Family of Christ Lutheran Church
1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests

Confession and Forgiveness

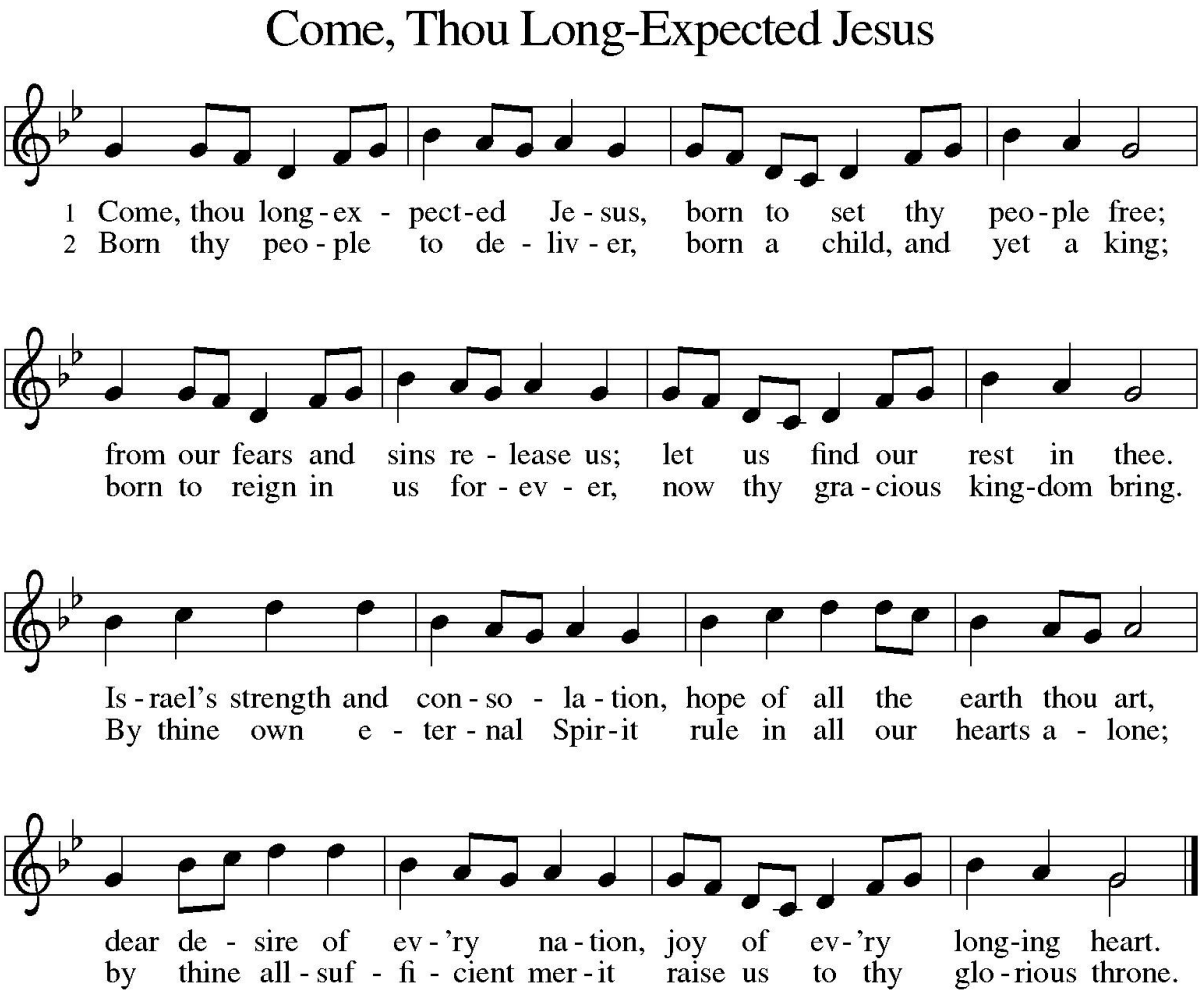
Our hearts cry out for restoration. Our spirits plead for illumination. Let us come before God in confession and in trust. Our salvation is near.

(*silence*)

Before God and one another, **we confess our love for power and control that separates us from one another and from you, O God. We cling tightly to wealth because we fear vulnerability. We insist on our own way because we fear change. We reject love and salvation when they come to us from outside our comfort zone. We follow our own paths instead of your own faithful leading. Forgive us through your endless grace and guide us into your truth. Lead us by the mercy of Jesus, who is our way and our life. Amen.**

From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, so great is God's mercy for us. You are forgiven ☩, and you are held by a love that will never pass away. Receive this good news in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW 254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Please be seated

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.

