Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Advent

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.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
2205 Old Liberty Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784.
Church Office -410-795-6333
Church Email- hslc.eldersburg@comcast.net
HSLC Website- www.hslceldersburgmd.org
Rev. Tom Kaye, Sr., Pastor.
Ms. Lynn Graham, Musician.
A Shared Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We extend the warmest welcome *to all worshipping with us today. No matter who you are, if this is your first time worshipping with us, if you haven't been here in a while, if you are here regularly, if you are seeking a community of people trying their best to follow Jesus, if you are curious about Jesus, or even if you are not entirely sure what or who you are looking for; know that you are welcome in this place, and we are so glad you are here! If this is your first time with us, we ask that you sign our Welcome Book, so that we might pray with/for you, get to know you better, and check-in with you from time to time. Our restrooms are outside of our sanctuary, down the hallway and on your right. Both restrooms have baby changing tables!*

Holy Communion is open to all. *In this church, we preach, teach, and confess that the Altar is the table of Jesus. It is Jesus who invites you to His table. You need not be a member of this church, or any other church; anyone who desires a deeper walk with Christ is invited. The ushers will direct you to proceed up the center aisle. You are invited to take an empty, individual cup from the silver tray near the baptismal font, and red wine, the blood of Christ, will be poured for you at the altar rail. You will also find red grape juice, the blood of Christ, in sealed individual cups in that same tray. As you come to the altar rail, you may stand or kneel as you are able, and the minister will place bread, the body of Christ, in your hand. If you are in need of a gluten free host, please let the minister know. If you prefer not to receive the Communion elements, Jesus still invites you into His Holy Communion; at the altar rail you may fold your arms and the minister will pray with and bless you. If you wish for Communion to be brought to you, please let the Usher know.*

We believe *the varied sounds and actions from children of all ages during worship is evidence of Jesus among us, and bears witness to the life, growth, present and future of the Church. If your child makes noise, you are not bothering anyone, you are blessing everyone. We want everyone in worship. If you would like an activity bag for your child during worship, please ask the greeter who handed you this bulletin. Alternatively, if you wish to step out of the sanctuary with your child, we have set up a children's room outside of our sanctuary, all the way down the hallway, in the last room on your left.*

We stream *our worship service on a private zoom link and publicly on Facebook, for the sake of those who cannot be with us in person.*

✦GATHERING✦

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to receive our weekly email, please email our Admin: hslc.eldersburg@comcast.net.

CENTERING BREATHS

We begin our worship by returning to the most fundamental aspect of our existence; breathing (Genesis 2:7).

ADVENT VERSICLES

Please rise, in body or spirit.

P: In the name of the life-giving Trinity, the Father, the ☩ Son and the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen
P: Friends, rejoice in the Lord always!

C: Again we will say, Rejoice!

P: Sing aloud! Rejoice with all your heart!

C: We proclaim our hope that the One who is more powerful than all is coming. "I will be your God, and you will be my people."

P: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle with hope that Christ will return.

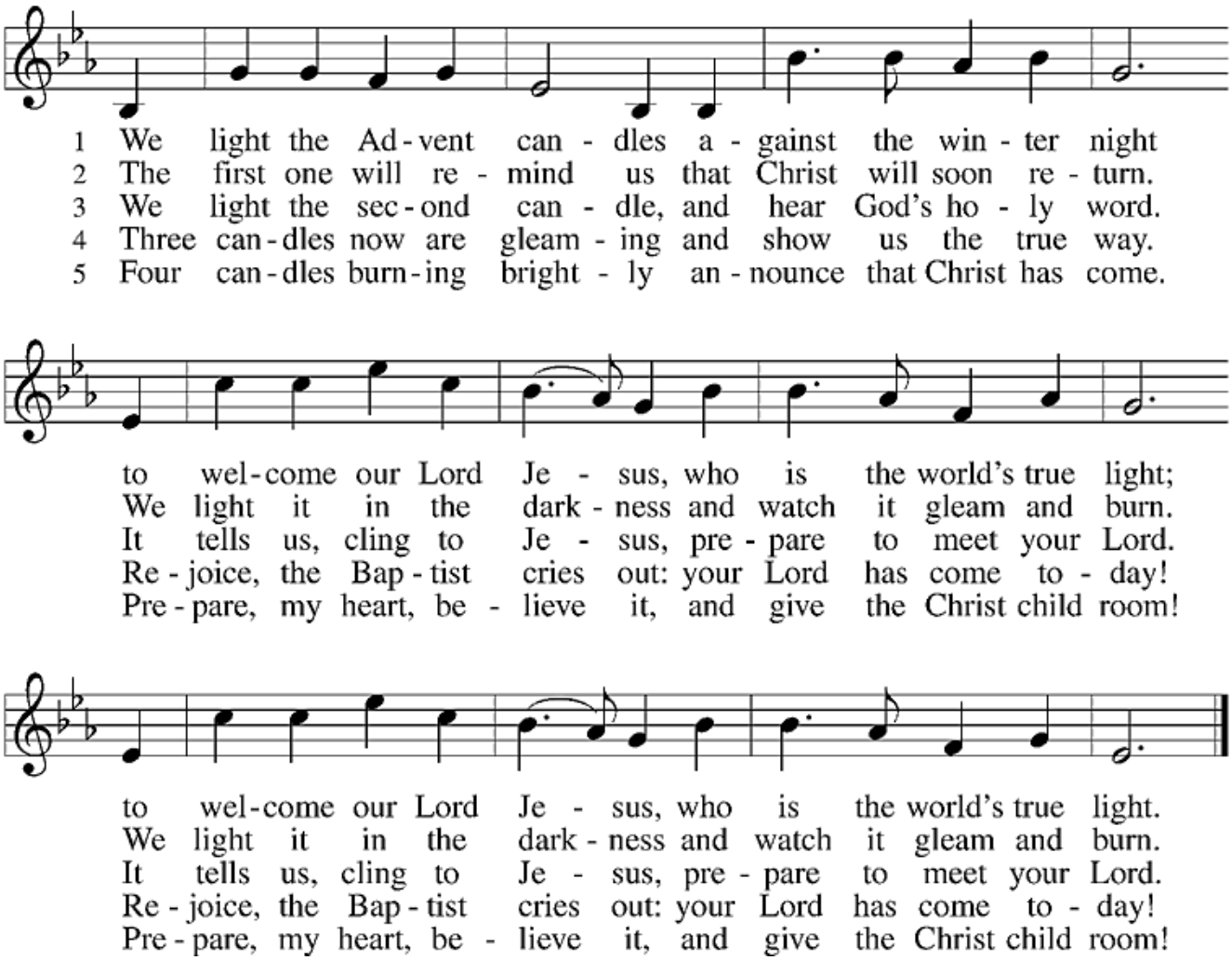
C: Let us worship God.

