Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Advent 1: November 29
Hope Plants
Hope is a seed, planted with care



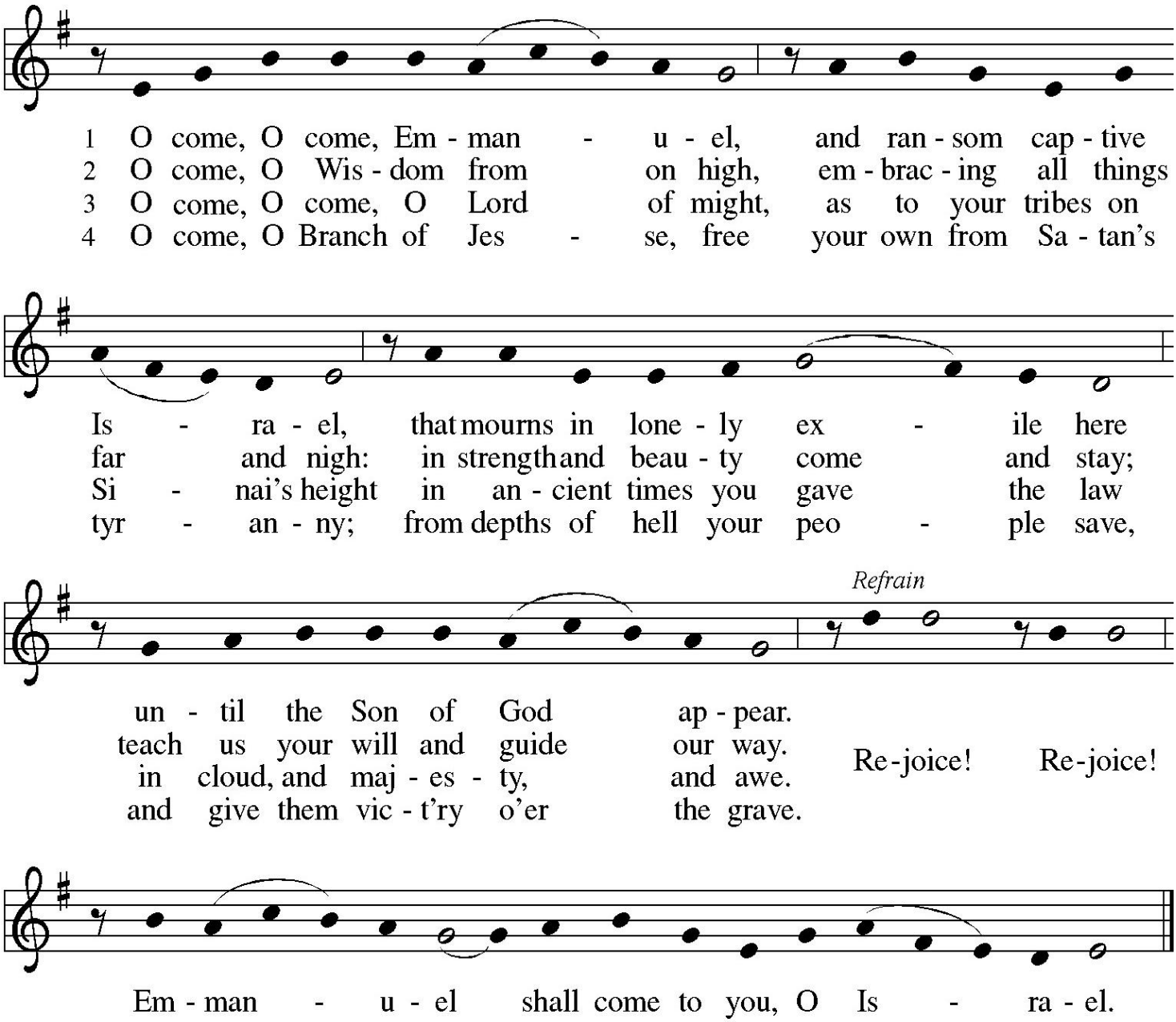
GATHERING

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

Prelude *Improvisation on a Plainchant Theme*

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (v. 1-4) ELW 257



***Advent Wreath Candle Lighting**

Holy God,
We light this candle
to help us remember
that You are here with us.
You are our light.
You are our hope.
May we all experience hope,
Like a seed, planted with care,
Amen.

