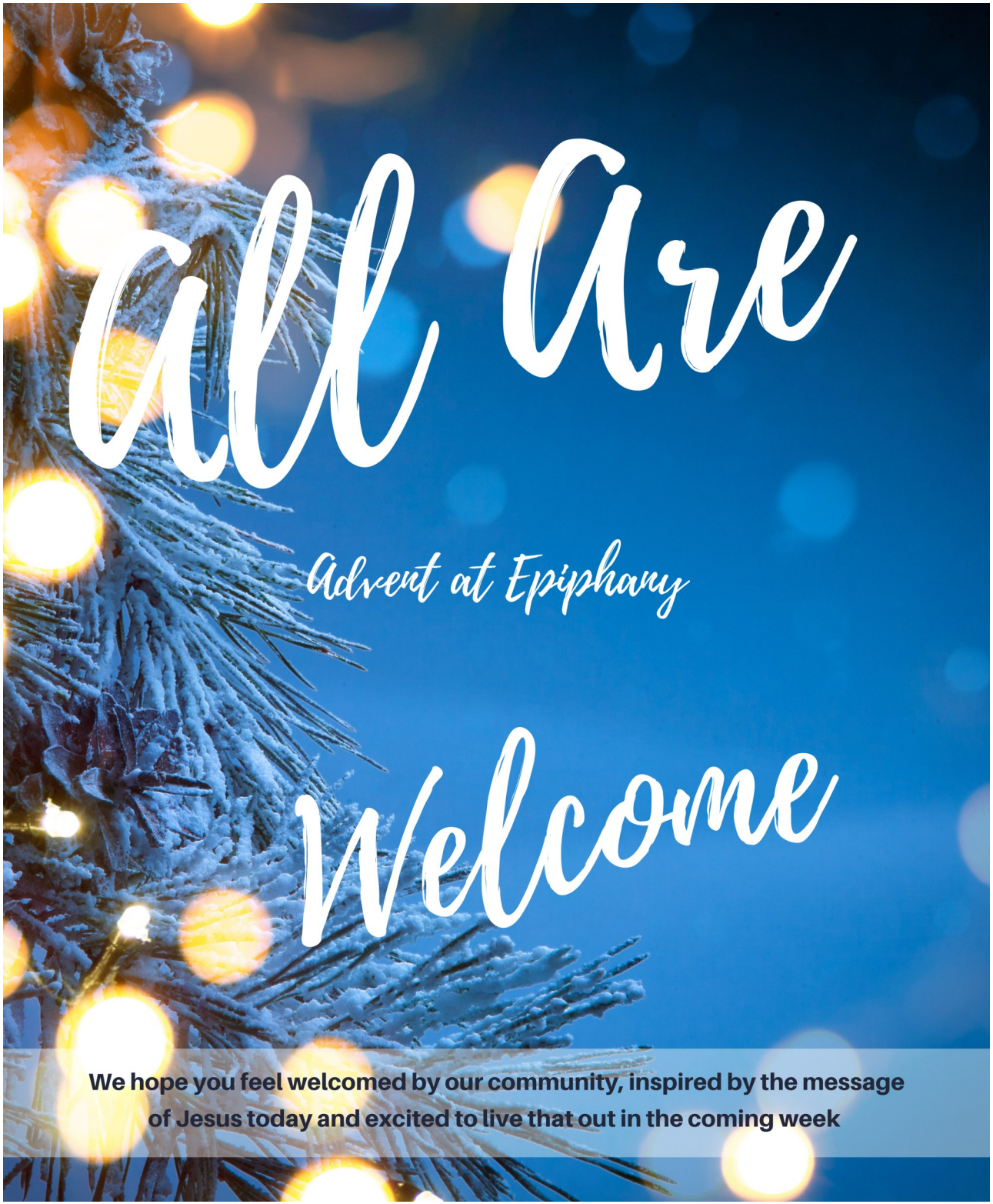

All Are
Advent at Epiphany
Welcome
We hope you feel welcomed by our community, inspired by the message of Jesus today and excited to live that out in the coming week

Welcome To Worship



WORSHIP

Worship is a big deal to us. Something happens in us and through us when we gather. Jesus said it this way: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” When we gather together for worship we can experience the presence of God in a way that we can’t on our own. It isn’t just about learning and it certainly isn’t about getting on God’s good side. Worship is a corporate way to personally experience (be in relationship with) God and others. Welcome!

GIVE

Want an easy way to give digitally? Scan the QR code below and head to the give page of our website for all the info!



CONNECT

The best way to stay connected to Epiphany is to sign up to receive our twice per week emails we call “Connect”. On Tuesday and Friday we send out the latest information about our ministries, worship, events and more.

You can see our most recent emails by scanning this QR Code and following the link. If you wish, you can even sign up to receive Connect for yourself! The sign up form is on the same page. Open your phone's camera and scan the code below to stay connected!



NEW

If you are new to Epiphany we want to tell you a little about our us. We hope to be a church that focuses on the love of Jesus, invites you to follow Jesus in the way you live and seeks to spread that invitation to all people, including those in the LGBTQIA+ community, all family types, ethnicities, ages and social classes. We want to follow Jesus and passionately proclaim that his love is for all. If you wish to know more about our welcome and inclusion statement, visit us here.

