First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2026



BEHOLD THE SIGNS

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the attendance slip in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.

Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.

The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex area.

Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.

Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	pastor@gethsemanestl.org
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson	connect@gethsemanestl.org
Office Manager: Eve Cooney	office@gethsemanestl.org
Minister of Music/Choir Director: Amy Crousore	organist@gethsemanestl.org
Handbell Choir Director: Ella Rothgangel	handbelldirector@gethsemanestl.org
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850	cayce.morice@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.
Outside of these hours, please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

office@gethsemanestl.org www.gethsemanestl.org

Holy Communion, Setting by Rev. T. Edwards Breed

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *What Child is This* Thomas Keeseeker

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

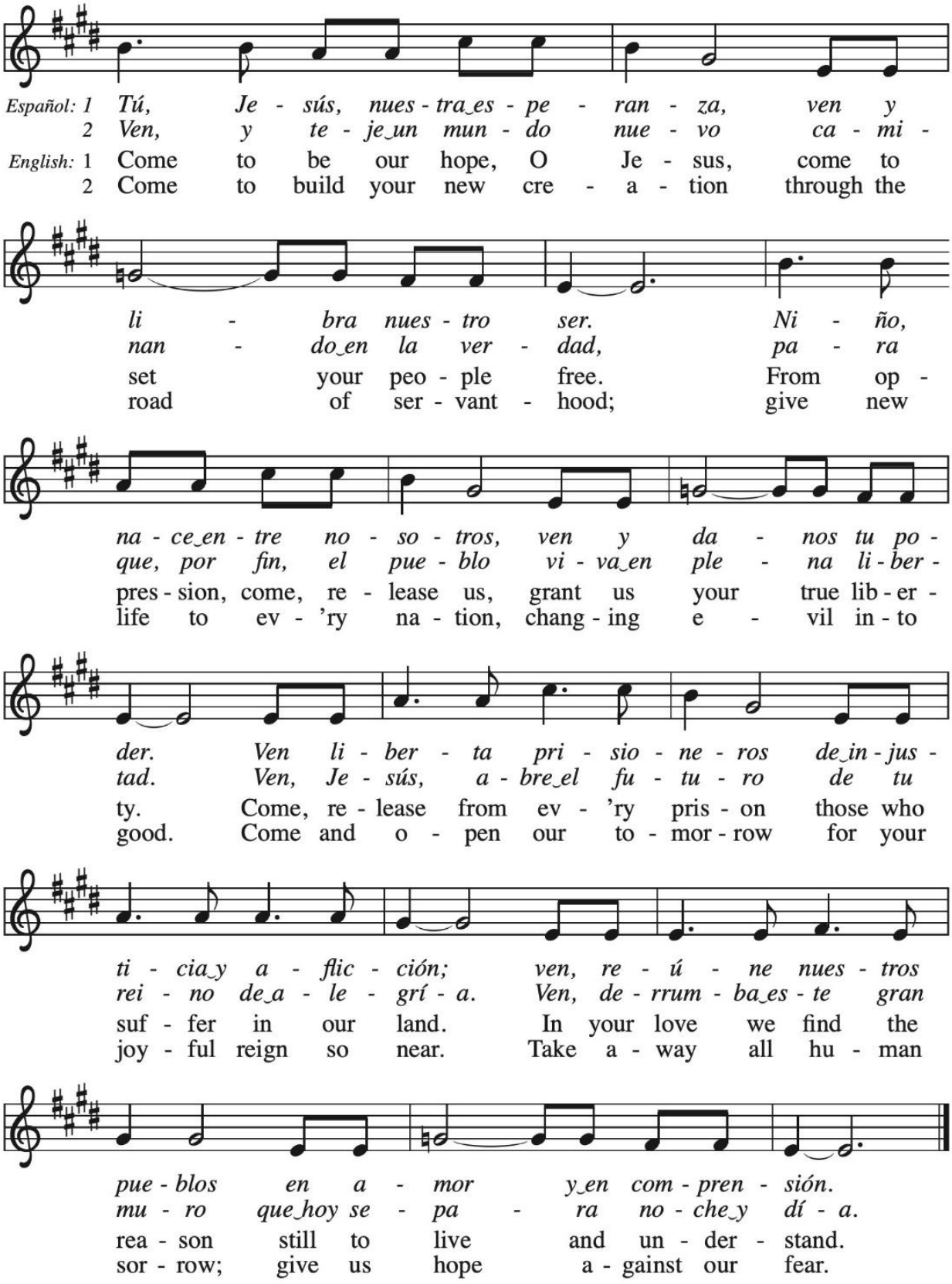
P: Comforting God,

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!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus*



Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez
Music: JESUS NOSSA ESPERANÇA, Marcílio de Oliveiro Filho, 1947–2005
Text © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches. All rights reserved.
Music © 1989 Marcílio de Oliveiro Filho, admin. World Council of Churches

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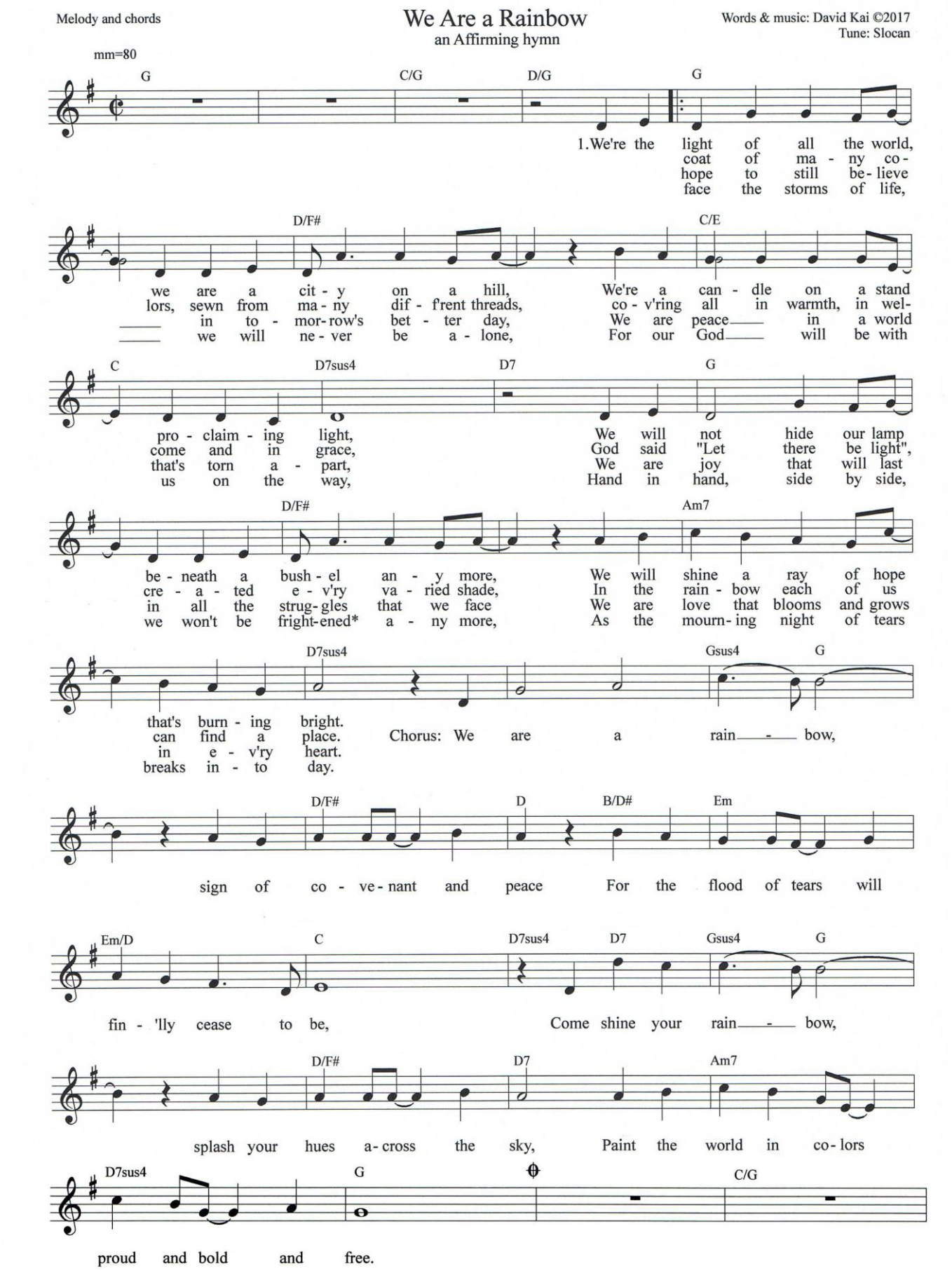
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *We Are a Rainbow*, verse 1