***Gathering Verse: All Earth is Hopeful**

1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.
God, you are the source and fulfiller of all hope. Somedays, the world around us looks scary and we can't imagine anything getting better. Nurture the precious seed of hope within us. Give us the courage to plant seeds of hope throughout the world, through small acts of kindness and care. Grant that these seeds of hope would bloom a world transformed, through Jesus Christ, our God-With-Us, Emmanuel. **Amen**.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Isaiah 35:1-7

A reading from Isaiah:

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus 2 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.

3 Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
God will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
God will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 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;

7 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.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Procession: He Came Down** ELW 253

1 He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

***Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy Gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

24 "But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. **27** 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.

28 "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. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. **34** 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. **35** 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, **36** or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

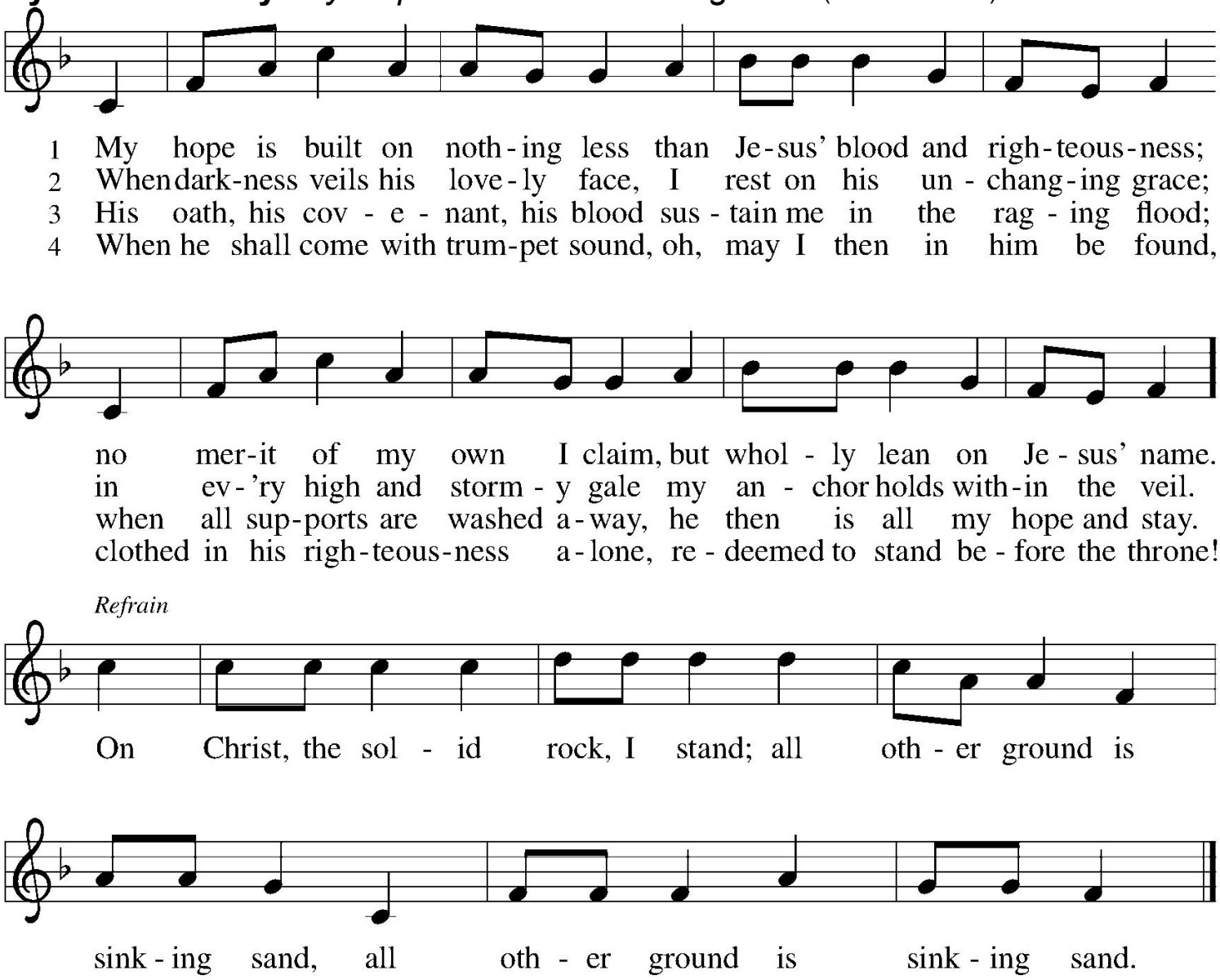
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Gospel Procession: He Came Down** ELW 253

