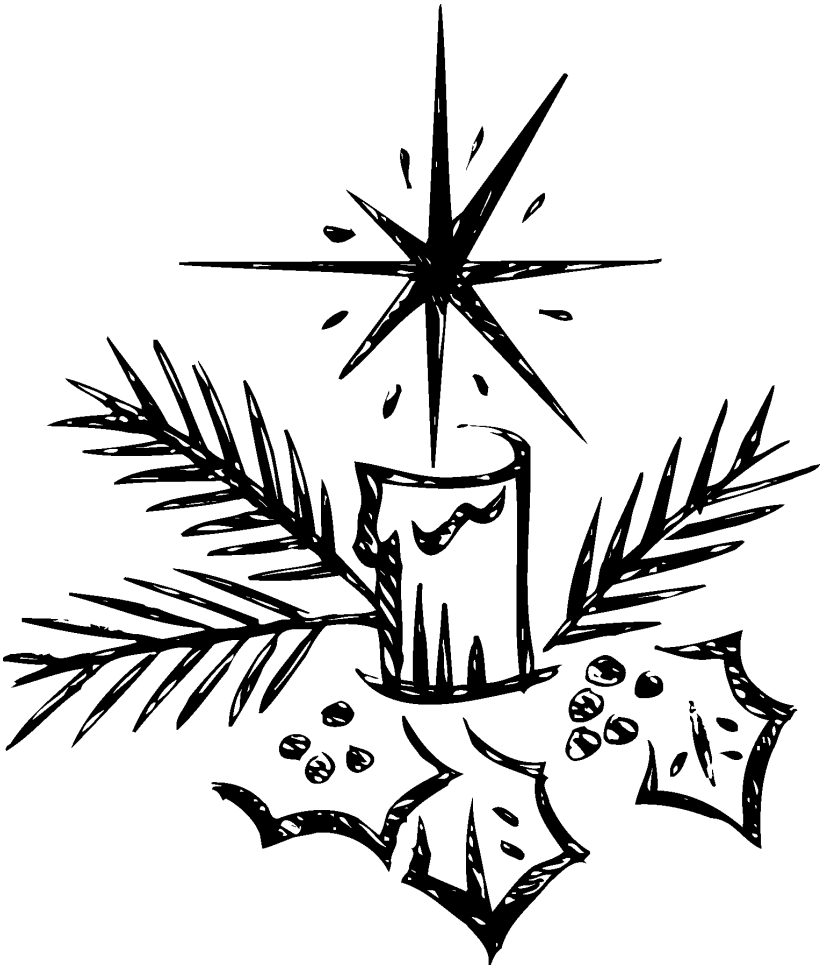
Grace Lutheran
Worship Folder

November 28 & 29, 2026



Watch worship online - connect through www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Liturgies from Sundays and Seasons, Copyright 2025, Augsburg Fortress and Sundays and Seasons.com.
Permission to reprint/stream liturgies obtained from Augsburg Fortress Lic. #SAS103307. All rights reserved.

Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

GATHERING

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

WELCOME/PRELUDE

GATHERING

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

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

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.

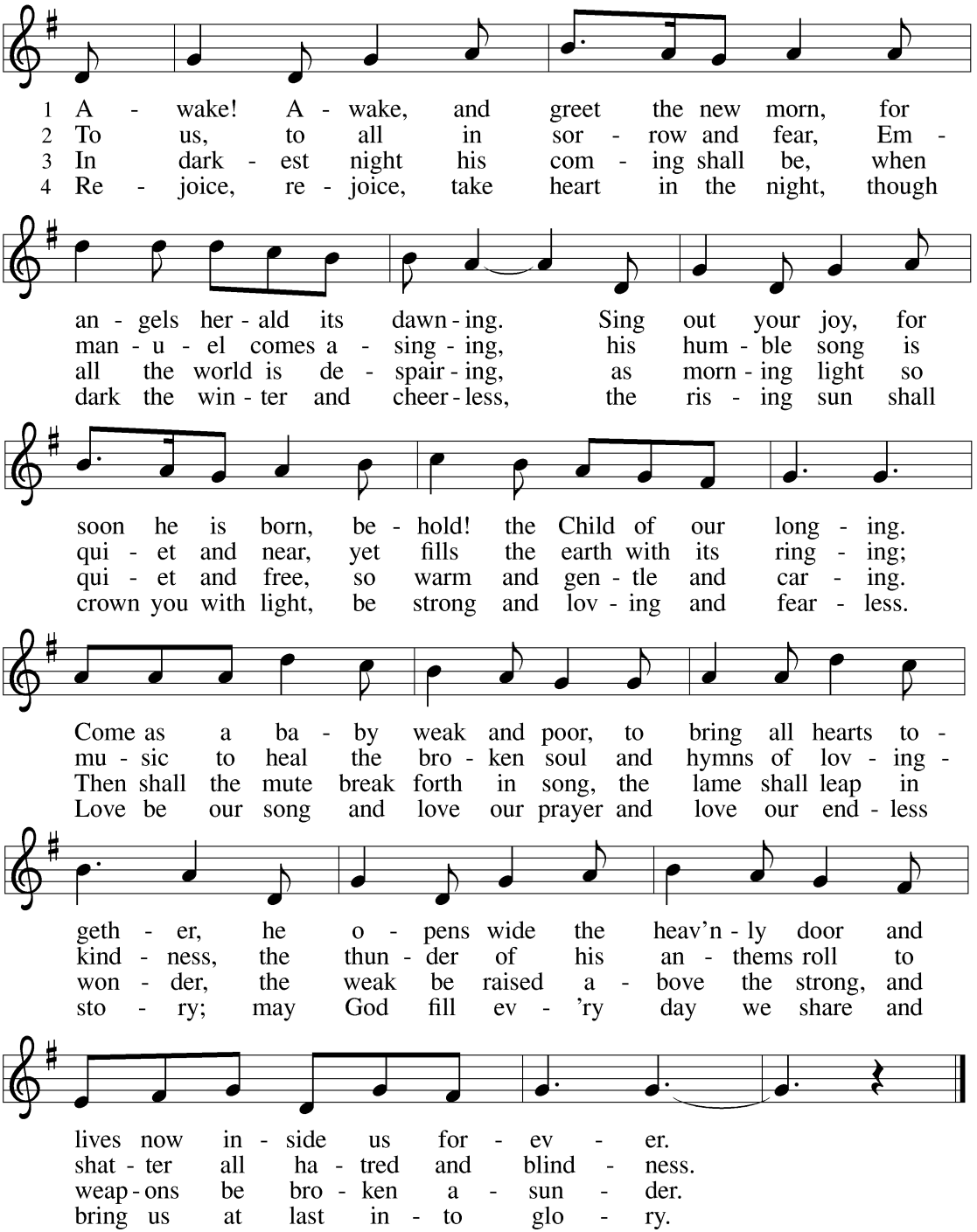
P: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says our God, who has clothed us with the garments of salvation and wrapped us in the robe of righteousness. God has given us a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of + Christ, our sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" **R242**

