

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 12/14 8:15AM WORSHIP  
9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:45AM WORSHIP

MONDAY, 12/15 5:00 DOORS OPEN FOR THE COMMUNITY MEAL  
6:00 DINNER SERVED AT THE COMMUNITY MEAL  
6:00PM PRAYER GROUP  
7:00PM BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY, 12/16

WEDNESDAY, 12/17 6:00PM WOMEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY, 12/18 NOON BIBLE STUDY  
6:00 PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES  
7:00PM CHOIR REHEARSAL

FRIDAY, 12/19

SATURDAY, 12/20

SUNDAY, 12/21 8:15AM WORSHIP  
9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:30 YOUNG AT HEART  
9:30 YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY  
10:45AM WORSHIP WITH ASL INTERPRETER  
7:00PM BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

### THANK YOU ....

A big thank you to everyone who baked, set up, served, cleaned, and helped out at the cookie tour on Dec 5th.

It was a wonderful opportunity for outreach in our community. We couldn't have done it without you!  
You are appreciated!

Thank you to all who helped at the Chrismon making, (especially the youth!) -  
We appreciate your dedication to this fun annual event!

Welcome Members and Visitors today!

### Bible Studies....

Christmas Carols are a central part of the season. This Advent, we will have multiple different opportunities to learn more about carols and deepen their meaning for us.

Monday Bible Study at 7 pm will look at the history of Christmas carols and how they have developed over time.

Wednesdays at 6 pm there will be an online study of four different carols that will be part of our Christmas Eve services with their history, Biblical references and meaning.

Thursdays at noon will look at Christ in carols. What do we learn about Jesus from our songs?

Sunday, December 28 there will be one service at 10am which will be lessons and carols with communion.

Please join us as we grow in our faith through Christmas carols.

### Women's Faith and Fellowship ....

December 17 will be our Christmas Party! We will meet in the fellowship hall at 6:00pm. If you can, bring a traditional, ethnic, holiday dish from your family to share.

Talk to Pastor Sarah or Danielle about the gift exchange.

All women are welcome!



4:00PM - Family Service with Candlelighting

8:00PM- Traditional Service with Candlelighting

## Youth grades 7-12....

12/21- 9:30 am- Youth Christmas Party during Sunday school

**Children up through 6th grade will be singing on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at both services.** If you worship at 10:45am, please have your child at the church in the Miller Parlor at 9 am to sing at the end of first service. For those who worship at first service, children will be singing at the beginning of second service. Thank you to all who are working with the children to lift their voices in praise of Jesus!

## Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon: Christmas Eve Eve

There will be a service on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at NOON in the Church for anyone who cannot make the Christmas Eve services for any reason. Following the service, lunch will be provided in the Miller Parlor. If you need a ride to this service, please call the office.

## Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm: Blue Christmas Service

Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) is a day in the **Advent** season marking the **longest night of the year**. Blue Christmas services offer special recognition of the struggles that many people face during this season, while providing a safe place of rest, comfort and healing, with the assurance that Christ, the light of the world is coming.

**December Community** Meal... Monday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>  
Doors open at 5:00 PM. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM.

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> one Service at 10:00am** -  
Carols and Lessons

## ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

	8:15	10:45
Assisting Minister	Tracy McNelly	Jodi Waugaman
Communion Assistants	Dave and Jodi Smith	Mary Smaligo Joe Thomas
Lector	Chris Karpinsky	Mike Stark
Acolyte	John Sheleheda	Justin Keiser
Greeters		Lisa Lucotch Jocelyn Snyder
Altar Guild		

Set-up Saturday, Dec. 13	Nina Saccamano and Debbie Curtis	
Sunday, Dec. 14	8:15	Lori Thomas
	10:45	Nina Saccamano and Debbie Curtis
Set-up Saturday, Dec. 20	Lori Thomas	
Sunday, Dec. 21	8:15	Lois Brown and Debbie Reed
	10:45	Tom and LouAnne Dawson

**Food Pantry** 2026 Dates: February 21 (Easter distribution), April 11, June 13, August 8, October 17 (Thanksgiving), December 12 (Christmas) distribution

Items needed currently, special requests:

Pancake mix	Maple Syrup	Sugar cookie mix	Liquid soap
Canned frosting	Candy	Laundry detergent	

Items always requested:

Mac & cheese/pasta	Applesauce	Baked beans	Canned fruit
Canned tuna	Cereal	Granola bars	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Paper Towels	Peanut butter & Jelly	
Potato/rice mix	Pudding Cups	Toilet Paper	
Cheese Crackers	Cake/muffin/brownie mix		
Chef Boyardee	Canned Vegetables		

