The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

8:30 Traditional Service



Bethany Lutheran Church

4500 E Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

bethany-denver.org



Sock Drive



Throughout the month of December Bethany will be collecting NEW toddler's and children's socks for Wholly Kicks, a local non-profit that mentors and builds relationships by 'walking with' individuals experiencing economic disparity. We'll have collection boxes at both the north and south entrances of the church for these donations.



Thank you for your generosity!





Birthday Party for Jesus!

On Wednesday, **December 9th from 5:15-7:00pm** we will hold our Annual Birthday Party for Jesus celebration. We will have dinner from 5:15-6 pm and our activities will be from 6-7 pm. There will be Birthday cake, Trivia, and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long.



All ages are invited to join in !

P.S. - Don't forget to bring socks for our ongoing sock drive!



✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE Prelude on "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Paul Fey

Intrada on "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

WELCOME *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

New Worshippers-Welcome To Bethany-please stop by the Mission Center after worship for a free gift.

To fill out your digital connection card, go to **www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect**.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

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

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn Soon and Very Soon ELW 439

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

1. Soon and very soon we are going to see the king,
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the king,
   Soon and very soon we are going to see the king,
   Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!
   Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
2. No more crying there...
3. No more dying there...
4. Soon and very soon...



Lighting the Advent Wreath and Litany

Micah: I am the prophet Micah, and God has given me a great vision, an oracle of unexpected Good News! In the quiet town of Bethlehem, the unassuming town of David, a ruler shall emerge among you, a shepherd-king to guide his flock.

Congregation: **From Bethlehem, the city of ancient hope, shall come a leader, born of humility.**

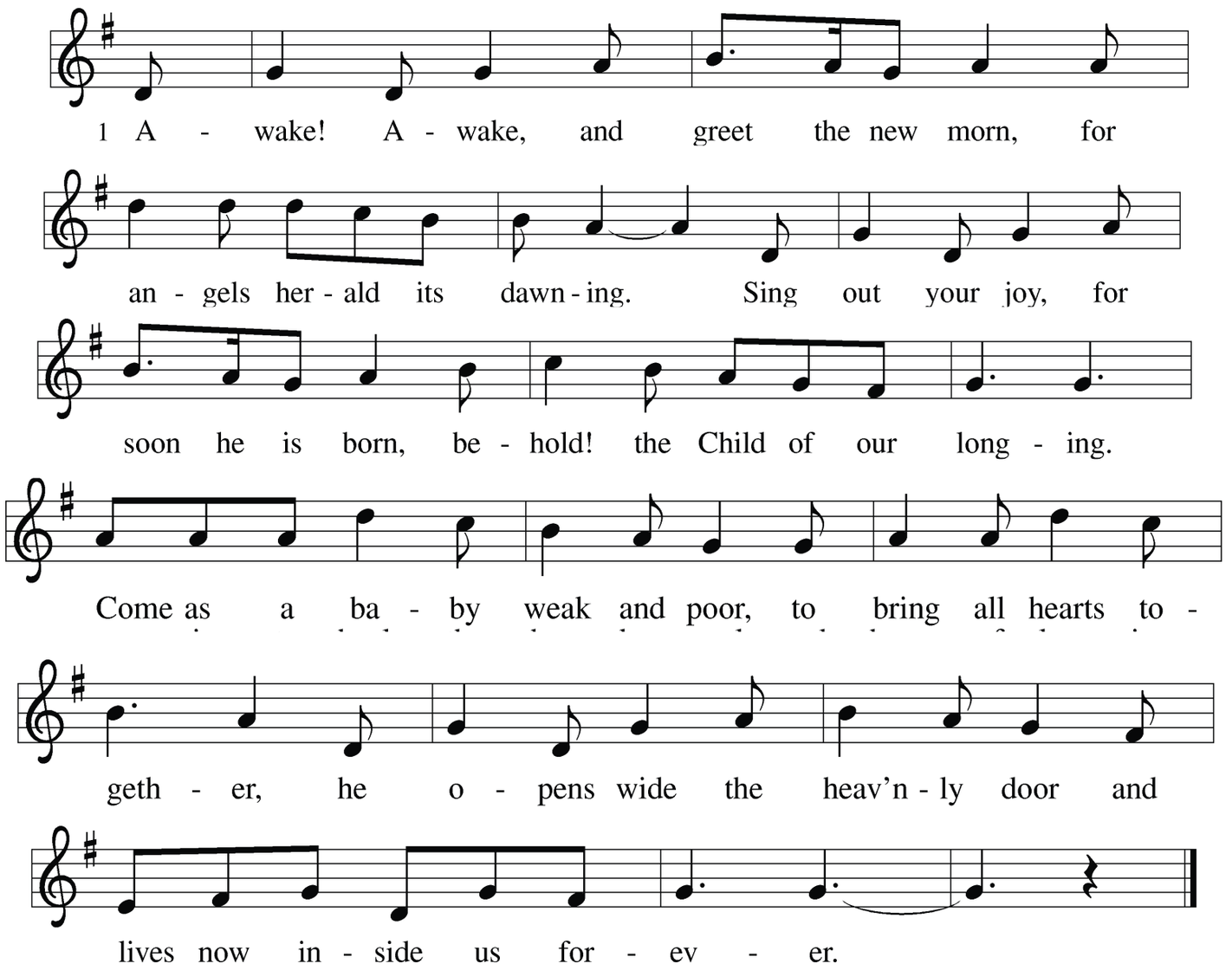
Micah: With courage born of love, not power, He shall be your peace in troubled times, a shepherd standing firm amidst the chaos, His greatness extending to the ends of the earth.

