First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



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, Lënape, 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 on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

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

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

MINISTRY MOMENT

Choir Concert & Reception

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

P: 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.

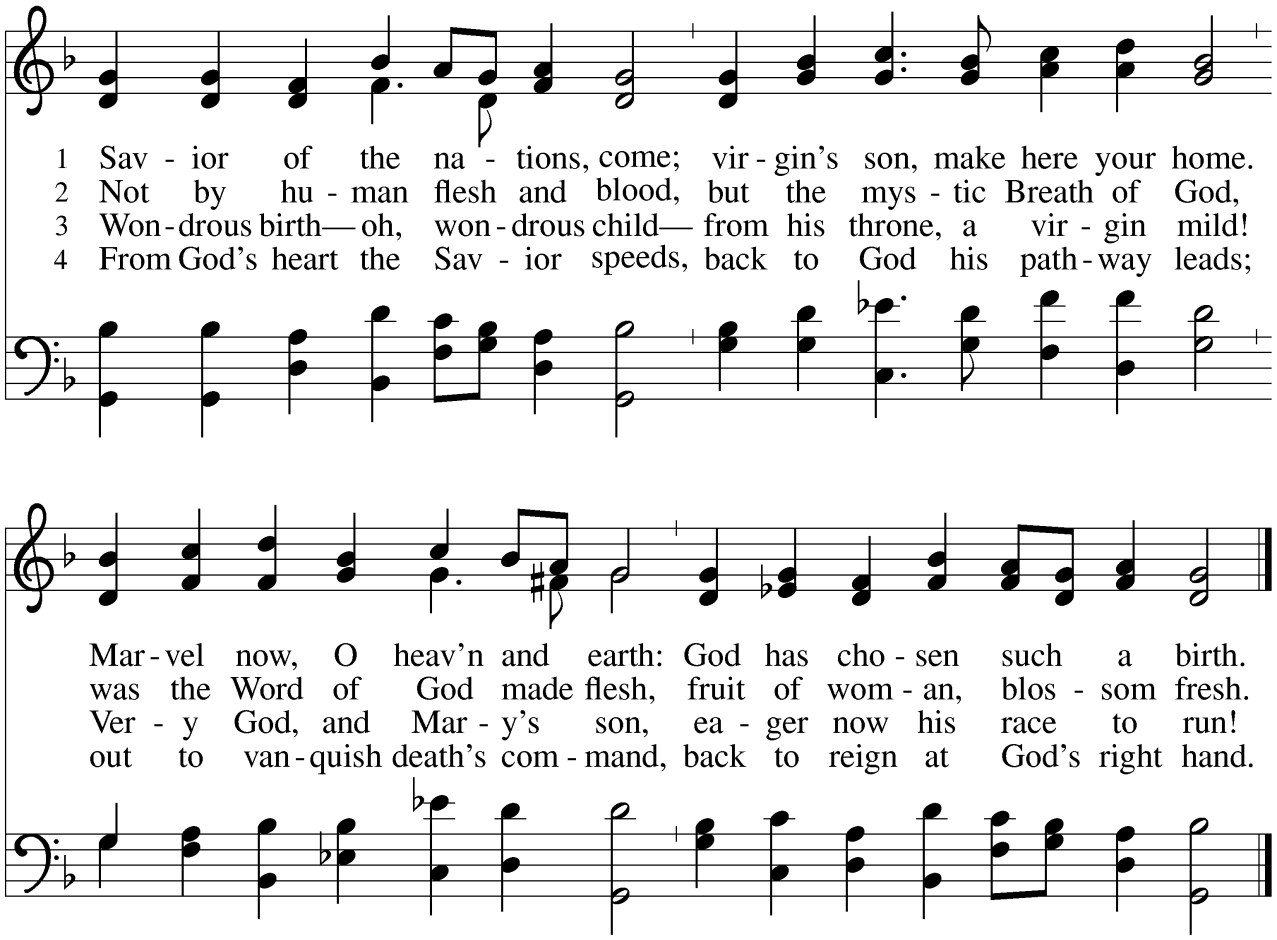
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Comforting God,
C: 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.

P: "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!
C: Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come ELW#263



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!

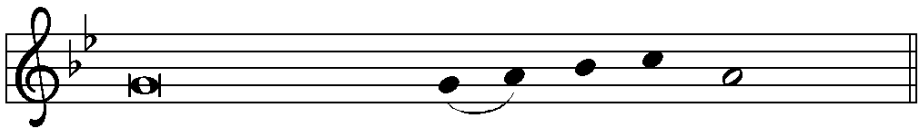
Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

*GREETING

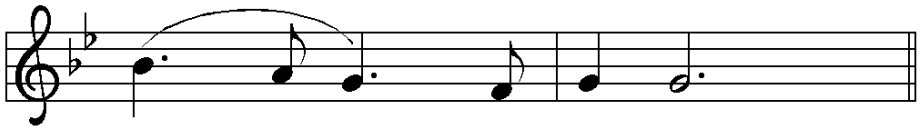
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

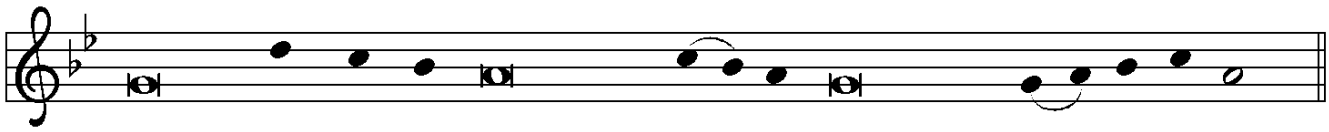
*KYRIE



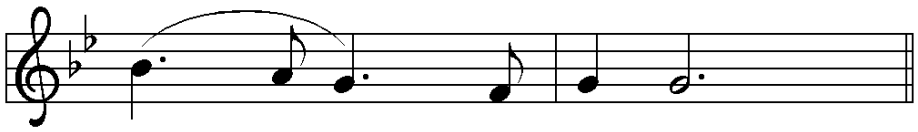
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



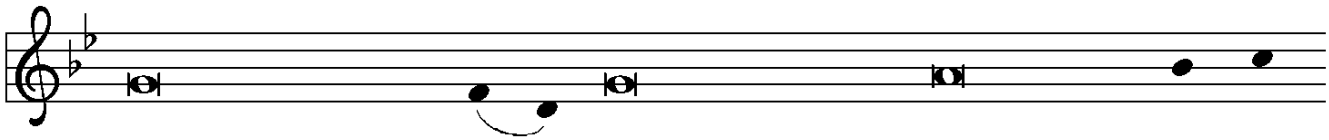
Lord, have mer - cy.



