MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436
www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900
@MessiahOaklandNJ
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

The congregation is invited to worship in any way that is comfortable and meaningful such as standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You are invited to join in worship by speaking the responses in bold type.

SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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

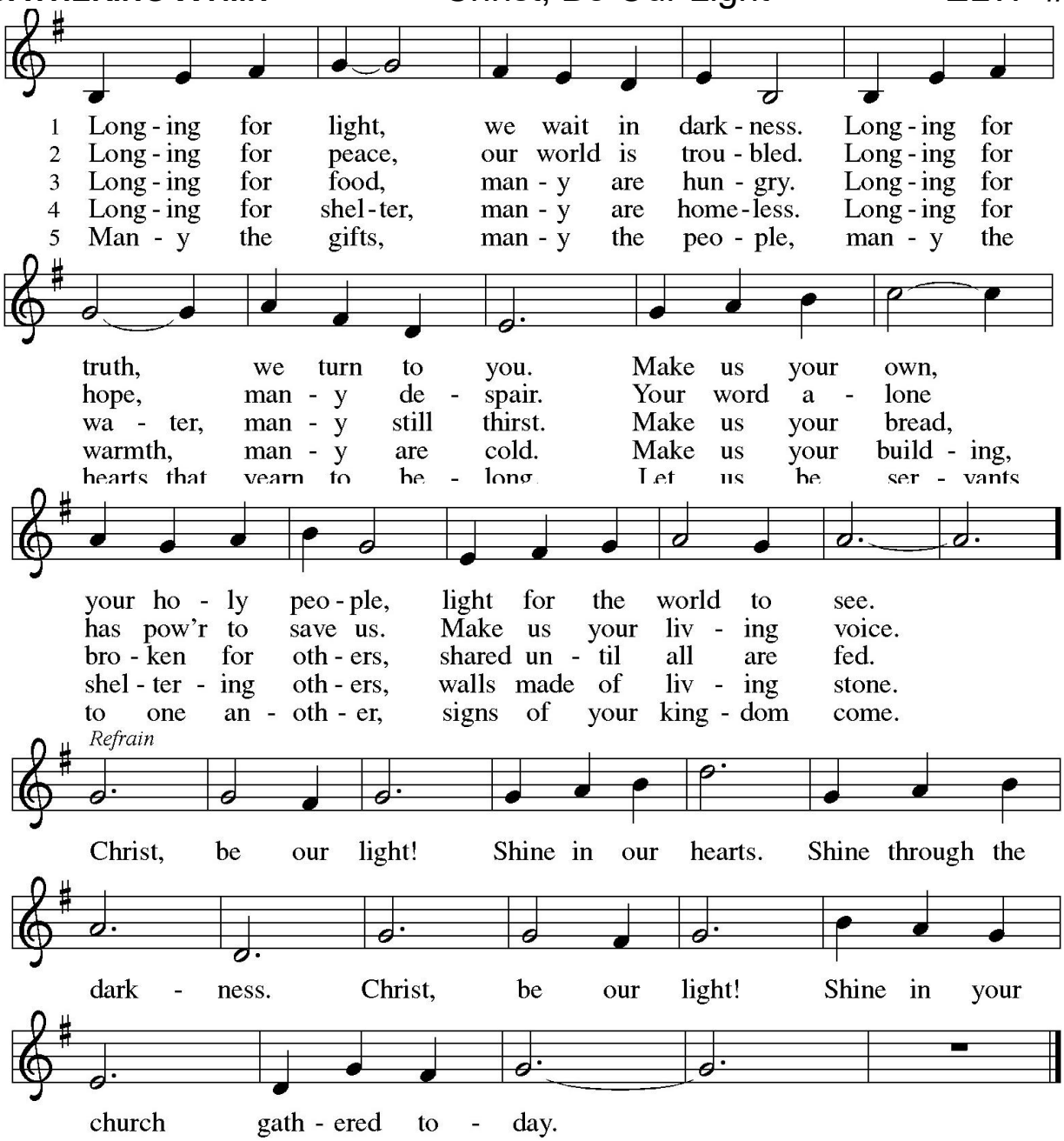
A voice cries out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord!” We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God’s love.

