



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 30, 2025

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: the Christ is coming! In today's readings, both Paul and Jesus of Nazareth challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's appearing. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: the Christ who comes among us this day in word and meal to strengthen our faith in the promises of God.

Prelude

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

arr. Brenda Portman
(b. 1980)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us prepare to welcome the Christ by turning from our sin and seeking God's tender mercy and compassion.

silence for reflection

P: Almighty God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin and come quickly to save us. Amen**

P: In the advent of the Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you and forgives you all your sins.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

(tune: Merton)

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear the cry.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

3 See the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
to the Father and the Son
with the everliving Spirit
while eternal ages run!

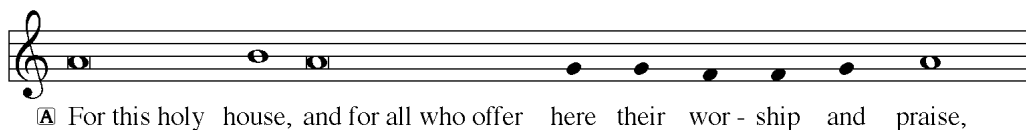
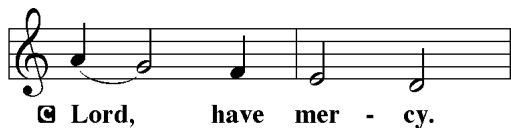
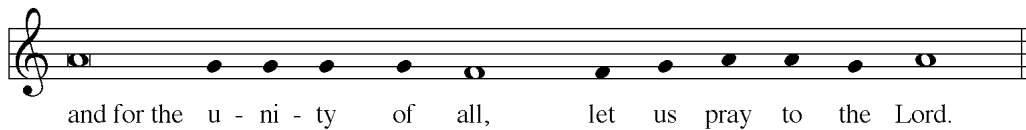
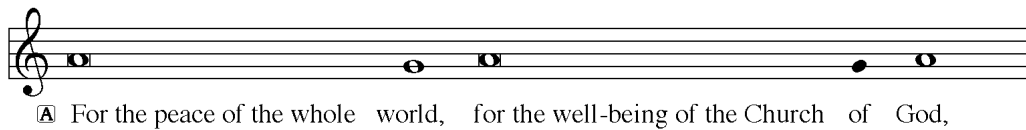
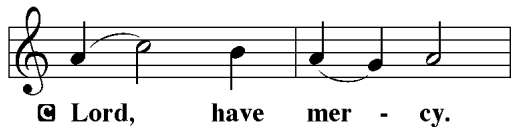
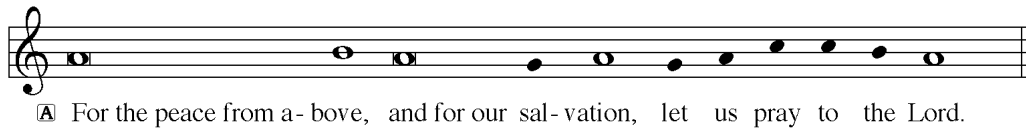
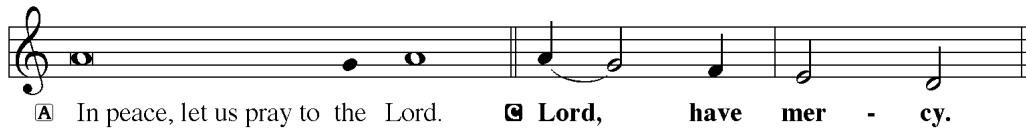
Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

Apostolic Greeting

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

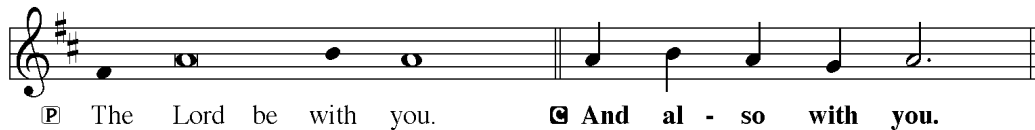
C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie



(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent because of the reflective, preparatory nature of the season.)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

ALL: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Isaiah 2:1–5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 122

(sung in unison)

This psalm is a pilgrim's song of praise and prayer for the peace of Jerusalem.

I was glad when they¹ said to me,*
"Let us go to the house¹ of the LORD."
²Now our¹ feet are standing*
within your gates,¹ O Jerusalem.
³Jerusalem is built¹ as a city*
that is at unity¹ with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes¹ of the LORD,*
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name¹ of the LORD.
⁵For there are the¹ thrones of judgment,*
the thrones of the¹ house of David.
⁶Pray for the peace¹ of Jerusalem:*
"May they pros-¹per who love you.
⁷Peace be with-¹ in your walls*
and quietness with-¹ in your towers.
⁸For my brethren and com-¹panions' sake,*
I pray for¹ your prosperity.
⁹Because of the house of the¹ LORD our God,*
I will seek to¹ do you good."