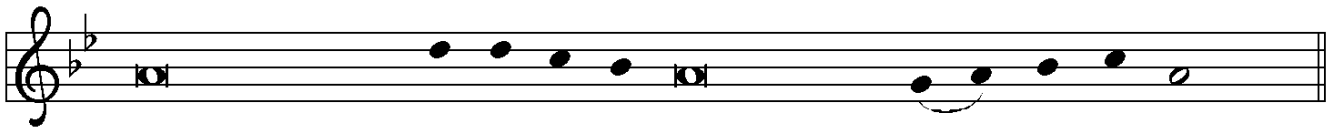
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



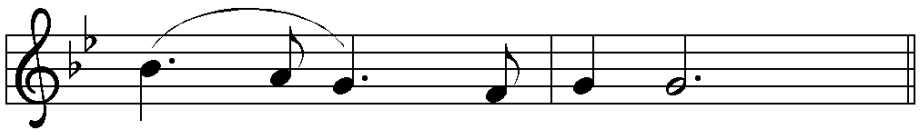
Lord, have mer - cy.



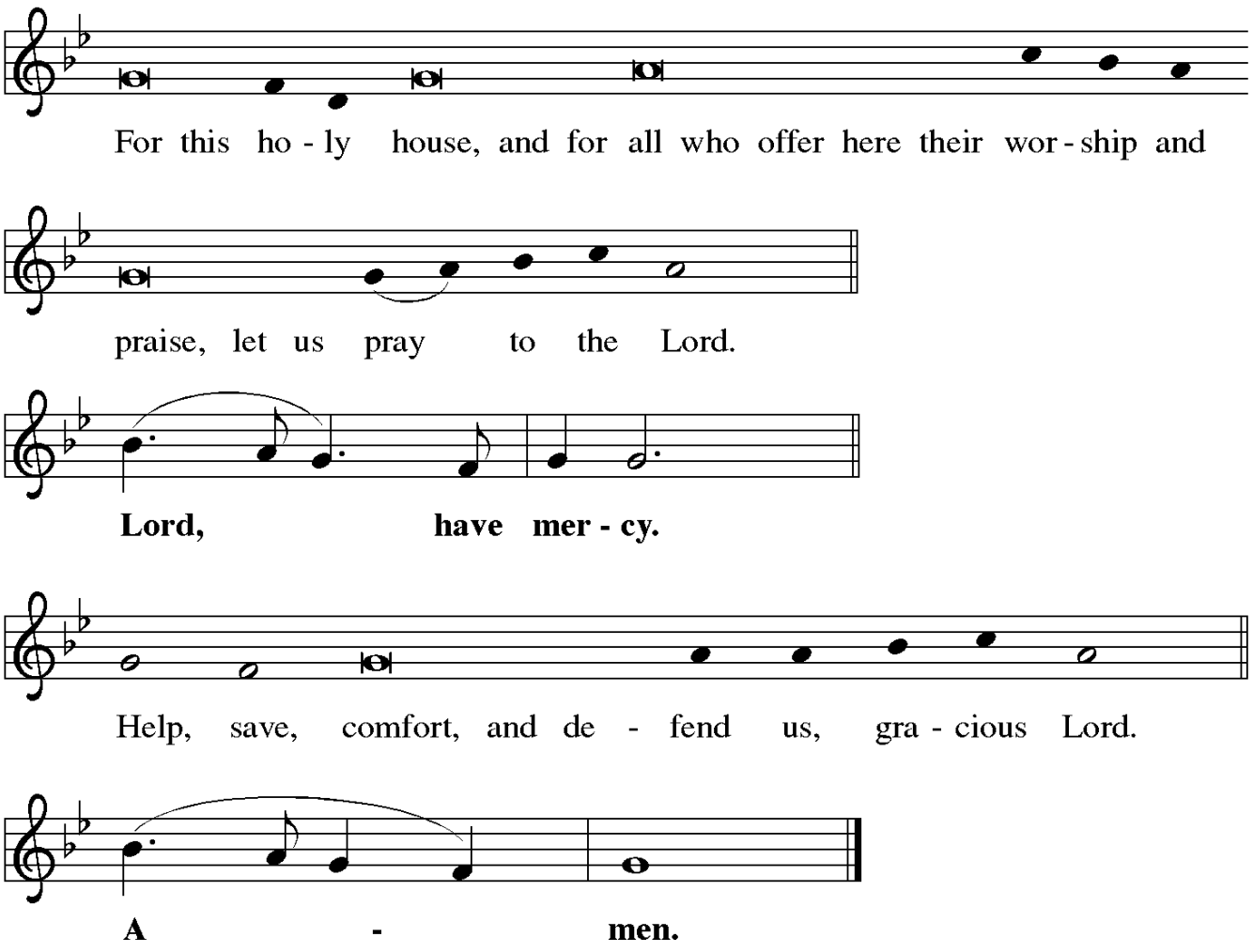
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.

