



**Isaiah 35:4**

***Fear  
not!***

# **Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 14, 2025**

**Faith Lutheran Church**

**311 2B Judges Rd. Wilmington, NC 28405**

**[www.flcwnc.org](http://www.flcwnc.org)**

## Welcome to our Visitors!

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are glad you are here. It is our sincere prayer that God would refresh you by His Holy Word and Sacrament and that you would take with you His peace and joy. If you would care to give us your contact information, we would like to get to know you better and keep in touch. If you have questions or are interested in membership, please speak to anyone here.

## Holy Communion

We come to the table at the invitation of the Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Christians who share this faith and wish to join us at the table are welcome. Young children may be brought forward for a blessing.

## Mission Statement

“...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

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Ministers: Members of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Paul Ebert

Director of Parish Music: Debra Ebert

### **Mailing Address:**

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## Third Sunday of Advent,

December 14, 2025

LBW Holy Communion Setting Two

\*Congregation please stand

**Bold**-Congregation responses

**PRELUDE** FOREST GREEN

*Arr. by Sylvia Oines*

### **\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,


**we confess that we are in bondage 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**



God our Father does care about us. In His mercy, He has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May Almighty God strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

**Amen**


## \*LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

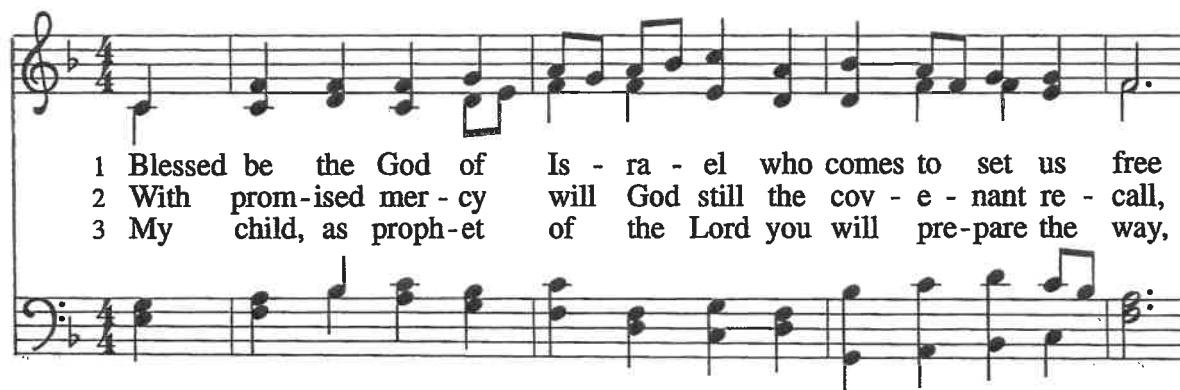


Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: Yiddish folk tune, arr. Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Text & Arr. © 1984 Fortress Press

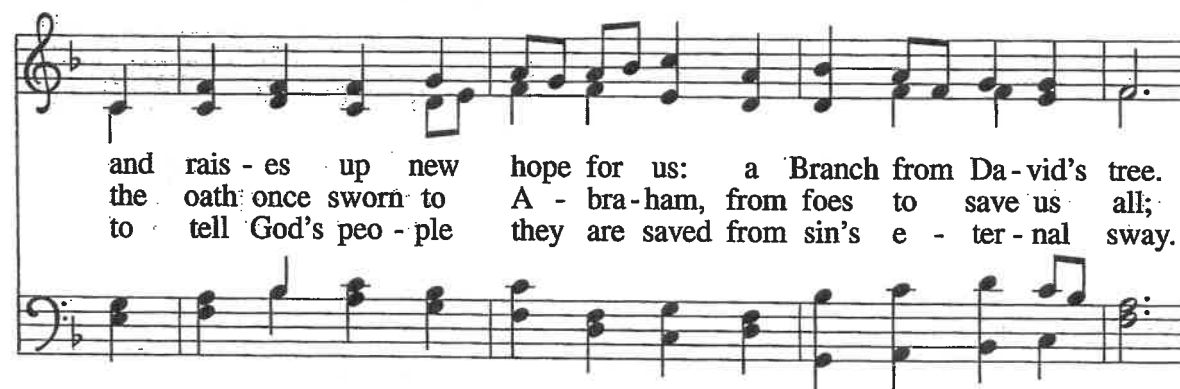
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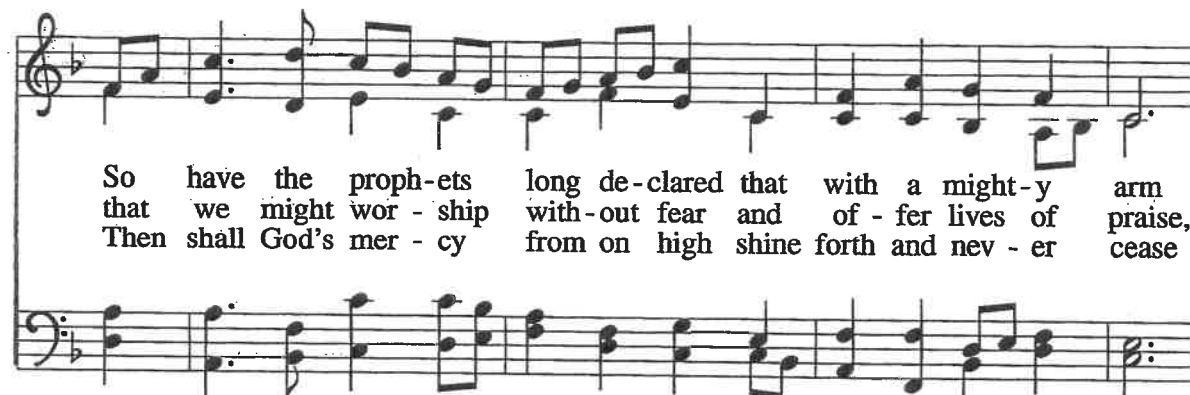
**\*ENTRANCE HYMN    Blessed Be the God of Israel**



