Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Advent
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 4

November 29, 2026
10:00 am

**Please stand as you are willing and able.*
ELW refers to the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
ACS refers to All Creation Sings.

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying Robert A. Hobby

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.
Amen.

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.

Comforting God,
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.
"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,

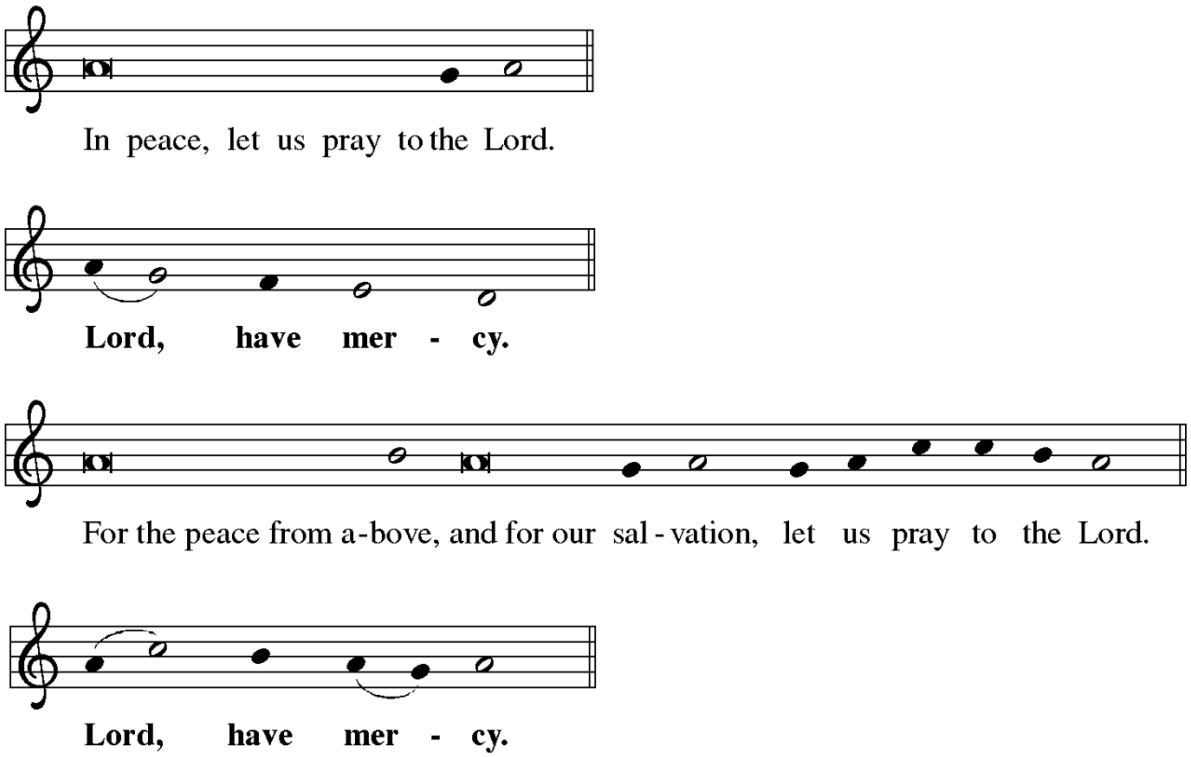
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ✢ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. Thanks be to God!

