First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Comforting God,

C: **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

P: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

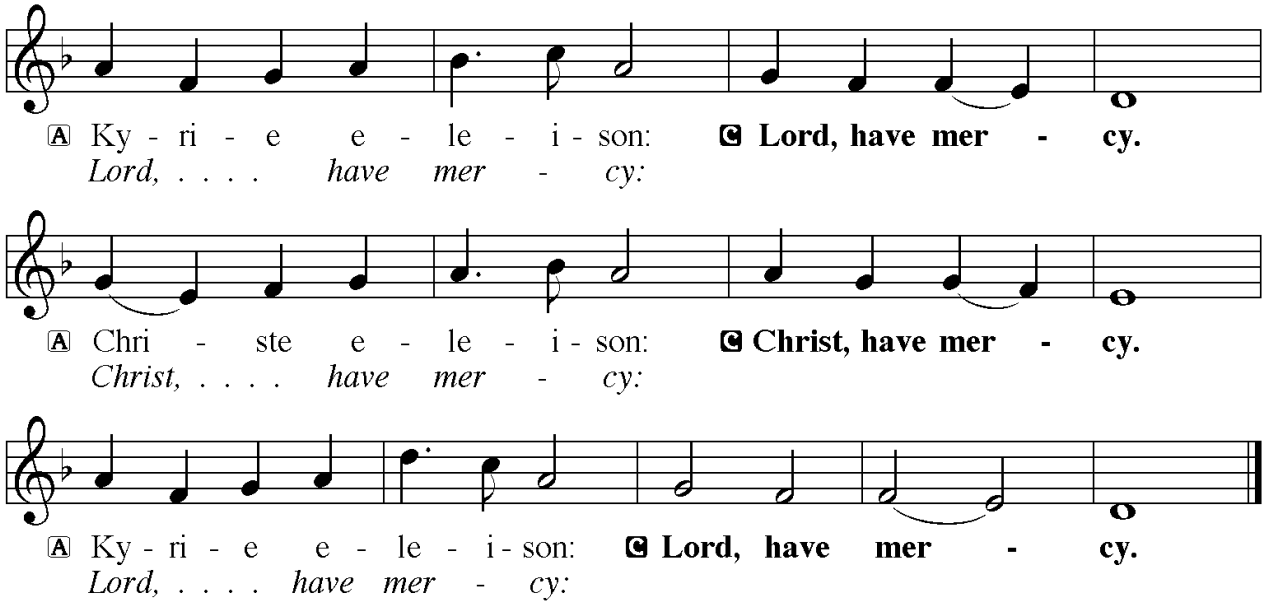
In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord! ***C:*** **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *Hark, the Glad Sound!* *ELW #239*

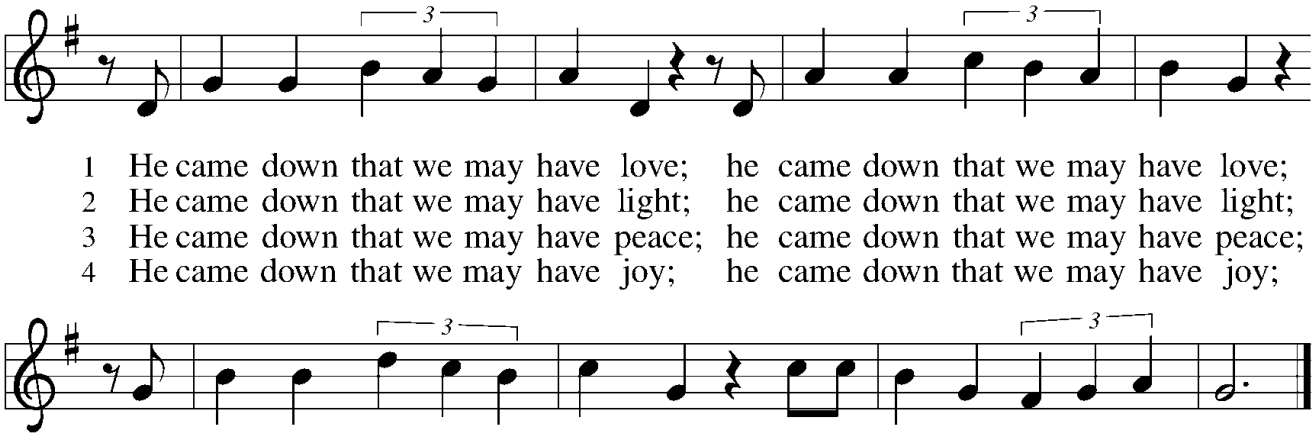
***GREETING**

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** *He Came Down* *ELW #253*