✦LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH✦

We will sing verses 1 & 2 as we light the first candle on our Advent wreath.
(Hymn is printed on next page)



We Light the Advent Candles



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

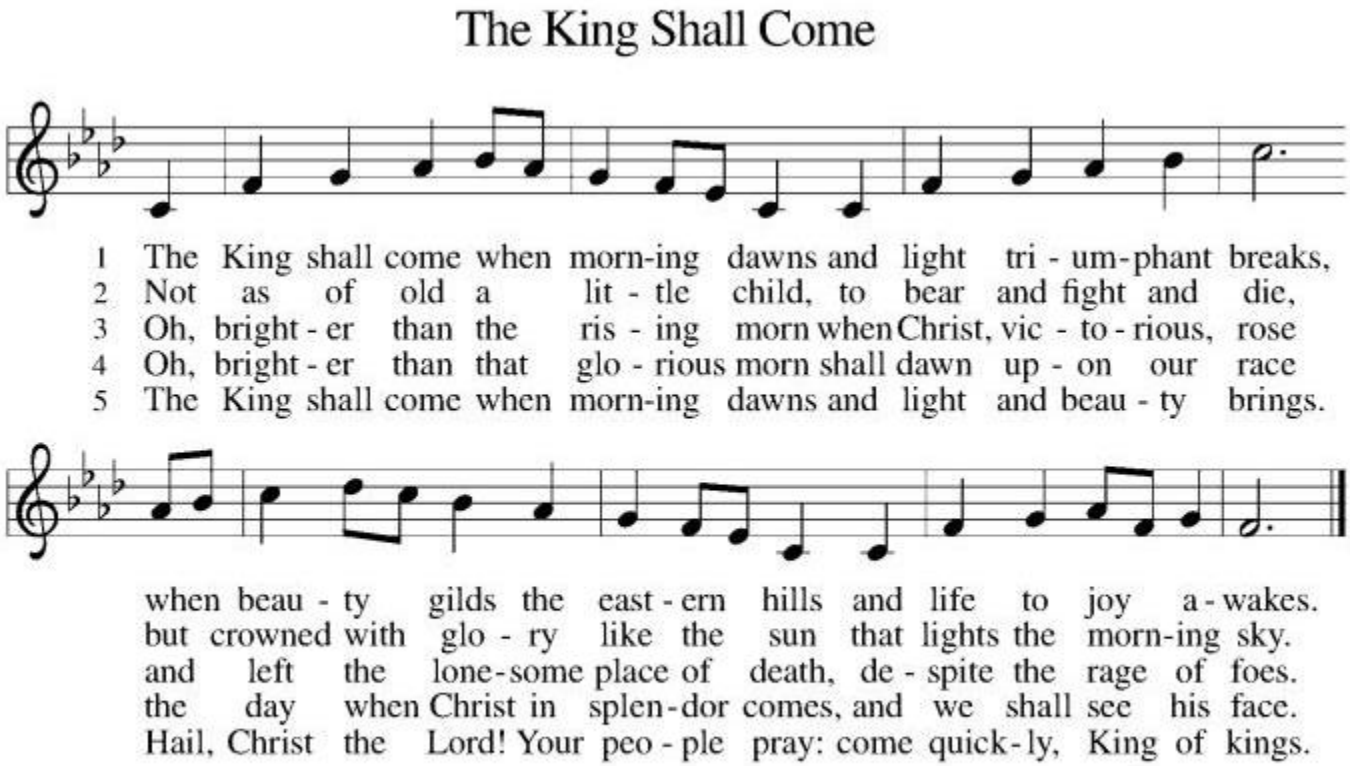
P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The King Shall Come*: LBW (Green), #33.*



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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.

