

November 29, 2026

EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

PRELUDE **Piano Solo**

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

OPENING SONG **10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)**
by Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin

CHORUS

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

VERSE 1

The sun comes up It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing When the evening comes

CHORUS

VERSE 2

You're rich in love And You're slow to anger
Your name is great And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons For my heart to find

CHORUS

VERSE 3

And on that day When my strength is failing
The end draws near And my time has come
Still my soul will Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years And then forevermore

CHORUS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence For Reflection

L: Comforting God,

C: 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.

L: "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!

C: Amen!

THE PEACE

We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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 WORD

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above they deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

A RESPONSIVE READING **PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19**

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

L: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

C: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.



A SECOND READING **1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**

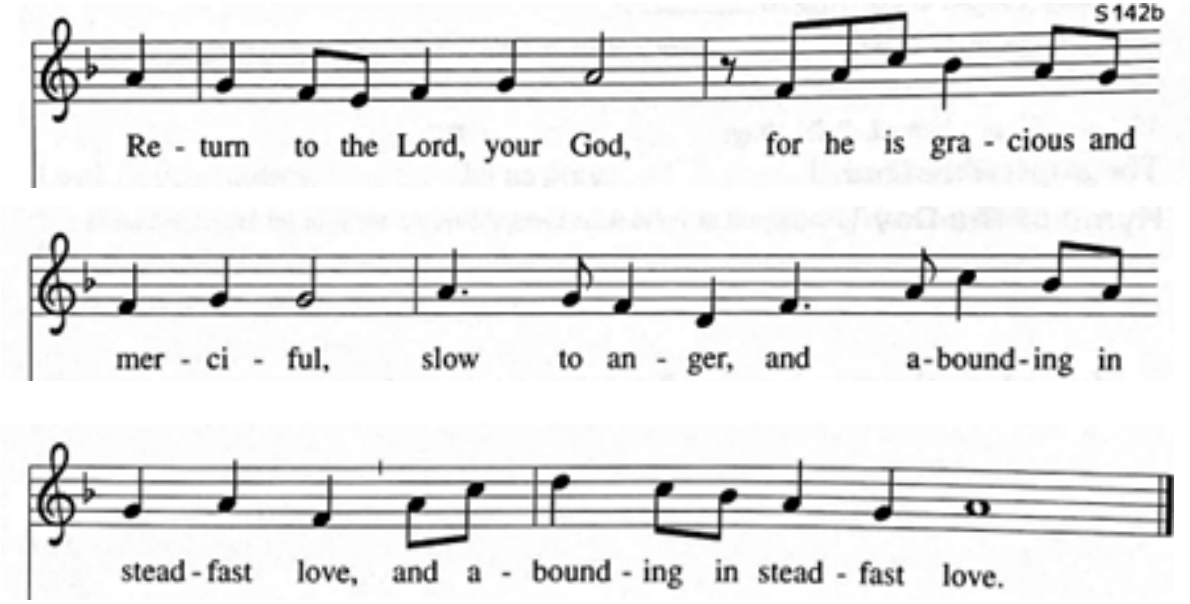
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **(ELW Setting 3)**



THE GOSPEL READING **MARK 13:24-37**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

(Congregation standing)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. Mark, in the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you , O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 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. "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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

