

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

## GATHERING

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

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.  
**Amen.**

*One of the following or another confession is prayed.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive 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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

*The service continues with blessing of the Advent wreath, found on next page.*

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The presiding minister leads the blessing of the Advent wreath.*

Let us pray.

O faithful and loving God, we praise you for your tender compassion and give you thanks for your steadfast love for us and all creation. Bless us who see the light of this wreath, that we may be strengthened by the hope of your advent among us, and live toward the completion of all things in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONG: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

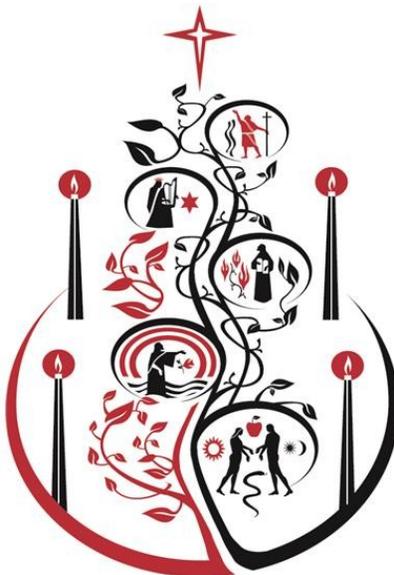
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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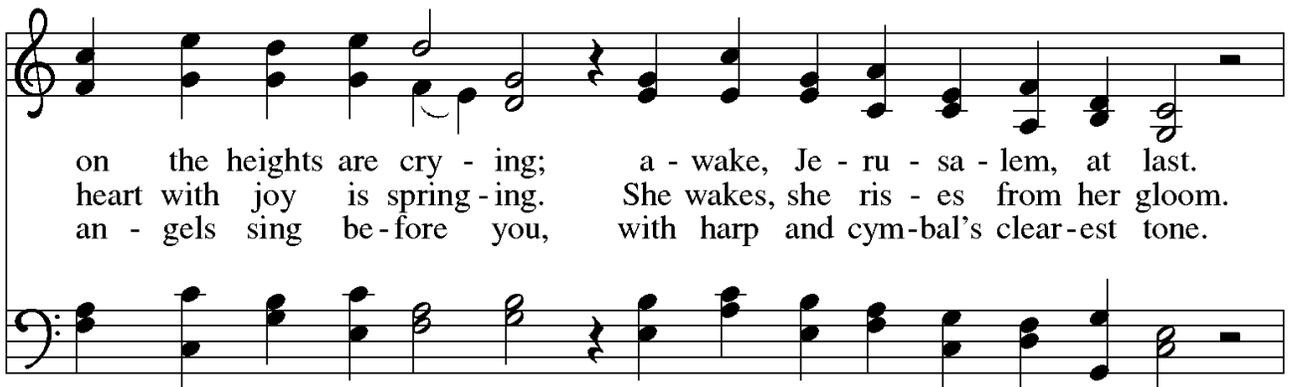
*The service continues with the gathering, found on the next page.*



GATHERING SONG: *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (ELW 436)



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

*(continued on next page...)*

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
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## GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Romans 13:11-14

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Romans.

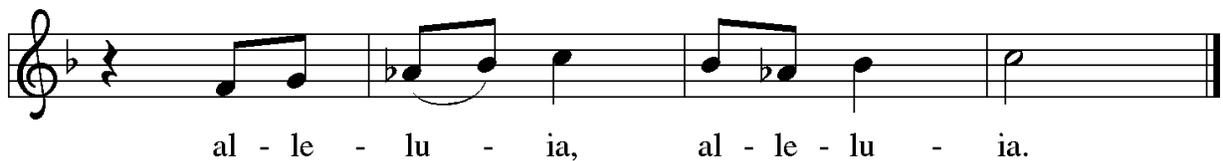
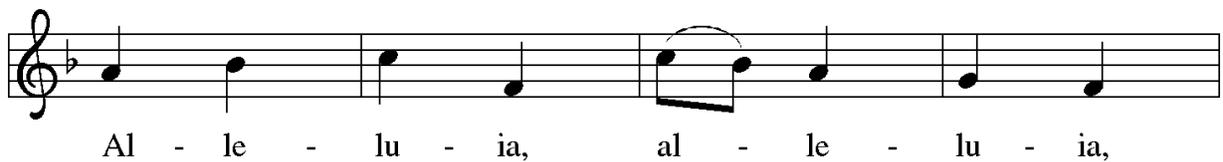
<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*The reading may be concluded:*