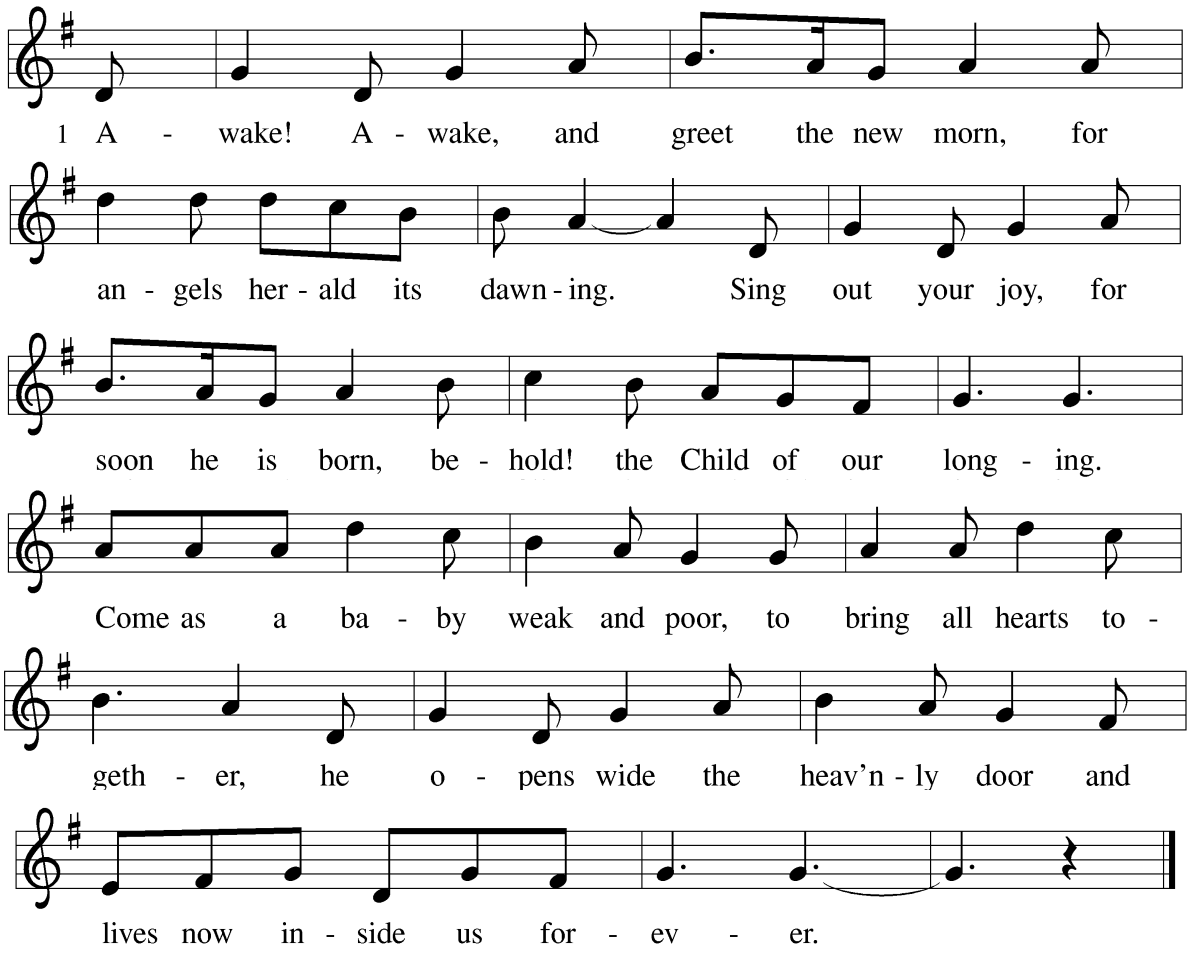

For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men.

*PRAYER FOR THE LIGHTING OF
THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

*HYMN FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ELW#242



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Kris Stewart

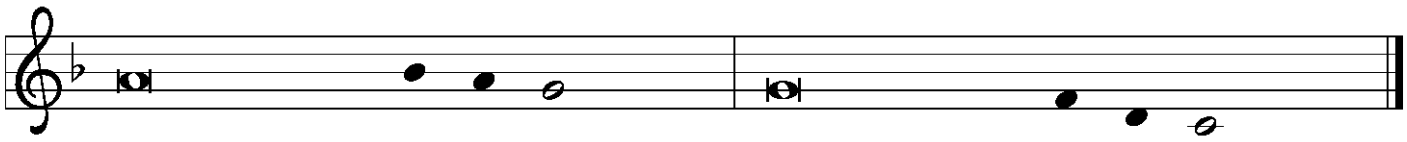
FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

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 you.
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.

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on 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?
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.
And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

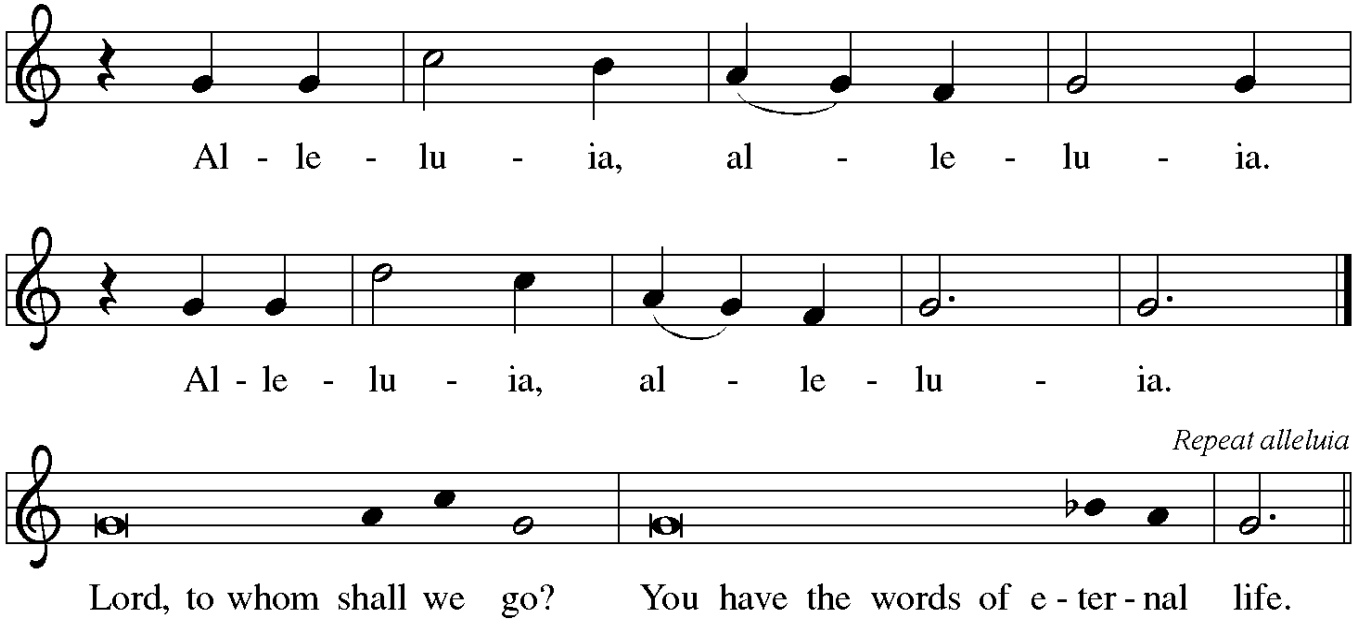
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God 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 whom you were called into the partnership of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: Word of God, word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 Child of Humanity coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then the Child of Humanity will send out the angels and gather the 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 the Child of Humanity is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this

