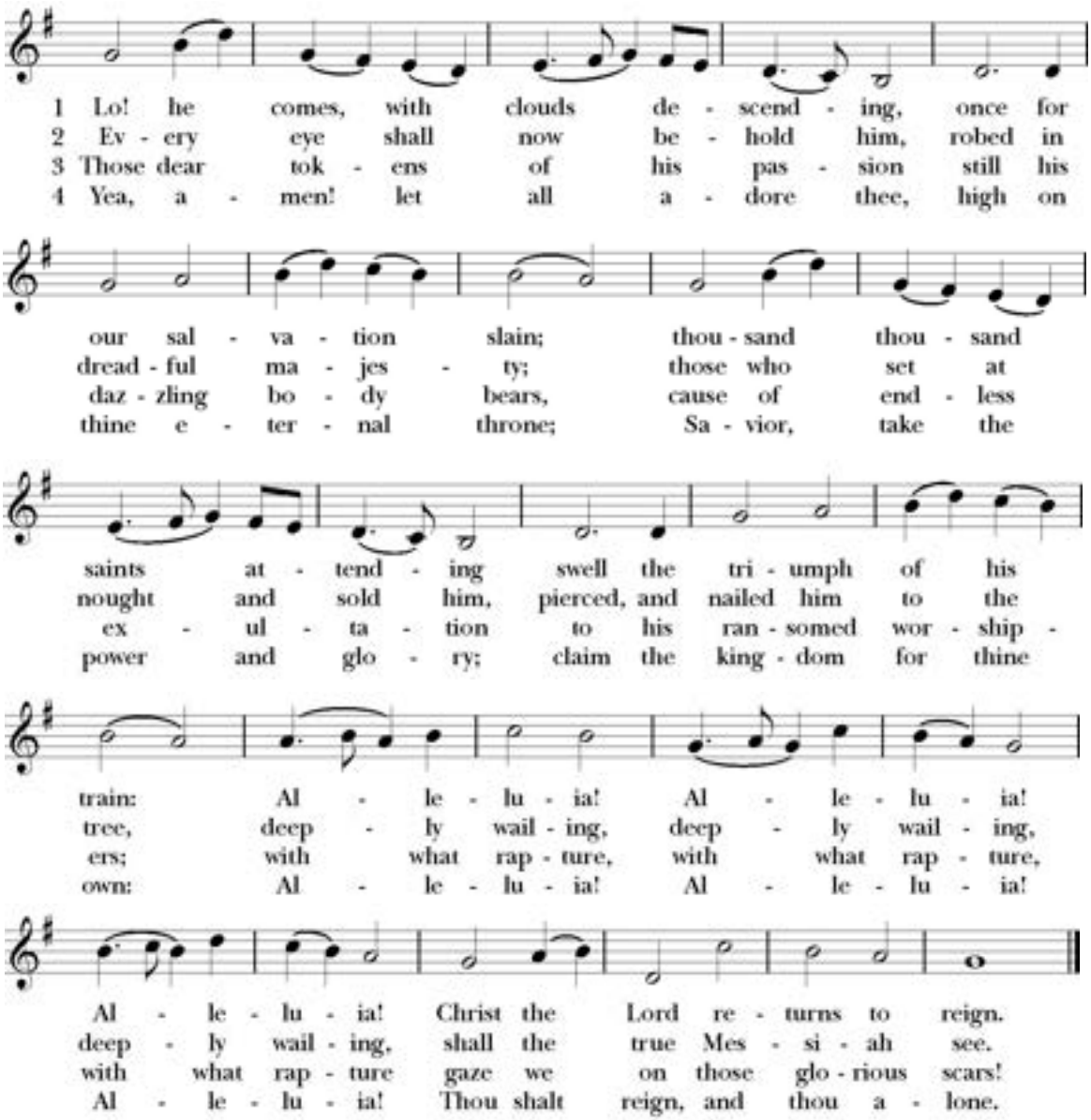
St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST
November 29, 2026 at 9 AM

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, (Sleepers Awake, A voice astounds us) BWV 645*
J.S. Bach

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending* *Hymnal* 57



Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788);Music: *Helmsley,* melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710–1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), alt.
Public Domain

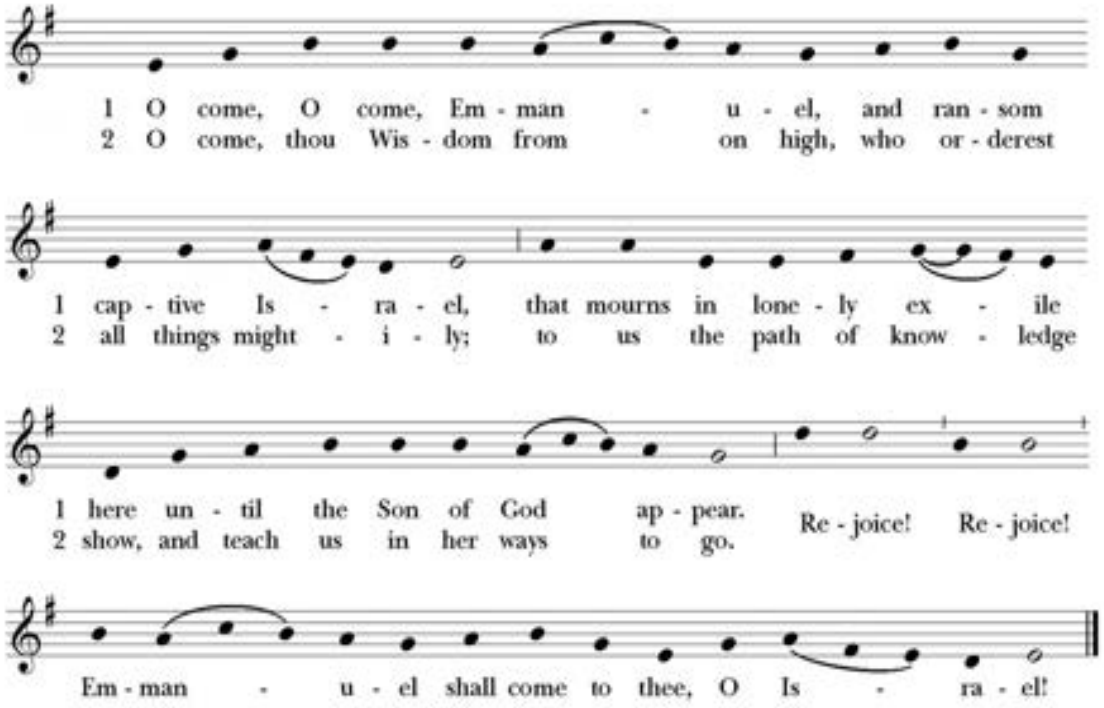
Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.
All **You come to your people and set them free.**