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 Christ, Be Our Light ELW #715



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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

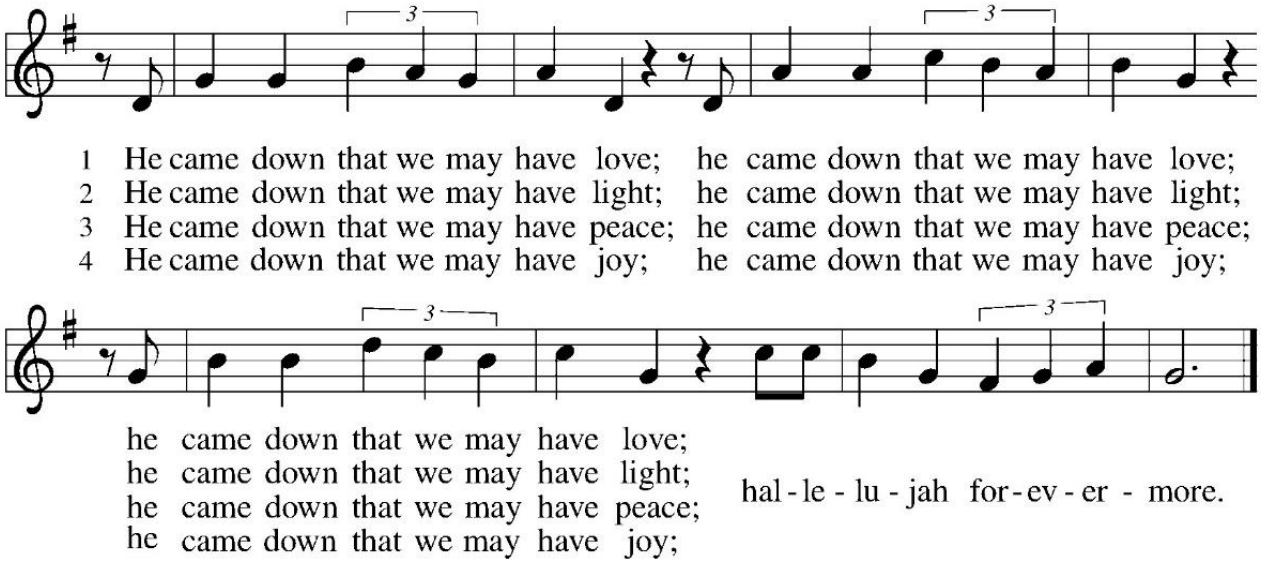
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LIGHTING 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.**

Light the first candle.

ADVENT HYMN He Came Down ELW #253



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 Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19 will be read responsively

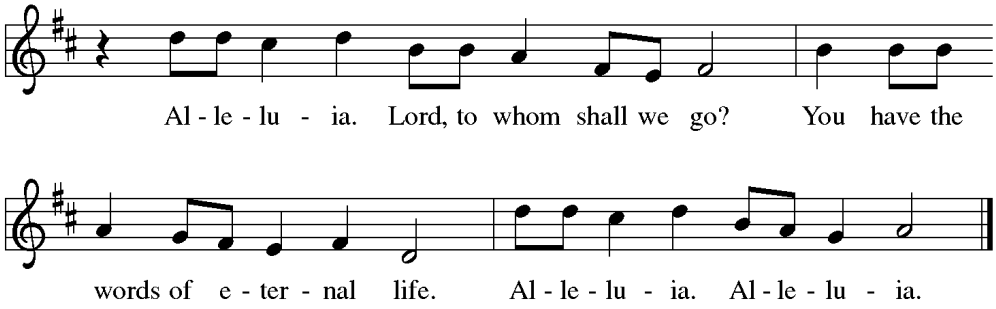
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth,
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up**
your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your**
people pray?
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.
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.