SONG OF MARY

Luke 1:46-55, sung by Nancy Bowman.

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.

Please be seated.

✦ SCRIPTURE ✦

God meets us through and in The Word

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.

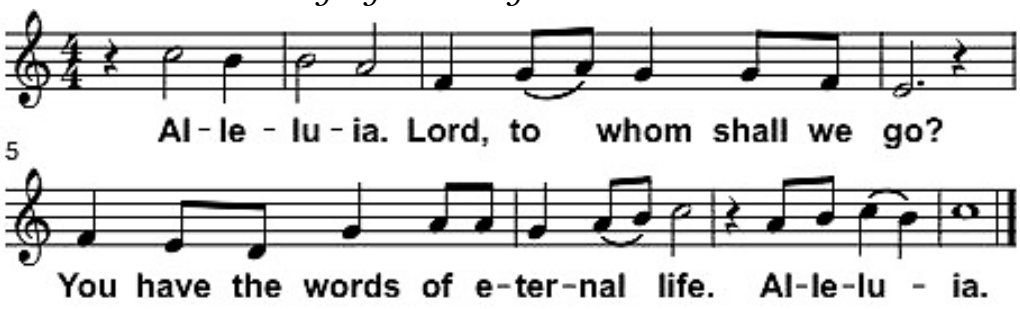
L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

✦THE HOLY GOSPEL✦

Mark 13:24-37

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please rise, in body or spirit.
Congregation sings acclamation once.



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

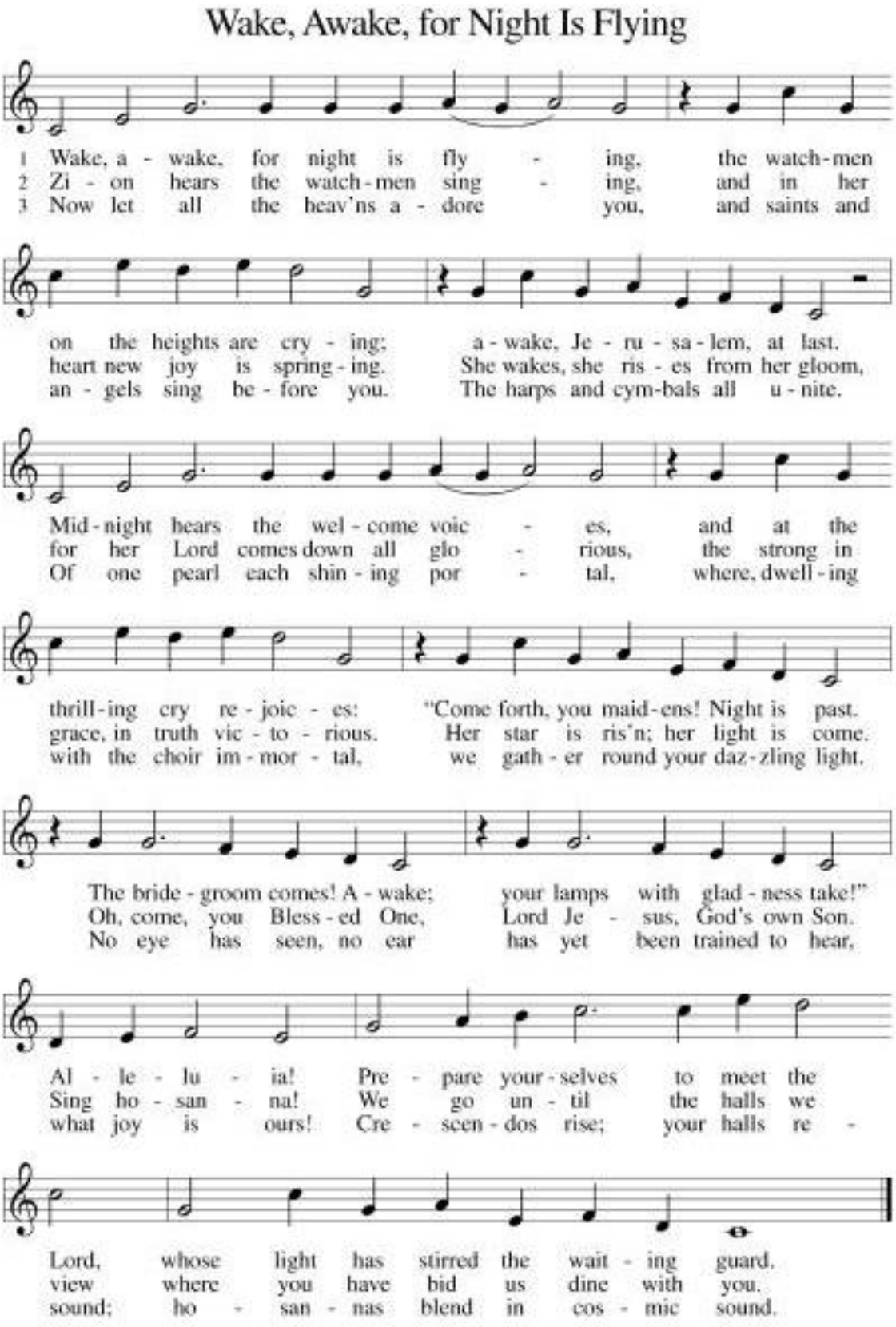
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