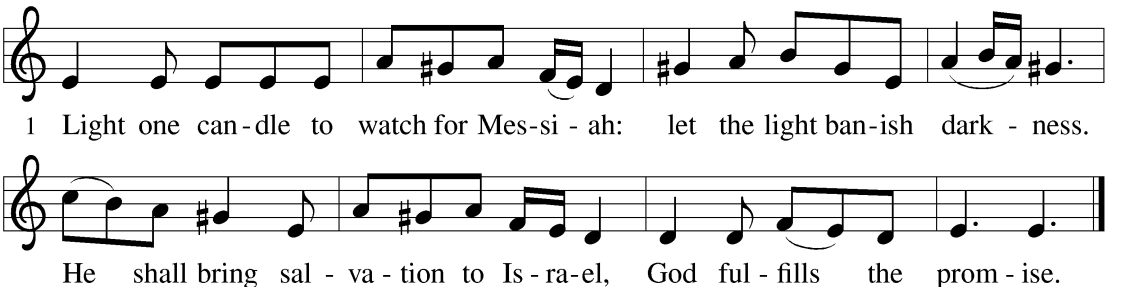
Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.


1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.
Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less
geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and
lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT CANDLE "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (sing twice) **R240**

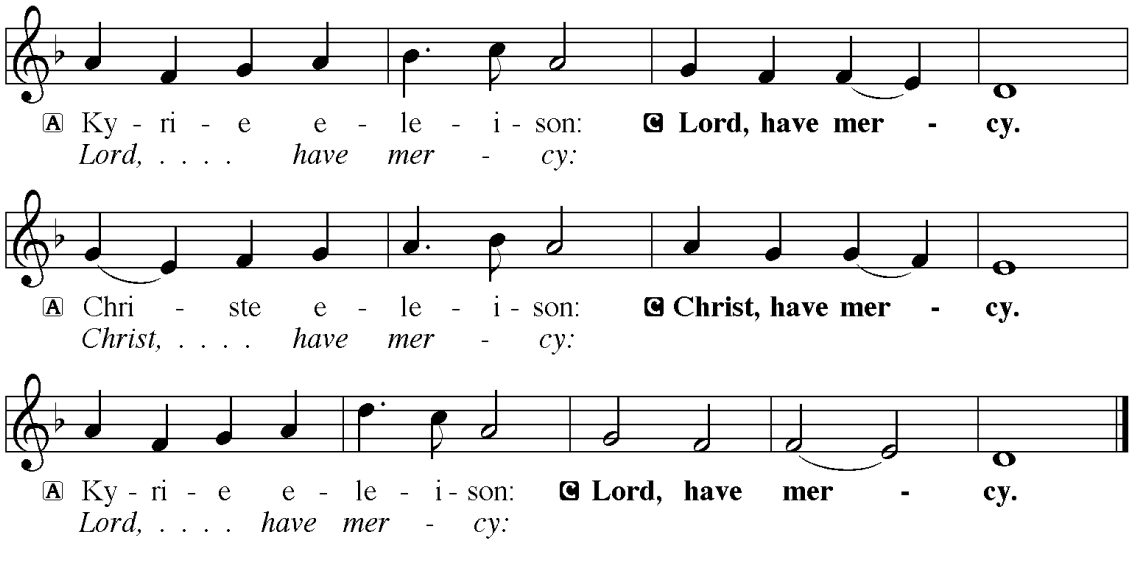


GREETING

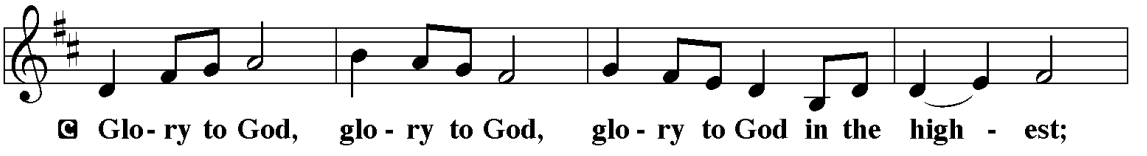
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