SECOND READING: 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 Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW pg. 142



GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel According to **Mark 13:24-37**
Glory to you, O Lord

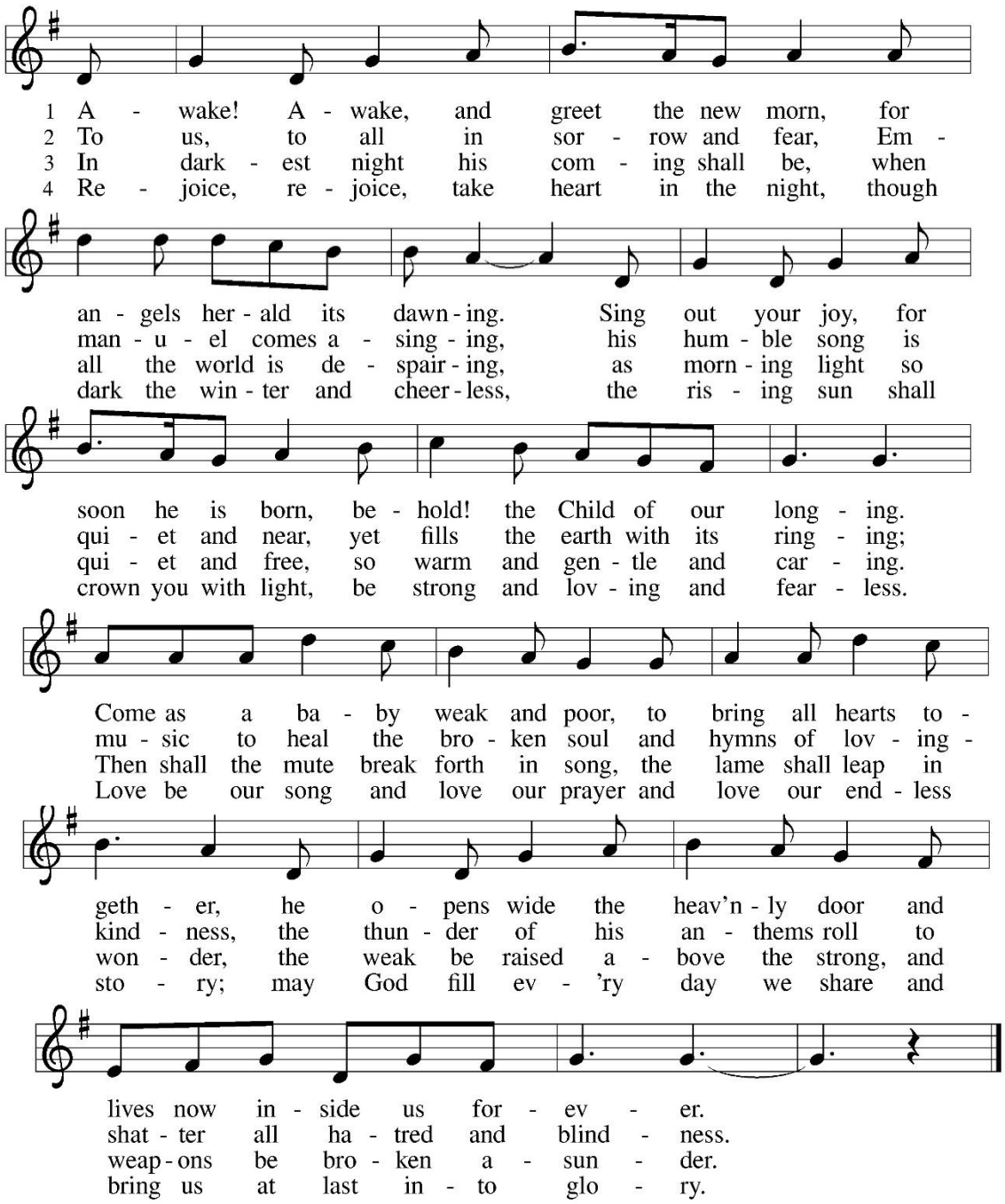
[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be
darkened, and the moon will not give its light,25 and the stars will be
falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be
shaken.26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with
great power and glory. 27 Then 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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