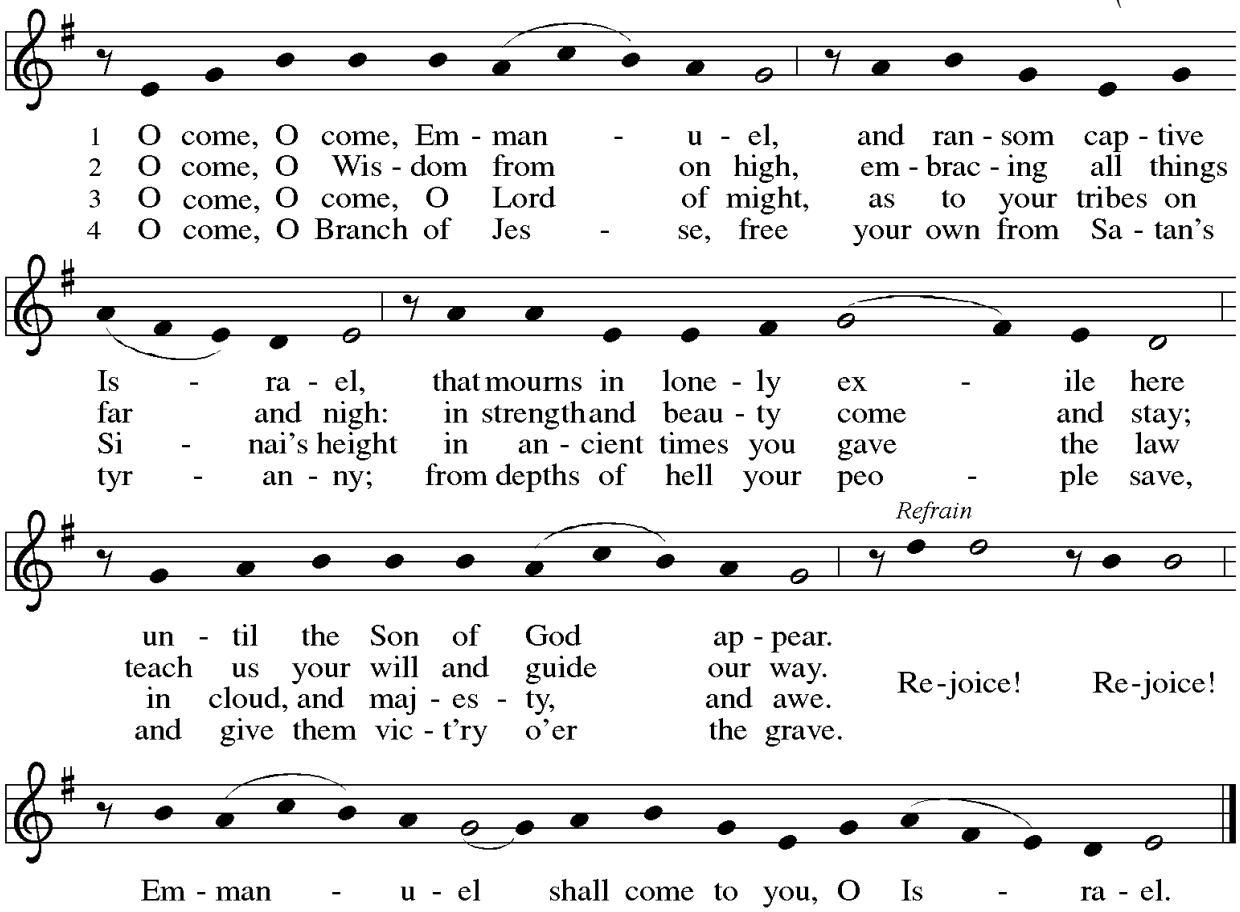


PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ... 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. ***C:*** **Amen.**

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

ADVENT LIGHTING HYMN *O Come O Come Emanuel* *(vs 1 only)*



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 (*read responsively*)

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.

