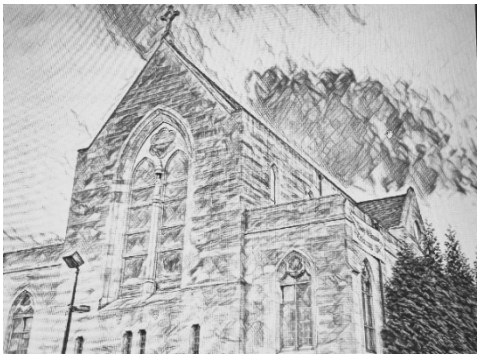
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

First Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite 2
Nov. 30, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@currently.com
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton

Our mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

First Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist
Celebrant: The Rev. Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

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No prelude as we begin our service with time for quiet reflection

Advent means “the coming.” It’s a season of preparation and anticipation, a time of repentance and reflection, and the first season of our church year.
The four candles we light over these four Sundays of Advent are set in a wreath, a circle with no beginning or end that represents the eternity of God’s love. For these four weeks, it sits prominently at the front of St. Paul’s.
Three of the candles – the ones lit on the first, second and four Sundays – are blue or purple, the liturgical color of the season. The candle lit on the third Sunday is rose, the color of joy.

At the center of the wreath is the large white candle we light on Christmas Eve.

Advent prayers

Lighting the first Advent candle: the Prophecy Candle representing Hope (Nov. 30, 2025)

Reader: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to

the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*
(One candle is lit.)

Lighting the second Advent candle: the Bethlehem Candle representing Love (Dec. 7, 2025)

Reader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers to the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*
(Two candles are lit.)

Lighting the third Advent candle: the Shepherd's Candle on Gaudette Sunday (Latin for "rejoice in the Lord always") representing Joy (Dec. 14, 2025)

Reader: The Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*
(Three candles are lit.)

Lighting the fourth Advent candle: the Angel's candle representing peace (Dec. 21, 2025)

Reader: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(Four Candles are lit.)

Deepening your understanding

Please join us after service in the Guild Hall today and throughout the Sundays of Advent for a special class centered on the book "The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach us About the Birth of Jesus" by Marcus J. Borg (Author), John Dominic Crossan (Author)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Silent procession

Opening Acclamation

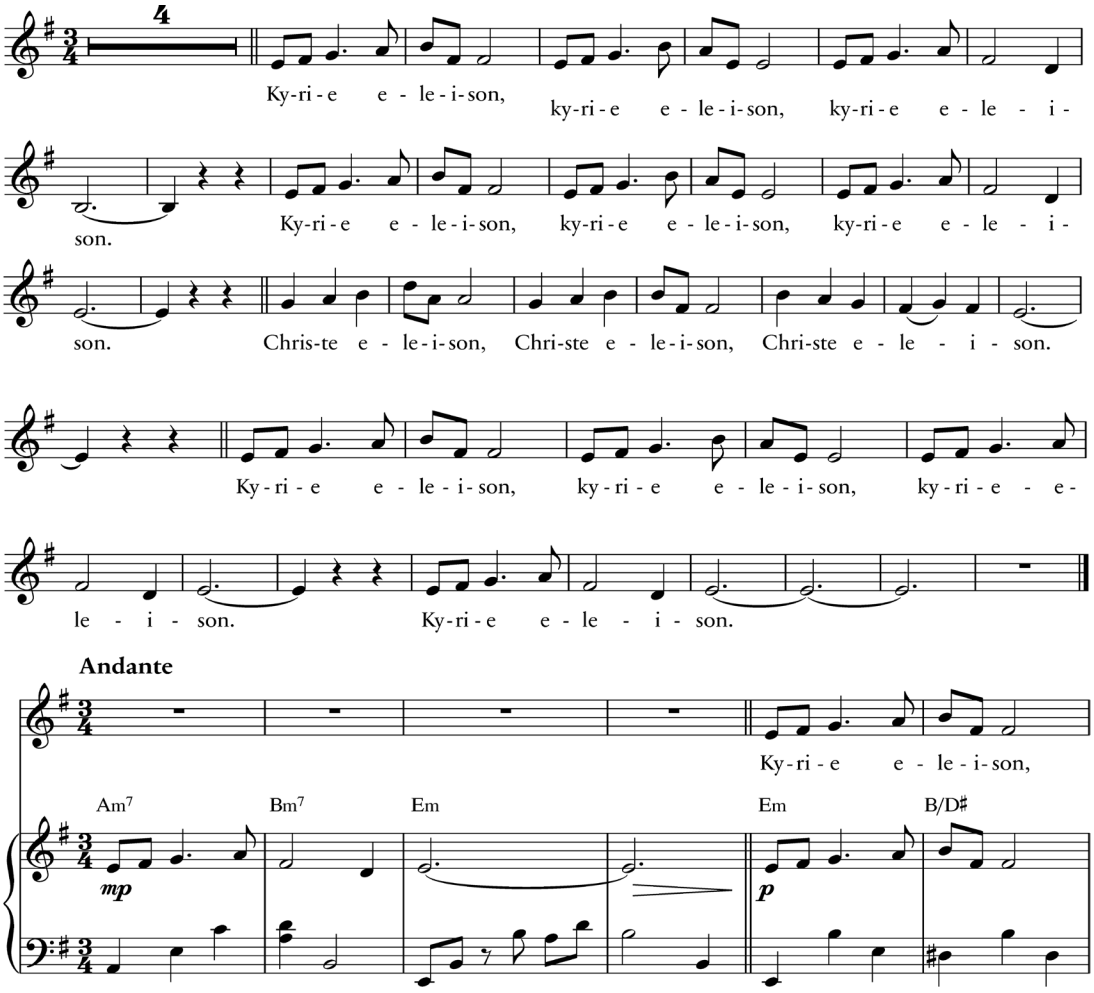
Celebrant *Blessed are you, holy and living One.*