<u>Lighting of the Advent Wreath</u>

During this busy season, we pause to breathe and worship. We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty. May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith, guided by the light of the world. We listen for words of hope on this First Sunday of Advent.

Brief pause for silence.

L1: As we gather in this place, we acknowledging those in this world who are hurting.

L2: We know that there are unjust systems and harmful powers in place that diminish life.

What can we do? Where is our hope?

L2: Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you:

L 1: in a meal delivered, a hand extended, forgiveness granted.

L 2: As we live between the already and the not yet, we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.

L 1: The Messiah draws near now, breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.

L 2: In this season of holy waiting and wholly longing, we light the candle of hope.

Light the first candle.

L 1: We welcome the coming of Christ.
May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire us.

Prayer of the Day

God of hope, we gather together in this space to encounter you, to encounter the holy saving grace of the Messiah. As we enter this time, we acknowledge all we bring with us: fear, worry, exhaustion, expectation, longing, and we listen for your call to be on guard, to be alert, to watch and wait. The psalmist says, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." May our focus, our presence, and our attention be on your shining face this day as we sing, pray, and reflect in community. And may the thrill of hope far surpass our worry or fear. **Amen.**

First Reading: 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

<u>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</u>

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.

<u>Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9</u>

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.
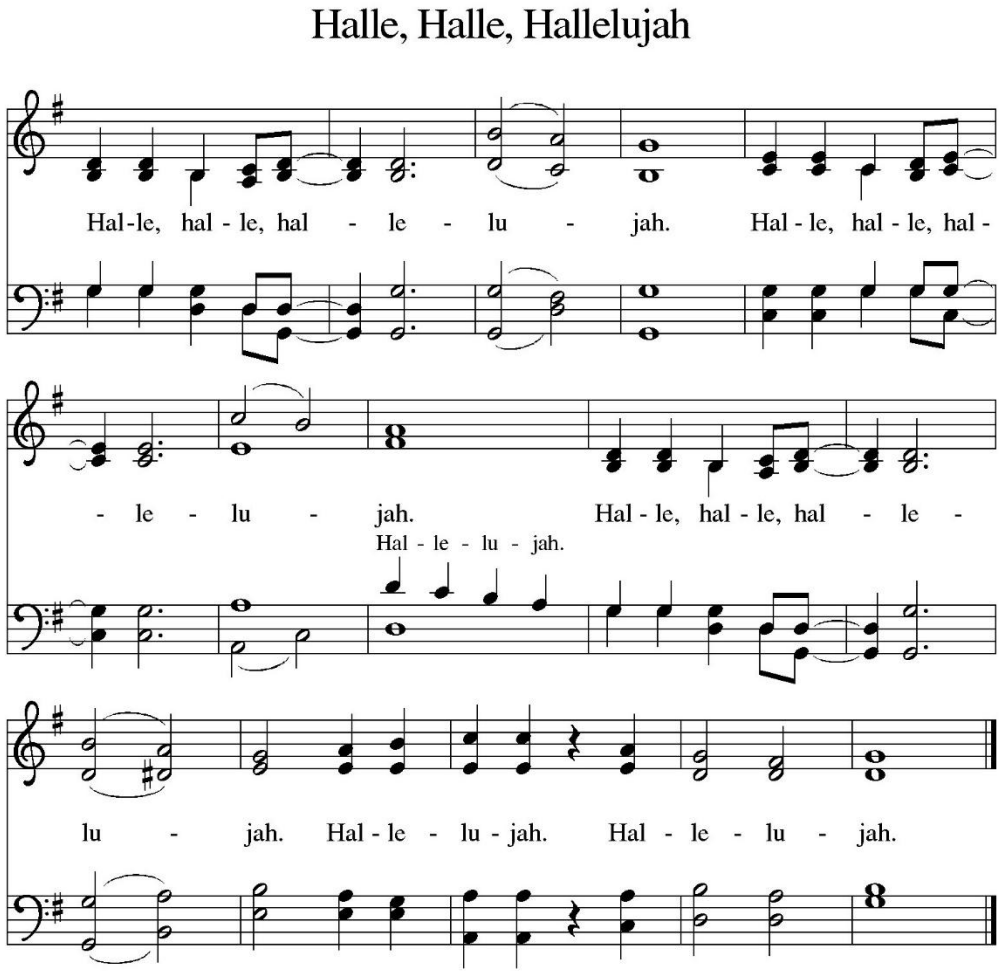
[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[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
spiritual 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
him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
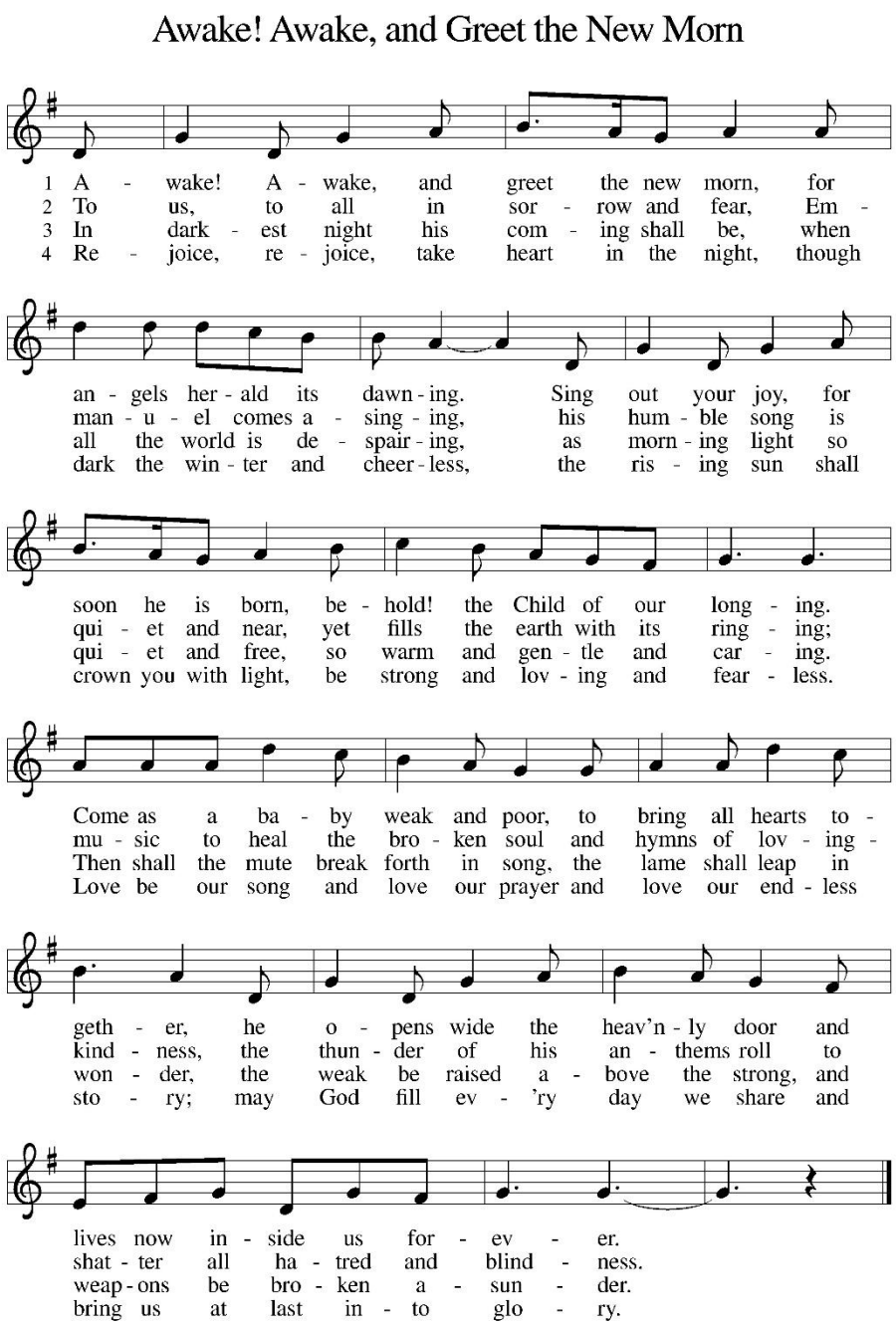
[28]“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these 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.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

<u>Sermon</u>

Hymn of the Day: ELW 242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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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 Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

Please be seated

Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure

any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
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. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. We ask you especially to be with those on our prayer list and those we name before you now *(brief pause)*. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
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. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.
We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The one for whom we wait is our Prince of peace and Reconciler of the world. We share the peace with a weary world. We share the peace to offer God's grace. We share the peace to anticipate and recognize God's salvation in our world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