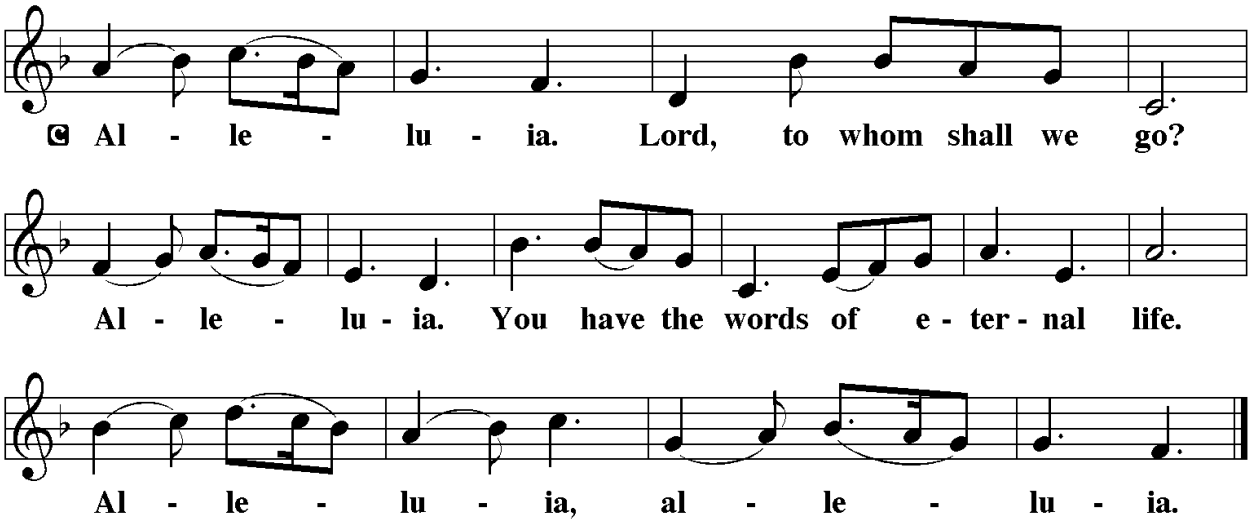
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him,
in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been
strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for
the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so
that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful,
by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 the Lord. ***C:*** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY *Pastor Traci*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *My Lord, What a Morning* *ELW* # 438

***APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **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.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

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

A: Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, ***C:*** **receive our prayer.**

A: 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, ***C:*** **receive our prayer.**

A: 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, ***C:*** **receive our prayer.**

A: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, ***C:*** **receive our prayer.**

A: 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, ***C:*** **receive our prayer.**

A: 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, ***C:*** **receive our prayer.**

P: We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: Let us pray … Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

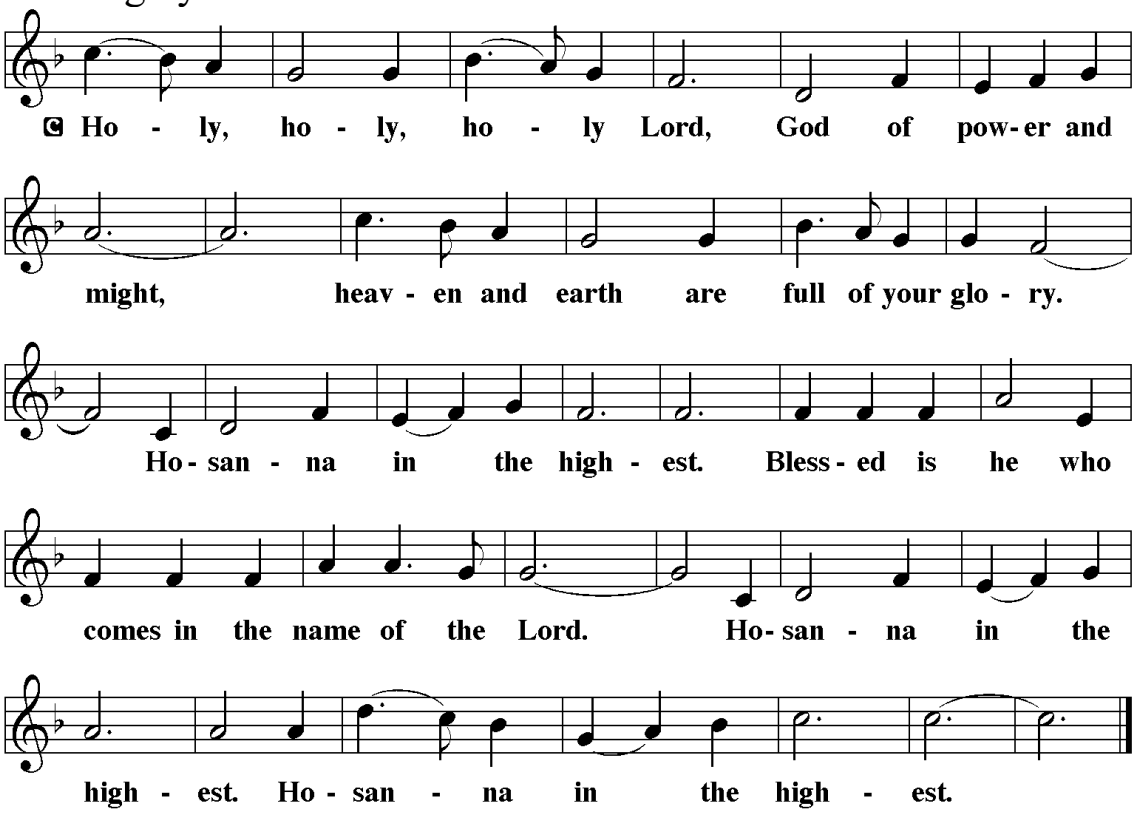
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