The lighting of the first Advent candle

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

Song of Praise *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1 and 2)*



Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt. © 1940, Church Publishing, Inc.; Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel,* plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc.; Richard Proulx (b. 1937), © 1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; Permission to reprint and stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-722523. All rights reserved.

Collect of the Day

Presider May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

God of unveiled truth,
Faithful flame
In times of darkened sun and waning moon:
Lift up our unknowing hearts,
And waken our sleeping love
To announce the coming dawn
Of unexpected peace;
Through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.
All **Amen.**

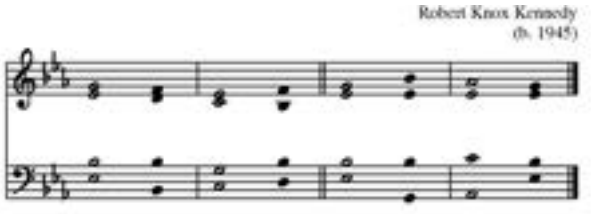
Please be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Reader O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *(sung together)*



All

**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 of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

**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; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

**17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

**18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Music: Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945), © 1979, GIA Publications, Inc.; Permission to reprint and stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-722523. All rights reserved

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you

may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

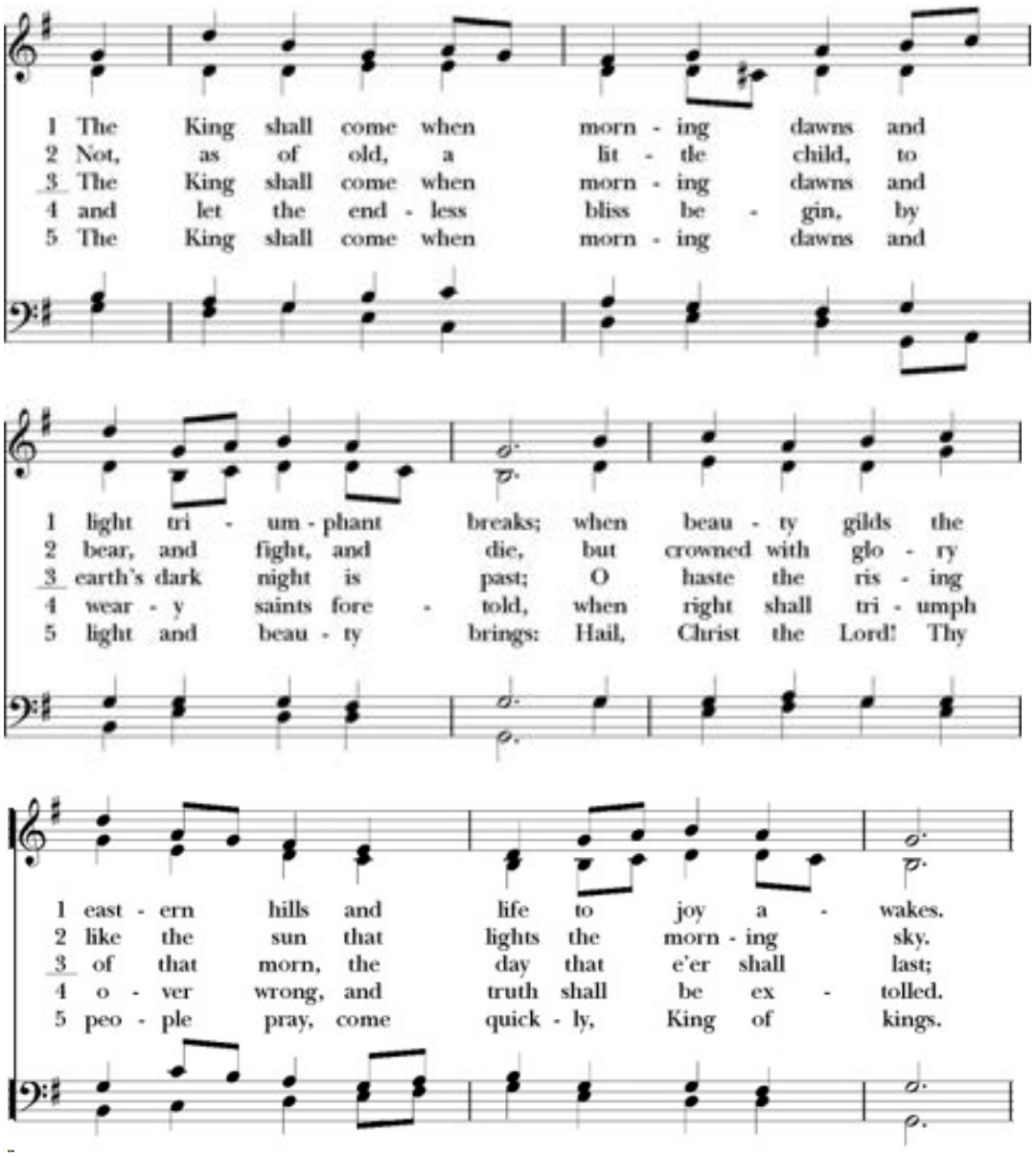
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

All children are invited to join the Gospel procession! Take an instrument from the basket and with joy & enthusiasm herald the proclamation of the Gospel!