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



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake

he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

PEACE

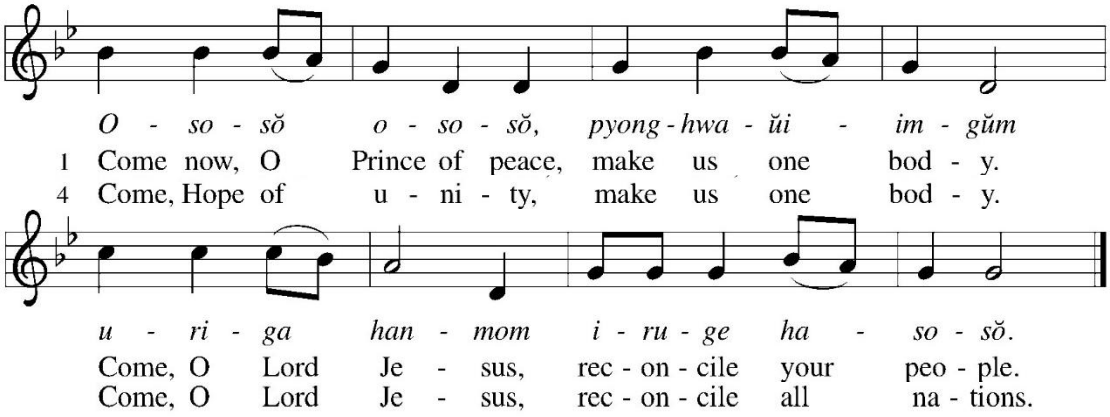
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, such as a handshake, hug, or peace sign and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary, sent to the church office, or given online by using the QR code to the right.

OFFERTORY Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW #247 vv.1&4



OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

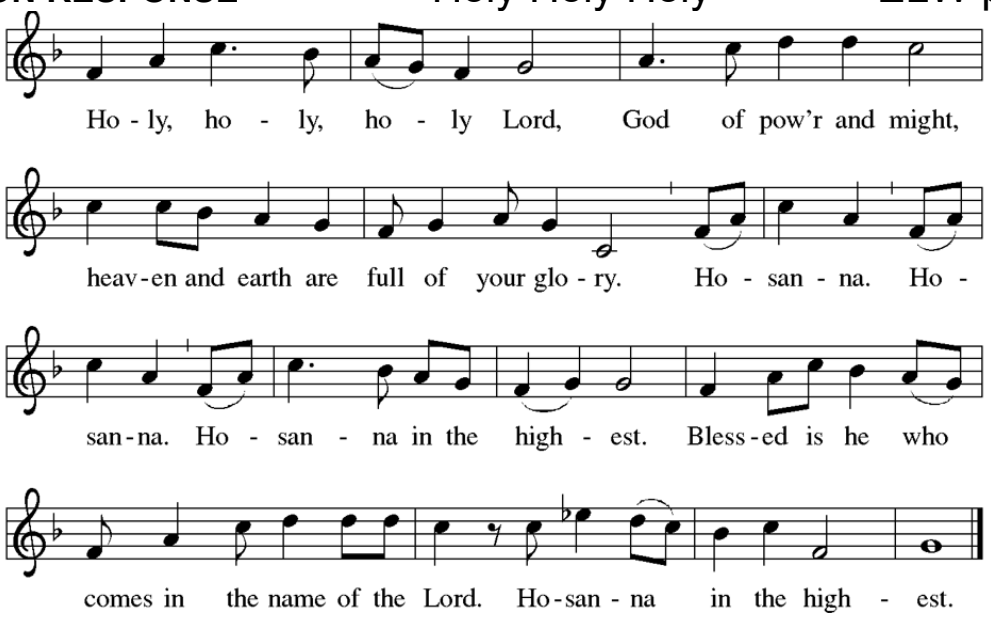
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

COMMUNION RESPONSE Holy Holy Holy ELW pg.144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

