

**+ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 18, 2022**

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**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**

**304 Morewood Ave.**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

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[**www.standrewpittsburgh.org**](http://www.standrewpittsburgh.org)

**+ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Order for Worship**

*Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and will name him Emmanuel.*

*The Gospel this week is Matthew’s account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” a beloved hymn based on the “O Antiphons,” ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this last Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

* Masks are optional at St. Andrew when Covid-19 community level in Allegheny County is in the low and medium categories.
* Hand sanitizer is available at the back of the sanctuary.

***Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms.***

***By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.***

***Welcome to St. Andrew!***

* *Everyone is invited to make a nametag at the black bookcase in the back of the worship space if they would like.*
* *Children are invited to participate in Little Church; Big Faith, a Bible lesson and activity, following the Prayer of the Day.*
* *Worship “toolkits” to help children engage with the service are available in the black bookcase at the back of the worship space. There are “reader” and “pre-reader” resources available in each kit. Please feel free to use the kits for/with your children during worship.*
* *St. Andrew has recently returned to serving the sacrament of Holy Communion with both (separate) elements, bread and wine/grape juice. The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host). Please consume this and then pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine from the chalice or grape juice from the cruet into your glass. Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice. As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center aisle.*
* *A restroom is available on the main level of the church, through the doors to the Social Hall and to the right in the main office.*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

**Gathering**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed be God’s name forever.**

**Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

**C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare for war instead of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

P: People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

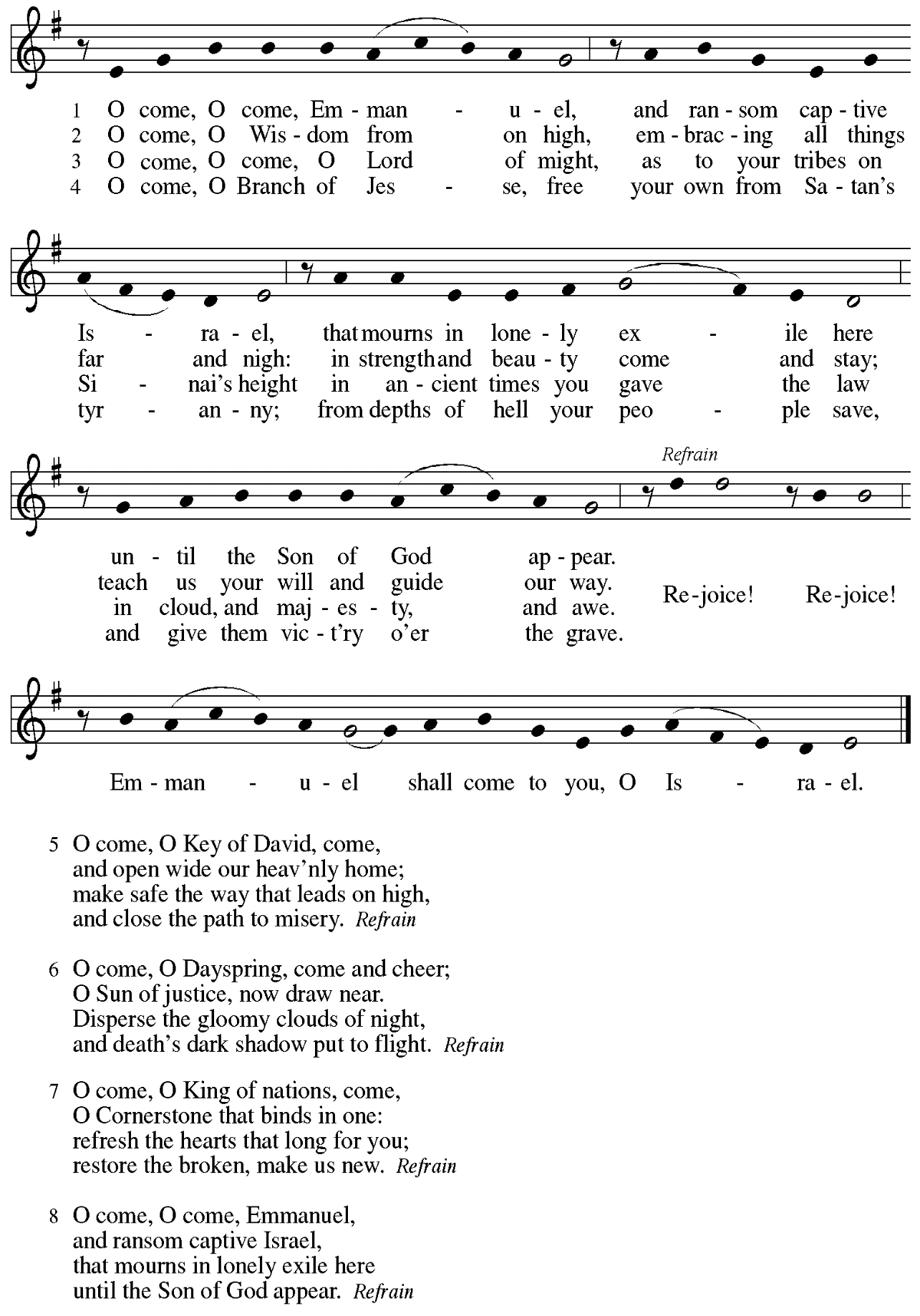
You have put on ☩ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *ELW* 257**



**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

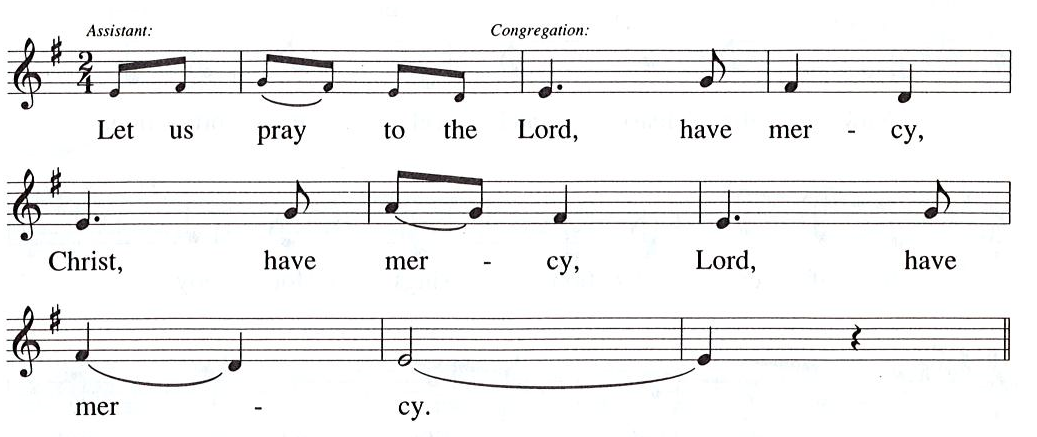
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie** *HS* p. 3