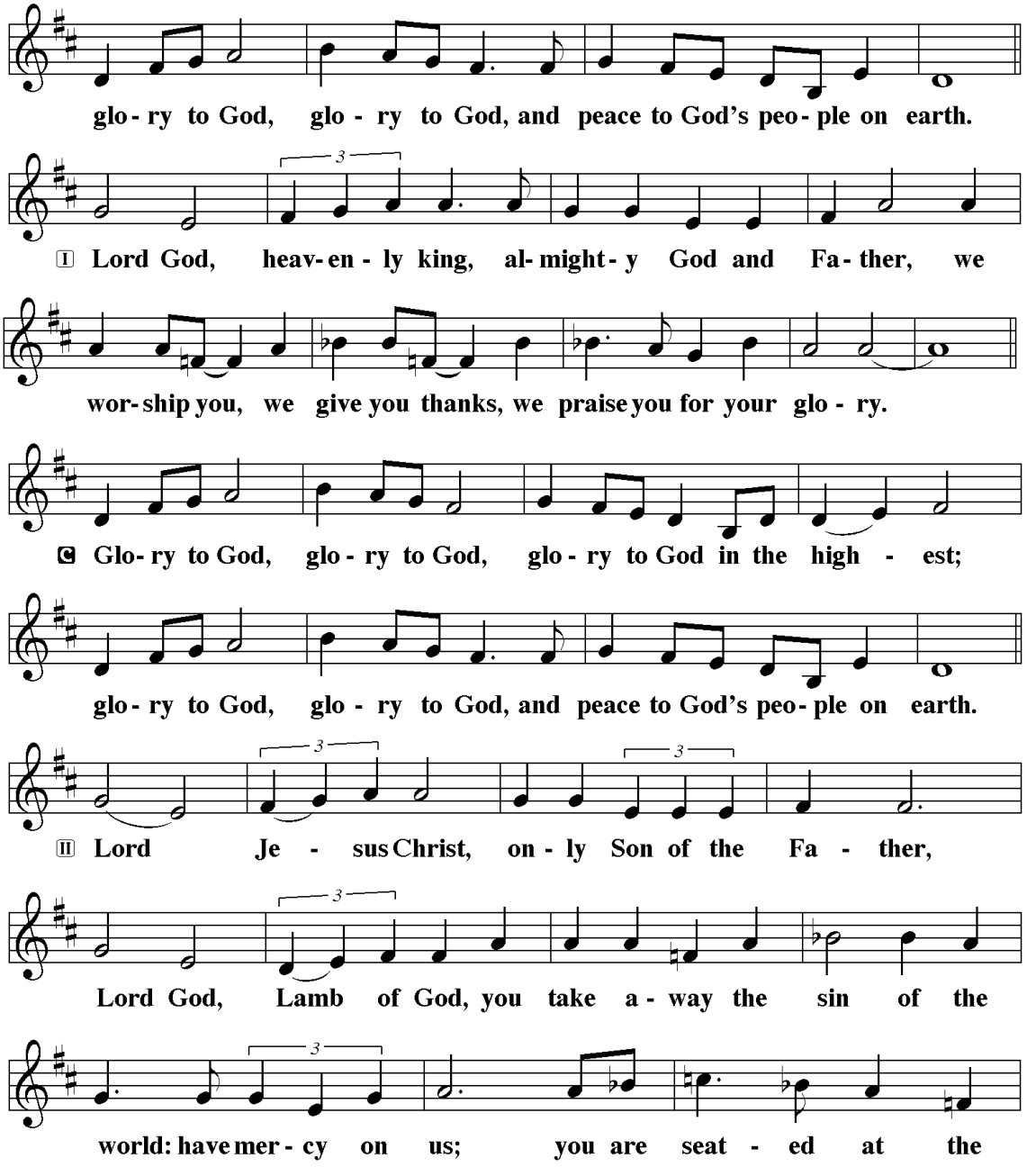
C: And also with you.

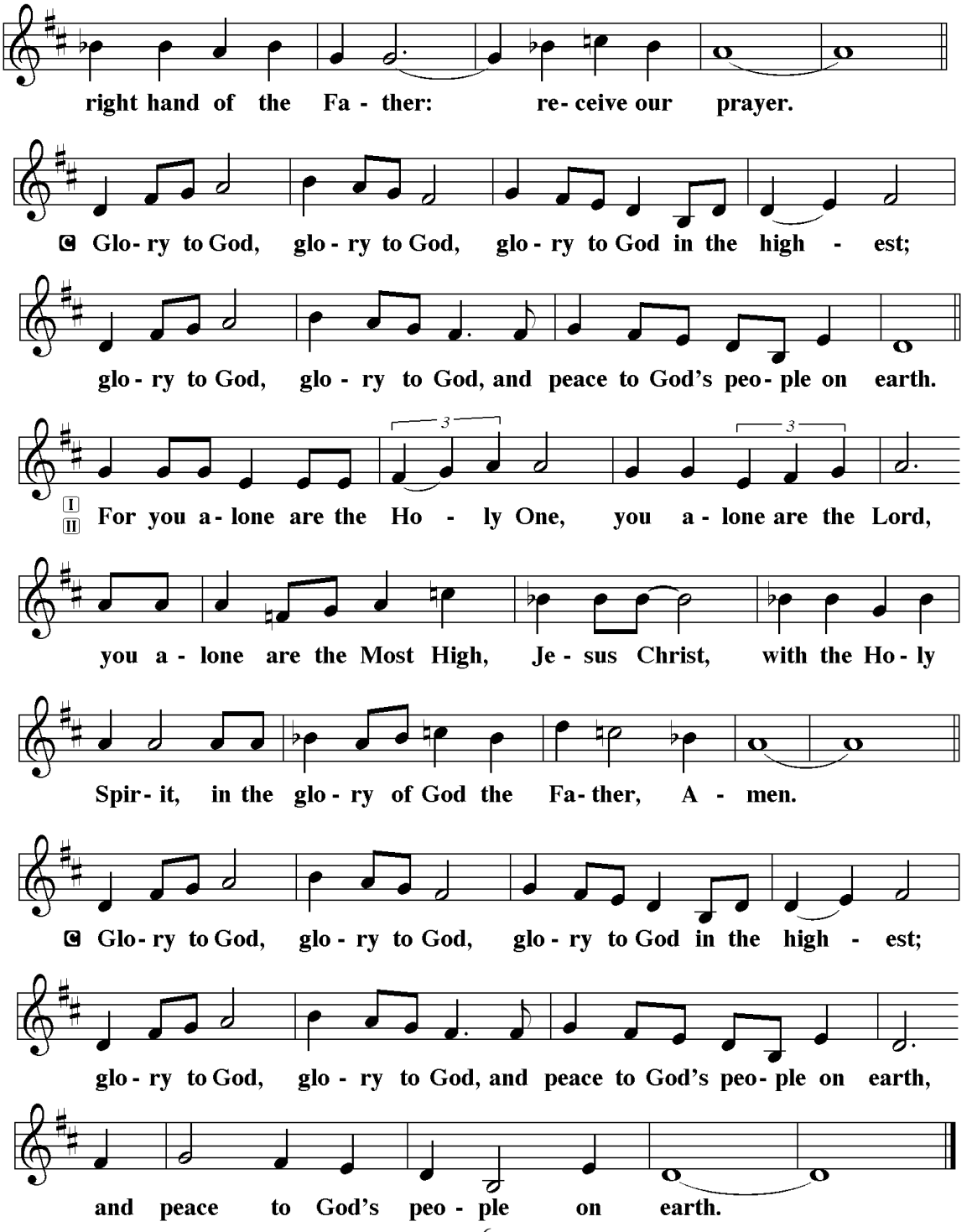
KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE




glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
I Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
C Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the


right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.
℣ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.
I II For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.
℣ Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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.

[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.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

[2] **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.

[3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

[4] **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

[6] **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

[7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

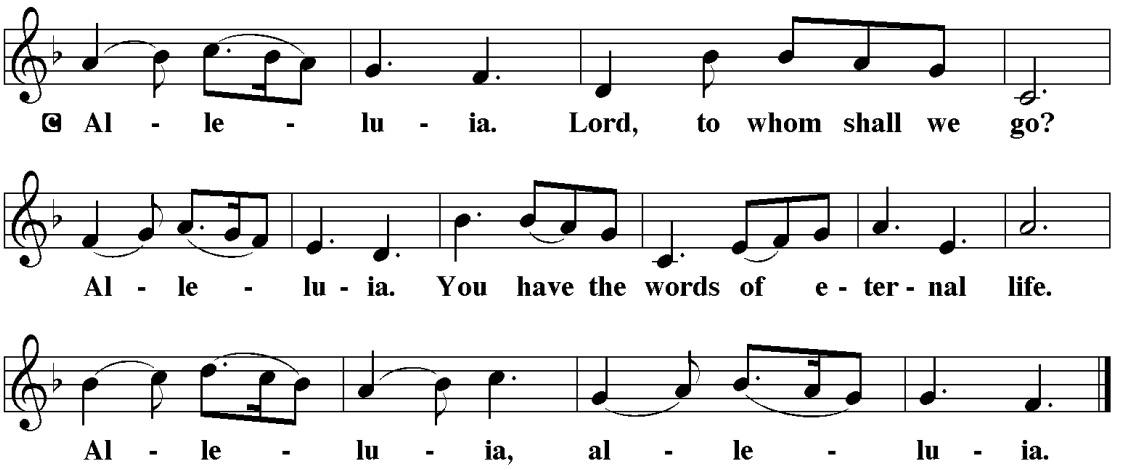
[17] **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

[18] And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

[19] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

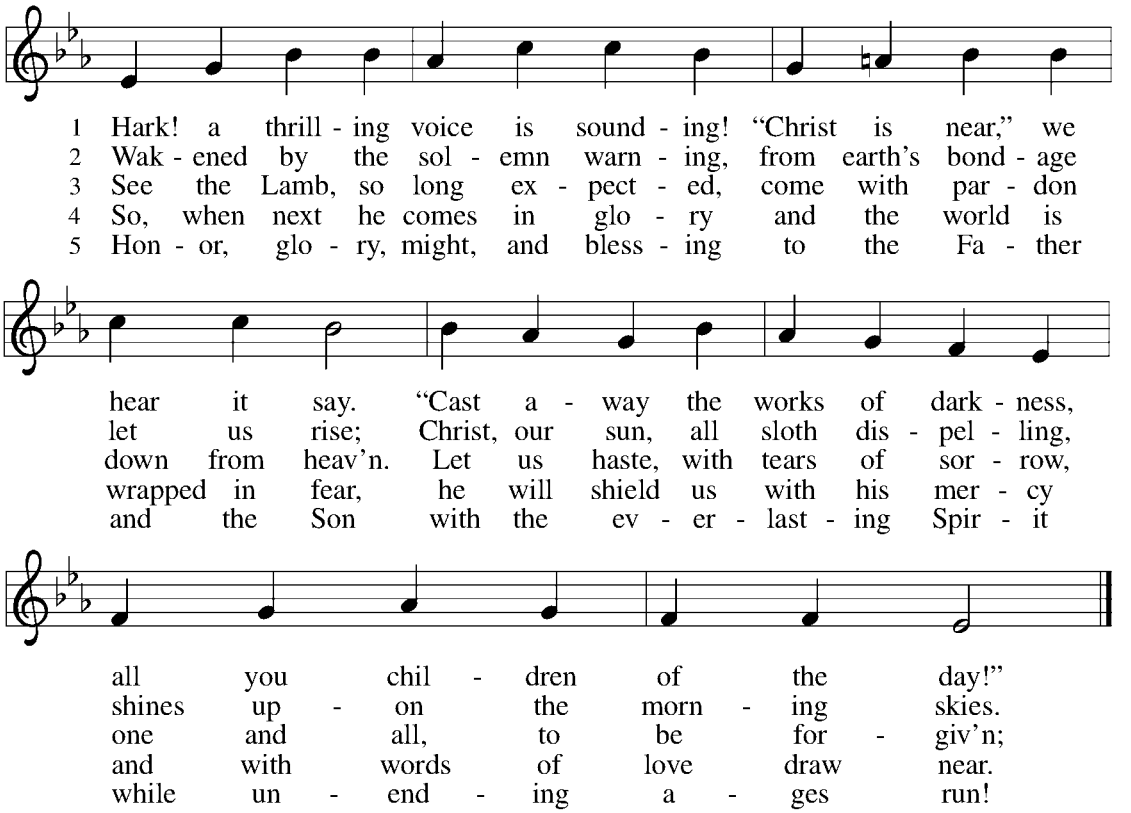
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the
moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the
powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming
in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then 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."