After the sermon, please rise in body or spirit,
as we lift our hearts and voices together in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*: LBW (Green), #31, verses 1 & 3.*



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

NICENE CREED

A: With the church worldwide, let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: 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 INTERCESSION✦

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

A brief silence.

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 (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry (*especially*). 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.

PASSING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

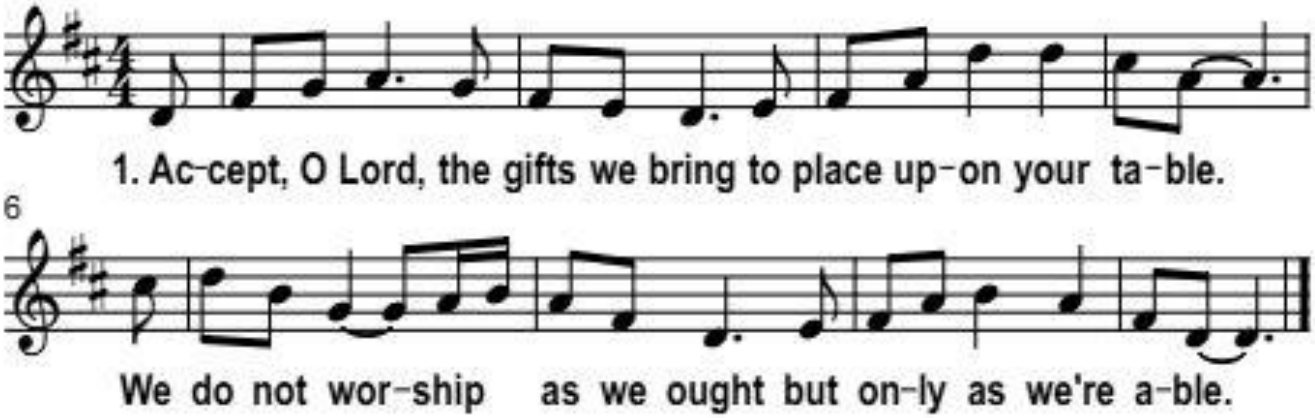
✦OFFERING✦

Here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, there are many ways you are able to give. Our ushers will pass around an offering plate, in which you can place your weekly offering. If you are attending worship online or you simply wish to give online, you may do so by visiting our website, ***hslceldersburgmd.org/give****. We give thanks to God for the ways you continually offer your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of God and neighbor in our ministry.*

As the offering is brought forward, please rise, in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Congregation sings together once.



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.

