Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



November 29, 2026
First Sunday in Advent

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.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Reminder: There will be a Congregational Budget Meeting on December 6th immediately following the service. At this meeting, will review the proposed 2027 church operating budget, receive questions, and vote on its approval. After the budget meeting you are invited to join us at our traditional Christmas covered dish potluck hosted by WELCA. 2027 is looking to be an exciting year for ELC of Durham, as the heart of the church, your input is important to us!

Prelude: " Savior of the Nations Come" (Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland)- Wayne Wold

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Stand if you are able)*

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,

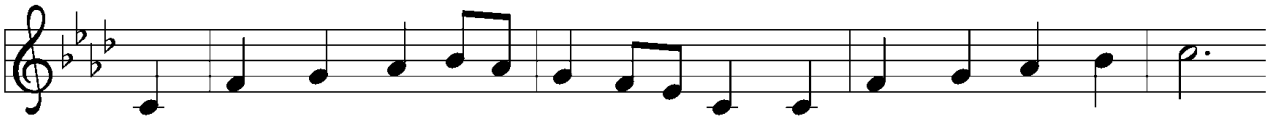
C: we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. 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! Rejoice in the Lord!

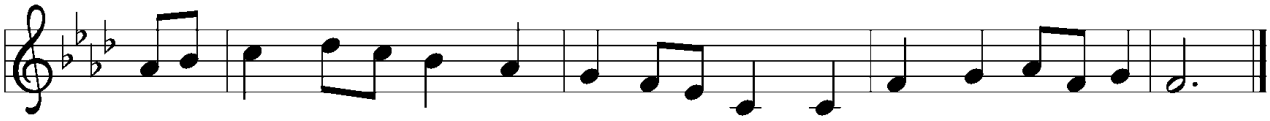
C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Gathering Hymn: ELW 260

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

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

INVOCATION

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

L: 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)

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.

L: A reading from the sixty-fourth chapter of Isaiah.

[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: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



P: Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week. Together, we pray:

P: God, you shield us like tender flames;
C: your care enables us to burn brighter.
P: God, we pool our faith like candlelight;
C: through you we reveal hidden goodness.
P: God, your justice upends this broken world.
C: Use your mercy to transform everything that harms.
P: God, we reach for unreasonable hope;
C: and you prepare an incomparable future.
P: Now that the warmth of God's presence fills this place, we pray that the Spirit will illuminate our lives through the words we hear, the songs we sing, and the pathways of prayer engraved on our hearts.

Lighting the First Candle of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of 1st Candle

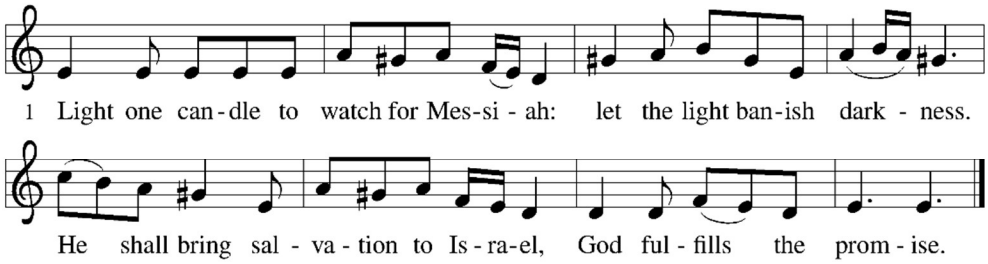
Blessing Prayer

Virnelson Family Candle lighting: Spirit, you know how shallow hope feels when our faith hides from what is real. Use your holy story to show us the human moments when you worked wonders for your people, so we can find hope in our lives, too.

Place figures in Manger

Candle lighting Song- Verse ONE only

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
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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.

L: A reading from the first chapter of 1 Corinthians.

