



# St. Martin Lutheran Church

## Third Sunday in Advent

### December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*The Day We remember in our Isaiah reading to be strong and fear not when our hearts become anxious, for the Lord will save us. We hear gratitude and awe in the Magnificat from Mary today. In our gospel of Matthew, as John wonders if Jesus is the one to come, Jesus replies with an account of his holy deeds, even including raising of the dead. We too are called to recall God's mighty deeds in gratitude and thanksgiving as we await His coming.*

## PRELUDE

*(Please use this time for silent reflection and prayer, silencing all electronic devices.)*

## STAND

### BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**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** 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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** 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

**P** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen

The Procession Begins.

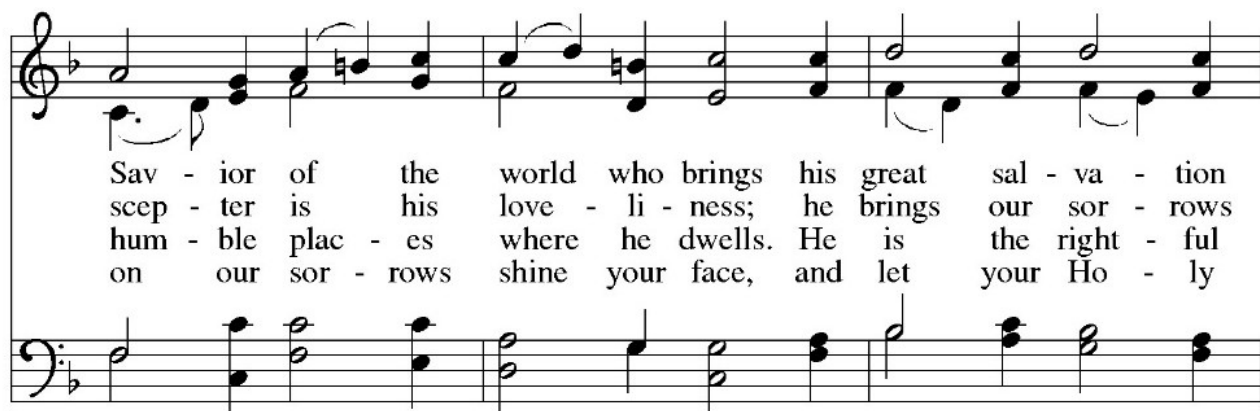
**GATHERING HYMN**

**FLING WIDE THE DOOR**

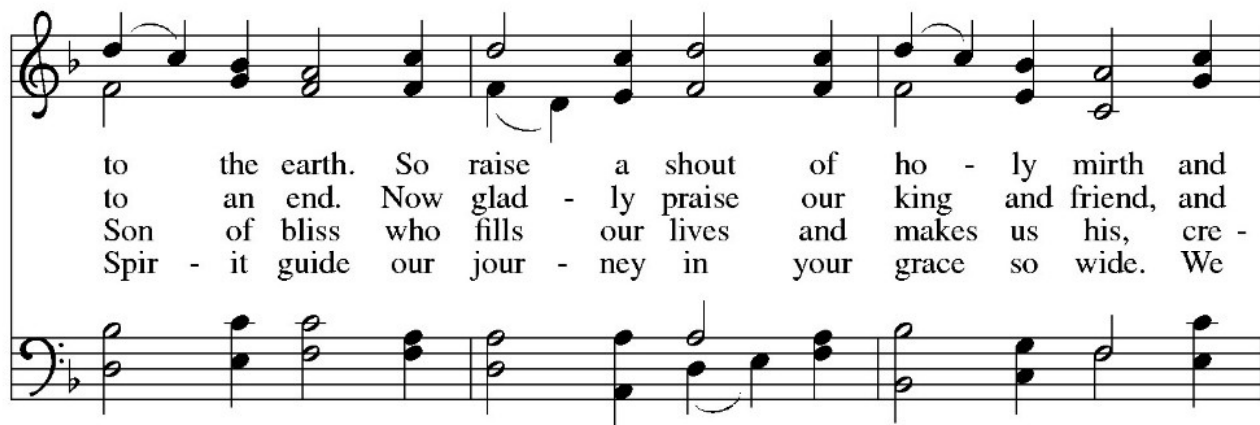
**ELW #259**

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

## THE 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray...

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

**SIT**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Pastor Beatty*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

<sup>6</sup>O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;

O Sun of justice, now draw near.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

**L** A reading from the book of Isaiah the 35th chapter beginning at the 1st verse.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

2 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.