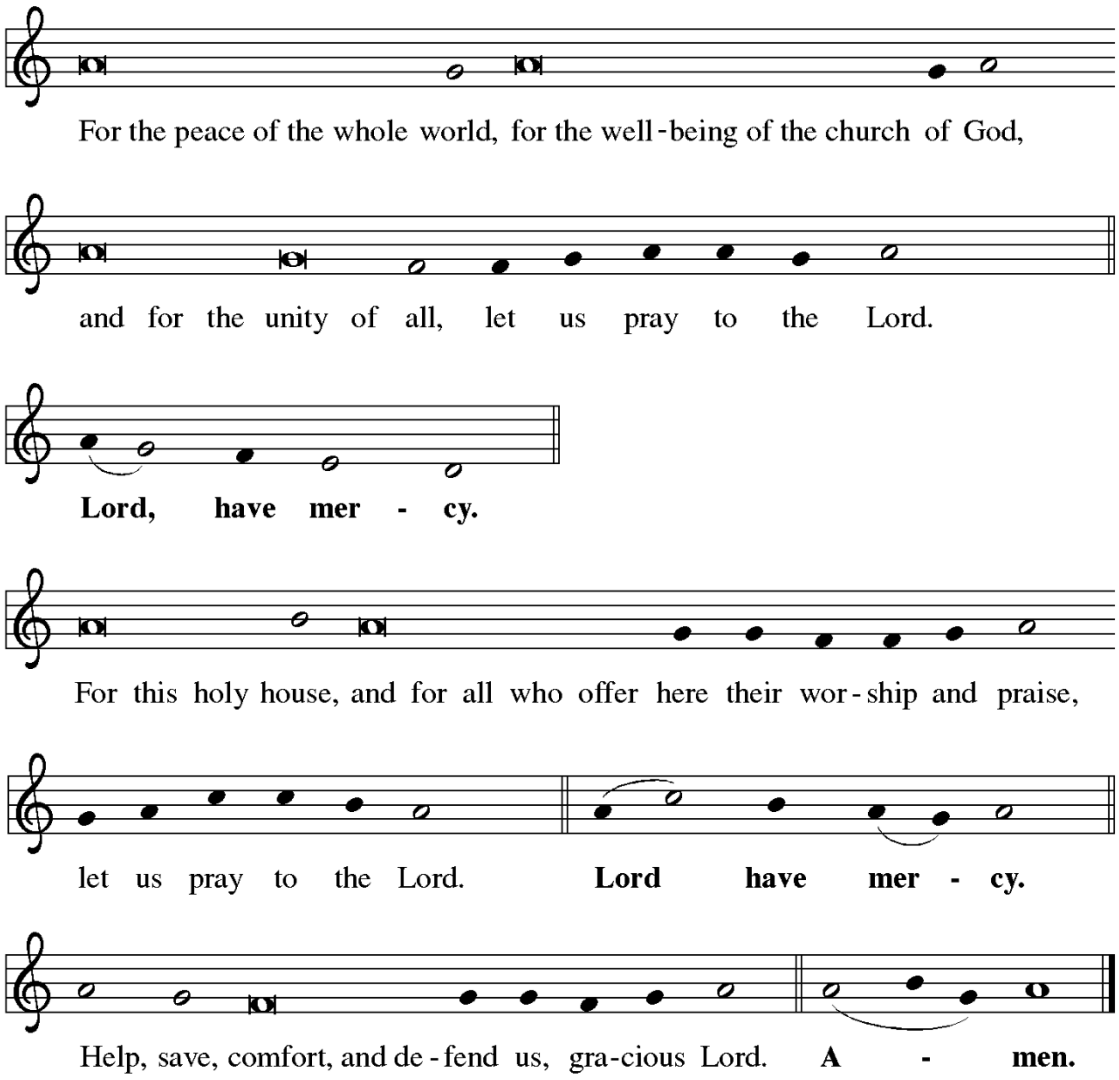
***GATHERING HYMN** The King Shall Come ELW 260

***GREETING**

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.

***KYRIE**





***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

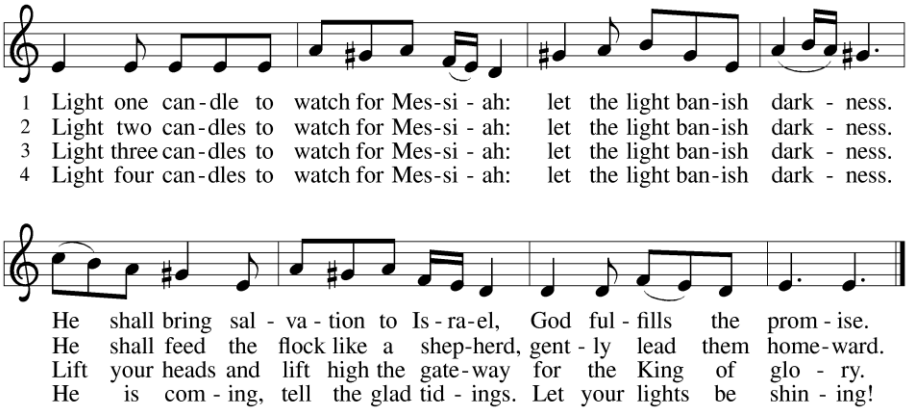
The assembly is seated.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.
Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

As the first candle on the wreath is lit, the assembly sings verse one of 'Light one Candle'.



ANTHEM O Come, Emmanuel Mary McDonald

WORD

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

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

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,

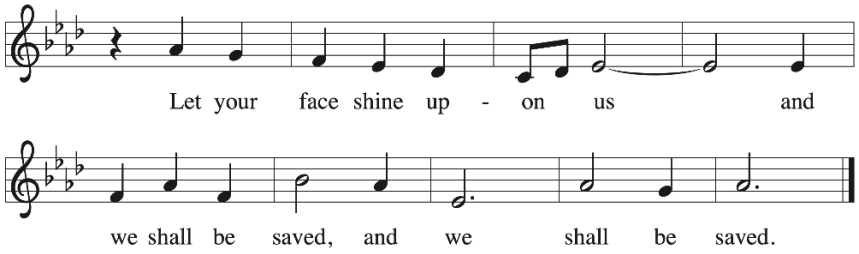
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade 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.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.