A: In peace, in peace,

*Refrain*



**Prayer of the Day**

A: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,

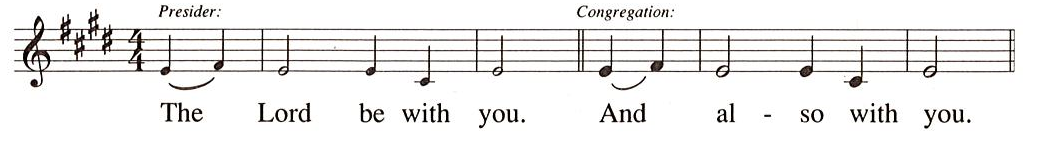
for the unity of all … (*Refrain*)

A: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,

for the strength to live your word … (*Refrain*)



**Prayer of the Day**



P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith,

that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated. Children are invited to come forward and gather around the Advent Wreath*

*for the lighting of the candles.*

**Hymn during Candle Lighting**

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah *ELW* 240**

**v. 1-4**

**1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:**

**Lead our way through the darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel,**

**God fulfills the promise.**

**2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah;**

**Lead our way through the darkness.**

**He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,**

**gently lead them homeward.**

**3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:**

**Lead our way through the darkness.**

**Raise your heads and lift high the gateway**

**for the king of glory.**

**4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:**

**Lead our way through the darkness.**

**Christ is coming, tell the glad tidings.**

**Let your lights be shining!**

*After the lighting of the Advent candles and hymn, children are invited to join the adult leaders at the door and move to the office for Little Church; Big Faith.*

*We ask that one additional adult from the congregation attend with the children.*

**Word**

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**First Reading – Isaiah 7: 10-16**

10The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. 13Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19**

*The cantor will lead the singing of the psalm.*

*The congregation is invited to respond with the alternate verses in bold print,*

*and to join in singing the refrain.*

*Psalm tone*



*Psalm refrain*



1Hear, 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.**  
 3Restore **|** 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**  
 5You 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.**  
 7Restore 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.**  
 18And 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 – Romans 1: 1-7**

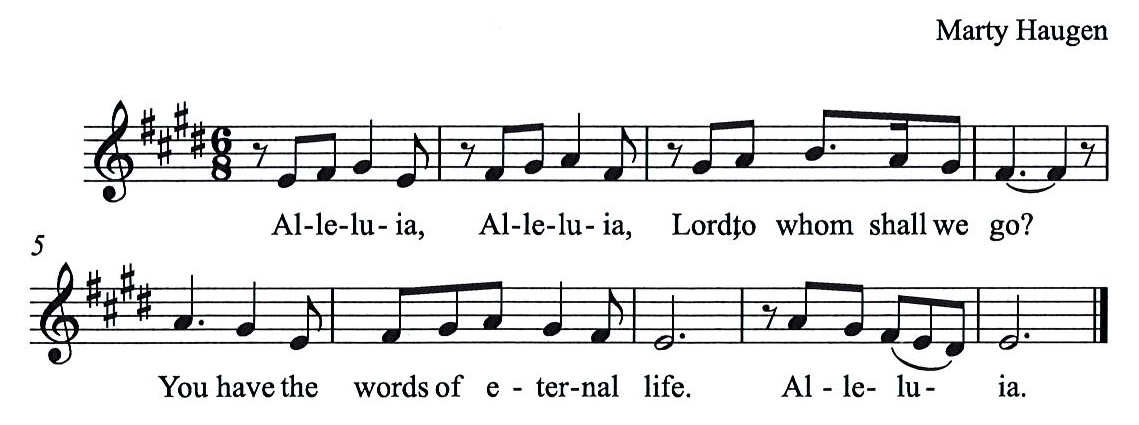
1Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2which God promised beforehand through the prophets in the holy scriptures, 3the gospel concerning God’s Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, 6including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,  
 7To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
  Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation**  *Alleluia HS* p. 8



**Gospel – Matthew 1: 18-25**

**Gospel – Matthew 1: 18-25**

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
 23“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
  and they shall name him Emmanuel,”  
which means, “God is with us.”24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

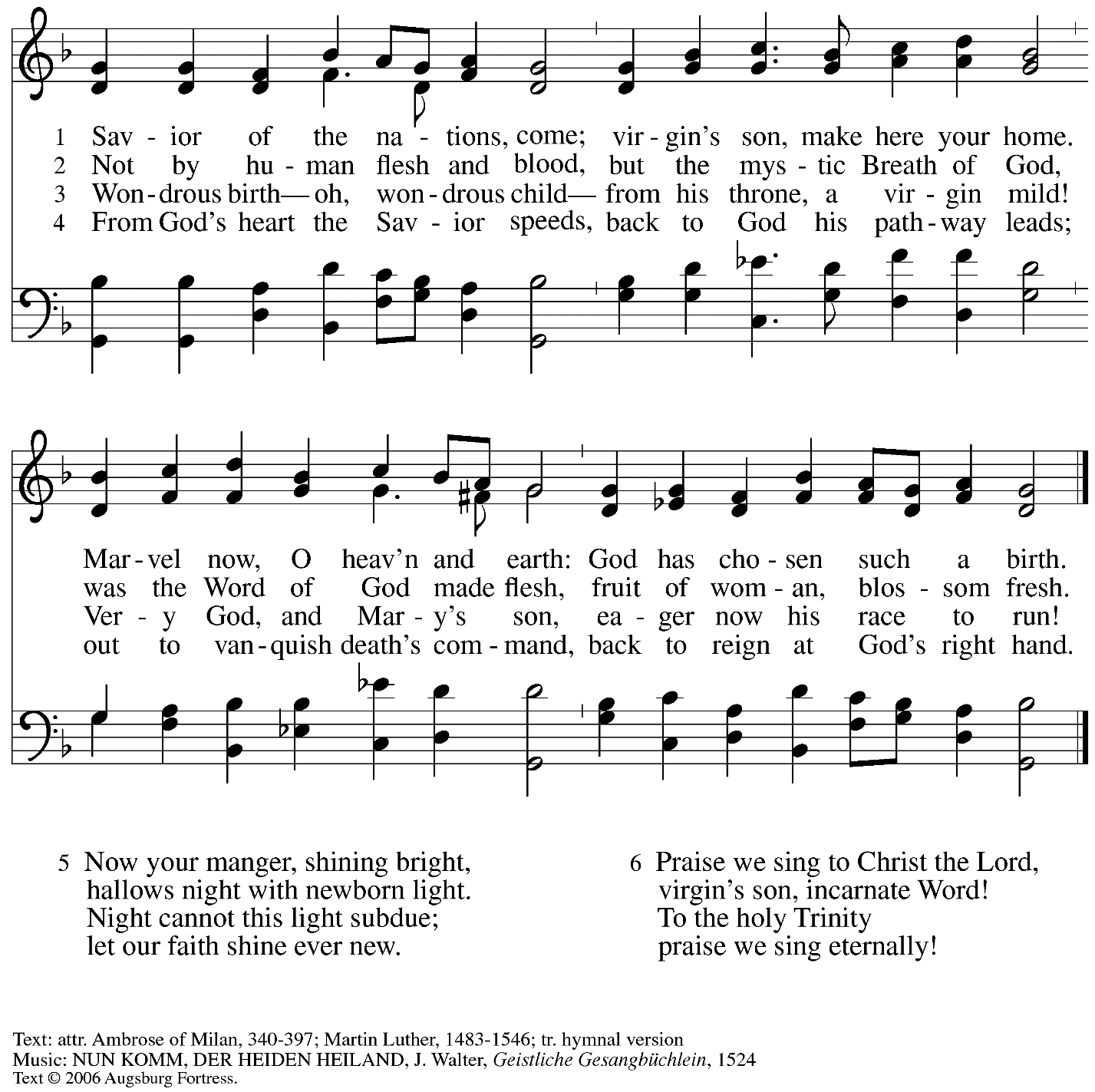
*A time of silence for prayer and reflection follows the sermon.*

