First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2026



Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

WELCOME!

We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

DURING WORSHIP

Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

COMMUNION

Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

COFFEE HOUR

We hope that you will join us for coffee, cake and conversation in the lobby following the worship service.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
270 South Broadway | Hicksville NY 11801
Church Office: Mon - Fri 10 am - 2 pm | 516.931.0710

Pastor Moira Ahearne 917.327.2119 | ahearnem44@gmail.com
Canaan Harris, Music Director | canaanmuse@gmail.com
Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President | ststephenstreasurer1@gmail.com
Kate Lenzo, Parish Administrator | office@ststephenshicksville.com
www.ststephenshicksville.com | Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StStephensHicksvilleNY

✠ GATHERING ✠

As the prelude begins, we invite you to conclude your conversations and join us in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship together.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

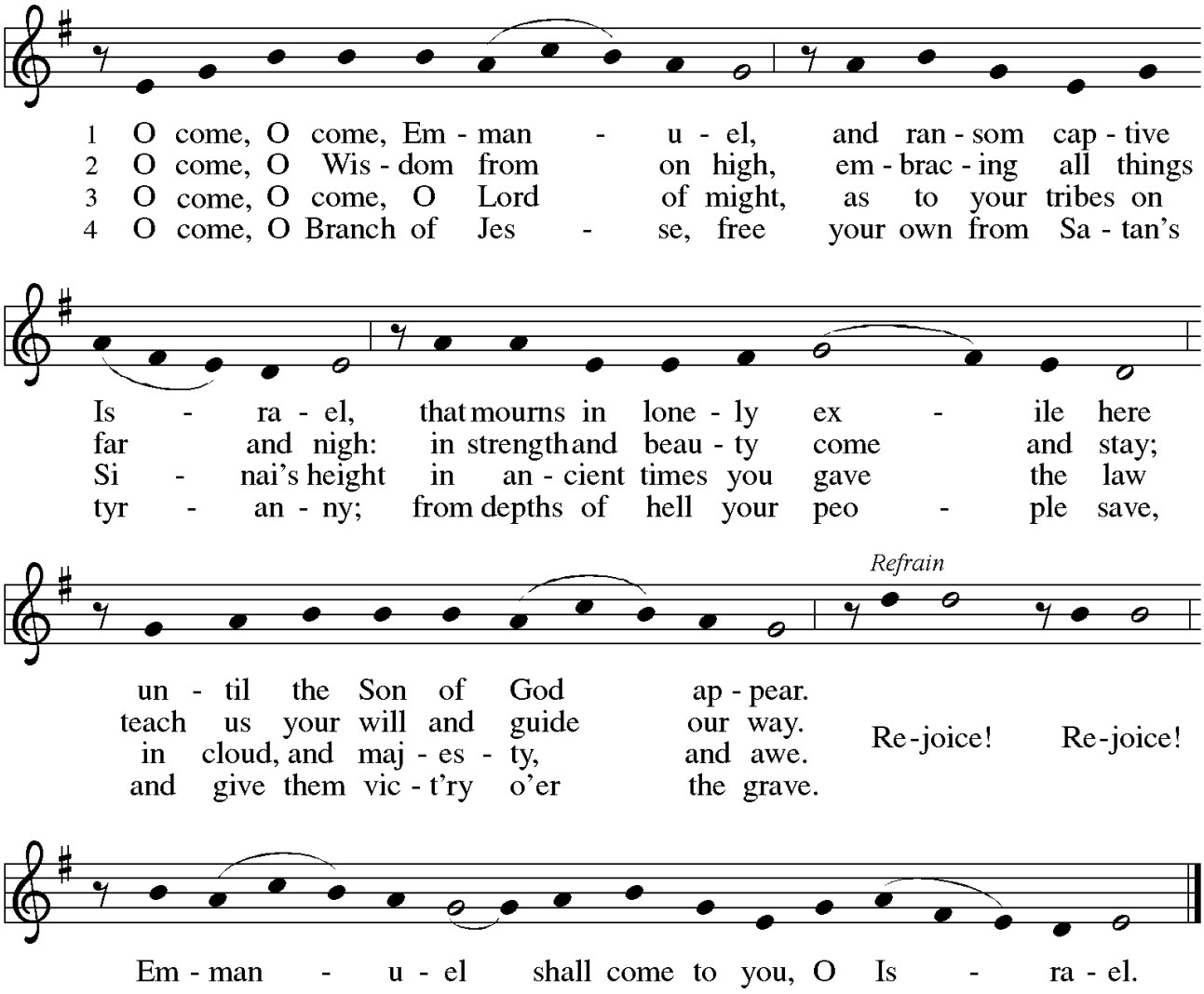
P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent reflection.

P Most merciful God, **C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **C Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* (ELW 257) VS 1, 2



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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**.

