

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church
9833 Harford Road
Parkville, MD 21234
(410) 668-8089**

**Web Site: Christusvictoronline.org
Email: office@christusvictoronline.org**

**Mission Statement: God calls us to unite in Christ, grow
in faith, serve in love, and share the good news.**

PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR: Ellen B. Krich

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Taylor Armstrong

TECHNOLOGY: Ugonnaya Obineme

LAY ASSISTANT: Faye Lari

DEACON: Rodger Thomas

READER: Sherry Simpkins

HEAD USHER: Dave Murray

ASSISTANT USHER: Sherry Simpkins

ACOLYTE: Meghan Petersen

ALTAR GUILD: Andrea Zahirsky, Irene Ruby,
Virginia McCurdy, Cathleen Burkins, Ellen Marsheck

PRELUDE:

***GATHERING**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P. 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.

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

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.

P. 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.

P: As we prepare ourselves for the Advent season, we light the first candle, the Prophecy Candle, the candle of Hope, let us meditate on the words of Isaiah 25:7-10 and sing of our anticipation of Christ's coming again. Please read responsively.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

**⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;**

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all
the earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ **It will be said on that day,**

**“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that
he might save us.**

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

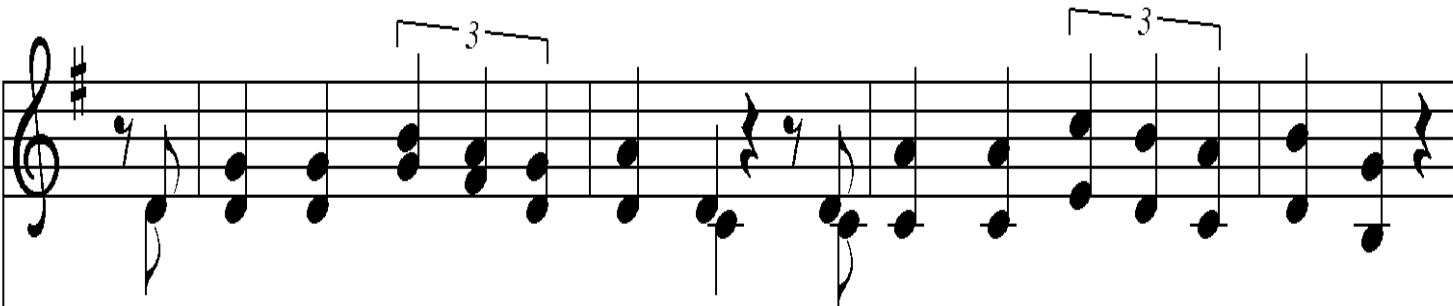
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

¹⁰ For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

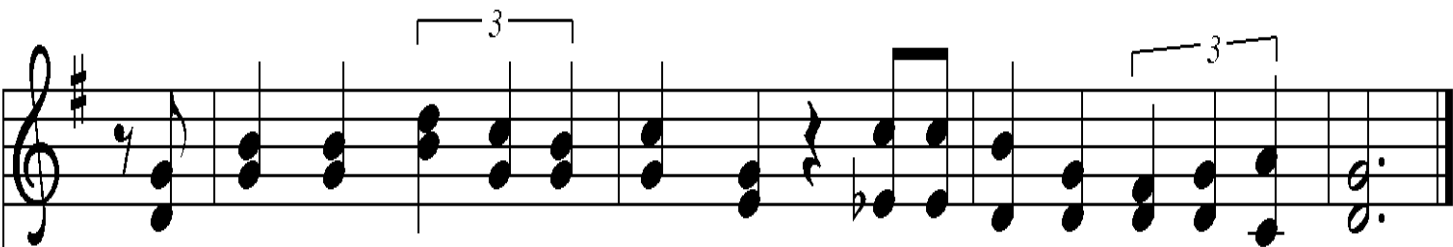
THE CANDLE IS LIT AND THE CONGREGATION SINGS:

ADVENT HYMN (ELW 253 – VERSE 1)

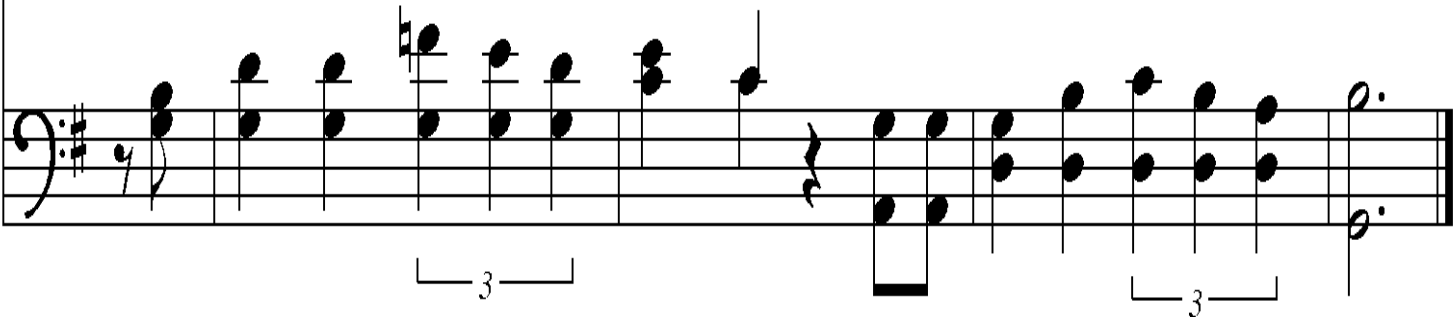
He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



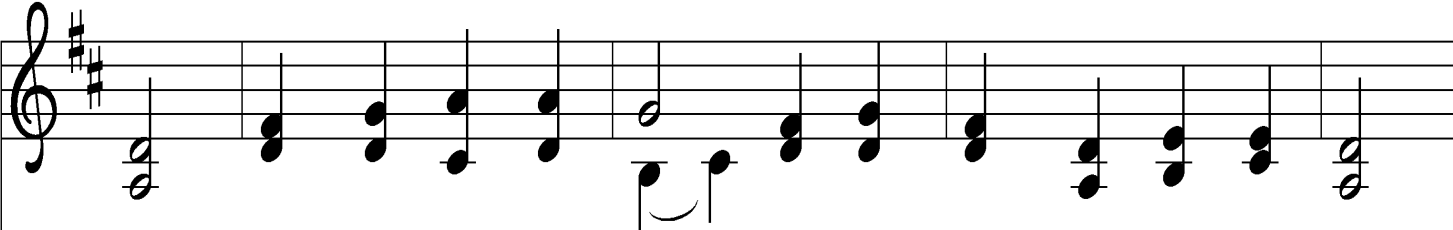
Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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ADVENT PROCESSION