*When the hymn of the day begins, please rise as you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day Savior of the Nations, Come** *Following Page*



**Hymn of the Day Savior of the Nations, Come *ELW* 263**



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**Prayers of the People**

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence,

let us pray for the world as it yearns for new hope.

*After each petition*

P: God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers

and join them with those of all your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Meal**

**Offering**

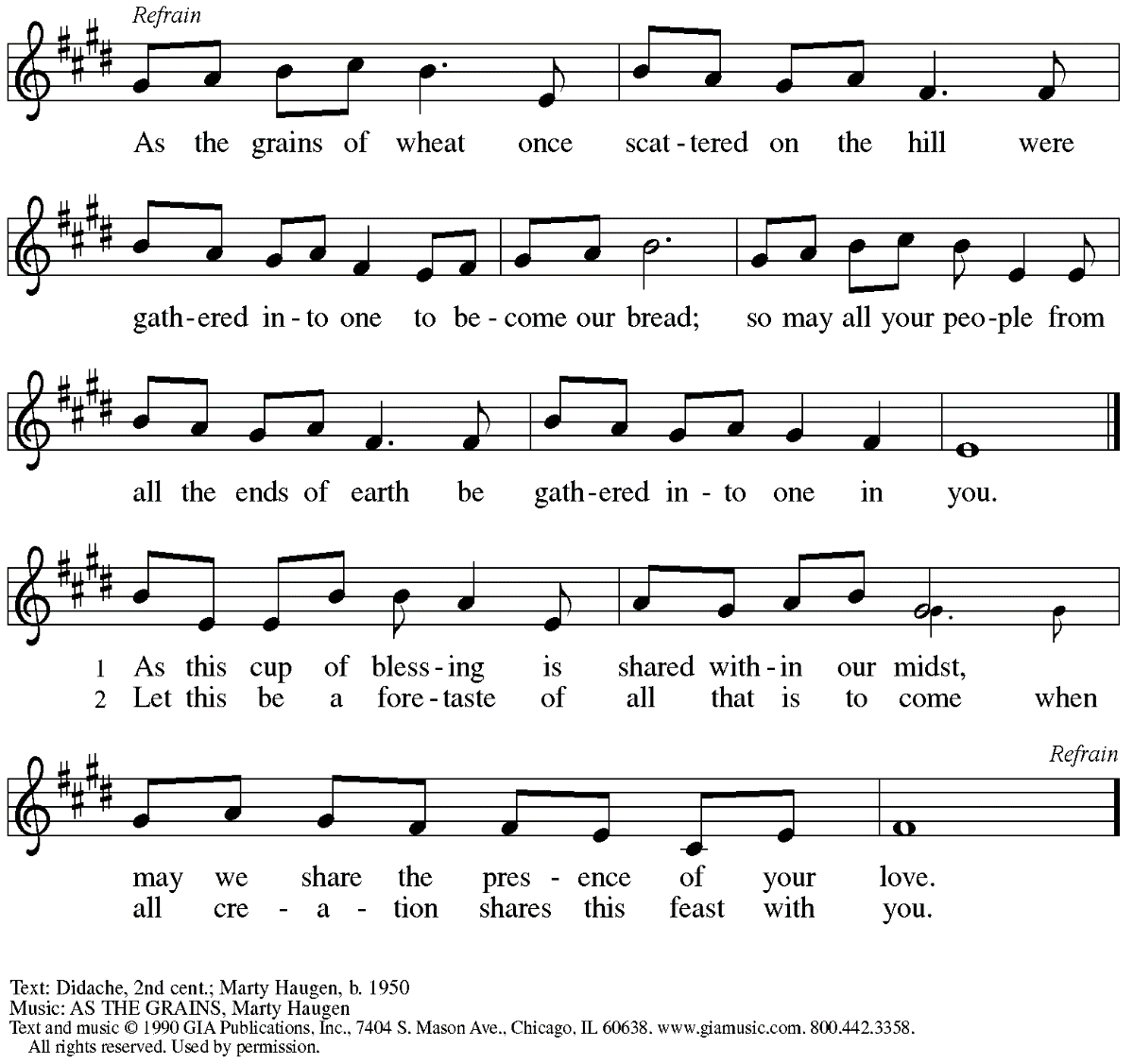
*We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.*

*An usher will pass around an offering plate for anyone who would like to offer gifts before God.*

**Music during the Offering**

*Please rise as you are able.*

**Offertory Song As the Grains of Wheat *ELW* 465**



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**Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Eternal God,