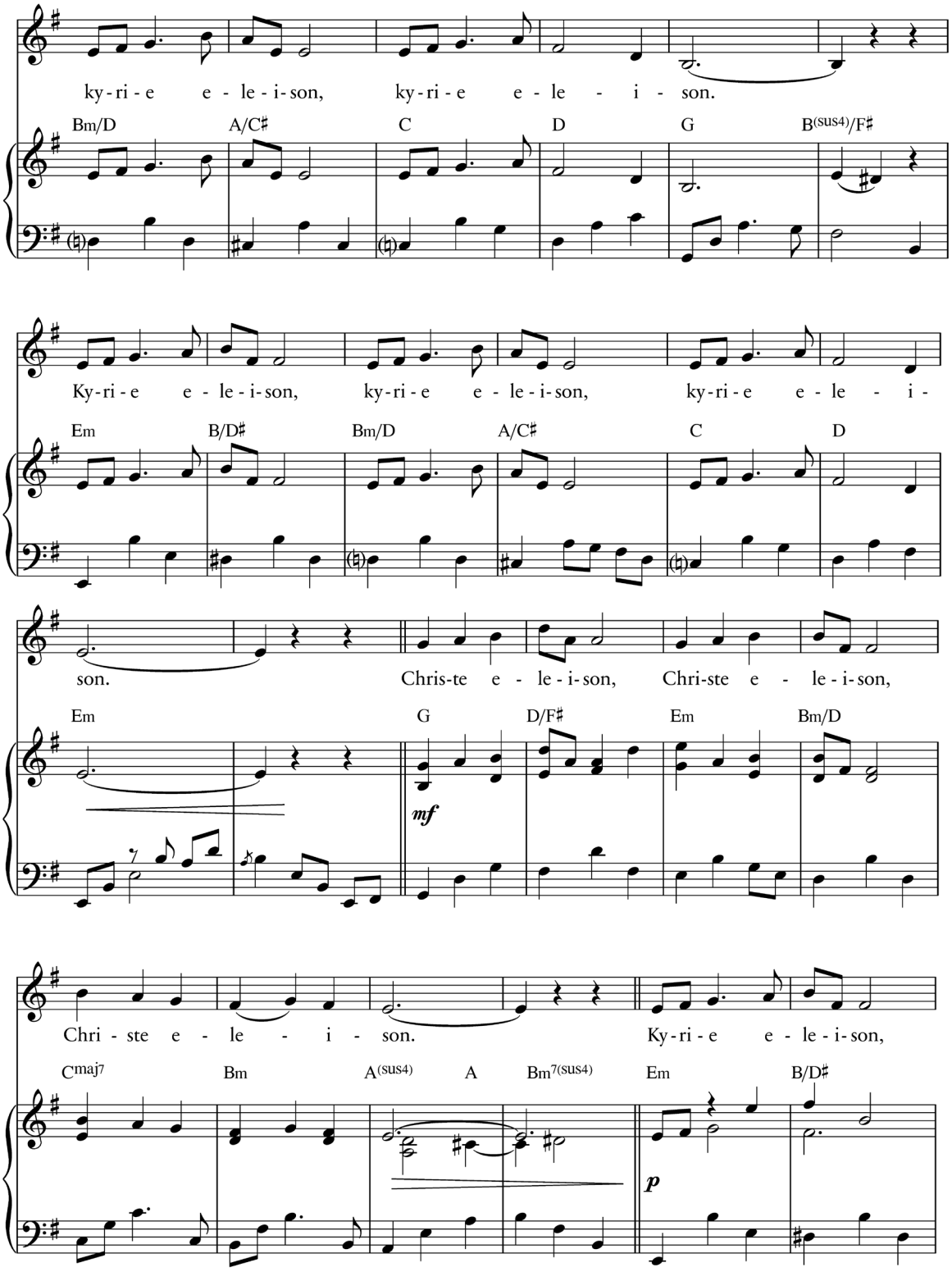
People *You come to your people and set them free.*