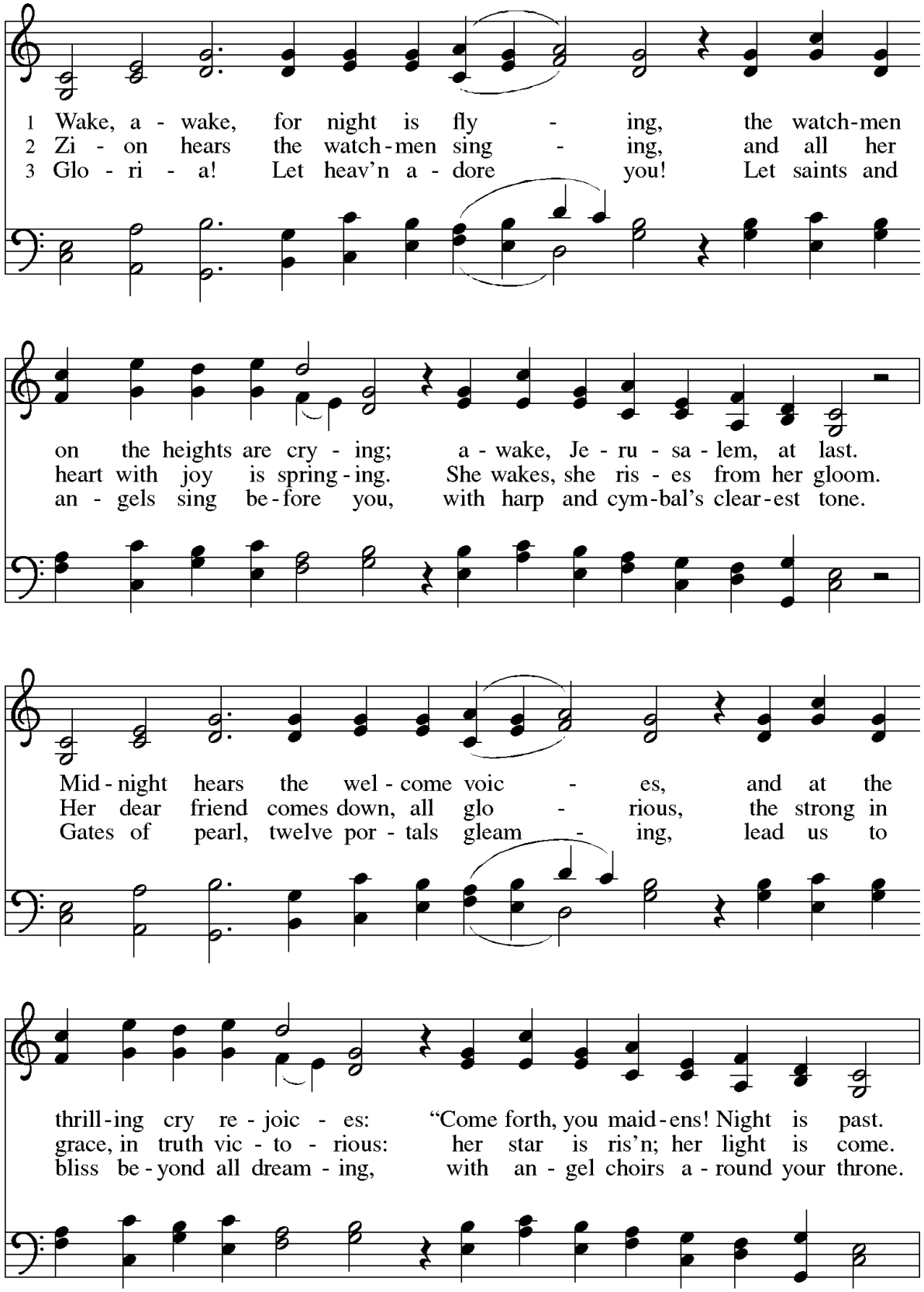
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

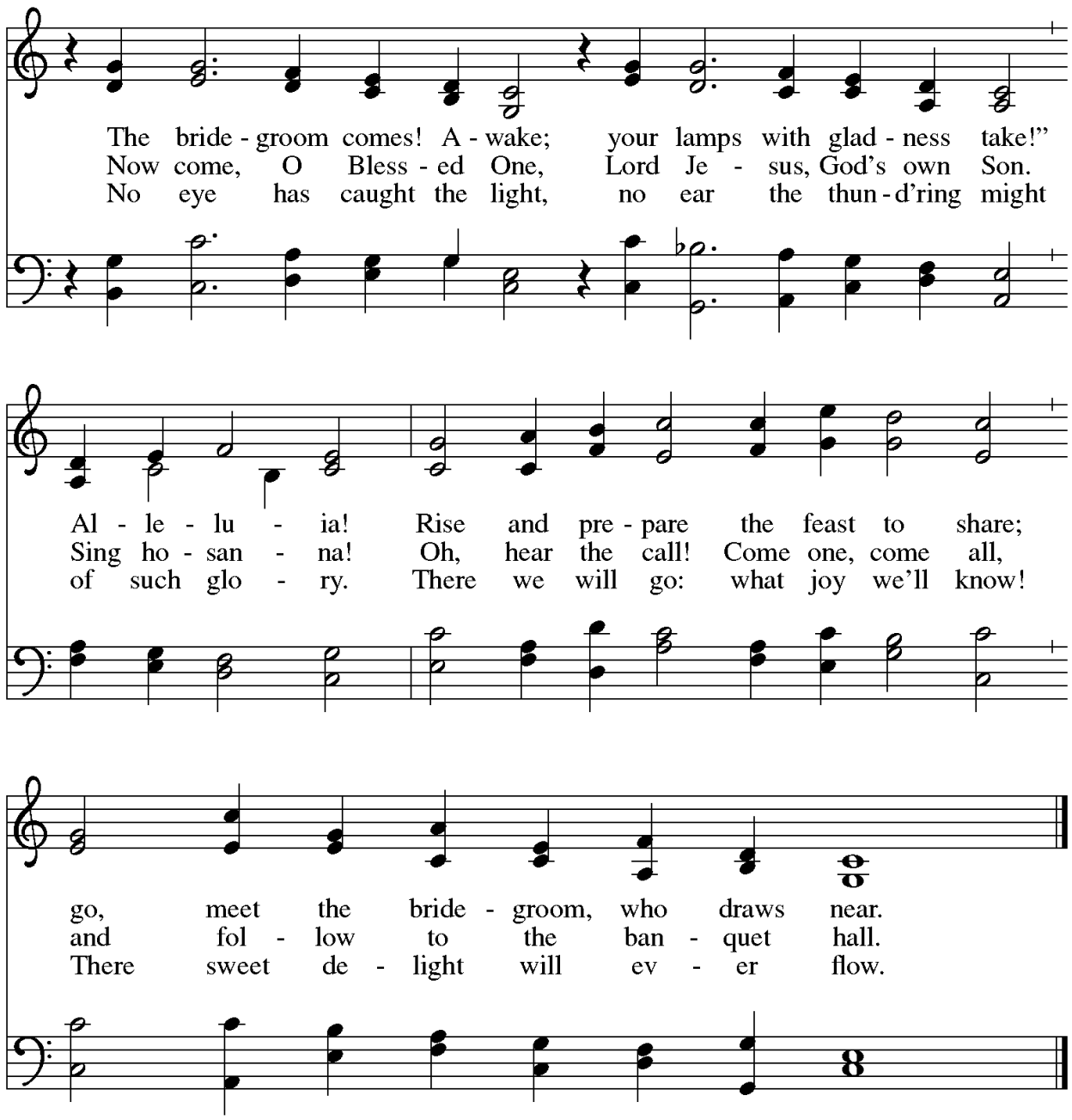
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a person going on a journey, who leaves home and puts the slaves in charge, each with their work, and commands the doorkeeper 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 coming suddenly, the master may find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pr. Adrianne Meier

*HYMN OF THE DAY
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying ELW#436





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

A brief silence.