**C: you make the desert bloom**

**and send springs of water to thirsty ground.**

**Receive these simple gifts we offer,**

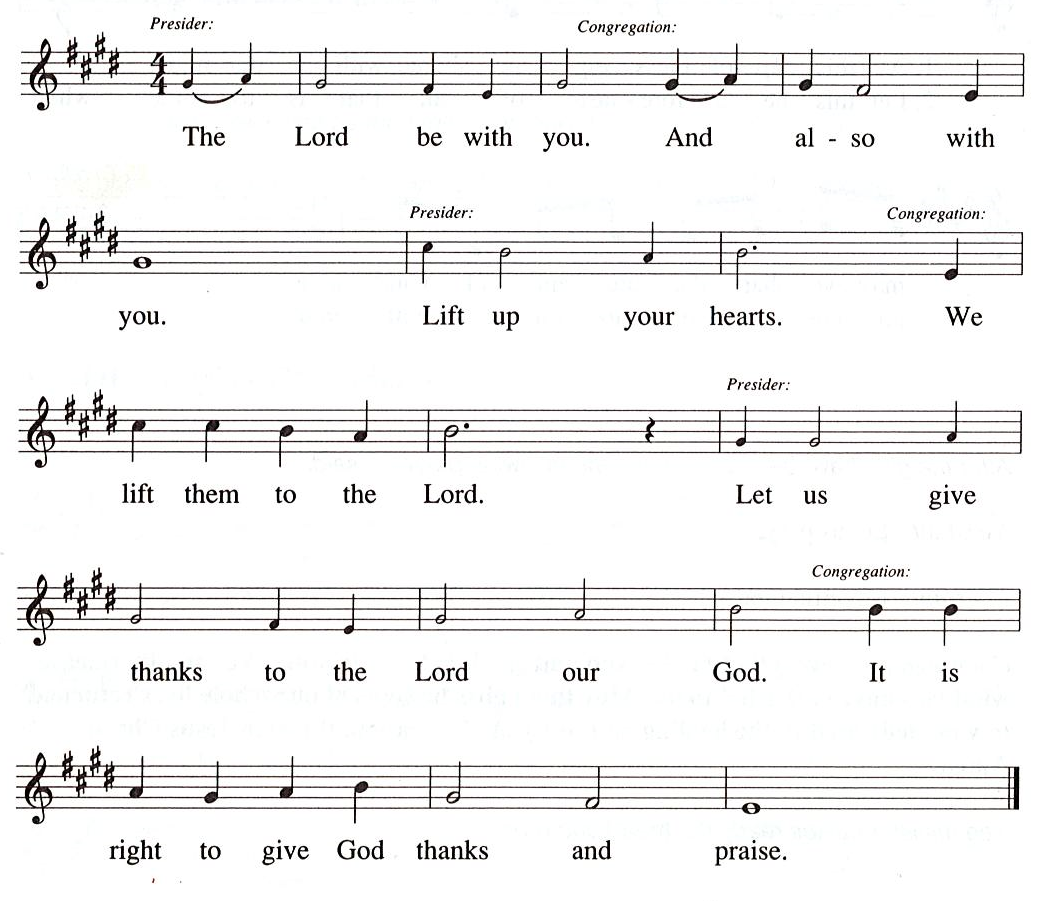
**and make us messengers of your mercy and love**

**for all in need of your justice and healing.**

**We ask this through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**Dialogue** *HS* p. 14

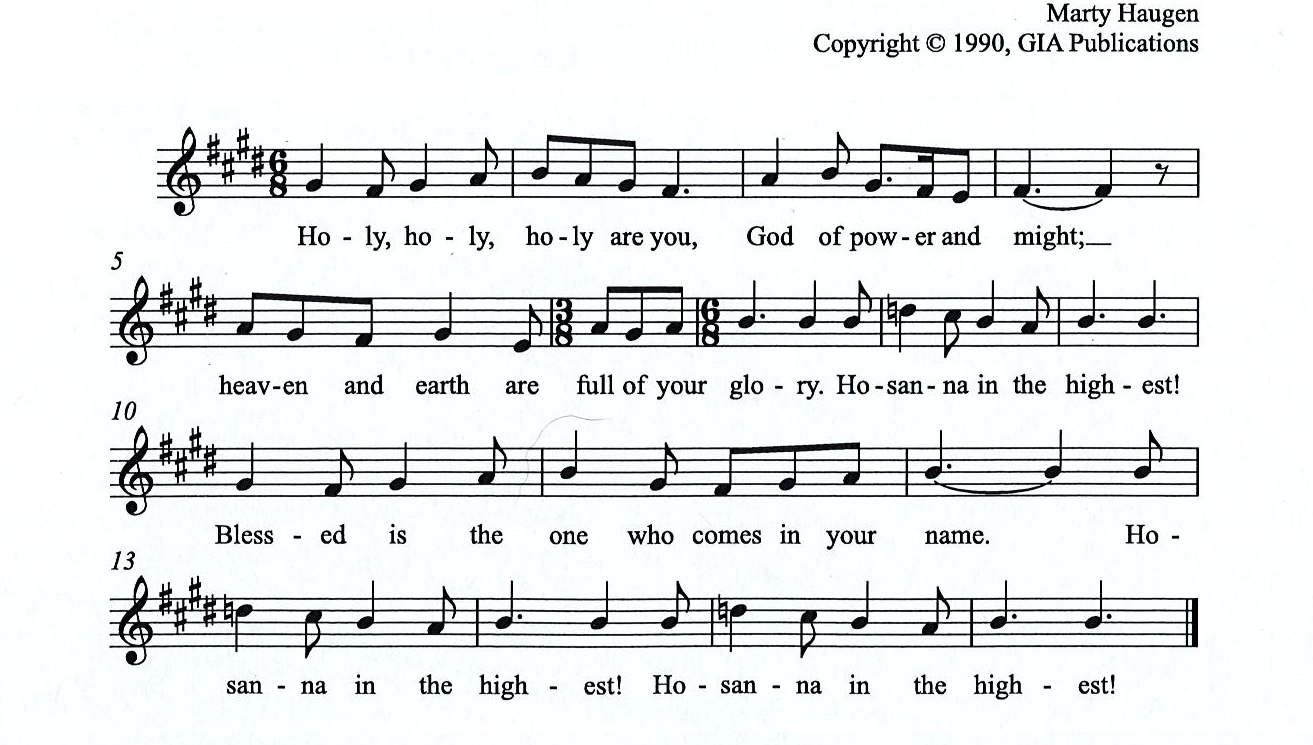


**Preface** *(Sung by the presiding minister)*

P: It is our duty and delight …

… we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus** *HS* p. 15



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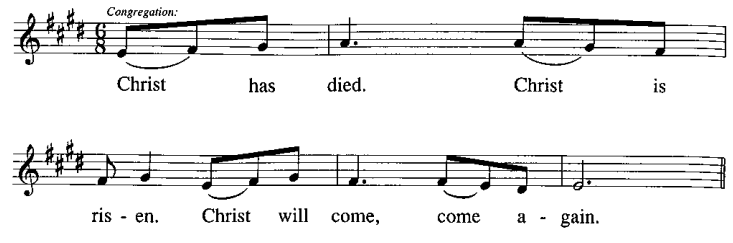
**Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life …

… Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

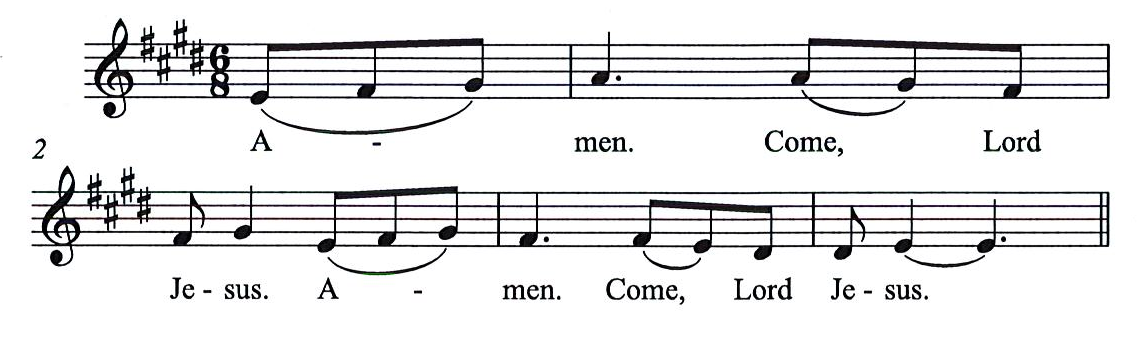
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

**C:**

P: With this bread and cup we remember …

… We look with hope for his coming.

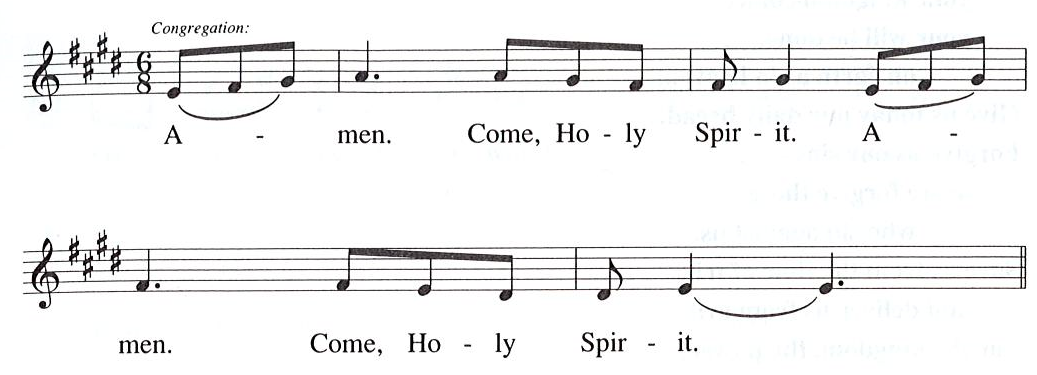
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**C:**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. …

… Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

**C:**

P: All praise and glory are yours, …

… one God, now and forever.

**C:**

**Lord’s Prayer**

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

**C: 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.**

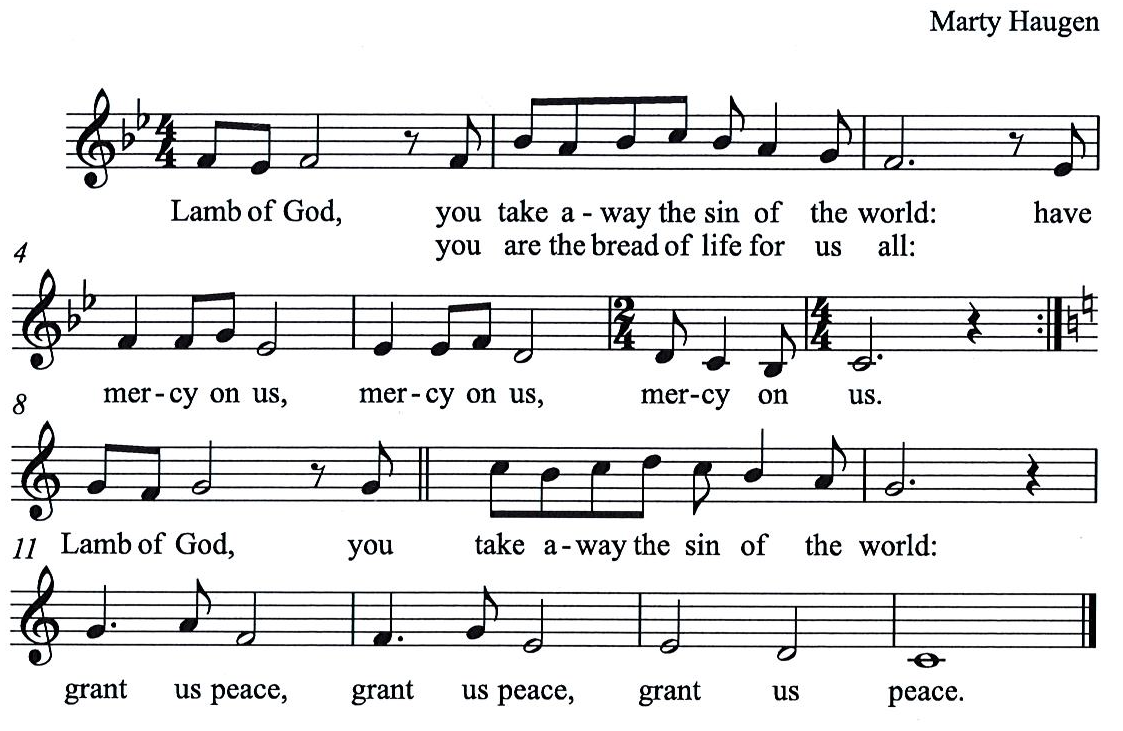
**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**Fraction and Invitation**