Sequence Hymn *The King shall come when morning dawns* *Hymnal* 73



Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859–1925), alt.; Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726–1800), alt.; Public Domain

The Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a 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. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily The Rev. Kristin Saylor

Following the sermon, we will hold a short period of silence, begun and ended with the ringing of a bell. As with all things in our liturgy, we do not expect perfection and celebrate that the Holy Spirit meets us wherever we are--be it in stillness or in the joyful presence of children in our midst.

Nicene Creed

All
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor Gracious and Creative God, as we wait impatiently for Christ's birth, nurture in us peace and hope. We pray for all who dedicate themselves to reminding us of your love, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Paula our Bishop, Kristin our Rector and Hal and Jackie, our Deacons. We pray also for those seeking your presence in their lives. Come, Light of the World,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Gracious and Inspirational God, inspire our country and her leaders that they might know and honor you, especially Donald our president, JB our governor, and all others elected or appointed to positions of public trust. May they labor together to serve the common good, promoting safety, justice, and dignity for every human being. Come, Light of the World,

Hear our prayers.

Intercessor Gracious and Hopeful God, deliver the peoples of this world from turmoil and into ways of decency and truth. Cradle them with peace and help them to understand they do not travel alone. There are many paths that lead to You. Uplift us, also, to honor your creation and to sustain and renew the life of this fragile planet. Come, Light of the World,

All **Hear our prayers.**

Intercessor Gracious and Nurturing God, we thank you for your presence among us. Swaddle our community, our homes and our loved ones with your joy and grace. Inspire us to share our gifts generously with our brothers and sisters, whoever they might be. As we await your birth, we also give thanks for those among us celebrating birthdays or other life events this week. Come, Light of the World,

All **Hear our prayers.**

Intercessor Gracious and Sustaining God, we ask you to shine your light to those who suffer in darkness or hatred. We pray for relief for anyone caught up in bitterness or destructive thoughts. We pray for food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and safety for those in danger. We pray for health and understanding for the sick, and peace for all who are fearful, troubled, or sad, especially those whom we now name either aloud or in our hearts. Come, Light of the World,

All **Hear our prayers.**

Intercessor Gracious and Comforting God, we pray for all who have died. Be with those who grieve and help us to celebrate the joy of our shared lives. May we, in the fullness of time, share with your saints the glory of your heavenly kingdom.
Come, Light of the World,

All **Hear our prayers.**

Presider Generous and Loving God, who through the miraculous coming birth of your Son will show your Love to the World, hear our prayers as we wait and watch this Advent Season; wrap our hearts in patience and thanksgiving, and guide us to share your abundant love with those around us; through the coming of the Baby, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All **Amen**

Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen

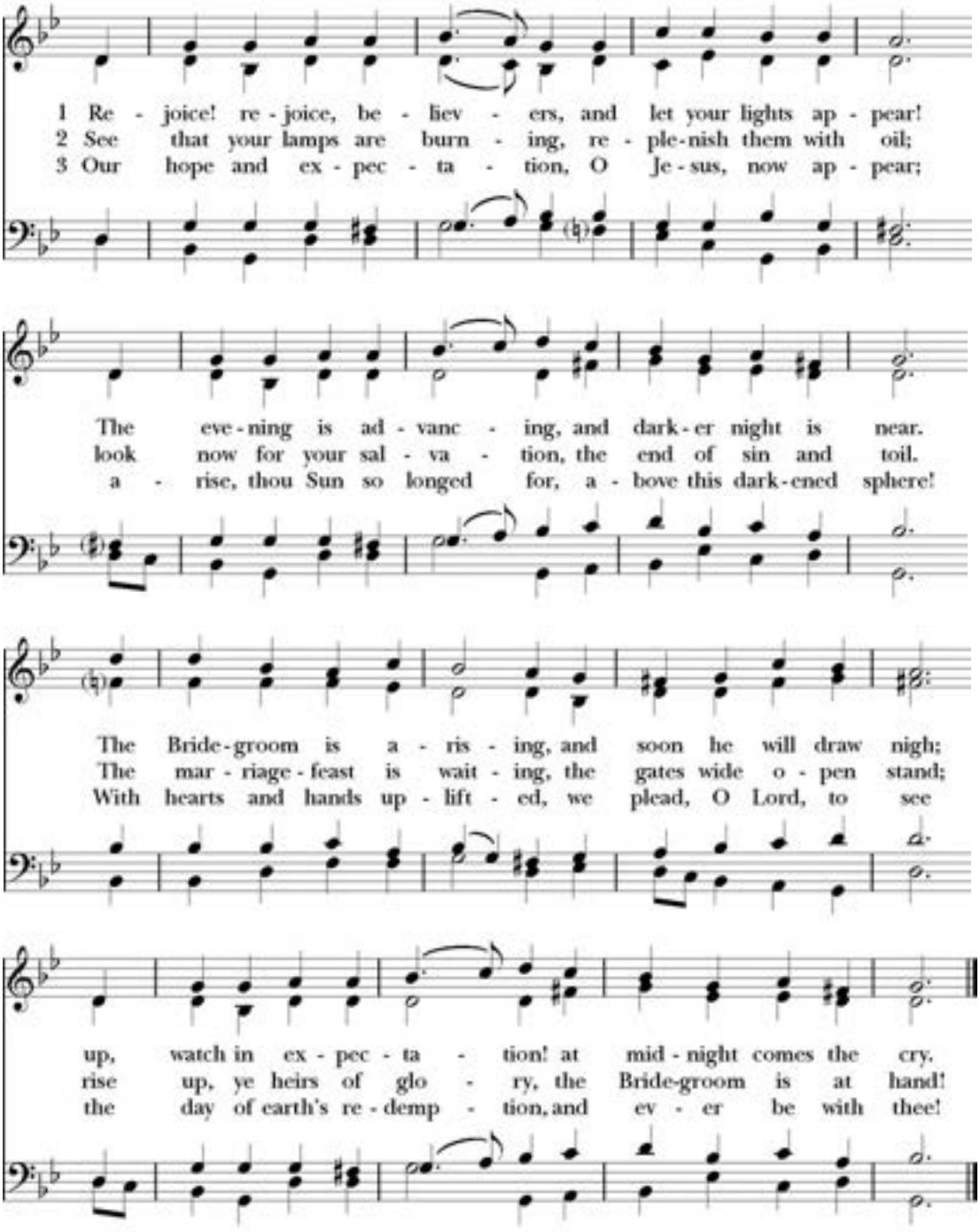
Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn *Rejoice! Rejoice, believers* *Hymnal* 68



Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823–1907), alt.; Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865; Public Domain

Please stand as you are able.