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

HOMILY

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" **R246**



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 This selection is in the public domain.
Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: God, in your mercy,

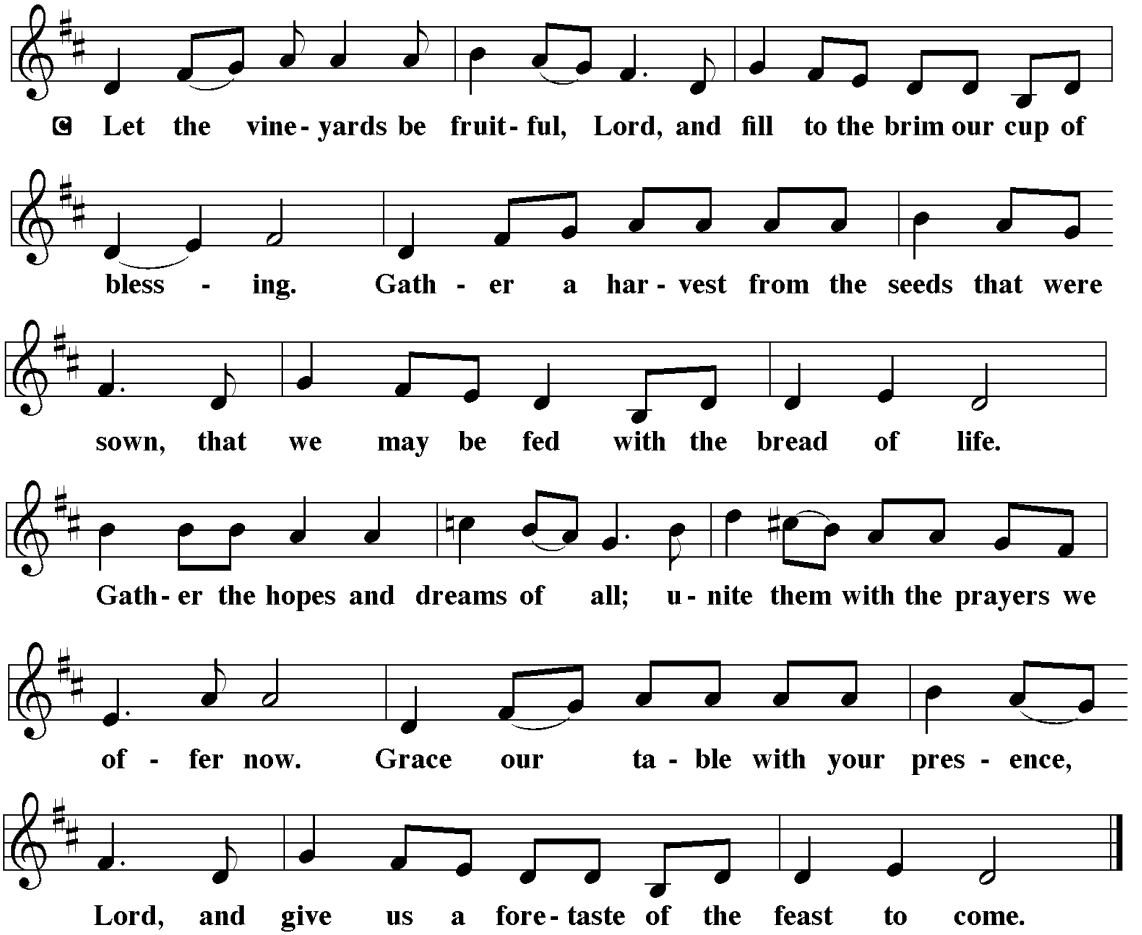
C: receive our prayer.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(the assembly stands as they are comfortable and sings as the gifts are brought forward)*



P: Let us pray...Holy Creator,

C: 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.

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

(There are gluten-free wafers available. Please ask the Pastor for one. And there is grape juice in the center of each tray, the clear juice.)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

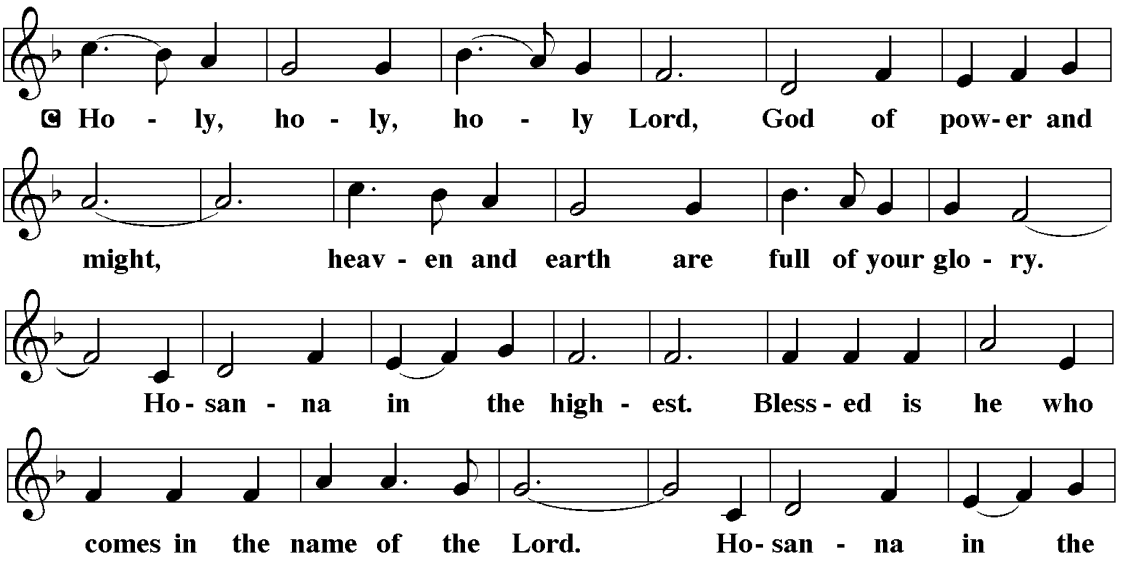
P: Lift up your hearts.

