## A Warm Welcome to Advent Lutheran Church on this

**First Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.** **November 29, 2026**



*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.*

**Advent Lutheran Church**
**3660 Kenny Rd, Columbus, OH 43220**
**Pastor Joel Richter**
*Website:* **Adventelc.org**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** ***Keep Your Lamps*** *Michael J. Glasgow*
Advent Bell Choir

*You may stand.*

**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).*

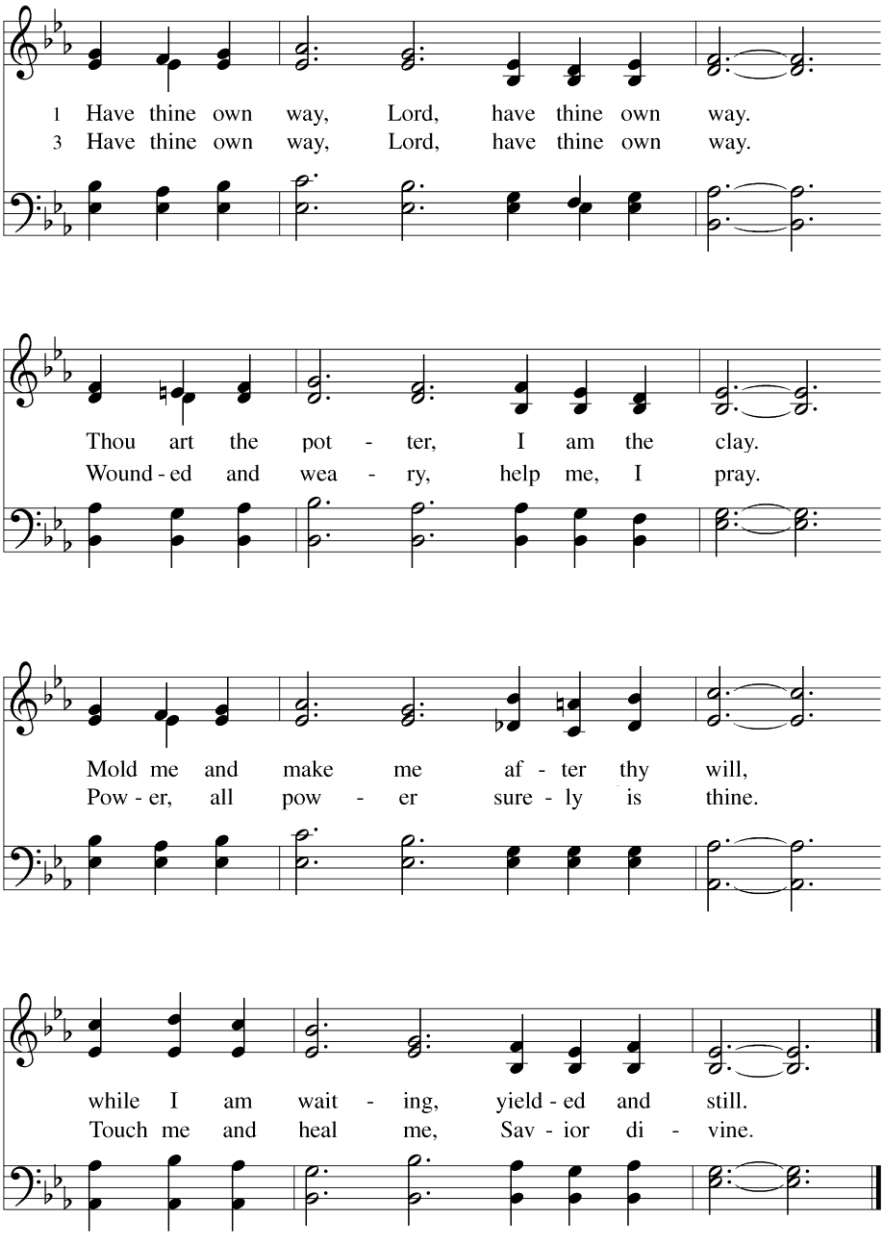
Comforting God,

**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.**

**GATHERING HYMN** ***Have Thine Own Way, Lord, vs. 1 &3*** *TFF 152*



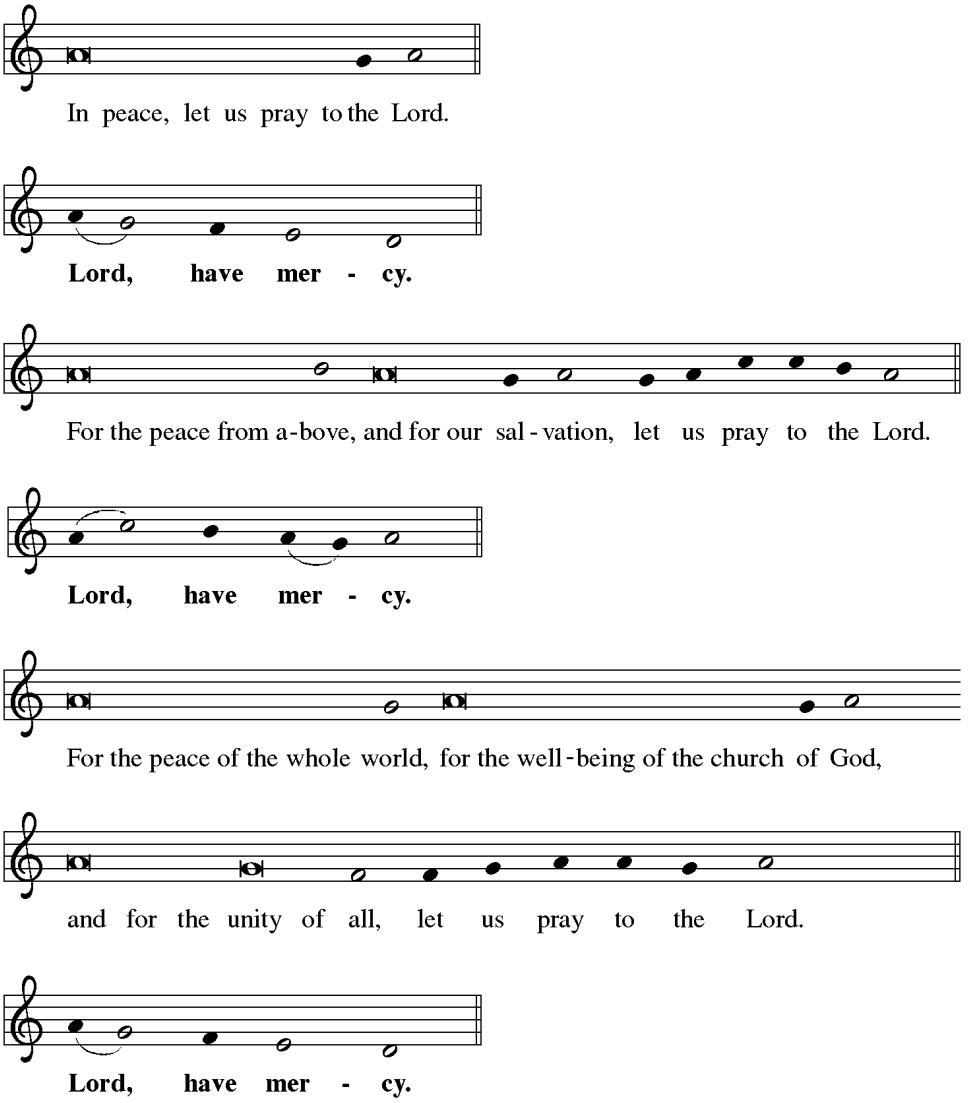

Text: Adelaide A. Pollard, 1862–1934
Music: ADELAIDE, George C. Stebbins, 1846–1945