Congregation: **In Bethlehem, the cradle of our faith, shall rise a leader, steadfast and just.**

Micah: As we light this candle in anticipation, remember the promise of Bethlehem, where hope was born in the humblest of places. Walk forward in the light of that promise.

Congregation**: As we light this candle, we embrace the light, a beacon in the darkness, bringing light and peace to our wandering hearts.**

Hymn of Praise Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (vs. 1) ELW 242



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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Greeting *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

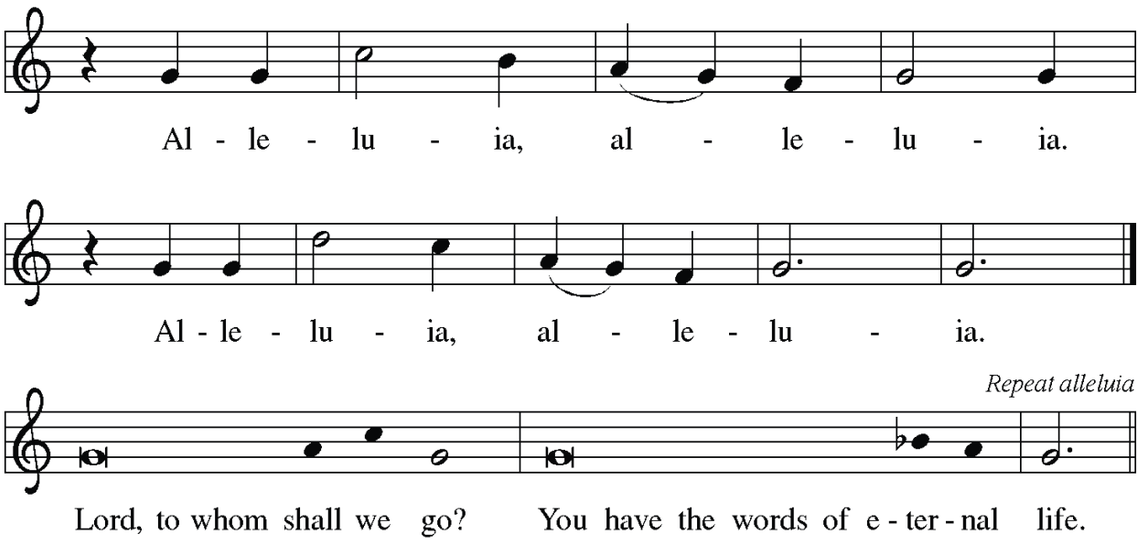
✠ Word ✠

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
5 and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, **Glory to you O, Lord.**