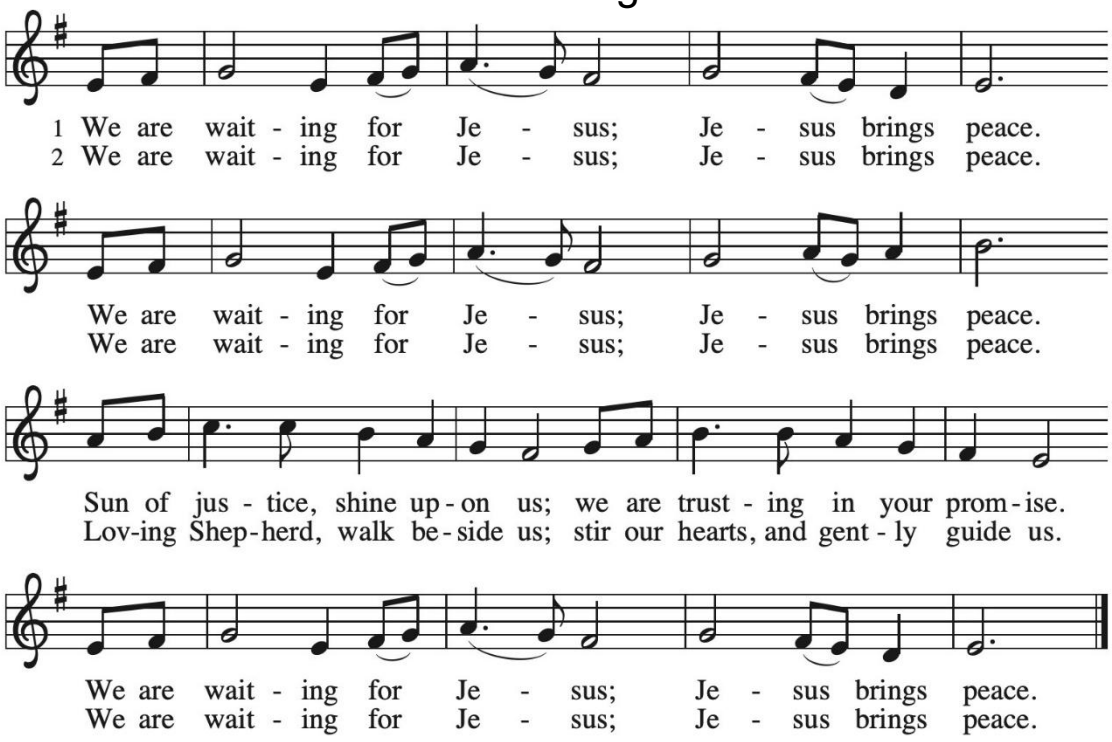
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

COMMUNION

We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable to you, either from your seat using the prepackaged elements or by coming forward to the altar rail. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles and pick up a cup from the silver plates. You will be given a wafer and then offered wine (first chalice) or grape juice (second chalice). For those communing online, please join us using whatever bread/crackers and wine/grape juice you have at home. All are welcome at God's table.