We would love to hear a little bit about you. Scan the QR code below for an easy way to let us know what you think or ask us a question.

EPIPHANY

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026 ~ 9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Carole Bockey, piano

Let All Things Now Living -arr. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

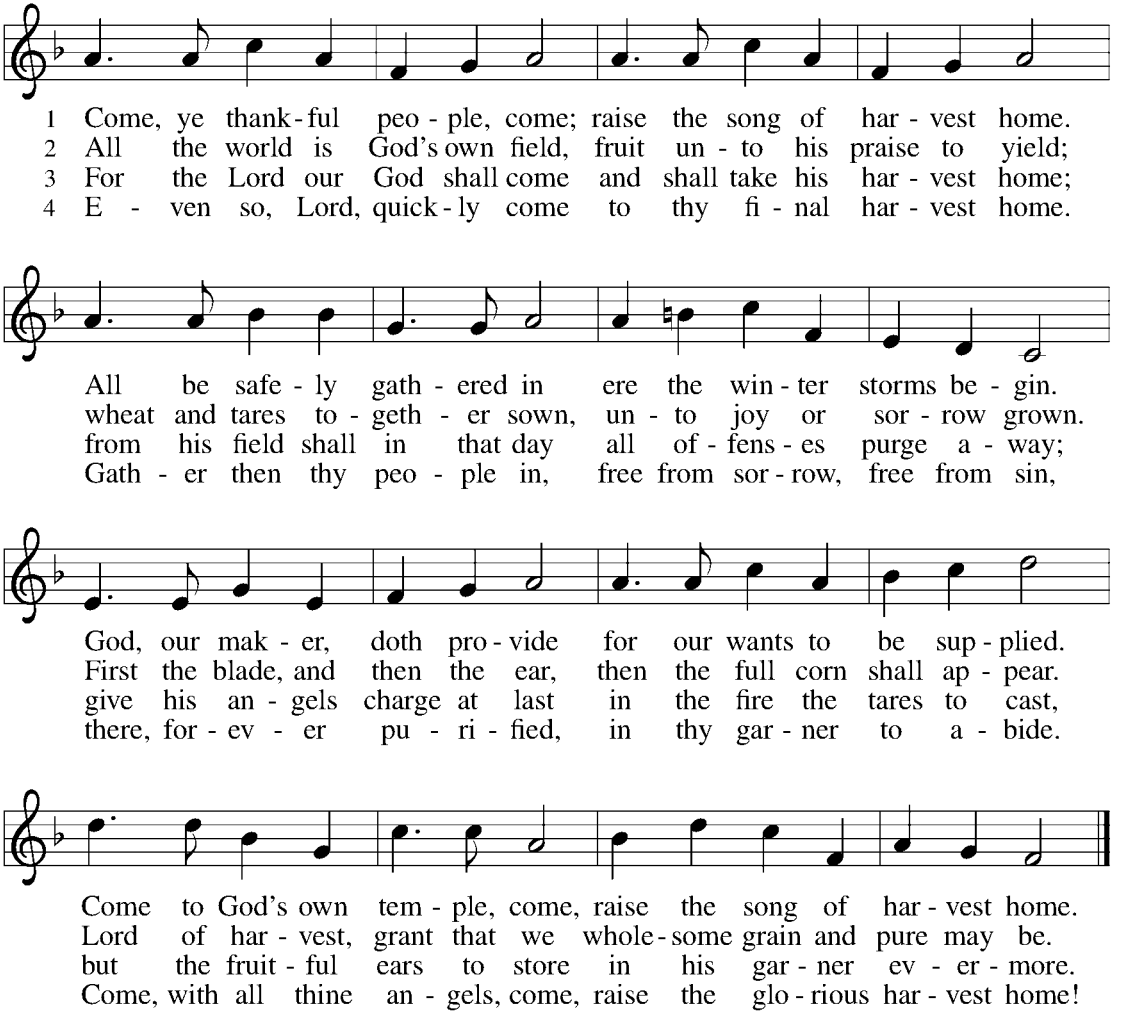
P Our hearts cry out for restoration.
Our spirits plead for illumination.
Let us come before God in confession and in trust.
Our salvation is near.

P Before God and one another,
C **we confess our love for power and control**
that separates us from one another
and from you, O God.
We cling tightly to wealth
because we fear vulnerability.
We insist on our own way
because we fear change.
We reject love and salvation
when they come to us from outside our comfort zone.
We follow our own paths
instead of your own faithful leading.
Forgive us through your endless grace
and guide us into your truth.
Lead us by the mercy of Jesus,
who is our way and our life.
Amen.