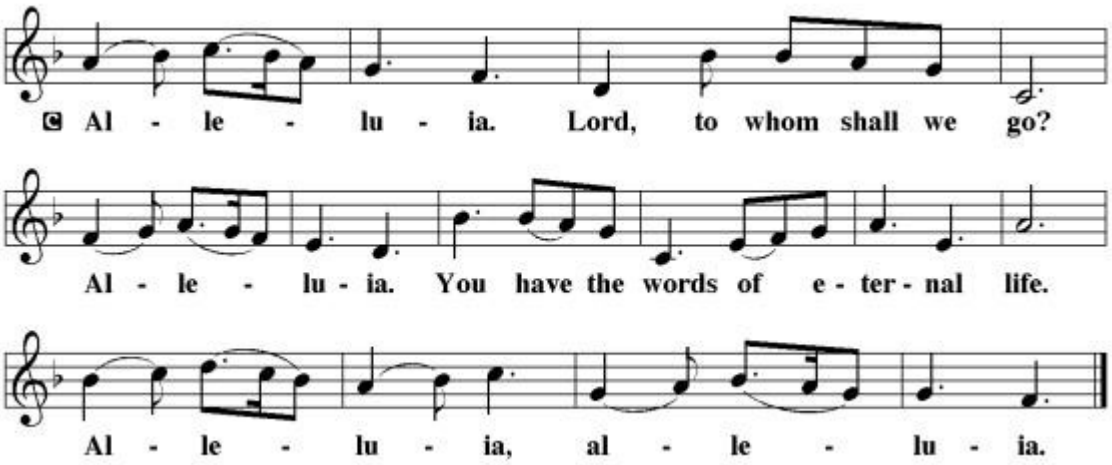
[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[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: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Please stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P: The holy gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: 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."

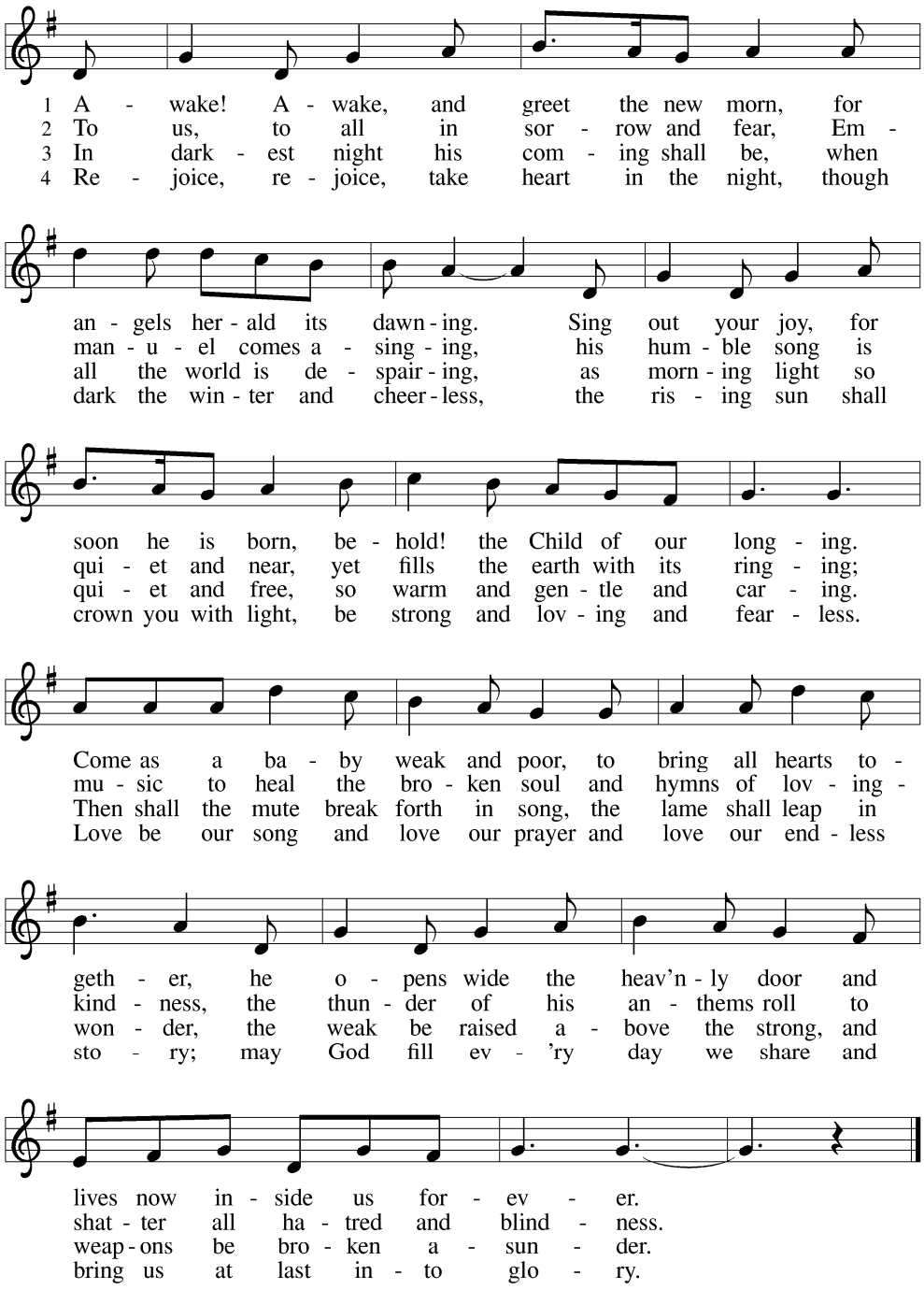
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 242 *(Stand if you are able)*