***Agnus Dei /* Lamb of God** *HS* p. 18



*Please be seated.*

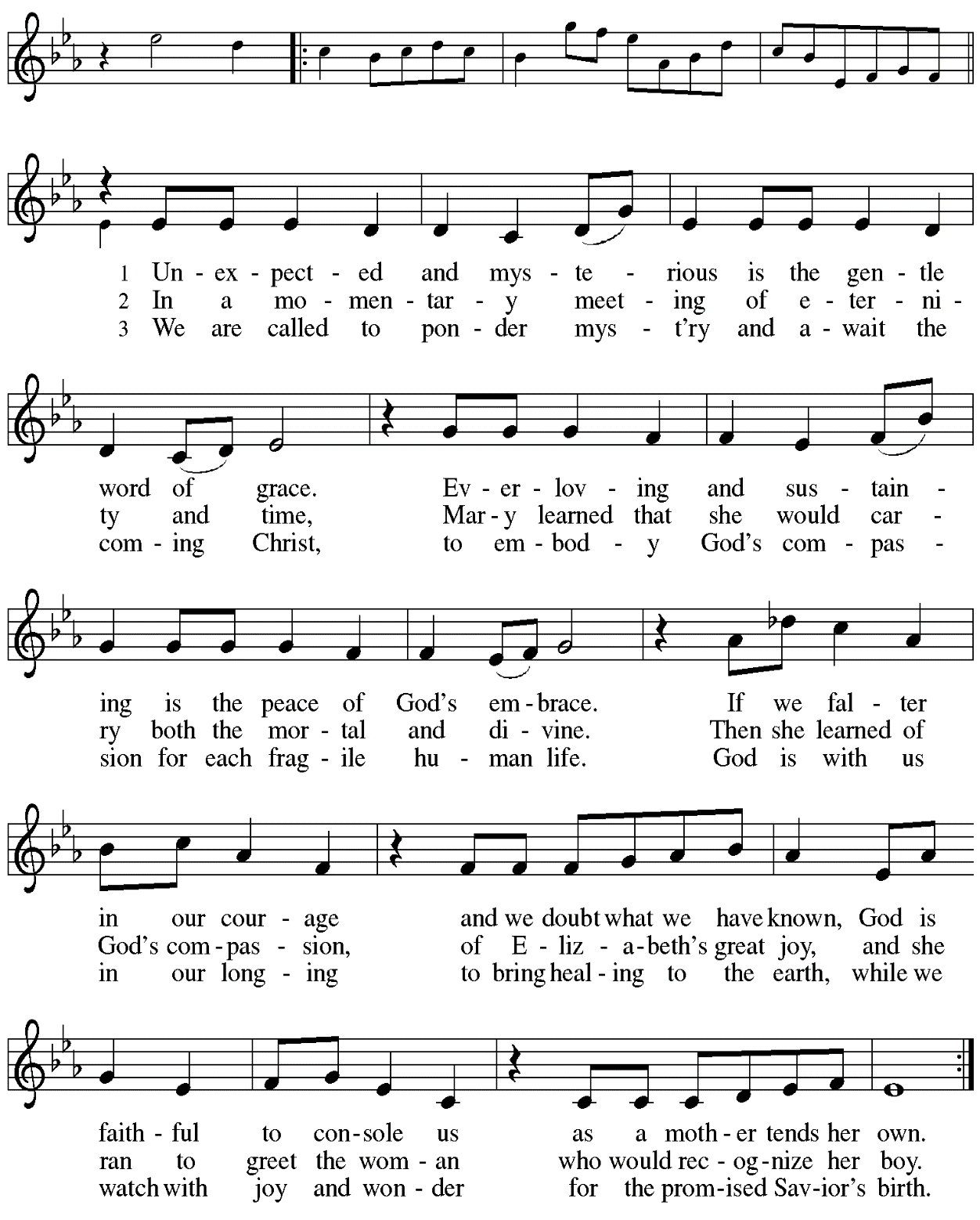
**Holy Communion**

* *Worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
* *Holy Communion will be served with bread and wine/grape juice.*
* *The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host) to each communicant. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free host.*
* *Once you have consumed the bread, please pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine from the chalice or grape juice from the cruet into your glass.*
* *Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice.*
* *As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center aisle.*
* *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament.*
* *All are invited to join in singing the hymns during Holy Communion.*

