



# Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022 | 10:30 AM



**Everyone is welcome.** As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

**Children are welcome.** We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and a professionally staffed nursery is available from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

**To assist you during worship:** Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy to commune you at your pew.

**Offerings:** St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

**Assisted Listening:** To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST\_JOHNS\_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen. Individual wired devices coming soon!



## Ministers: The People of Saint John's

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Vicar Naem Harry, Intern

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Andrew Schanstra, Livestream Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

### **Prayer Before Worship**

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 1*

### **Gathering**

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

**ELW** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

**ACS** *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

**PRELUDE** Magnificat primi toni, BuxWV 203

Dieterich Buxtehude

### **WELCOME**

*Please stand.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, who was and is and is to come. **Amen.**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

**Surely God is our salvation. Have faith and do not be afraid.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess our sin before God.

*The assembly stands or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you † in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

### *Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

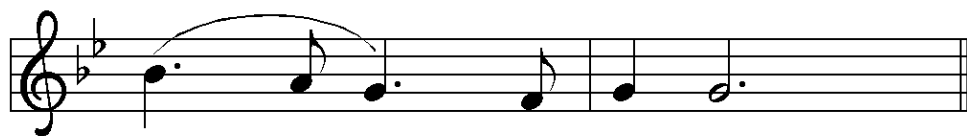
## APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

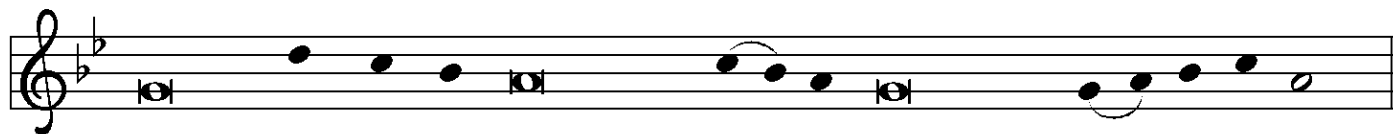
## KYRIE



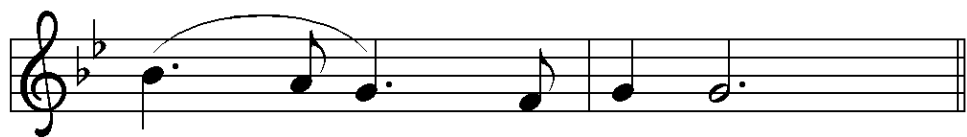
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



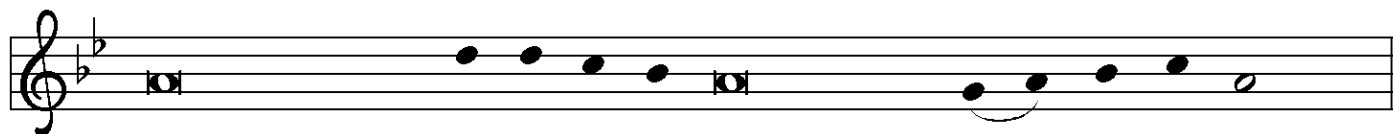
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



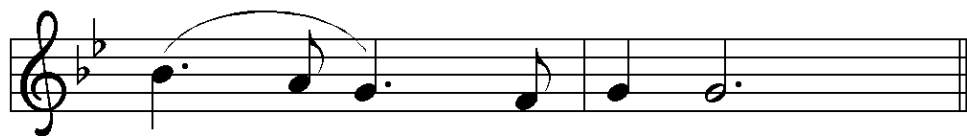
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



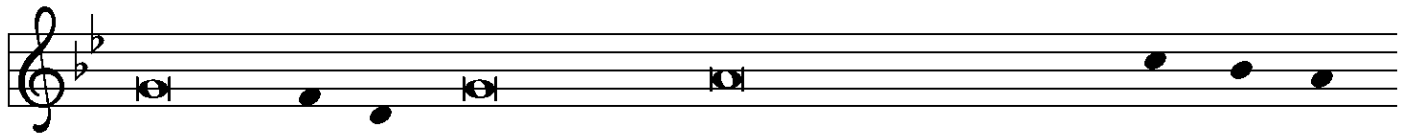
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