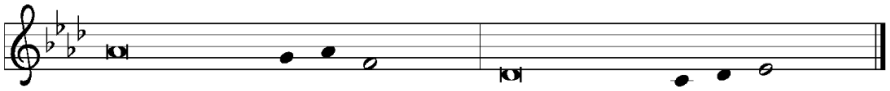
The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Psalm Refrain:



Psalm Tone:



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? R
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. R
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. R

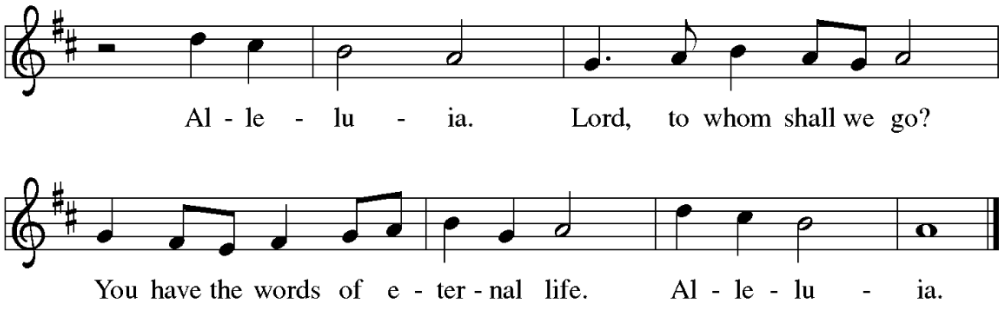
SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God, Word of Life.
The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



The assisting minister sings the gospel verse:

Show us your steadfast | love, O Lord,
and grant us | your salvation.

The assembly repeats the Alleluia.

***GOSPEL** Mark 13:24-37

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to St. Mark.

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."

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION The Rev. Angela Freeman

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn ELW 242

***BLESSING OF NEW VESTMENTS AND PARAMENTS**

Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart these newly commissioned vestments and paraments to the glory of God.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe,
for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift;
you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children;
and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.

Paraments/banner
Send your blessing on these paraments and banner, which we set apart today;
may they adorn this house, show us the beauty of holiness,
and so proclaim the glory of your majesty.

Vestments
Send your blessing on these vestments, which we set apart today;
may those who wear them serve you in humility,
and may all your people, clothed with Christ in baptism,
worship you with the saints robed in light around your throne.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

A brief silence.

WA: 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,
receive our prayer.

WA: 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,
receive our prayer.

WA: 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 (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

WA: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry (*especially*). Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

WA: 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,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

WA: 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,
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.
Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

VOLUNTARY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

2027 FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

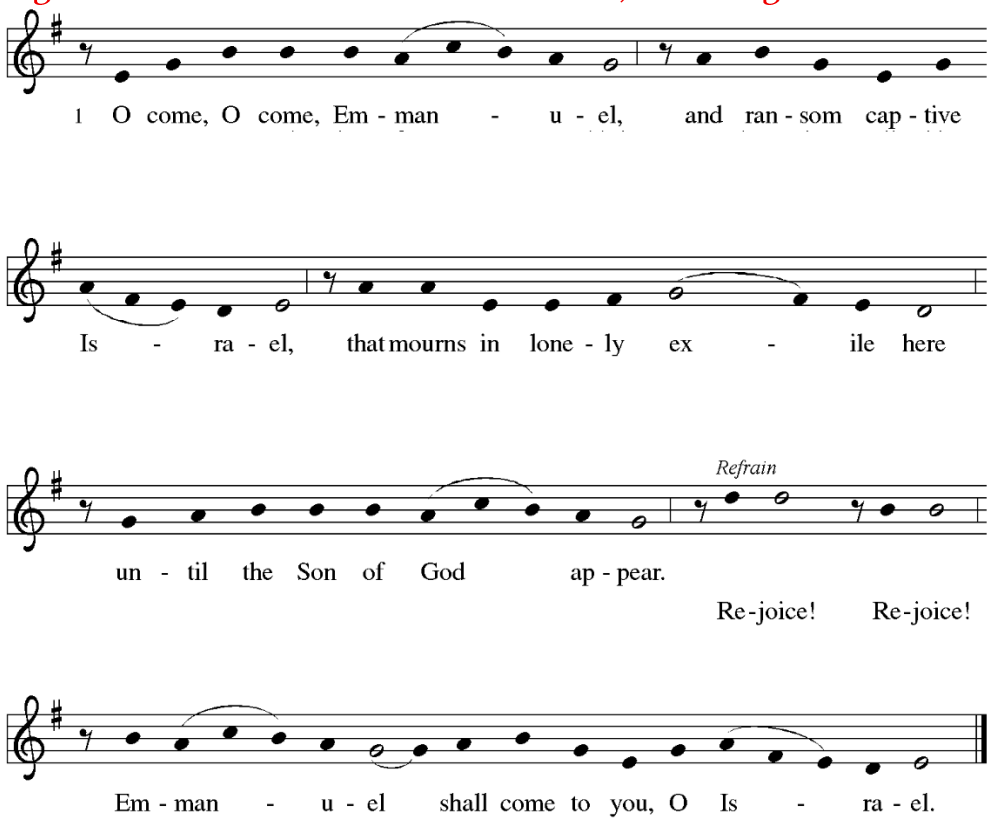
Assembly is invited to place their 2026 financial commitment into the offering baskets as the Ushers come around.