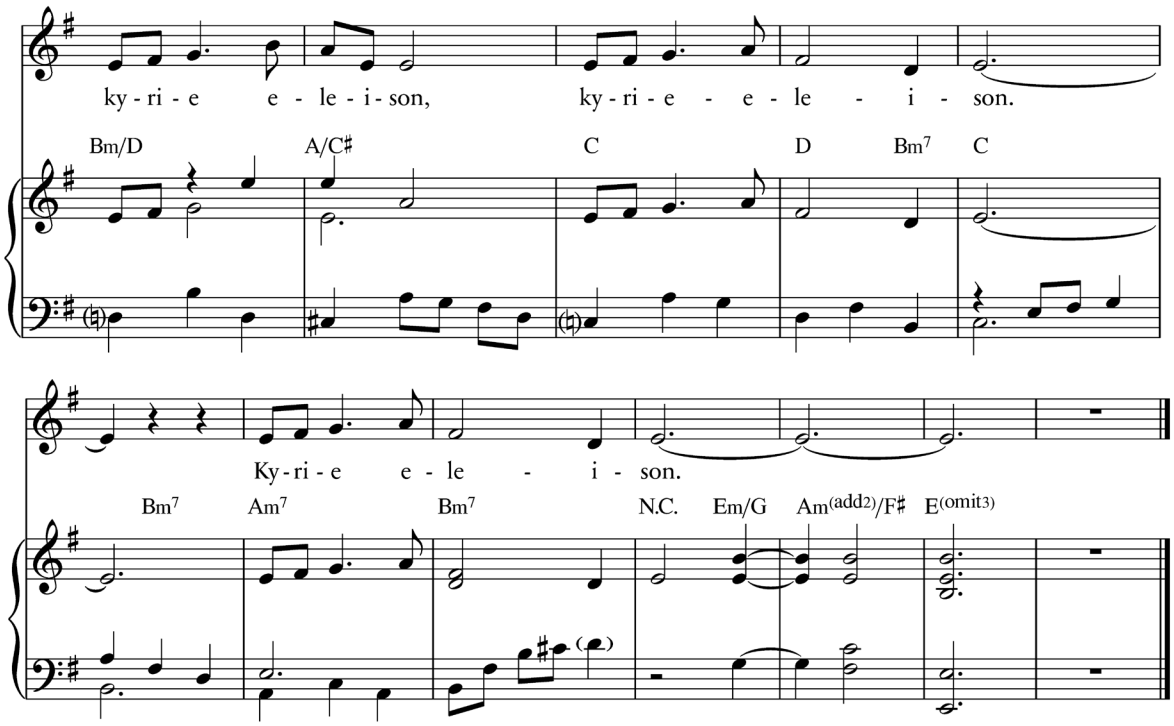
Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

KYRIE ELEISON: *Celtic Waltz (Tan) (AS20)*




ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.
Bm/D A/C♯ C D G B(sus4)/F♯
Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, ky-ri-e e-le-i-son, ky-ri-e e-le-i-
Em B/D♯ Bm/D A/C♯ C D
son. Chris-te e-le-i-son, Chri-ste e-le-i-son,
Em G D/F♯ Em Bm/D
mf
Chri-ste e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,
Cmaj7 Bm A(sus4) A Bm7(sus4) Em B/D♯
p



Music: Keith Tan. Music © 2022 Keith Tan.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

Please sit.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[1]The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
[2]In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.
[3]Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
[4]He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
[5]O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

[1]I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."
[2]Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
[3]Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
[4]To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.
[5]For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
[6]Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
[7]Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
[8]For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
[9]Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