*GATHERING SONG (ELW 241)

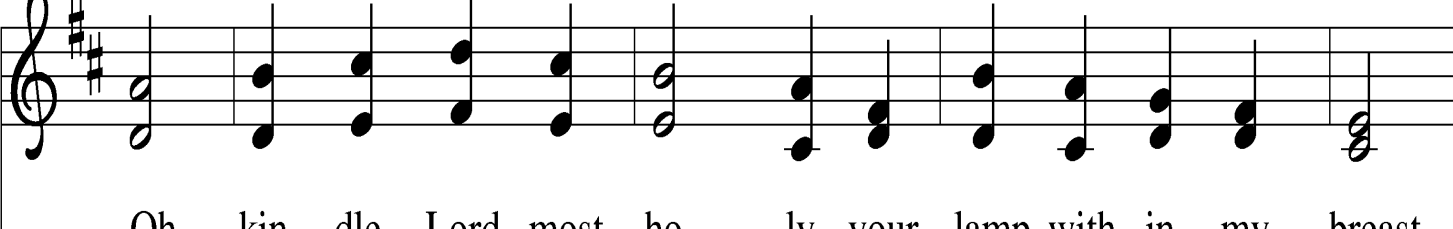
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

***GREETING**
P. 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.

***KYRIE (ELW p. 147)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



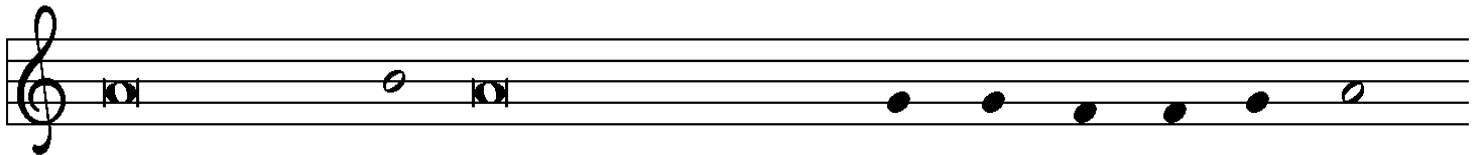
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



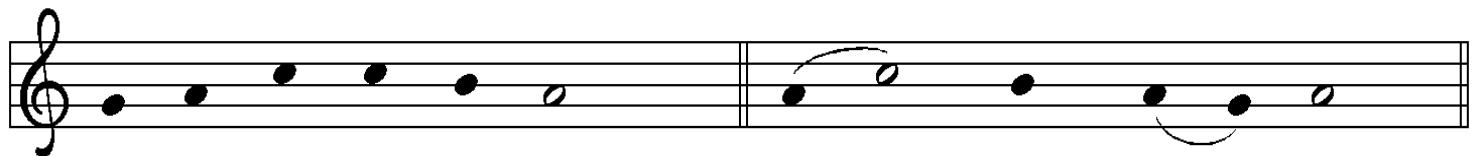
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



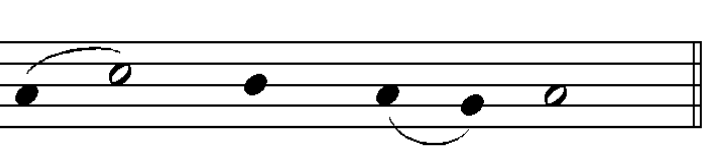
Lord, have mer - cy.



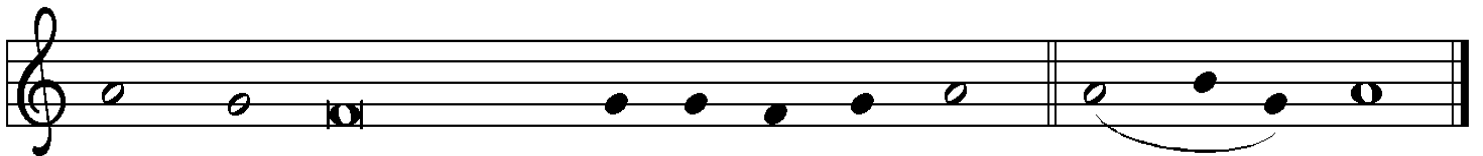
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***THIS IS THE FEAST (ELW p. 149)**

Refrain

Assisting minister

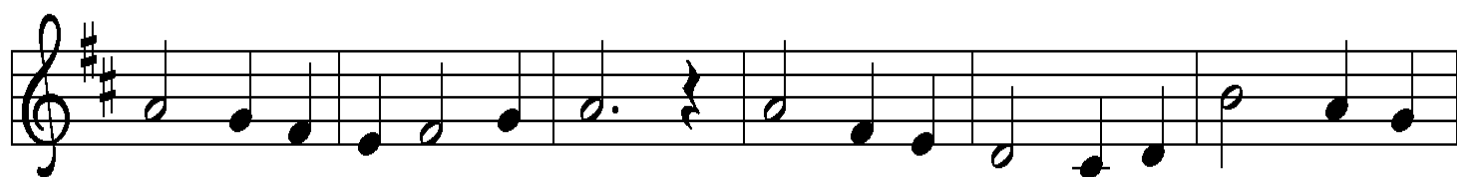


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

A11



1 Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



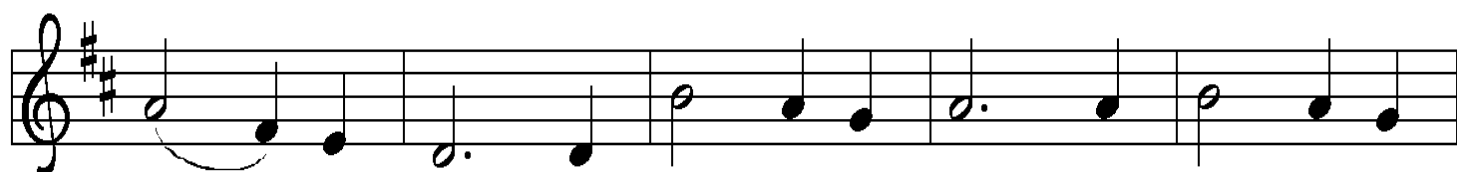
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