A: Welcoming God, open wide our hearts to the mystery of Christ's incarnation. Strengthen pastors, deacons, chaplains, choristers, organists, lay leaders, and your whole Church to sing the joy of your salvation. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Nurturing God, care tenderly for your creation, especially wild animals preparing for winter. Bless our family pets, and animals in shelters waiting for a home. Provide all your creatures with safe haven, plentiful food sources, and lifegiving habitats. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Peace-loving God, point leaders toward highways of cooperation and stability. In valleys of despair, lift all who are oppressed. Provide creative solutions that ensure everyone in Bloomington has warm shelter, food to eat, and safety for sleep. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Shepherding God, speak tenderly to all who cry out in pain or distress. Tenderly comfort the hospitalized, the homebound, those in skilled nursing facilities, and in rehab and treatment centers. Heal the sick, especially Lois, Kathleen, Drew, Del, Kristin, Helen, Bob, Leslie, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Redeeming God, stir commitment to your justice. Encourage the volunteers who serve the Bloomington Severe Winters Shelter. Bless the churches and congregations opening their doors to neighbors needing warmth and a meal. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Lifegiving God, we praise you for the wisdom of all the faithful saints. Guard our waking and our sleeping, until with St. Nicholas and all the faithful departed, we find our rest in you. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.
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 (the QR code above on the right will direct you).***



Use the QR code on the left to add your volunteer hours to our 5000-hour challenge.

8:30 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM



Keep Your Lamps
André Thomas

11 a.m. only

ORGAN OFFERTORY — Matthew Benkert

*OFFERTORY HYMN

People Look East — ELW#248

verse 1 only

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

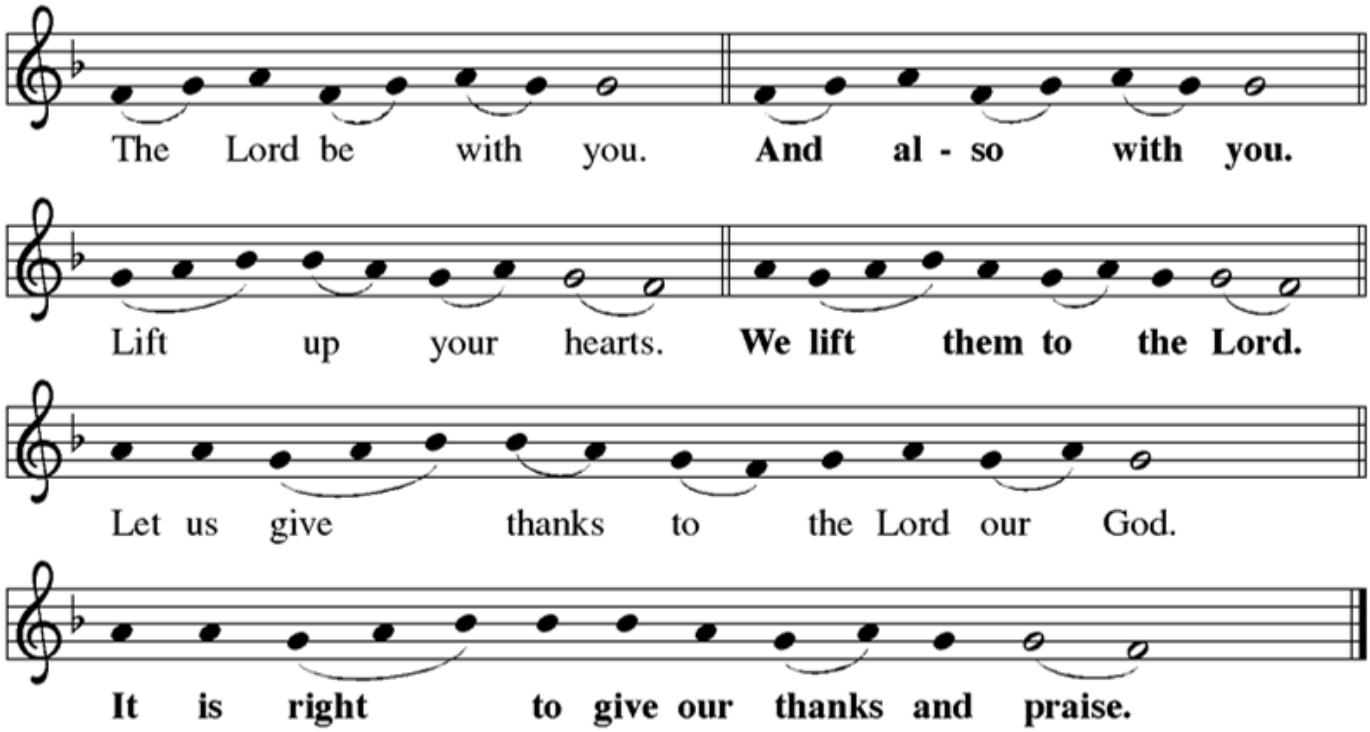
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

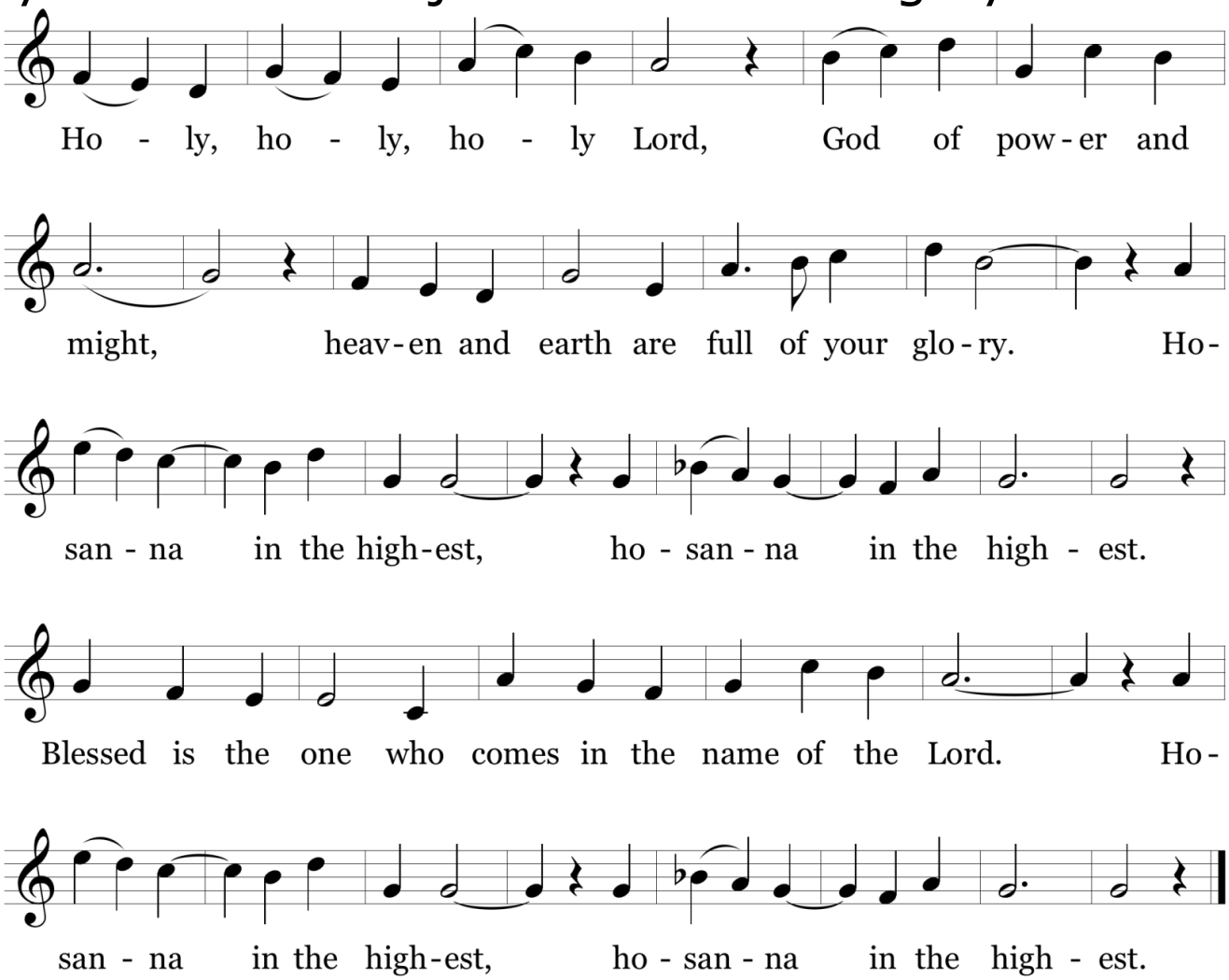
C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