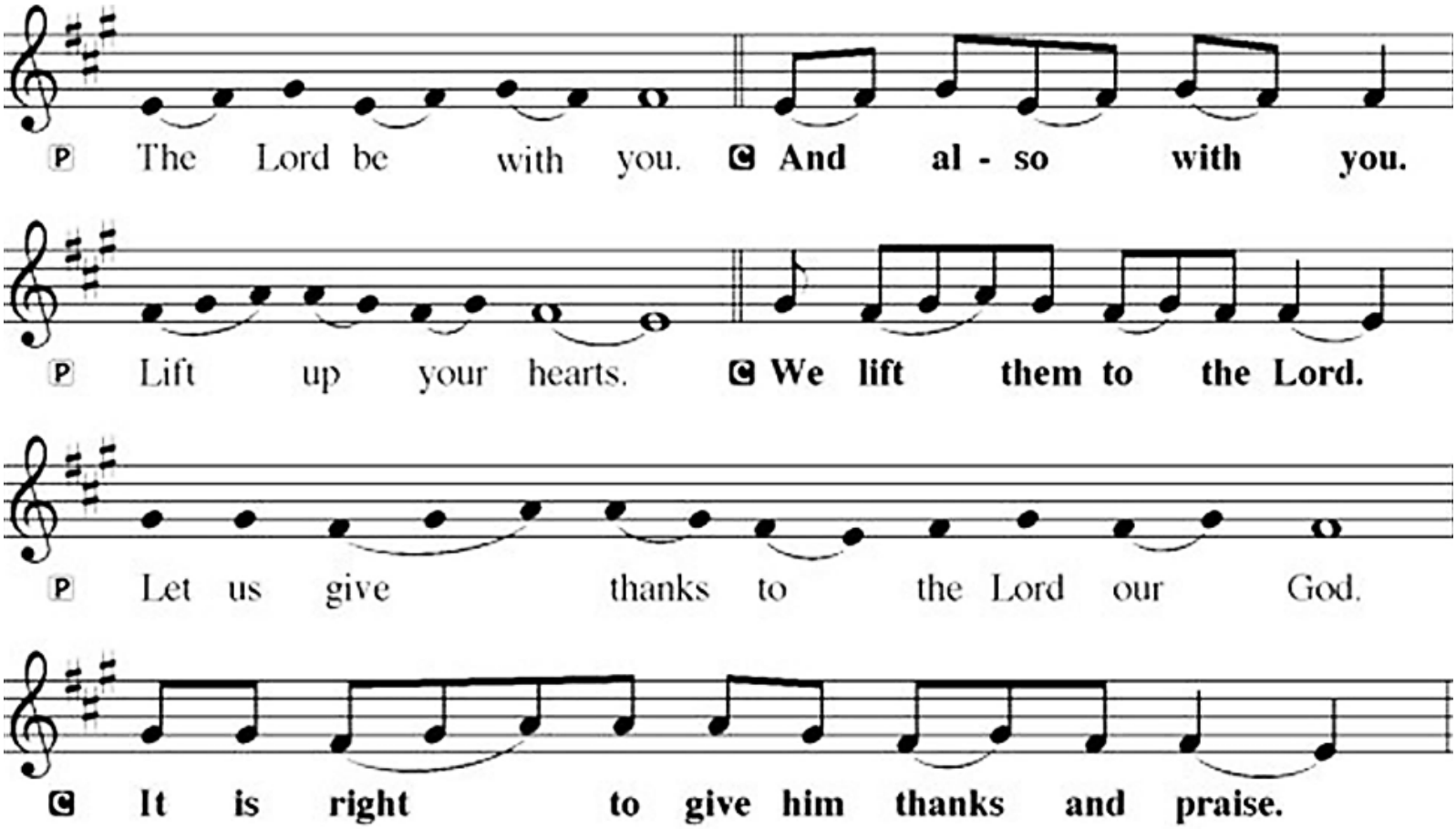
✦HOLY COMMUNION✦

The feast where Christ meets us.

