Traditional Worship

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of 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.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* – arr. John Leavitt

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.
*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN #254 * *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

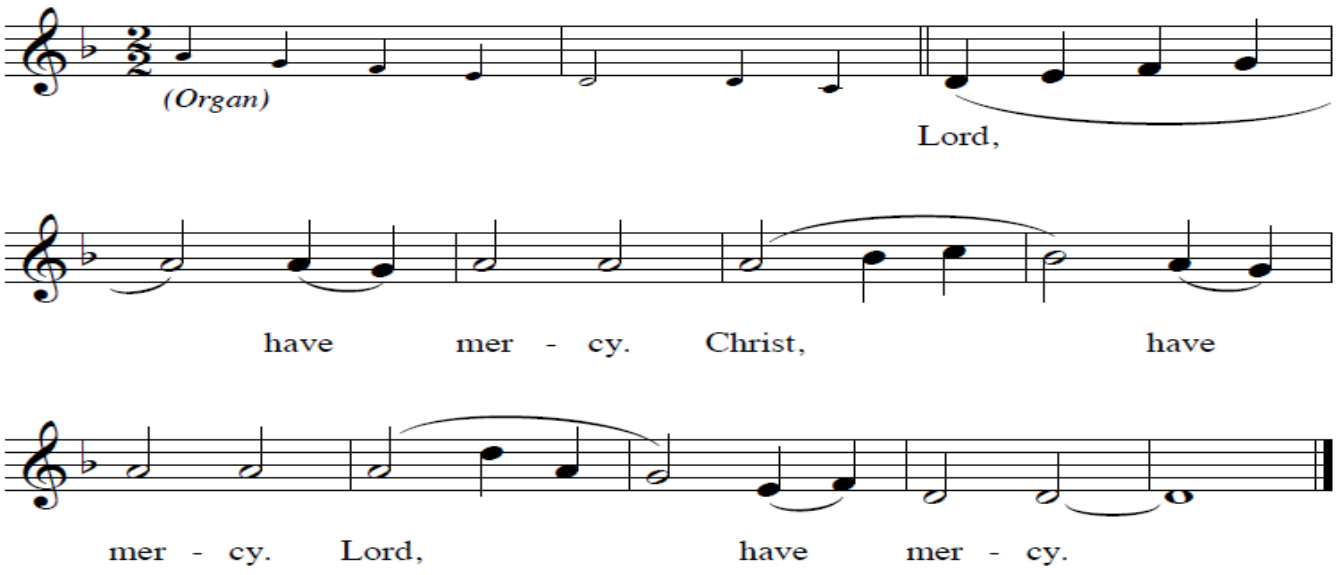
Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who comes to us with hope, peace, and new life.

Assembly: Amen.

Leader: As we begin this season of Advent,
let us prepare our hearts for Christ's coming
and honestly confess the ways we have fallen short
in our relationship with God and each other.

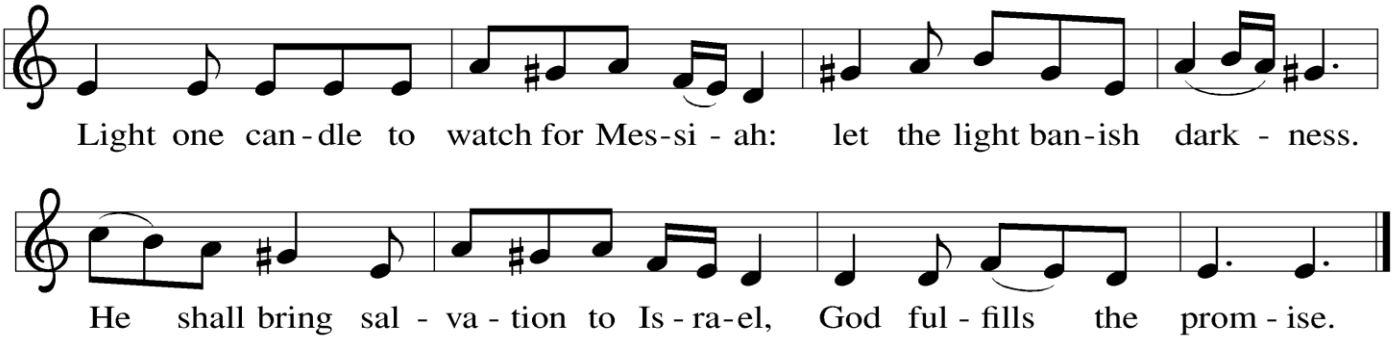
Silence for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,
Assembly: we confess that we are not always ready for your coming.
We become distracted by the worries of life
and fail to watch for your presence among us.
We choose our own ways instead of walking in your light.
We hold on to fear, anger, and selfishness
rather than seeking your ways of peace.
Forgive us when we turn away from your call to live as your people.
Wake us from our complacency, renew our hope,
and help us walk in your light as we wait for Christ.
Amen.