P From the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven,
so great is God's mercy for us.
You are forgiven, and you are held
by a love that will never pass away.
Receive this good news
in the name of Christ.
C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN **ELW #693**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



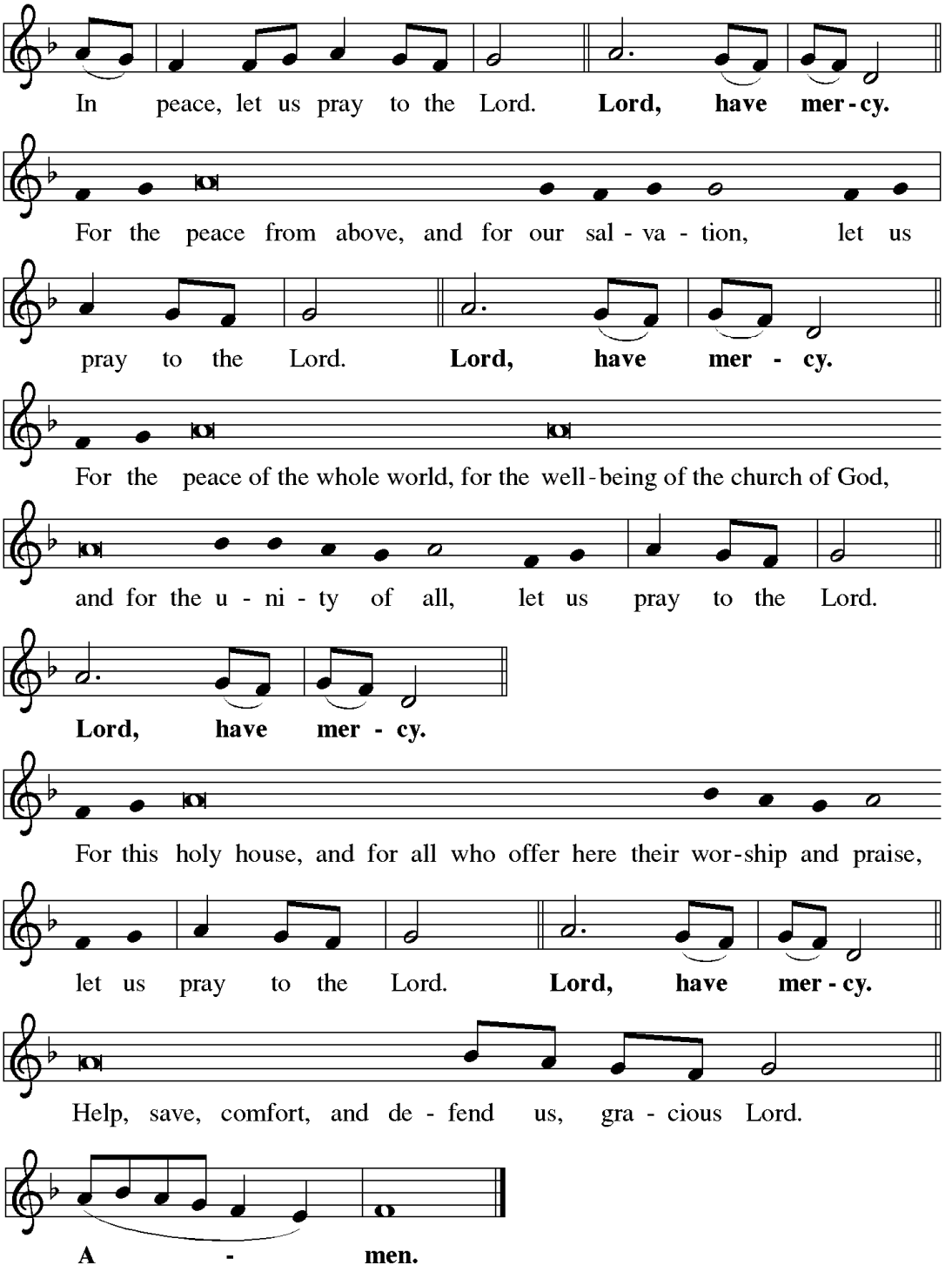
Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