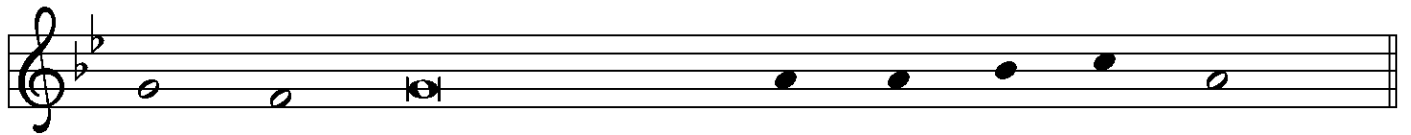
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



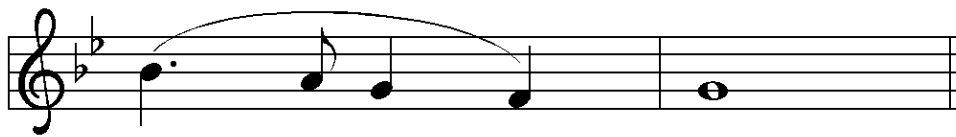
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

*Please be seated.*

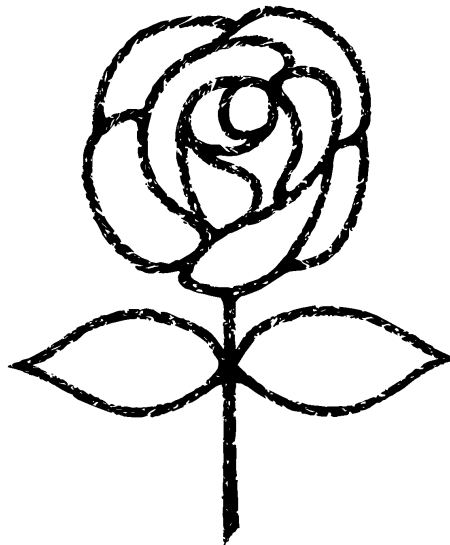
### **FIRST READING** Isaiah 35:1–10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**



*Please stand.*

**MAGNIFICAT** ELW 251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Luke 1:46b–55



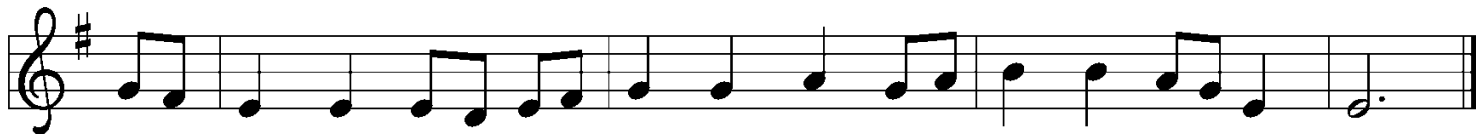
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

*Please be seated.*

**SECOND READING** James 5:7–10

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

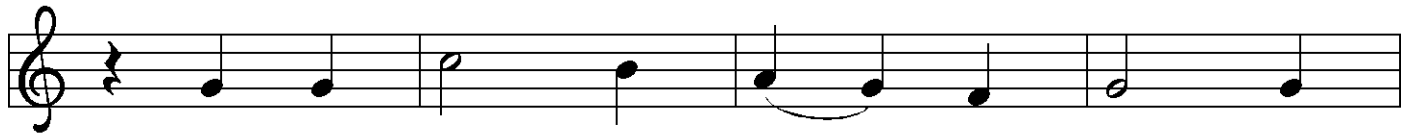
*The reader concludes:* The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.