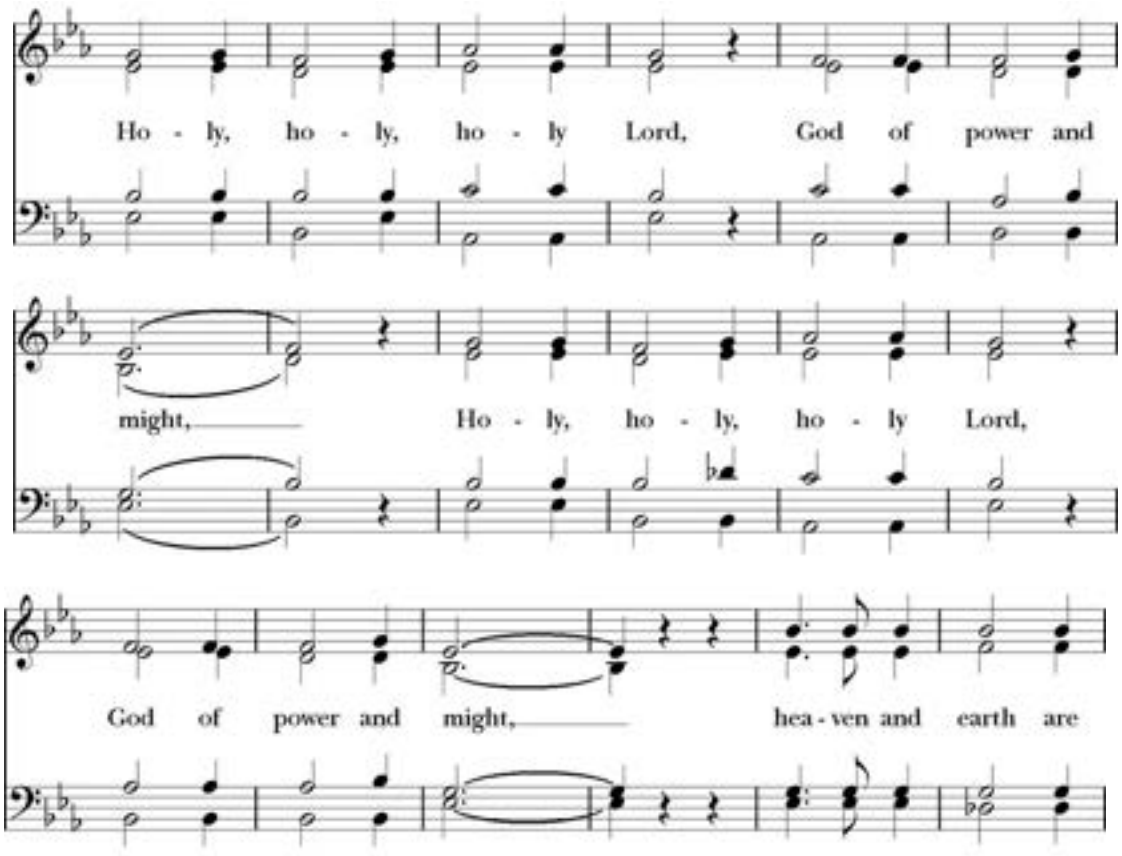
THE HOLY COMMUNION EOW 1

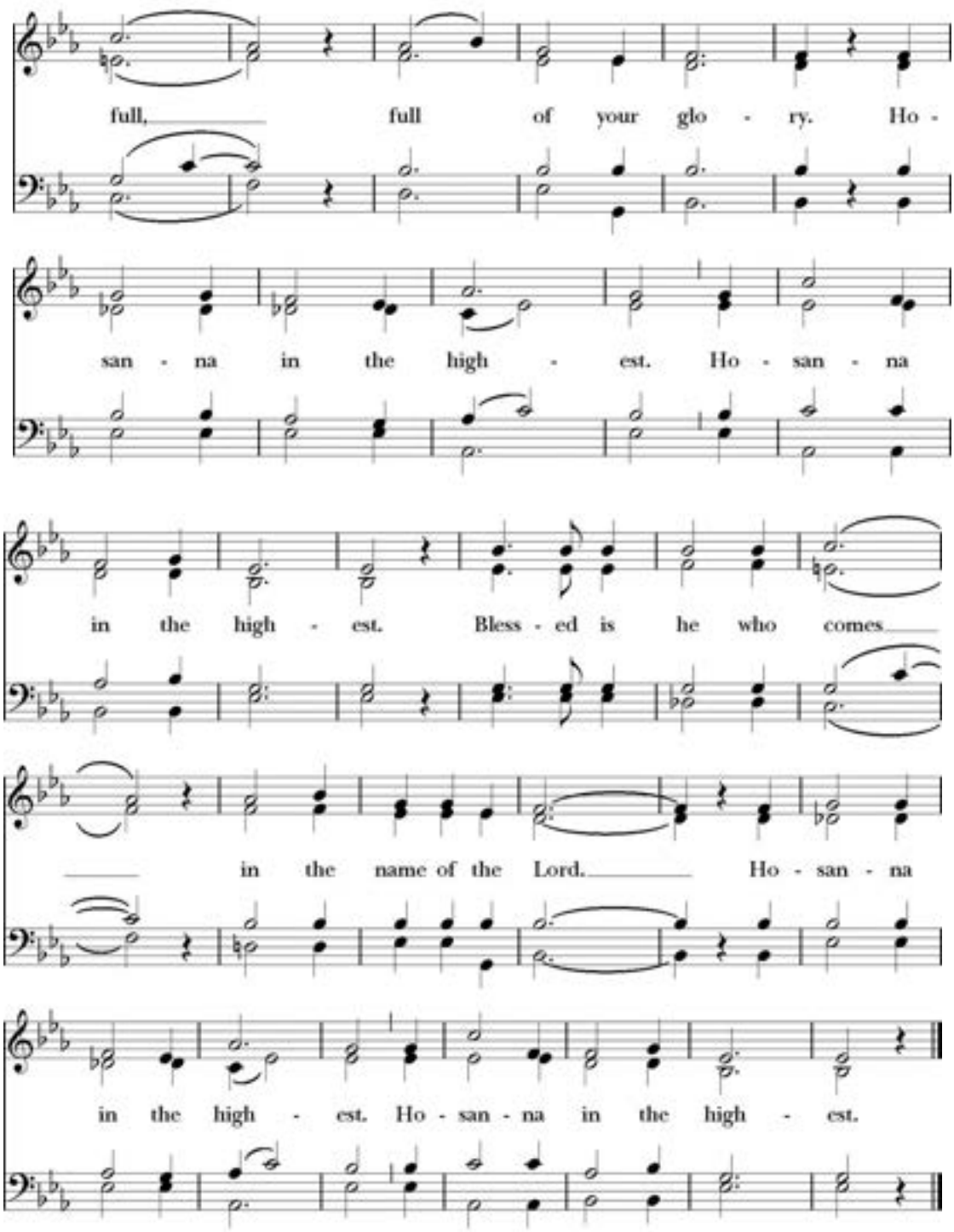
Presider The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Presider It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus





Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), adaptation © 1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.; Permission to reprint and stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-722523. All rights reserved