WE ARE CALLED

Thus says the Lord, the one who created you, O Israel, who formed you, O Jacob: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

OFFERTORY HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257 (St. 1)

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.



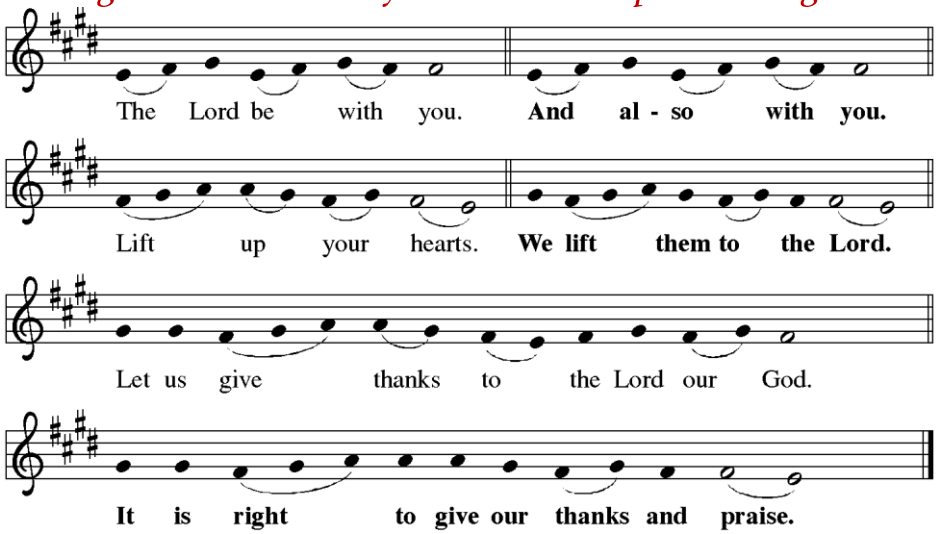
***OFFERING PRAYER**

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.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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



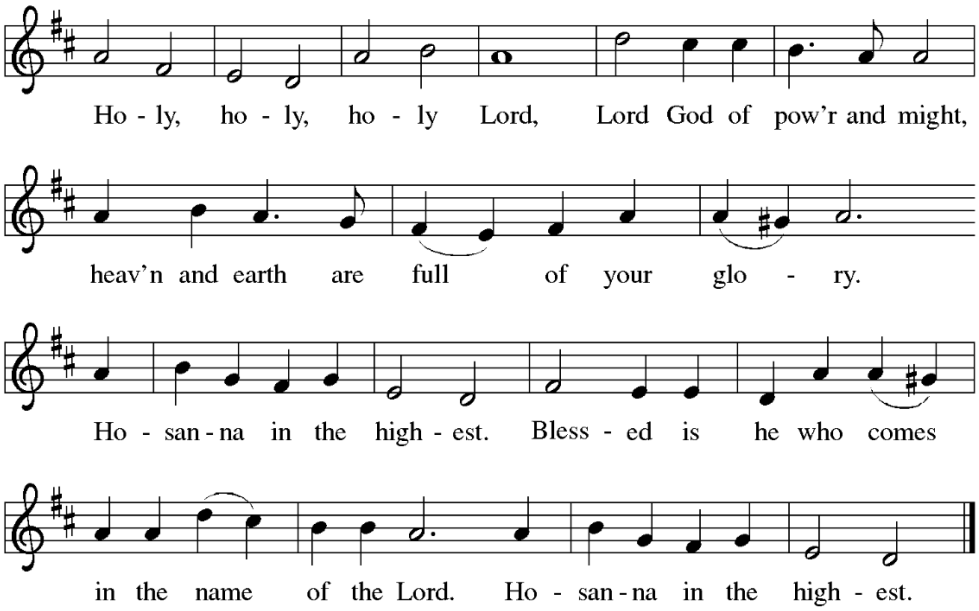
***PREFACE**

The presiding minister continues.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY



*LORD'S PRAYER

Pray the version of the Lord's Prayer most comfortable to you and in the language of your heart.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