*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All sing the acclamation; Choir sings the proper verse.*



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



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

V. I am sending my messen-<sup>1</sup>ger before you,\*  
who will prepare your<sup>1</sup> way before you. (*Matt. 11:10*)

## GOSPEL Matthew 11:2–11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*The gospel is proclaimed, concluding:* The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

*Please stand.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 901 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

**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**

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION**

### **GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*You may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit [www.stjohnssummit.org/giving](http://www.stjohnssummit.org/giving) or scan this code.*



**OFFERING MUSIC** And the Glory of the Lord (*Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:  
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. —*Isaiah 40:5*

Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 258 Unexpected and Mysterious

Verse 3



3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

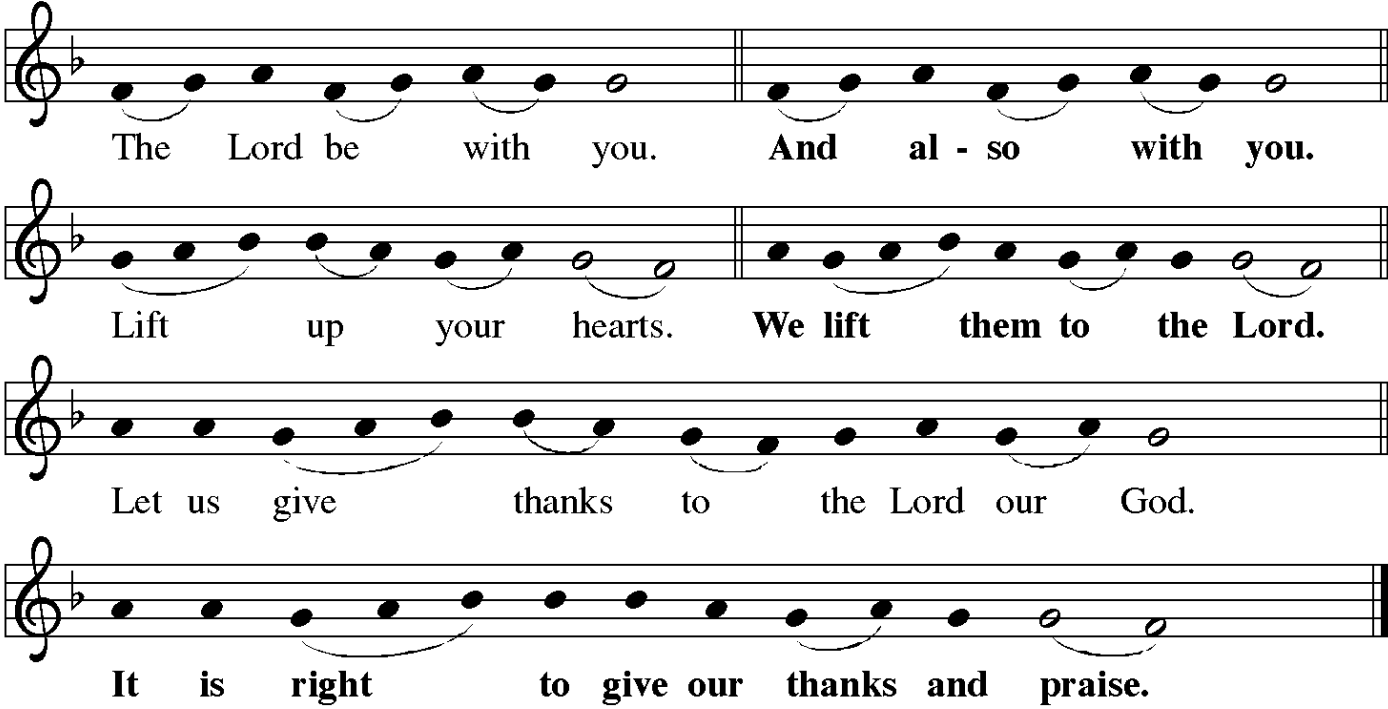
Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961  
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984  
Text © 2002 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