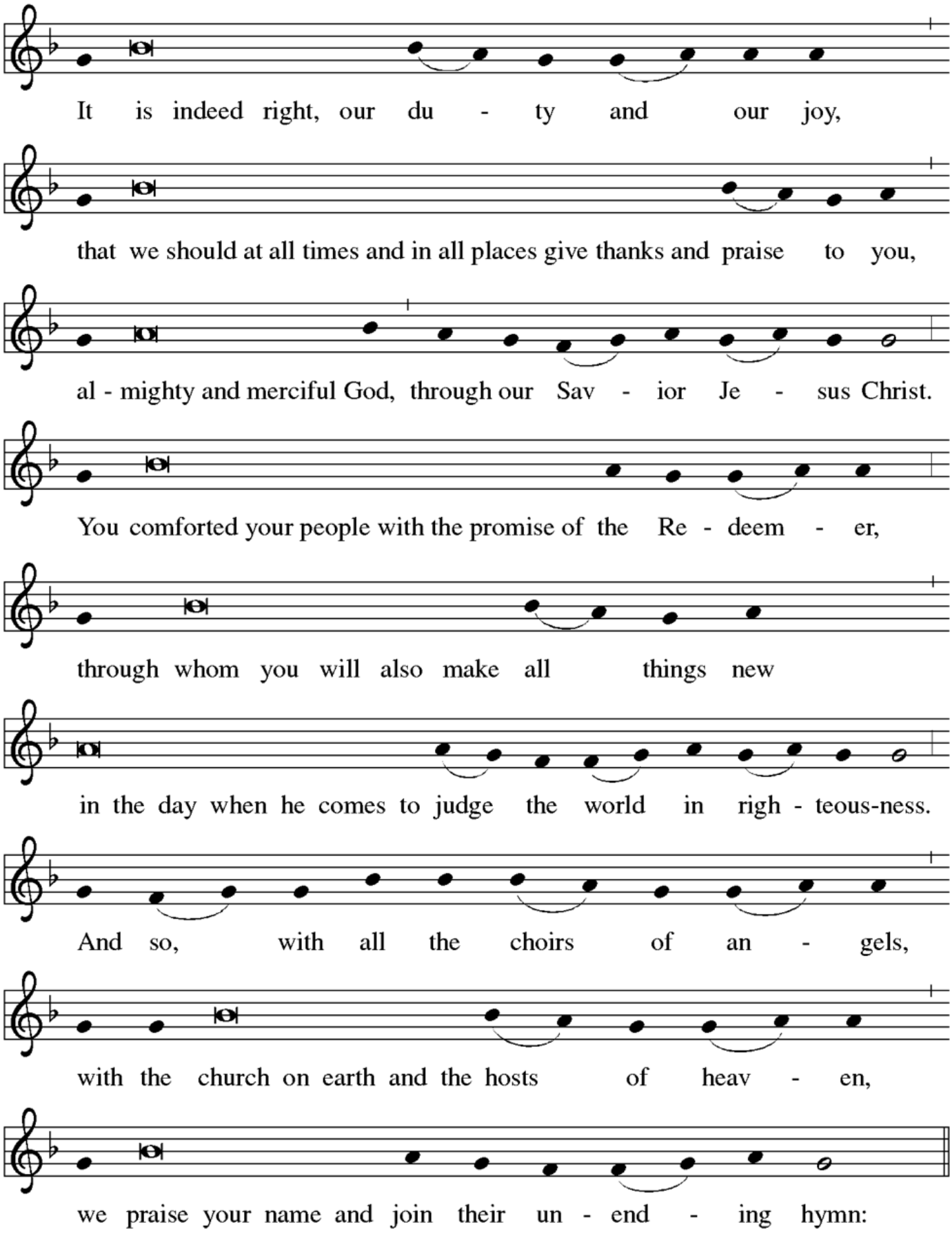


The feast where all are welcome.

✦THE GREAT THANKSGIVING✦

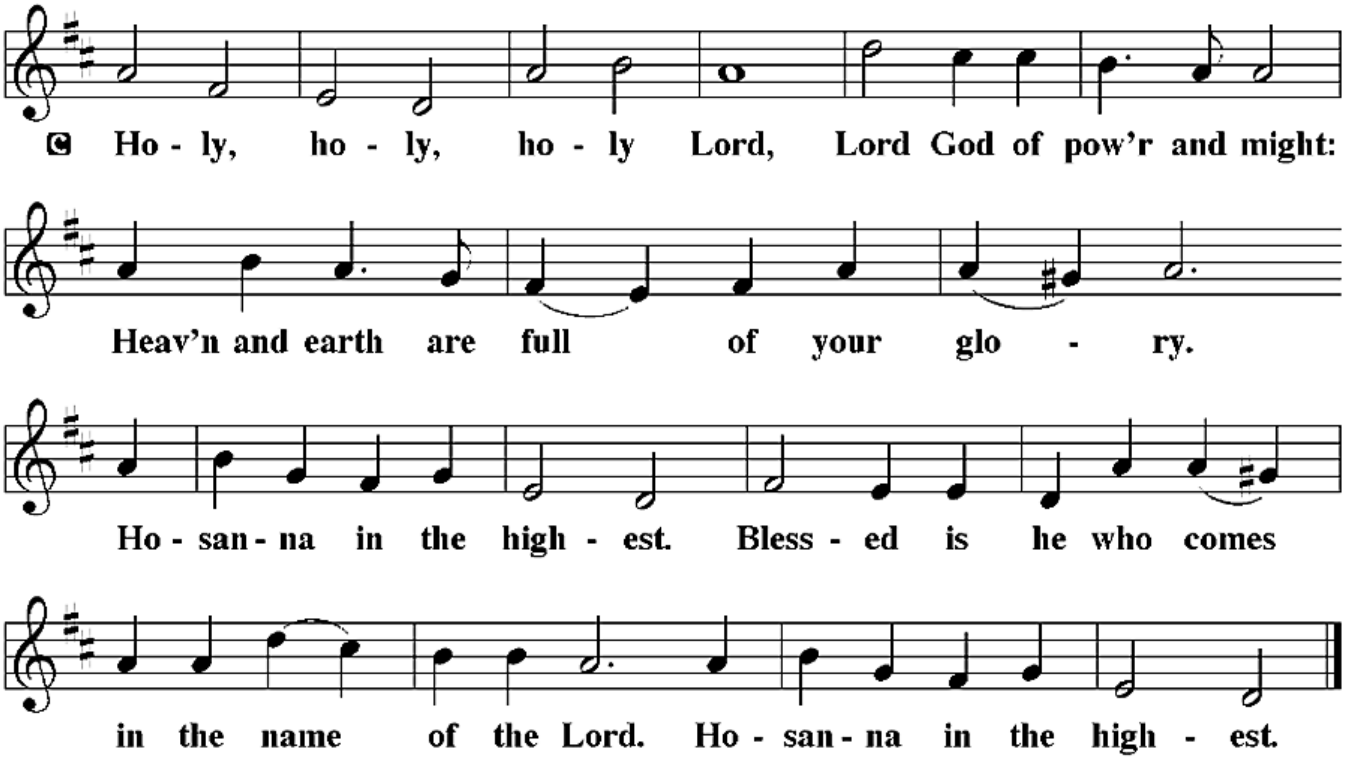


✦PREFACE✦



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✦SANCTUS✦



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

P: 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: May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory.