Website: www.sites.google.com/site/davidwkaismusic
Email: davidwkai@gmail.com

BLESSING DURING ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

P: Let us Pray, Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

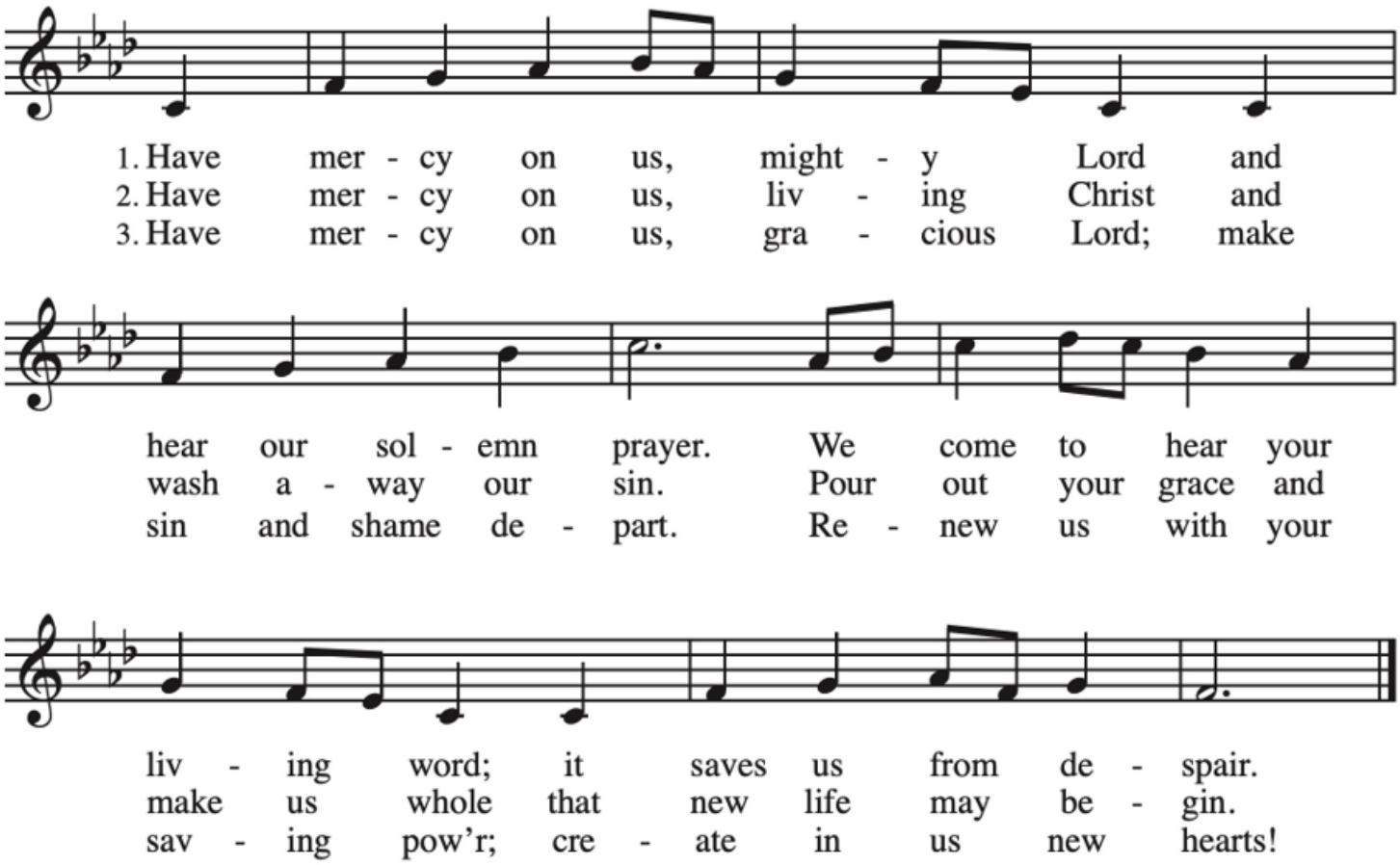
C: Amen.