*EUCHARISTIC 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. German 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.

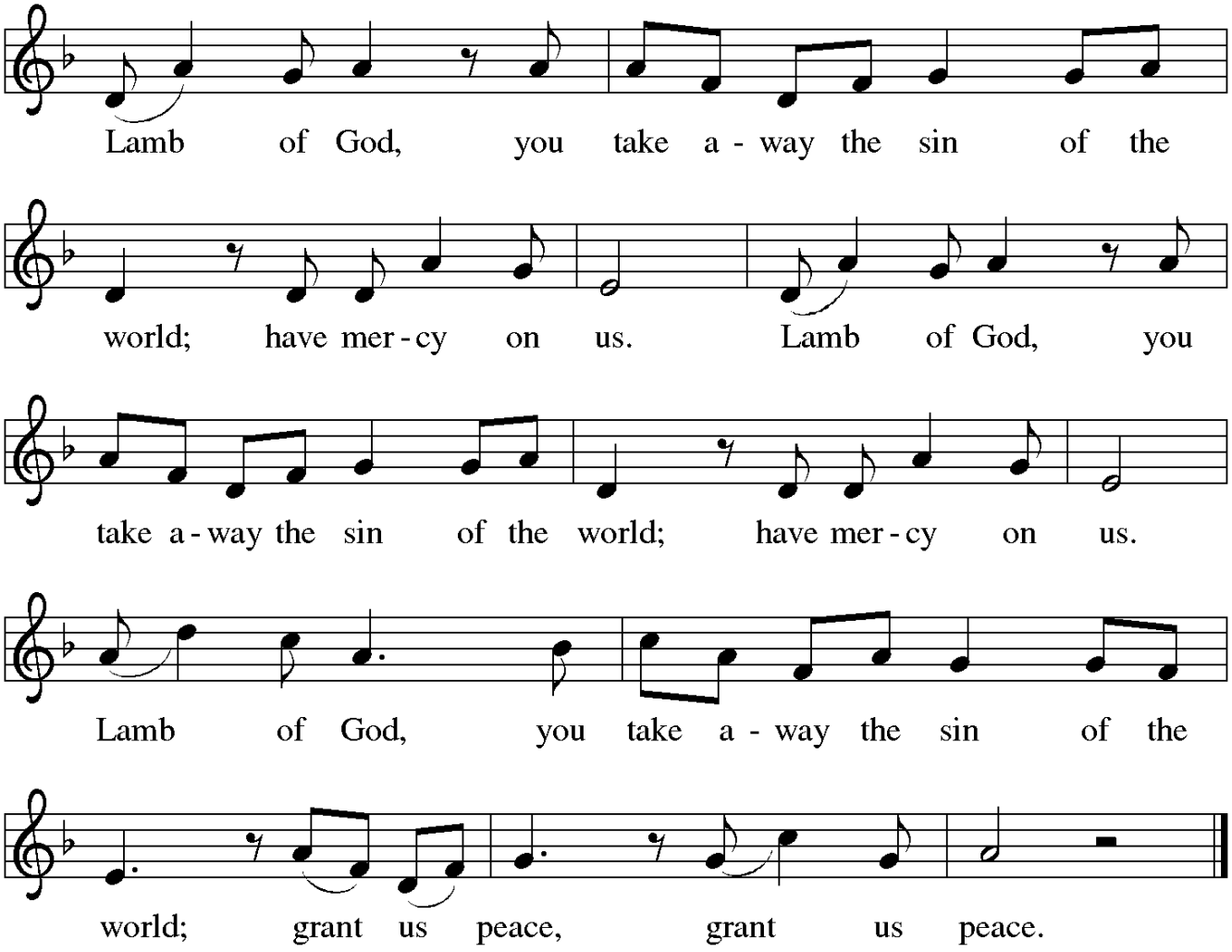
Vater Unser im Himmel.
Geheiligt werde dein Name.
Dein Reich komme,
Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,
wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,
sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.
Amen.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see, that the Lord is good.