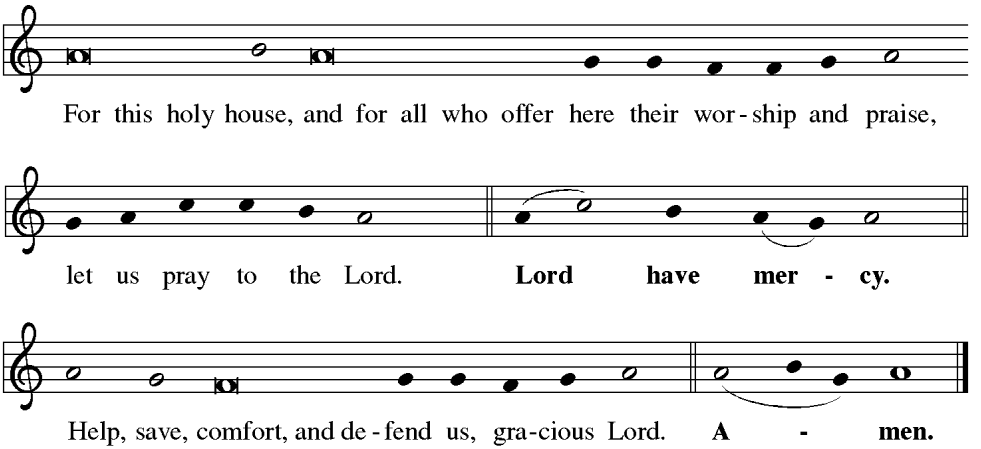
**GREETING**

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

**C And is also with you.**

**KYRIE**






**First Sunday of Advent – *Light of Hope***

*Responsive Litany*

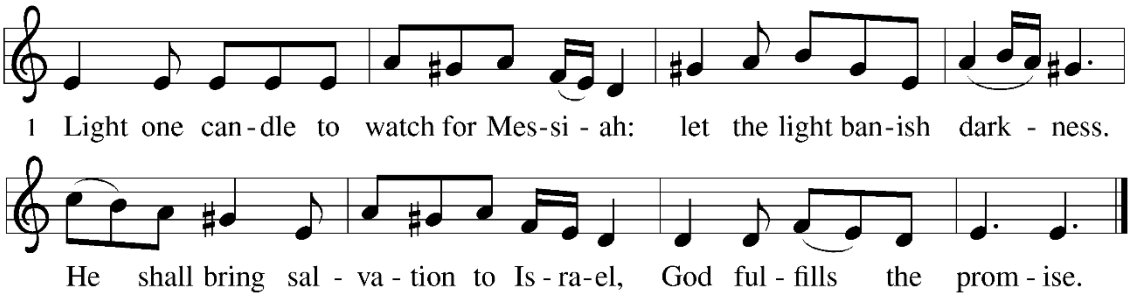
P Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.
**C God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.**
P Advent is a time of self-examination.
**C God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.**
P Advent is a time of joyful expectation.
**C God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.**
P Advent is a time of service and searching.
**C God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.**

*Candle lighting*

P Today we light the first candle – the candle of **hope** – reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and our children's children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

***8:30am:*** *Bob & Dee Swinehart*
***11:00am:*** *Debbie and Brian Lehner*

**HYMN** ***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, vs. 1*** *ELW 240*




Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**PEACE**

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

**C And is also with you.**

*Please take a moment to share the peace*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

**C 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.*

**WE HEAR THE WORD**

*The pericopes readings for this week are: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

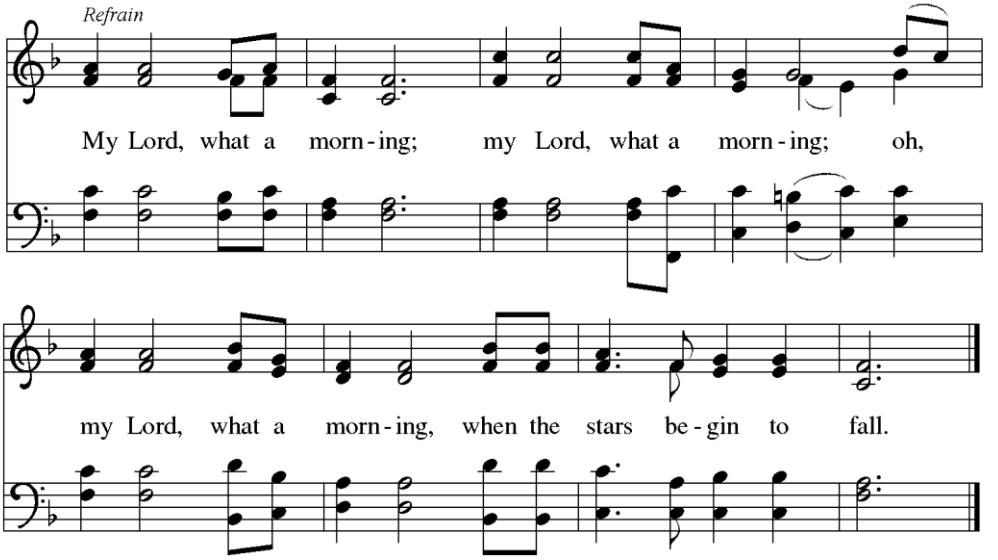
1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes
water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations
might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that 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.