1 He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (LCGS Favorite) ELW 596



Prayers of the People

During Advent, our communal prayer will take the form of meditating on a poem and writing or drawing our intercessions, our prayers for others, on the cards inserted into your bulletins. You are welcome to write your prayers on these tags at any time. These prayers may be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office and will be hung around our sanctuary. As we move through this season, you are invited to walk through the sanctuary, reading and sharing in the prayers that will be displayed.

After our poem is read, there will be a few moments of silence during which you may write your prayers or simply reflect.
Together we pray.

Poem: “Love is the Measure”(1946) excerpt from a Catholic Worker column by Dorothy Day

We confess to being fools and wish that we were more so…

What we would like to do is change the world —
make it a little simpler for people
to feed, clothe and shelter themselves
as God intended them to do.

And to a certain extent,
by fighting for better conditions,
by crying out unceasingly
for the rights of the workers,
of the poor, of the destitute —
the rights of the “worthy” and the “unworthy” poor
in other words,
we can
to a certain extent
change the world.

We can work for the oasis,
the little cell of joy
and peace in a harried world.

We can throw our pebble in the pond
and be confident that its ever widening circle
will reach around the world.

We can give away an onion.

We repeat,
there is nothing that we can do but love,
and dear God —
please enlarge our hearts

to love each other,
to love our neighbor,
to love our enemy
as well as our friend.

Quiet Prayer and Reflection

***Peace - Pastor**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Give online here

Invitation to Offering and Prayer

Offering*: Meditation on Divinum Mysterium*

***Offering Presentation Verse:** *In the Bleak Midwinter*, vs. 3 ELW 294

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wiseman I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him - give my heart.

Offering Prayer

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Words of Institution**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

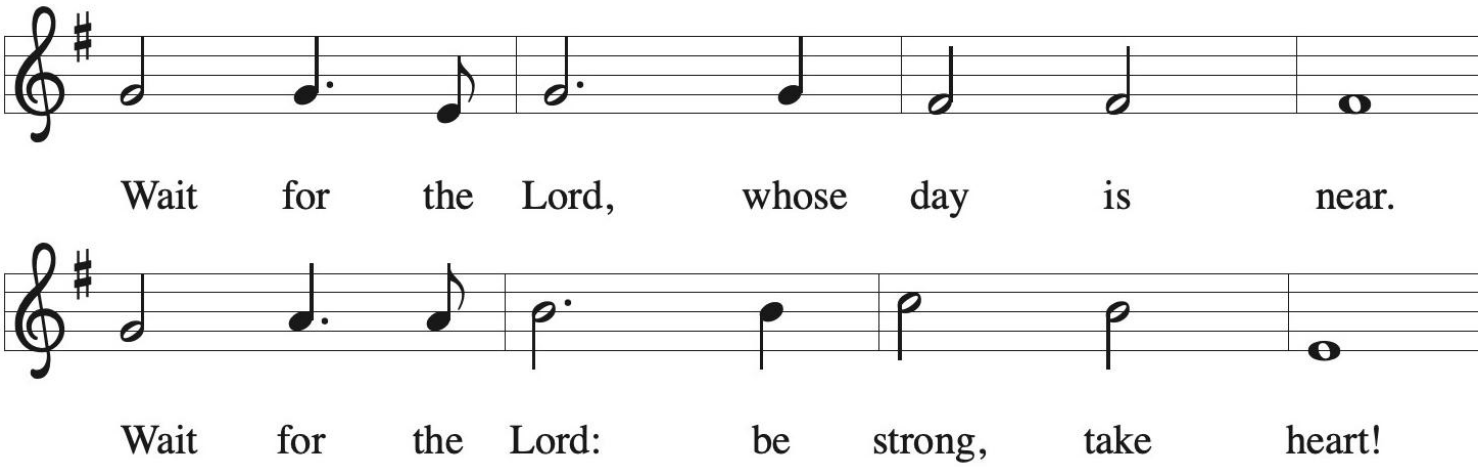
In communion, we experience Jesus for us. The simple elements of bread and wine/juice convey Jesus' love, forgiveness, and grace. All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. Ushers will invite your pew; continue forward to the communion server on your side of the sanctuary. Please put a hand over your heart for a blessing only. If you wish to receive communion, hold open your hand to receive a wafer. Please tell the server if you need a gluten-free wafer. Dip the wafer in the wine (red) or juice (clear). You may immediately eat the wafer. Continue along the outside of the pews to return to your seat.