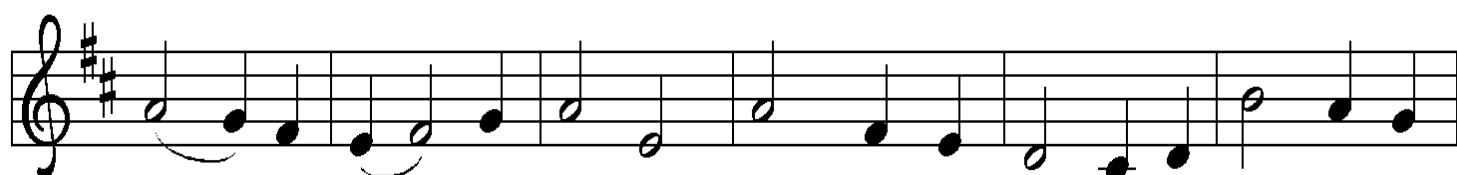
strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



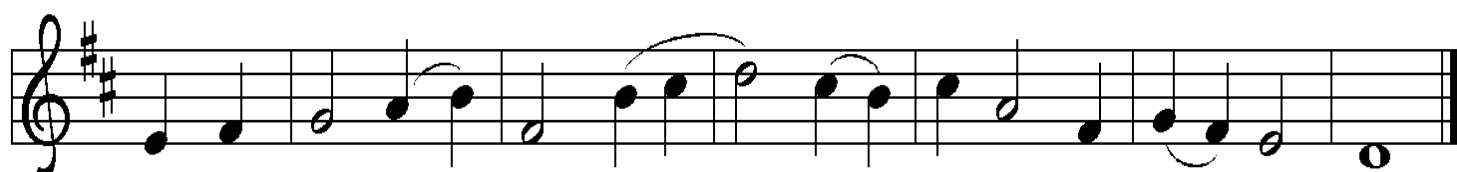
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P. Let us pray.

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

FIRST READING:

A reading from Jeremiah 33. (Sermon text)

While the prophet Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament and well-known for his beautiful Messianic prophecies, we should not neglect the poetic hopeful works of the weeping prophet, Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord: In this place of which you say, “It is a waste without humans or animals,” in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without inhabitants, human or animal, there shall once more be heard the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing as they bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord:

“Give thanks to the Lord of hosts,
for the Lord is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!”

For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord.

Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place that is waste, without humans or animals, and in all its towns there shall again be pasture for shepherds resting their flocks. In the towns of the hill country, of the Shephelah, and of the Negeb, in the land of Benjamin, the places around

Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks shall again pass under the hands of the one who counts them, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

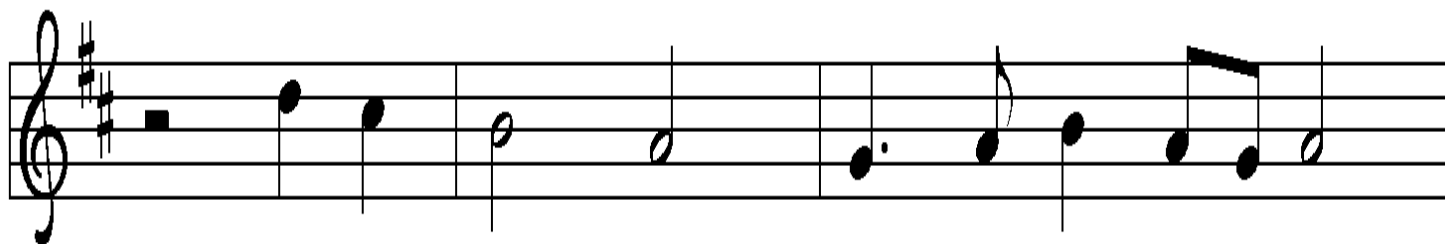
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then 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.

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

³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It 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. ³⁵Therefore, 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, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

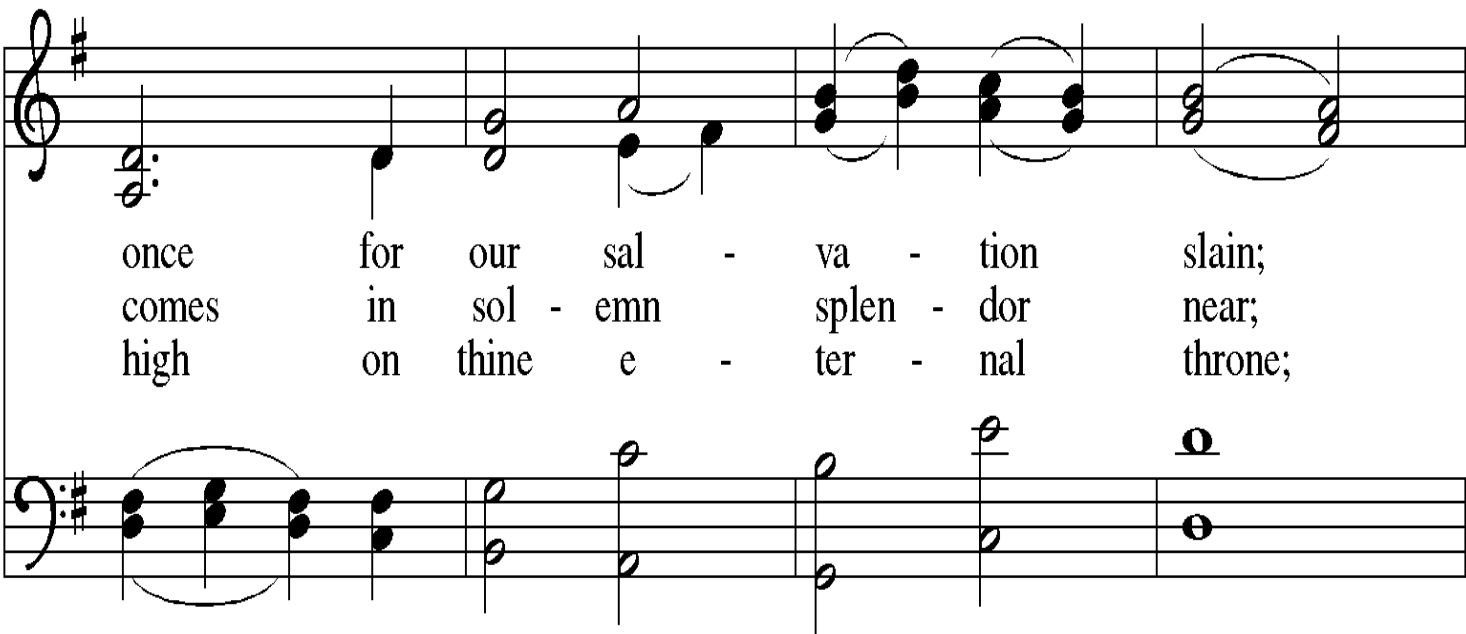
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 435)