***PROPER PREFACE**

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 God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

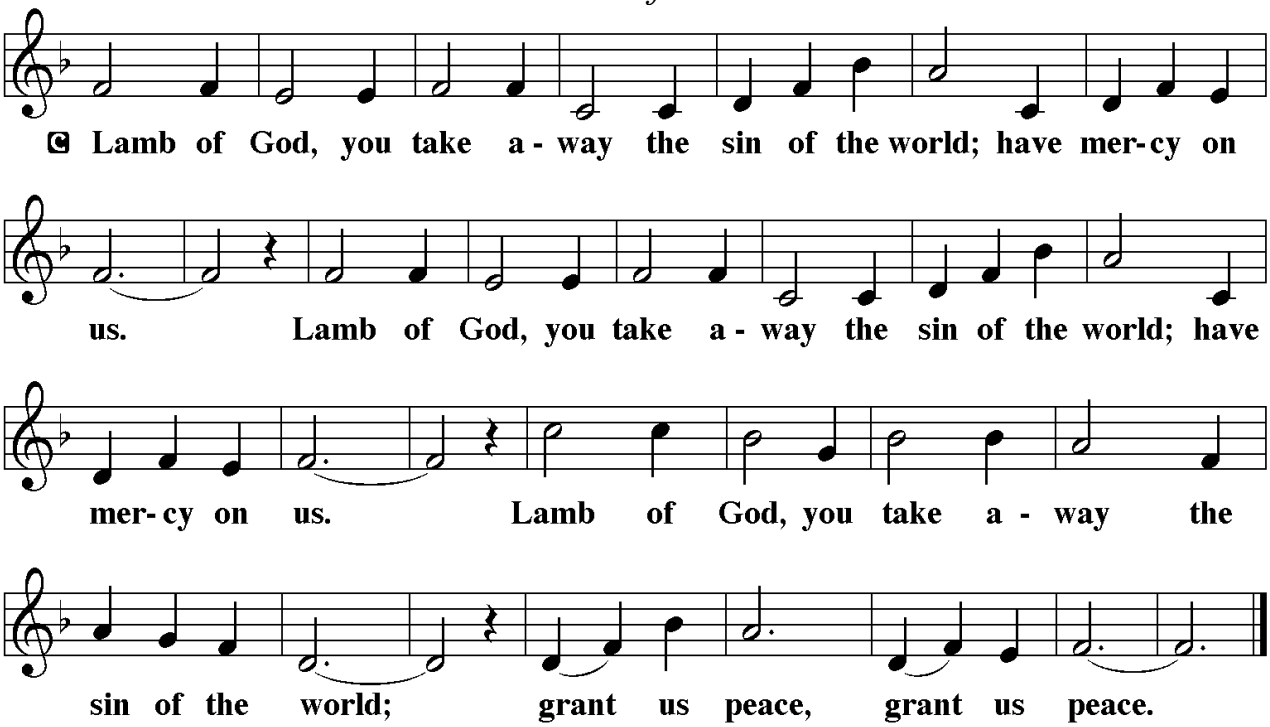
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***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**

***THE AGNUS DEI** *Lamb of God*



***INVITATION**

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION HYMN *What Feast of Love* *ELW # 487*

***BLESSING**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

***BENEDICTION**

P: God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever. ***C:*** **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* *ELW # 242*

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Keep awake. ***C:*** **Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE**

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031
Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Today's Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God in memory of loved ones by Elaine Buchart.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
Our Organist – Mary Nelson
Our Pianists – Ben Decker, Sheila Bumbarger
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck
Our Sexton – Phil Claar
Our Acolyte – Ben Decker
Our Assisting Minister – Amanda Decker
Our Lector – Amanda Decker
Our Usher – Greg Haffling
Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Elaine Buchart
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to "United Lutheran Seminaries"

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413

Office Hours:

Pastor Traci – Wed. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Jen – Limited office hours this week. Please contact Jen on her cell for immediate office concerns or to schedule an appointment, otherwise please email or leave a voicemail as she will be checking messages regularly.