C: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

P: May your Holy Spirit be among us and ☩ bless this meal.

C: Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us, in the language of our hearts:

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.

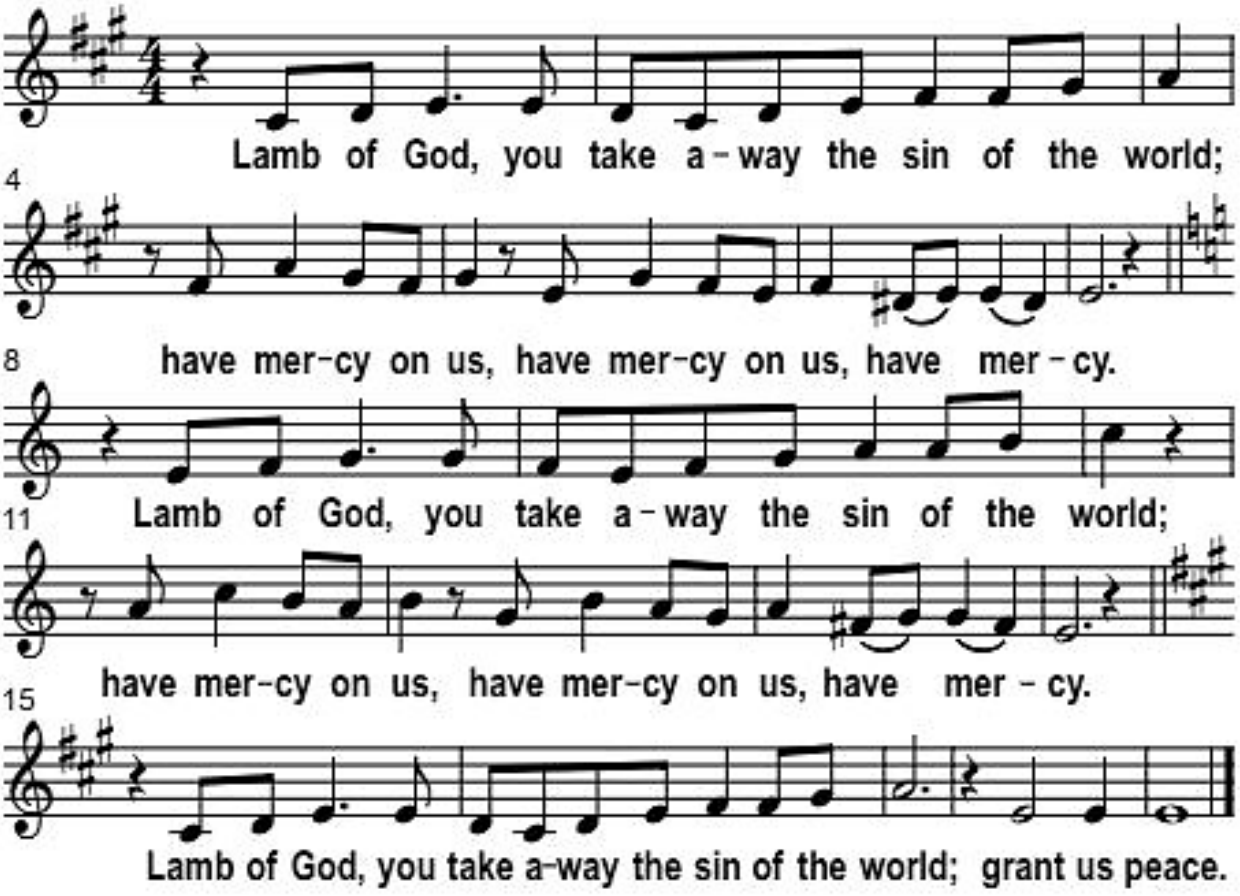
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P**:** Jesus invites you. Jesus welcomes you. All are invited. All are welcome. Come taste and see that the Lord is good! **C: Amen!**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

As we sing the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), please come forward at the direction of the ushers



POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

After all have communed, please rise in body or spirit for the blessing.

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless us and keep us in God's grace, from now and until life everlasting. **C: Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: 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.

✦GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE✦

Blessed, to be a blessing.