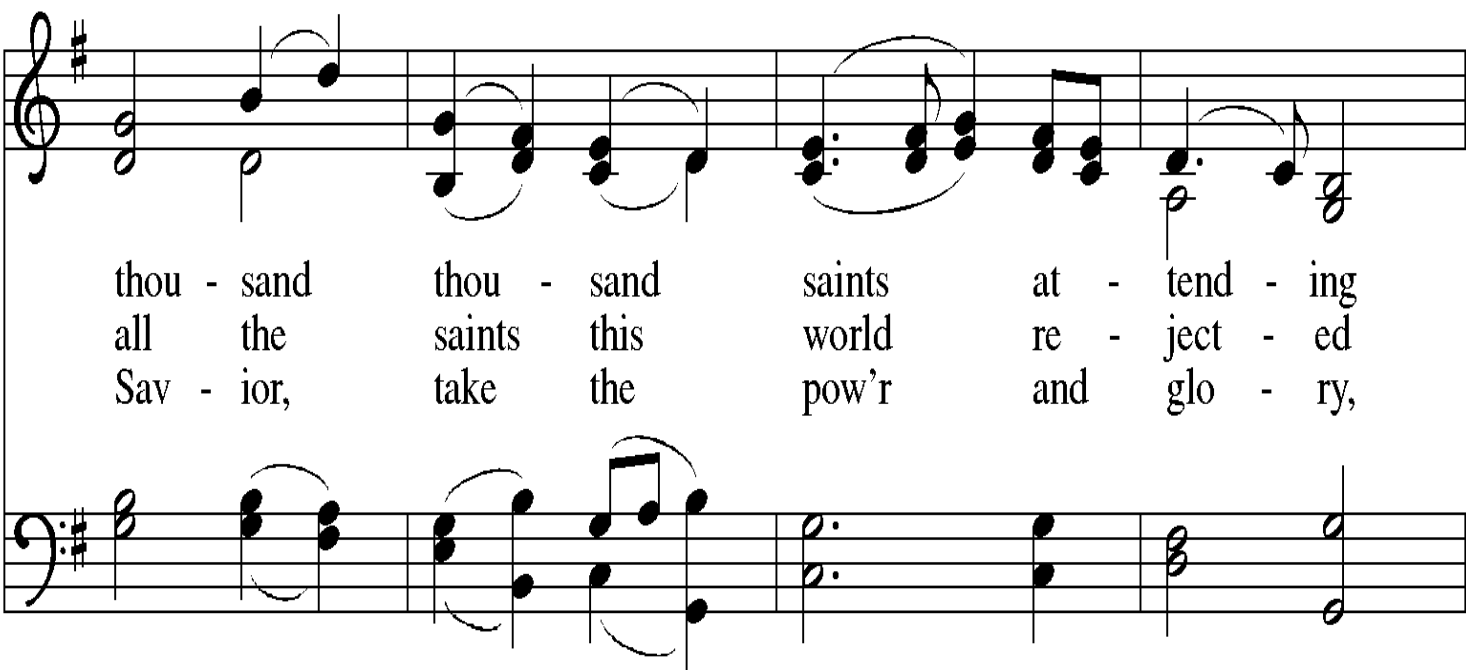
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



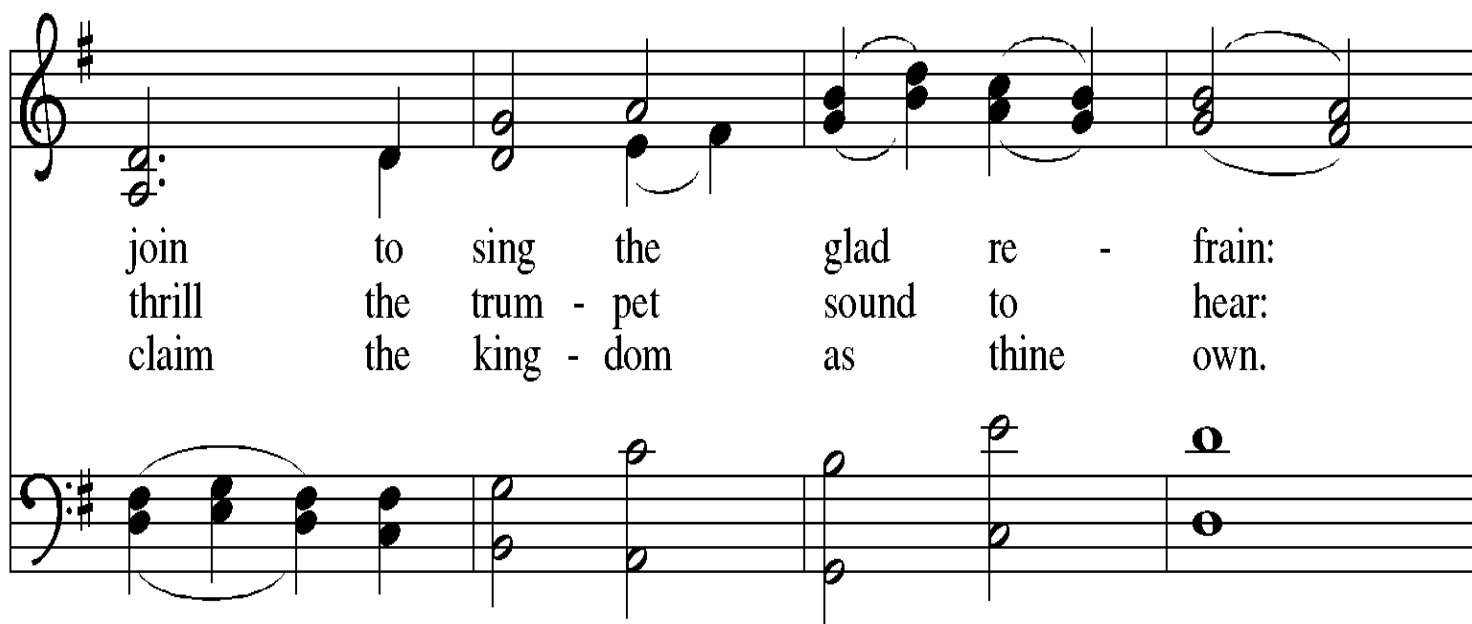
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