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Presider Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Lawrence and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

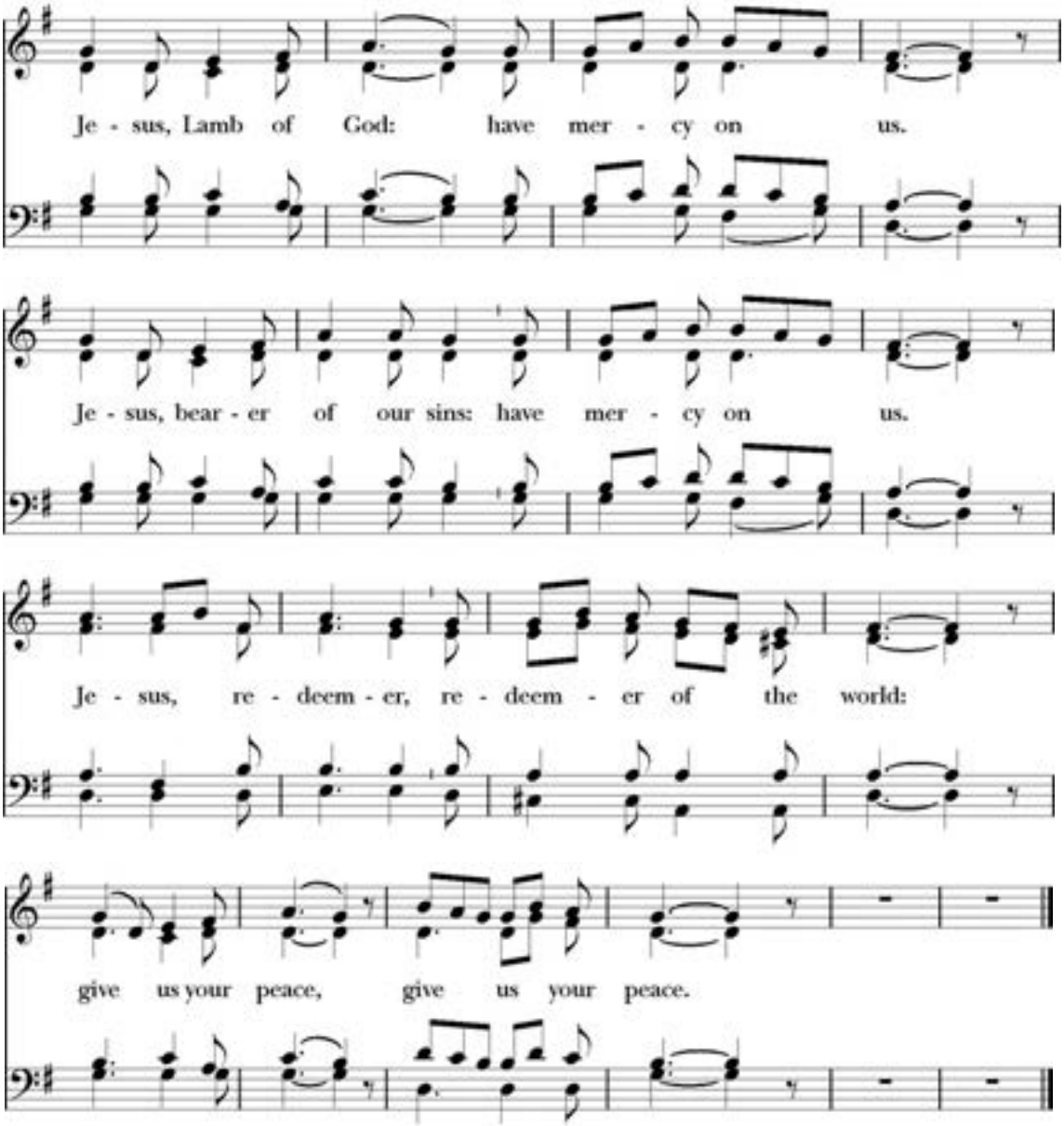
Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **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 for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem