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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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 to the dead. 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

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

A brief silence.

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.

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.

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. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

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.

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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

<u>Blessing of the Altar Guild</u>

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

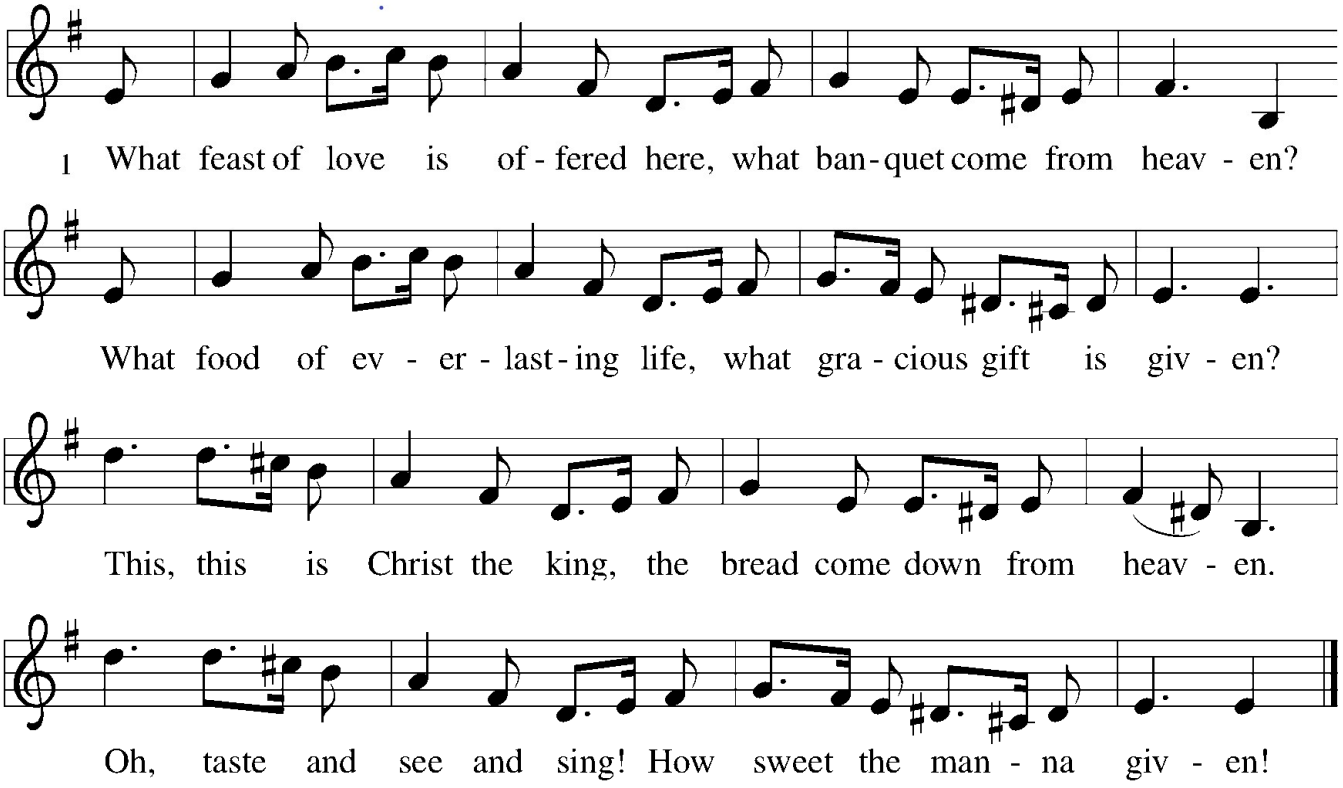
Scan this QR code to give electronically