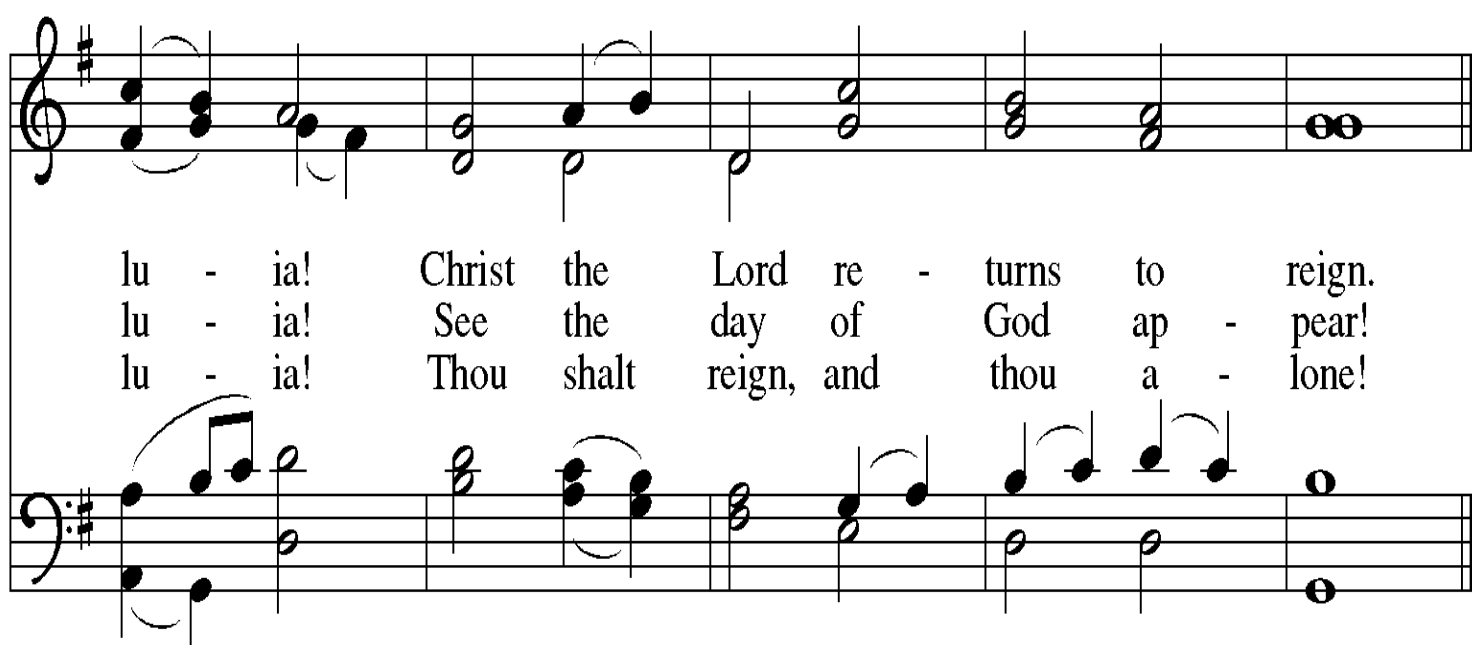
thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.



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



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Gathered together into one Holy Spirit, in unity let us confess our faith in the words of the 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 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**

P. With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A. Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

A. All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

A. Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

A. Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief, especially those on our parish prayer list... and all we name aloud before you or in our hearts..... Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

A. Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

A. You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence, especially those we now name in our hearts who have gone to the Kingdom and become our cloud of witnesses..... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P. Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING

MUSICAL MEDITATION

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A. Let us pray.
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***SANCTUS (ELW p. 153)**



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

***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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

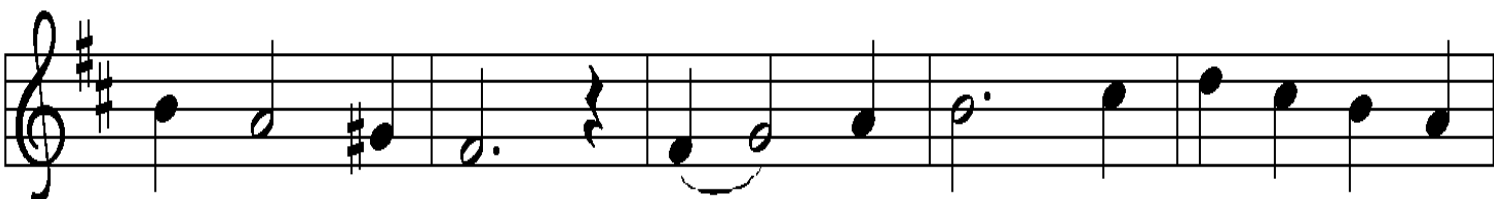
COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