P As we light the first candle on this wreath, help us to remain awake for the day of the Lord's coming.

AS CANDLE IS LIT, ALL SING: *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL* (ELW 257) VS 3, 4

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.**

✠ WORD ✠

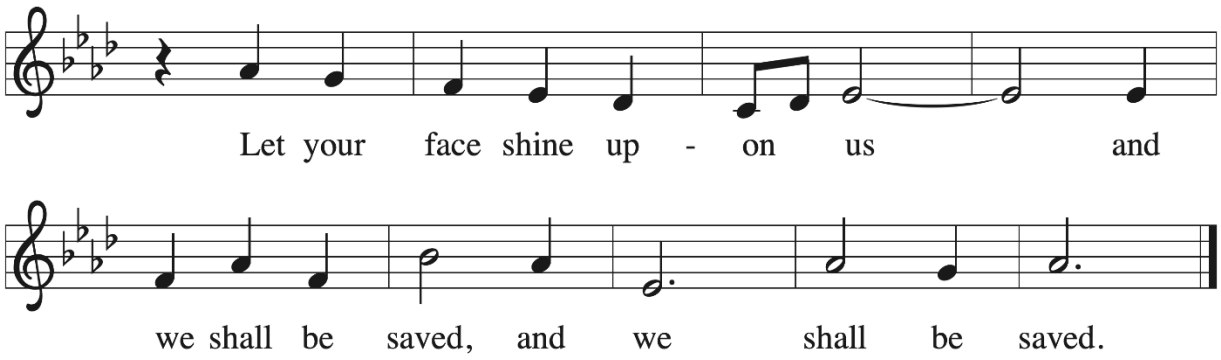
FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

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. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 80:7



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock; shine forth, you that are
enthroned up- | on 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? R**
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 a- | way from you; give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
[19] **Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

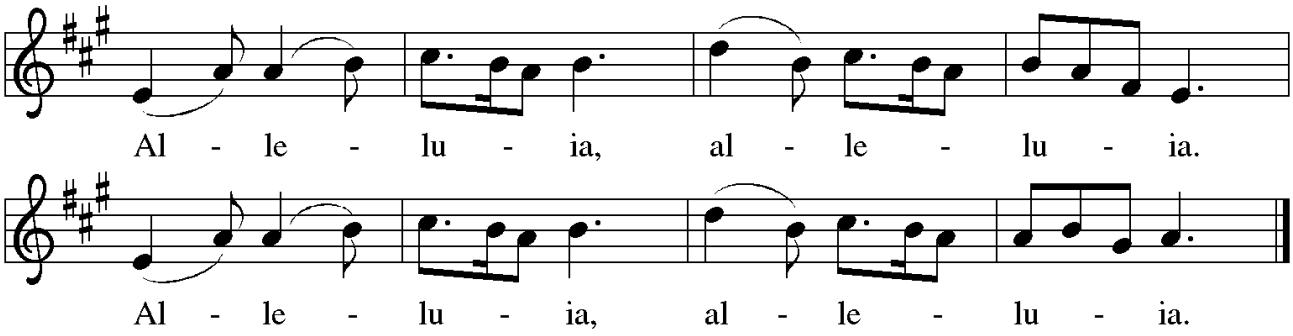
SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

[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.
…The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37

P The holy gospel according to Mark. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