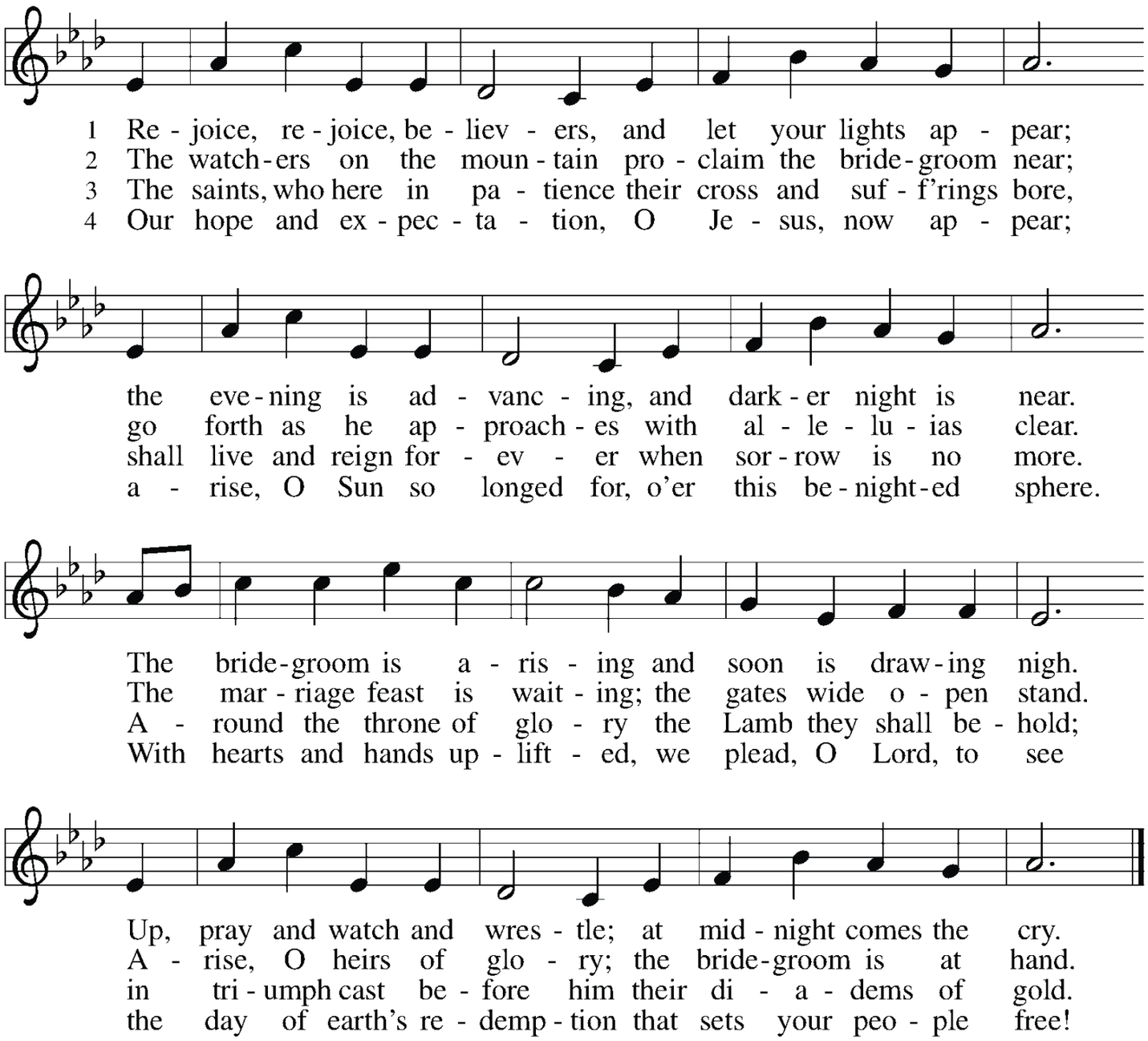
Jesus said: “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.
27 Then he will 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.**

Sermon *Pastor Nate Preisinger*



HYMN OF THE DAY Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers ELW 244



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Apostles' Creed

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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 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

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Blessing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace please be seated.