GREETING

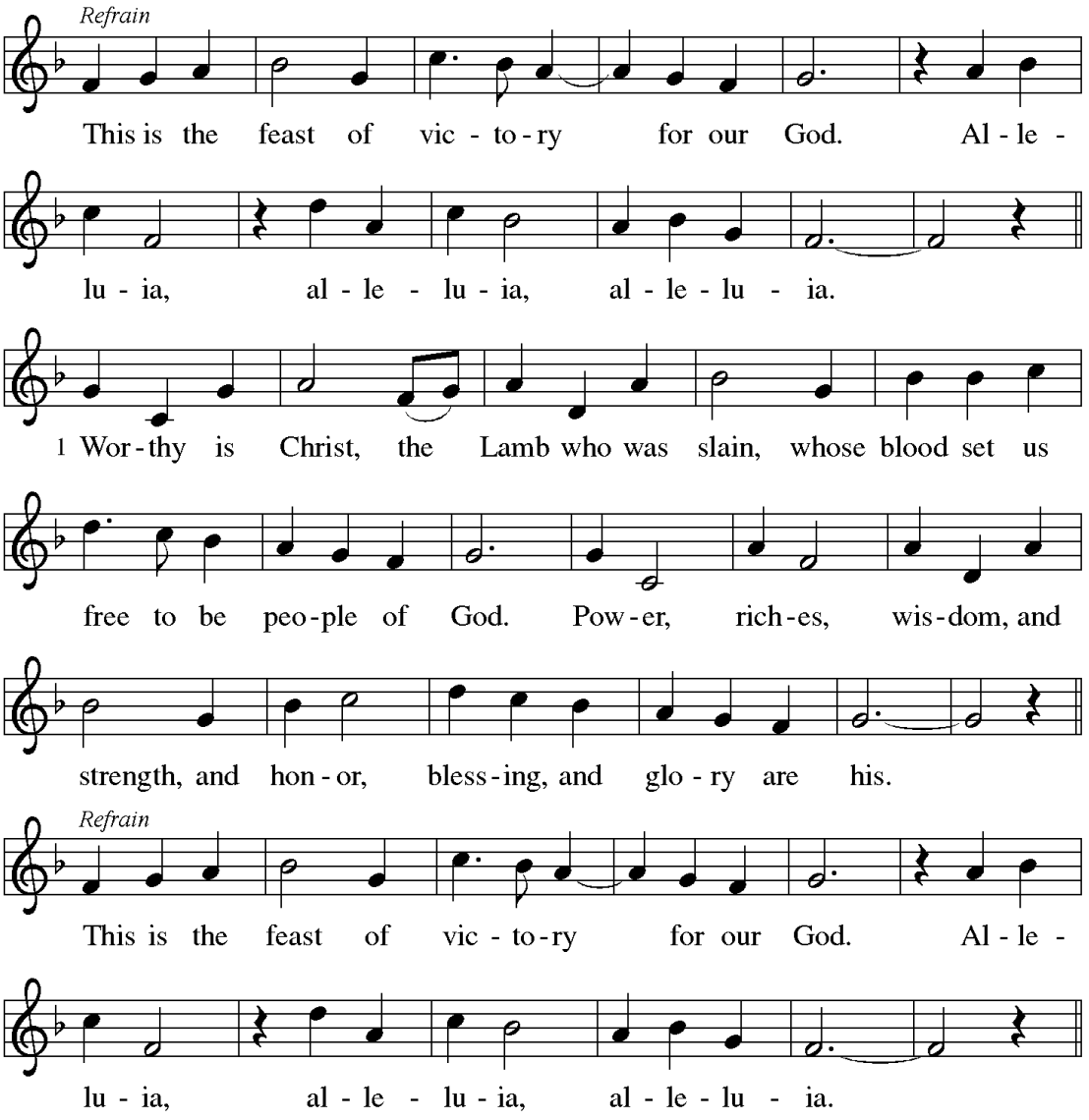
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