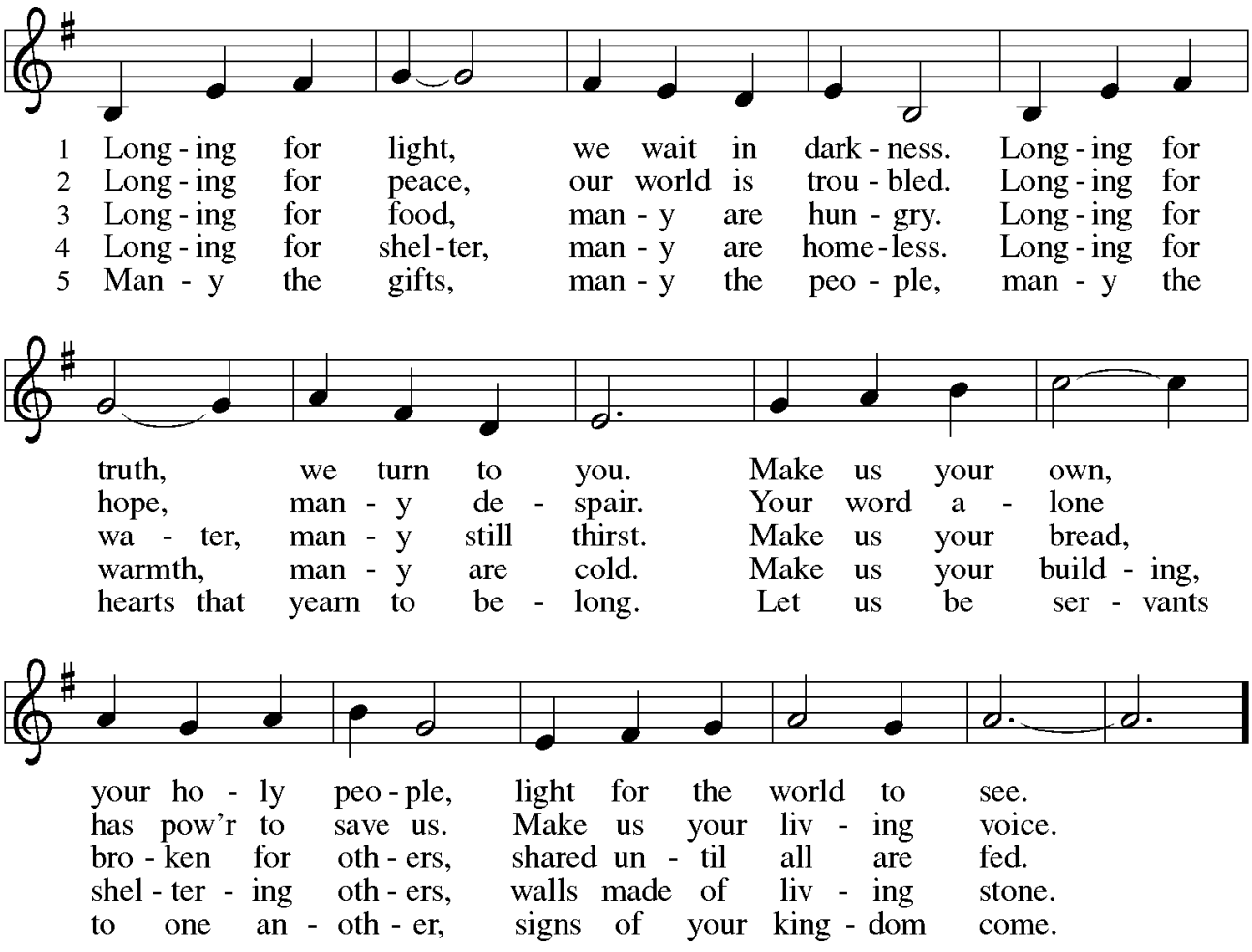
Jesus said: [24] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25] and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26] "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
[27]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

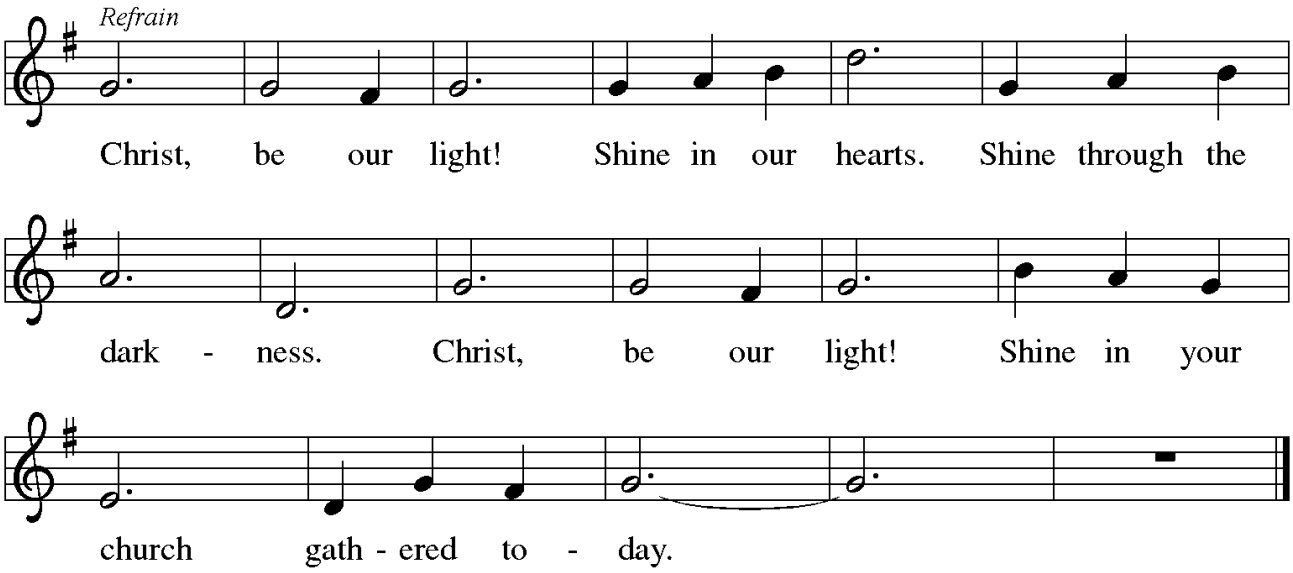
28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation
will not pass away until all these 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.”
…The gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT* (ELW 715)





Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

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 INTERCESSION

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.