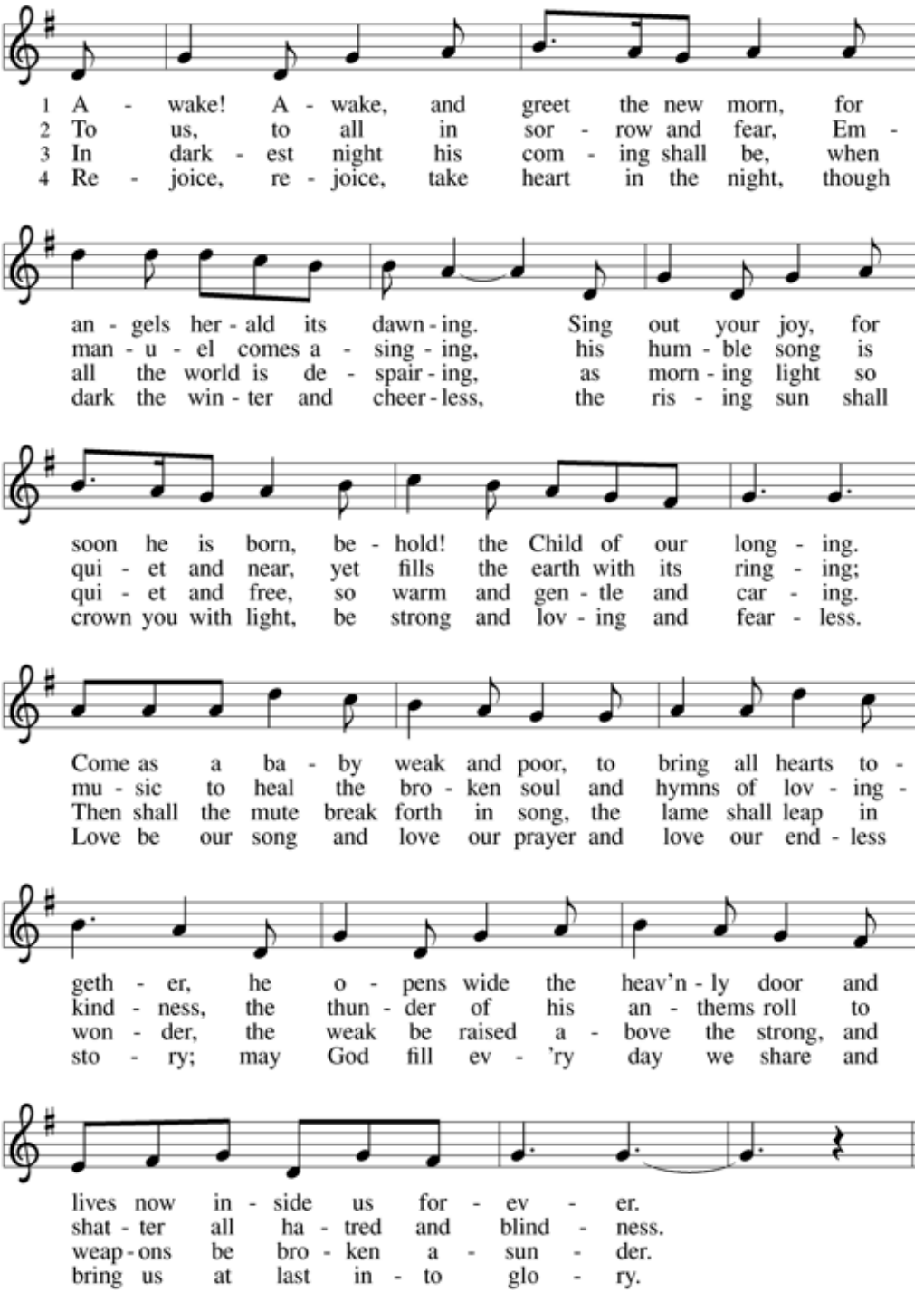
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS & A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake Awake and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)

by Marty Haugen



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 into hell. 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 THE PEOPLE

A: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

the Prayers conclude:

A: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C: Amen.



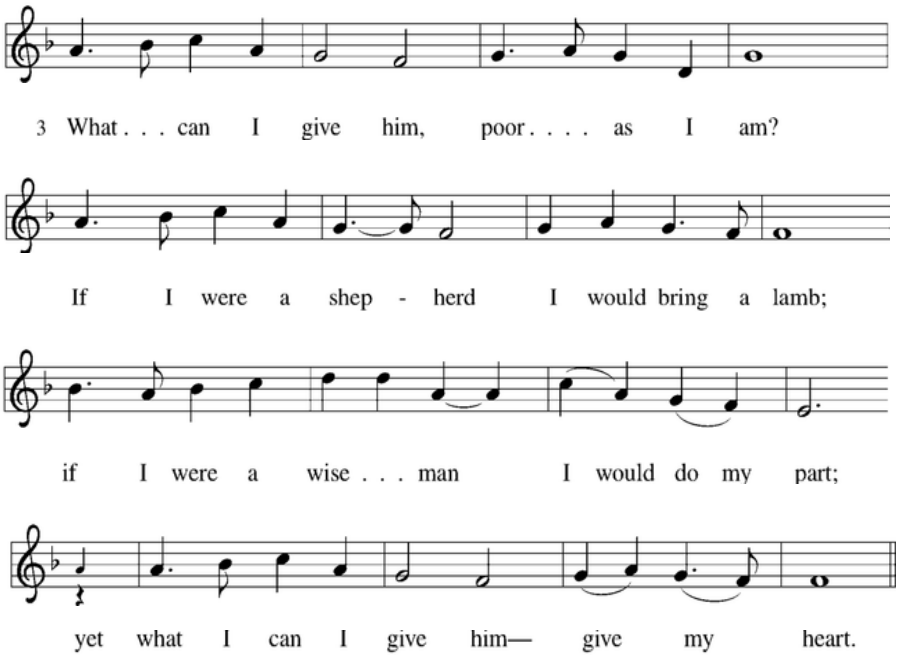
THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Gavotte
by J. Ph. Rameaul

In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294)
by Christina Georgina Rossetti



OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray together.