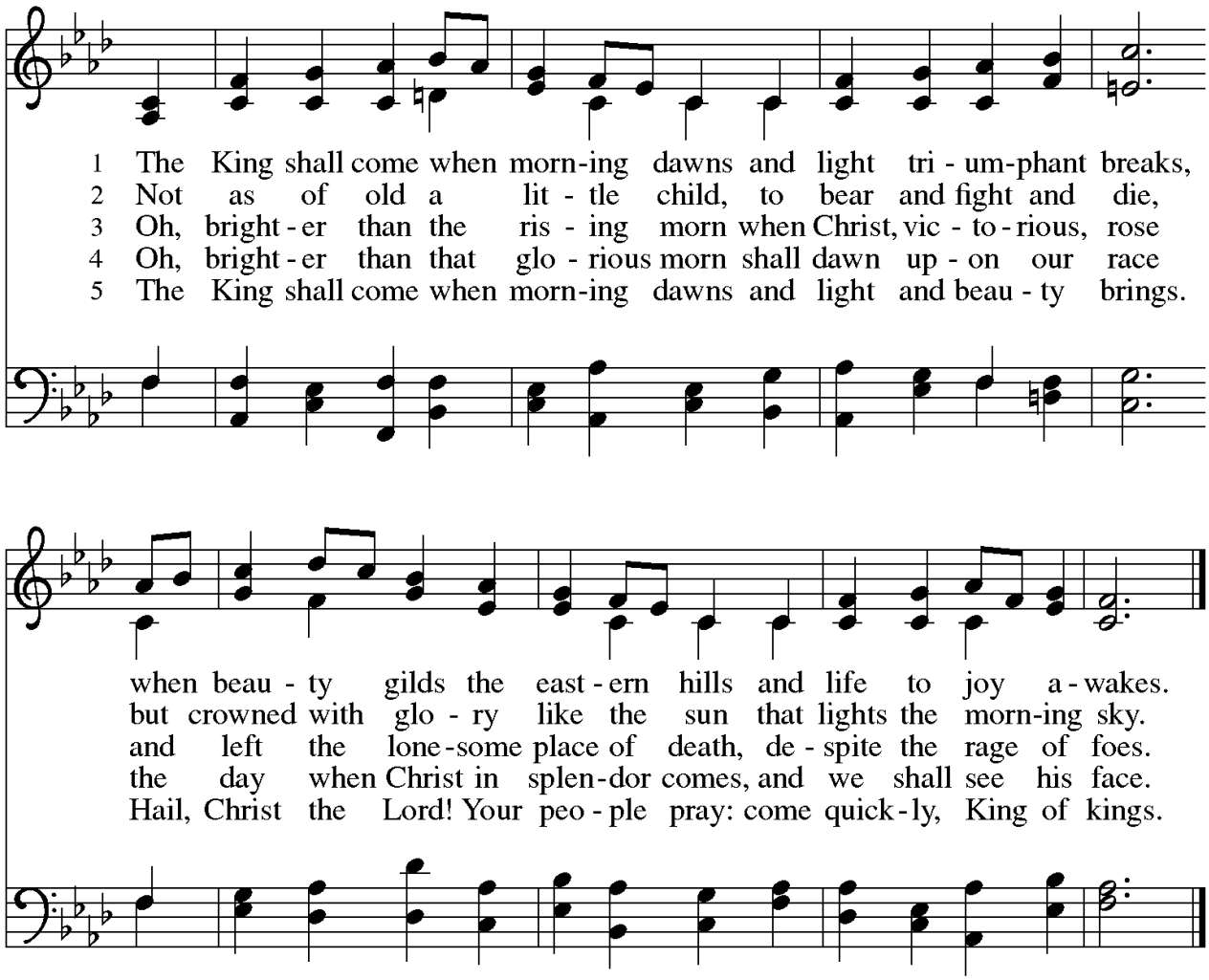
We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of an usher, and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive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

AGNUS DEI


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

The King Shall Come — ELW#260

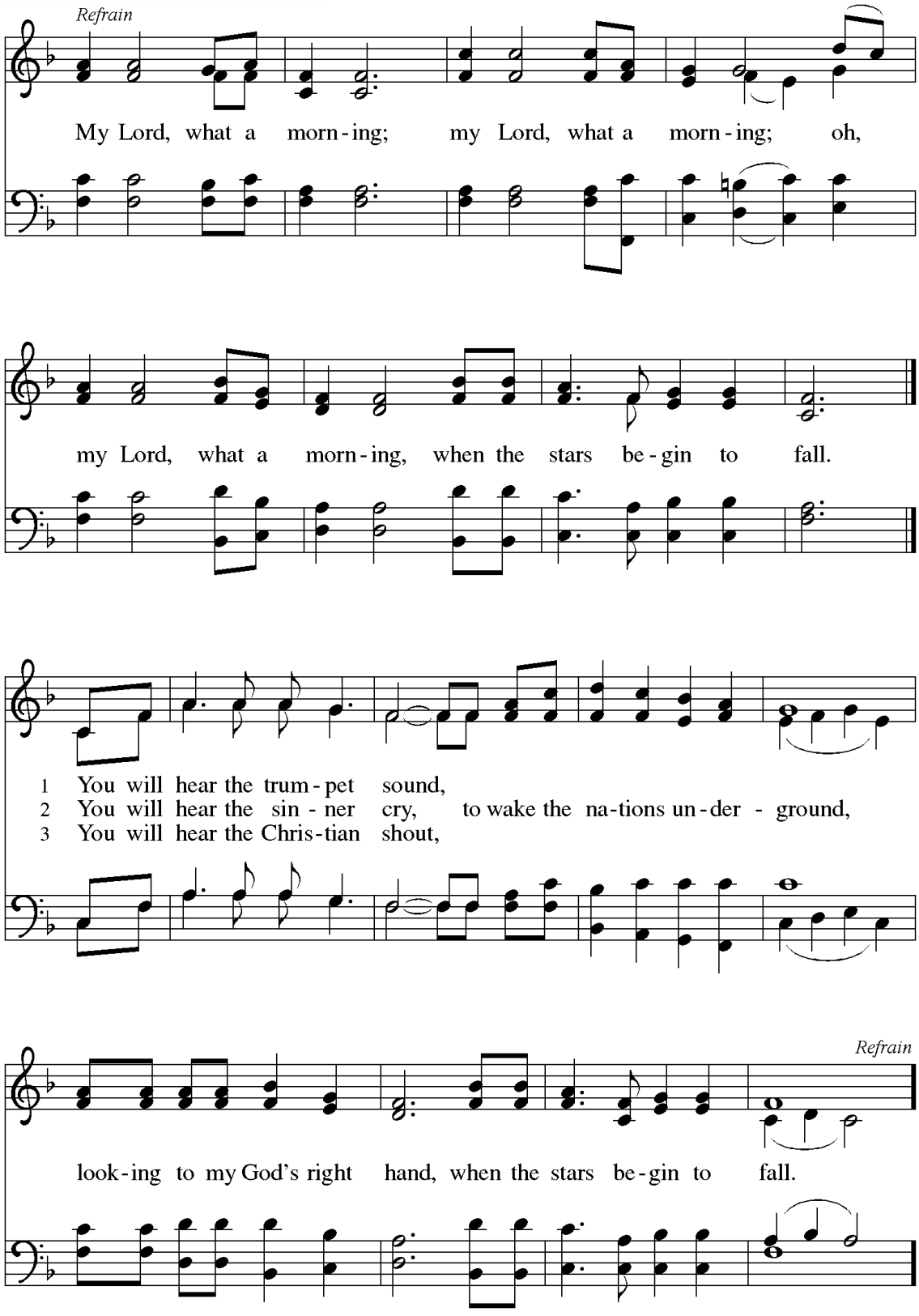


Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.



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

My Lord, What a Morning
ELW#438



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

*EUCHARISTIC 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: You believe that God came to us in Jesus Christ, and look for him to come again. May the advent of his coming bring you comfort and joy.