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**
P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

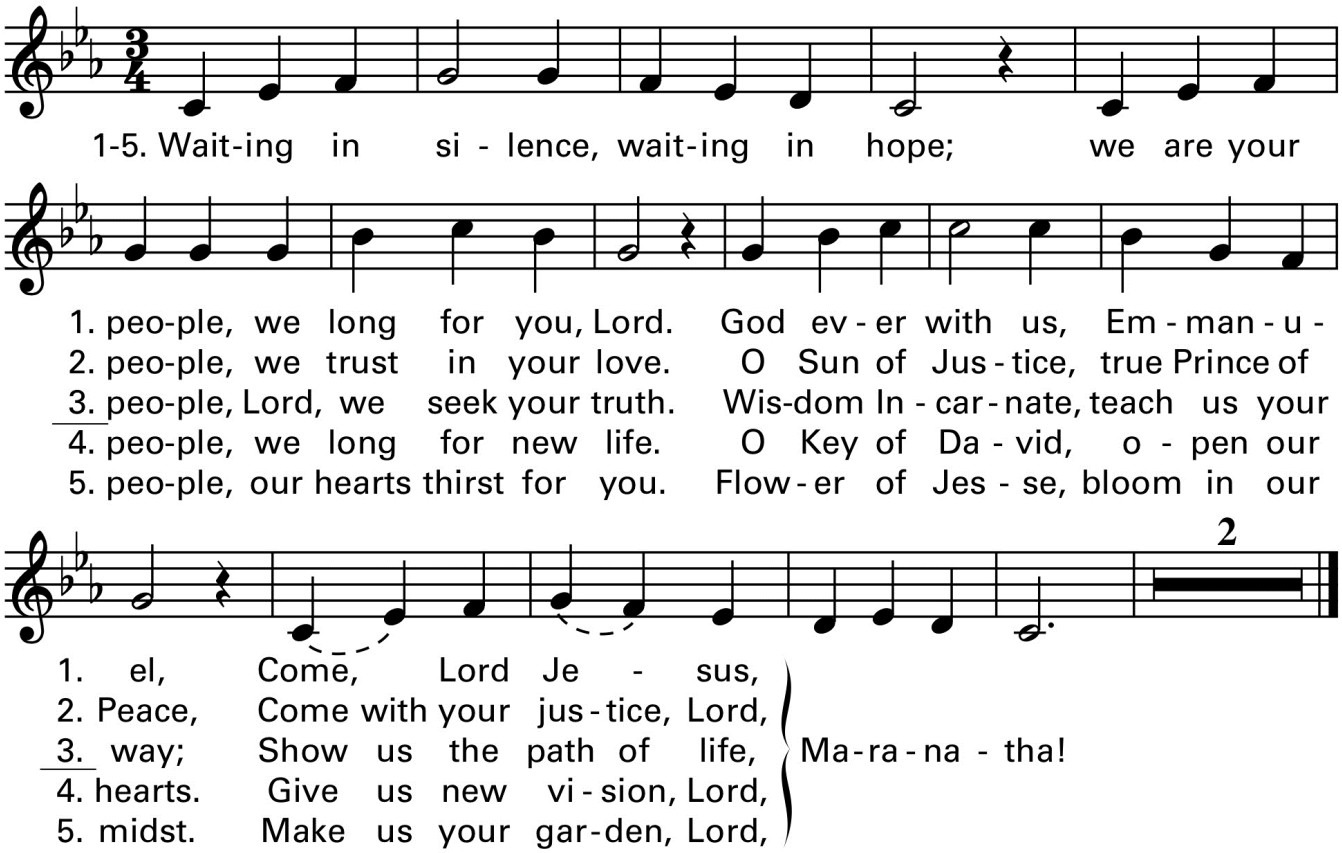
Allison Barone - November 29th
Gavin Barone - November 29th
Barbara Engert - December 3rd
Brianna Feeney - December 4th

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who bean a good work in you (2x)
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)
He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG: *WAITING IN SILENCE* BY CAREY LANDRY