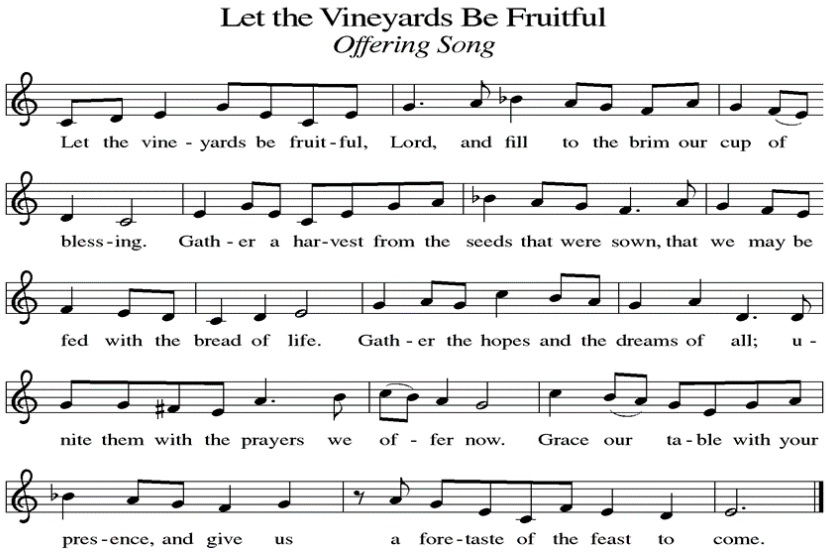
Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

(Please share a sign of peace however you're comfortable today: fist bump, handshake, high five, peace sign, or gentle wave.)

Offering is Collected

Offering and Elements Are Brought to the Table

Offering Song: ELW 182



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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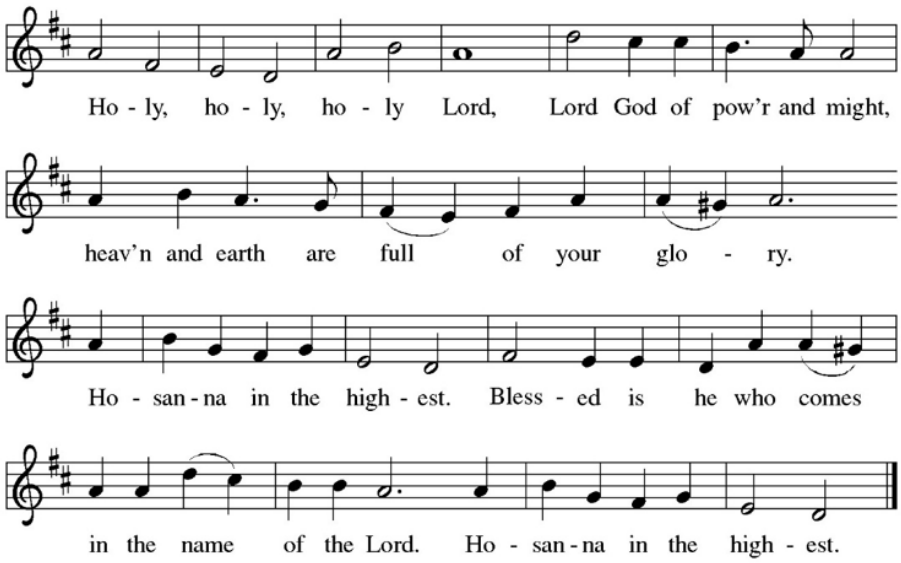
Offering Prayer

Gracious God, **in this Season of Advent, as we wait for the Messiah, we offer not only ourselves but our tithes and gifts as well. May these offerings work to bring about healing, justice, belonging, and the thrill of hope to a weary world. Amen.**

Communion

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts full of holy anticipation.
We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to Immanuel, God with us.
We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

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 a thrill of hope in our hearts, 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:



Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your almighty name.
When the faithful cry out to you, you draw near. Salvation comes.
As we long for healing, restoration, and wholeness, you model the power of mercy, compassion, and generosity through your Son, Jesus Christ.

On the night Jesus gathered his friends to eat together, a common meal was transformed into elements of grace to be shared, remembered, and celebrated by generations upon generations.