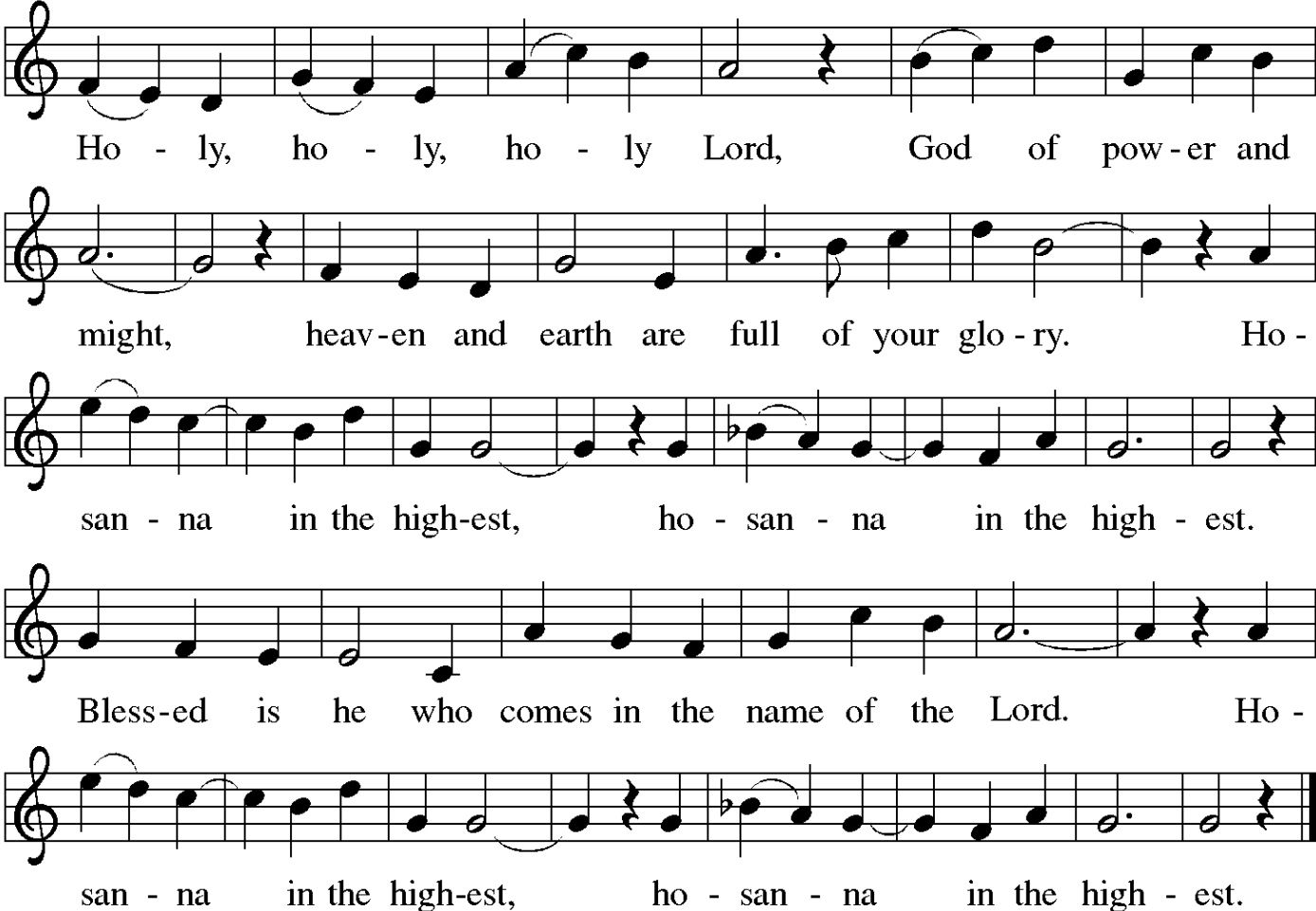
**Meal**  
*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PROPER PREFACE**



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.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.*

*The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.*

*The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.*

*The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.*

***All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.***

***If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.***

### LAMB OF GOD



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.