✠ Offering ✠

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Gary Sandberg

- **Advent Fest**
- **Adult Ed 9:45am Room 210**

Offering

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash -** Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- Unlock your phone, hold near the **NFC card** (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the plate as it is passed

Anthem And All on Earth Rejoiced Sandra R. Wagner

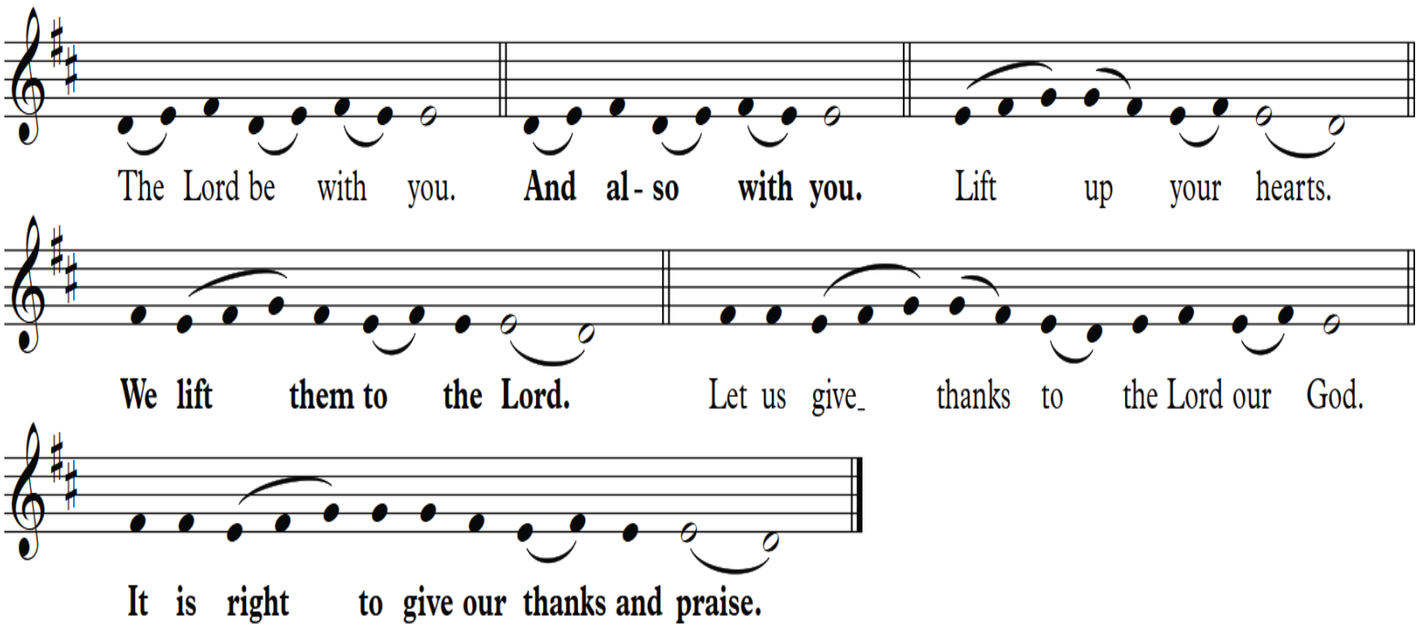
Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