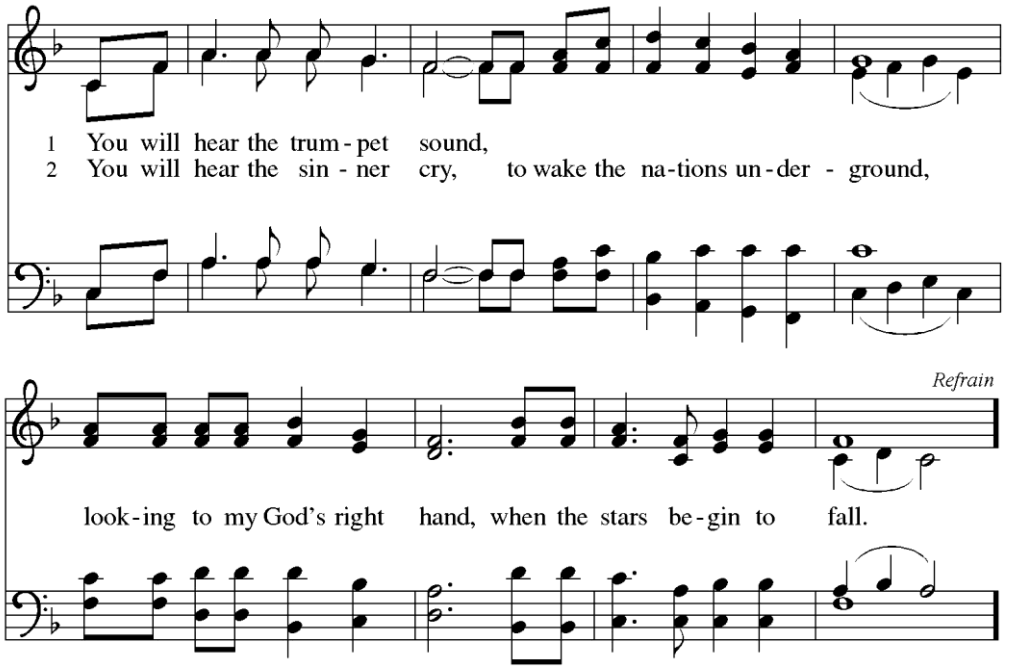
*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** ***My Lord, What a Morning, vs. 1 & 2*** *ELW 627*






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

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

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.

*After the reading:*

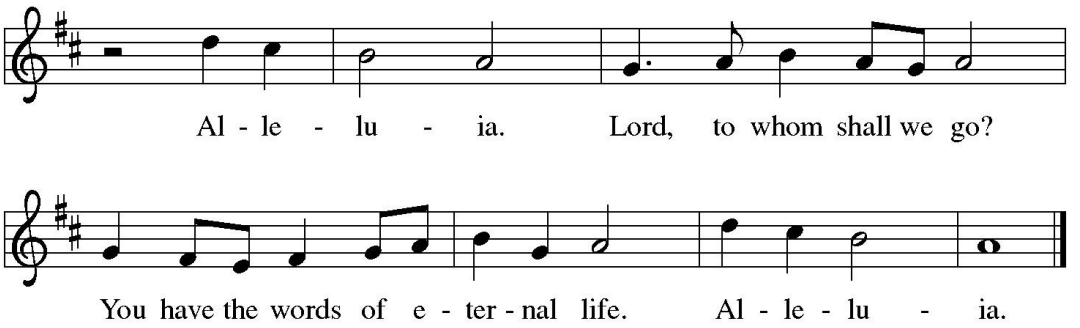
A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*You may stand.*

**VERSE**




P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.
**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

[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."