This Week Events:

Today –	*1st Sunday of Advent*
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Window Room
	10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
Monday –	Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 p.m., Zoom
Wednesday –	Bible Study 6:30-7:30 p.m., Window Room/Zoom
Sunday –	*2nd Sunday of Advent*
	9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Window Room
	10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
	Congregational Meeting
	Cove Christmas Love Deadline

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Dan Kensinger, Ruth Marshall.

Prayer Concerns: Ben, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Bill Davis, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Marilyn Horton, Dwight and Bethany Kensinger and their newborn son, Rachel Kensinger, Kristen Malloy, Pat Mellot, John Murphy, Ellie Post, Dan Ross, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Margie Smith, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, Bill Stahl, Dr. Darwin Stapleton, Jim Stewart, Jennifer Winston, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Mace Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine, Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep.

Cove Christmas Love



The Martinsburg Ministerium is, again, helping to provide presents for Spring Cove School Children in need. We have a tree in the church narthex with tags identifying the Christmas wishes of the recipients. Our congregation's goal for this year is to provide gifts for about 20 children through Cove Christmas Love. Shop for the item(s) listed on tag and return the unwrapped gift(s), WITH THE TAG, no later than Sunday, DECEMBER 6th You can direct any questions to Peggy Steinfurth or Linda Smith. Thank you for sharing with the community as we help families in need at this time of Christmas cheer!

Congregational Meeting

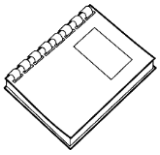


This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at the end of the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 6th. Copies of the 2027 Proposed Congregational Budget, 2027 recommendations for Ventures In Faith and Special Envelopes, and Giving Report are available at the usher station or the church office. The congregation will be asked to approve these proposals for 2027 at the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting. If you have questions about the budget in advance of the meeting, please contact Finance Committee Chair Jim Barley.



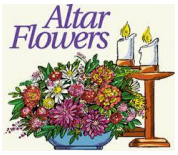
Advent Devotionals provided by On Eagle's Wings missionaries are available at the Usher Station.

2026 Parish Directory / 2025 Annual Report



Copies of the 2026 Parish Directory / 2025 Annual Report are now available at the Usher Station. There is a copy of the Parish Directory at the Usher Station with a red pen attached to mark any needed corrections/updates that you find. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the Directory current. If you need a copy of the Parish Directory/Annual Report mailed or delivered to you, please contact the church office.

Altar Flowers



The 2027 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Cost is $40.00 with checks made payable to St. Matthew Flower Fund. Questions regarding Altar Flowers can be directed to either Elaine Smith or Mary Nelson.



Martinsburg Food Pantry



We will be open for Food Distributions on Thursdays, December 3 and December 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers from Redefined Community Church will be assisting along with regular volunteers. There are 12 churches, one for each month, that help at the pantry.

Items most needed for December: Juice, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Fruit, Peanut Butter/Jelly, Baked Beans, and Paper Products.

We thank St. Matthew Women for the donation in memory of Rev. Shaffer.

Many thanks to those who generously have given all year the Food Pantry!

Linda Smith



Mitten Tree

Coming soon will be the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th when our annual "Mitten Tree" will arrive! Please be thinking as you shop, or make Children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs, or socks to be hung on our "Mitten Tree" during Advent until December 20th. These will be distributed by the school nurse at the Spring Cove Elementary Schools for children in need. Let's help children have a warmer Winter!

New Bible Study Opportunity

Thanks to the work of the Go Tell It IN The Mountains team, a new Bible Study opportunity will be available each week.

We will meet together in the Window Room and video conference with leaders and other participants from Allegheny, Upper Susquehanna, and North West Pennsylvania Synods. You can also access the study by Zoom from your home. These lectionary studies will cover the upcoming Sunday's gospel and other readings as time permits, from 6:30PM to 7:30PM on Wednesdays.