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 (Have Mercy on Us):



Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting 10, alt.
Music: CONSOLATION, C.M., A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: 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.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

[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 you. [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 as a father to us; 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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

A cantor will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.

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?
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.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

3Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in Christ, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8God will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

SKIT

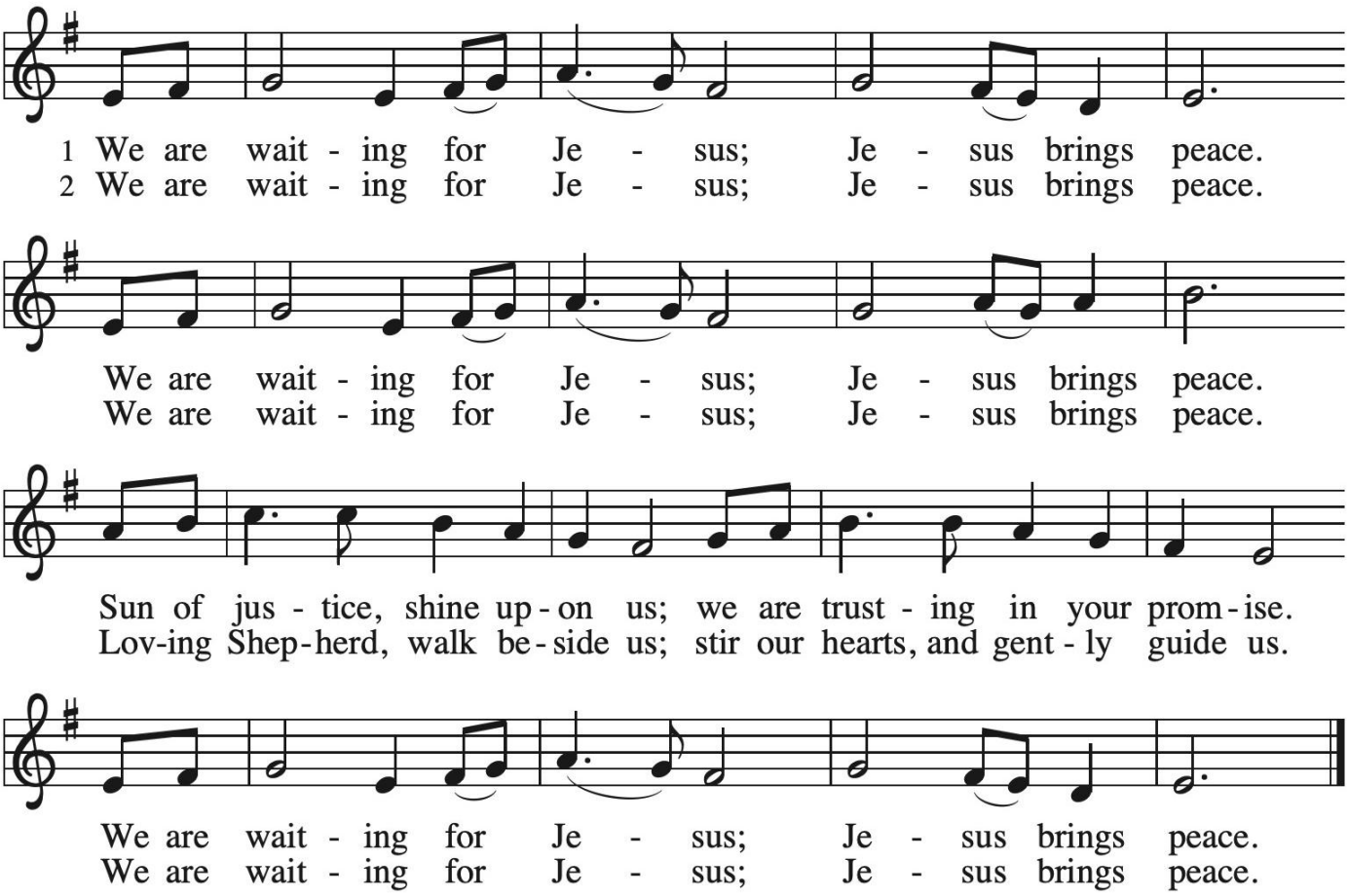
DISCUSSION IN SMALL GROUPS

1. In this Gospel lesson, what do you think God wants you to notice today?

2. What signs do you see in the world that let you know Jesus is present?

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ***We Are Waiting for Jesus***



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' creed.