3 Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 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.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
6 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;  
7 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.

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

# THE MAGNIFICAT

# Luke 1:46B-55



46 And Mary said,

“My soul magni-| fies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

**48 for he has looked on the humble estate | of his servant.**

**For behold, from now on all generations will | call me blessed;**

49 for he who is mighty has done great | things for me,

and holy | is his name.

**50 And his mercy is for | those who fear him**

**from generation to | generation.**

51 He has shown strength | with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts | of their hearts;

**52 he has brought down the mighty | from their thrones**

**and exalted those of hum-| ble estate;**

53 he has filled the hungry | with good things,

and the rich he has sent | away empty.

**54 He has helped his | servant Israel,**

**in remembrance | of his mercy,**

55 as he spoke | to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his off- | spring forever.”

## Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

## SECOND LESSON

**James 5:7-10**

**L** A reading from James the 5th chapter beginning at the 7th verse.

7 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. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**STAND**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**P** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.



2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” 4 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 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. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

7 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? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

11 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.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, **O** Christ.

**SIT**

**SERMON**

“Rejoice”

*Pastor Beatty*



STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

PEOPLE LOOK EAST

ELW #248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **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**

## **INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH**

*P/A Lord in Your Mercy      C hear our prayer.*

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

**A** Lord, You are the source of all joy. Even the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad at Your appearance. Sustain us in this time of waiting for Your will and purpose to unfold in these latter days. Give us patience under trials and hope that endures the changes and chances of this mortal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Merciful Lord, You give strength to those who are anxious. Grant us courage to confront our doubts and fears with Your Word, and give us strength to fulfill our vocations of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** O God, You send messengers to prepare the way of Your Son's coming. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the words delivered by bishops, pastors and deacons who bear Your Word especially our own pastor Mark. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Gracious Lord, Look with favor upon the homes of your people, and grant that faith might be delivered from one generation to the next. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Almighty God, give guidance to those entrusted with positions of leadership in government especially our president Donald and our Governor Brian. Protect service men and women who defend us against the enemies of our nation, and those who enact and enforce laws that protect us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** O Lord, our God, the prophet Isaiah looked for the day when blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, lame legs would leap and mute tongues would sing. Until the final day of restoration, draw near to all who have requested our prayers, *especially those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now (after silence count to 10).* Grant

healing according to Your gracious will. Bind up those who grieve, that they may look for the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** With great jubilation, O Lord, we rejoice at Your Son's gracious coming in His body and blood. Grant us faith to receive Him as He comes in this foretaste of the Lamb's marriage feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith (especially Mary, mother of our Lord, and John of the Cross). Help us so to follow their boldness of faith that they may inspire our witness and work. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, into whose hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

## PEACE

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

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.    **R** Peace be with you.

SIT

## OFFERING

*The gifts of tithes and offerings are collected, the ministers make ready the bread and wine.*

STAND

## 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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**A** Let us pray. God of abundance,