READING: Romans 13:11-14

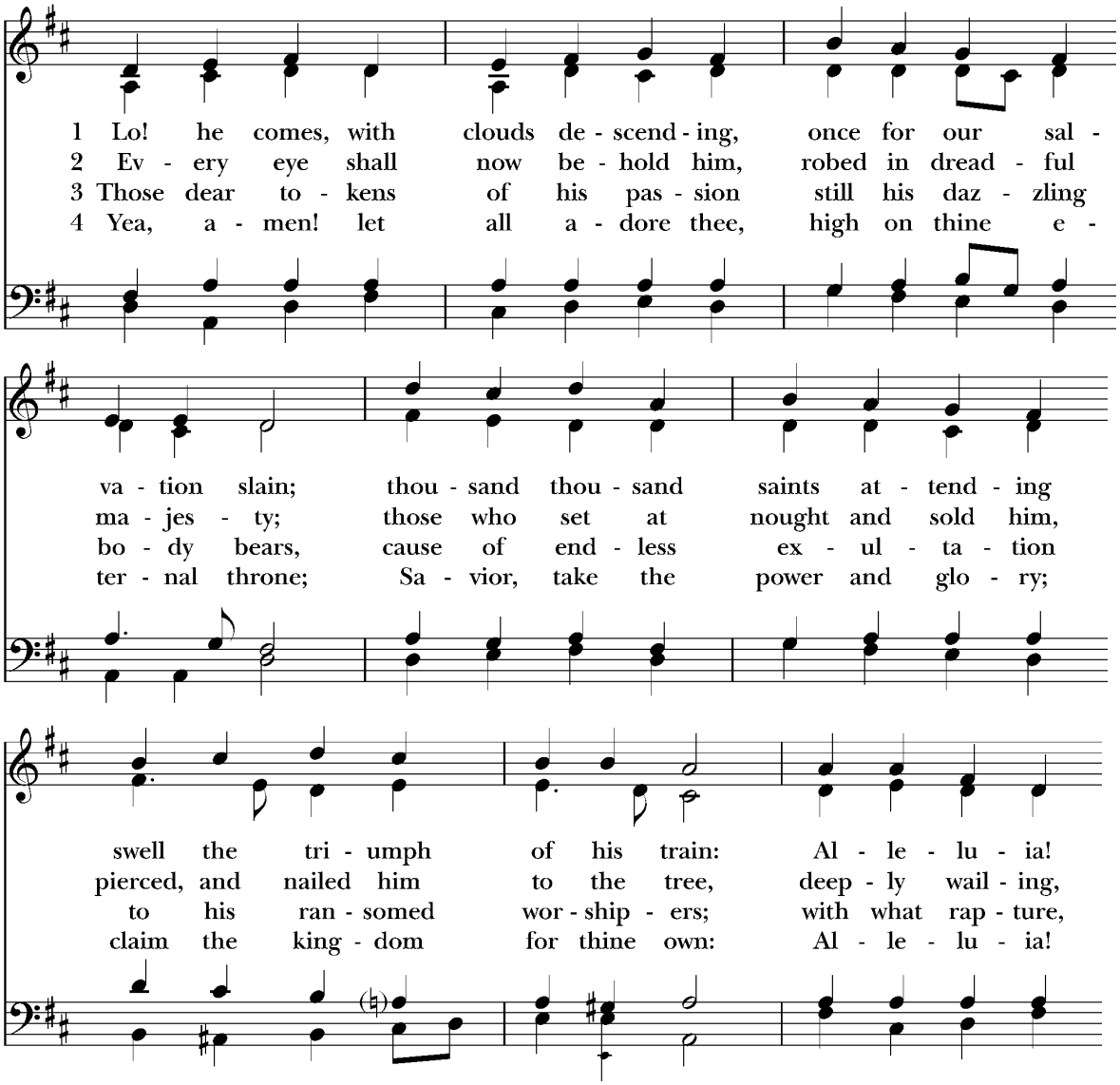
A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.
[11]You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; [12]the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us

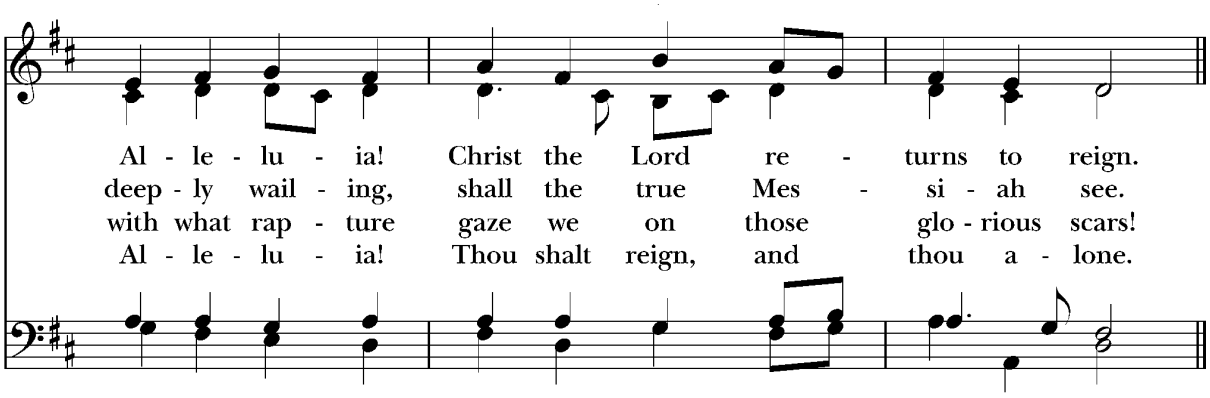
then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; [13]let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. [14]Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *Lo he comes, with clouds descending (St. Thomas) (H58)*





Please remain standing if able

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] [36]"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [37]For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. [38]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, [39]and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. [40]Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. [41]Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. [42]Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. [43]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. [44]Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Joe Ashby

The Creed

Please stand if able

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Please remain standing

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Alice Bolam, Cara Warren, Valerie Frear, Molly Weisel, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Joanne, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, Steve Hamilton, Deborah Starkey, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Please pray the St. Paul's Discernment Prayer together:
O Lord our God,
May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you.
We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you.
We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership.
And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People
Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

All stand.
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

The Celebrant says
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Creator of the Stars, John Scott*

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
♪♪♪

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People
Holy, holy, holy lord, god of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.
On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." ♪
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." ♪