The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you. **Amen**

COMMUNION SONG We Are Waiting for Jesus ACS #1037



COMMUNION HYMN Jesus, Still Lead On ELW #624

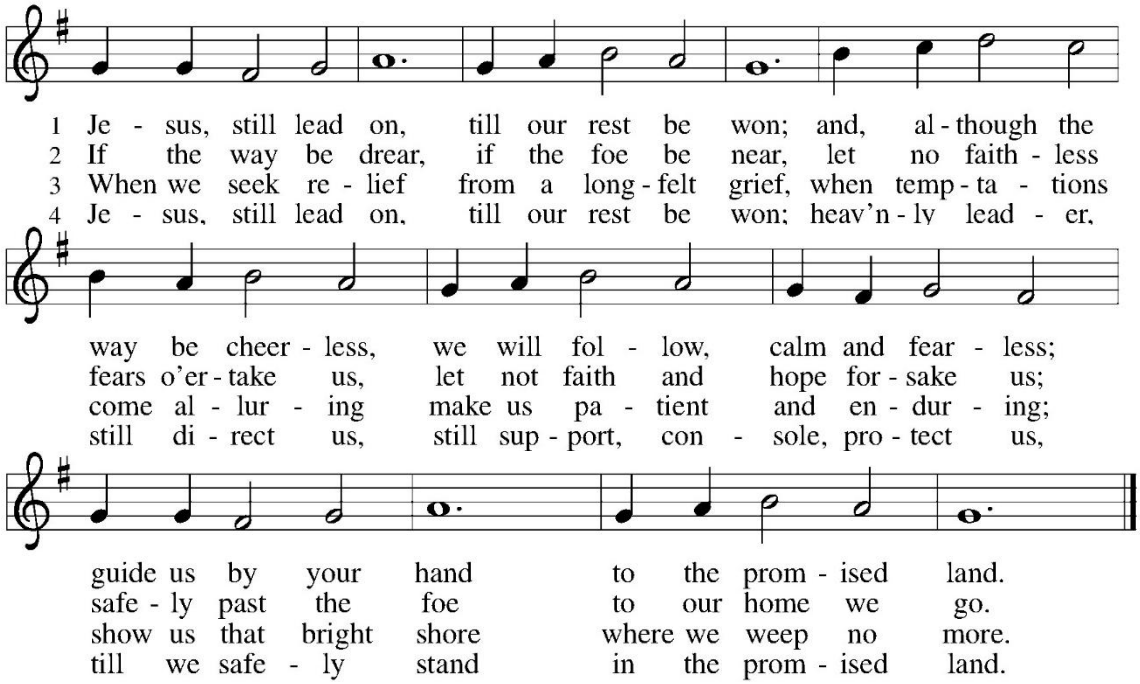


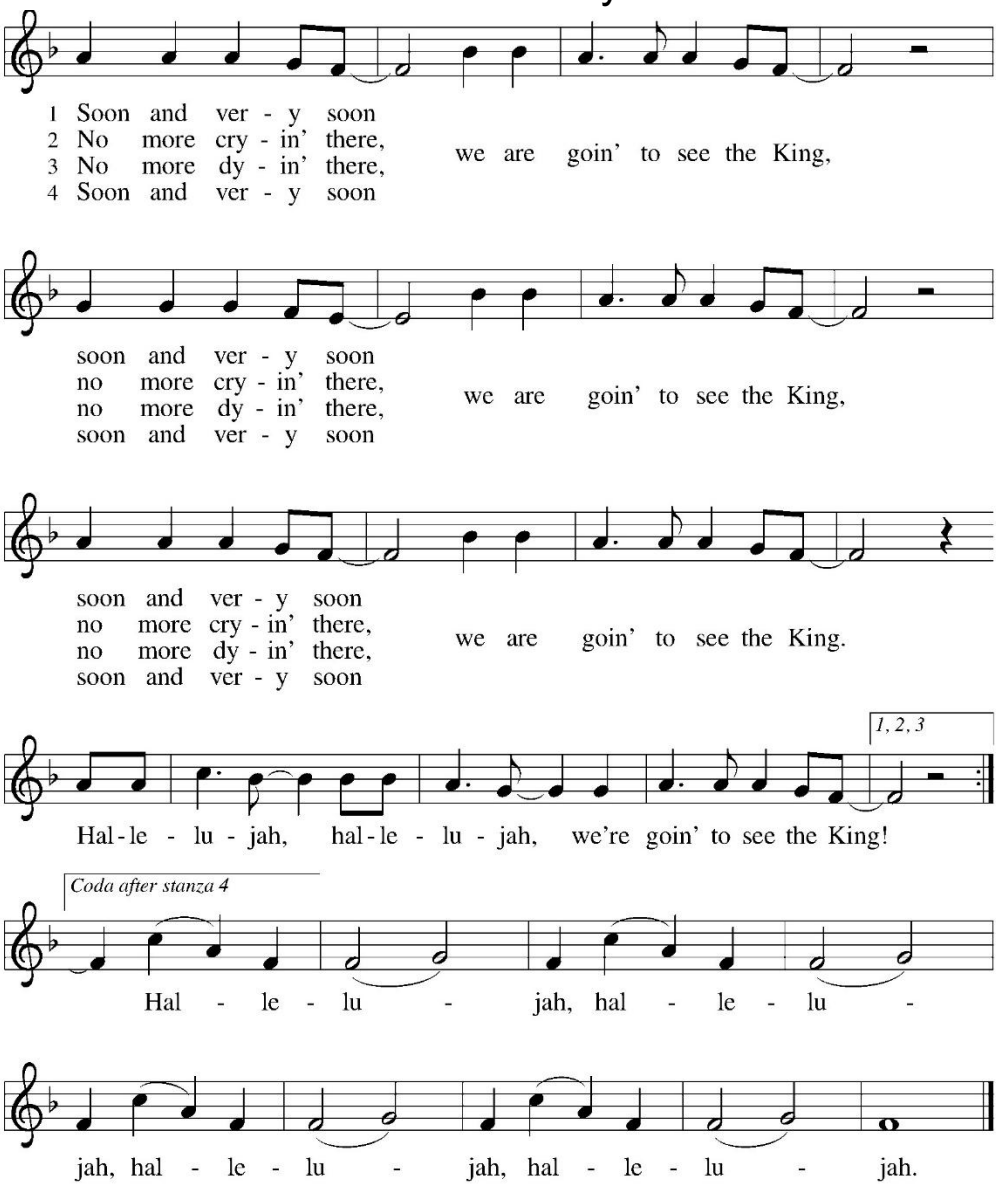
TABLE BLESSING: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people
abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN — Soon and Very Soon — ELW #439



