GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November 29, 2026 – The First Sunday of Advent

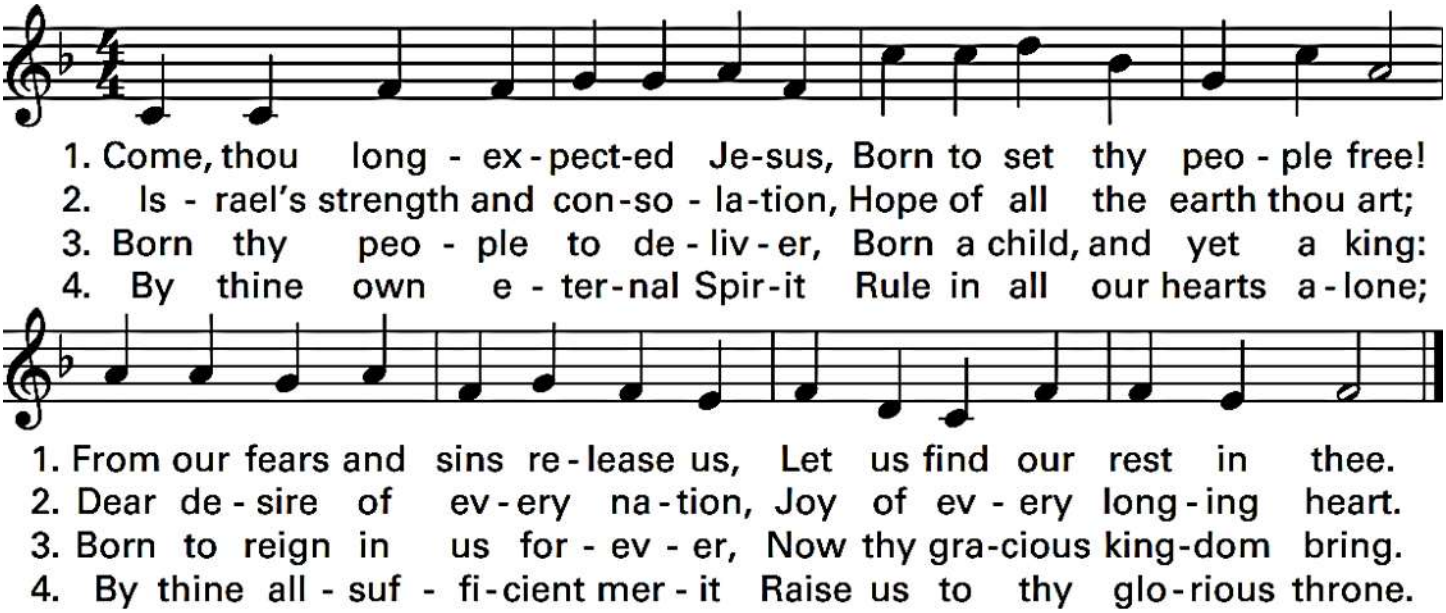
8:30 Bulletin

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

Our word "Advent" comes from the Latin term *Adventus*, which means "coming" and originally referred just to Christmas. Today, however, it refers both to his birth at Christmas and to his second coming at the end of time. We first know of western Christians keeping the season of Advent in the sixth century. Advent was a season of penitence which included fasting, and the color purple symbolized this. In recent years, many congregations have begun using **blue**, the color associated with Mary, because of her significance as the mother of Jesus. In most Episcopal congregations today, Advent is kept more as a season of waiting—joyful anticipation of the coming birth of Jesus.

OPENING HYMN: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Please stand as you are able



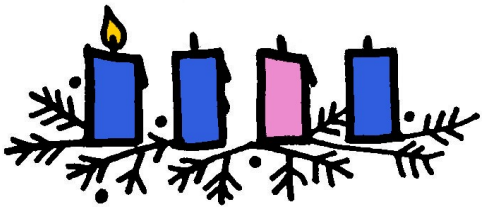
Celebrant begins:

For the desert places in which we walk, the streets we roam, the paths we cross: guide our feet, O God. Give us words that you would use, that in this Advent season of promise and preparation, we might point the way with John the Baptist to the Lamb of God, who came to show us the way of love. **AMEN.**