OFFERING –

Choir Anthem: "Prepare the Royal Highway" – Swedish Folk Tune/Arr. Hal H. Hopson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS-

What Feast of Love



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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Offering Prayer

P: 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 HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

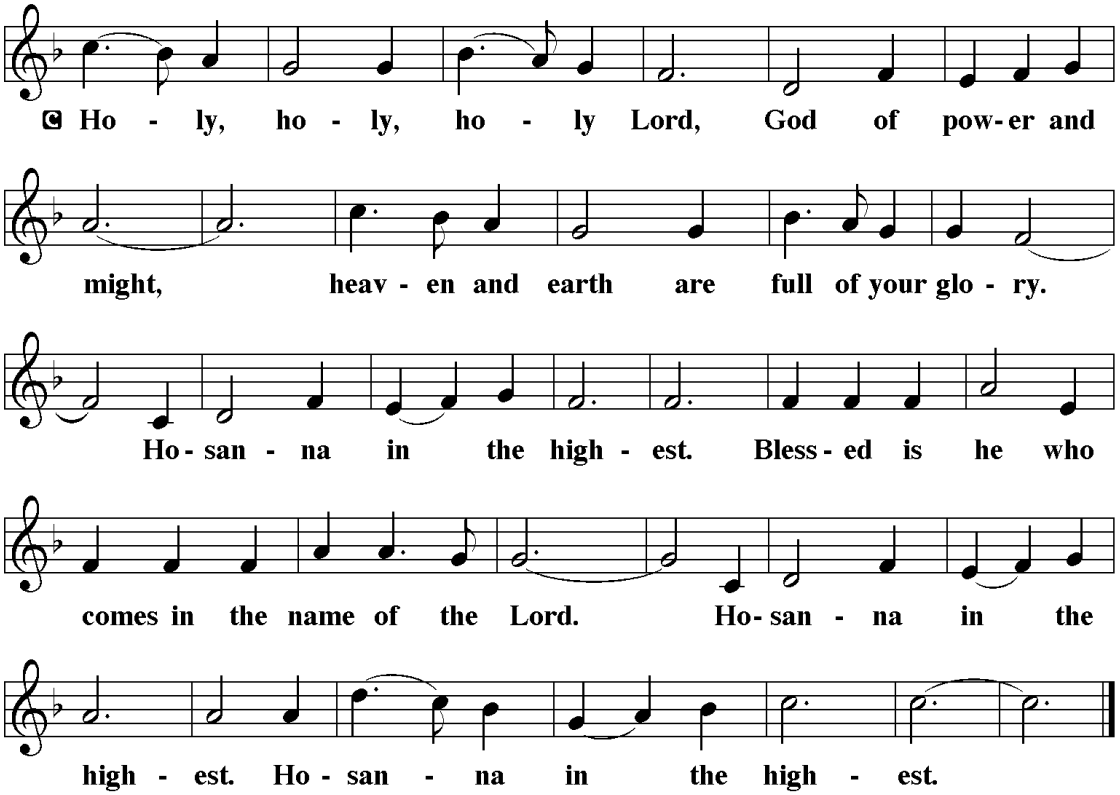
P: Lift up your hearts.