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

## \*GREETING

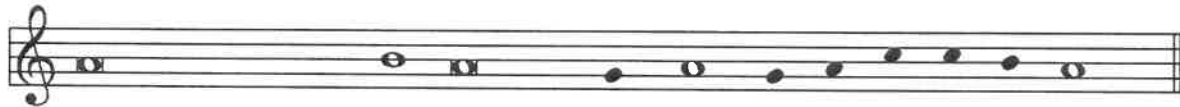
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE



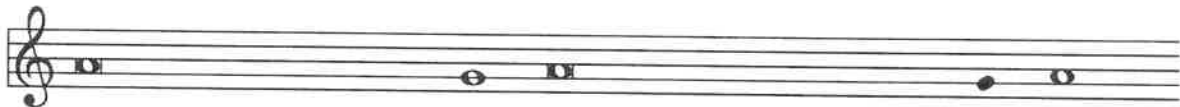
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



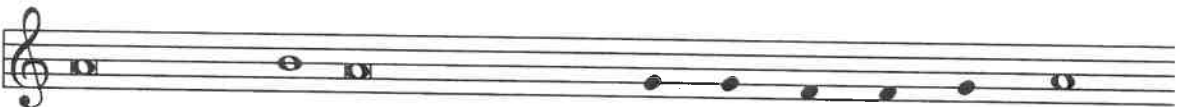
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**



Let us pray. . . .

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **FIRST READING**

**The First Reading is from Isaiah, the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter.**

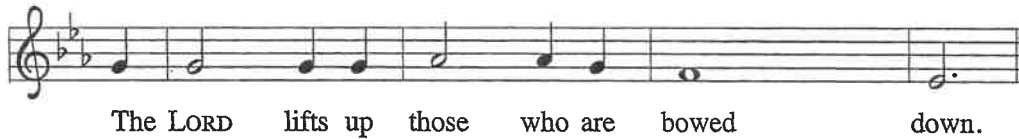
<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM 146



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

<sup>2</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,  
for there is no help in them.

<sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish. **Refrain:**

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

<sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise forever;

<sup>6</sup>Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger. **Refrain:**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

<sup>8</sup>The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger;  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! **Refrain:**



## SECOND READING

**The Second Reading is from James, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

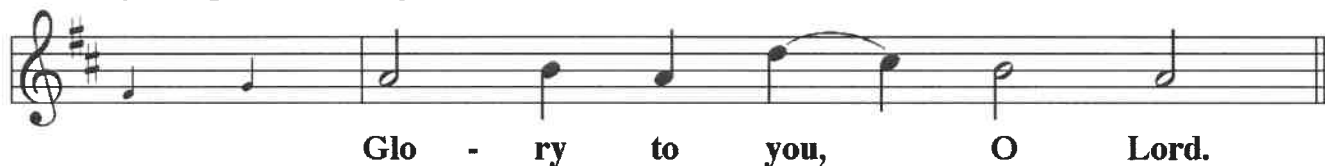
**\*ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