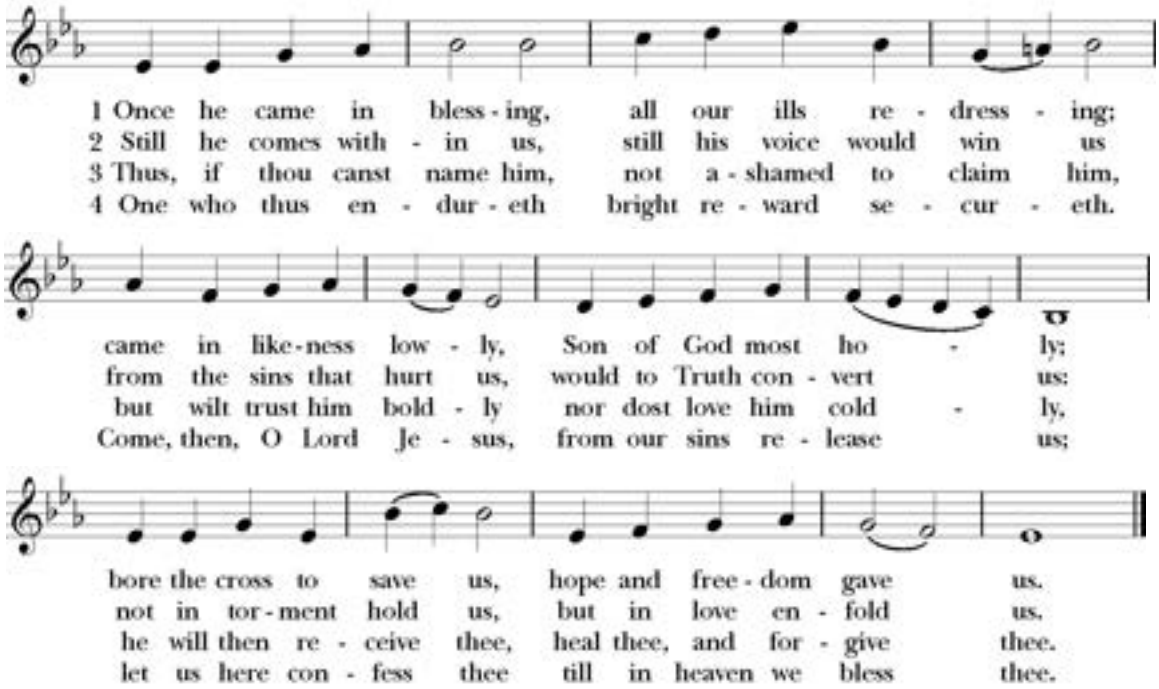
Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), adaptation © 1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.;Permission to reprint and stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-722523. All rights reserved

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

Ushers will guide you to the front of the congregation, where you will have the option to receive regular or gluten-free bread.

We offer two options for receiving wine. If you wish to drink directly from the common cup, please proceed to the communion ministers holding chalices, directly next to the bread stations. If you wish to receive by intinction (dipping the bread into the wine), please proceed to the external communion stations, where you will find Eucharistic ministers holding intinction bowls.

Communion Hymn *Once he came in blessing* *Hymnal* 53



Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.; Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, Michael Weisse (d. 1534), harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946) © 1984 Jack Warren Burnam; Permission to reprint and stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-722523. All rights reserved

The sending forth of Eucharistic Visitors

When Eucharistic Visitors are sent out the following words are used.

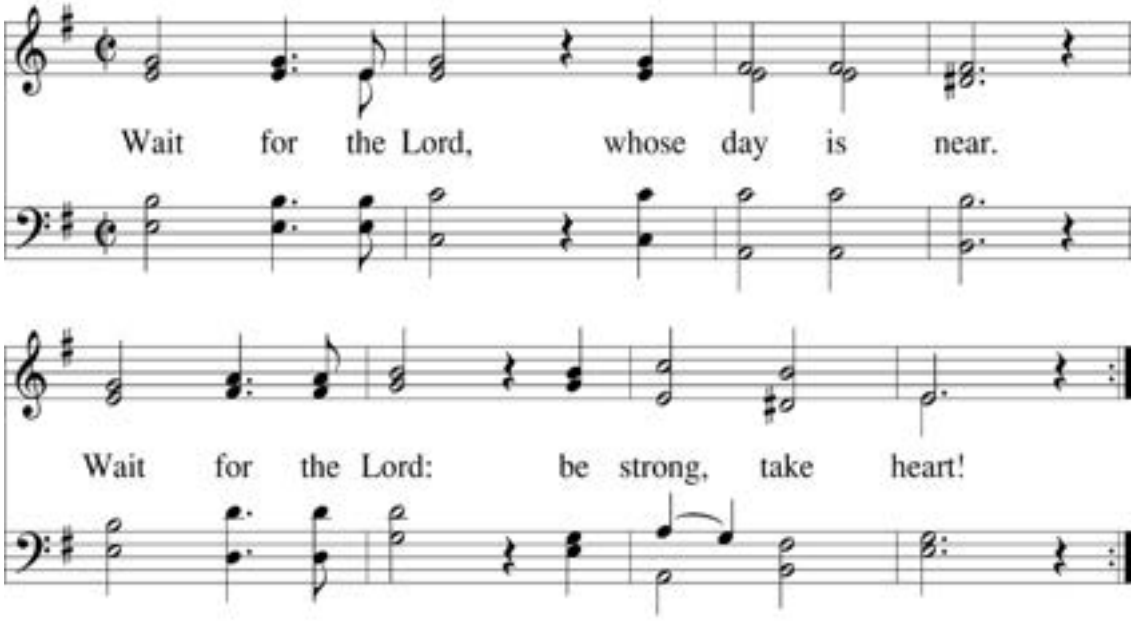
All **In the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body. We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.**