On that night, Jesus took a simple loaf of bread.
Blessed it.
Broke it.
And Shared it.
He said, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then Jesus took a cup of wine.
Blessed it.
Passed it.
And said, “Drink from it, all of you. 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 our faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit on us and these your gifts of grace. May they be for us a reminder of how your salvation breaks through in everyday life to everyday people. May we remember the Messiah who saved us is saving us and will save us. Fill our hearts with gratitude for this table where there is enough for all. **Amen.**

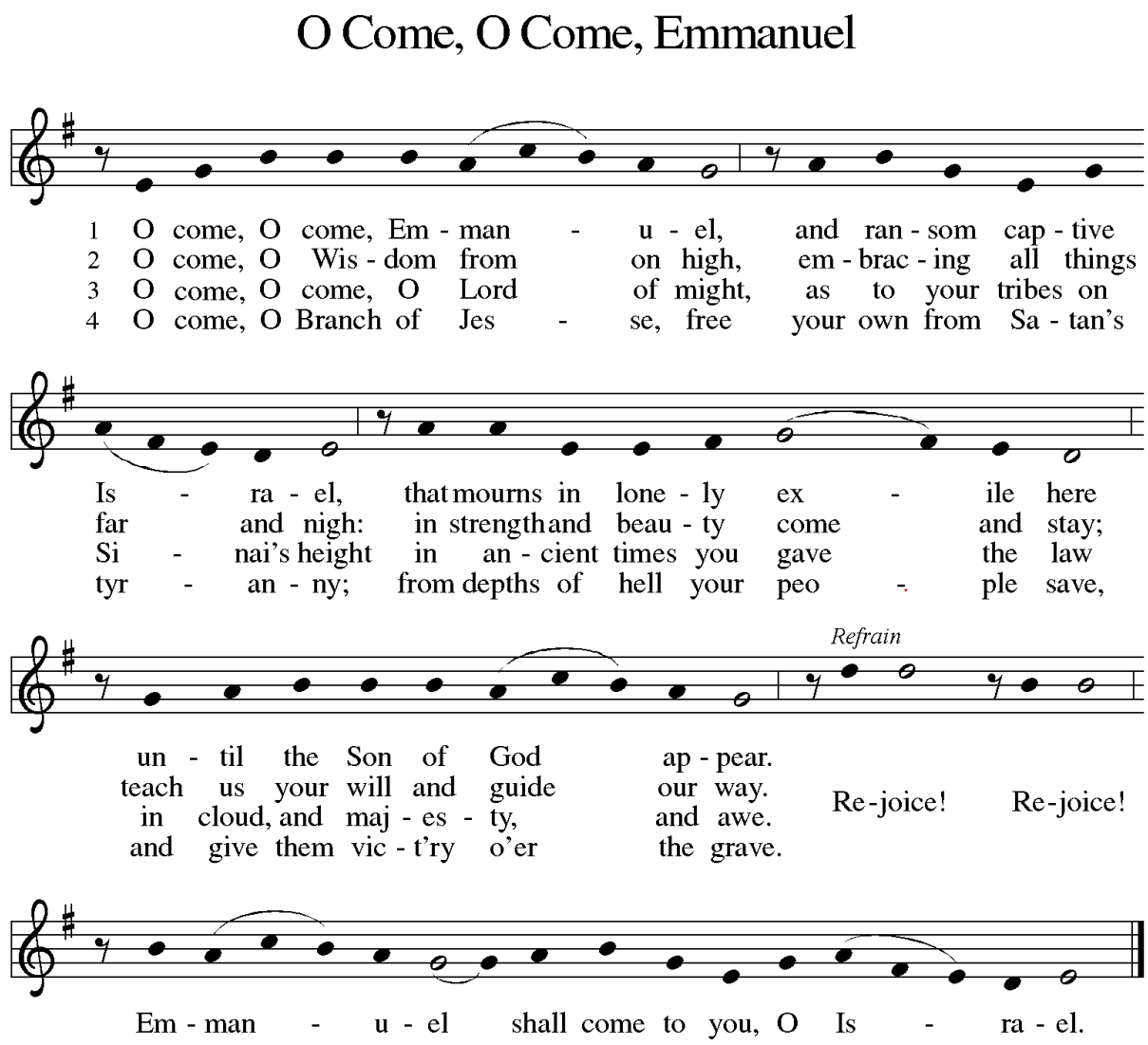
With confidence, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:
Lord’s Prayer
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

<u>Invitation to Communion</u>

God invites all people to this table. Here we find a thrill of hope, the promised peace, the joy of grace, the love of God. Come, not because you are perfect, but because God's love is perfect and given freely. **Amen.**

(All are welcome at the Table. The juice is the innermost circle on the tray. Reminder: You commune fully even if you consume just one of the elements.)