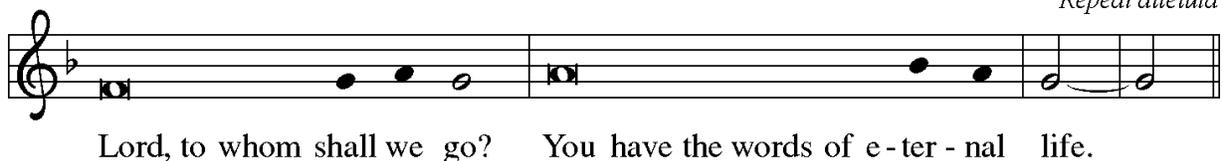
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



*Repeat alleluia*



## **GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **APOSTLE'S 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 prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth (*other places of conflict may be named*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care.

Be especially with all those we name now: Violet (11/6/22), Paul (10/16/22), Deb (10/16/22), Kevin (9/18/22), Margot (8/7/22), Linda (4/10/22), Rebecca (1/16/22), Gary (11/14/21), Marge (8/18/19), Tim (12/18/18), and all our family members and friends; Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Be their help and their shield. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict (*especially*). Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts of time, talents, and finances, which we receive from your bounty that we might, as good stewards, share them for the feeding, nurture, and healing of the world. **Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.**

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION CONCLUSION**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MEAL**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE**

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

#### **PREFACE**

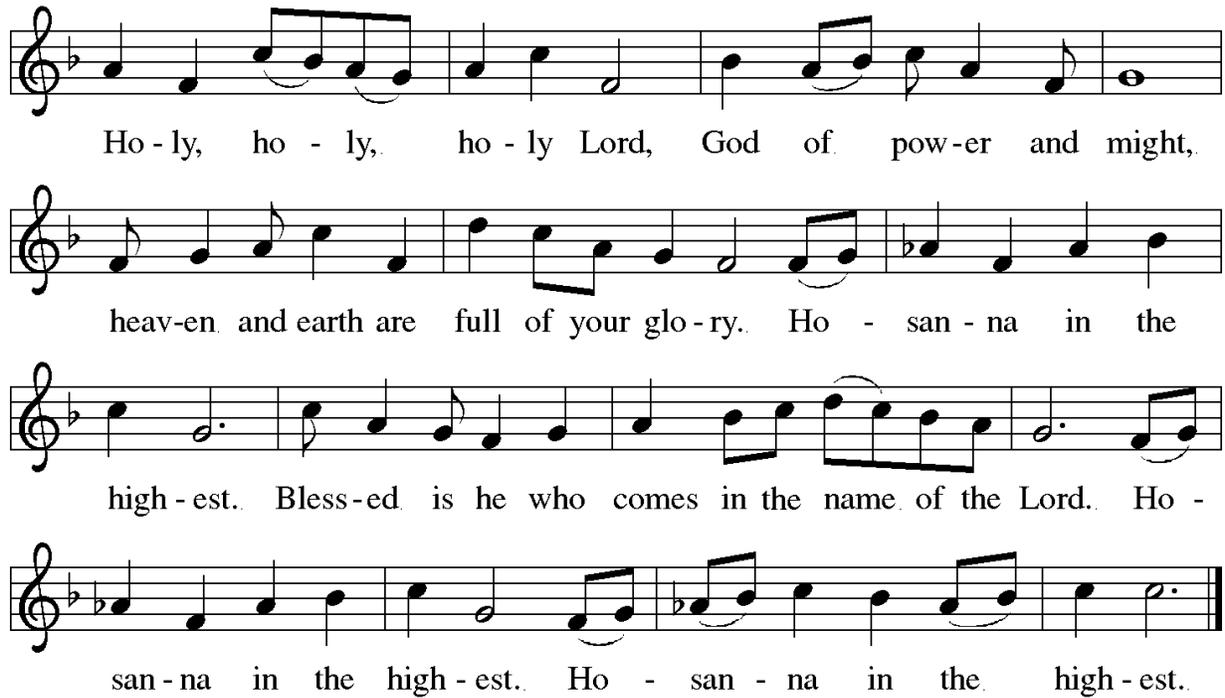
*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:*