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All **Loving God,**
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Hymn *(sing three times)*



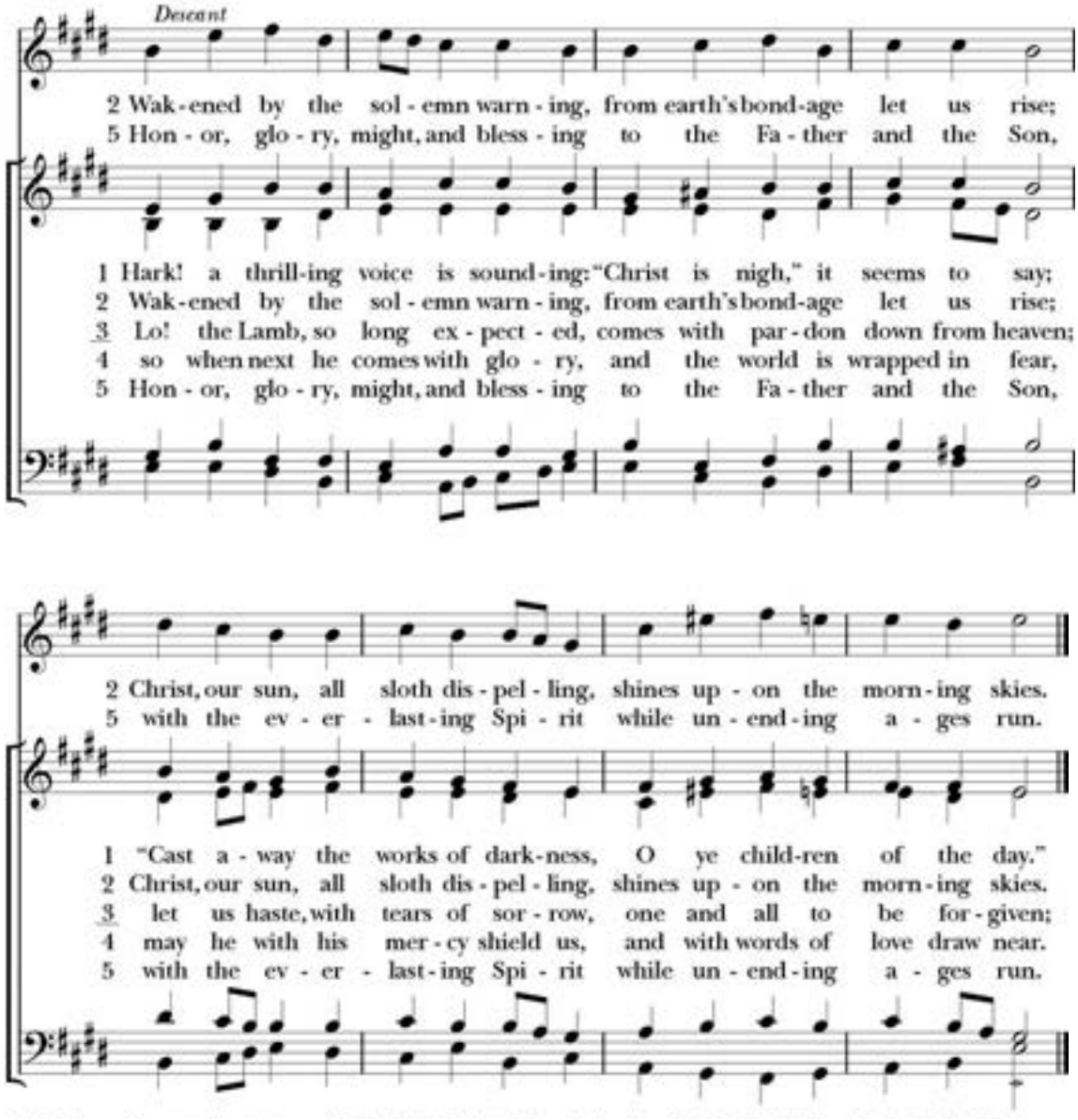
Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984; Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent; Permission to reprint and stream this hymn obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-722523. All rights reserved.

The Advent Blessing

Presider May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounded* *Hymnal* 59



Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.; Music: Merton William Henry Monk (1823-1889), desc. Alan Gray, (1855-1935); Public Domain

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Herr Christ, Der Ein'ge Gottessohn (Lord Christ, the Son of God united)*
J.S. Bach

WELCOME!

New to St. Lawrence? Please complete the top part of the newcomers card found in the pews and either drop it in the collection plate or hand it to an usher.

If you need assistance with the Hearing Aid Loop, please see an usher.

Welcome to the **Soft Space!**
This special area is for children age 5 and under a cozy place to wiggle, wonder, and worship.
Here, little ones can experience our liturgy, worship, and communion
in a comfortable and engaging way.
Here, little ones can feel at home in God's presence just as they are!

Join us for coffee hour in the narthex immediately following the service.

Those attending a worship service at St. Lawrence are entering an area where photography, video, and audio recording may occur on behalf of St. Lawrence. Please be aware that these images may be used for promotional purposes, including on our website or social media, without obtaining express written permission.

Community Prayers
The Universal Church, its members and its mission; For all retired clergy in our diocese, and for surviving spouses of clergy. And for ministries in our Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Renk

Those who suffer and are in any trouble and those who have requested our prayers: Sherry, Joe, Celeste, Danny, Kristine, Valorie, Jane, Evelyn, Cara, Debi, Ellen, Fred, Jack, Betsy, Melanie, Fr. John, Carl, Jennie, Ryan Li, Mary Fran, Sharon, Robin, Duke, Mike, Phyllis, Ruth, Teddy, Dirimar, Danielys, Wilquer, MJ, Richard, Willis family, Tim, Nancy, Tony, Jim, Christy, Don, Betsy, Carolyn, Emma, Joe, Linda, Chris

We pray for those who are incarcerated, especially: Karlondo, Jermain, Christino, Maurice, Rickie, Apolinar

We pray for those preparing for marriage, especially: Ben and Alicia

We pray for those awaiting children, especially: Diana and Shane, Claire and Kyle, Molly and Kyle, Melody and Devon

We pray for those who have died, especially: Mike

We pray for those who have lost loves ones, especially: the Smith family, the Frank family

We pray for our beloved animal companions

We pray for peace and healing in our nation and the world

We pray that peace and justice may come soon in places of war and conflict, and for all whose life of service puts them at risk; and for all victims of religious, racial and gender oppression throughout the world.