Leader: Hear the good news!
God does not leave us in darkness.
Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world,
we are forgiven, renewed, and given a new beginning.
God's grace calls us to put aside our old ways
and walk in the light of the Lord.
In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
our sins are forgiven.
Assembly: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH * *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*



PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O God, and come among us.
As we begin this season of Advent,
awaken our hearts to your presence and guide us to walk in your light.
Teach us to turn away from the things that divide us
and to seek the ways of peace.
Keep us watchful and ready for Christ's coming, that we may live with hope,
share your love, and welcome your kingdom into our world;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

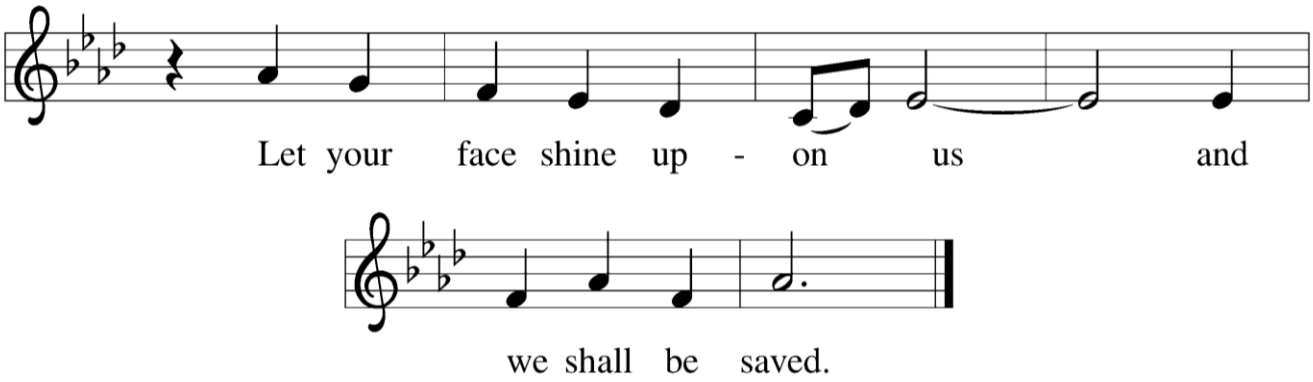
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought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

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The Psalm Refrain is sung by the Cantor and then the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain.
The Cantor sings the Psalm Verses and the Assembly joins in the Psalm Refrain as indicated.



[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?...*Refrain*

[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…*Refrain*

[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…*Refrain*

SECOND READING

I Corinthians 1:3-9

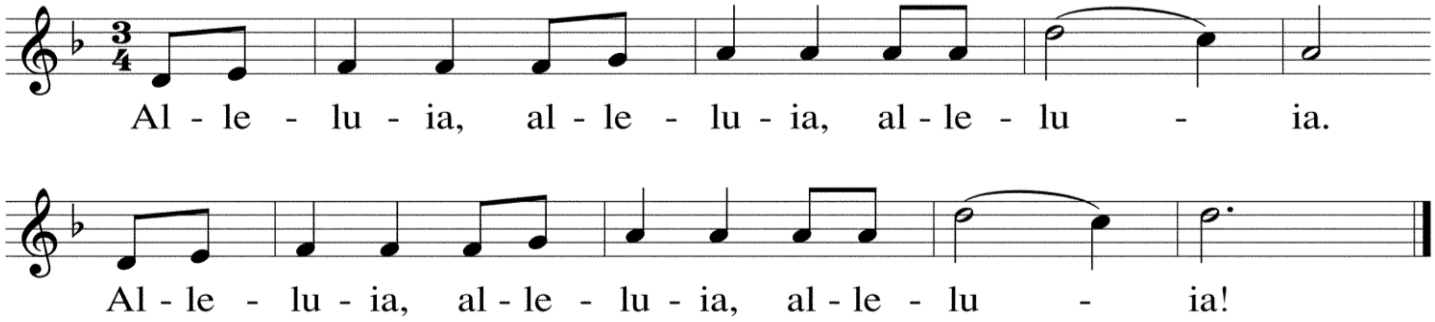
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

[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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
Assembly: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY 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.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
Assembly: 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.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #260 * *The King Shall Come*

APOSTLE’S 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.

PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God, in your mercy,"
Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior."
Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
Assembly: And also with you!

The assembly greets each other with "peace be with you…and also with you."

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.
If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING *My Lord, What a Morning* – arr. Howard Helvey

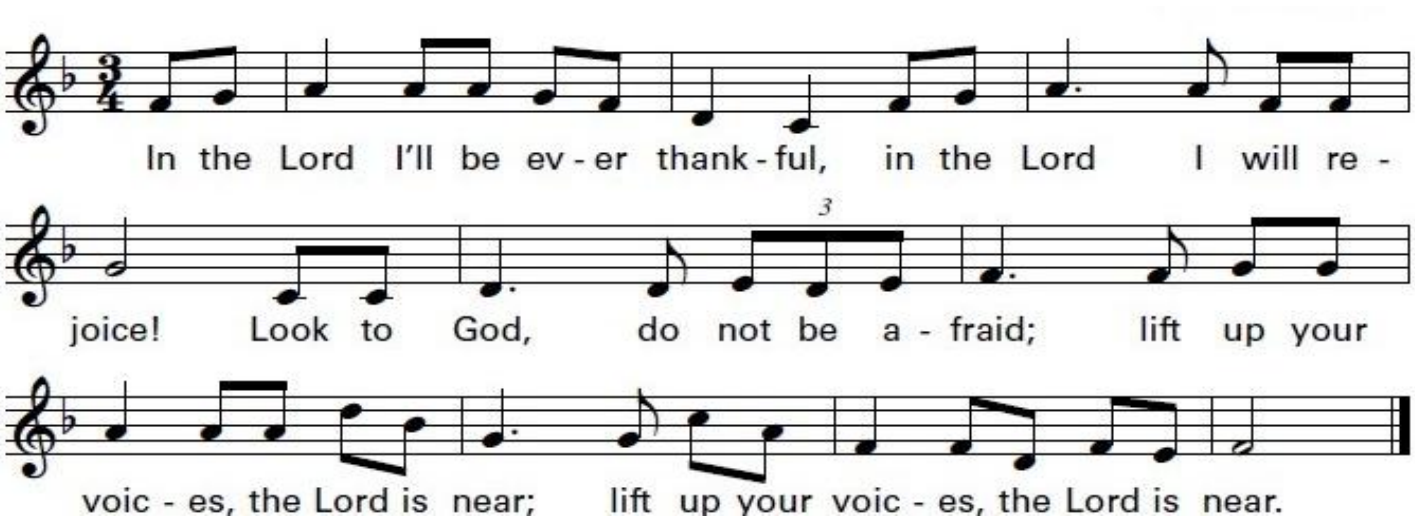
As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.
Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.
Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.

My Lord, what a morning…
Oh, my Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall.

I'm done with all my worldly ways. Joined that heavenly band.