Talk-O Tuesday



Feliz Navidad

Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, December 15th at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon

Journey to Bethlehem

The Journey comes to you in a newly-staged (seated) performance of the story of Christmas

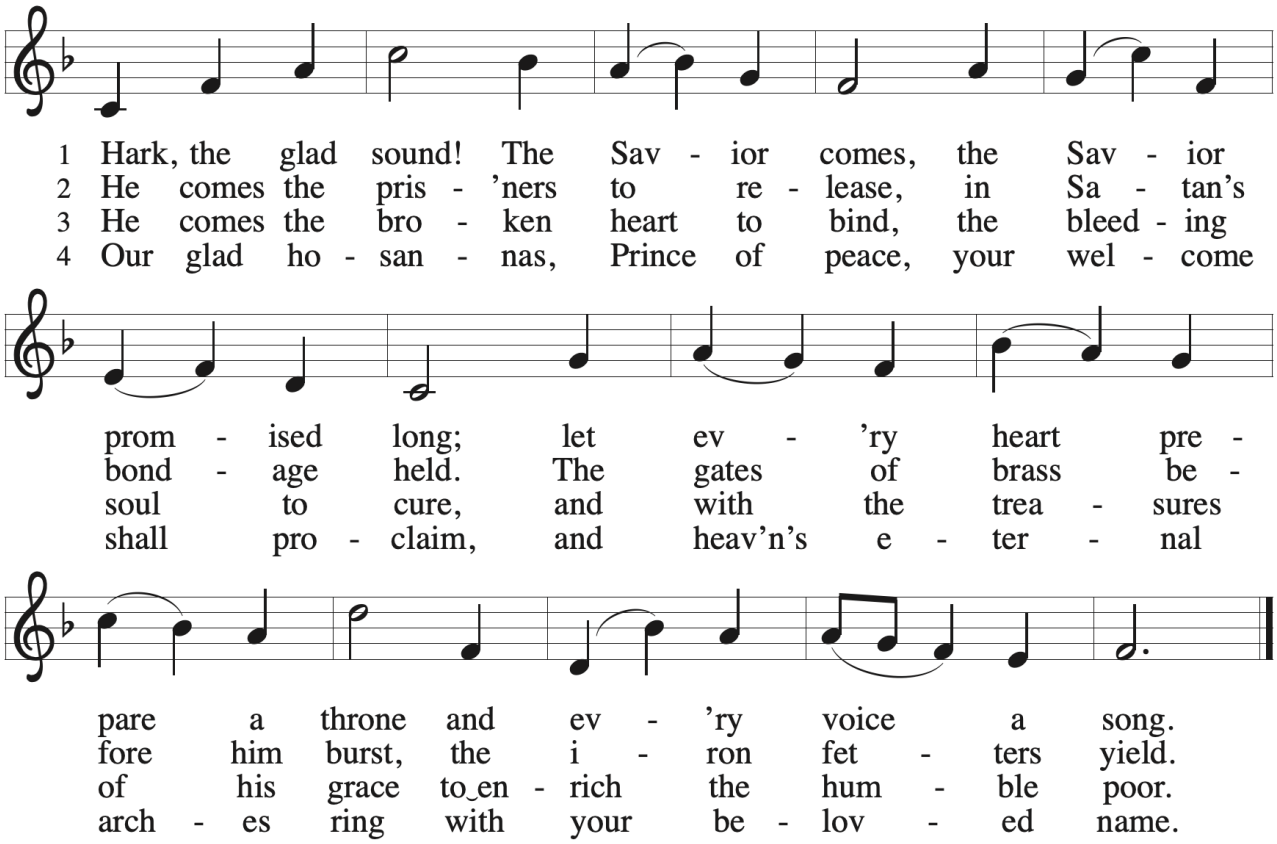
Sunday, December 20th
12PM, 4PM, 5PM, & 6PM



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
115 E Penn St, Martinsburg ~ Maple St Entrance

Free will *contributions are always welcome:*
Non-perishable items for the Martinsburg Food Pantry or monetary donations to the Ministerium PIN (Persons In Need) Fund

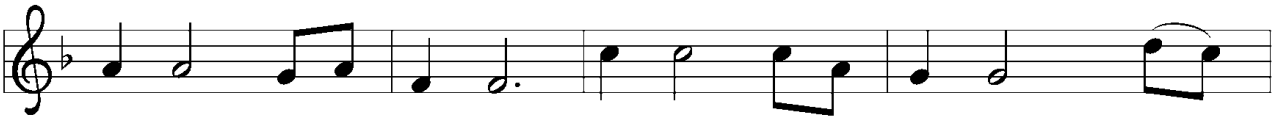
OPENING HYMN *Hark, the Glad Sound!* *ELW #239*