**C** 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

## BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS AND PRAYER SQUARES

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### PREFACE

**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.

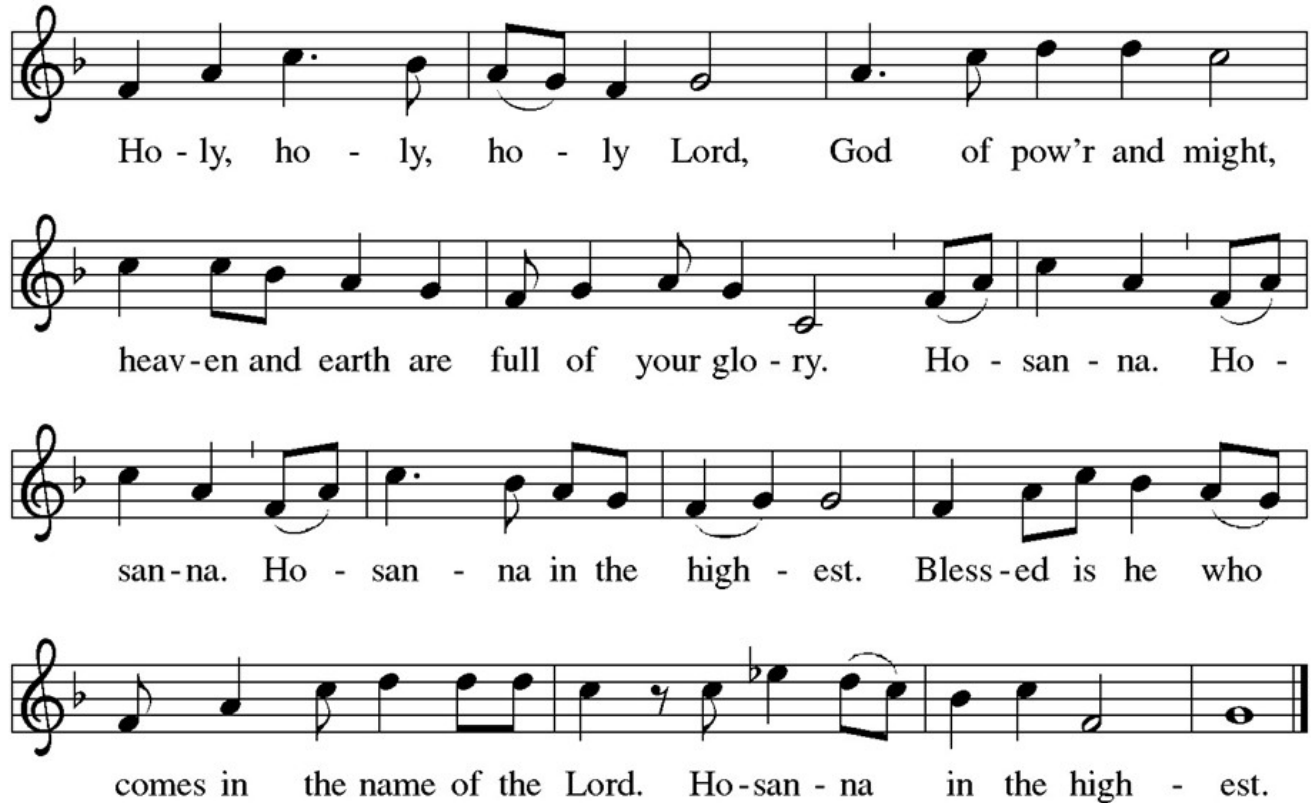
**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:



## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

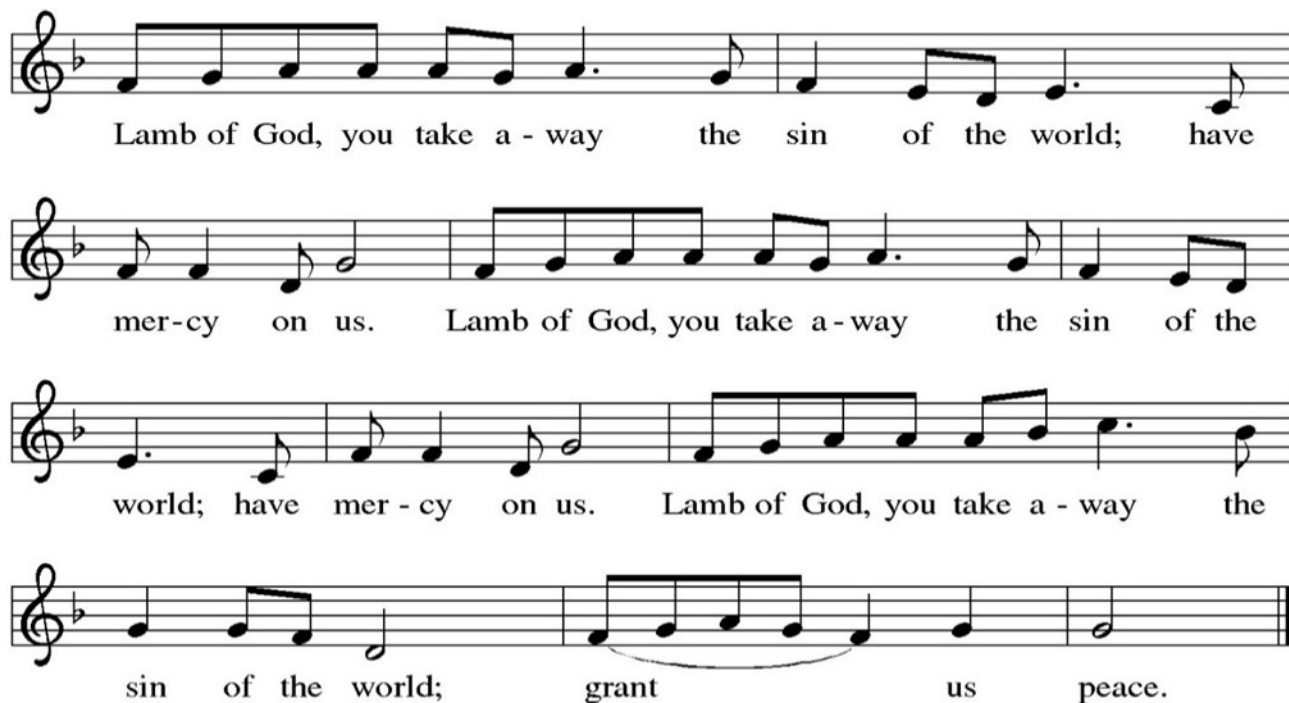
**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us together to pray.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**SIT**