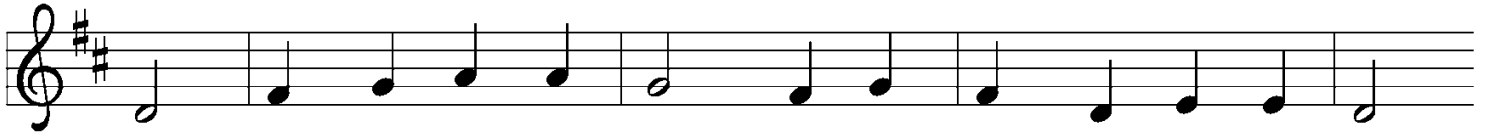


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

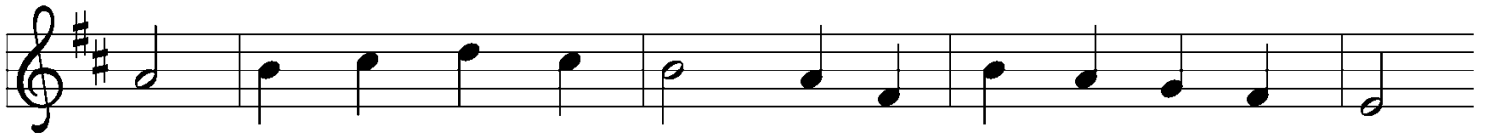
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