*After the reading:*
P The Gospel of the Lord.
**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated.*

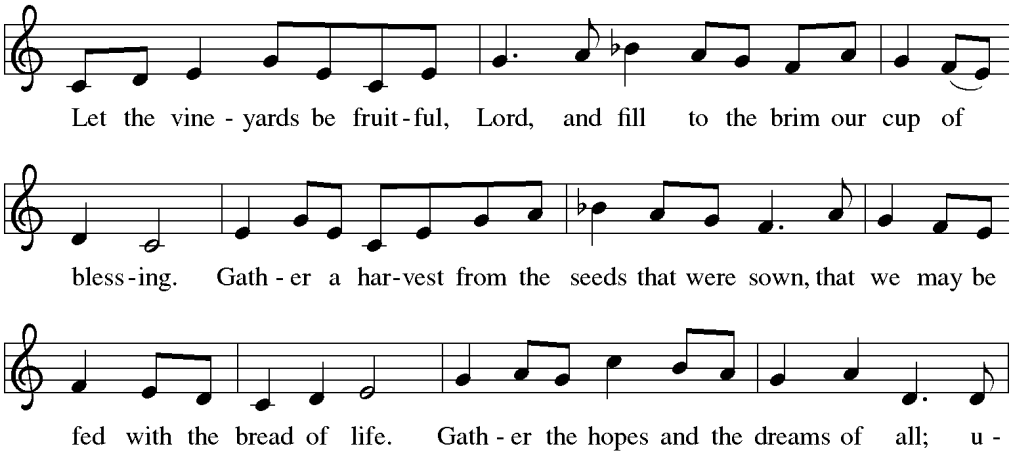
**MESSAGE** **Pastor Joel Richter**

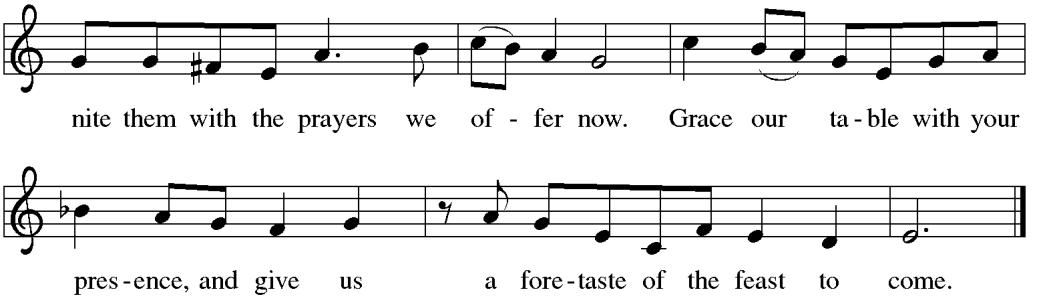
**SPECIAL MUSIC** ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*** *arr. Mark Hayes*

Casey Cook, piano

*Offering is taken and the offering plates will be passed. You may put your donation in one of the pew envelopes and put in the offering plates, or use the "Online Donator" card, found in the pew rack. You can also support Advent's Ministries by using this QR code:*

*You may stand.*






Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

**NICENE CREED**

A Christians, what do we believe?

**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 INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence*

A God of hope, strengthen your church in this season of waiting. Nourish all who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near and that your hope does not fail. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A Creator God, come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home, holding them in the hope of your healing. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God of peace, bring hope among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and lasting resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

A Merciful God, sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry, especially Amy, Brenda, Jerry, Jen, Turid, and those we name on our lips and in our hearts (*pause for prayers*). Comfort families who are estranged and any who are separated from loved ones, and renew in them the hope of your presence. God, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

A Generous God, inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. Prepare us in hope as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

A Eternal God, you embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home, held in the sure hope of the resurrection. 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.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