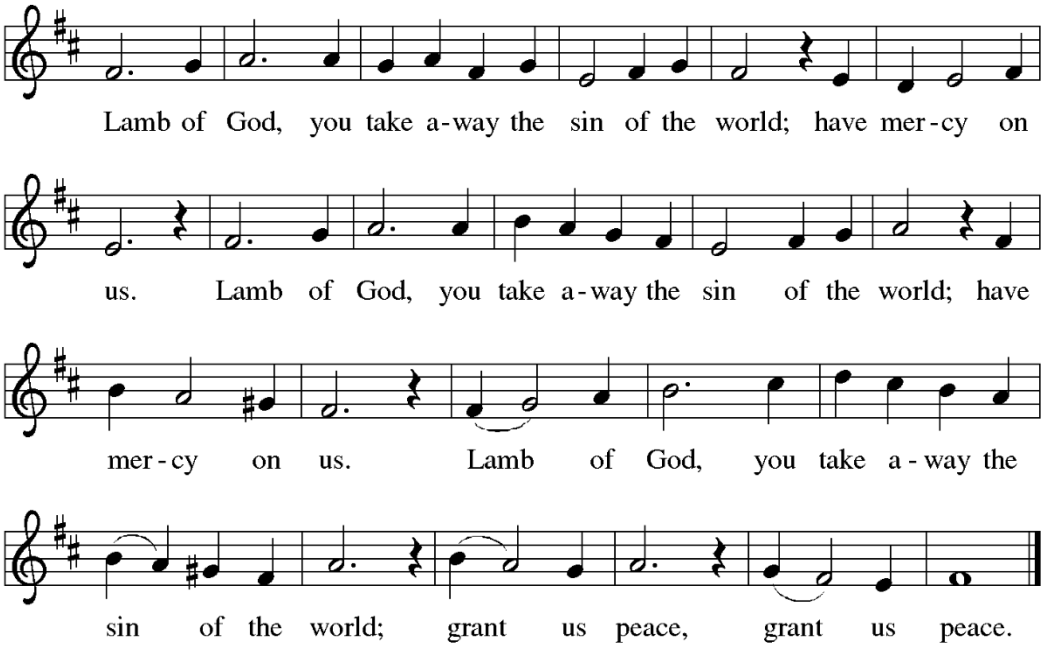
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

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.

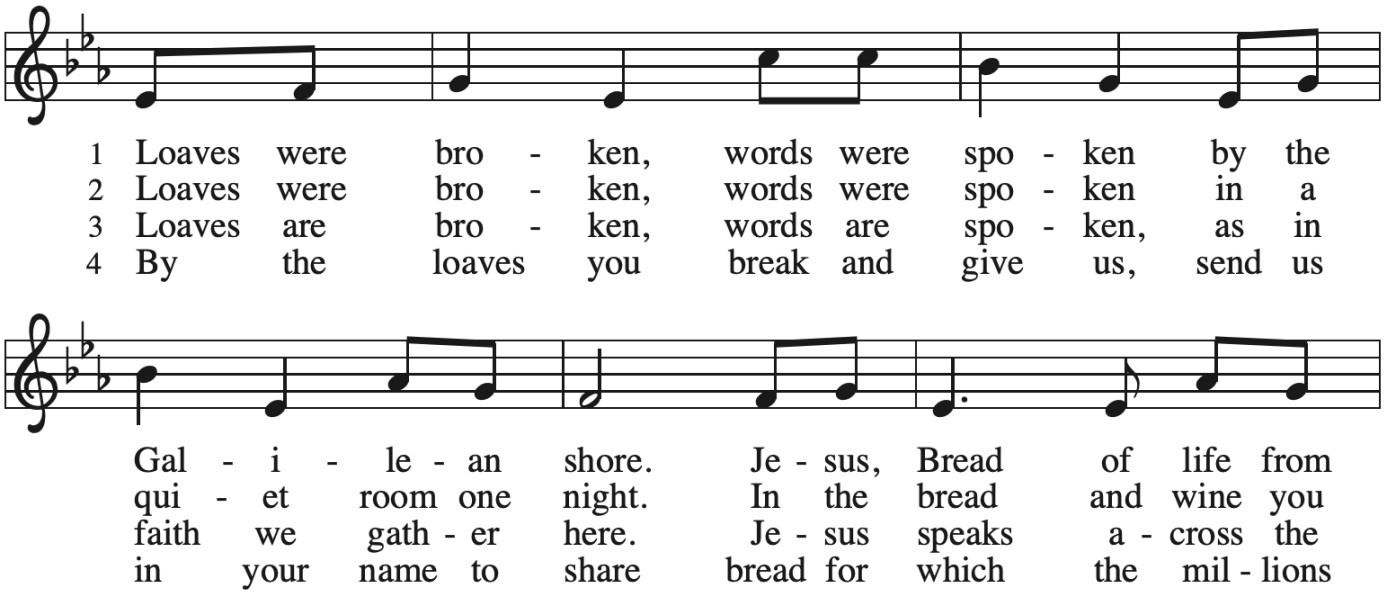
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