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

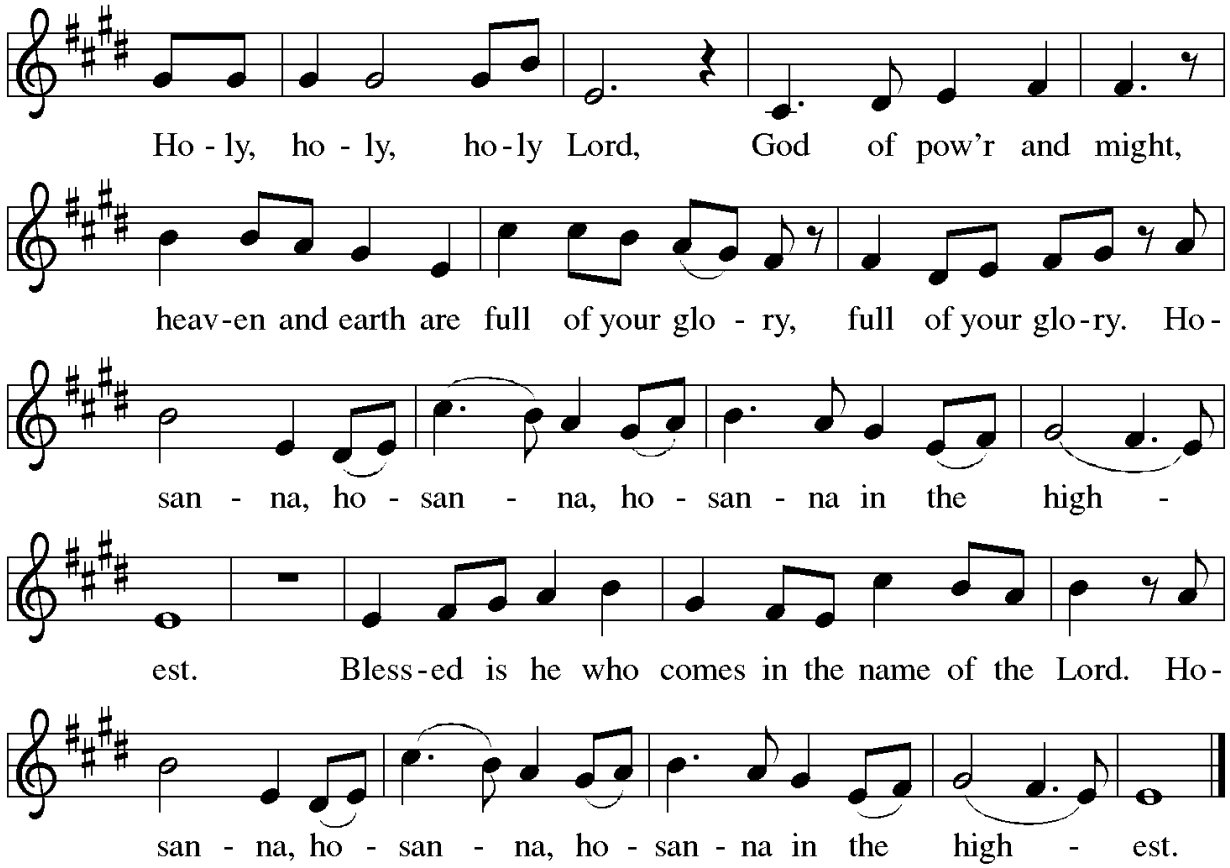
DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW P. 190)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P 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.

P Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

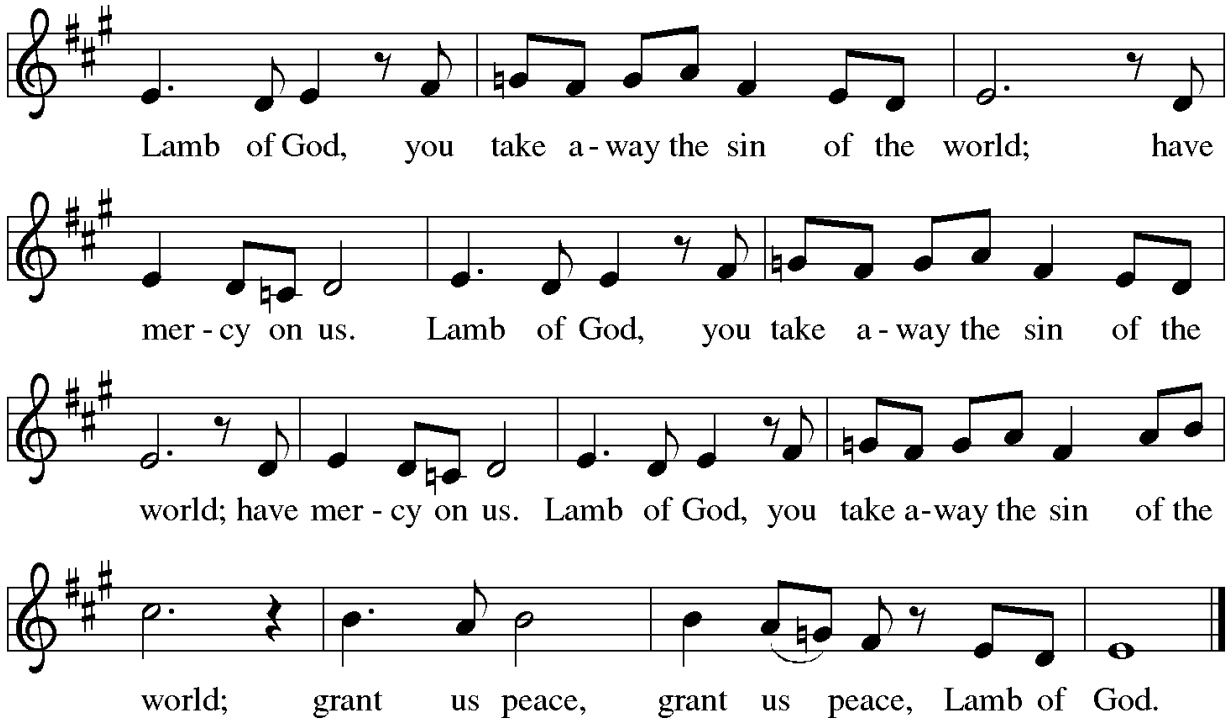
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