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

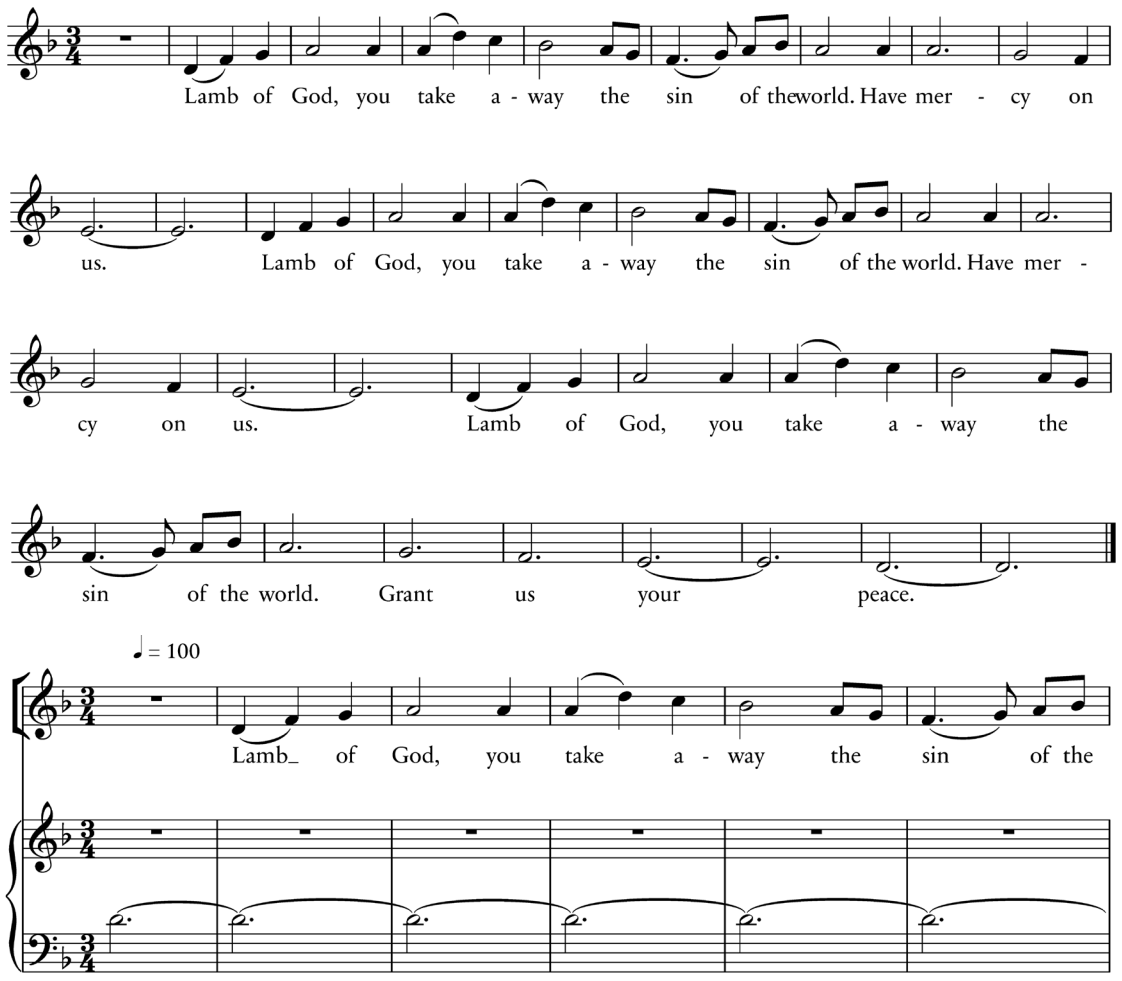
The Lord's Prayer

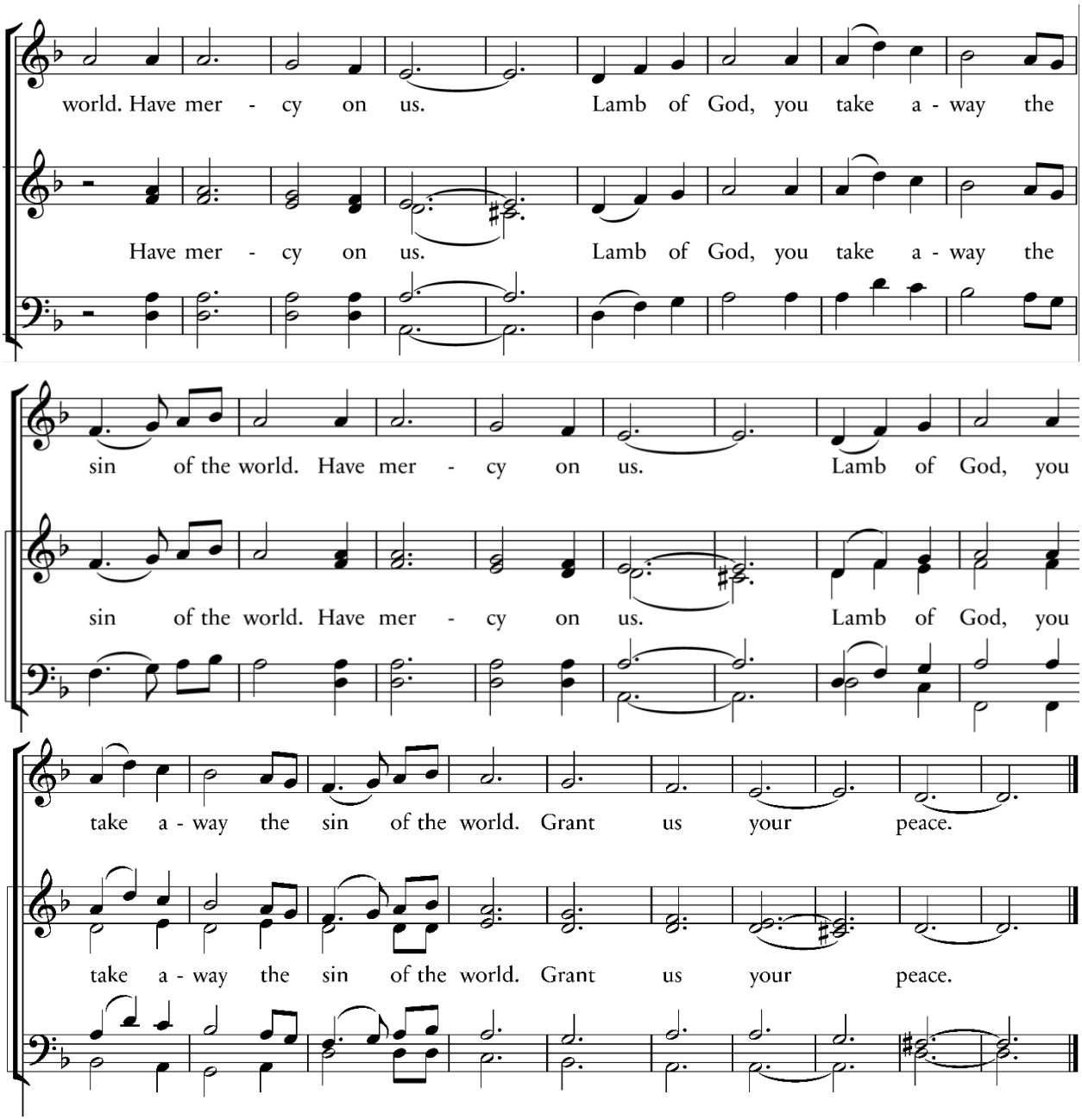
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,