Second Lesson - Romans 13:11–14

Paul compares the advent of the Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

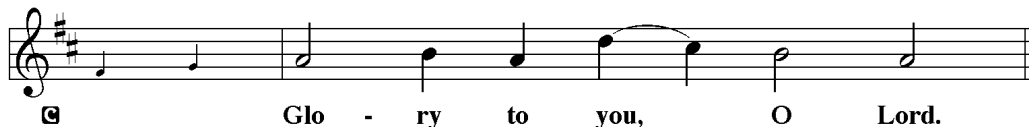
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

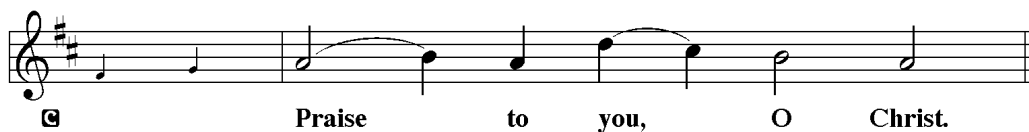


The gospel writer portrays the Lord's coming as a sudden, unexpected event to all caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.



Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joice - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Apostles' Creed

- P:** Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:
- C:** **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

- A:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A:** God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
- C:** **hear our prayer.**
- A:** God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,
- C:** **hear our prayer.**
- A:** God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Help us remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,
- C:** **hear our prayer.**
- A:** God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
- C:** **hear our prayer.**

- A: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints into your holy presence where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen**

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

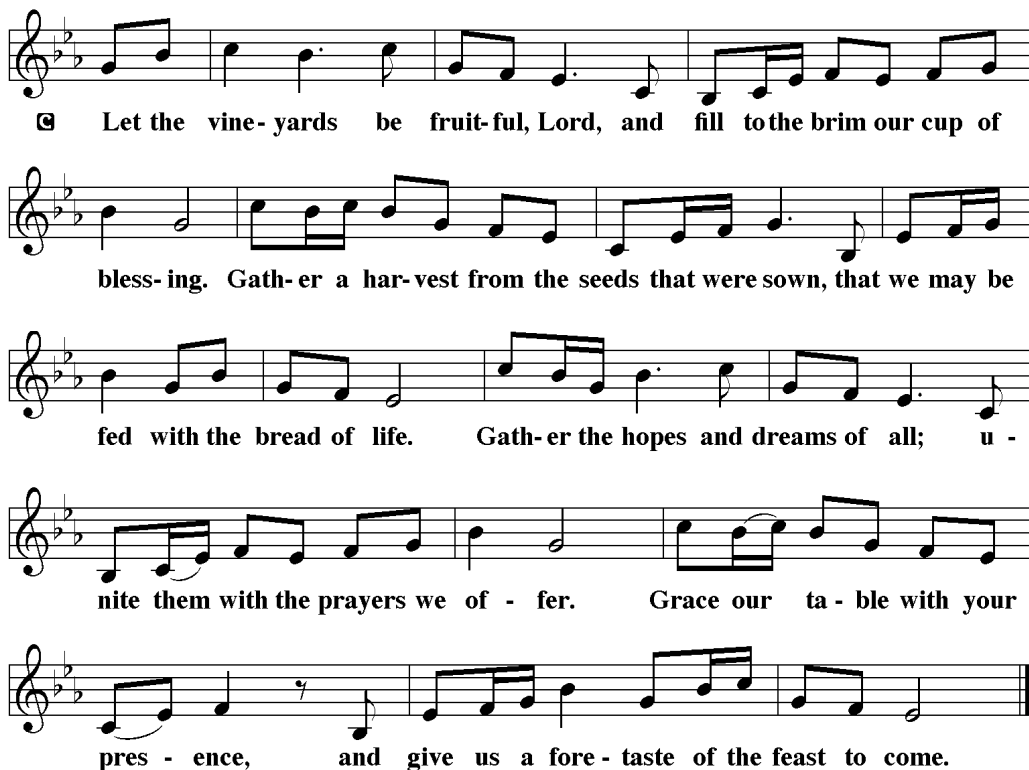
O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Moonyeen Albrecht
(1936-2020)

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem. They shall prosper that love thee.
 Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness be in thy palaces.*

(Psalm 122:6-7)