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 into hell. 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

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

A brief silence.

AM: . . . 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.

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, using the words of the risen Lord: Peace be with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.**

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: (GLC choir) *Child of the Poor/What Child is This* Scott Soper

This piece requires congregation participation! Please sing the bolded verses of What Child Is This, as directed by Robyn Wolfsberger, as the choir sings Child of the Poor.

Child of the Poor (choir) / **What Child Is This (congregation)**

Helpless and hungry, lowly, afraid
Wrapped in the chill of mid-winter;
Comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace,
New life for the world
Who is this who lives with the lowly,
Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world in the eyes of a child,
A child of the poor.

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Who is the stranger here in our midst,
Looking for shelter among us?
Who is the outcast? Who do we see amid the poor,
The children of God?
Who is this who lives with the lowly,
Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world in the eyes of a child,
A child of the poor.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here
the silent word is pleading.

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?
This is Christ, revealed to the world
In the eyes of a child, A child of the poor.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace;
Bring those with nothing to offer.
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart:
"Fear not: here is your God!"

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own him:
the King of Kings salvation brings,
let loving arms enthrone him.

Who is this who lives with the lowly,
Sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger
This is Christ, revealed to the world
In the eyes of a child, a child of the poor.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

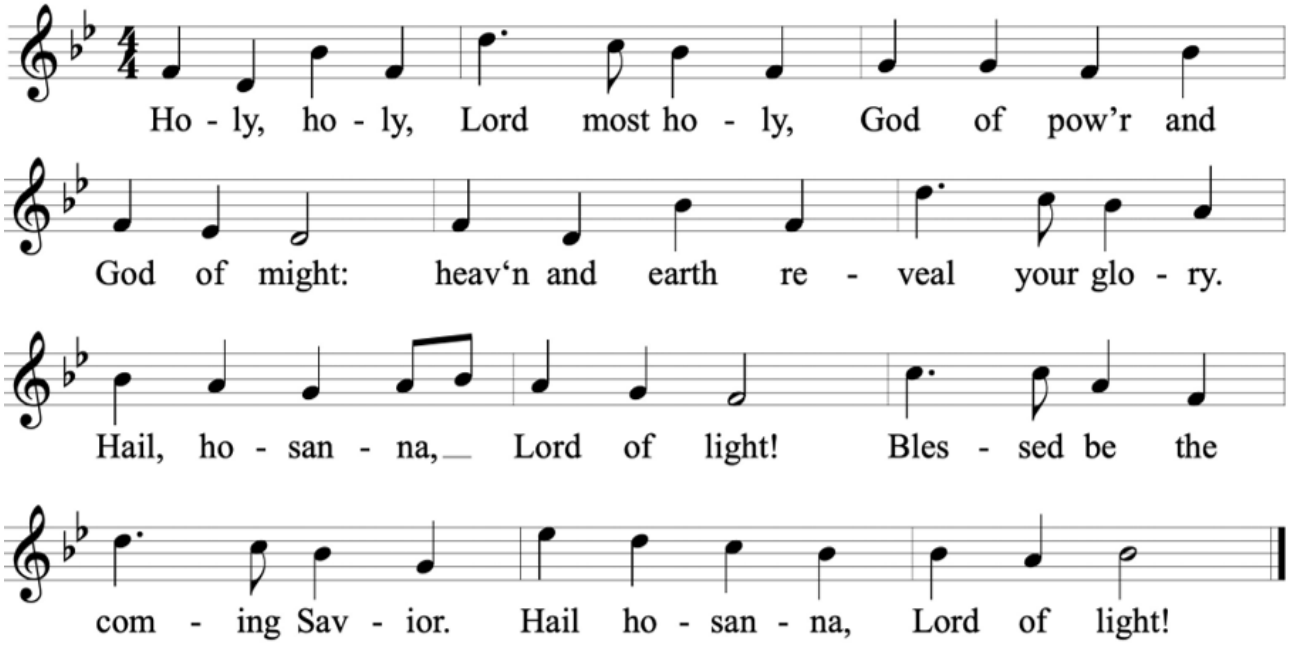
AM: Let us pray. Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

THE 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.