OFFERTORY *

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful



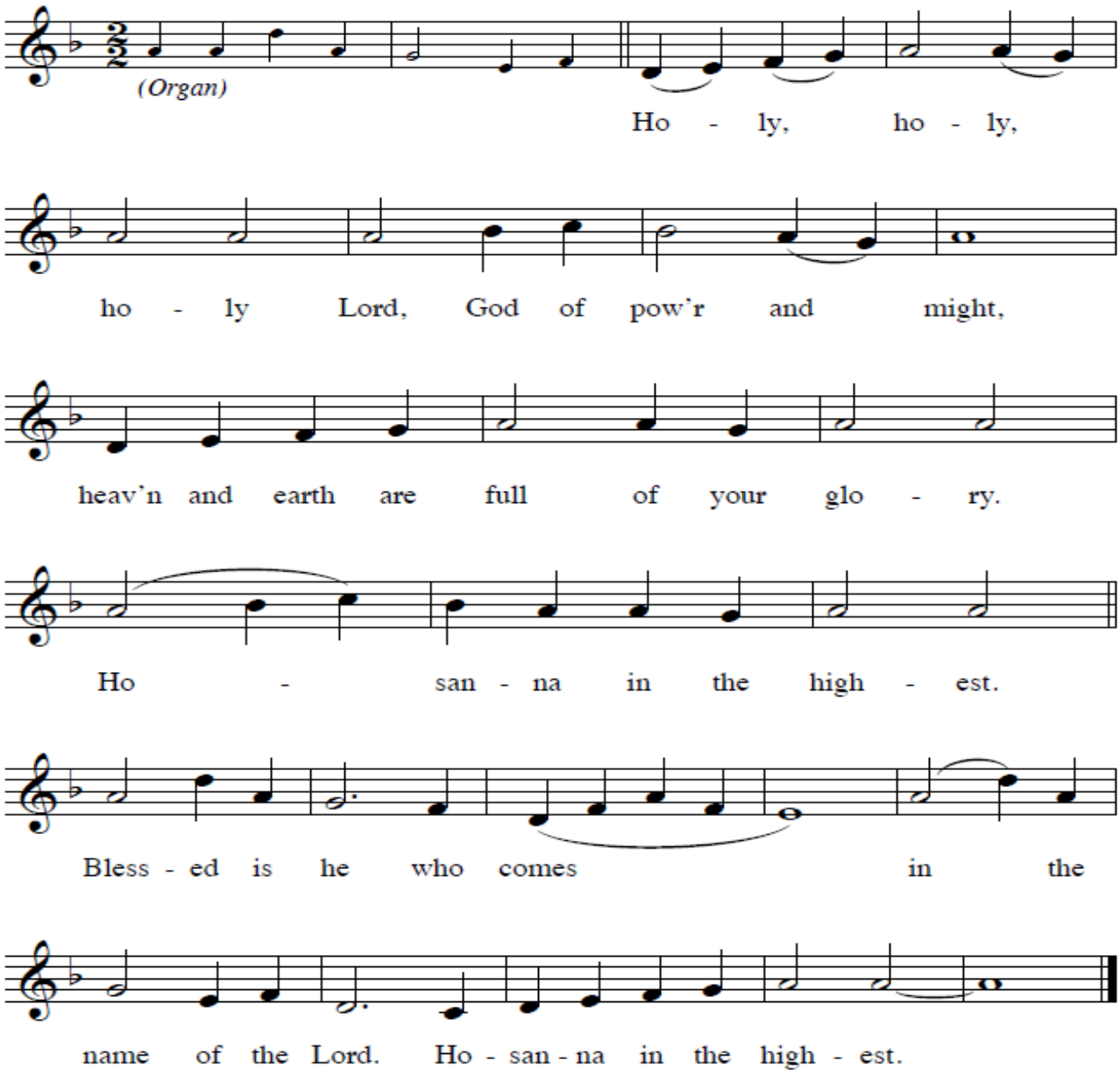
GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Assembly: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.
Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In this season of Advent,
you call us to watch and wait for the coming of your Son.
Through the prophets,
you promise a world where nations will beat their swords into plowshares
and walk in the light of your ways.
In Jesus, you bring that hope into our world, offering peace, forgiveness,
and new life.
As we gather at this table, awaken our hearts to your presence.
Nourish us with Christ's body and blood, strengthen our faith,
and prepare us to live as people of hope, sharing your light
and working for your peace until the day Christ comes again.
And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