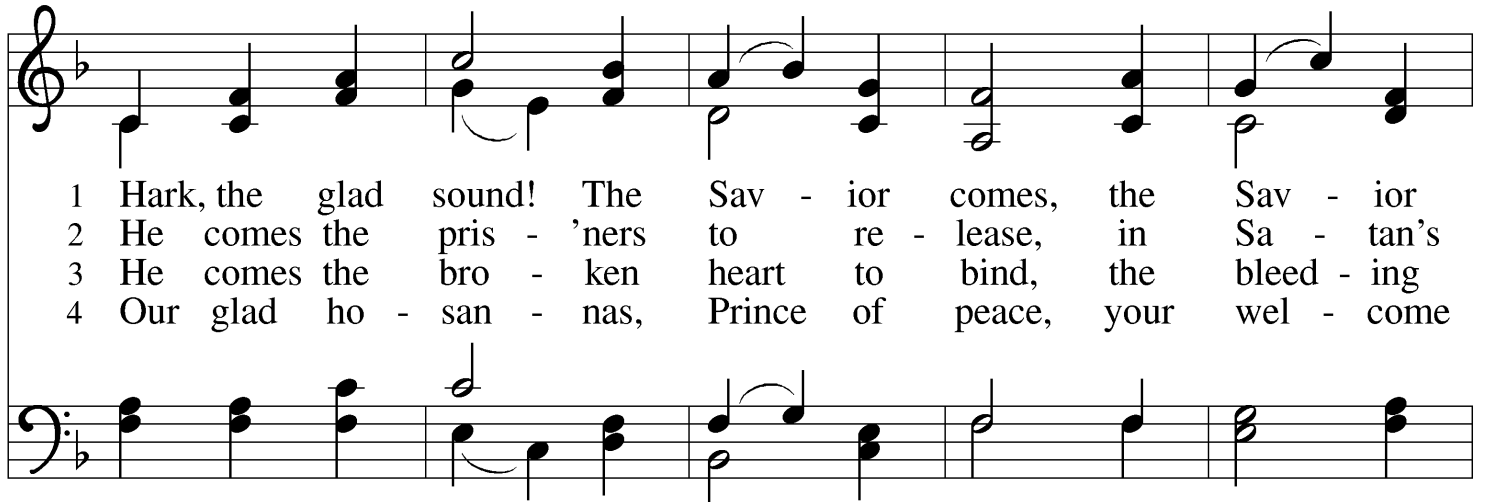


to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

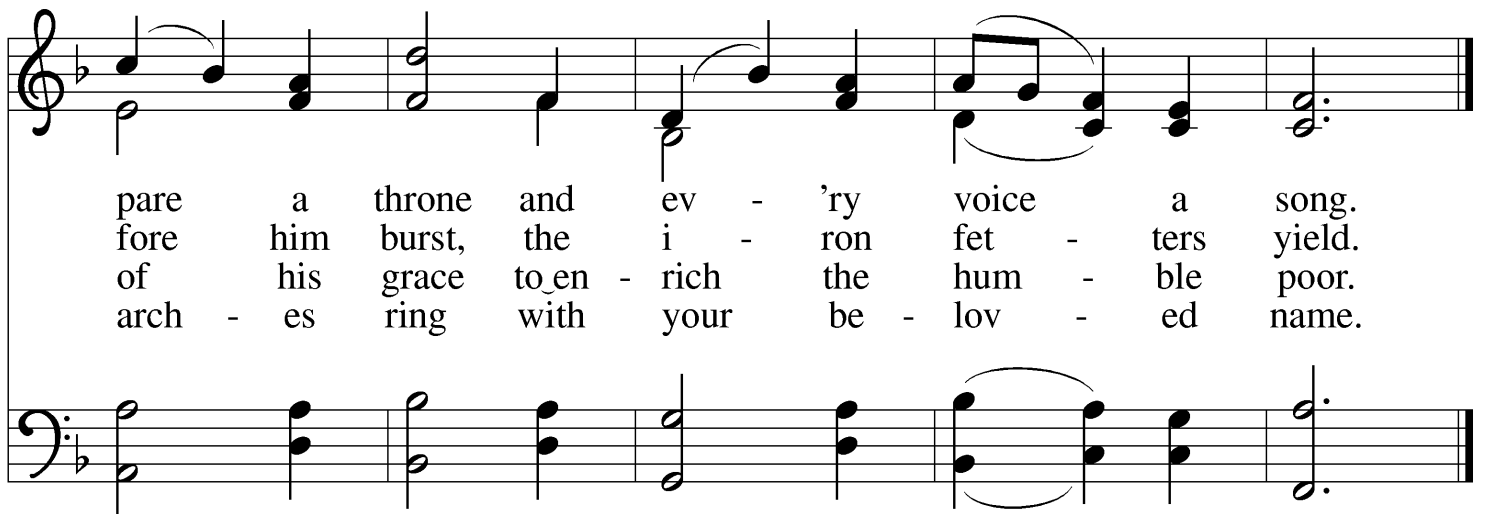
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820



*Please stand.*

## **BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

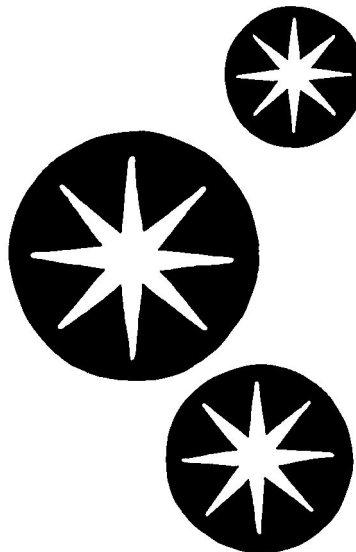
Let us pray. **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your advent among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, † through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**



# SENDING HYMN ELW 248 People, Look East



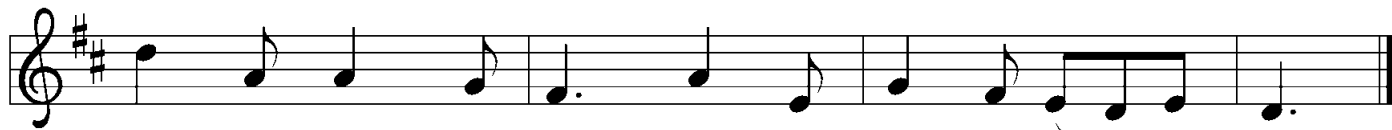
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



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

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

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming soon!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE Magnificat VI, op.18, no.15

Marcel Dupré

**December 11, 2022**

**Today's altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of their mother's birthday by the Bennett and DeFreitas families.