If you have a loved one you would like mentioned in the Prayers of the People list, please write their first name on the clipboard located at the rear of the church. You may also visit www.stlawrencechurch.org and click on "worship" and look for "Online Prayer Group". Names are checked and updated weekly and refreshed every month.



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin!
Our children's Christmas Pageant rehearsals will continue after the service in the Sanctuary and continue each week until December 13.

The Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 20, during the worship service.

Note for Parents: You are warmly invited to join us for coffee hour after the service while the children participate in the Christmas Pageant. Kindly pick up your children at 10:45 AM from the Sanctuary.



We're trying something new!
Always been curious about singing in the choir but can't make Thursday evening rehearsals? Join us after church **TODAY** to learn some repertoire for our Advent Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, December 6. No prior singing experience required!



Advent is Coming - We Need Your Evergreen Cuttings!
As we prepare our church for Advent, we are looking for cuttings from evergreen trees and shrubs to help decorate our worship space. The large evergreen arrangements that will be displayed in the windows require a substantial amount of greenery.

If you have evergreen cuttings to share, please bring them to church and leave them outside by the columbarium near the sacristy. If you are purchasing a fresh Christmas tree, please consider asking for any trimmings or cuttings and donating those as well.

I will be creating the arrangements on **December 1**, and any donations of greenery would be greatly appreciated.

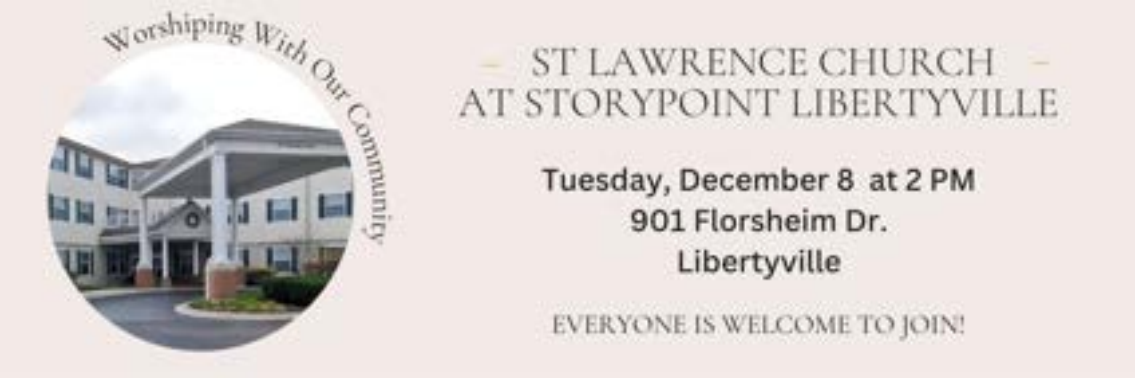
Questions? Interested in helping?
Please contact **Cecelia Secor** at **847-651-7655**.

Thank you for helping make our church beautiful for the Advent season!

Welcome to Advent

We warmly invite you to visit the Narthex, where Advent resources are waiting for you. Please take whatever you need to help make this a joyful, reflective, and peaceful season.








Join the St. Lawrence
YOUNG EPISCOPAL SENIORS -YES
Brown Bag Lunch
Third Tuesday of the Month
December 15, 2026
Noon
Library
Bring your lunch and a small dish to pass.
Coffee/Tea/Water provided
Contact Ann Leffler for more information, 847-918-9697
YES


Christmas AT
St.Lawrence
Episcopal Church
CHRISTMAS EVE
4:30 PM-EUCHARIST
8:30 PM-SERVICE OF CAROLS
9:00 PM-EUCHARIST
IN PERSON AND ONLINE
STLAWRENCECHURCH.ORG

On the STL calendar *(see the entire calendar on the STL website, stlawrencechurch.org)*

Sunday, November 29 - Frist Sunday of Advent; Advent wreath and St. Nicholas projects, Narthex, 10 AM; Sunday School Christmas Pageant rehearsal, Sanctuary, 10 AM
Holiday Bazaar, Narthex, 10-12 PM; Choir Gathering for Advent, 10 AM
Thursday, December 3 - Advent Midweek Eucharist, Sanctuary, 8:30 AM; Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7 PM
Saturday, December 5 - Seeking Sophia, Fireside Room, 9 AM
Sunday, December 6 - Lessons and Carols, 9 AM; Sunday School Christmas Pageant rehearsal, Sanctuary, 10 AM
Tuesday, December 8 - Service at StoryPoint Libertyville, 2 PM
Thursday, December 10 - Advent Midweek Eucharist, Sanctuary, 8:30 AM; Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7 PM
Friday, December 11 - Hope Food Pantry, narthex, 5-6 PM
Saturday, December 12 - Hope Food Pantry, Narthex, 8 AM
Sunday, December 13 - Sunday School Christmas Pageant rehearsal, Sanctuary, 10 AM
Monday, December 14 - STL Book Group, Fireside Room, 7 PM
Tuesday, December 15 - Young Episcopal Seniors (YES) Group, Library, Noon; Vestry Meeting, Fireside Room, 7 PM
Thursday, December 17 - Advent Midweek Eucharist, Sanctuary, 8:30 AM; Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7 PM
Saturday, December 19 - Seeking Sophia, Fireside Room, 9 AM
Sunday, December 20 - Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 9 AM
Wednesday, December 23 – Friday, January 1- Church offices closed



St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church

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