P: It is truly right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy):



Text: metrical Sanctus, Martin A. Selz, b. 1951
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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

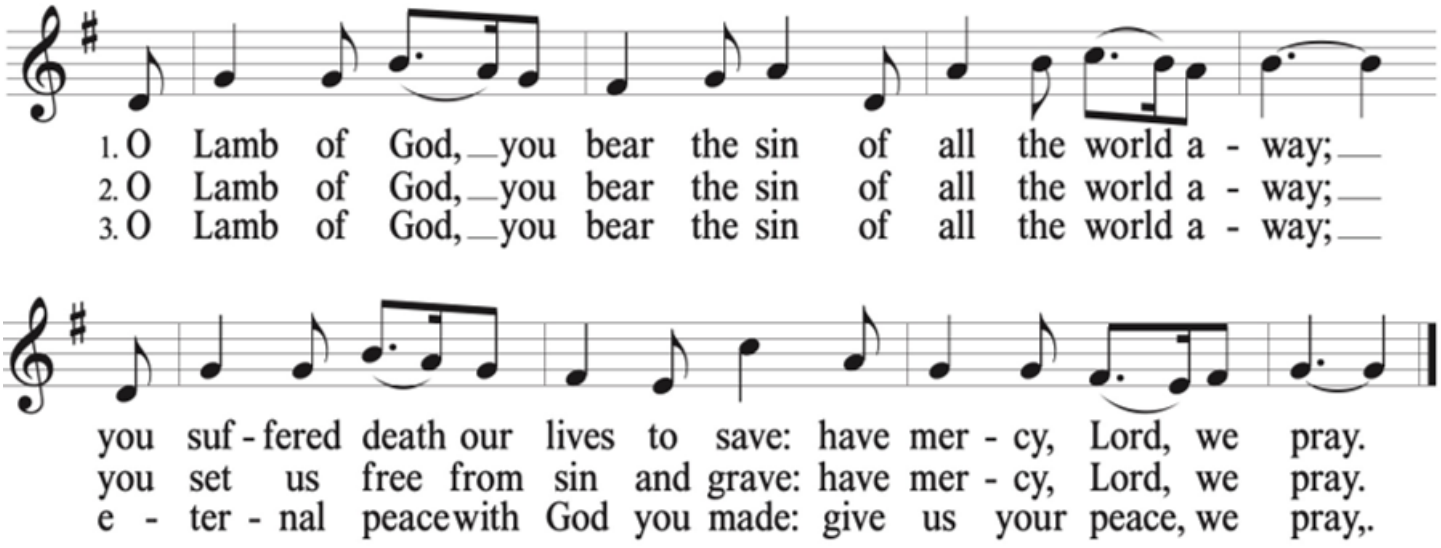
COMMUNION

P: The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

The congregation is seated.