Many thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate money, please mark "food pantry" in the subject line on your check or you may use one of the pew envelopes. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or [waugawoman86@comcast.net](mailto:waugawoman86@comcast.net)

## **Worship Plan for Sunday, December 14, 2025**

3 Advent

Third Sunday of Advent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Two

Sunday, December 14, 2025

### **Introduction to the day**

*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

**We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

**We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

**We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

**Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.**

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025*

### **\*GATHERING SONG    *Warm the Time of Winter***

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## WARM THE TIME OF WINTER

Gathering Rite

Ruth Duck

Lori True

### 1. Gathering Song



1. When the wind of win - ter blows, bring - ing times of  
2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of  
3. When in days of fall - en snow, change con - founds or



sol - i - tude, fill the si - lent, ic - y night;  
death comes near, hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear,  
love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise



be our hearts' com - pas - sion.  
while the eve - ning deep - ens.  
phoe - nix of our grow - ing.



Ho-ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.



Ho-ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.



## \*KYRIE

## Pastor (sing):

*As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. You came as a child of Bethlehem to gather us into the peace of your Kingdom.*

## 2. Pentential Rite

### Text of verses for Penitential Rite and Music: Lori True

*Priest: (spoken over introduction)* As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

## Introduction

The image shows a musical score for two parts: 'C Instrument' and 'Cello'. The 'C Instrument' part is in the treble clef, major key, and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves: the top staff has a dynamic of 'mf' and includes measures for chords Em, D/E, C/E, and D/E; the bottom staff has a dynamic of 'mf' and includes measures for chords D, E, F, and G. The 'Cello' part is in the bass clef, major key, and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves: the top staff has a dynamic of 'mf' and includes measures for chords D, E, F, and G; the bottom staff has a dynamic of 'mf' and includes measures for chords D, E, F, and G. The score is divided into sections labeled 'Em', 'D/E', 'C/E', and 'D/E' for the top staff, and 'D', 'E', 'F', and 'G' for the bottom staff. The 'Cello' part also includes a section labeled 'simile'.

5 Em D/E A Bm

*Priest/Cantor*

1. You

**Verstones**

9 Em D/E C/E D/E

came as a child of Beth - le - hem  
(2.) come as the Son of Mar - y,  
(3.) come in glo - ry as God's own Son,  
7 to 7 Em  
with sal-

*smile*

13 Em D/E A

gath - er us in - to the peace of your king - dom.  
man - u - el, God with us.  
va - tion for all your peo - ple.

17

*Cantor*

Am Em/G D/F# Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A A

DAVID  
sings  
verses

\*ALL,  
join in  
the  
refrain

21

*All*

F Cmaj<sup>7</sup> D/F# Bm<sup>7</sup> Cmaj<sup>7</sup>

**Pastor (sing):**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

25 1., 2. 3. Am C Instrument Em/G

— 2. You—  
— 3. You will — Priest: (spoken) May almighty God have mercy on us,

29 D/F# Cmaj<sup>7</sup> rit. D Em  
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. All: Amen.

**\*ALL: Amen.**

## \*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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING **(lector)**

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).**

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

*Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.*

## \*SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Based on VENI EMMANUEL  
Stephen Pishner

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.



*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord.



**CHILDRENS' SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Christ, Be Our Light #715*

## Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.  
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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**\*Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 ASST MIN.**

Into our troubles and weaknesses, into the barren places of our souls, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

Into war-torn places, into those who live in conflict, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

Into the homeless and the unemployed, into those who feel abandoned, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

Into the sick and the disabled, into those who need your care (*especially*), come, Lord.

**Come down, come in, come among us and make us whole.**

Into the poor and the starving, come, Lord.  
**Come among us and make us whole.**

Into the lives of loved ones, into those from whom we are estranged, come, Lord, **Come among us and make us whole.**

*Here other intercessions may be added.*

Into our joys and celebrations, into our work and our achievements, come, Lord

**Come among us and make us whole.**

**Pastor**

O Christ, we long for your coming. Hasten that day when those who seek you in every nation will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit at the table in your kingdom. Hasten the day when your kingdom will come in all its glory, and suffering and pain and sickness and oppression and death will be overcome forever. Hasten the day when we will be resurrected as your people and live in peace, harmony, joy, and love together in your kingdom. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