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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: *Lamb of God Agnus Dei (Dunphy AS11)*





Spiritual Communion

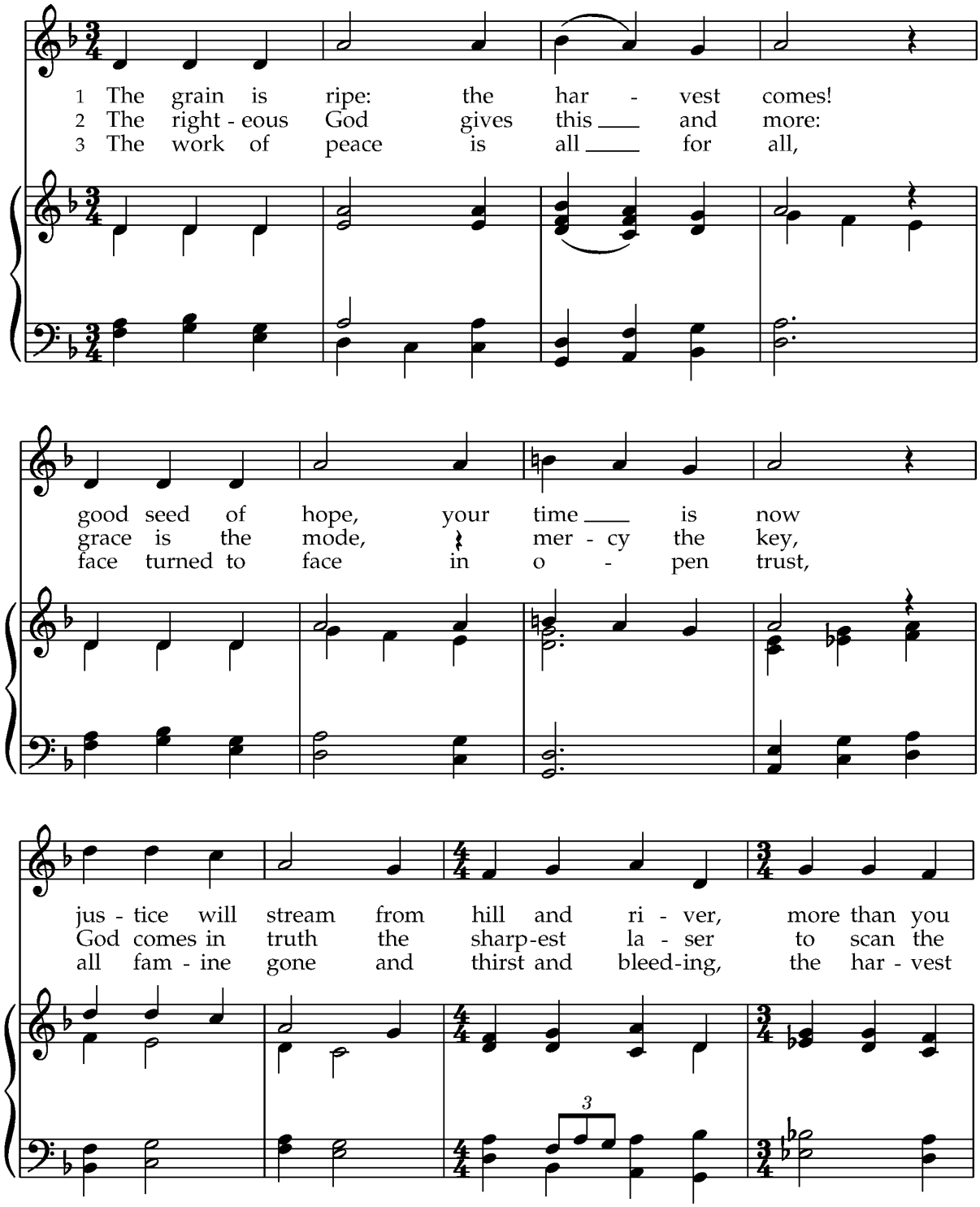
Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