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 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

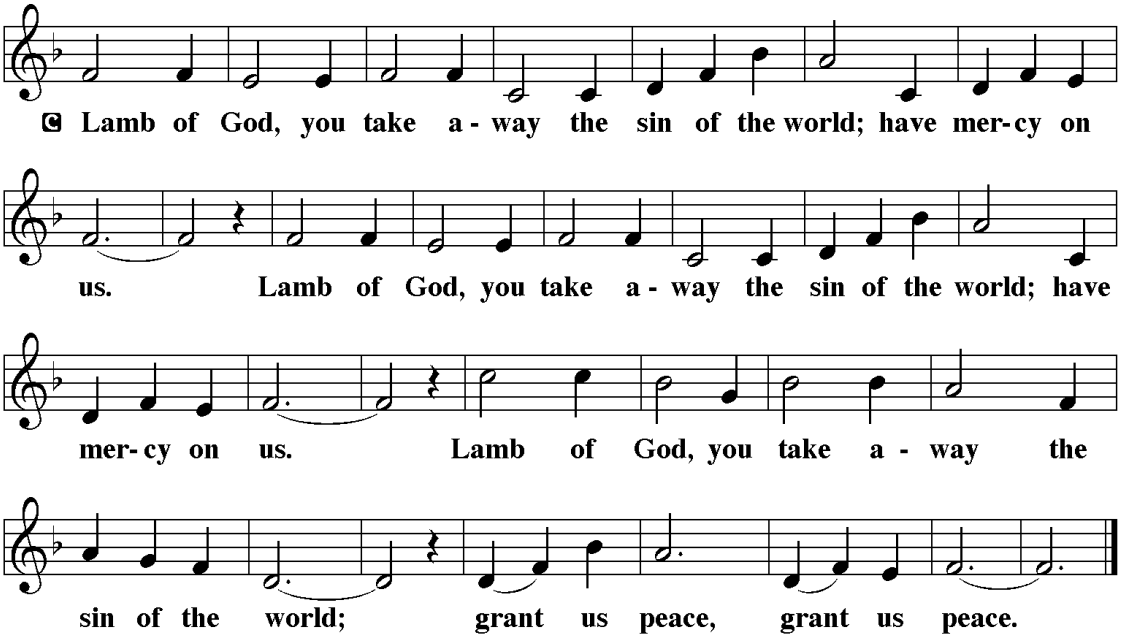
C: Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

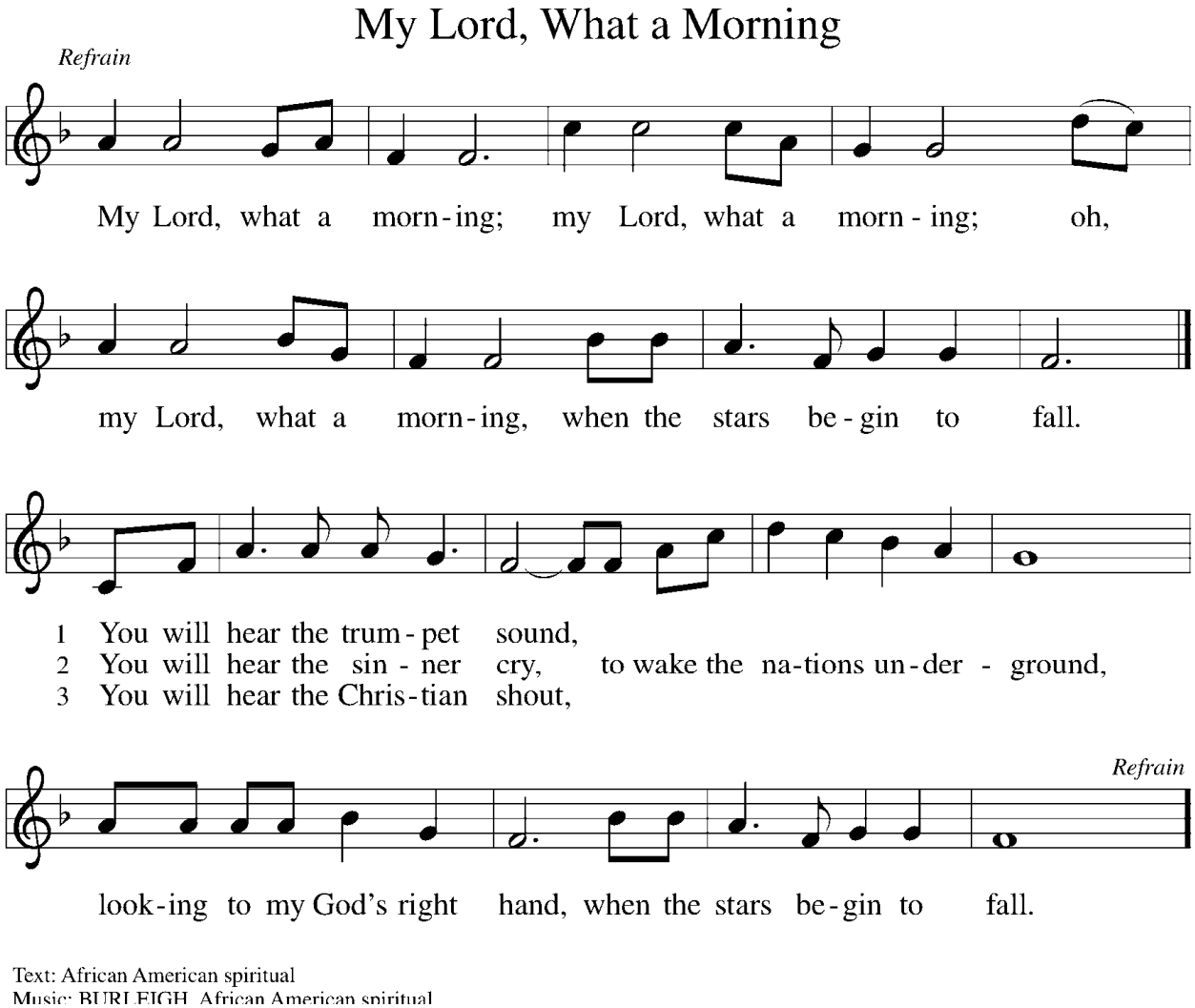
P: The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.



Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)



SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 438



Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

Announcements

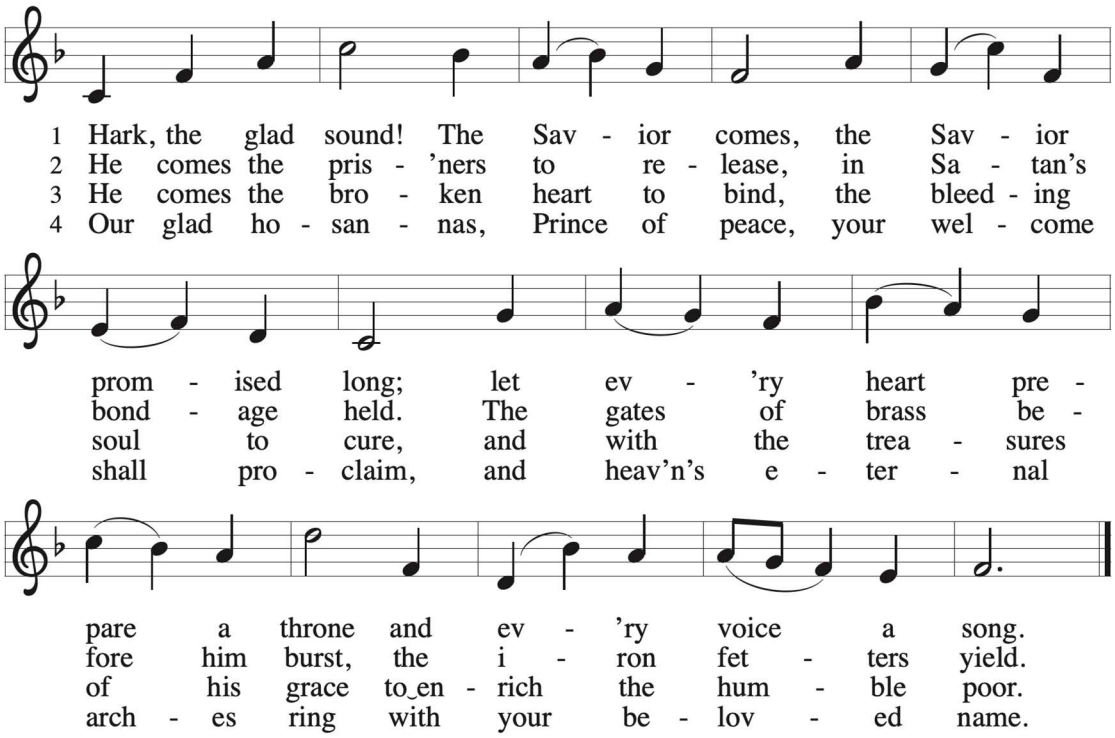
BLESSING

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

C: Amen

Sending Song : ELW 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"-James Mansfield

Our Outreach envelopes for November will go to Samaritan's Purse.