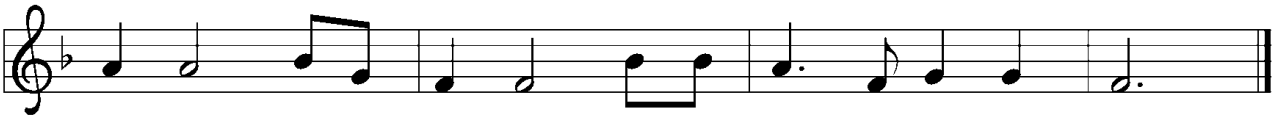


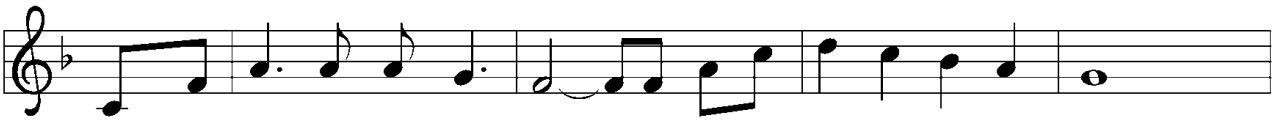
Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *My Lord, What a Morning* *ELW* # 438

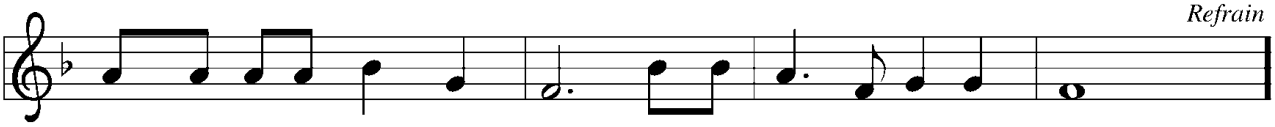
Refrain





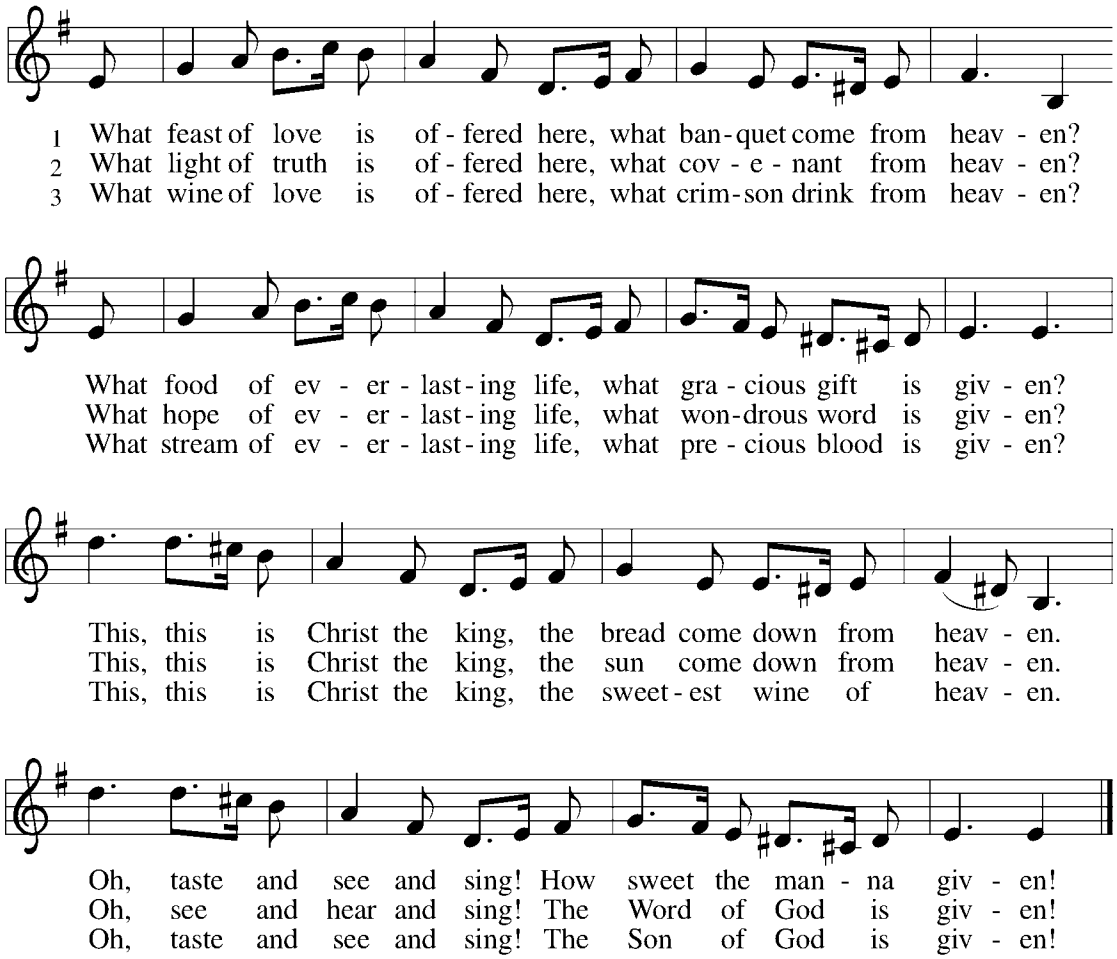


Refrain



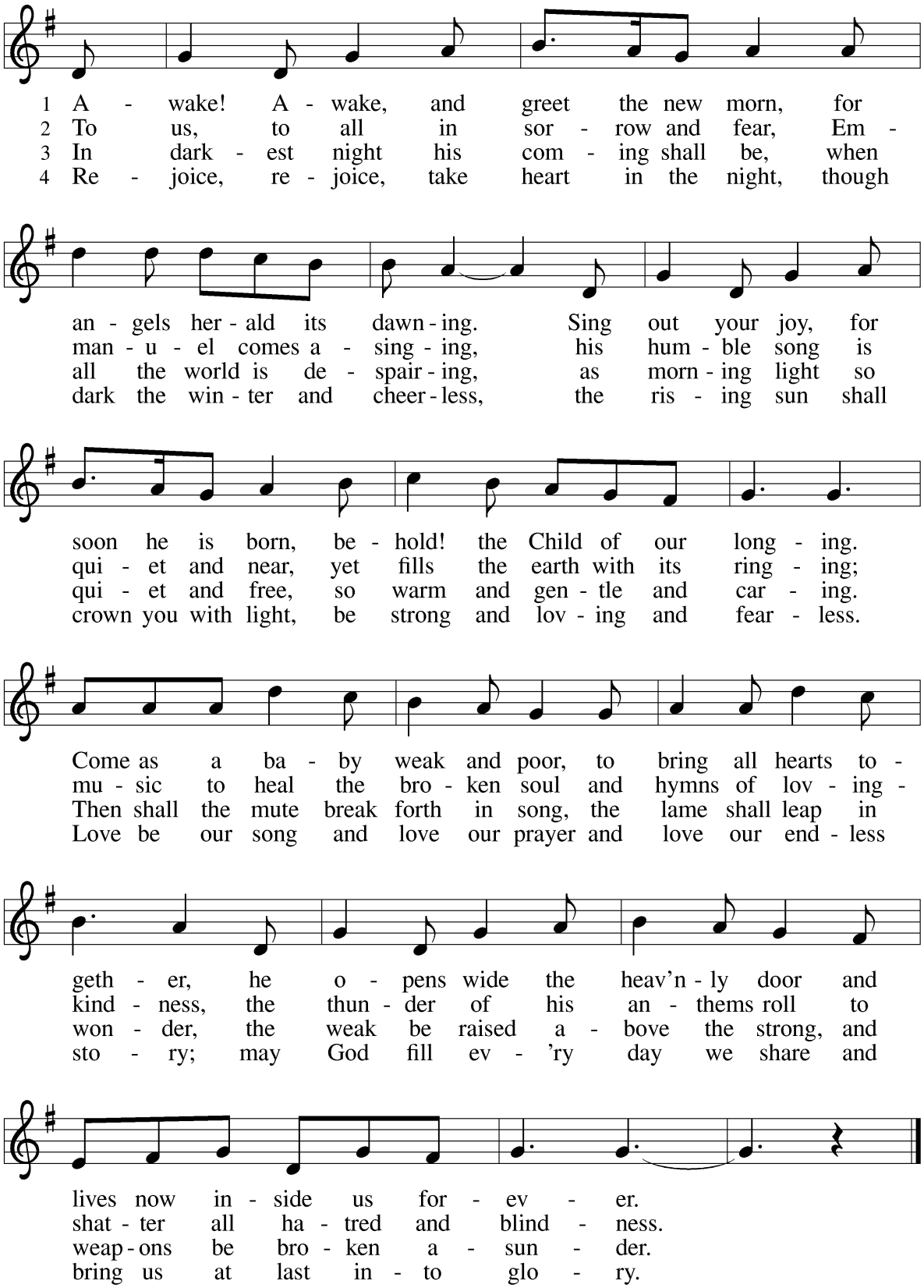
Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

COMMUNION HYMN *What Feast of Love* *ELW # 487*



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

***SENDING SONG** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* *ELW # 242*



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.