✠ Meal ✠

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

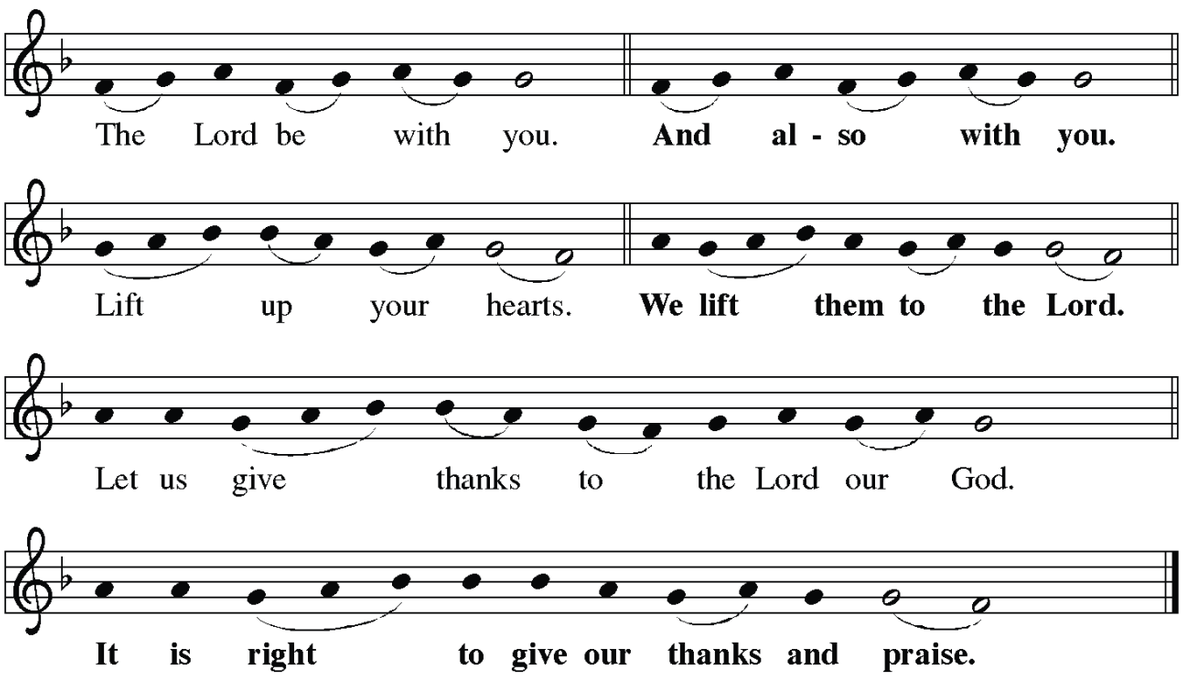


Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Blessing of the Bread and the Wine