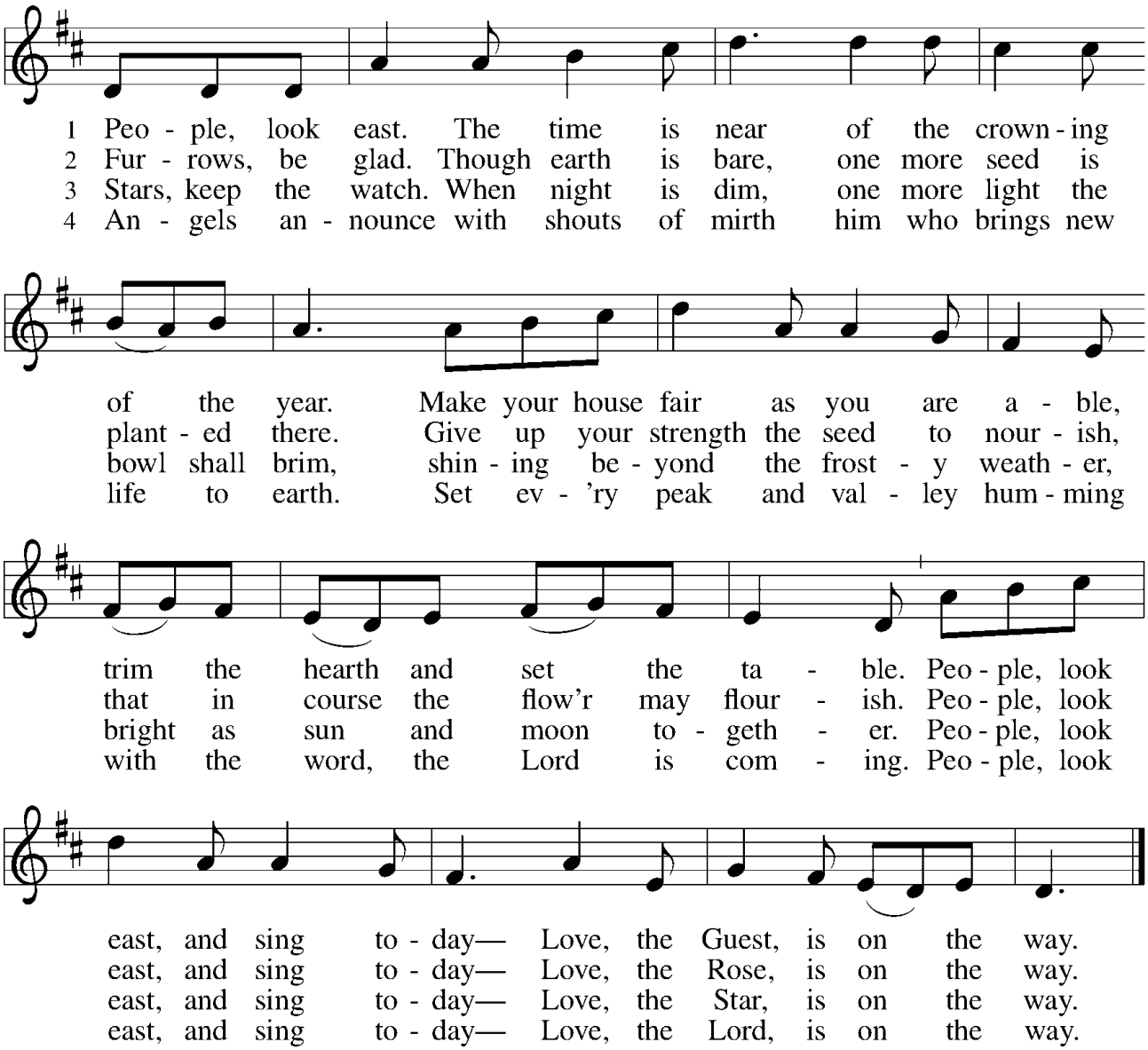
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **C Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION: *PEOPLE, LOOK EAST* (ELW 248)