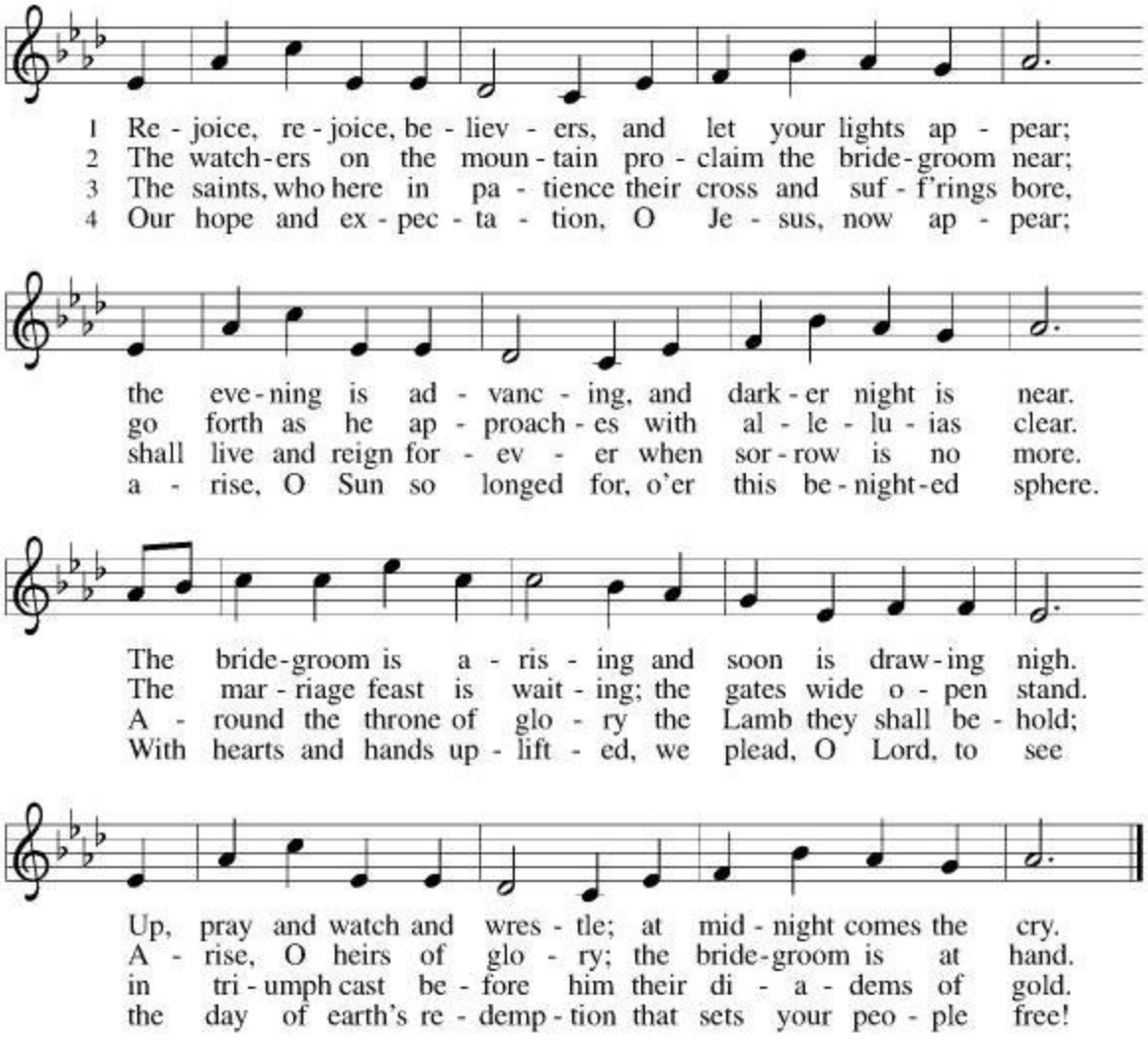
BENEDICTION

P: You are exactly who God created you to be. Created in Christ Jesus for good works. Created and called holy. Created and called beloved. Now go forth into the world in peace and be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one an evil thing for an evil thing. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show Christ's love to everyone and let the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers: LBW (Green), #25,
verses 1, 2, & 4.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, be of good heart!
C: Thanks be to God!
A: Our purpose is to love God,
C: And bring people into a growing relationship with Jesus and his church.

WE ALL SERVE AS MINISTERS IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

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Liturgy of confession and forgiveness adapted from material written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good', used with permission.

ACTIVITIES AT HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday (11/29) 9:30am – Sunday School
10:30 am - Fellowship
11:00 am – Worship w/ Communion

Sunday (12/06) 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Fellowship
11:00am – Worship/Holy Communion
12:30pm – Holy Spirit's Christmas Party!

Upcoming Events Reminder

Please see the "Events" tab on our website for all our upcoming events: hslceldersburgmd.org

Please contact Pastor Tom by email at HSLC.pastor@comcast.net if you would like to meet, have any questions, or for any pastoral emergencies.

Volunteers

	This Week (11-29-2026)	*Next Week (12-06-2026)*
Greeters	TBD	
Ushers	TBD	
Acolyte	Maryanne F.	
Assisting Minister	Holly deB.	
Communion Assistant	Holly deB.	
Lector	Steve B.	
Altar care	TBD	
Fellowship/Coffee	Gary S.	