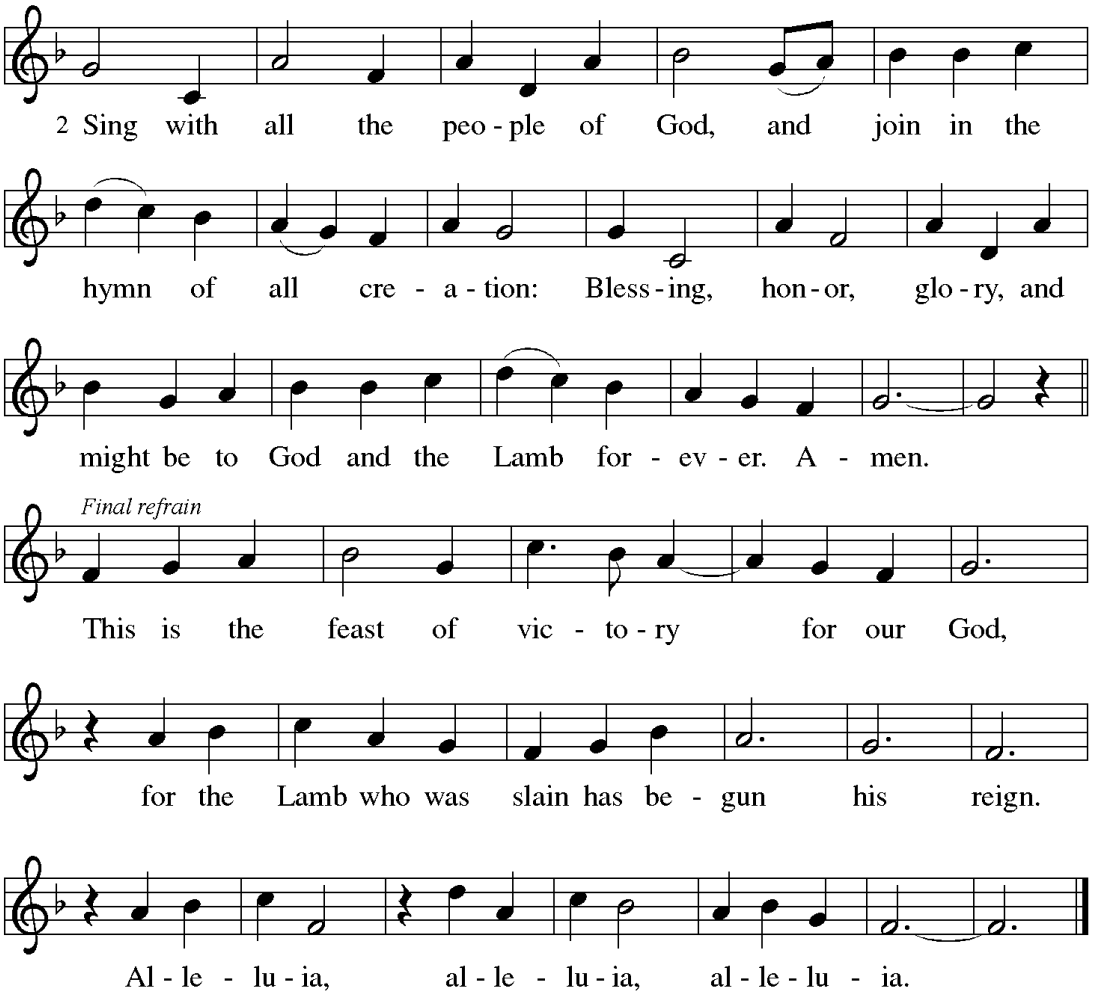
KYRIE


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, 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 u - ni - ty 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



(con't)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. God of hope, we gather together in this space to encounter you, to encounter the holy saving grace of the Messiah. As we enter this time, we acknowledge all we bring with us: fear, worry, exhaustion, expectation, longing, and we listen for your call to be on guard, to be alert, to watch and wait. The psalmist says, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." May our focus, our presence, and our attention be on your shining face this day as we sing, pray, and reflect in community. And may the thrill of hope far surpass our worry or fear. In Jesus' name.

C Amen

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: THE CANDLE OF HOPE

R1 In the midst of busyness, bustling, and buzzing, we pause to breathe and release our burdens. We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty. May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith, guided by the light of the world. Listen for words of hope on this First Sunday of Advent.

R2 It is difficult to gather in this place without acknowledging the hurt all around us.

R1 There are unjust systems and harmful powers in place that diminish life.

C What can we do? Where is our hope?

R2 Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you:

R1 In a meal delivered, a hand extended, forgiveness granted.

R2 As we live between the already and the not yet, we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.

R1 The Messiah draws near now, breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.

R2 In this season of holy waiting and wholly longing, we light the candle of hope.

The first candle is lit.

R1 Saying goodbye to the powers that harm and welcoming the coming of Christ.

R2 May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire.

Please sit

READING Ezekiel 11:17-23

A A reading from Ezekiel.

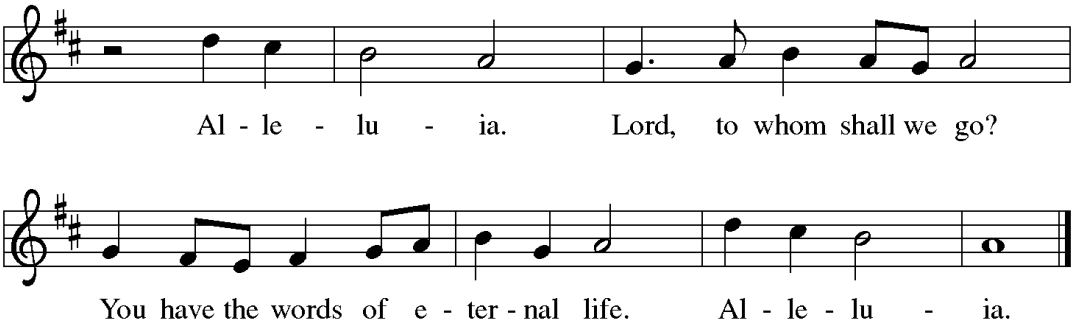
17 Therefore say: Thus says the Lord God: I will gather you from the
peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been
scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. 18 When they come there,
they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations.
19 I will give them one heart and put a new spirit within them; I will
remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,
20 so that they may follow my statutes and keep my ordinances and obey
them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God. 21 But as for
those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their
abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, says the Lord
God.
22 Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them,
and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. 23 And the glory of the
Lord ascended from the middle of the city and stopped on the mountain
east of the city.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

P The Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[1] The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.
[2] As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
[3] the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' "
[4] so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [5] And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. [6] Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. [7] He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. [8] I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