Songs during Communion:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254

Sung to the tune of Alleluia, Sing to Jesus ELW 392

Wait for the Lord ELW 262 *Repeat in prayer.*



SENDING

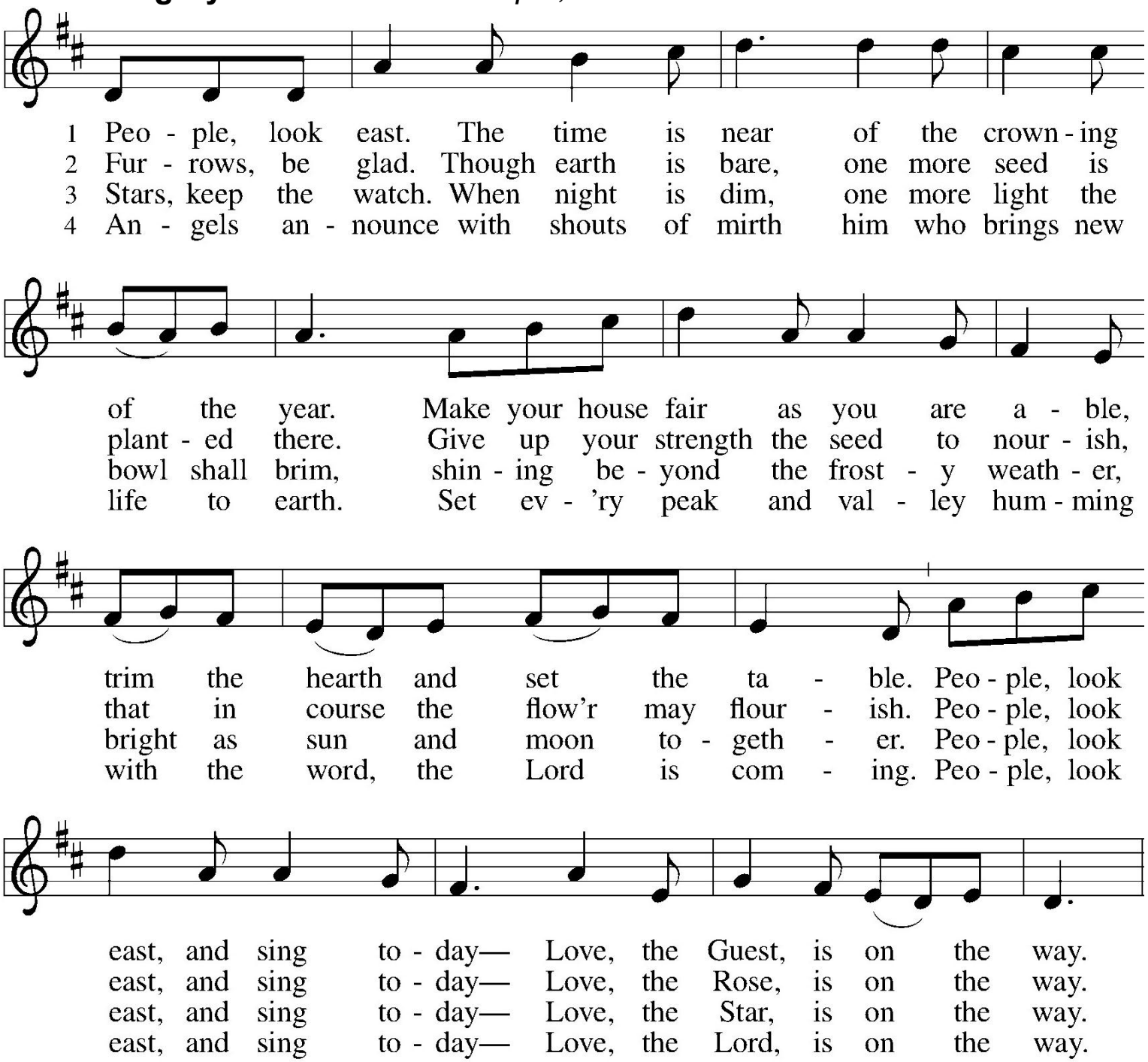
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** *People, Look East* ELW 248