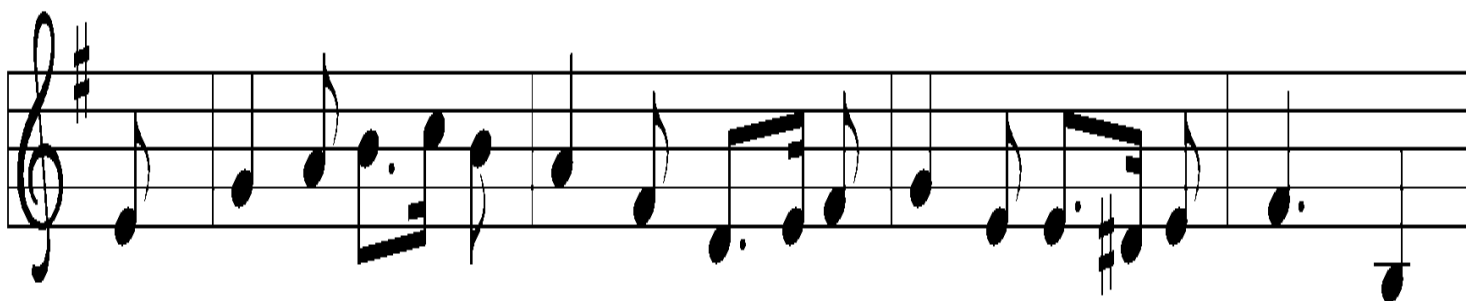
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



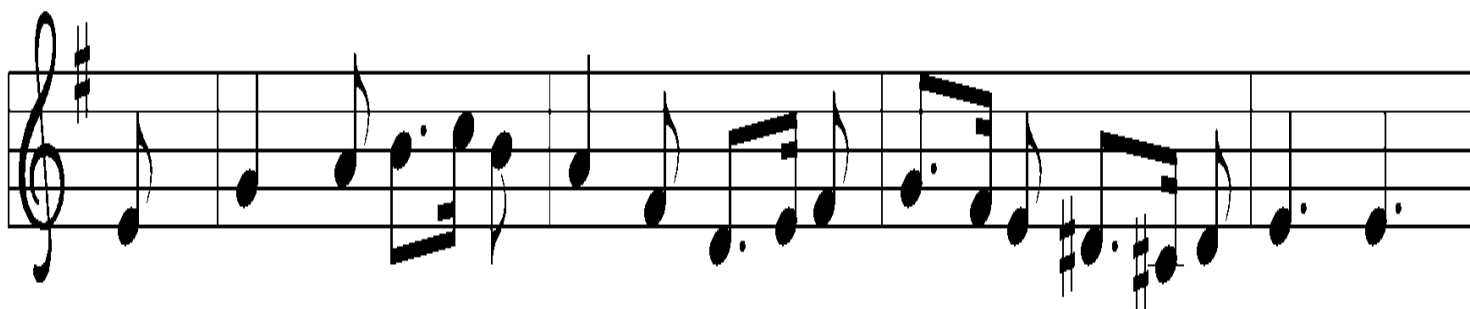
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN (ELW 487)

What Feast of Love



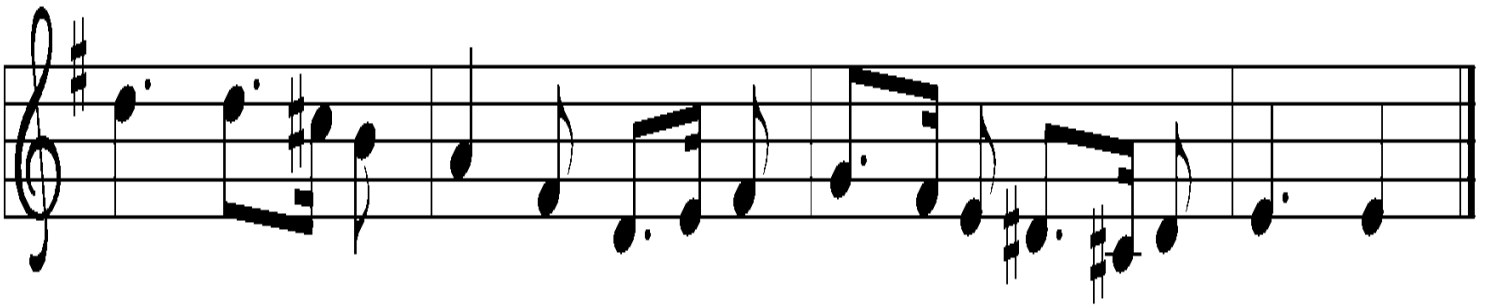
- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

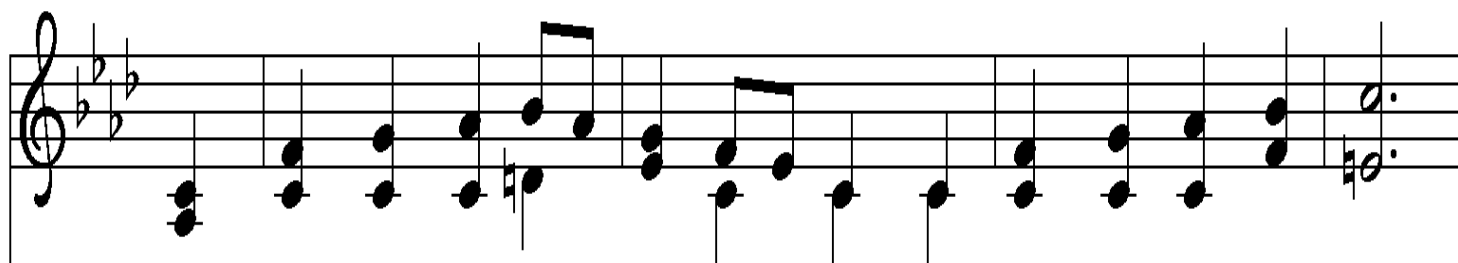
Amen.