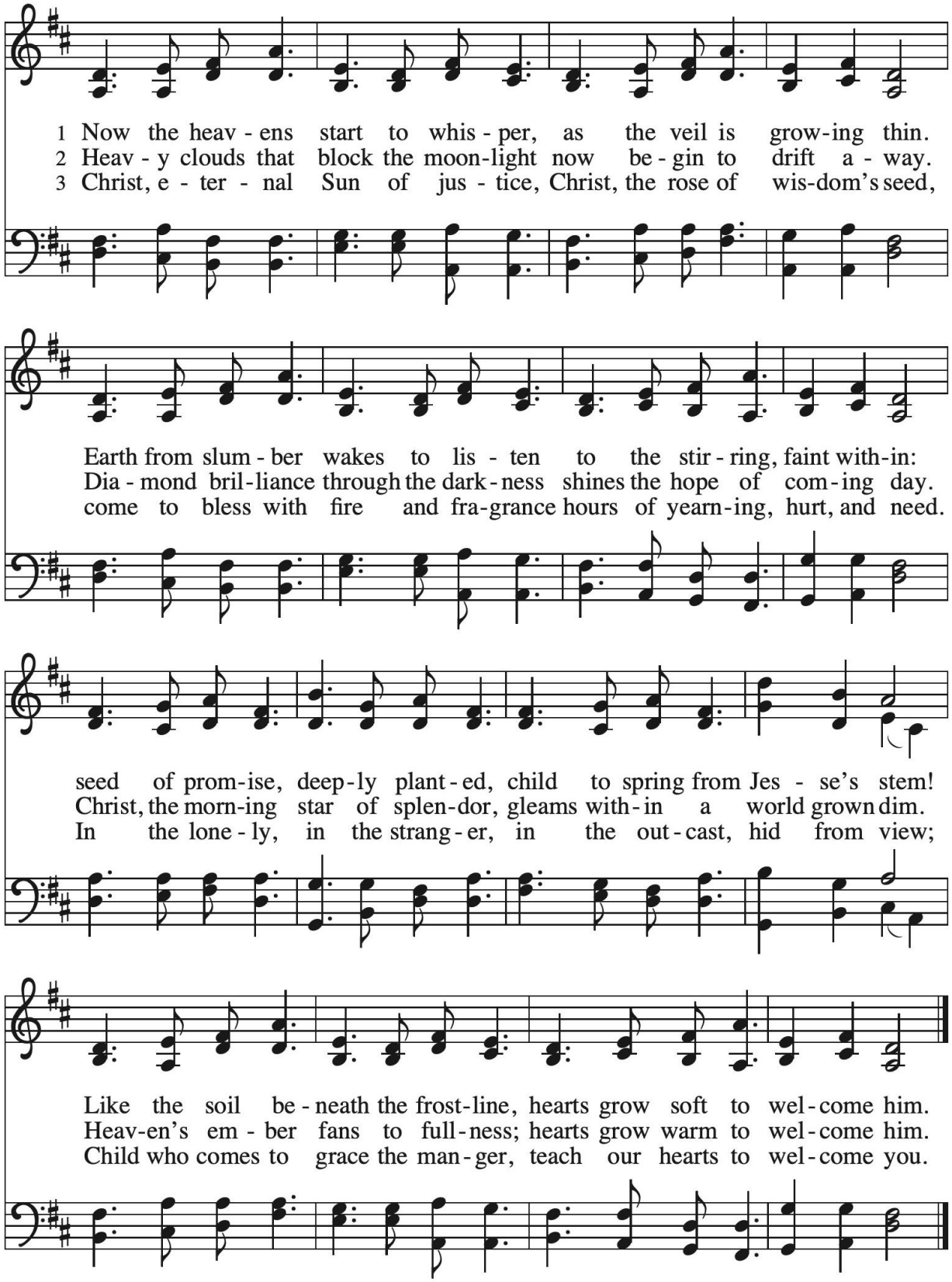
All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: ***O Lamb of God***



Text: ELW Setting 10
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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Each Winter As the Year Grows Older **HYMN# 252**

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

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: 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**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS *After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.*

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN: ***Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*** **HYMN# 246**

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Arr. Larry Shackley

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The Altar Flowers are not sponsored this week.



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Betsy Bartholomew
USHERS	Cayce Morice, John Sandberg
ASSISTING MINISTER	Angie Fulton
LECTOR	Mike Schmidt
CANTOR	Mary Eden
CHILDREN'S SERMON	N/A
ACOLYTE	Evan Gorvie
DONUT DRIVER	Cayce Morice
FELLOWSHIP HOST	*Needed*
ALTAR GUILD	Schaller
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson
WINE SPONSOR	Kate Hartz

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson: healing at home
Kate Hartz: courage and trust
Barb Johnson: continued healing and increased mobility
Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace
Sharon Salerno: healing and strength
Mary Scanlan: recovering after stroke
Barbara, the mother of Stephen Brown: hospitalized in Phoenix

Request for:	***On Behalf of:***
Thanks that grandson, Oscar, is responding well to treatment	*Hirth Family*
A healthy and happy year ahead for daughter Melissa's 42nd birthday, 11/29	*Horn Family*
Arlis (comfort and hope); Barbara (bravery), Gabe (discernment)	*Jenson Family*
Verona (healing); Kelly, John and Karis (healing), Melissa (wisdom and guidance); Tina and Tyla (healing); Parents (continued health)	*Cat Leonard*
For Pastor Nikki, after the unexpected death of her husband before their 5th anniversary.	*Morrell Family*
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Colombia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); Sonya and Sean (healing and strength); those who do not feel safe in their communities; for peace with justice in our world.	*Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton*
For good friend, Tom G. - faith, hope and comfort during cancer treatments	*Keith Paulson*
Nephew, Peter, for continued sensations as discharged from rehab. Optimal therapy time and needed equipment for continued progress.	*Carleen Reinhart*
Chris's sister Lisa, whose roommate and good friend died. Give Lisa peace in her grief and hope during this time of transition.	*Schmidt Family*
Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (employment), Dale (food, housing, employment), all who use our Little Free Pantries.	*Social Action*

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

There is still time to make your **Stewardship Pledge** using the online link in the enews, or using a Pledge Card, available in the narthex. Imagine More!