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.

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 to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

*"Holy, Holy, Holy" maybe sung.*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

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.

*(continued on next page...)*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*The presiding minister may introduce the 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

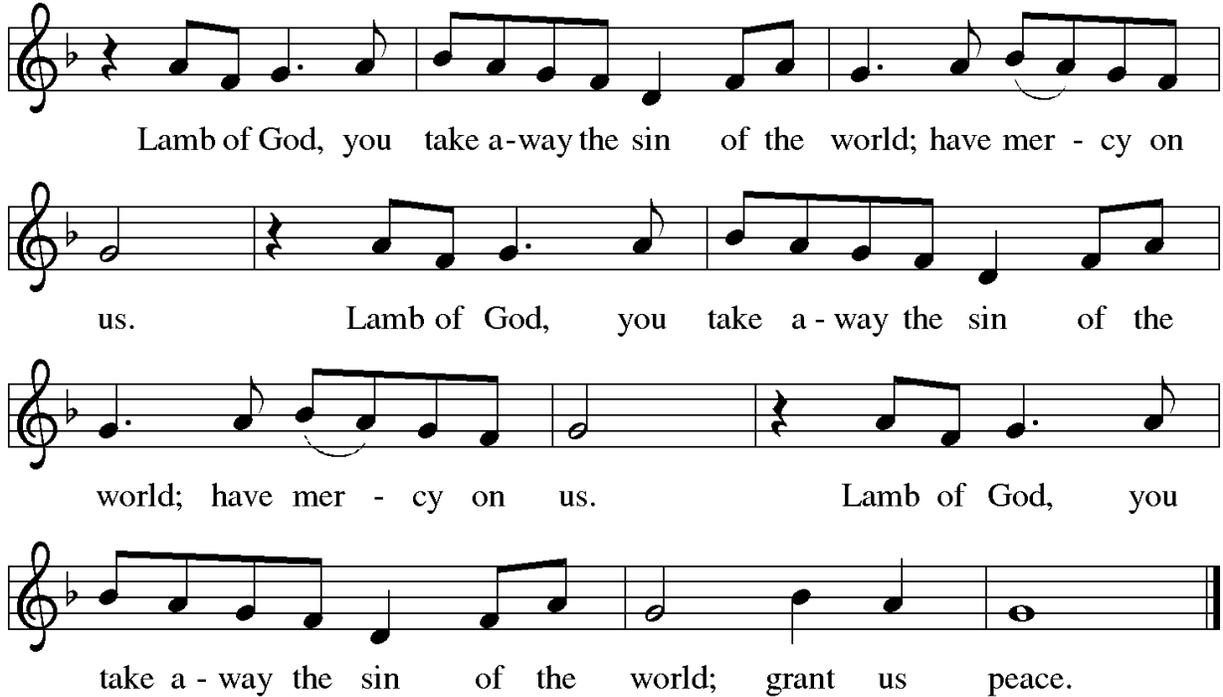
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*At this time, the assembly may commune receiving the communion sacrament(s).*

## AGNUS DEI

*"Lamb of God" may be sung.*



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.

