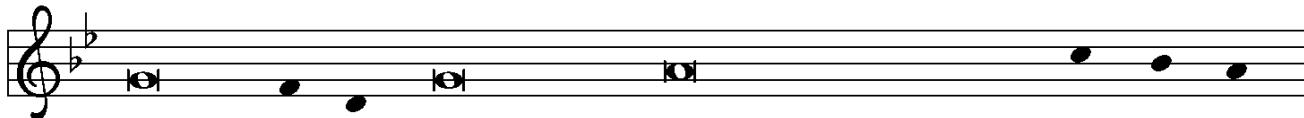
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



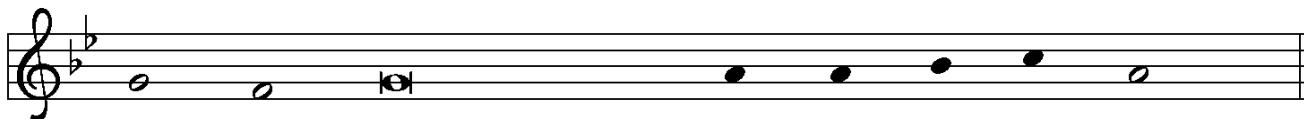
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



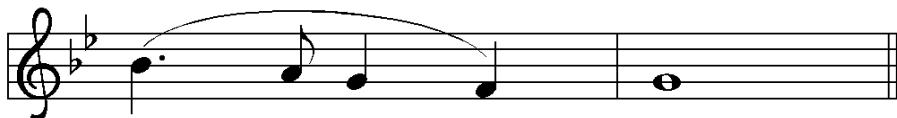
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## \*PRAYER FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**C: Amen.**

## \*HYMN FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

November 30: peace

December 7: peace, light

December 14: peace, light, joy

December 21: peace, light, joy, love

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## +WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

to the house of the God of Jacob, who will teach us God's ways

and that we may walk in the paths of the Lord."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

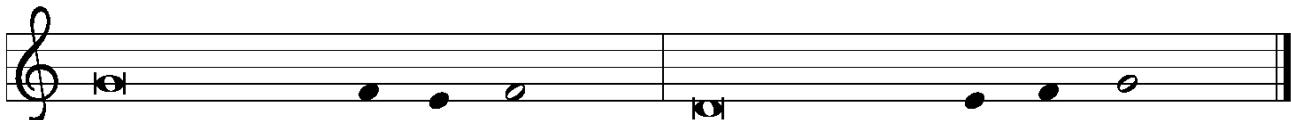
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

**L:** Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 122



I was glad when they <sup>1</sup> said to me,  
“Let us go to the house <sup>1</sup> of the Lord.”

**Now our <sup>1</sup> feet are standing  
within your gates, <sup>1</sup> O Jerusalem.**  
Jerusalem is built <sup>1</sup> as a city  
that is at unity <sup>1</sup> with itself;  
**to which the tribes go up, the tribes <sup>1</sup> of  
the Lord,**  
**the assembly of Israel, to praise the  
name <sup>1</sup> of the Lord.**

For there are the <sup>1</sup> thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the <sup>1</sup> house of David.

**Pray for the peace <sup>1</sup> of Jerusalem:  
“May they pros- <sup>1</sup> per who love you.**

Peace be with- ' in your walls  
and quietness with- ' in your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred ' and  
companions,**

**I pray for ' your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the ' Lord our God,  
I will seek to ' do you good."

## SECOND READING

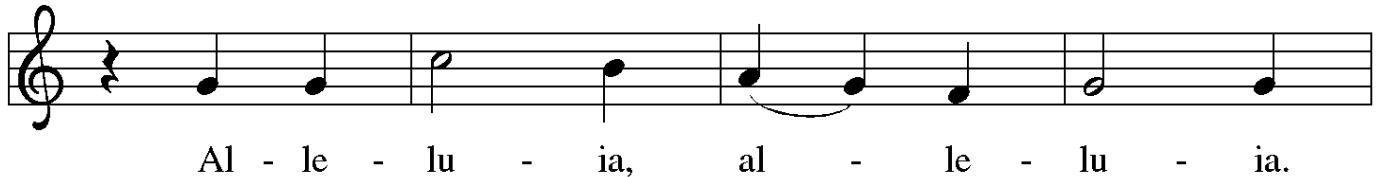
Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