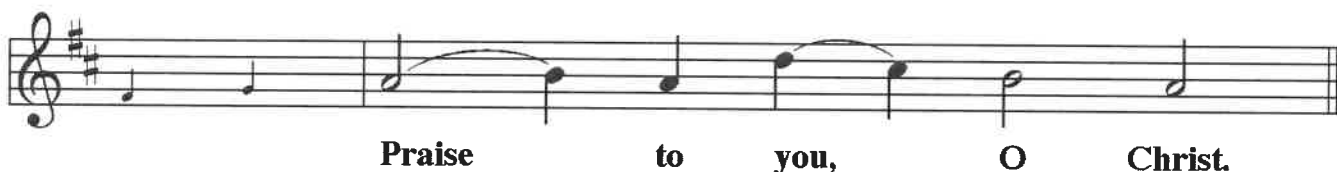
**\*GOSPEL:**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.



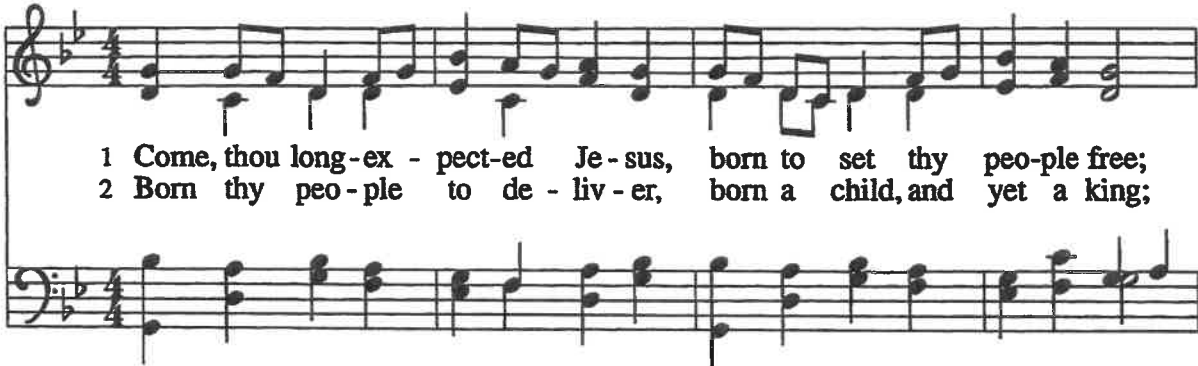
<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Word of the Lord.



**SERMON** Pr. Paul

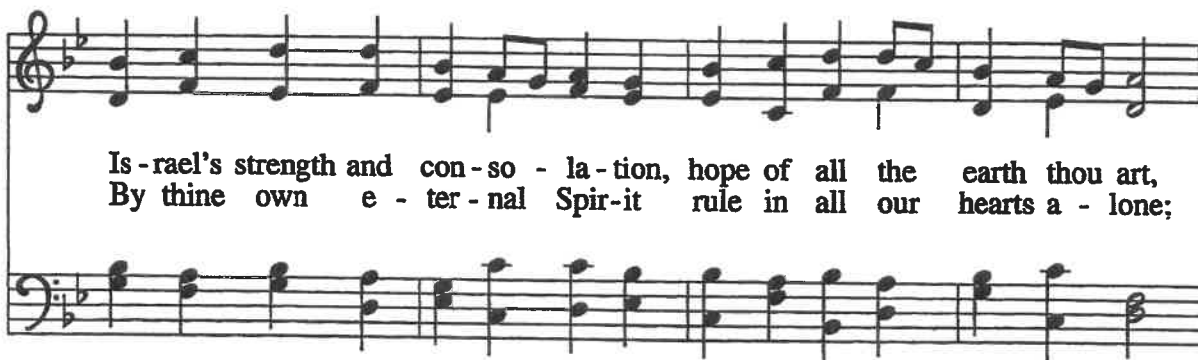
## HYMN OF THE DAY Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