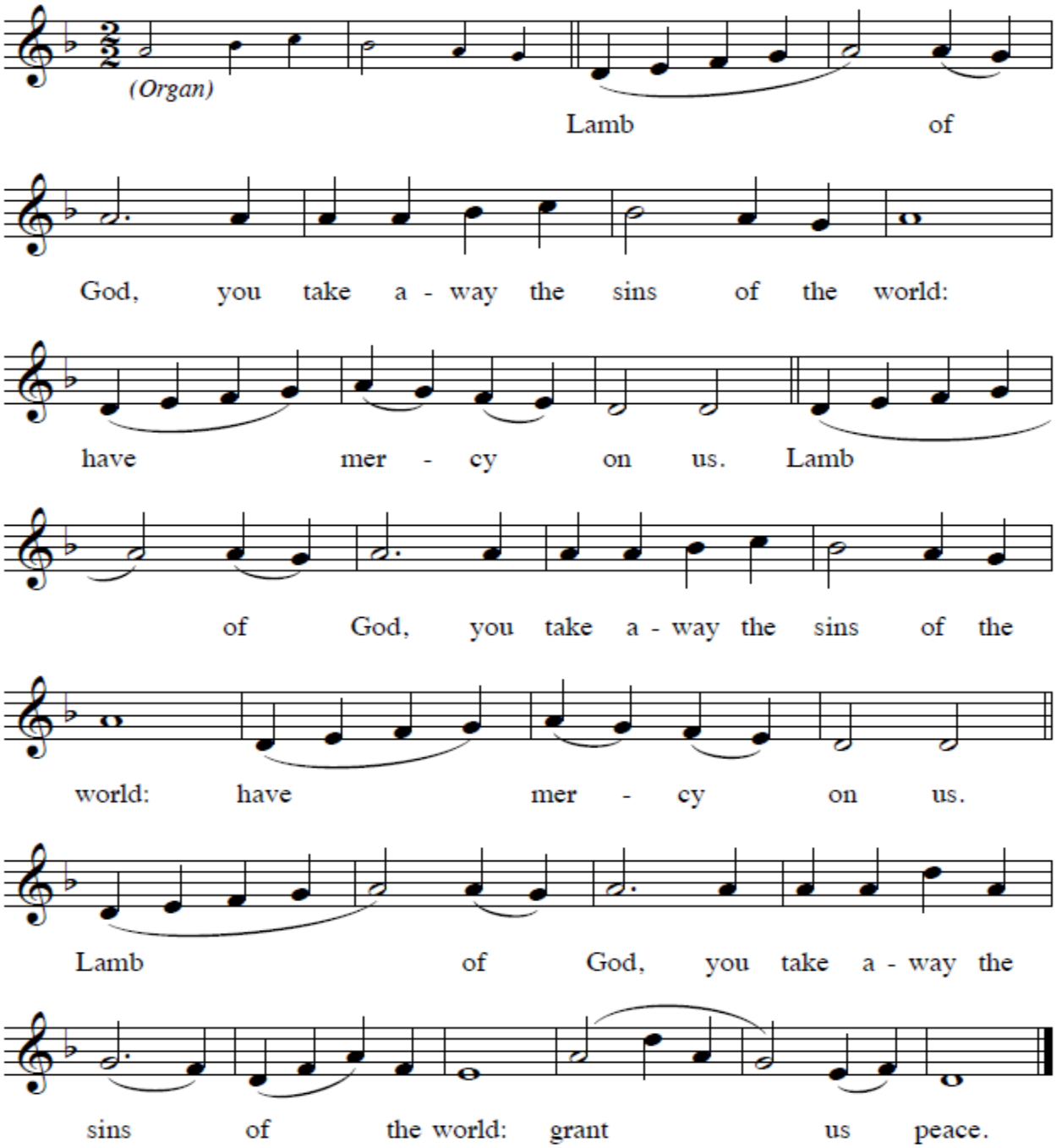
Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.
We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.
You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.
Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.
You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.
"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Receive God's grace, be renewed in hope,
and prepare your hearts for Christ's coming.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*
Organ Meditation – arr. Jeremy Bankson
Hymn #247

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,
thank you for meeting us at this table and filling us with your love.
As we wait for Christ's coming, keep our hearts awake to your presence.
Send us out to share your hope, work for your peace,
and walk in your light each day;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: May God fill your hearts with hope, guide your steps in the light,
and keep you watchful for Christ's coming.
May the peace of Christ be with you,
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen you to share God's love.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #248 * *People, Look East*

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Live in hope, and walk in the light of the Lord!

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE * *People, Look East* – arr. J. Wayne Kerr

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Dave Woodyard, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Mary Woodyard, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Tim Skamfer, Lector & Communion Assistant 11:10
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Ruth Peart, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of her parents, Walter and Mary Wolfgram, by Kathy Wolfgram.

Service Music & Liturgy reprinted and broadcast under OneLicense.net # A-722064, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SBW0464223 & CCLI # 1841035(reprint) & #20141603 (Streaming)
Scripture quotations New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress.
Worship resources from sundaysandseasons.com © 2026 Augsburg Fortress.