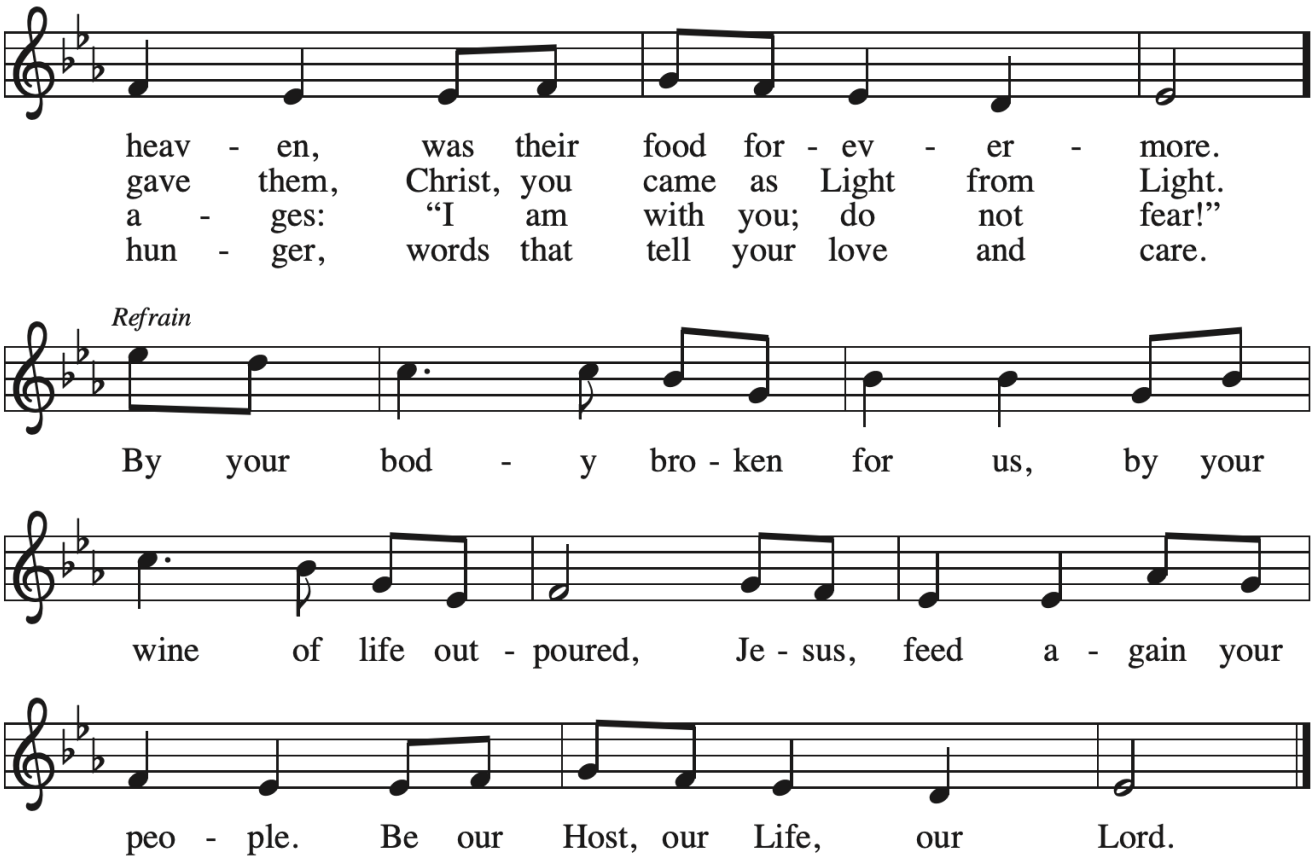
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD

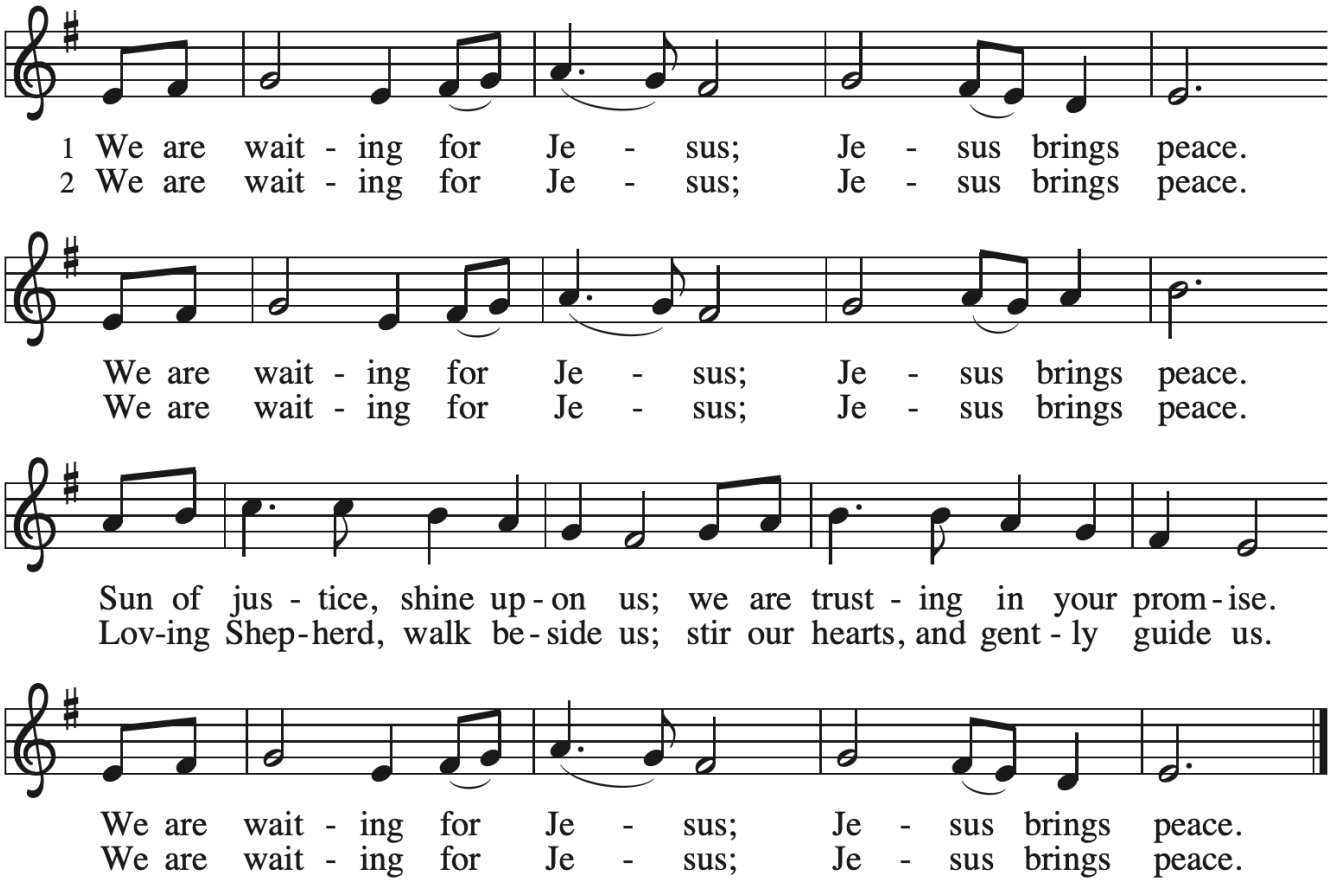


COMMUNION MUSIC Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken ACS 966




heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.
Refrain
By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your
wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your
peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

We Are Waiting for Jesus ACS 905



Soon and Very Soon ELW 439

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.
Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

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

***SENDING HYMN** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW 244

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Rejoice, Rejoice, BelieversAaron David Miller

Leading Worship Today

Rev. Angela Freeman	Senior Pastor
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Deb Zudell-Dickey	Organist

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Next week's scripture: First Reading: **Isaiah 40:1-11**; Psalm: **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;** Second Reading: **2 Peter 3:8-15a;** Gospel: **Mark 1:1-8.**

BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

bethesdaonthebay.org
(440) 871-2276
info@bethesdaonthebay.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED are dedicated to the glory of God by John & Rachel Musser with blessings to the Bethesda family and loved ones.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.

CONNECT CARD – There are connect cards in the pew pockets. If you are a guest, have a prayer intention or anything else to share, please fill out a card and drop it in the collection basket. There are also opportunities listed for ways to get involved!

NAME TAGS are available for all worshipers as desired. Thank you for wearing your nametag and helping us build community and fellowship. If you do not see your nametag hanging in the Narthex or you simply need a new one printed, please contact the church office at info@bethesdaonthebay.org. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

MEET THE PRIMARY CANDIDATE FOR PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION
Meet and Greet Opportunities with our Primary Candidate for Shared Pastor of Christian Formation: Our Primary Candidate will be visiting us Dec 3rd-5th! Please plan to attend at least one of the Meet and Greet opportunities to get more acquainted, hear about this pastor's excitement and sense of call for this ministry, and exchange questions. All opportunities listed are open to both congregations (not location specific).

THURSDAY, 12/3:
5:30pm-6pm & 8pm-8:30pm: Swing by before or after Confirmation Class (at Bethesda) to say hello and introduce yourself.

FRIDAY, 12/4:
4pm-5:30pm: Meet and Greet at Good Soil with light snacks in fellowship hall.

SATURDAY, 12/5:
10am-11:30am: Meet and Greet at Bethesda with light brunch items in fellowship hall.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
The next Confirmation class is Thursday, December 3rd from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith and as people in the weeks ahead. For more information, contact Pastor Angela.

LIVE NATIVITY 2026
Sunday, December 13, 5:00-7:00pm
Bethesda is gearing up to host the Live Nativity again this year! We need many hands to help! Please sign up on the sign-up genius or by calling the church office. You are invited to play a roll in the nativity, help with hospitality, or simply help with set up or clean up! Additionally, invite your family and friends to come to the event and celebrate the greatest news of all time! Christ is born!