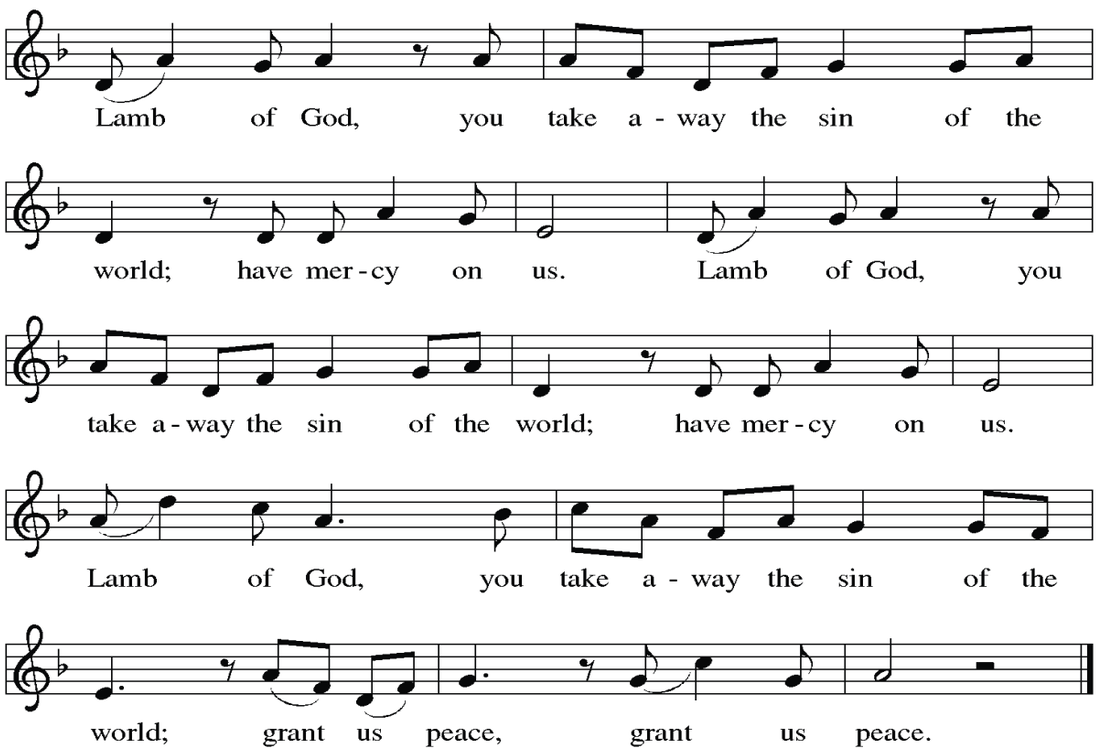
The Lord's Prayer

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

Communion Instruction

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Lamb of God

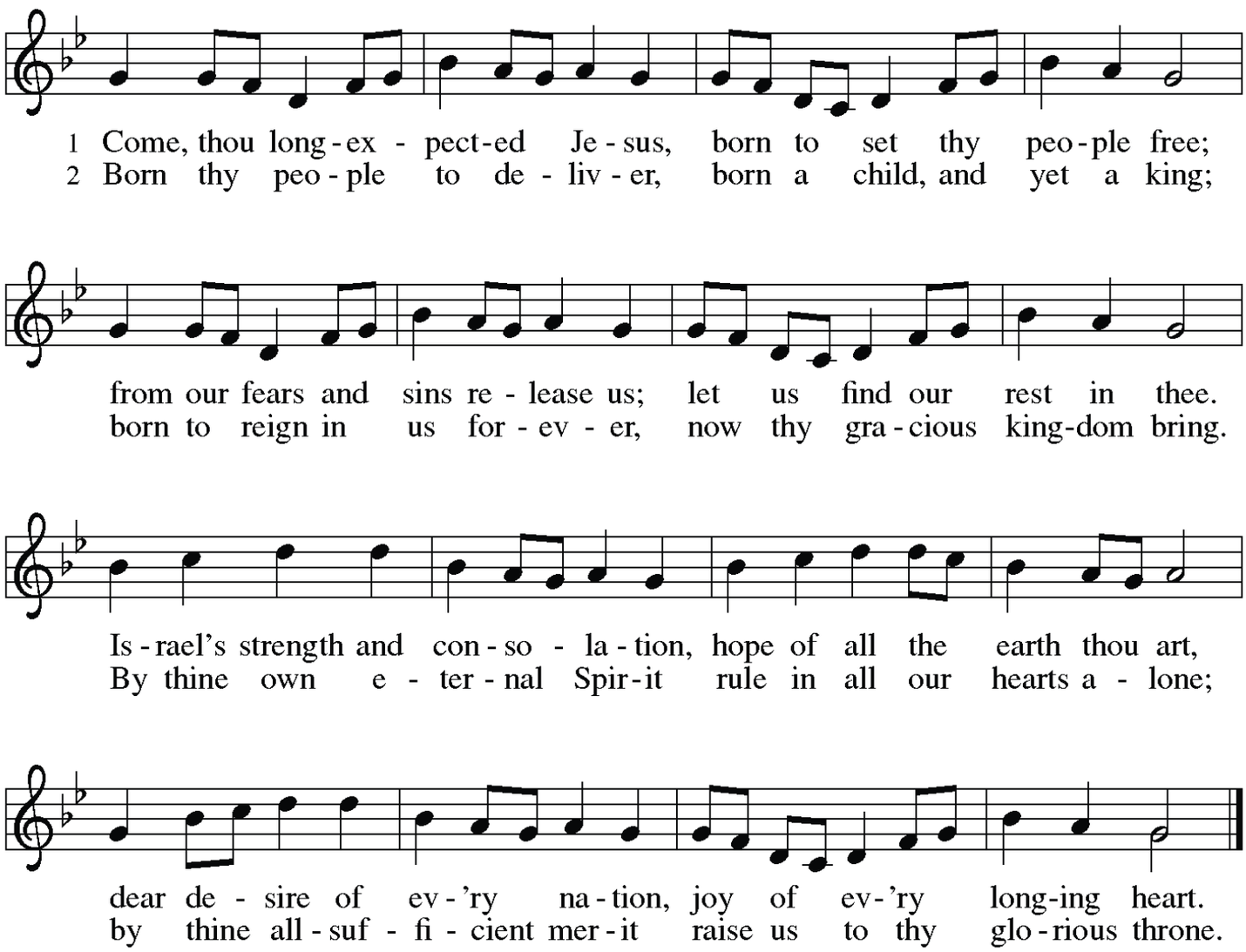


Communion Distribution

Communion Music Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium" Fred Gramann