**Hymn during Holy Communion**

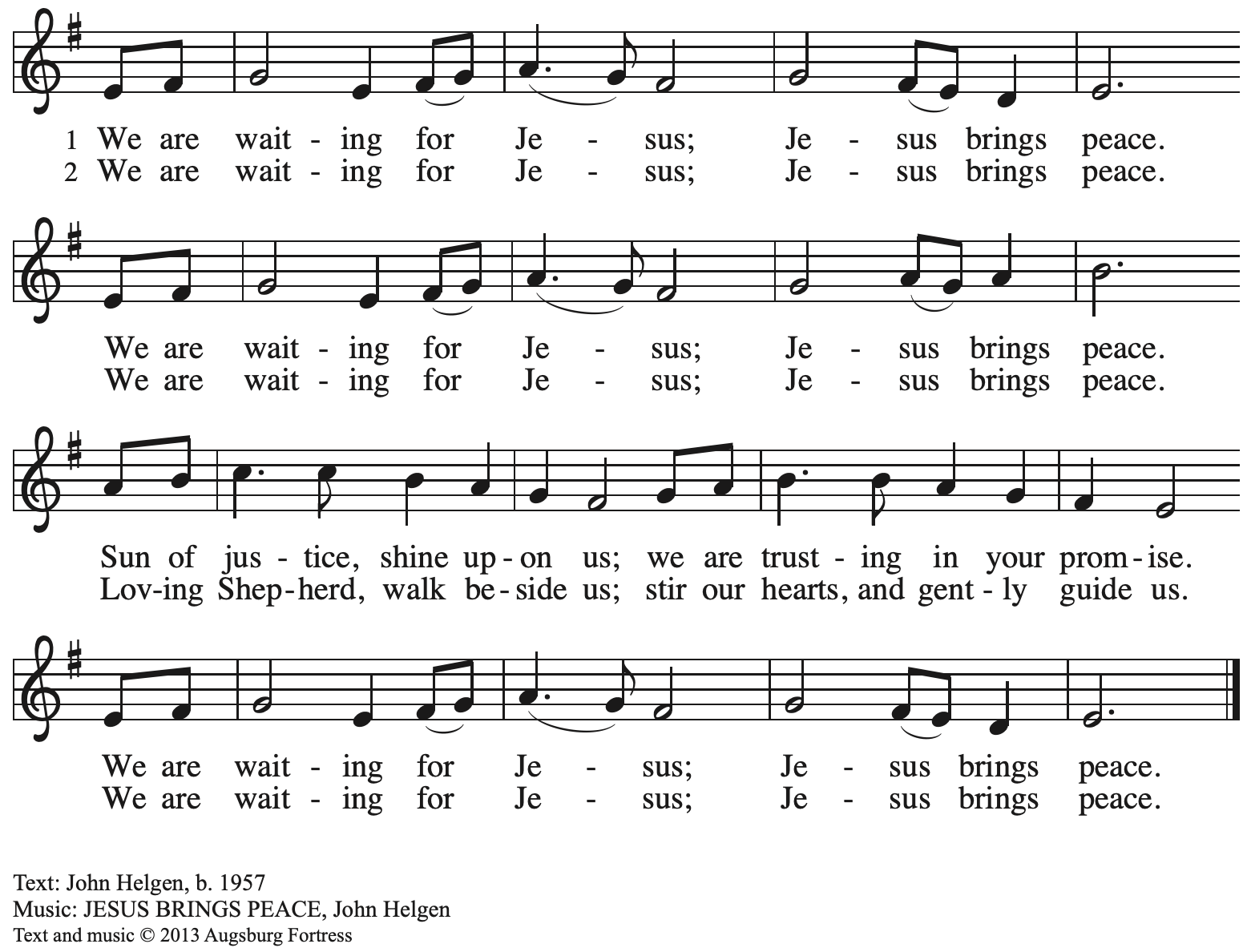
**Unexpected and Mysterious *ELW* 258**

**v. 1, 3**



**Hymn during Holy Communion**

**We Are Waiting for Jesus *ACS* 905**

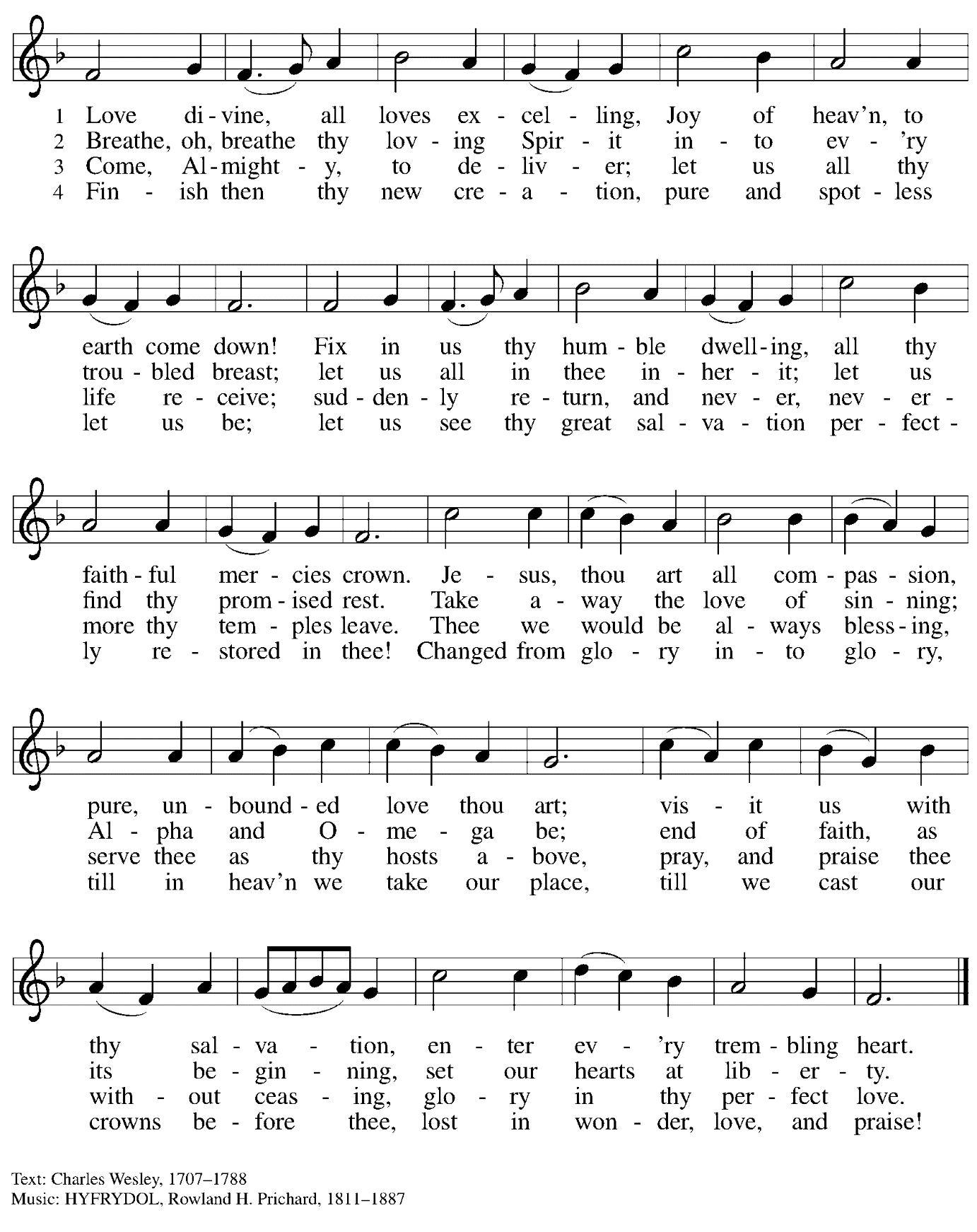


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**Hymn during Holy Communion**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *ELW* 631**



*When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.*

**Blessing**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep,

and unite us, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn of Thanksgiving** *HS* p. 20



**Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,

bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we await the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,

sustain and strengthen us by this holy mystery.

Guide us toward your promised future coming to birth

in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sending**

**Announcements**

*Please rise as you are able.*

**Benediction**

P: God the eternal Word,

who dwells with us in Jesus,

and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

☩ bless you now and forever.