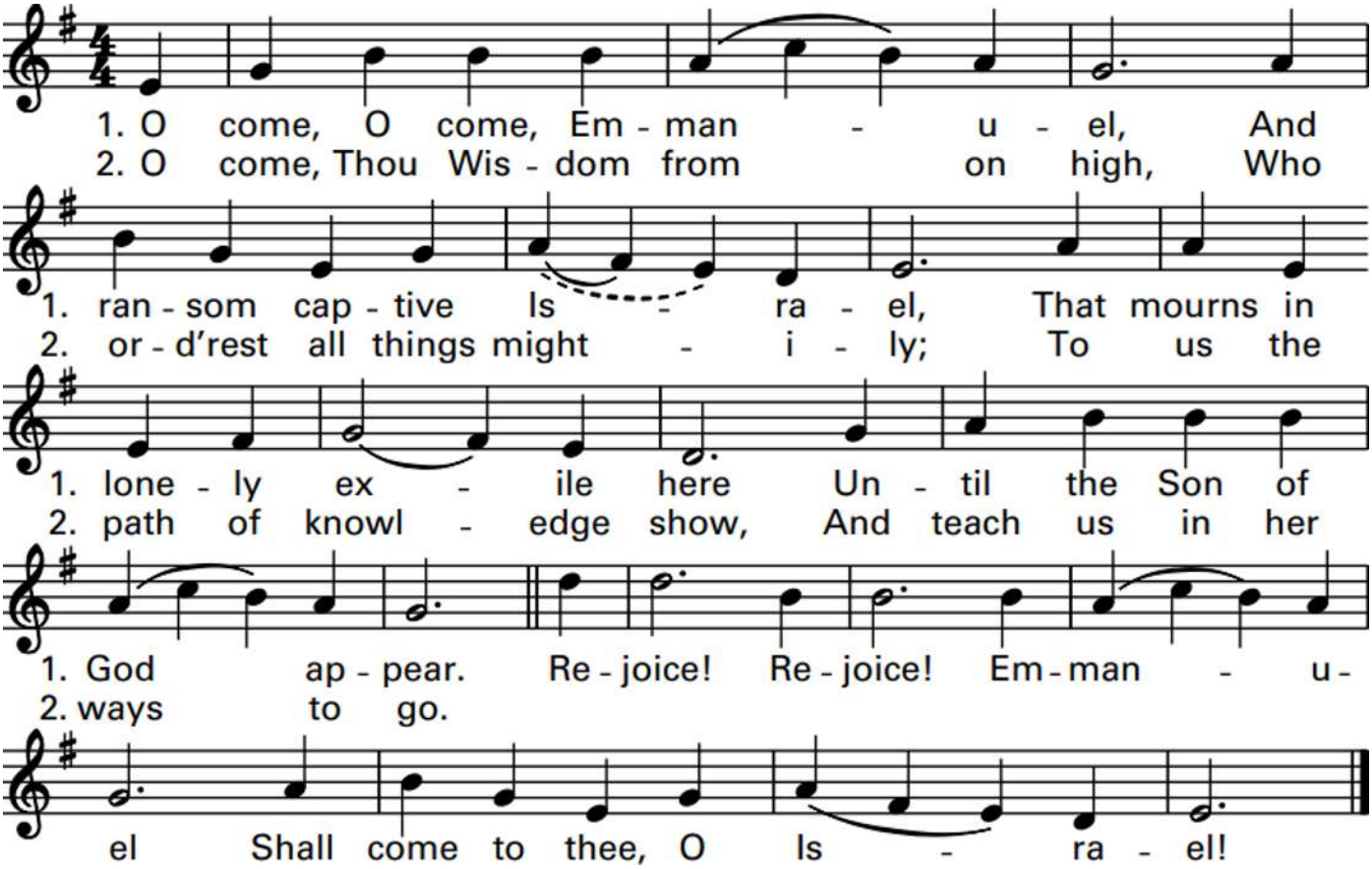
CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER

Celebrant continues:

Creator God, master of both the light and the darkness, as we light these Advent candles, send your Holy Spirit upon us during this season as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas: we who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us; we who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say: **Come, Lord Jesus!**