Offertory



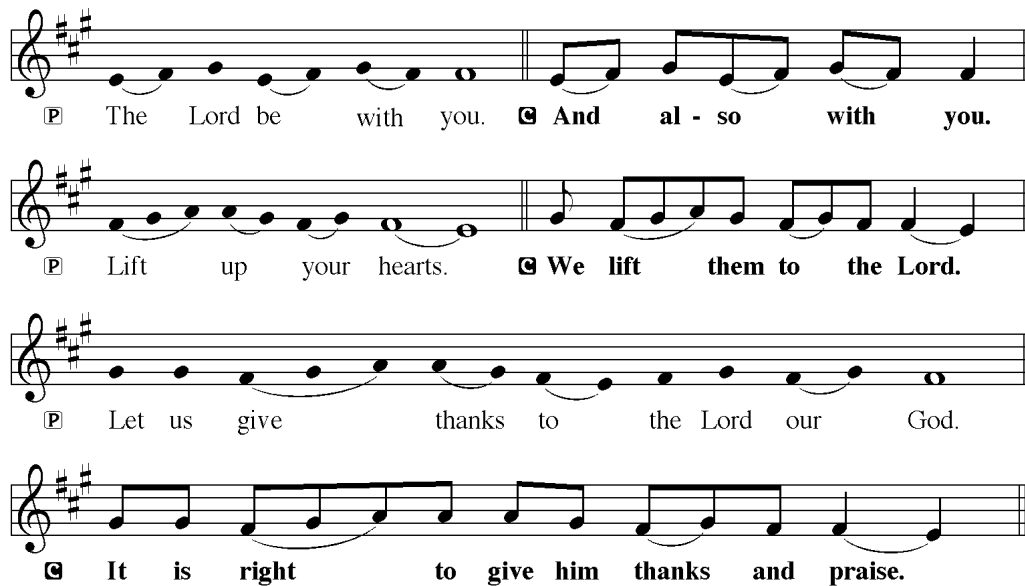
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence,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

Offertory Prayer and Consecration of Pledges

A: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. We consecrate to your glory these our pledges of time, talents, and treasure – our gifts of love and generosity. We pray that you receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

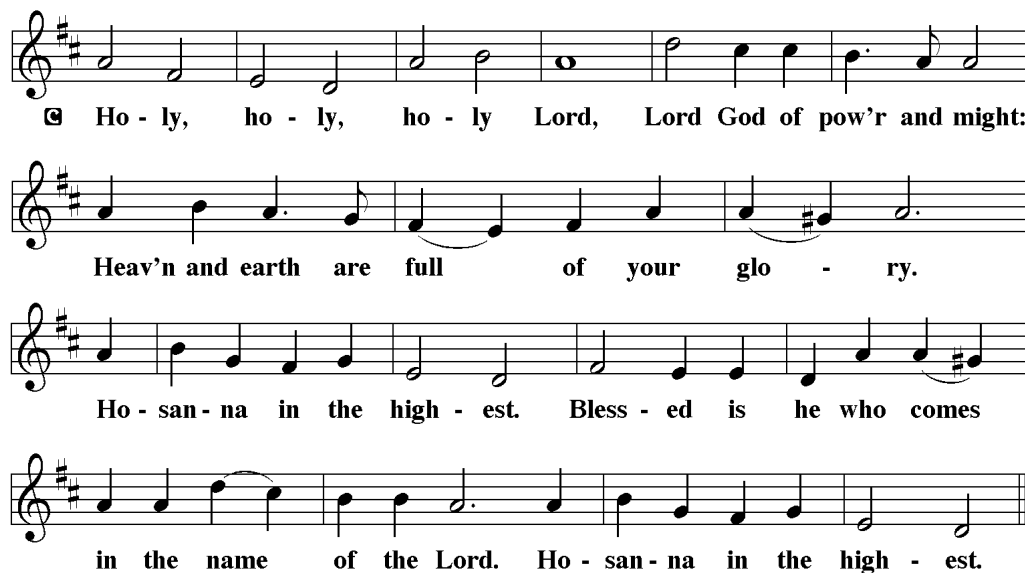
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



C 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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**

Communion with our Risen Lord



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.

Hymns

O Living Bread from Heaven



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Lord, you here have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength-ened with heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your-self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve with ho - ly fear.



Oh, won-drous food of bless - ing, oh, cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
And when you call my spir - it to leave this world be - low,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, with prais - es o - ver - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
I en - ter, through your mer - it, where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1606–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

Post -Communion Blessing

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

C: **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



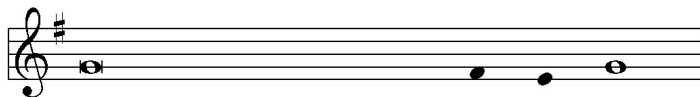
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Prayer for Advent

A: Let us pray.

C: **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 Lord. Amen**

Benediction



☞ Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever.



☞ A - men

Hymn

The Advent of Our God



- 1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh-ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.
nor let your faith-less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and all his scat - tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Music: FRANCONIA, Johann B. König, 1691–1758, adapt.

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

arr. Grimoaldo Macchia
(b. 1972)



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Sherri and Jeff Fleck
in honor of their thirty-fourth wedding anniversary.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Chris and Lynn Pickle
in memory of the Pickle family.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, November 30	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Advent Wreath Making 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
Monday, December 1	9:00 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Class
Tuesday, December 2	5:40 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 3	12:10 p.m. Service of Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Evening Devotions (via YouTube) 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 4	9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, December 5	9:00 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. Holiday Cookie Exchange
Saturday, December 6	10:00 a.m. Altar Guild
Sunday, December 7	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion and Annual Meeting 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Annual Meeting 11:45 a.m. Intermediate Youth Service Project (grades three - five) 3:00 p.m. German Advent Service 5:00 p.m. Junior and Senior Youth Service Project (grades six - twelve)

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
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