**C:**

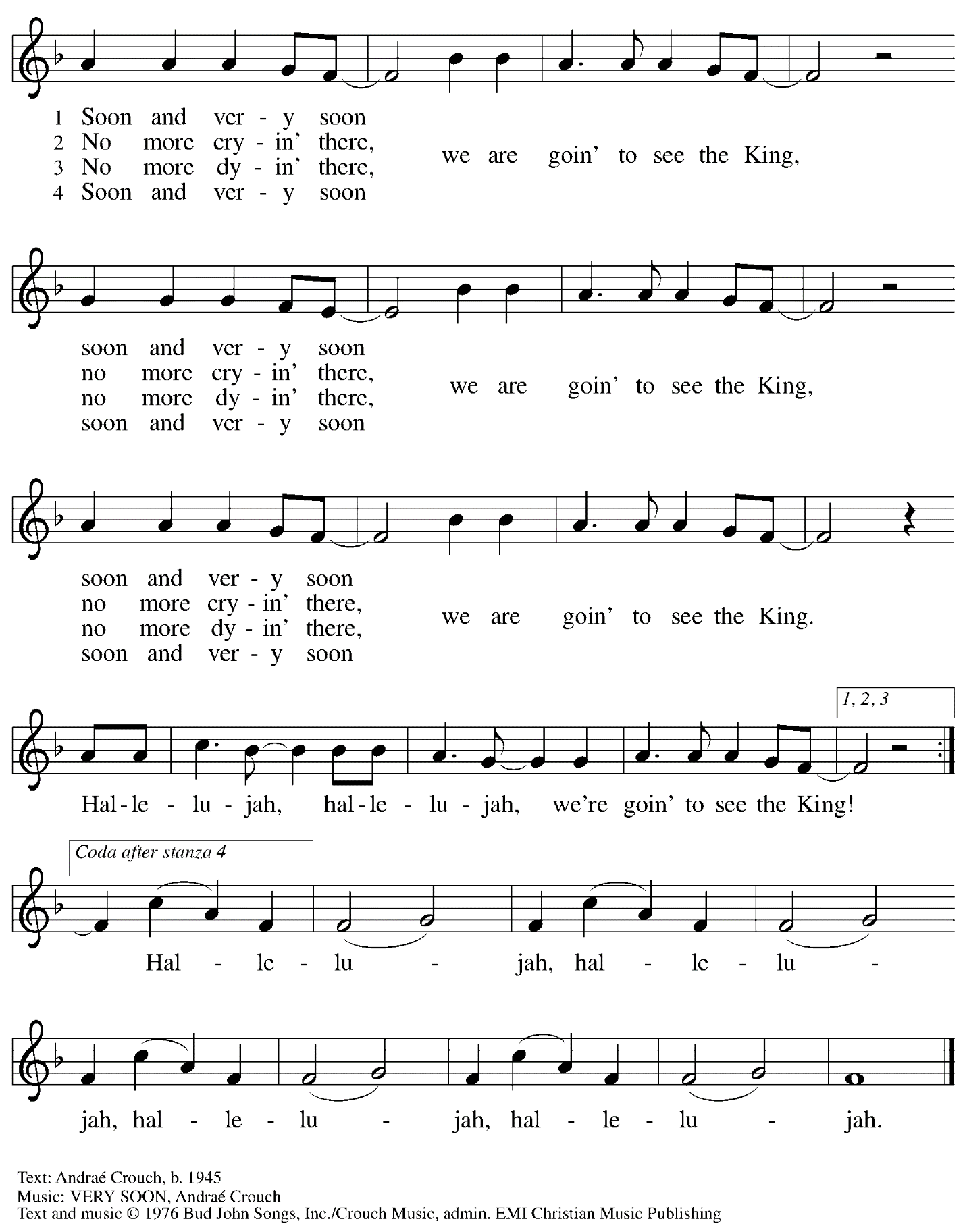
**Sending Hymn Soon and Very Soon** *Following page*

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Sending Hymn Soon and Very Soon *ELW* 439**



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*Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

A: Assistant (Cantor)

L: Lector

**C: Congregation**

***HS*: *Hymnal Supplement***

***ELW*: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal**

***ACS*: *All Creation Sings* hymnal**

*Those serving in worship today*

Minister of Music Laura Reynolds

Clarinet Maria Mangano

Cantor Ian Brown

Lector and Communion Assistant Michael Chapman

Presiding Minister Rev. Ross Carmichael

*Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** – Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite.Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah** – Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954. Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune. Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**Unexpected and Mysterious** – Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961. Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984. Text © 2002 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1977 GIA Publications, Inc, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements**

**December 18th, 2022**

* **Worship in the Sanctuary and Online – Sunday, December 18th, + Fourth Sunday of Advent** – St. Andrew’s next worship with Holy Communion will be this Sunday, December 18th, at 10:00 a.m. Masks are optional at St. Andrew when Allegheny County’s Covid-19 community level is in the low and medium categories. Worship will also be live-streamed to Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom. Worship attendees are invited to make their own name tags at the back of the worship space. Coffee hour will be held in the Social Hall next to the sanctuary after worship.
* **Seeking Individuals to Serve in Various Worship Roles**– As worship attendance increases and we return to distribution of wine at Holy Communion, we ask people of St. Andrew to consider offering your gifts in worship. On the upcoming Sundays, we will pass around a signup sheet describing different roles needed, including altar care and setup, Communion Assistant, Audio/Visual Minister, Adult Leader or Helper for Little Church; Big Faith, Usher, Cantor, Lector, and Counter. Please consider how best to share your gifts to enrich the worship experience of St. Andrew!
* **Help Decorate the Church for Christmas Sunday, December 18th, after Worship!** – We invite everyone to stay after worship this Sunday as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season!
* **Christmas Worship Schedule:**

**Saturday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m.** – Worship with Candlelight and Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 25th, 10:00 a.m.** – Worship with Holy Communion

* **Little Church; Big Faith Will Not Meet during Worship on Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve; Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day; or Sunday, January 1st, First Sunday of Christmas. We will resume the Bible lesson and activities during worship on Sunday, January 8th.**
* **We will not have Coffee Hour on Christmas Eve, December 24th, Christmas Day, December 25th, or January 1st**
* **Humor and the Bible – Come and Discuss in the New Year! – Is there humor in the** Bible? Isn't it a pious look at life that inspires us and places us in awe of God? Doesn't the Bible contain instructions for life's do's and don'ts? Doesn't the Bible give us warnings and signs of hope?  Perhaps all these things are true, but if we can suspend our piety, our past notions or suspicions about the Bible, we just might hear and experience a humorous side of the Bible we hadn't appreciated before. We might even laugh! In our upcoming Zoom discussion, January 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st, Pastor Paul Koch will lead us in looking more closely at various passages throughout the Bible that might surprise you, make you smile, or even bring a laugh or two. Imagine finding humor in the Creation stories, the end of Daniel, or hearing some of Jesus' sayings in a humorous (or at least a little sarcastic) way! Zoom login information is now available in your “This Week at St. Andrew” email - log on, and enjoy!
* ***Christ in our Home* CurrentDevotional Booklets for the Next Quarter (January - March 2023) Available at Church Entrances** – Christ in our Home is a booklet that offers a daily Bible reading with a short reflection and prayers, long with additional prayer concerns and readings for those who would like to expand their devotional practices. These are available at each entrance to the church, and we encourage people of the congregation to take one for yourself and others!
* **Bethel AME Pittsburgh Updates** – Our friends at Bethel AME are collecting clean, gently worn/used **Winter** clothing of all sizes. Items can be left on the table next to the pantry shelves in St. Andrew’s Social Hall.