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The presiding minister leads the following prayer after communion.*

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. **Amen.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

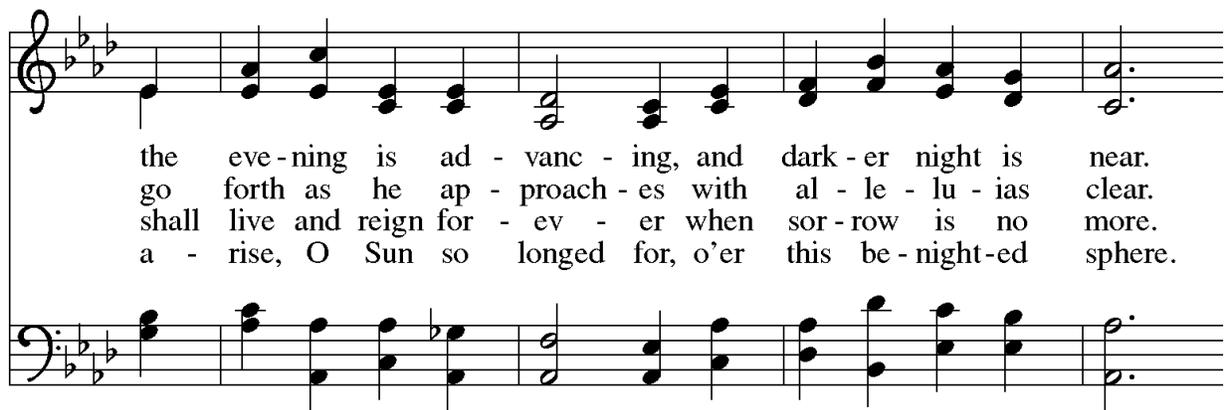
**Amen.**



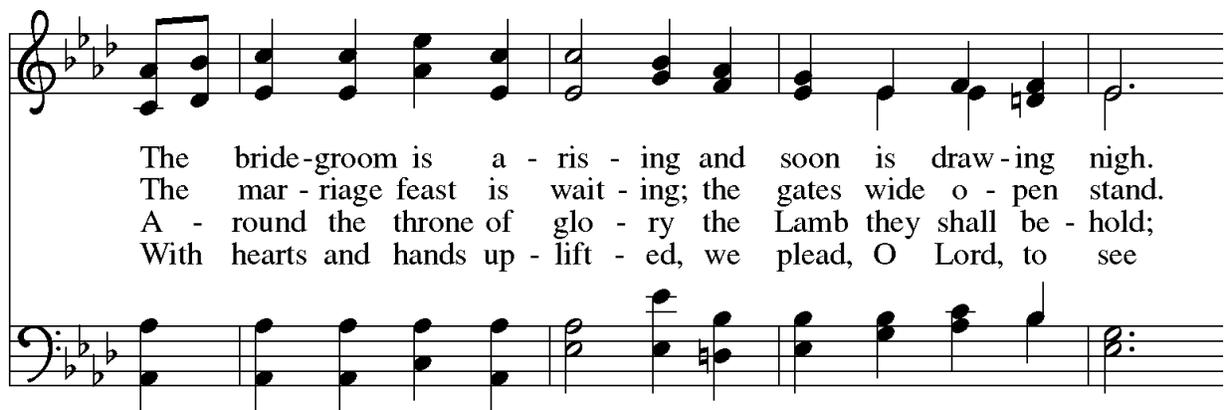
SENDING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)



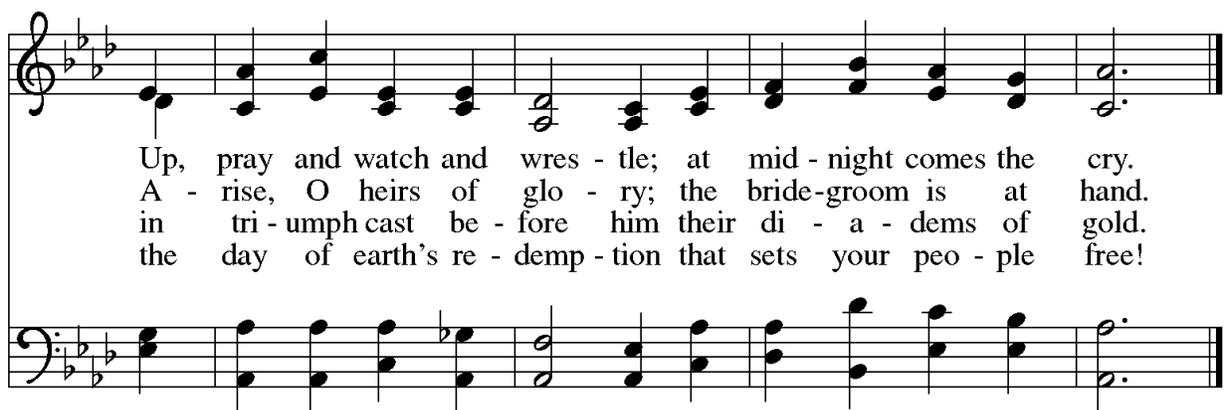
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f' rings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