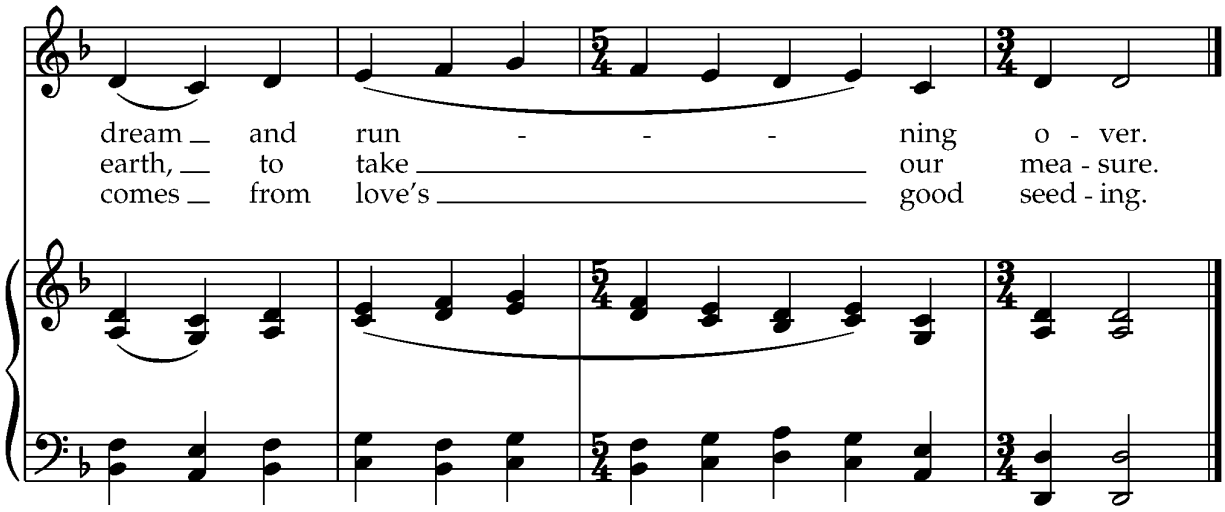
Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *The Grain is Ripe (Greensborough) (VF 33)*