THANK YOU – PIE FELLOWSHIP
The pie fellowship time was a great success. We were blessed with terrific teamwork by pie providers, set up and clean-up crew and friendly pie servers. Thank you (in no particular order) to Marion, Charlie, Lisa W, Tom, David, Chris, Lisa H, Bev, Marianne, Laura, Dave, Andie, Holly, Mary Beth, Mark, Barb W, Deb R, Rachel, Deb C, Edna, and Todd. Giving God so much gratitude and thanks for everything you did to make the evening a wonderful time.

BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays at 10:00 am
Come and share in fellowship and bible study centered around the up-coming Sunday scripture lessons. No expertise is needed and you can come when you're able. While the library is under renovation, Bible study will be held in the lounge. Come and share in the fellowship.

BETHESDA CHANCEL CHOIR
Bethesda's choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 pm with a shorter rehearsal and warm-up before worship on Sundays around 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome! Speak with Eric Richardson with questions.

PEACEMAKERS QUILTERS – on break until January 7
The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am. They quilt and donate their quilts to charitable groups that need them, with the support of Thrivent Financial. New quilters and sewers are welcome anytime. The sewing technique is straight-seam. They also have projects you can do at home! If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, contact the office or show up on Thursday!

CLASS FOR 2-5 YEAR OLDS
December 19
Bethesda is excited to continue our special class for children ages two through five along with their parents. We meet one Saturday a month from 10:00 to 11:00 am. If you are interested in attending these classes, please contact Diana Wolfe or the church office. Future dates are to be determined by group consensus.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR IN THE NEW YEAR
Starting in January we will be offering two Coffee Hours per month on the first and third Sundays of each month. We will again be asking for volunteers to host them, bake, make coffee, set up, or help with this fellowship in any way. If you'd like to help host a fellowship hour, please reach out to Lisa Hanson or Laura English.

2027 ALTAR FLOWERS
Help to adorn the altar for Sunday worship services by offering flowers in honor of God and, when desired, in memory of a loved one or a special event. The 2027 altar flower calendar is now available in the Narthex. When you sign up, please include your first and last names! Cost is still $25. Call the office with questions.

ANYONE WANT A PEW?
The property committee will be removing two pews in the back of the sanctuary to make room for 2 unity chairs which allow more seating for accessible needs. Please let Pastor or the office know if you would be interested in a pew or two! We need to know by the first week of December. Thank you!

SUNDAY COUNTER NEEDED
We need of a counter for once a month (the second Sunday of the month) starting in 2027. Duties include staying after worship and adding cash and checks and preparing a deposit. You will be partnered with an experienced counter. Please contact Jeff Darkow if you are interested (jbdarkow@gmail.com).

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, December 6, *after worship in the lounge.*
Join in conversation and prayer as Bethesda plans for the ways it will engage with and reach out to the community in the coming year. Share in conversation with Pastor Angela and work with the Church Council Mission and Ministry team in continuing to deepen relationships with our ministry partners and explore additional ways to serve our neighbors together!

2027 BUDGETING
Next year's budgeting process has started. If you are responsible for a budgeting area, please provide your budget information to Bill Zeidler by November 30. Contact the office with questions.

ANNUAL REPORT PREPARATION
If you are someone who has a report included in the Annual Report, please start working on your report and make sure it is submitted to the office by January 18, 2027.

ANNUAL MEETING – Save the date for the annual meeting on February 7, 2027 following worship. Annual reports will be distributed two weeks prior to the meeting.

VELOSANO UPDATE, *from Gary Weiland*

In this season of thanksgiving, I wanted to take this opportunity to share my personal/team results and formally thank the Bethesda family for your contribution and support of my VeloSano Bike to Cure ride in our fight against cancer.

Again this year, I served as captain of Team Discovery composed of caregivers and family and friends of the Cleveland Clinic Diagnostics Institute. I am thrilled to report that my team of 105 riders raised a record $133,491. This will fully fund a cancer research pilot with funds left over to provide a significant kickstart to another.

With support from you and more than 100 donors, my 25-mile bike ride raised $8,525, a personal best, surpassing my $8,000 goal. In addition, many of you sent the name of a cancer survivor or someone we've lost to cancer to join my ride. This year, I also rode for a beloved uncle lost in the last year. (Cancer stinks!)

Since 2018, my teams have raised more than $583,000 for cancer research. I plan to step up my efforts in 2027 by participating in Tour de VeloSano that includes riding with my overseas colleagues in London for the Cure.

On Nov. 11, VeloSano announced that it raised more than $20.2 million for cancer research in 2026. I am incredibly thankful for your support of this important cause. Because of you, we are one step closer to new discoveries and breakthroughs that will change lives. Thank you!



PRAYER LIST

Changes to the prayer list can be made by filling out a pew card or contacting the church office!