Communion hymn: ELW 257, verses 1-4



Post-Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion
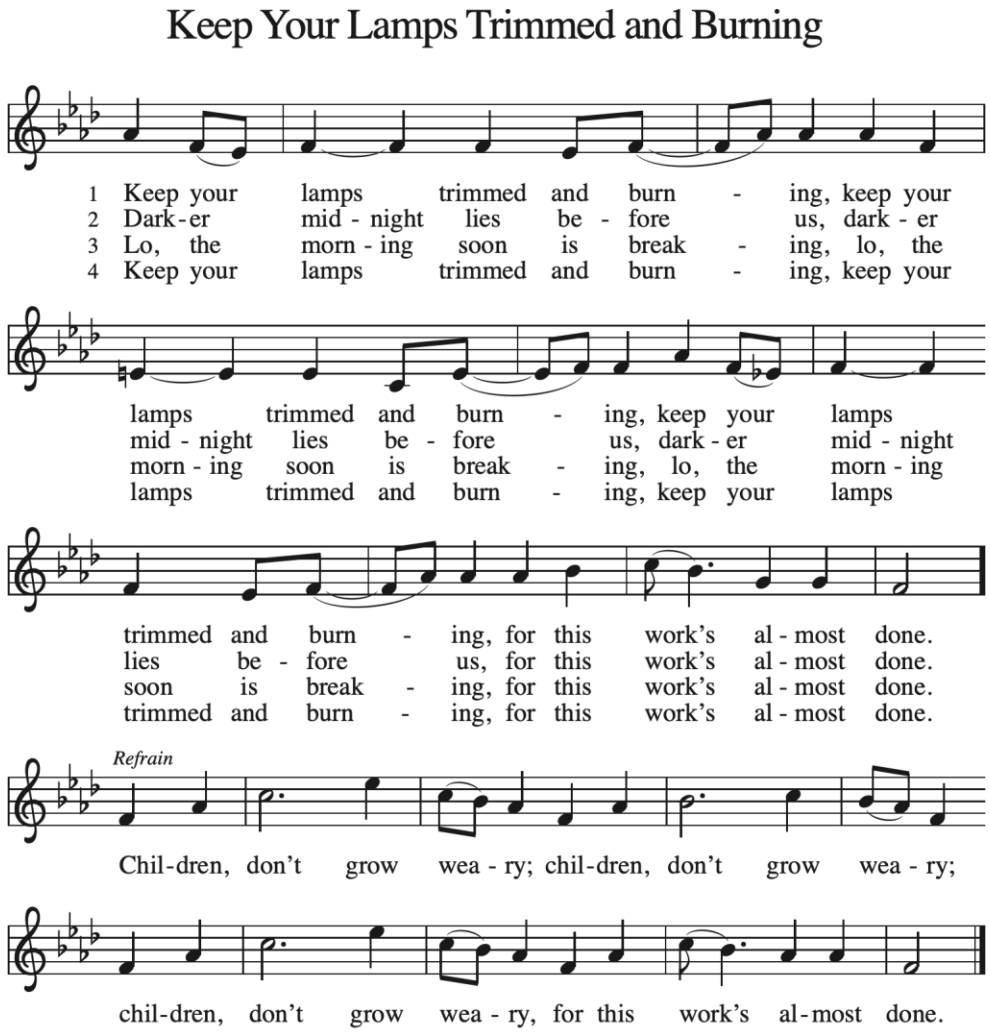
God of hope, **through this meal, you nourish us in our**

weariness and strengthen our community of faith. Energize our spirits to stay alert to your saving presence in the world. May we go forth as storytellers, not withholding what we have heard and felt while gathered together in this space, but sharing with all who are curious and all who long for restoration. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God, our salvation, Christ, our peace, and the Spirit, our joy, ☩ thrill your heart and sustain your spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

Sending hymn: ACS 949



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

Dismissal

Go to share tidings of hope for all people.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Hanging of the Greens:** Dec. 6, right after service. Plan to stay and help decorate for the season and enjoy some refreshments!
- **Getting Crafty:** Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. Bring your current work-in-progress and craft and visit for a while.
- **Christmas Pageant:** Dec. 27, 10 a.m.
- **Annual Meeting:** Jan. 17, right after service.

focelca.com
foclutheran@gmail.com
Pastor Jane Brda, SAM
Ellen Mueller — Music

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