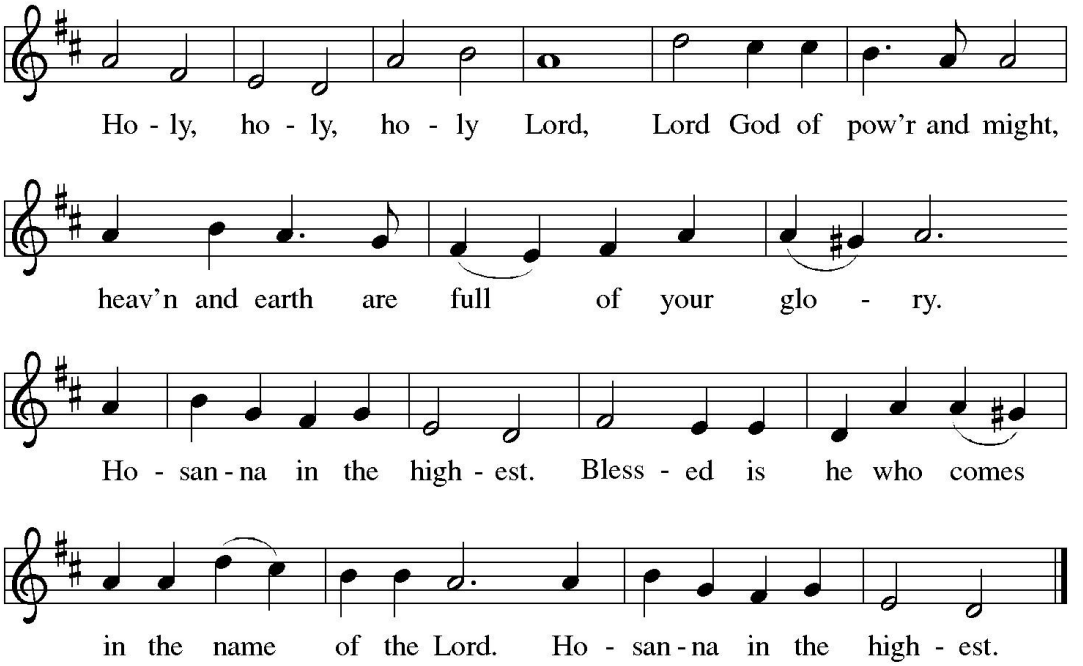
P Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:




**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P 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**

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

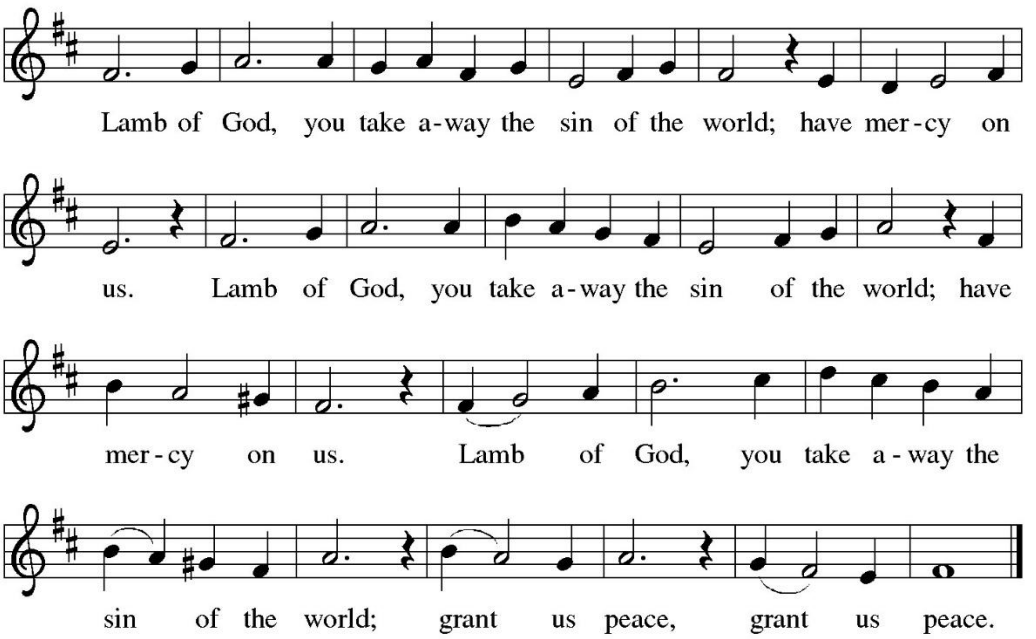
**C Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name,**
**thy kingdom come,**
**thy will be done,**
**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**
**and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those**
**who trespass against us;**
**and lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**and the power, and the glory,**
**forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

*You may be seated.*




## DISTRIBUTION

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

Believing in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this family of faith practices Eucharistic hospitality. All are welcome when they are worshipping us.