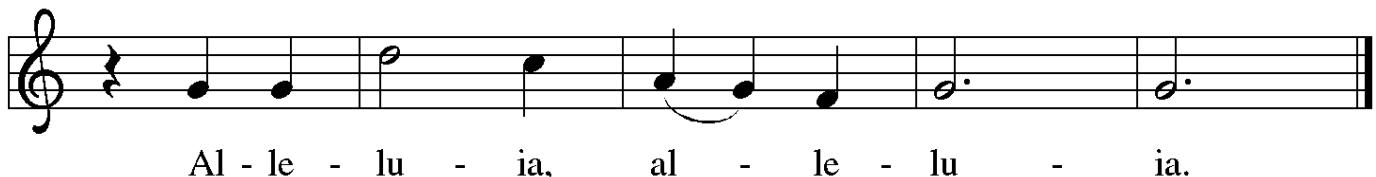
L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## \*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Child of Humanity. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Child of Humanity. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one

will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Child of Humanity is coming at an hour you do not expect."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

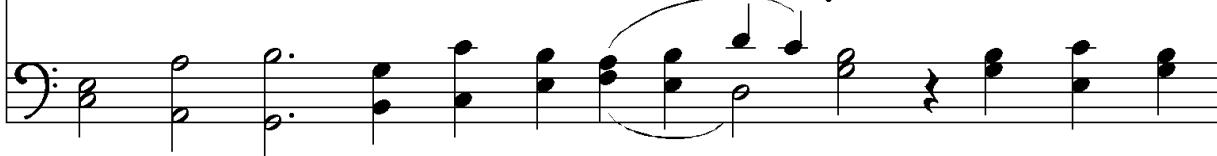
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

ELW#436

# Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



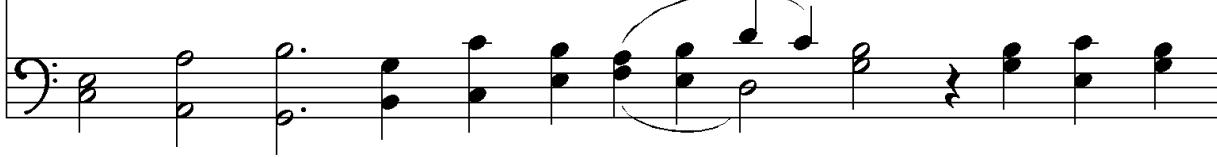
1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

**\*NICENE CREED**

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and Earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father:  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and  
the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the  
giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is  
worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Holy God, we pray for this congregation, for Congregation Beth Shalom and University Baptist Church, for Living Waters Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry, for Iglesia Santo Domingo Guzman, and for the Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance. Knit us together in friendship and trust and show us how to serve your will and purpose. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, as we move towards the winter solstice, we thank you for your free gifts of sunlight, water, and air. Help us to cherish this bright and lively world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we hold up to you places where human peacemaking has failed: Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela, and others we remember in our hearts. Help us to value one another as you value us. Do not permit us to turn away from works of mercy and reconciliation. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, we pray for children who have been deprived of their childhood, for veterans haunted by memories of war, for people with HIV/AIDS, for the incarcerated, the homeless, and people everywhere who endure isolation and fear. We pray for healing and consolation for Trenton, Suzanne, Ken, Gloria, Jonathan, John, Leslie, Lynn, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. Be near to everyone working to heal broken hearts, broken relationships, and broken societies. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, you are the lover of souls. We entrust to you all our beloved dead. We pray also for those who grieve and for those who stand at the gateway of death. We give thanks for the work and witness of Mark Twain, C. S. Lewis, and Madeline L'Engle, visionary writers of a world weighed on the scale of your justice. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**C: Amen.**

#### \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.*

## OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community pads**. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service.*



*An offering is collected as a grateful response for all of God's gifts. Gifts support St. Thomas's mission of living, sharing, and celebrating God's grace with all people. A portion of our offerings support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. **You may place gifts in the offering plate as it reaches you or give on our website, [stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org) (the QR code will direct you).***



Honoring the Composers of  
African American Spirituals  
royalties paid to Sphinx Organization

Keep Your Lamps

8:30 a.m. only  
CHORAL ANTHEM

arr. Andre Thomas

11 a.m. only  
ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

# \*OFFERTORY HYMN People Look East

ELW#248

*verse 1 only*

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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## \*OFFERTORY 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.