***SENDING**

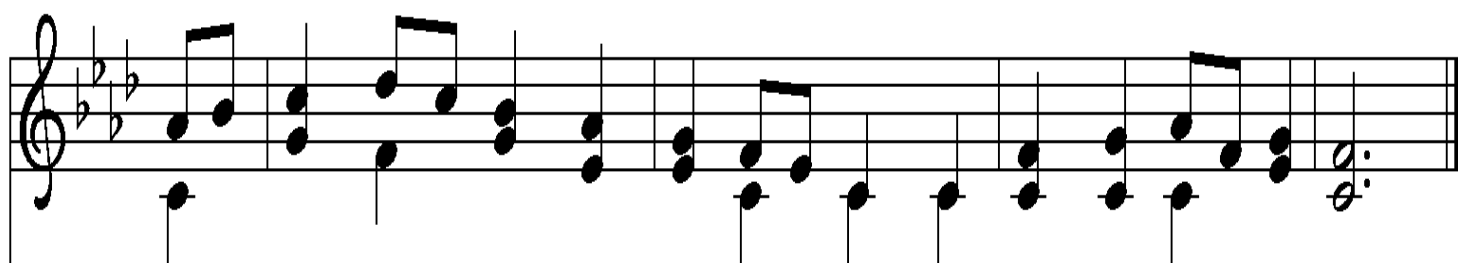
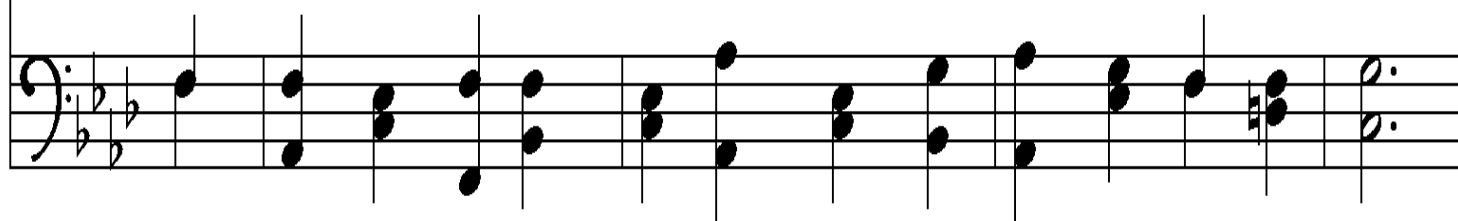
***THE FINAL BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG (ELW 260)**

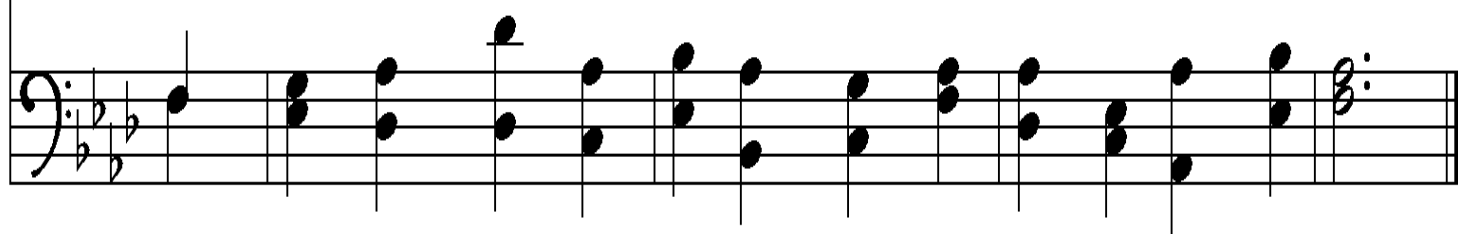
The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.



Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

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Care & Concern List

- Angel** – Pray for her family to heal from serious health problems (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

Theresa Battaglia – Battling breast cancer (Friend of Karen Biedronski).

Debra Beck – Linda Meyer’s Sister.

Bette- Please pray for healing and strength as her cancer has returned (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

Lorene Brocious – Undergoing cancer treatments (Niece of Birdie Patrick).

Greg Bryant – Son-in-Law of the Stansburys.

Kelly Stansbury Bryant – Daughter of the Stansburys.

Carol Bull – Pray for good news and healing after heart procedures.

Janet & Tommy Burkhart – Niece & Nephew of the Stansburys.

James Carnes – Friend of Howard Stansbury.

Heidi Cruickshank – Having surgery (Friend of Virginia McCurdy).

Katie Doyle – Friend of the Stansburys.

Beth F. - Pray for strength, peace and healing as she goes through chemotherapy treatments (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

Diane Frederick – Pray for her to get adjusted to her new living situation and find peace and happiness there.

Loretta Gleason – Pray for strength and healing. (Birdie’s sister)

John Grosskopf – Friend of Howard Stansbury.

Debra Hopple – Daughter-in-law of Tom & Diane Hopple.
Meg K. – Pray for continued answers to health issues (friend of Joyce McMahon).
Joe Marsheck* - Pray for the miracle of healing and for comfort and peace while going through treatments.
Dolores McMahon* - Pray for strength and wellness.
Cameron Merica – Marine being deployed to Israel (Friend of Emily Krich)
Christine McCann – Pray for strength and increasing wellness as she adjusts to regular dialysis. (Friend of Joyce McMahon)
Katie McPherson – Pray for recovery from the sudden onslaught of Bells Palsy.
Joyce Petcholan – Ongoing health issues (Friend of Karen Biedronski.
Charlotte Pullara – Surgery (Mother of Stephanie Vancura).
Terrie Sommers – Health Issues (Niece of Pat Eichner).
Michele Thompson – Health Issues (Bea Walshinsky’s daughter).
Harry & Harriet Tomak – Involved in a motorcycle accident (Friends of the Petrovich’s).
Matthew Wilt* - Pray for strength and wellness of his heart.
Laura Young – Niece of Jane Bowie.
John Zeigenfuse – Brother of Nancy Kohlman. Pray for strength and peace as he battles cancer. Pray for his wife and caregiver also, Margaret, also.

*member CVLC

Names remain on the prayer list for **4 weeks**. Please contact the Church Office 410.668.8089, to help keep the prayer list updated.

Members at Home:

Diane Frederick	Jeanne George	Tom Hopple
Virginia Huettner	Elsie Peck	Jim Umerley
Bea Walshinsky	Jack Zimmerman	

Attendance: 11/26/2023

Sanctuary/In-Person Worship – 57

Sunday School - 13

Facebook Video Views – 57

Thanksgiving Eve - 34

Count Our Blessings: 11/26/2023

Weekly Offering - \$5,567.50

Online Giving 11/24/2023 – \$540.00

Thanksgiving - \$740.00

Victor's Vittles - \$50.00

Bazaar - \$30.00

(The total raised from the Bazaar has hit \$4,000.
Praise God!)

Thank you for your generous support!