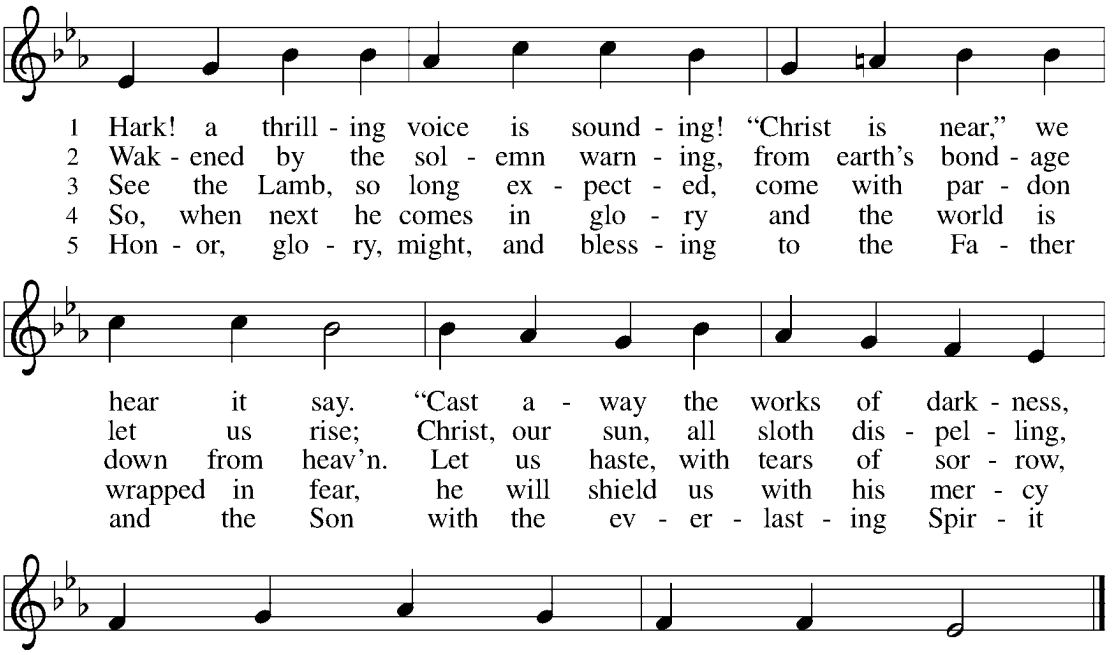
P The Gospel of the Lord
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

SERMON Pastoral Intern Tony Maggio

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW #246**

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889

ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Please join me in the Advent Affirmation of Faith

C **We believe in God, creator and lover of all of creation.**

We believe in Jesus, God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn who will emerge as our herald of hope.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants seeds of faith, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us with the gift of God's love.

We believe in the coming reign of God, that draws near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated when God's desire for all of creation is fulfilled.

For the coming of that day we pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A We come before God, offering both the rejoicing of our hearts and the weariness of our spirits. Let us join in prayer.

A For the shifting of the seasons—
for the gifts of both darkness and light,
for the rest and respite of creation,
for people navigating transitions,
for the health of our land and water,
for all gifts of stewardship and creativity: receive our prayers, O God,

A For those who watch and wait—
for bedside vigils,
for anticipated reunions with those detained or incarcerated,
for test results,
for news about employment,
for hope of reconciliation after disagreement or division,
for expectant families, those in labor, and those in the wilderness of infertility,
for all who await God's great and abundant mercy, receive our prayers, O God.

A For the dawning of Christ's reign—
for peace among nations and people,
for just and merciful leaders and authorities,
for a world where all are fed, clothed, and protected,
for equal access to basic needs,
for the restoration of joy,
and for abundant life for all: receive our prayers, O God

A These and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we commend to God, our Creator and our thrill of hope.

C Amen

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please Sit

SPECIAL MUSIC Adult Choir

What Shall I Render? -Pote

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P Across generations, people have cried out for healing, justice, and peace. We look at a weary and wounded world and dare to believe that there is a different way. Again and again, God draws near. At this table, we remember one of the ways Jesus taught us to recognize that nearness—through the hope of those who say goodbye to the powers diminishing life. Here, we proclaim Christ has come and trust Christ still comes among us: wherever the hungry are fed, the excluded are welcomed, and ordinary people choose mercy over revenge, courage over fear. So come to this table with all that makes you weary and all that keeps you hoping. Come hungry for a world made whole. Come ready to remember and actively wait. For even here, in bread broken and a cup shared, the miracle of Immanuel persists:

God is with us.

The thrill of hope remains.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P God be with you.
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts full of holy anticipation.
C We lift them up to God.

P Let us give thanks to Immanuel, God with us.
C We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

P We do lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, O God, for all the many ways you offer your saving grace each day. We give thanks for the model you provided for us: how to forgive, how to care, how to love. You came to show us these things during a time of corrupt power when systems prioritized wealth over the wellness of all people. And yet, that did not deter you. The witnesses to your actions could not keep silent. They told and retold your story so that the work of thy kingdom come would sustain and inspire their communities and generations to come. And so, with a thrill of hope in our hearts, we unite with all the saints who have gone before us, telling your story, and joining their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

P Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your almighty name.
When the faithful cry out to you, you draw near. Salvation comes.
As we long for healing, restoration, and wholeness,
you model the power of mercy, compassion, and generosity through your Son, Jesus Christ.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P On the night you gathered your friends to eat together in the midst of their fear and yours, a common meal was transformed into elements of grace to be shared, remembered, and celebrated by generations upon generations.
You took a simple loaf of bread.
Blessed it.
Broke it.
Shared it.
You encouraged your friends to eat, letting the bread nourish and sustain them for the work ahead.

Then you took a cup of wine.
Blessed it.
Passed it.
You said to drink from it, letting the warmth trickle down, reminding them of your ever-present love.