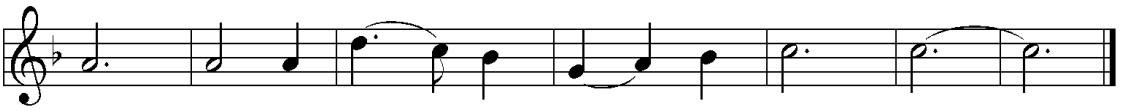
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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:





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

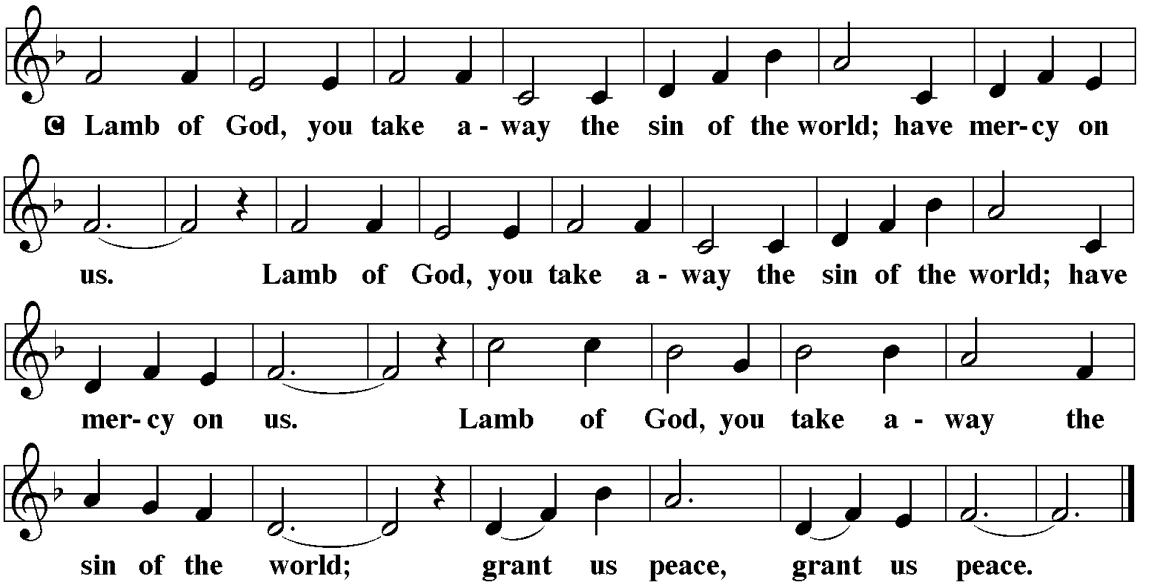
LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

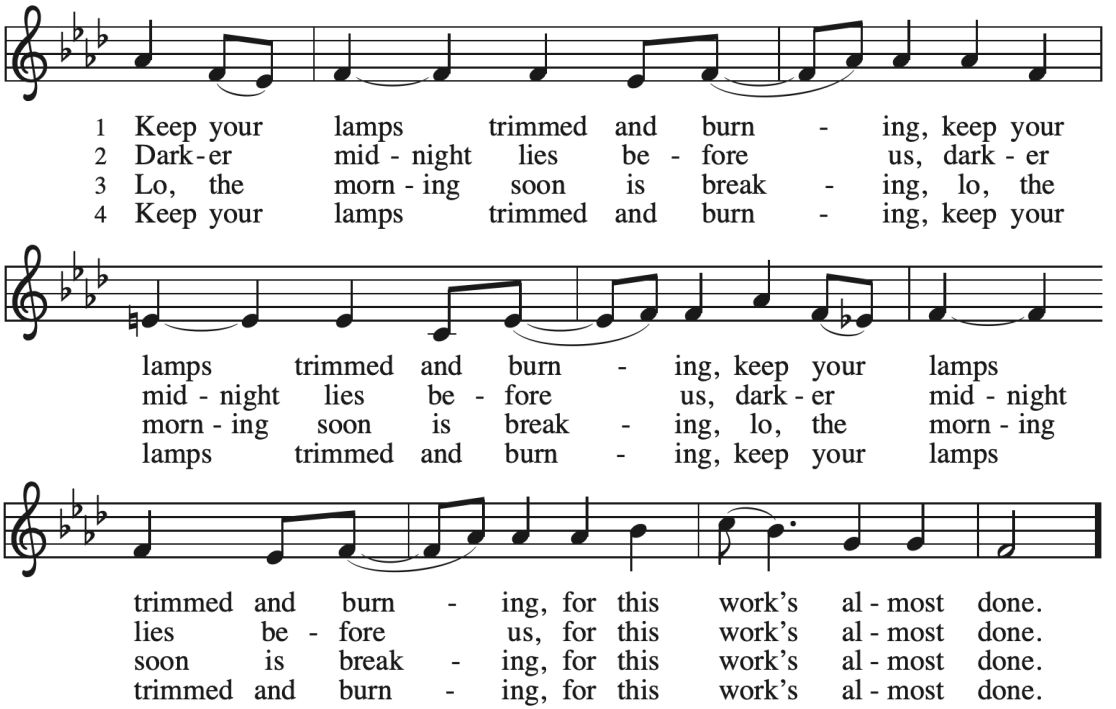
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