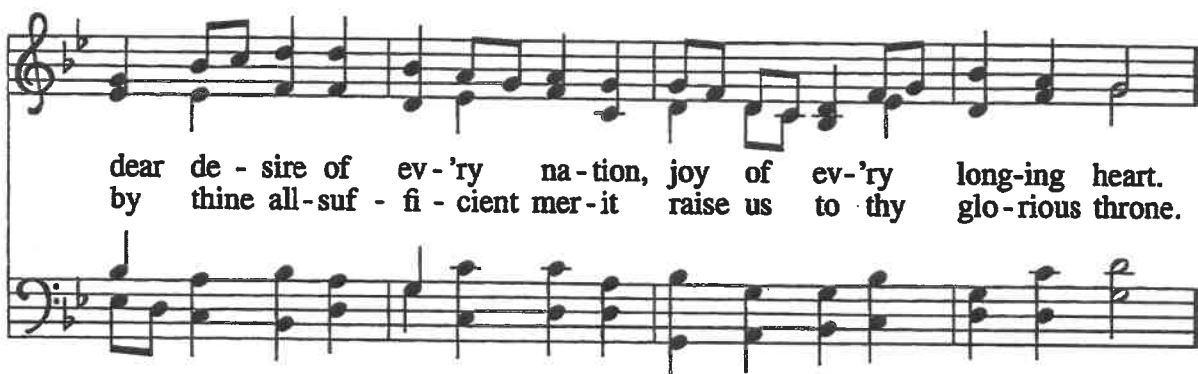
1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all-suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

**\*APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

**Stir up your power and come,  
Be born anew in us.**

**\*PEACE**

**The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**And also with you.**

*(We offer each other the peace of Christ)*

**OFFERTORY “Immanuel” (From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable)**

**Music by Stuart Townend, Arranged by Carol Tornquist**

### **\*LET THE VINEYARDS**

Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano or alto clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes or measures.

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

### \*PREFACE

### \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **\*LAMB OF GOD**



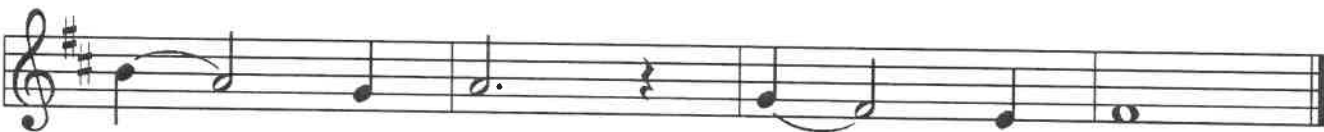
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**



**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

Refrain



Come to the feast of heav-en and earth! Come to the ta -




- ble of plen - ty! God will pro-vide for all that we




need, here at the ta - ble of plen - ty.


Verses



1. O come and sit at my ta - ble where saints and  
2. O come and eat with-out mon-ey; } come to  
3. My bread will ev - er sus-tain you through days of  
4. Your fields will flow - er in full-ness; your homes will



1. sin - ners are friends. I wait to wel-come the lost and  
2. drink with - out price. My feast of glad-ness will feed your  
3. sor - row and woe. My wine will flow like a sea of  
4. flour - ish in peace. For I, the giv - er of home and



to Refrain

1. lone - ly to share the cup of my love.  
2. spir - it with faith and full - ness of life.  
3. glad-ness to flood the depths of your soul.  
4. har-vest, will send my rain on the soil.

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

**\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



**Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.**



**He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy**



**with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.**

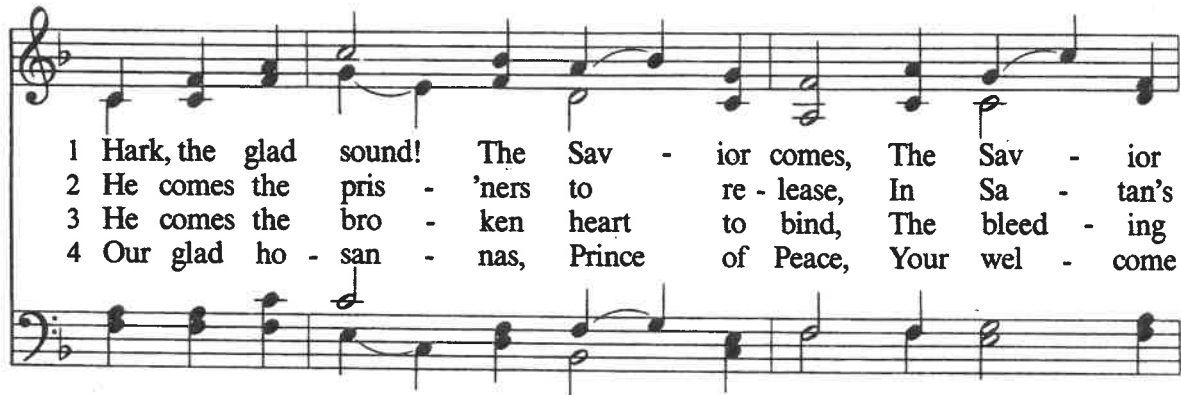
**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**\*BLESSING**