C: 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.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

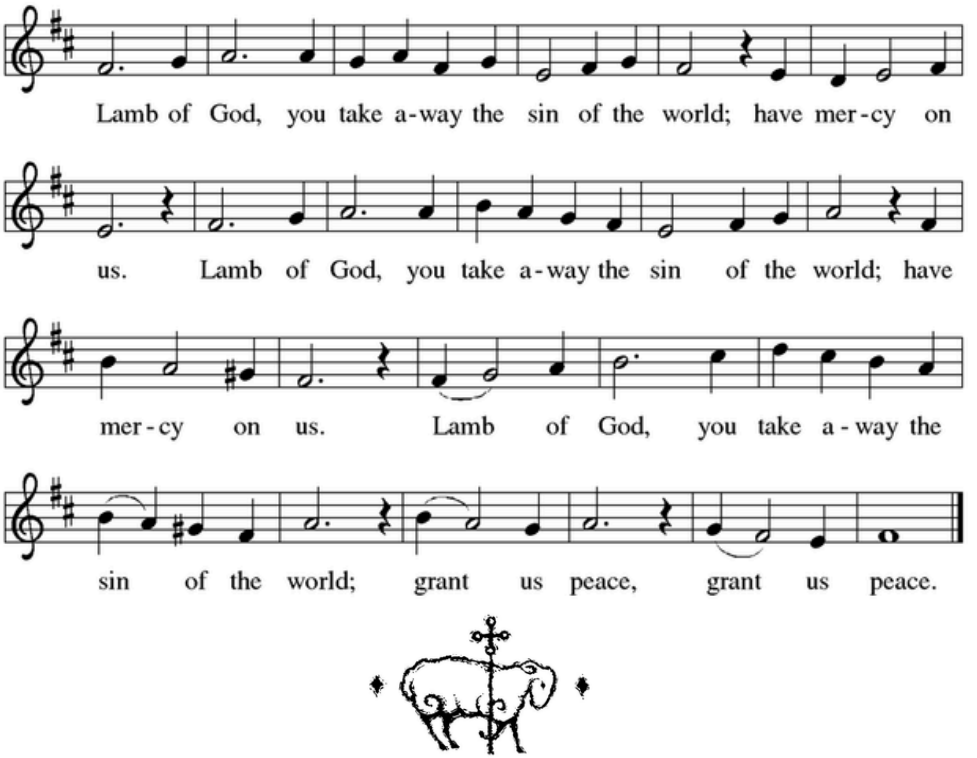
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD



HOLY COMMUNION

We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction. We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.

Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.

Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.

COMMUNION SONG

Entr' acte from Rosamunde
Franz Schubert; arr. by Max Laurischkus

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

House Of The Lord

by Jonathan Smith & Phil Wickham; Arr. by Dan Galbraith

VERSE 1

We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God, He holds the victory.

CHORUS

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

(Oh-oh, oh) we shout out Your praise
(Oh-oh, oh)

VERSE 2

We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away

CHORUS

BRIDGE X2

'Cause we were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise

CHORUS X2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSED & SENT TO SERVE

A: This little light of mine…

C: I'm gonna let it shine!

A: Once again, Jesus calls us to keep awake. While we wait for his coming this Advent season, we take comfort that Jesus' words are always with us no matter how difficult life may be. His promise to gather us together in love and support gives us the confidence we need to face whatever may come. We will keep sharing Jesus' comforting words of hope until…

C: Everyone knows that God loves them!

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God!



POSTLUDE

If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.

*** Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to communications@epiphanysuwanee.org.*

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

Ministers: The People of God

Pastor: Chris Hermansen

Minister of Youth: Kris Perkola

Director of Worship and Music: Heather Hart, DMus

Pianist: Zhiyang (Tomo) Shu

Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

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Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin
Arr. by Dan Galbraith and Brad Henderson
Orch. by Dan Galbraith
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Text by Phillips Brooks; Music by Lewis H. Redner
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Awake Awake and Greet the New Morn (ELW 242)
Tarty Haugen
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Gavotte
J. Ph. Rameau
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In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294)
Text: Christina Georgina Rosetti
Music: Gustav Holst
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Lamb of God
ELW Holy Communion Setting Four
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Entr' acte from Rosamunde
D. 797, op. 96
Franz Schubert, arr. by Max Laurischkus
Public domain

House Of The Lord
by Jonathan Smith & Phil Wickham; Arr. by Dan Galbraith
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- DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE ON SUNDAY

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