Instead of November/December Big Asks Gethsemane will again participate in the **St. Anthony's Christmas Cheer program**, formerly known as Adopt-a-family. We will be "adopting" 35 people this year! Sign up will be available during Fellowship TODAY, and/or online via a link in the enews. Wrapped gifts should be delivered to Gethsemane by Dec 13.

The **Little Free Pantry** needs **Pasta sauce,** preferably in cans or plastic jars. Place donations for Big Ask items in the cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the cart go to our Free Food Pantry. We are also looking for someone who could either regularly purchase some items from Aldi or receive a delivery at their home and bring it to Gethsemane.

ACT

Winter blessing bags are available in the Narthex for you to pick up and distribute to those you see who are in need

Fellowship Hosts Wanted! Please sign up in the kitchen to help "host fellowship," which just entails some light clean-up afterwards (9:45 – 10 am). We've made clean-up even easier during our trial one service time this fall, by having paper cups available if you don't have time to wash mugs.

Pick up an **Advent Devotion** book in the narthex or the table near the Parking Lot entry.

Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care team**? If you or a church member you know is in need of support from the GLC's Member Care team please contact the church office or Betsy Bartholomew, or check the box on the weekly attendance insert.

Share your voice! Send December newsletter items to Gretchen by November 29.

JOIN

The **November Women's Lunch** is Monday, Nov. 30, 11:30 am at Maggie O'Briens in Sunset Hills. Final Answer! RSVP to Cindy Fenton by Nov. 27.

Ponies and sheep and baby Jesus, Oh My! Our Live Nativity is only a few weeks away on **December 5, 4-5 pm**. See the **volunteer** sign up in the enews! Pet the animals and welcome our *NEIGH-BAAHrs (neighbors)!*

The final rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program and Parent's Day Out are on December 19. Think you'll need a few extra hours to prepare for the holidays, or maybe you would just like a moment of peace before the chaos? Bring the kids to Parent's Day Out at Gethsemane on **Saturday, December 19, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** Please **register** using the link in the enews.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
November 29 – Dec 6, 2026

11/29 Sunday ***1st Week in Advent***	9:00 am 9:00 am **10:00 am**	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee Sunday School and Faith Village **ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube**
11/30 Monday	11:30 am 6 - 7 pm	Gethsemane Women's Luncheon Handbell Choir Rehearsal
12/1 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
12/2 Wednesday	1–3 pm 6:30 - 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
12/5 Saturday	4-5 pm	Live Nativity! Enjoy cookies and carols with ponies, sheep, cows and the Holy Family. Volunteers needed.
12/6 Sunday ***2nd Week in Advent***	9:00 am 9:00 am **10:00 am**	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal **ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube**

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	**Time**	**Event**
Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Nov 30	11:30 am	Gethsemane Women's Luncheon, Maggie O'Brien's in Sunset Hills. RSVP to Cindy Fenton.
Sun, Dec 13	10 am	Christmas Cheer Gift Drop off
Sat, Dec 19	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Parent's Day Out AND Children's Christmas program rehearsal
Sun, Dec 20	10 am	Children's Christmas Program during Worship
Thurs, Dec 24	4 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Fri, Dec 25	10 am	Christmas Day Worship – Lessons and Carols
Sun, Dec 27	9:30 am	Lessons and Carols

Women's Luncheon: Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.

Celebrate Christmas at
GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3600 HAMPTON AVE



gethsemanestl.org

LIVE NATIVITY
SAT, DEC. 5, 4-5 PM

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUN, DEC. 20, 10 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
THURS, DEC. 24, 4:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP*
FRI, DEC. 25, 10 AM

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
SUN, DEC. 27, 9:30 AM

*This worship service will NOT be livestreamed

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation
Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace…

People of any race or ethnicity…
People who are male, female, transgender, intersex or any other gender identity…
People of any age…
People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys…
People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered…
People who are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation…
People with a variety of political perspectives…
People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record…
People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or unhoused…
People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities…
People of differing educational backgrounds…
People of any socio-economic condition…
People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.

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