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

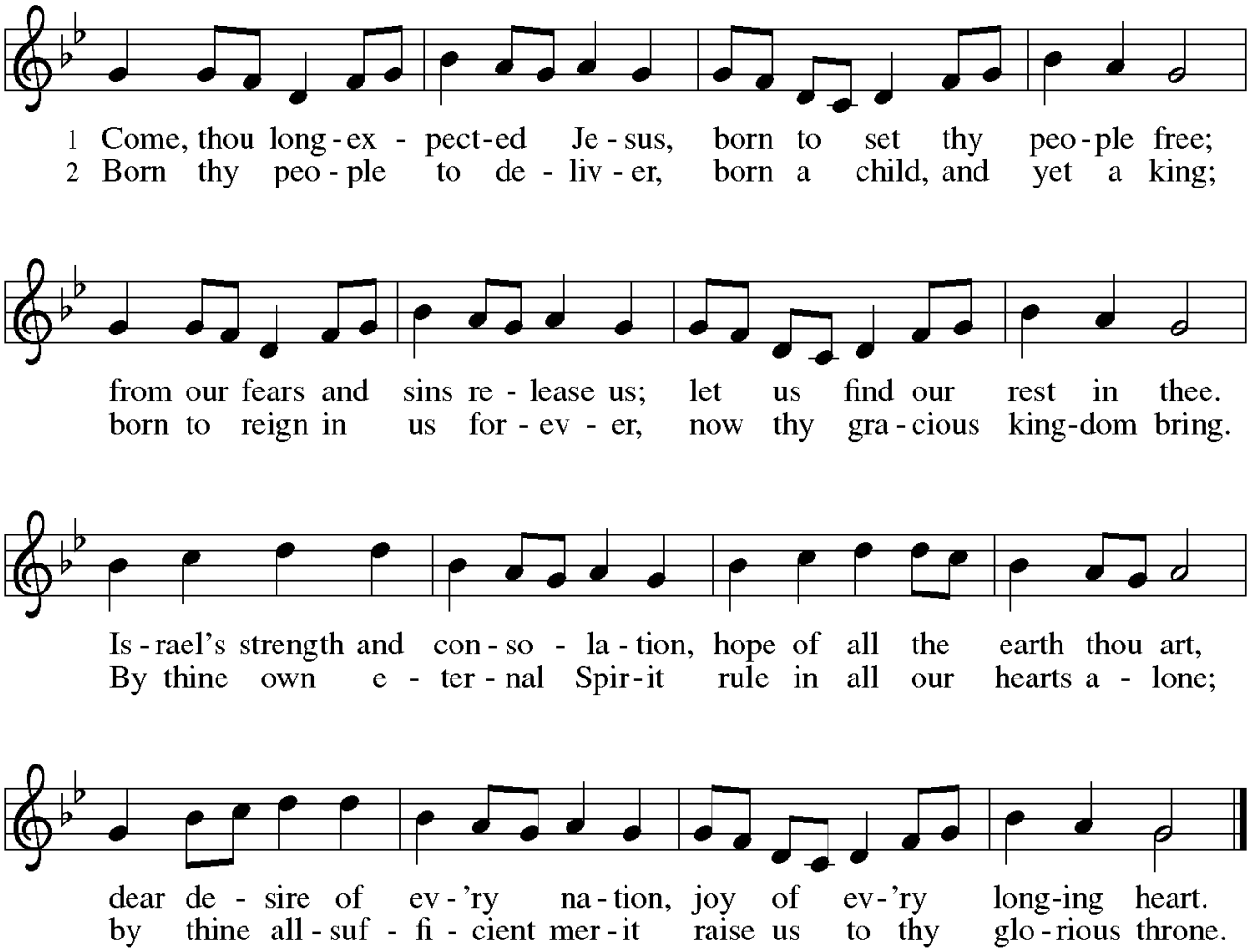
BLESSING

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C Amen.**

P The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **C Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS* (ELW 254)



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

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming Commemorations

Andrew, Apostle
Monday, November 30, 2026
The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552
Thursday, December 3, 2026
A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749
Friday, December 4, 2026
A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.