## AGNUS DEI



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.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

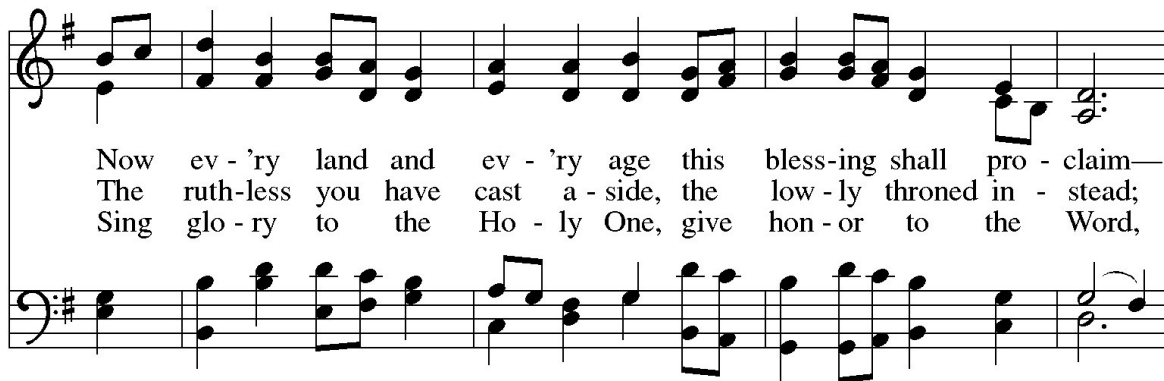
## ELW #251 MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS



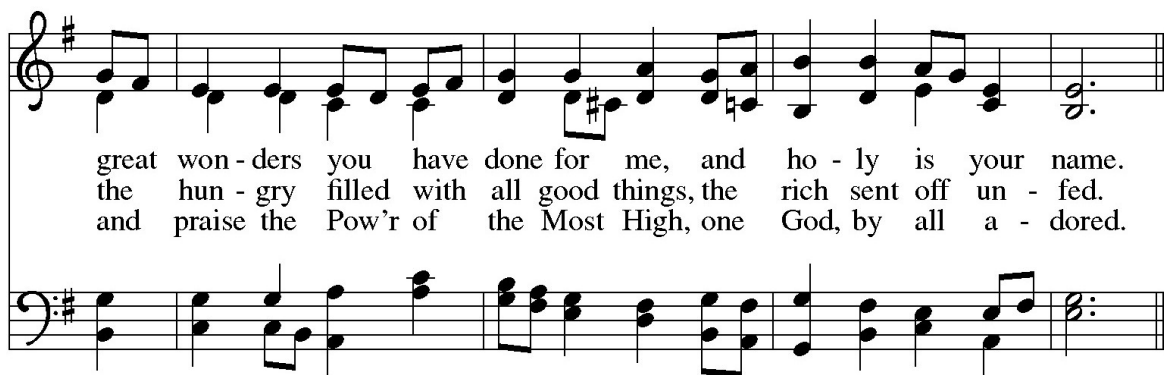
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## ELW #254 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.

**STAND**

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen + you and keep you in God's grace.

**C** Amen

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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**

## **BENEDICTION: CELTIC BLESSING**

**P** May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

May the rain fall softly on your fields,

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

**C Amen**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING HYMN**

### **REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS**

**ELW #244**

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f' rings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding musical notes.

The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## DISMISSAL

**A** Love The Lord!

**C** Live The Mission!

**Together!**

## POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SB155749