Weekly offering needed to sustain our Church: \$4,650.00

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Happy Birthday Wishes: Dec. 5 - Pastor Ellen; Dec. 6 – Sherry Simpkins, Beverly deLeyer; Dec. 9 -Tom Lehman

Happy Anniversary Wishes: None This Week

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Dec. 3 – Sunday School and Confirmation Class
9:00AM

Sunday, Dec. 3 –Church Service 10:00AM

Monday, Dec. 4 - Women's NA Group 7:00PM

Tuesday, Dec. 5 – Christus Comforters 9:30AM

Tuesday, Dec. 5 – Victor's Vittles Volunteers 11:00AM

Tuesday, Dec. 5 – Scout Pack #183 6:30PM

Wednesday, Dec. 6 – Midweek Advent Service 11:00AM
followed by a soup, salad and sandwich luncheon. All
welcome.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 – Pub Theology 6:30PM Topic: How
can we reclaim Christmas for its true meaning?

Thursday, Dec. 7 – NA Group 7:30PM

Friday, Dec. 8 – New Beginnings 7:00PM

Saturday, Dec. 9 – Victor's Vittles 9:00-11:00AM

Monday, Dec. 11 – Council Meeting 7:00PM

Friday, Dec. 15 – Oakleaf Articles Due

Wednesday, Dec. 20 - LMS Pick-up

***Check the Master Calendar on the website or in the
church office for long range dates for 2023.***

Special Announcements:

Honey-Do for the Holidays: Joyce McMahon, 410-218-
7660, would love to offer her services for anyone who would
welcome handyperson help or needs assistance doing
needed repairs or decorating their house for the holiday.
Please call Joyce rather than risk getting hurt on a ladder or
foregoing decorations when they would add so much joy.
Joyce would love to come and assist you, as a holiday gift to
you.

Holiday Celebrations and Events: Pastor will be doing two Advent sermon series: “The Voices of Advent” (Sundays) and “The Hope of Jesus’ Coming Again: words of love from Revelation” (Wednesdays). Please invite all your friends and neighbors.

✝ Advent Mid-Week Services on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on December 6, 13 and 20. There will be a short beautiful church service and afterwards a luncheon of soup, salad and sandwiches.

✝ Sunday 10 a.m. services in Advent will feature the Advent wreath with each special candle and a matching message with beautiful carols.

- Sunday, December 3: Prophecy Candle
- Sunday, December 10: Bethlehem Candle
- Sunday, December 17: Shepherds’ Candle and the Children’s Christmas Pageant
- Sunday, December 24: Love Candle

✝ Wednesday, December 20, at 5 p.m. FFF will meet to carol to our shut-ins. Please come and join us. Let’s make a giant group to make a joyful noise to those who need Christmas joy. All ages welcome. There will be car-pooling.

✝ Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m. Blue Christmas Service for those who desire joy and peace in a holiday season where our culture demands gift-giving and forced happiness. Find the true meaning of Christmas at this special service with solos and candle-lighting, personal prayer and time for reflection.

✝ Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24th:

- 10 a.m. regular Advent service
- 4 p.m. family service
- 9 p.m. beautiful candlelit service

✝ Sunday, December 31 at 10 a.m. Mary Mother of God Sunday and New Year’s Eve Celebration with favorite carols and beautiful readings and afterwards a sparkling cider reception. Come prepared to request your favorite carol.

Christmas Village is our Christmas Train Garden, even bigger than Spooky Town. Please invite all train enthusiasts to come and visit. Admission price is one food item for Victor’s Vittles. The Village will be bright, loud and joyous. It will be open during all church services in December (especially all Christmas Eve services) as well as during the day for the first afternoon Advent Wednesday service. Lee Krich, the engineer, can open the Garden at other times when he is available. Just ask!!!!

VICTOR’S VITTLES:

December 9th – Carol & Howard Stansbury

Driver Pick-up December 8th – Howard Stansbury

Drivers are needed to help with pick-ups. If you can help, please call Howard Stansbury or the church office.

****Please do not donate items past their expiration date.**

Victor’s Vittles is collecting donations for our Christmas baskets:

- Mashed potatoes**
- Canned yams**
- Cranberry sauce**
- Cans of vegetables (corn, green beans and sauerkraut, especially)**
- Gravy**

ONGOING HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE for VICTOR'S VITTLES

The November Food Drive was so successful that we would like to extend it through December.

If your last name begins with:

A – C ** Cereal

D – G ** Jelly

H – I ** Peanut Butter

J – L ** Baked Beans

M – O ** Canned Fruit

P – R ** Chef Boyardee canned Pasta

S – U ** Canned Chicken or Spam

V – Z ** Canned Tuna

VICTOR'S VITTLES SPECIAL GIFT GIVING

We have started a collection of small gifts, including art kits for all ages, to put out for families of Victor's Vittles to choose for their children when they come for their Christmas baskets and regular food in December. Please consider bringing in a new small gift a child might receive that would make them feel special and loved during a challenging holiday season. Thank you for your holiday generosity!

2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Karen Biedronski, President	410.529.9405
Sherry Simpkins, Vice President	410.661.7568
Linda Meyer, Secretary	410.215.0356
Helen Tennant, Treasurer	410.661.0686
Michael Schumann, Worship & Music	410.665.0702
Sandy Petrovich, Christian Education	410.241.8814
Helen Tennant, Social Ministry/Fellowship	410.661.0686
Howard Stansbury, Property	410.53010
Andrea Zahirsky, Administration	410.668.8165
Kelly Ruby, Mutual Ministry	410.274.9156
Dave Murray, Evangelism	443.469.2933
New Council Members:	
Linda McMahon	410-528-3221
Stephanie Vancura	410-336-2364

Church Contacts

Pastor:	Ellen Krich, 410-236-9115 pastor@christusvictoronline.org
Deacon:	Rodger Thomas, 410-852-0027 715crabby@gmail.com
Dir.of Music:	Taylor Armstrong, 410-340-6595 tsarmstrong@gmail.com
Parish Admin.:	Sharon Ibex, Ofc. 410-668-8089 office@christusvictoronline.org
Council President	Karen Biedronski, 410-529-9405
Sunday School:	Sandy Petrovich, 410-444-7947
Oakleaf Editor:	Karen Biedronski, 410-529-9405 charmcitystamper@verizon.net
Victor's Vittles:	Howard Stansbury, 410-529-3010
Financial Secty:	Sharon Ibex, 410-668-8089
Altar Guild:	Andrea Zahirsky, 410-668-8165
Lay Assistants:	Linda Meyer, 410-215-0356
Ushers:	Sherry Simpkins, 410-661-7568
Youth Group:	Gordon Krause, 410-529-7083