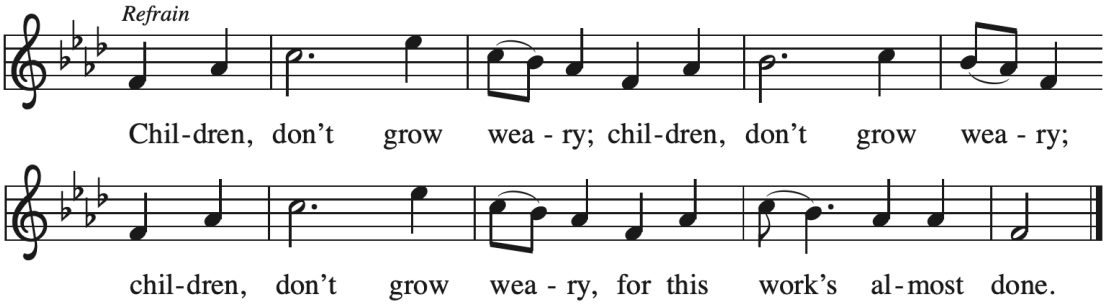
HOLY COMMUNION

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)



COMMUNION HYMN "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" **ACS949**





Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray...Providing God,

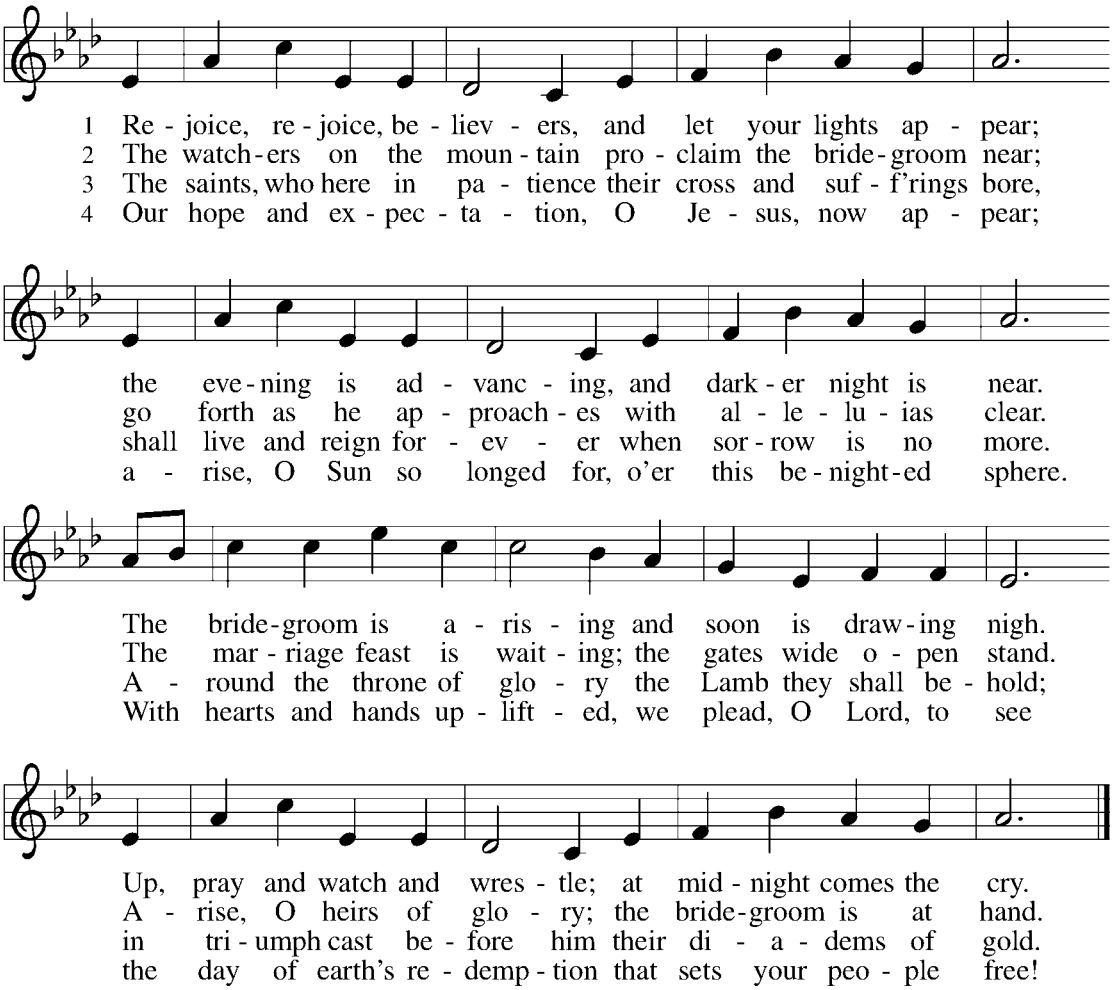
C: you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

P: God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, + bless us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers " **R244**

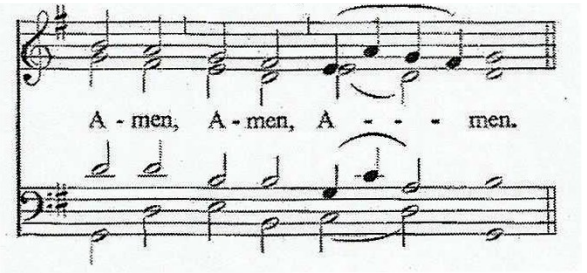


Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

This selection is in the public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
C: Thanks be to God.



POSTLUDE

✞ ✞ ✞

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN
A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats
in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Honor of Dawn & Joseph Gentry's
Wedding Anniversary, December 2nd

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Rev. Tom Downs for leading worship, preaching and presiding this weekend.

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Zion Lutheran/Cadillac, Supply Pastors; and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas and Synod Staff.

PRAYER LETTERS

Please sign the prayer letter(s) each week that we send out telling other churches and ministries they have been included in our prayers. **Fill the page with our names.** The letter (s) are on the podium by the table in the Office Lobby.