CANDLE-LIGHTING: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

KYRIE

Celebrant Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

This Week's Reader: ***Karen Davenport*** ✞ *Next Sunday:* ***Cheryle Kahl***

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9 *Please be seated*

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

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!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the **

[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 of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

[4]O Lord God of hosts,*
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

[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;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

[16]Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,*
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

[17]And so will we never turn away from you;*
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

[18]Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also

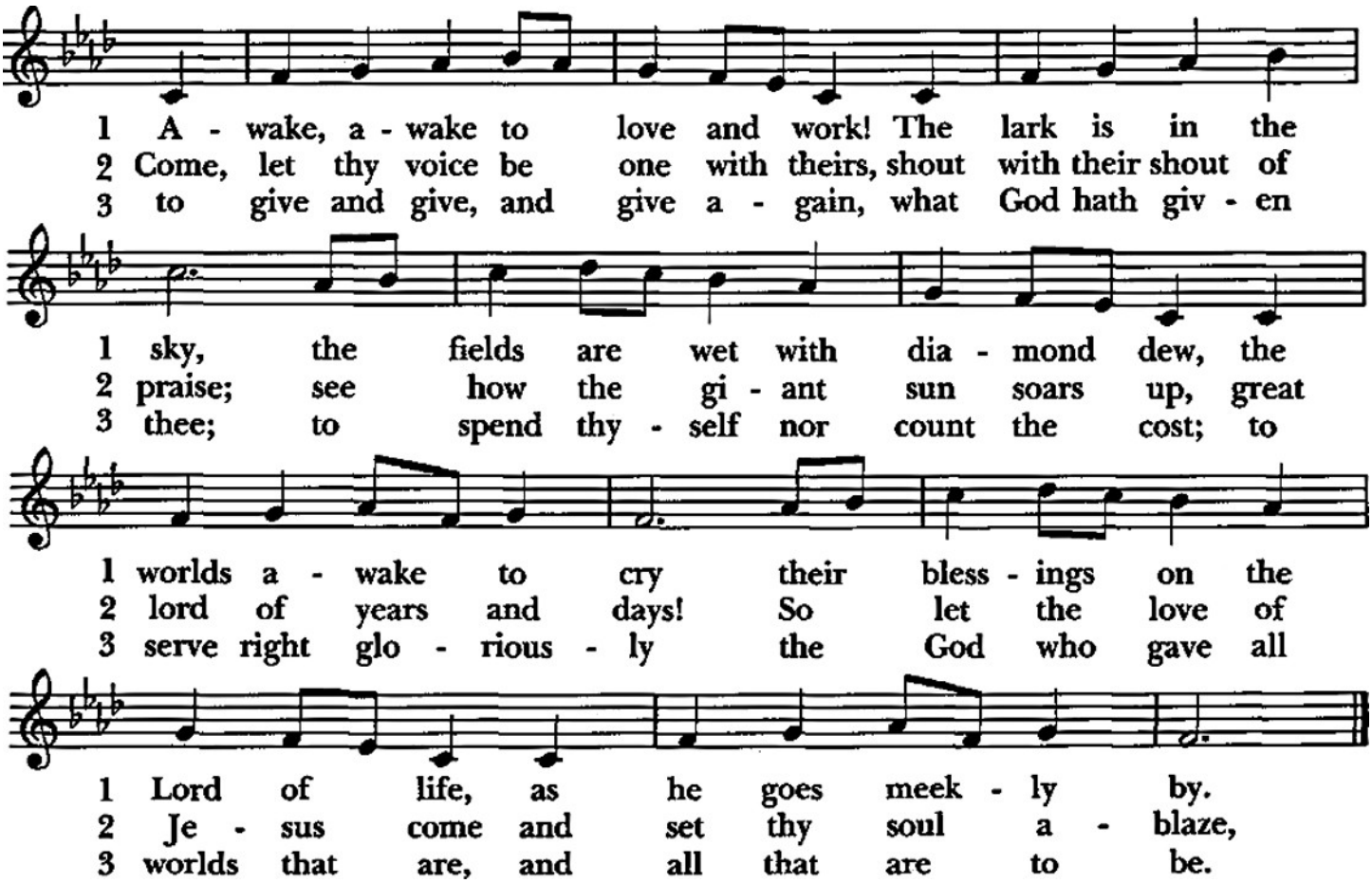
strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: Awake, Awake To Love and Work!