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 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**

*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MISSION NOTES**

*We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!*

### **Christmas Flower Purchases & Donations**

The Greening of our sanctuary is less than a month away. Help us beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season by purchasing poinsettias or making a financial gift to help offset the cost of Christmas flowers. Dedicate your purchase or donation in honor/memory of a loved one.

To purchase poinsettias or to make a donation, please visit <https://redeemernewpaltz.org/give>.

**Note:** If you wish to add a dedication to your purchase or donation, you can do so via our secure website, <https://forms.gle/BUTw2HfQjxv12zuMA>, or by completing a printed form available in the narthex.

### **Simplify Your Gift Giving**

The season of buying Christmas presents for family, friends, and co-workers is upon us and wonderfully coincides with the Church's Advent season.

Advent is a season of preparation to meet the newborn Savior and to rejoice and acclaim Christ crucified and risen. Traditionally, Advent incorporates spiritual practices that include Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving (helping those in need).

This Advent & Christmas season, rather than rushing around buying stuff, prayerfully consider alternative gift options, fast from self-indulgence and spending money, and re-direct your choices to support those most in need.

Give the gift of hope!

Visit our Alternative Gifts webpage at <https://redeemernewpaltz.org/give/alternative-gifts>

## **Christmas @ Redeemer**

We'd like to invite everyone to share in this joyous season of Advent and Christmas.

On Sunday, December 18th, following Sunday worship, please join us and help with the beautiful tradition of Greening the Sanctuary. We'll hang decorations on the tree, put up wreaths, and enjoy some food and time together.

Our Christmas Eve and Day worship opportunities are:

- **Christmas Eve**
  - 7 pm - we gather in-person and online for this festival Service of Holy Communion
  - 11 pm – we gather in-person **only** for this festival Service of Holy Communion.
- **Christmas Day** (which falls on a Sunday)
  - 10:30 am - we'll gather in-person and online at 10:30 am to celebrate the birth of Christ with more Christmas Carol singing.

## **Spaces**

The Redeemer Church Council and the Sustainable Solutions for Sacred Space (S4) Cohort would like to thank Stephen Honicki, Pastor Tobias, and Erich Markert for taking pictures, writing descriptions, and publishing our spaces available for community use on our Redeemer Webpage. This is a key step toward our goal of having our church building utilized more by the community. Our S4 Cohort coach commented, “This is beautiful - clear, succinct, user-friendly, aesthetically pleasing.” She will even share our page with other churches who are looking to develop their own spaces webpage.

Check it out! <https://redeemernewpaltz.org/space>

In addition, this month, the S4 cohort is inviting community leaders to tour Redeemer to find and network with community partners that will increase building usage. If you know anyone looking for space for a meeting, celebratory event, exercise space, etc., please refer them to our website and look at the top for the Spaces link.

## **RESCHEDULED: Youth Mental Health First Aid Training**

The mental health training that our community partner, New Paltz Community Wellness was scheduled to hold has been rescheduled to Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 3 pm. This critical training, which teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18, will be rescheduled at a later date.

Who should consider attending? Teachers, school staff, coaches, camp counselors, youth group leaders, parents, and adults who work with Youth.

Stay tuned! Got questions? Please call Phoenix at (845) 256-5014. To register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3EgF4xi>.