***Holy Communion Instructions***

*As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:*

The body of Christ, given for you. *The communicant may say:* **Amen**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say:* **Amen**

***This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.***
*Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.*
*Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets provided on the first row of chairs.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know.***

*You may stand.*

**POST COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

**PRAYER**

A 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.

**C Amen.**

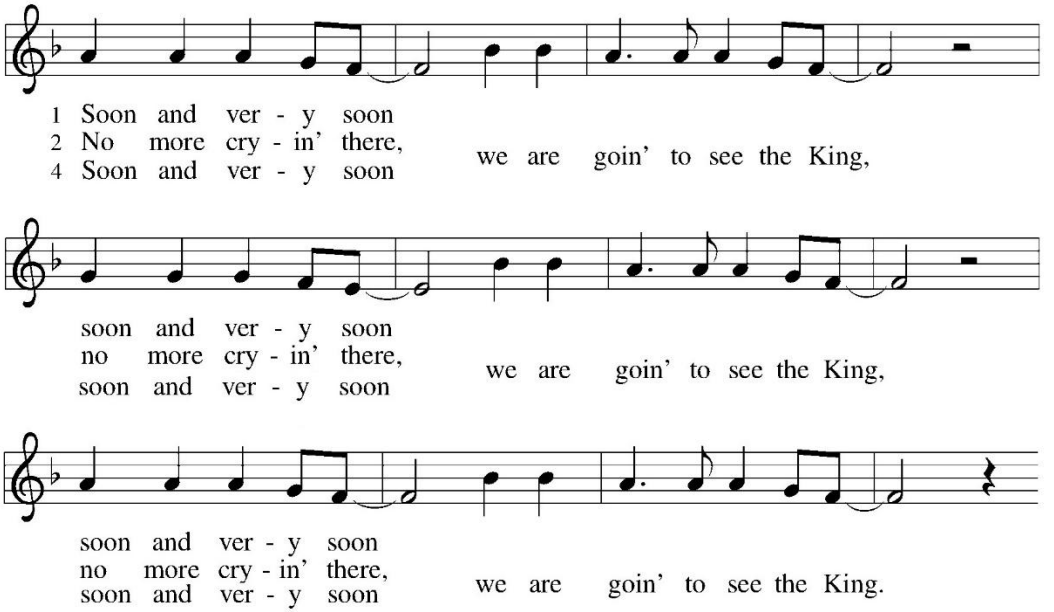
**WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE**

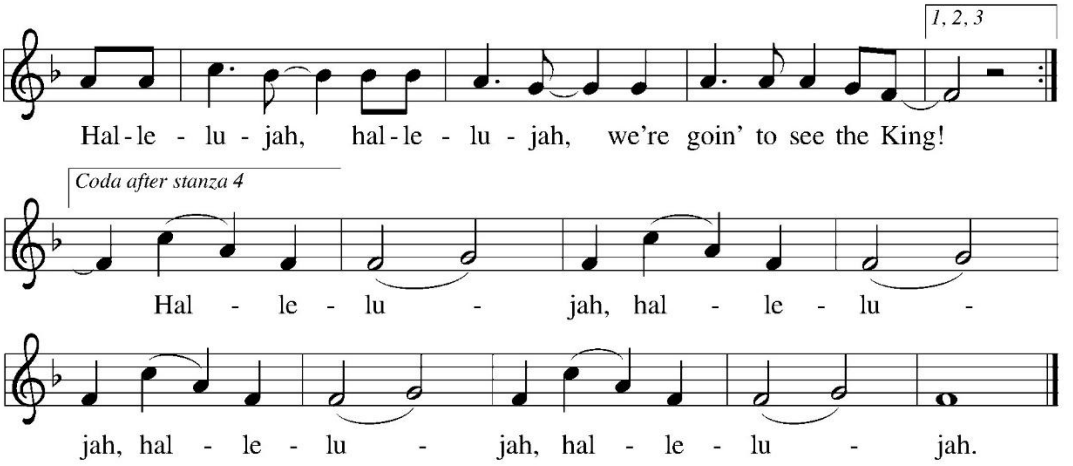
**BENEDICTION**

P God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** ***Soon and Very Soon, vs. 1,2 & 4*** *ELW 439*