Sanctuary Lamp Candle for November is given to the glory of God, *in Memory of Ed Dressler* by Loretta Dressler, and *in Memory Arthur Hagner and Archie Ruland* by Joan Hagner



Altar Flowers for today are given to the glory of God, and *in Memory of Gene Ebersberger* by his Family.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A GENTLE REMINDER…

- Starting today Sunday November 29th through Christmas Eve, Holy Communion will be distributed while kneeling or standing at the altar rail.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

- Annual Pledges are a vital part of how we plan our ministry, outreach, and operations for the year ahead. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support the mission and work of our church in the coming year. Your faithful generosity helps us continue sharing God's love in our community and beyond. Thank you for your continued support and stewardship! **Please place your form in the offering plate or return to the church office by TODAY!**

MINISTRY & UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CHRISTMAS GIVING PROGRAM - DUE TODAY!**
  In the Narthex, we placed a manger filled with gift tags - each one representing a wish from a child in need. We invited you to take one (or more!) tags, shop for the requested gift, & return it wrapped with the tag attached. **It has been requested by Lutheran Social Services that all gifts are wrapped and returned by November 29th.**

- **POTLUCK DINNER AND WREATH MAKING - TONIGHT!**



✠ **CHRISTMAS ALTAR PLANTS & GREENS**

Christmas is drawing near, and our sanctuary will soon be filled with the beauty of poinsettias! If you'd like to order one in honor or memory of someone special, the form is available on the table in the Narthex. **Please return your order/dedication by Sunday, December 13th.**

✠ **LONGEST NIGHT/BLUE CHRISTMAS**



Wednesday December 16th | 7pm - Join us for a healing service, designed especially for those who are grieving, struggling or isolated and finding the holidays difficult or stressful.

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY - SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER
Jane Ebersberger

LECTOR
Brianna Feeney

GREETER
Ann Casey

USHERS
Dave Staton & Kevin Barcavage

ALTAR GUILD
Allison Barone

AUDIO/VISUAL
Tyler LaVorgna

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Christian McCleer

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (Nov. 29th - Dec. 6th)

Day	***Event***	***Time***
Sunday, Nov. 29th	**1st Sunday of Advent** Holy Communion	9:00 am
	HSS Yoga	10:00 am
	Potluck Dinner/Wreath Making	5:00 pm
Tues, Dec. 1st	Back to Basics	7:00 pm
Wed, Dec. 2nd	The Chosen	2:00 pm
	NA	7:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 6th	**2nd Sunday of Advent** Holy Communion	9:00 am

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. *Please remember to keep the office updated.*

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Bill Artus
Joseph Barone
Christine Carlson
Dottie Eberhardt
Richard Engert
Jan Mosebach
Ilona Riggers
Ilse Zeeck

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Vinnie Aiello (*Husband of Laureen Aiello*)
Scott Berman (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Brother-in-law of Jeanne Bezko
Carter (*Great Grandson of Lois Angstadt*)
James Ebersberger (*Brother of Jane Ebersberger*)
Sean Paul Farris (*Son of Melanie Farris*)
Helen Feeney (*Mother of John Feeney*)
Arleen Grimm (*Cousin of Maureen O'Brien*)
Donald LaVorgna (*Father of Tyler Lavorgna, Husband of Christel LaVorgna*)
Sam Maurer (*Grandson of Nan and Bob Maurer*)
Jimmy Musi (*Brother of John Musi*)
Bernd Pfeiffer (*Brother of Christel LaVorgna*)
Laura Panaro (*Mother of Laureen Aiello*)
Jean Riolo (*Mother of Christine Carlson*)
Cecelia and Bruce Rudd (*Cousins of Bob Maurer*)
Steve Scala (*Cousin of Laureen Aiello*)
Lynn Sicilia (*Sister of Bill Artus*)
Susan Svensen (*Cousin of Dottie Eberhardt*)
Joann Tingwall (*Mother and Mother-in-law of Neil and Tanya Tingwall*)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Richard & Gertrude Abele (*Friends of Joan Hagner*)
Red Abrams (*Friend of Laureen Aiello*)
Jennifer Amiruddin (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)
Mary Athridge & Family (*Friends of the Pendas/Ahlers Family*)
Family & Friends of Dave Bernacchi (*Friend of the Pendas/Ahlers Family*)
Bill (*Friend of Bob & Nan Maurer*)
Alice Brahs (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)
Fred Feldt (*Friend of the Muller/Shurman Families*)
Michael Garofalo (*Friend of Kerri Staton*)
Ellen Grace (*High school friend of Joan Hagner*)
Carol Heinz (*Friend of Joan Hagner*)
John Judge (*Friend of Jane Ebersberger*)
Jenn Logan and her Mother Barbara (*Friends of Janet Muller*)
Ellen Motoi (*Friend of Maureen O'Brien*)
Bruce Muhlenbruck (*Friend of The LaVorgna Family*)
Paul (*Friend of Allison Barone*)
Betty, John and Mary Beth Ott (*Friends of Jane Ebersberger*)
Bindu Raju (*Friend of the Ahlers/Pendas Family*)
The Family and Friends of Arthur Schrader (*Friends of Vicki Maxey*)