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service

NOVEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
Covenant House

DECEMBER BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH
Global Refuge (LIRS)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 pm Band Practice
THURSDAY: 12:00 pm Advent Bible Study
SATURDAY: Property Work Day
SUNDAY: 9:15 Choir Practice
10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

GUEST PASTOR: Rev. Keith Ross
MUSICIAN: Steve Malski
ASSISTING MINISTER: Valerie Nicolosi
LAY READER: : Jerri Angermueller
USHER: Don Brown
GREETER: Sue Boyce
ALTAR GUILD: Amy Ludke & Karen Bell
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Brigitte Albrecht & Arnold Ludke
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Linda Axtell & Joan Ludke
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Nick DeRoda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Sunday School Choir: Will meet today and next week December 6th, before Sunday School for practice!

Bible Study: Join us on December 3rd at noon for Bible Study. We are using the book **A is for Alabaster.** If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan or Eleanore know.

Our Daily Bread | Pledge Cards Still Welcome
Thank you to everyone who has shared a stewardship pledge. If you haven't yet turned in your pledge card, you can still place it in the offering plate on any Sunday in the coming weeks. Your pledge helps Messiah plan for the ministry we share in the coming year.

Angel Tree: We will be purchasing gifts for children who are guests of Ponds Food Pantry. Take a name from the tree, and don't forget to sign up on the list! Spend about $30 to ensure comparable gifts and please return gift by December 13th. Any questions, please contact Michele Weintraub, Kim Niland or Sue Boyce.

Cookie Baking: Join us on December 6th, after church, as the youth bake cookies for our coffee hours throughout December and to share with the community. Have a special cookie you want? Bring the dough and we'll bake it! Have a family favorite, share the recipe! Have a special request, but don't bake, speak to Linda Axtell

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm: Dec. 14: "Time is A River" by Mary Alice Monroe

Poinsettias: If you would like to help beautify our nave during the Christmas season, please signup on the sheet in narthex by Dec. 14th. You may take your plant after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service or any time thereafter. Donation: $15



Please keep in prayer the following people in our Messiah family: Jonny & Natalie, Kim, Len, Mike, Sue and Alex. **And the following friends and family:**

Those in the armed forces, especially those connected to our congregation including Evan and Joseph
Erika, Kristen's sister
June, Lee's mother
Helen, Keith, Karen, Clyde, & Lauren, Valerie's cousin, brother & friends
Marilyn & Vincent, Lisa's parents
Melinda, Eleanore's sister
The Family of Miro, Vesna's father
Ron & June, Karen's parents
Gayle, friend of Joan & Eleanore
Janice, food pantry volunteer
Jennifer, friend of Sue & Eleanore
John, Joan, Todd, Peggy, Jim, Kathy, Carol, Ellie, and Marianne & family, Ron & Marilyn's friends
Michele H. & Dee, friends of Weintraub's
Brandon, Nancy & Bobby, son, friend & uncle of Kim
Peggy, Christine, Margie & Kathleen, Alex's aunts & sister
Peter, Terri's father
Thomas, Maria, Gary, & Julie, friends of Tony & Edie
Alexa, Hank, Paula, Julie, Cynthia & Samy, friends and coworkers of Nancy
Andrew & Caroline, friends of Kim & Michele
Roland, son of Eleonore
The family of Jason Gelman
The family of Rich Chimento

Please let us know if you have changes we should make to our prayer list

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