**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

**C Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** *arr. Lloyd Larson*

| | **8:30 am** | **11:00 am** |
|---|---|---|
| Acolyte | | Mathias Bunch |
| Assisting Minister | Susan Cockerill | Xavier Toliver |
| Pianist | Casey Cook | |
| Pastor | The Rev. Joel Richter | |

*Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-726485. All rights reserved.*



*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God, and in celebration of their wedding anniversary, from Jana and Mike Milligan.*

Please check the 2027 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Price is $25.00 per vase.

## This Week at Advent

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sun Nov 29** | Worship Service | 8:30am |
| | Worship Teams meeting in Sanctuary | 9:45am |
| | Sunday School/Adult Learning | 9:45-10:45am |
| | Worship Service (livestreamed) | 11:00am |
| **Tue Dec 1** | Isabel's Quilters *(offsite)* | 9:00am |
| | Building Use – Singing Buckeyes | 6:00pm |
| **Wed Dec 2** | Women's Bible Study | 10:00am |
| | Worship *@The Estates* | 2:00pm |
| **Thu Dec 3** | Church Staff Meeting | 4:30pm |
| | Advent Choir rehearsal | 7:30pm |

**Looking Ahead:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sun Dec 6 | First Sunday Fellowship | in between services |
| | **Live Nativity!** | **5:00pm - 7:00pm** |
| Thu Dec 24 | Family Christmas Eve Worship Service | 4:30pm |
| | Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service | 7:00pm |
| Sun Dec 27 | One Worship Service – Lessons & Carols | 10:00am |

**Upcoming Commemorations:**

*Mon Nov 30, 2026*: **Andrew, Apostle**

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

*Thu Dec 3, 2026*: **Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552**
A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

*Fri Dec 4, 2026*: **John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749**
A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

**"White Paraments"**
**by Melissa Richeson-O'Neil, Artist, October 2006**

Think of open windows and the great gladness of an awakening earth! White paraments are used for the church's high celebrations, Easter and Christmas. Easter is the Church's most ancient and beautiful season, announcing resurrection and calling us to live as if God's rule of justice and peace were fully with us. Christmas announces the glorious appearing of God on earth, the radiance of Christ's birth bursting through the darkness of our lives. Both seasons call us to breathe deeply, live fully, and celebrate life.

While brainstorming the white paraments for Advent Lutheran, the Liturgy Committee concurred that we would limit the color scheme of the designs to whites and golds. Gold has long represented richness and splendor, while purity and completeness. The five pieces of Advent's white altar parament may be hung in different arrangements and numbers. The entire payment was constructed to reveal the altar itself and the crosses on top.

The appliqued fabric designs depict ancient symbols from Church history. The palm leaf recalls the joyous celebration of Palm Sunday – throngs of people waving palms in delight as they witnessed Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The palm curves just as an actual frond would bend while being waved.

The *Chi Rho,* which looks like the letters "P" and "X" superimposed on one another, is one of the earliest cruciform symbols. It is a combination of the first two letters of the word "Christ" in Greek- *chi for* "Ch" and *rho* for "r".

Another panel depicts an abstracted sheaf of wheat, bordered on one side by deep blue stitching of flowing waters. Water brings to mind our births and baptisms; the wheat symbolizes Christ as the bread of life.

Water images also appear behind appliques of fish. The fish, or "*ichtus*", is an acrostic of the first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior". Two semi-circles, overlapped to form a fish shape, were a symbol often used among early Christians to identify one another during the times of Roman persecution.

The sun radiates from an upper corner on the final panel. We call Jesus "the Light of the World" and refer to the purity of God's love. The sun's rising marks each new day – especially those of resurrection and birth – and an Isaiah reading for Advent cries, "Oh, that you would tear open the heavens and come down!"

Finally, each individual panel is quilted, binding together layers of silk and batting just as God's love binds our lives together as the children of God. The stitches are like the prayers of God's children, shared love filling lives with joy and compassion.