P Because of these simple and remarkable acts, we offer ourselves to be your hands and feet, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

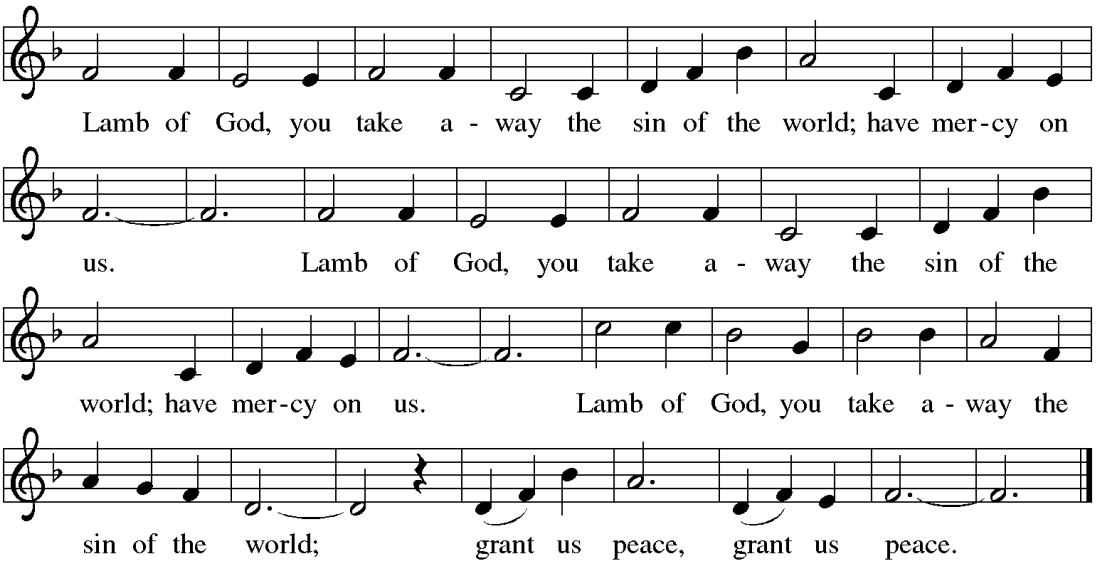
P Gracious God, pour out your Spirit on us and these your gifts of grace. May they be for us a reminder of how your salvation breaks through in everyday life to everyday people. May we remember the Messiah who saved us is saving us and will save us. Fill our hearts with gratitude for this table where there is enough for all. Our world, O God, is in desperate need of your salvation. May this bread and cup give us courage to be communities of resistance and repair.

P With confidence, we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:

C 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.

Please sit

LAMB OF GOD



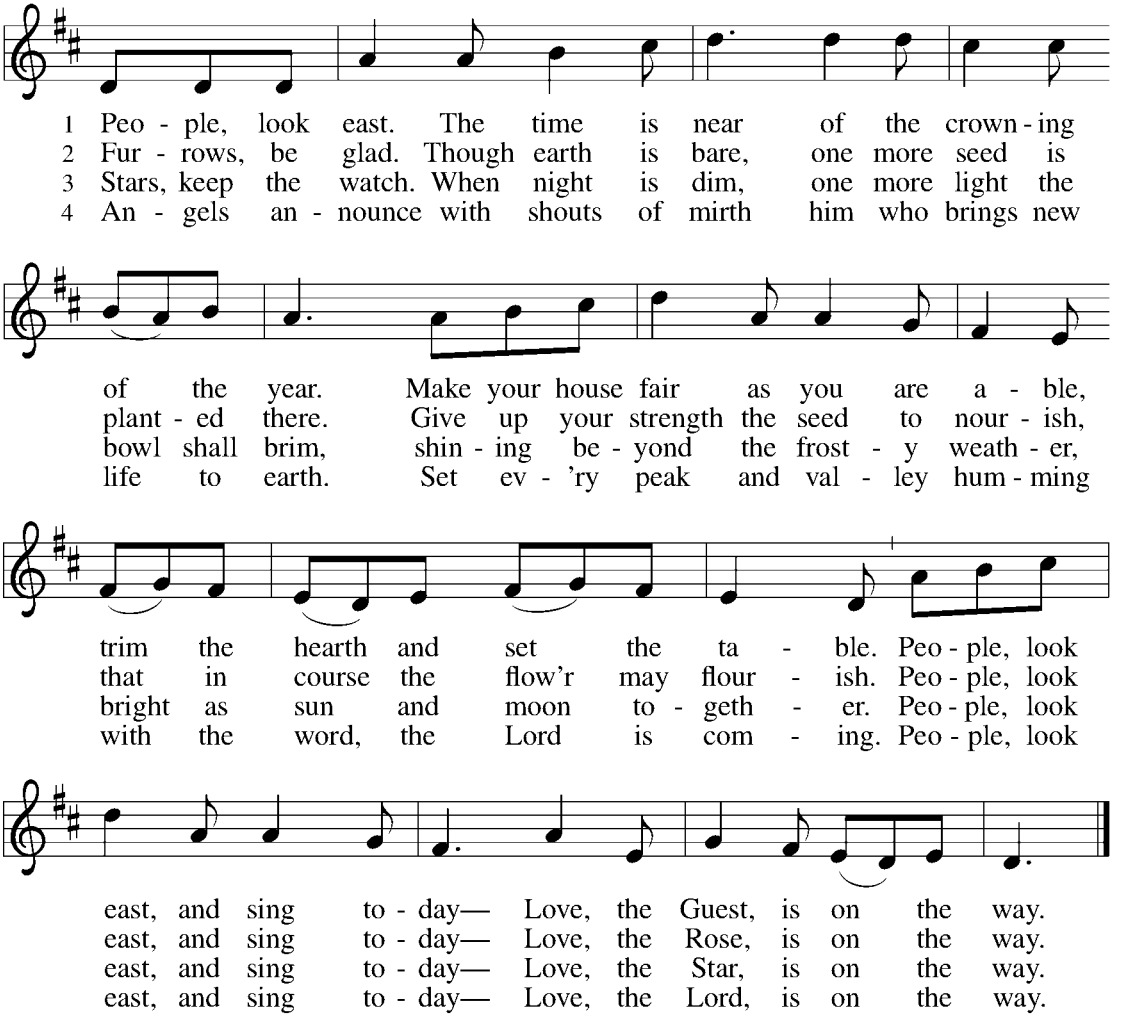
Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to share in communion this morning! Gluten-free wafers are available if needed. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like to have communion brought to you in the pew, please don't hesitate to raise your hand to catch the traveling server's attention and also let the usher know. If you have questions about communion, contact Pastor Brad at: pastorbrad@epiphany-lutheran.com.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #248