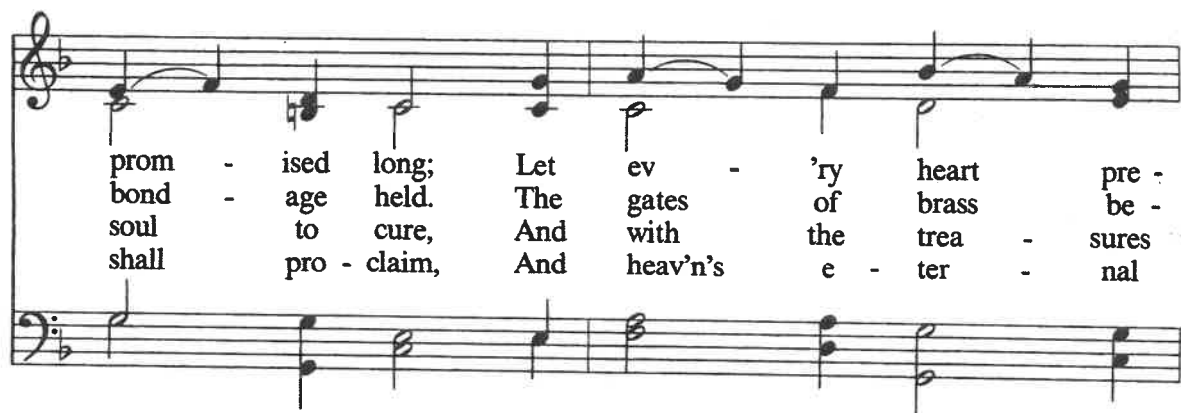
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen**

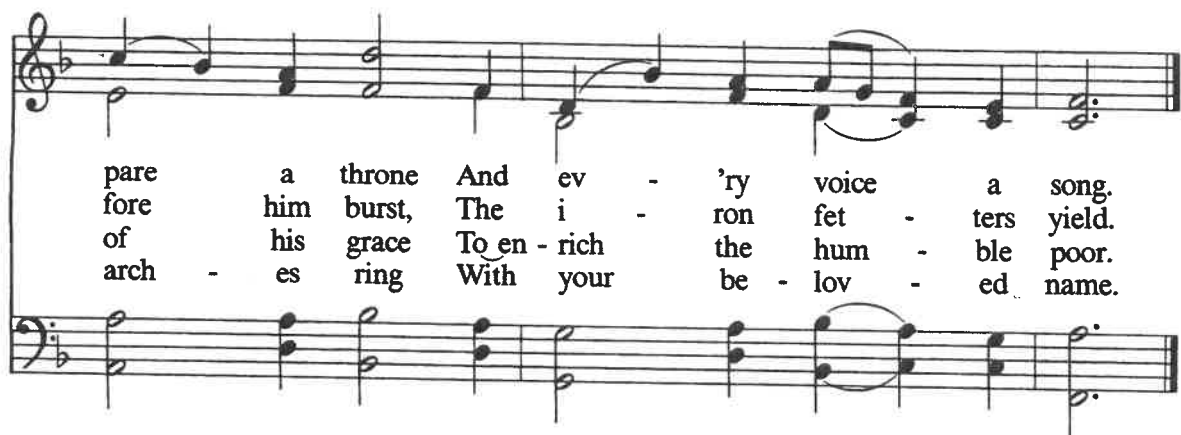
# **\*SENDING HYMN     Hark, the Glad Sound!**



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



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



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

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Tune: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

CHESTERFIELD  
 CM

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERVING THE FAMILY OF FAITH**

### **This Week: 12/14**

Reader: Renate Gray

Communion: Zan Bramley

Fellowship: Gina Schiess

Usher: Ken Schiess

### **Next Week: 12/21**

Reader: Ken Schiess

Communion: Gina Schiess

Fellowship:

Usher: Frank Gray

**Reminder:** December dates are still available for serving:) We need a Reader and Communion server for 12/28 and Fellowship for 12/21 & 12/28.  
12/17 Wed. 12:00 Advent worship service with soup luncheon.  
12/24 3:00 Christmas Eve Worship with Lessons and Carols.

**Given to the glory of God:** \$957.00