IN OUR PRAYERS
Joel Suszek, Jon Crow, Larry Garant, Patti Tucker, Bonnie Cross, Darlene Freel, Hope Kamyszek, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Elfie Jahnke, Robert Larsen, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Kelly Pankey -- Linda J. Muma, Erin Stokes, Nicole Zbytowski, Dana Cruse-Malcomson, Cheryl Gauthier, Tamyra Rychlinski, Maria Shelton, Lynsie, Tyson, Georgia, Lyle Beck, Candy & Tom Laughlin, Joan Vanover, Mychele Allmacher, Sandra Beck, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Jordyn, Maggie, Joseph Hansen and Baby J. Military: Will Stafford (Rich & Sherie McTaggart's grandson), Amelia Berles, US Air Force Pilot Training, and Michael Herrmann, US Air Force.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING - JOIN US NOVEMBER 29 AFTER WORSHIP
We're putting up the tree and the greens and the candles on Sunday, November 29th. Join in preparing the church for the season. **Please sign the sheet in the Office Lobby if you are able to help.**

2026 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST TREE
The Christmas Wish List sponsored by United Way of Northeast Michigan has officially kicked off matching gift recipients to donors. Grace Lutheran's Christmas Giving Tree will be in the Office Lobby, beginning November 7, with tags listing items needed. **If you take a tag please have the gift returned by Monday, November 30th**. **Please wrap the gift and return it with the original tag.** Thank you for your participation. United Way is targeting 371 children this year by providing basic needed items for Christmas.

BAKE SALE - DECEMBER 5
The Ruth Circle is planning a bake sale at Grace on **Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Donations of baked goods, candy, canned goods and craft items from the congregation are greatly appreciated to make this a success. We depend on the bake sale money to enable us to donate to 12 charities from Grace Lutheran Church through the WELCA Ruth Circle. **Bake sale items can be brought to the church on Friday, December 4 beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing throughout the day until 5 p.m.** Any questions, please call Darlene Freel at 989-464-0085. Please also let us know if you can help on Friday or Saturday. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - DECEMBER 6
You are invited to join in Christmas caroling around the community! There will be lunch provided after church on Sunday, December 6th and caroling will begin at 11:30am. A sign up sheet will be posted. We will be going to assisted living homes as well as homes of some of our members. Please join in the fun!

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
Our Annual Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall following our 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 13. On the agenda: Budget Adoption and Election of Officers. Please plan to attend!

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
This year we are again asking for donations for Christmas decorations for the church in lieu of individual poinsettias. They can be made in honor or memory of someone. Several larger poinsettias will be ordered and greenery or other decorations needed will be purchased with the money. This will alleviate throwing away so many poinsettias. Flower order forms can be found on the table in the Office Lobby. ***Deadline to have your information printed in the bulletin is December 15th.***

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY
Blessings and thankfulness! In the month of November the Little Food Pantry received potatoes from the Lions Club, a bus load of nonperishable food from Besser Elementary School, a check from Hunters Harvest, a large donation of items from the Alpena Peace Community and donations from other sources unknown. We thank our community for such support.

THANK YOU
The family of Meredith Smith extends heartfelt gratitude for all the support and acts of kindness offered during her illness. Thank you for all the words of comfort, food donations for the funeral and hugs delivered. Grace Lutheran is the greatest!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED
Help! We are looking for volunteers to help teach our Sunday School class as we hope to get the program started again this January. We believe it is important for our young children to learn the wonderful stories and lessons of the Old and New Testaments and to grow in their understanding of God's love and grace. If you would enjoy helping them discover God's grace and Jesus' love, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Elsa Phillips after Sunday's service or call her at 989-884-1809.

PASTORAL CARE
With Pastor Tom's retirement, he is no longer available for pastoral care needs. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please contact Peggy at 989-255-8850. We have several pastors available and ready to provide pastoral care during times of need. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday – 29th
9:30 am **Worship**
Help decorate the church after worship!

Monday - 30th
KITCHEN RESERVED-BAKE SALE
8am-noon Church Office Open

Tuesday - 1st
KITCHEN RESERVED-BAKE SALE
8am-noon Church Office Open
9:00 am Sewing/Quilting

Wednesday - 2nd
KITCHEN RESERVED-BAKE SALE
8am-noon Church Office Open
5:15 pm Choir Practice
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

Thursday - 3rd
KITCHEN RESERVED-BAKE SALE
8am-noon Church Office Open

Friday - 4th
KITCHEN RESERVED-BAKE SALE
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday - 5th
9am-12pm Bake Sale
5:00 pm **Worship**

SERVING NOVEMBER 28/29

Ministers ..... God's People
Pastor.....Rev. Tom Downs
Music Director.....Claire Witt
Organist.....Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst......Audrey Garant, Wayne Lewis
Lector ..... Joe Gentry
Ushers..... Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom, Cindy Domrase (Saturday)
Greeters ..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Altar Guild..... Sandy Welch, Karen Slaght
Livestream Team.....Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
Counters..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Coffee Hour ..... Joel & Cindy Suszek

SERVING DECEMBER 5/6

Ministers ..... God's People
Pastor.....Rev. Tom Downs
Music Director.....Claire Witt
Organist.....Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst......Joe Gentry, Stephanie Suszek, Cindy Domrase
Lector ..... Janet Bettega
Ushers.....Matt, Everett & Olivia Haske Wayne Lewis (Saturday)
Greeters ..... Susan Howard, Mary Rowader
Altar Guild..... Gentry Family
Livestream Team.....Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter, Don LaBarre, Alex Struble
Counters.....Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek
Coffee Hour ..... Jeff & Sandy Welch

Large print worship folders & hearing assistance devices are available from ushers

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: Office 989-354-2640
Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org
Give online at www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth
Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759
E-mail:
pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org
officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org

Find us on Facebook at ww.facebook.com/gracelutheranalpena

View our services on YouTube