2027 Recommended Budget sheets are available on the table in the narthex today for review. Our congregational meeting to vote on the budget will be after worship Sunday December 6, 2026.

November	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
29			Bruce Crouse
30			Kathy Hlavaty

December	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
2	Clayton Leichliter		
4			Rowan Froehlich



Prayer List

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joey Erceg; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss;

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Carolyn Berry; Jason Bigley; Brier Bower; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Patricia Hackman Lee & Nate Herkamp; Dolores Hess; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Priscilla Ballek Kinter; Wally Knight; Tim Koplin; Jim Kreitz; Judy Krick; Carole Korupp; Devon Kramer; Jake Kramer; Lee; Kimberly Litzenberger and family; Linda Lyle; Colleen Marshall; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Jennifer McLeod; Stacy Mecham; Marianne Moll; Helen Mundt; Larry Munford; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Patty Seifert; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Ellen Sullivan; Lee Taylor; Edward Thaler; Devin Torino; Joe V.; Janet Vanderlely; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Todd Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob; Linda Zerfass.

For those who are Homebound: Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: James Altemose

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

Worship Assistants

Pastor	Rev. James Heckman
Organist, Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Mark Harwick and Miriam Anderson
Greeter(s)	Mundt Family
Acolyte	
Lector	Bob S
Head / Communion Usher	Don Mundt
Council Communion Coordinator	Bea Von Watzdorf
Counting Team	
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Please consider helping us decorate the church for Christmas Eve by ordering poinsettias. Remember to circle In Honor or Memory of when ordering. Deadline for ordering is December 6th. Order forms in the Narthex and Newsletter. Orders should be given to Miriam Anderson by mail at PO Box 51 Durham PA 18039 or at church or place in Altar Guild mailbox.



Poinsettia Order Form

Qty.	Poinsettia	Price	Total	In Honor/Memory of
	Red	$8.30		
	White	$8.30		
	Total			

Name _____Phone _____check ___cash____

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, November 29 First Sunday of Advent	**10:00 AM**	**Communion Worship**
Monday, November 30	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, December 1		GIVING TUESDAY
Wednesday, December 2	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office Hours Living Nativity Planning Meeting @Durham
Thursday, December 3	10:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's



Upcoming Weeks

Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday in Advent	**10:00 AM** After Worship 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Congregational Budget Meeting WELCA Christmas Covered Dish Confirmation Class @ Durham
Monday, December 7	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, December 8	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 9	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, December 10	10:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Bible Study at the Hlavaty's
Friday, December 11	10:00 AM	WELCA

Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday in Advent	**10:00 AM** After Worship	**Communion Worship** Caroling
Monday, December 14		No Office Hours
Wednesday, December 16	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, December 17	10:00 AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's

Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

2026 REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

1. **Box of Cereal**



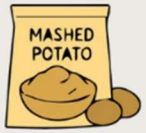
2. **Peanut Butter**



3. **Stuffing Mix**



4. **Boxed Potatoes**



5. **Macaroni & Cheese**



6. **Canned Fruit**



7. **Canned Tomatoes**



8. **Canned Tuna**



9. **Dessert Mix**



10. **Jar of Applesauce**



11. **Canned Sweet Potatoes**



12. **Cranberry Sauce**



13. **Canned Beans**



14. **Box of Crackers**



15. **Package of Rice**



16. **Package of Oatmeal**



17. **Package of Pasta**



18. **Spaghetti Sauce**



19. **Chicken Noodle Soup**



20. **Tomato Soup**



21. **Canned Corn**



22. **Canned Mixed Vegetables**



23. **Canned Carrots**



24. **Canned Green Beans**



If you don't want to gather actual items, there are other options for participating:

- Put aside a cash amount each day as you pray for those less fortunate in our community. It can be a dime, quarter, dollar, or any amount of your choosing.
- Purchase a gift card or two. It can be generic (Mastercard, Visa, etc.) or from a store like Giant or Walmart.
- Each congrgation can pick their own collection date. The suggestion is that it be no later than mid-January.