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 his 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."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON *Please be seated*

NICENE CREED *BCP p. 358* *Please stand as you are 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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

The Leader and people pray responsively:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop and Bonnie our diocesan bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all of us the holy people of God. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you Lord Jesus, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and trust may grow among nations and peoples. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, especially our elected officials, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and well-being of every person. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners and all who are in danger, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan and Haiti; that they may be comforted and protected. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the special needs and concerns of our Grace community, and for those on our prayer list; for our families, friends and neighbors. Are there others you would like to add?

We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that with all the saints they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the joy and wonder of Mary, let us commend ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God. We pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Celebrant continues:

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

It is truly right to glorify you, God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say:

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 acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

For you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

We now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you,

from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, our God.

God, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, God, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ.

For it is through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, that all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant:

And now, as our Savior 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, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for all of us, the people of God. Holy gifts for holy people.

COMMUNION *Please be seated*

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten-free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *BCP p. 366*

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

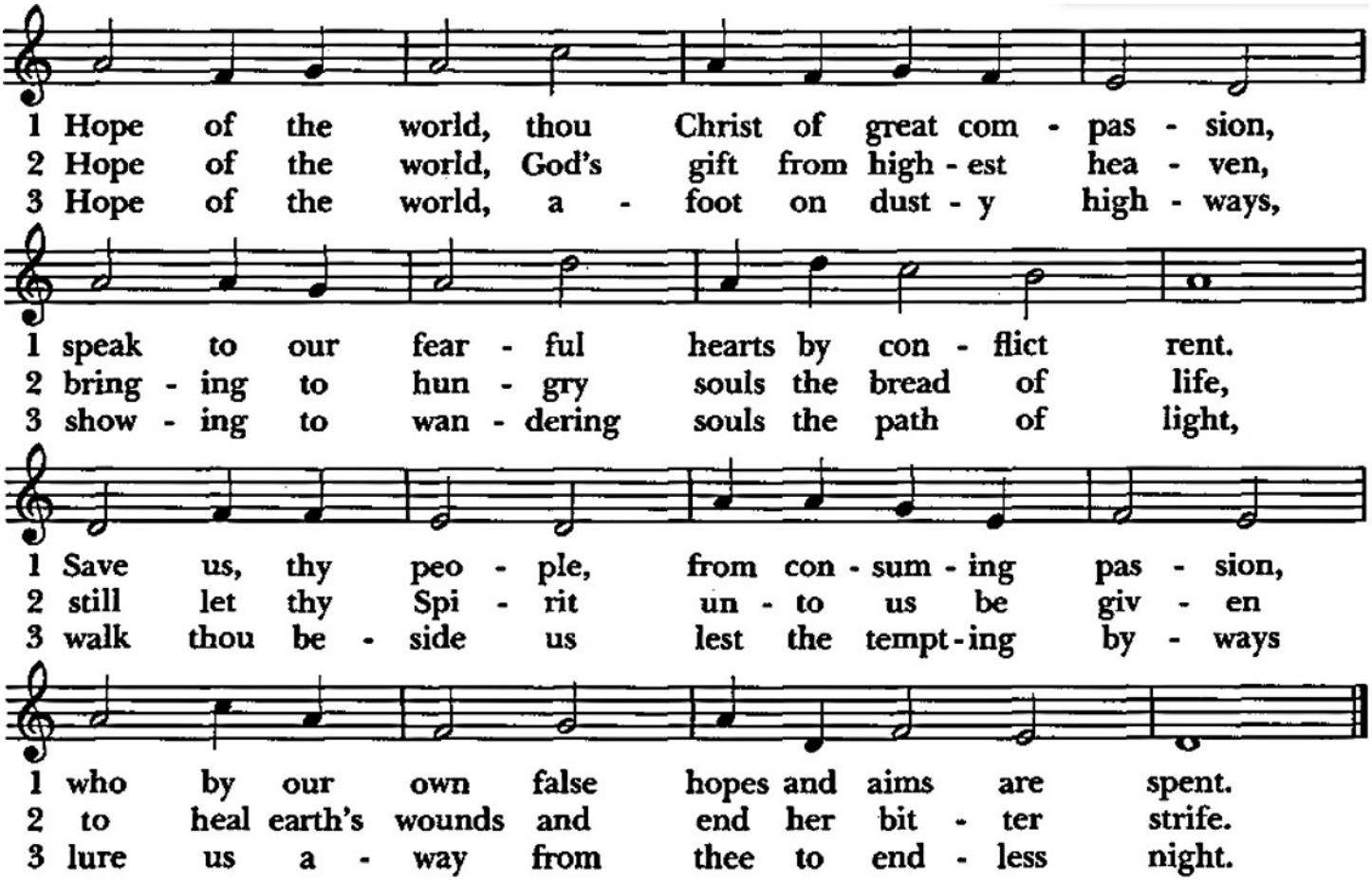
Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, 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