**2023 Pledge Update:** We have received **73 pledges** for a total of **\$386,920** toward our goal of **\$480,000**, and World Hunger pledges are **\$16,320**. Please submit your 2023 pledge today!

**Year-End Giving:** Please remember to fulfill your 2022 financial commitments to St. John's by December 31 so that your gift can be recorded this calendar year. Special Christmas offerings are also an important part of financial health, so please give generously.

**The 2023 Flower Chart** is posted on the rear bulletin board for you to sign up.

**Advent Faith Formation, TODAY at 9:00 AM.** It will include singing carols, a short lesson, seasonal crafts, and snacks. All ages are welcome to join in the fun!

**Dinner Church, TONIGHT, 6:00 PM.** Join us for Word & Sacrament in a dinner setting.

**Advent Sale** running through **December 18** in the chapel.

**The Mitten Tree** items are due **TODAY**.

**LSM Christmas Gifts due TODAY.** For any additional questions, contact Helen Dachowicz.

**Christmas Decorating, next Sunday:** Sign up in the narthex for the many tasks that need to be completed to ready St. John's for Christmas Eve.

**Join us for Christmas Caroling, December 18 at 4:00 PM** as we carol through Summit.

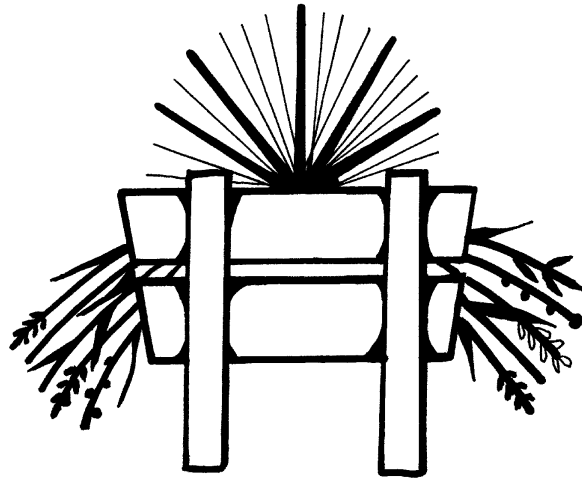
**Christmas Bridges Donations:** On **Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 AM** we will have a fun intergenerational event packing 200 sustainable lunches. Sign up in the narthex or online to donate items, which must be delivered to church by **8:00 AM on December 18**.

**Blue Christmas Service, Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 PM.** We will gather to hear scripture, name our woes, pray together, receive communion, light candles, and receive God's hope and healing. All are welcome.

**Intergenerational Christmas Choir** will sing at the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. Open to all children (4+), youth, and adults. The choir will rehearse on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM. We will learn the carol at Faith Formation on Sundays at 9:00 AM.

**Church Office Holiday Hours:** Please note that the church office will be closed from **December 26–January 2**. For pastoral emergencies, please contact the pastor.

**Anne Ryan Dello Russo**, our Nursery Attendant, will be retiring at the end of this year after 44 years of faithful service. The Christmas Eve 5:00 PM service will be Anne's last day serving among us. We will hold a **Retirement Celebration for Anne on January 15, 2023 following the 10:30 service**. More details about the celebration and ways for you to express your gratitude will be forthcoming. In the meantime, thank Anne for her amazing commitment to our congregation.



### **Advent & Christmas Schedule**

December 18	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 8:00 & 10:30 AM Intergenerational Advent Activities at 9:00 AM Decorating the Church Caroling at 4:00 PM
December 20	Blue Christmas at 7:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve 4:40 PM Brass & Organ Festival Prelude 5:00 PM Candlelight Communion with Brass 9:40 PM Choir & Organ Festival Prelude 10:00 PM Candlelight Communion with Brass
December 25	Christmas Day 10:30 AM Christ Mass with carol sing
January 1	Christmas 1 10:30 AM Lessons & Carols