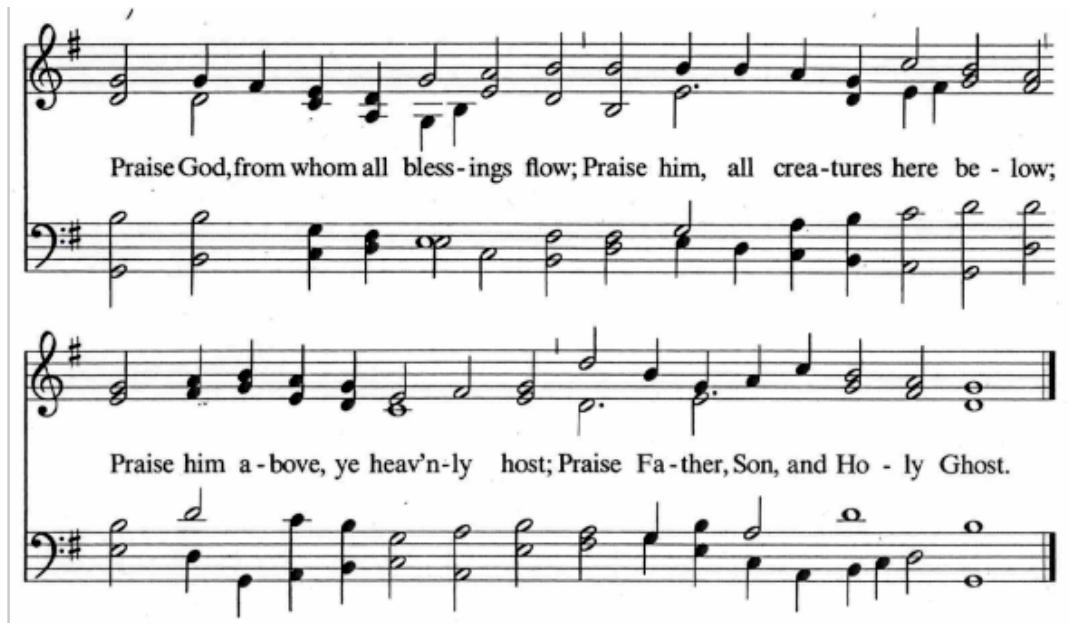
The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

Choir Anthem: *Creator of the Stars of Night*

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE



The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in treble clef. The music is in common time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first line of lyrics is "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;". The second line of lyrics is "Praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost."

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor receive care. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE Pastor**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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**

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

### Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

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 *Pastor***

**Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.**  
**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

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised

## COMMUNION SONG

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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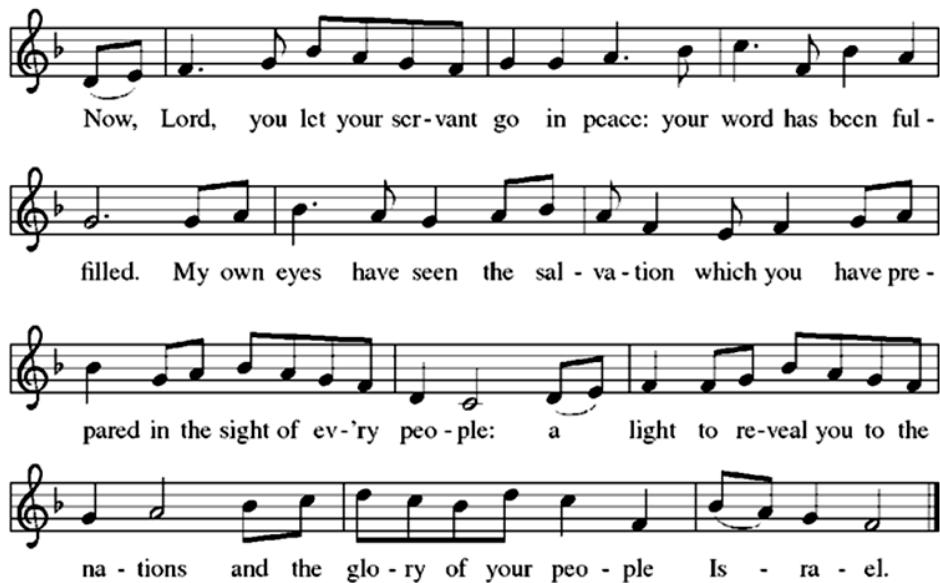
## COMMUNION

Hymn During Communion: ***He Comes to Us as One Unknown #737***

## \*COMMUNION BLESSING **Pastor**

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

## \*SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *assisting minister*

Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## \*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

Advent people, go now in the blessing of God's joy, confident that the day we await is close at hand and ready to cooperate with God in building the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG *People, Look East #248*

## People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**