**C: Amen.**

**+ MEAL +**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving. The first line consists of two measures of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you." The second measure begins with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving. The second line consists of two measures of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The second measure begins with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving. The third line consists of two measures of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The second measure begins with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving. The fourth line consists of two measures of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The second measure begins with a repeat sign.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*EUCARISTIC PRAYER

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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: 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.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: 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.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language.  
The pastor will continue when all versions are  
complete. Spanish is provided on the next page.*

**C: 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.**

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre.  
Venga tu reino.  
Hágase tu voluntad  
en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas  
como también nosotros  
perdonamos a los  
que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es  
el poder y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.

#### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive  
what God has promised.

*We believe that God is our host and that all  
people are welcome to this feast of grace,  
community, and forgiveness. Come forward at  
the direction of an usher, and receive bread or  
gluten-free wafer and wine in a common  
chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in  
individual cups. If you wish to receive a  
blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

# AGNUS DEI

A musical score for the hymn "Agnus Dei" in G clef, 4/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

## Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

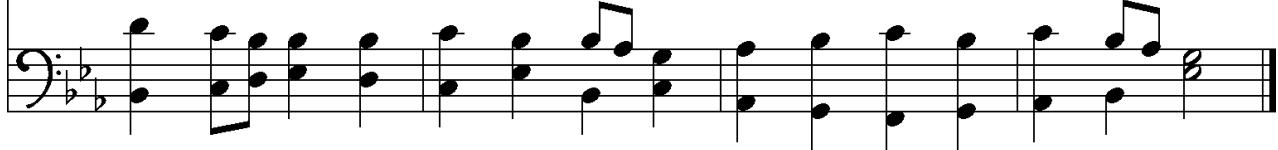
ELW#246



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!



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

# The King Shall Come

ELW #260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



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.

## \*EUCARISTIC BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace **C:**

**Amen.**

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

**C: Amen.**

## + SENDING +

## \*BENEDICTION

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in  $\pm$  Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

## \*SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

ELW#244

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'nings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## \*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

*We depart in peace to continue our worship  
in lives of witness to Christ's love  
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

\*\*\*

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Today's readings are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary. The texts for the scripture readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*, emendations are provided by the pastoral staff of St. Thomas.

The hymn for the lighting of the advent wreath is He Came Down, ELW#253. Text & Music: Cameroon Traditional. Music arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949. Iona Community, GIA Publications, © 1986.

# **At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas**

## **Sunday November 30 First Sunday of Advent**

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Advent Mini-Retreat

11 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

### **Monday December 1**

1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

7 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting

### **Tuesday December 2**

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday December 3**

12 p.m. Prayer at Noon on Zoom

6 p.m. Soup Supper

7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

### **Thursday December 4**

5:30 p.m. Brown Bag Dinner

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday December 6**

10 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

10 a.m. St. Thomas Piecemakers

11 a.m. Cookie Baking with Rose House LuMin

### **Sunday December 7 Second Sunday of Advent**

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum

9:45 a.m. GPS Grief Support Group

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship

12 p.m. Cookie Baking with Rose House LuMin

# **Next Steps**

Looking for a way to get involved at STLC? Try this next step:

## **Offering Counter**

Count financial gifts to the congregation and prepare a simple weekly report on a weekday morning (usually Mondays).

Contact the church office if you are interested in this next step.

[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

## **Advent Mini-Retreat Today**

Prepare for the season of Advent with a mini-retreat **today from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Community Hall** will be full of activities to do here and ideas to take home to help your Advent observance as we explore the theme *Sanctuary Within: Practices of Hope and Healing*. Books will be available for adults and families to take for home devotions. There will also be a light breakfast and coffee to enjoy. You can come for the whole hour or just part. Because this is for all ages, children will enjoy this more if they participate with an adult. The mini-retreat will take the place of Sunday School.