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

Communion Hymn Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus ELW 254



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

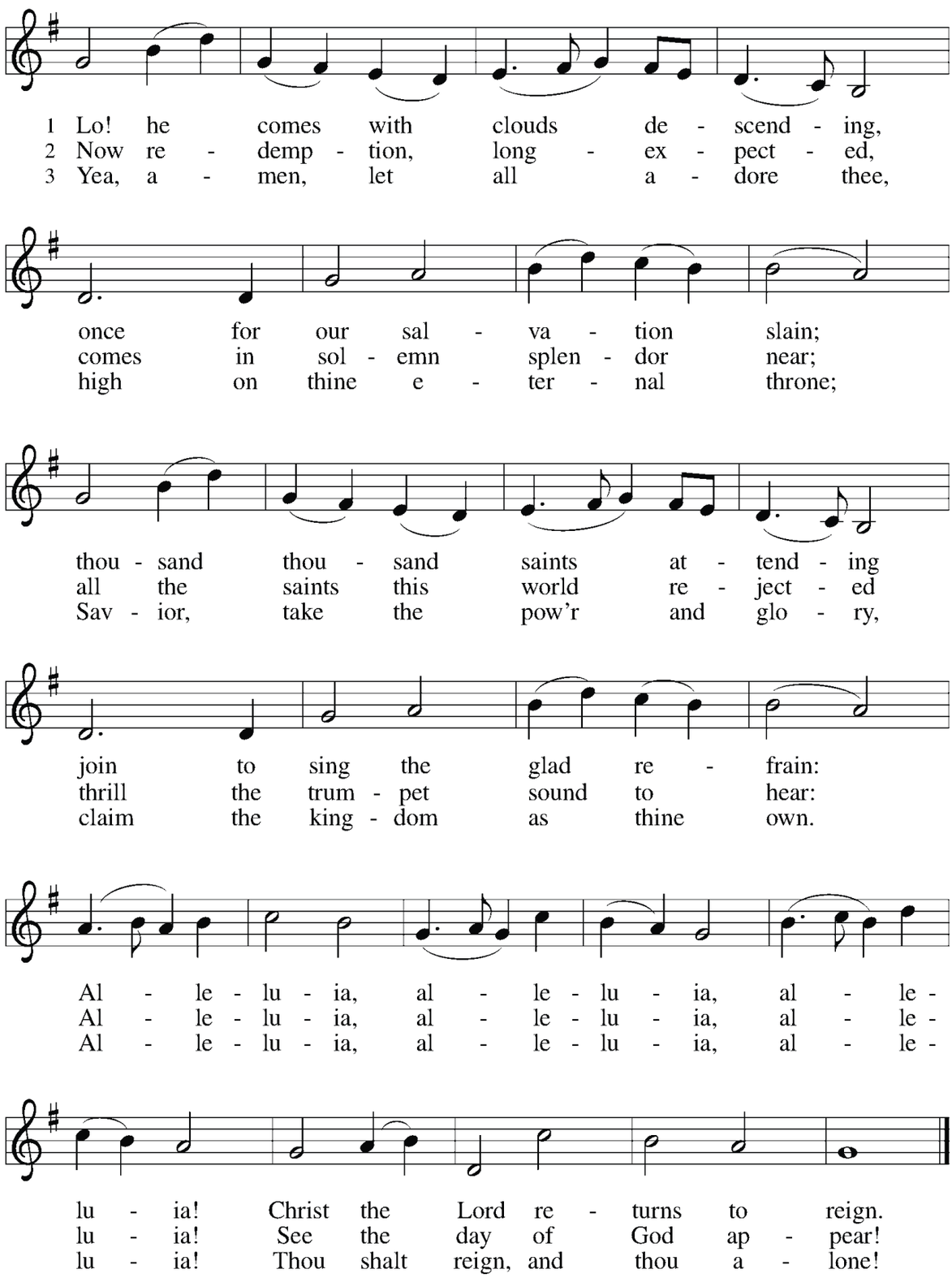
Table Blessing

✠ Sending ✠

Benediction *Pastor Nate Preisinger*

Sending Hymn Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending ELW 435

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

DISMISSAL *Pastor Nate Preisinger*

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany. Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;
Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;
Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Kenneth T. Kosche

Bethany Lutheran Church-Holiday Schedule



Nov 29 - Advent Fest

Dec 6 - Sunday of Advent

Dec 9 - Birthday Party for Jesus (last Wednesday of full programming)

Dec 13 - Sunday of Advent

Dec 20 - Sunday of Advent

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00pm

Dec 24- Jan 2 - Holiday Office hours will be posted

Dec 27 - One Worship Service, 10am

Dec. 27 - Service of Rememberance, 11:30am

Jan 3 - One worship service, 10am

Jan 6 - Epiphany - a night of songs of the season

Jan 13 - First Wednesday of full programming

New to Bethany? Stop by the Mission Center for a welcome to Bethany Gift.

Things to Know About News & Events

Happening Today:

- **Drop off your Angel Gifts** by the Mission Center
- **Advent Fest**
- **Adult Education -** Bible Study, 9:45am room 210

Happening Next Sunday:

- **Angel Gifts** drop offs by the Mission Center

Upcoming Events

Worship:

Four weeks of Advent - worship in preparation for the birth of Christ

Education/Faithformation:

- **Book Study "**Low Anthropology" by David Zahl Dec. 6 & 13

Hospitality:

- **Town Hall of Denver Lecture -** December 3 Dr. John Edward Hasse
- **Women of Bethany:** December 5 12pm we will gather at Ted's Montana Grill in the Landmark DTC area.
- **Funeral Committee:** the funeral committee is seeking volunteers to assit with our funeral ministry. Contact Gayle Newell - gayle@bethnay-denver.org

Outreach:

- **Off-drive food donations** to the Market@IFCS can be dropped off in the cart beside the Mission Desk on Sunday mornings and by the south door during the week.
- **Angel Gifts 2026 -** Angel Gifts Holiday Donation Drive sponsored by Lutheran Family Services drop off items on Dec. 6 next to the Mission Center
- **Food Bank of the Rockies** Dec. 8 1-4pm pack food for those in need. 12 volunteers are need
- **Wholly Kicks** donate toddler socks during the month of December

Look for full details for all our news and events on the Bethany website: Bethany-denver.org/news



Things To Know About Worship

Welcome to Bethany! If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.

Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!

Sunday Worship services: (8:30am Traditional) - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy. (10:00am Casual Blended) a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.

Participating in Worship: There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.

Communion Statement: Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.

Safety: Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.

Hearing Assistance Device: Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.

Worship Servants: Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!

Children at Bethany: Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:

Fidget Station: We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fear fully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship.
Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.

Busy Bags: Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Pick one up on the way in and return it on the way out.

Nursery: For directions to our staffed Nursery, please speak with an usher.