***Dismissal**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Postlude** *Veni Emmanuel* by Aaron David Miller

Thank you all our volunteers who signed up this morning and the following who prepared ahead!

Altar Guild	Pat Johnson	
Projections Preparer	Julie Seidelmann	
Projectionist	Karen Guerndt	
Streaming	Brian Fischer	
Hospitality	Amy Loken	Next Week: Jess Kramer

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Experimenting with Morning Prayer at Good Shepherd.
Join us for a time of guided prayer and morning meditation; all are welcome - all ages
7:45 am Thursdays: November 12th, 19th, and December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
The church building and sanctuary will be open at 7:30 am
The guided prayer experience will start at 7:45 am and it will last about 15-20 minutes

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Shared Worship Leadership:
Worship leadership belongs to all of us. You are invited to take a more active role in creating a welcoming, meaningful, worshipping experience for our congregation. The whiteboard in the entrance area presents an opportunity for everyone to be involved in a variety of roles in worship. Starting today, the back side includes a sign up for next Sunday. We recognize some folks might want the readings ahead of time, or some folks come at 9:30am or are at Sunday School and never get the chance to sign up to lead. We hope you will join in sharing leadership! Pastor Liz will be happy to work with you to ensure you feel confident.

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The next special treat is coming up on December 6th: traditional foods from their heritage or family favorites. Examples might be a special cookie, candy, bread, beverage etc. Share something at the gathering after church on December 6. Bring samples to church by 9:30 that day and include a note or display to show the way your family celebrates.
IF YOU BRING THEM DURING THE WEEK, WE CAN PUT THEM IN THE FREEZER.
OTHERWISE BRING THEM BY 9:15 SUNDAY MORNING TO THE GATHRING SPACE!

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This Week at LCGS!

Nov 29, The First Sunday in Advent
8:45AM Choir rehearsal
9:30AM Worship
10:30AM Coffee Fellowship

Nov 30, Monday
9:00AM –2:00PM Quilters

Dec 1, Tuesday

Dec 2, Wednesday
7:00AM Men's Bible Study
11:30AM Staff Meeting
6:00PM Confirmation: Decorating!!

Dec 2, Thursday
7:45AM Morning Prayer (all are welcome!
9:30AM Women's Faith Study

Dec 4, Friday
8:00AM Women's "Son"rise Bible Conversation (ZOOM)

Dec 5, Saturday

Dec 6, The 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:45AM Choir Rehearsal
9:30AM Worship
10:30AM Coffee Fellowship
10:30AM Sunday School - Christmas Program rehearsal

LCGS Office is open: M – Th: 9am-4pm Friday: 9am – noon
Pastor Liz Davis: pastorliz@lcgsduluth.org, 218-216-2522
Katie Rich, Director of Faith Formation: KatieRich.lcgs@gmail.com
Parker Hinnenkamp: music@lcgsduluth.org
Christine Whitcomb: office@lcgsduluth.org, 218-525-1922
Amie Abenth: communications@lcgsduluth.org