C: Amen.

P: May God make you steady in faith, full of hope, and abounding in love.

C: Amen.

P: Rejoice that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. When he comes again in glory, may he bring you to everlasting life.

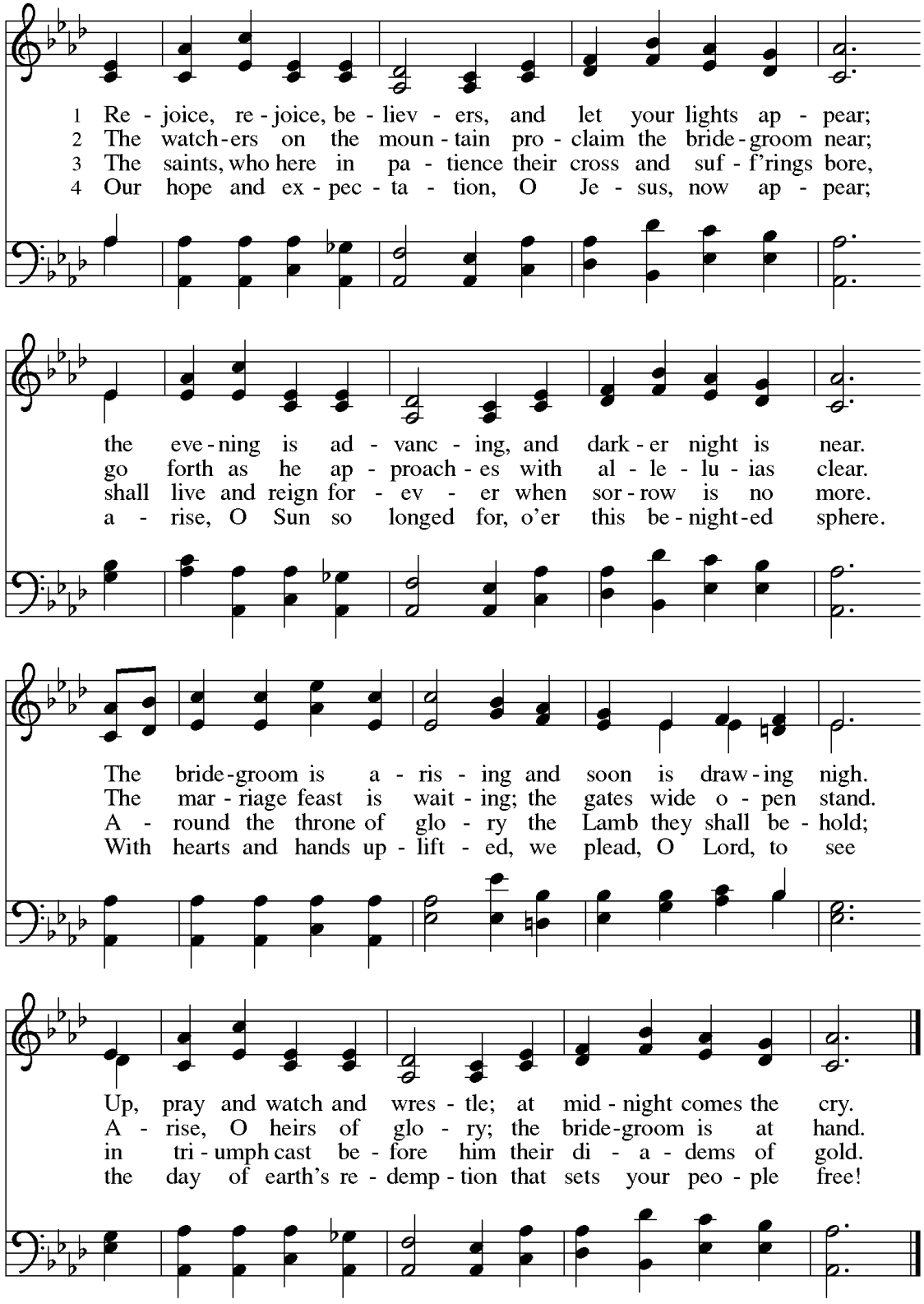
C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW#244



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

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 in consultation with emendations provided for Augsburg Fortress by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday November 29

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 November 30

1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesday December 1

6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday December 2

12 p.m. Prayer at Noon on Zoom
6 p.m. Soup Supper
7 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

Thursday December 3

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday December 5

10 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Sister Parish Sale

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
11 a.m. Worship
12 p.m. LuMin Cookie Event



WALK IN THE LIGHT!

Lessons & Carols for Advent

Carols, anthems, and readings for Sankta Lucia's Day
expressing the human longing for light and hope,
offered by the adult choir of St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

Benjamin Wegner, Choir Director
Matthew Benkert, Organist and Director of Music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

at 4:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church

3800 East Third Street, Bloomington, Indiana - stlconline.org

A hospitable reception will follow the Lessons & Carols.
St. Thomas is handicap-accessible.

This concert is sponsored by St. Thomas Worship and the Arts.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Lois Selk, Kathleen Boggess, Drew Carman, Del Newkirk, Kristin Vann, Helen Kane, Bob Osborn, Leslie Main, 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 to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

The altar flowers are given

by Gary & Helen Ingersoll

in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Today's Worship Leaders
Altar Care: Carol Seaman, Nancy Nye
Bread & Wine: Sacha Arterberry
Flowers: Gail Seegert
Coffee Crew: Stephanie Abel, Andrew Rhoda
Prayer Writer: Mary Thomason-Smith
A/V Tech: Andrew Rhoda

8:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister: Kris Stewart
Lectors: Ian Bensberg, Susan Kinzer
Ushers: Susan Kinzer, Spencer Anspach
Communion Stewards: Robin Hershberger,
Carolyn Sowinski
Greeters: Kari Esarey, Ian Bensberg
Council Coordinator: Carol Seaman

11 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister: Amanda Ghaffarian
Lectors: Chris Martz, Janine Drake
Acolyte: Julianna Drake
Ushers: Scott & Audra Miller
Communion Steward: Dean Arnold
Greeters: Gail Seegert, Shirley Mingee
Council Coordinator: Ashley Ahlbrand

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401
Office Hours 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (812) 332-5252
stlconline.org

Partners in ministry with
Lutheran Church of the Living Waters
Cherokee, North Carolina

Linked with
Sister Parish
Iglesia Santo Domingo de Guzman, Chichipate
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor, Izabal, Guatemala

In covenant with
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Indiana University
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian,
Campus Pastor
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Rev. Adrianne Meier
Senior Pastor
pastor@stlconline.org

Erica Whichello
Parish Administrator
parishadmin@stlconline.org

Matthew Benkert
Director of Music and Organist
directorofmusic@stlconline.org

Ben Wegner
Adult Choir Director
choir@stlconline.org

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!