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you during this Advent season and forevermore. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Hope Of The World



DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our worship has now ended; go in peace to await patiently the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

People **Thanks be to God.**





The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Julie E. Schneider-Thomas, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger–Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Jennifer Holland; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Nancy Johnson & family; Rick Ghersi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger & family; Steve Burns; Sandy Krell; Bobby Couts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffer; Frank Davis; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley; Fran Merlo; Betty Gillis; Robert Tuten; Daniel Ranger; Gary Keranen; Leslie Sasges; Norris Satterly; Dan Kotesky; Judy Kuase; Brian Negran; Takashi Nawafune; Mary Lang; Sue Sargent; Jess Taylor; Scott Satterly; Sue Retherford; Carole Marshall; Kris Eckert; Margaret Morgan; Bill Atkinson; Kathy Martin; Pastor Jeff Forester; Laura Nelhiebel; Sal Porcaro; Dr. Amy Fletemier; Debbie Moray-Brach.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?
Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN AND SING!

Join us at choir rehearsal **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. Faces and voices both new and familiar are most welcome as we lift up our praises in song and help guide our Grace community into the season of Advent and the birth of our Lord!

INQUIRER CLASSES

Interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church by our bishop? Join us for four one-hour sessions from **2 to 3 PM** on the following **Wednesdays**: **November 11** and **18** and **December 2** and **9**. Attend in person or via Zoom. If you're interested but cannot make this time, please speak to Pastor Steve and we'll come up with a time that works for you.

COOKIE WALK

Grace's annual cookie walk will be **Sunday, December 13** in the hall between services and after the 10:30 service, open to the public from **12 noon to 2 PM**. Pricing is **$10** per pound. Please consider baking at least three batches (nine dozen cookies) to be delivered during set-up that **Saturday, December 12** between **4:30 and 7 PM**. (You can also come help us set up!) You may also join us in the hall on **Friday, December 11** to decorate cut-out cookies, starting at **6 PM**.

WAVE PROJECT WINTER SHELTER UPDATES

Grace will partner with Christian Trinity Church during the week of January 3-9; we'll be responsible for **January 7-9**. Please consider volunteering! See Ann Farrell for more information.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be at Grace on **Thursday, January 14, 2027** at **6 PM**, and we'll be discussing the book *The Leisure Seekers* by Michael Zadoorian. We would love having you join us, so mark your calendar, read the book, and join us for a fun evening. Call Ann Strevel if you have any questions.

For the Lives Behind Essential Infrastructure

Gracious **God**, you have **made us dependent on one another**. **We rely** each day on water infrastructure, transportation systems, banking systems, electricity, healthcare facilities, and many forms of **infrastructure** that **allow daily life in our communities to continue**. As these systems become more connected, a failure in one place can put lives at risk. **Remind us** that behind every power line, water pipe, and computer network are **people who depend upon them**, especially those least able to endure their disruption. **Guide** those in authority **to invest in the stability** of our essential infrastructure, **strengthen** safeguards against those who seek to do harm, and ensure that communities are prepared when systems fail. **Help us** take seriously our duty to protect one another, so that the gifts of human knowledge may **serve the good of all**. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



ADVENT