## **December Community Soup Suppers**

On the **first three Wednesdays evenings in December (12/3, 12/10, and 12/17)**, share a simple supper of soup and bread at 6 p.m. December can be so hectic, and we anticipate this year being particularly trying for members of our community. These suppers will be free and open to anyone who could use a warm meal and friendly company. We're seeking hosts, clean up crews, and donations of soup, bread, or dessert. If you'd like to help provide a welcoming table for our community, please sign up at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.

## **Midweek Worship in Advent**

Rest, prayer, and worship are practices that build the sanctuary within. On **Wednesday, December 3**, join Pr. Adrienne for Prayer at Noon on Zoom here: <https://bit.ly/3jVA3k0> for a quiet twenty minutes of prayer and support. **On Wednesday evenings December 3, 10, and 17**, worship with Holden Evening Prayer, a sung liturgy of light and peace.

## **Student Grab and Go Brown Bag Lunch, Sunday, December 14**

Our lunch cart (every second Sunday of the month) shows our support for students at IU and Ivy Tech. **Look for the sign-up on the Welcome Desk** for details on the donations we need. **Or please sign up to host the cart** —a few minutes of set-up and the chance to chat with students and welcome them to St. Thomas.

## **Advent Fundraiser for Sister Parish**

When: **Sunday, December 14**, before & after both services. Where: St. Thomas Narthex. Don't miss this opportunity to pick-up last-minute gift items handcrafted and donated by our congregation's members & friends while supporting our upcoming North/South delegations. Questions: Contact Carol Seaman or Suzanne Halvorson.

## **Advent Choir Concert and Reception**

Come and share in our annual Advent Choir Concert and reception on **Sunday, December 14 at 4 p.m.** The concert is free and open to the public. St. Thomas members are asked to contribute to the reception decor by loaning nativities and to consider volunteering to set up, serve, clean up, and bring food. Please see the sign-up sheets at the Welcome Desk. All food donations and nativities are requested to be at St. Thomas no later than 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 14.

## **Order Poinsettias to help Decorate St. Thomas for Christmas Eve**

Help decorate our worship space for the Christmas Eve services. The cost per plant is \$16. The poinsettia you purchase can be taken home after the 8 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## **Children's Christmas Program**

You don't want to miss the creative, heart-warming story played by our church's growing youth! The students have written a story that will take us to celebrations of Christmas around the world. The program will be **Sunday, December 21 at 10:15 a.m. in Heritage Hall**. You are invited to bring Christmas cookies to share for a cookie reception after the program to celebrate their work!

### Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal

#### Schedule

Saturday December 13 and December 20: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sunday December 21: arrive by 9:30 a.m. for costumes on by 9:40 a.m.

Questions? Contact Melissa DeGraaf

## **Prayers for those with health and safety concerns**

Trenton, Suzanne, Ken Pedersen, Gloria Hitchcock, Jonathan Miller, John Kinzer, Leslie Main, Lynn Weddle, Dallis Fox-Nagal, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Kent Unger, and Mark Wilkes.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at [skcolston@aol.com](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

**The altar flowers are given**  
by Gail Seegert in memory of her mother,  
Shirley Wagenknecht-Dinkel, on her birthday.

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Altar Care: Ute Coyne, Jennifer Garl,

Haley Hatton

Bread & Wine: Vicki Polansky

Flower Guild: Mary Thomason-Smith and  
Melody Smith

Coffee Crew: Kathleen Boggess, Matt Meier

Prayer Writer: Pamela Smith

A/V Tech: Jim Ward

## **8:30 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Robin Hershberger

Lectors: Ashley Ahlbrand, Carolyn Sowinski

Ushers: Dean Arnold, Carol Seaman

Communion Steward: Kathleen Boggess

Greeters: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Council Coordinator: Dean Arnold

## **11 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lectors: Janine Drake, Noelle Drake

Acolyte: Lucy Meier

Ushers: Craig & Kathy McDonald

Communion Steward: Mary Thomason-Smith

Greeters: Gretchen Moehlmann

Council Coordinator: Randy Arnold

# ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Partners in ministry with*  
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Iglesia Santo Domingo  
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Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,  
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Adult Choir Director  
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Melissa de Graaf  
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU  
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,  
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**