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Post-Communion Prayer

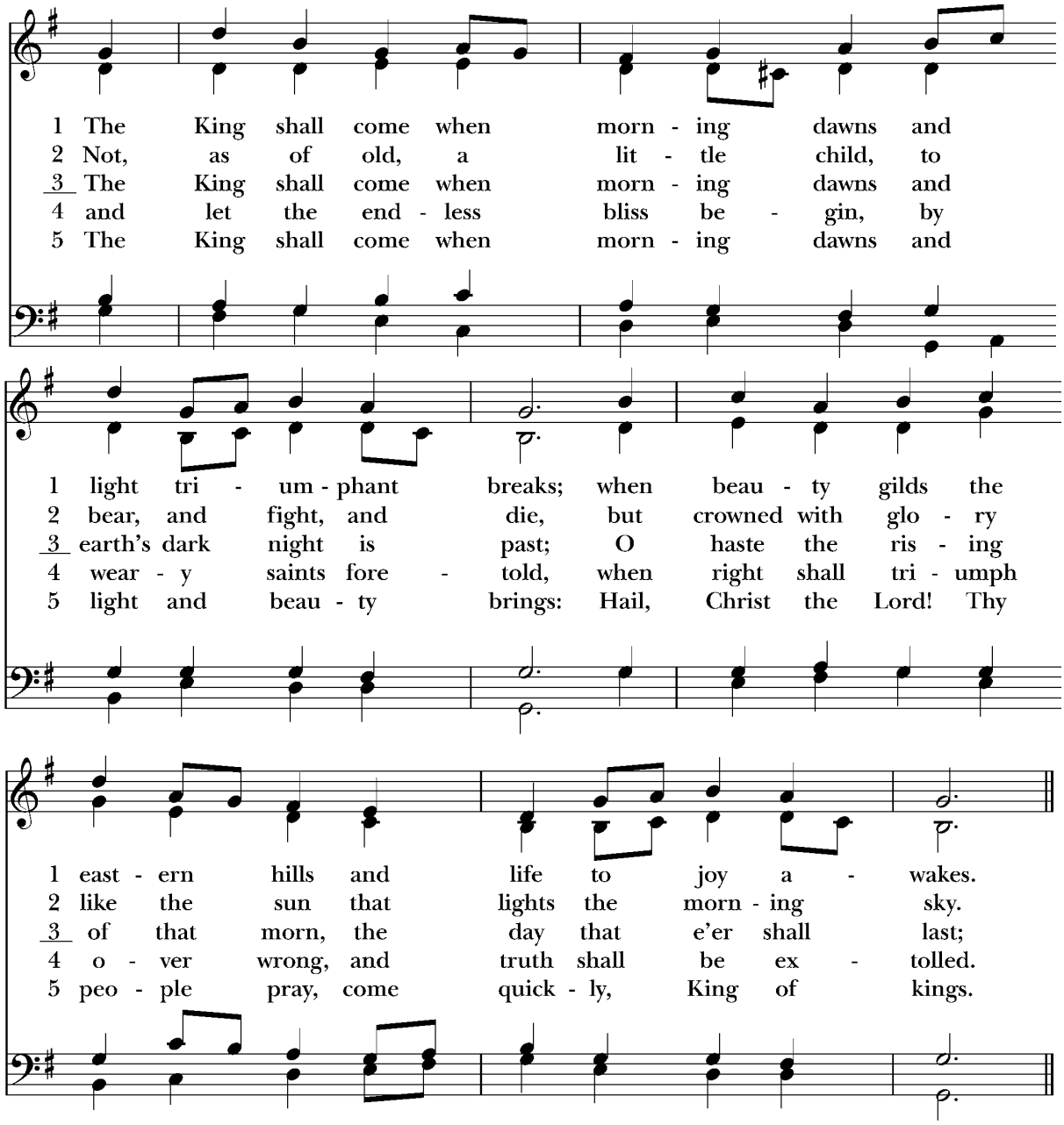
Let us pray.
Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn: *The King shall come when morning dawns (St. Stephen) (H 73)*



Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Hymn Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel,* George Oldroyd

TODAY'S SERVERS:
Celebrant: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis
Altar Guild: Kelli Green and Susan Phillips
Lector: Carol Sutek
Counters: Demetrius Carrothers and Carol Sutek

Announcements

November Birthdays

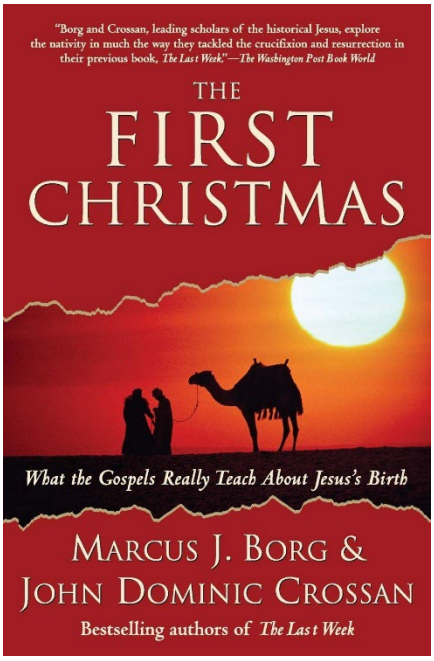
Alice Bolam, 11/4
Rachel Demastus, 11/5
James Husted, 11/8
Elizabeth Paynter, 11/9
Ronald Neidig, 11/10
Gene Miller, 11/10
Luke Papadeonise, 11/13
David Swope, 11/18
Linda Kendrick, 11/30

November Anniversaries

Gene and Joanne Miller, 11/22
Peggy and Ron Neidig, 11/27

Making the most of Advent

St. Paul's invites you to deepen your understanding and the quiet joy of Advent in two ways this year:



Join us in the Guild Hall after worship for a special Advent class. Fr. Joe will lead the class using material from the book "***The First Christmas"*** by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. This is an excellent way to prepare to welcome the Christ child on Christmas. The class also will be available via Zoom.

And building on the amazing generosity of last year, we are once again filling our "Reverse Advent Calendar" bags with the necessities of life, which we will deliver on Epiphany to our neighbors at the YWCA. Thanks to all of you, last year's effort -- the first for St. Paul's – wrapped up with the collection of thousands of items. Today, we're distributing the bags and the calendars for everyone to take home. Then each day of Advent, each of us will prayerfully put one item into our bags: from nail clippers to bottles of shampoo to canned goods. The need in our community this year is even greater than last.