People Look East



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of the bread and wine that we have shared, strengthen us and unite us in bonds of love and peace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

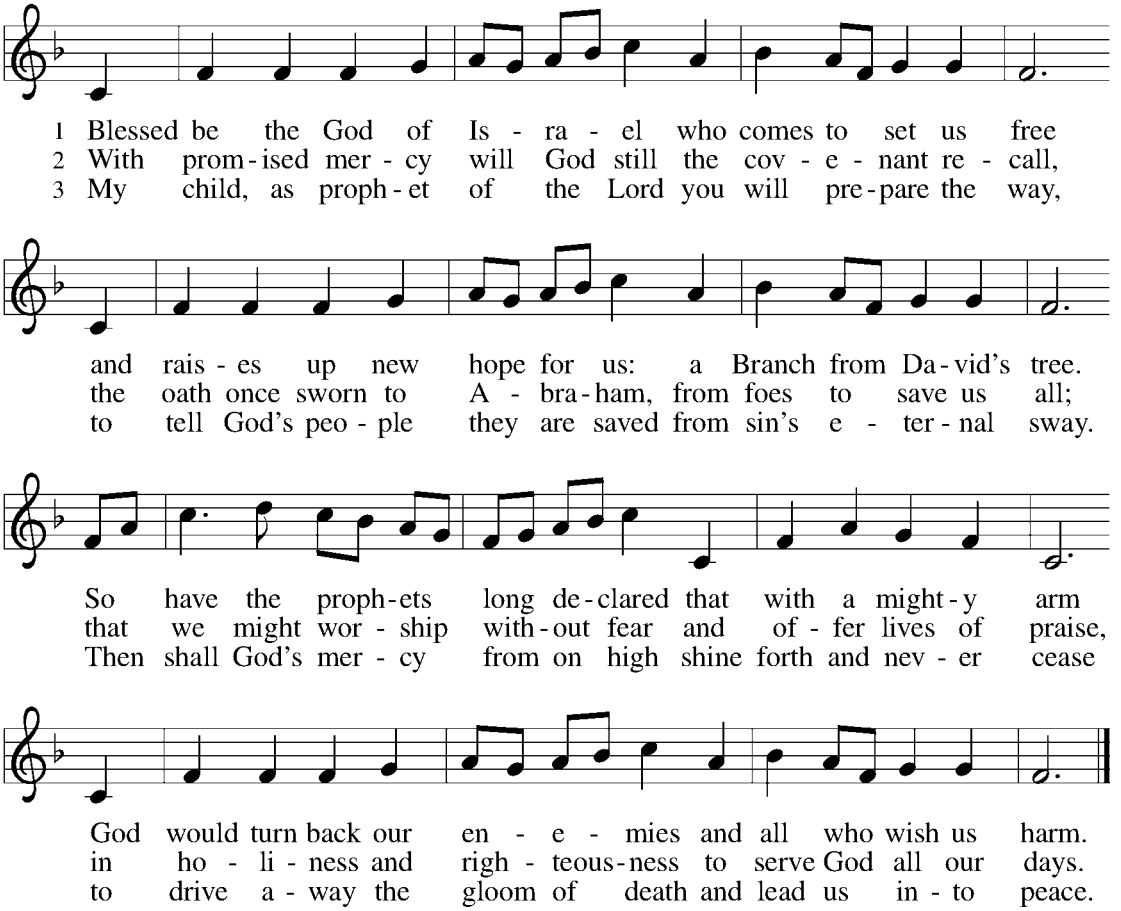
A God of hope, through this meal, you nourish us in our weariness and strengthen our community of faith. Energize our spirits to stay alert to your saving presence in the world. May we go forth as storytellers, not withholding what we have heard and felt while gathered together in this space, but sharing with all who are curious and all who long for restoration. In your Son's name we pray.

C Amen

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE WEEK

CLOSING HYMN **ELW #250**

Blessed Be the God of Israel



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministers	ALL THE MEMBERS OF EPIPHANY
Lead Pastor	Brad Gee
Pastoral Intern	Tony Maggio
Director of Education & Technology	Jeff Mitchell
Director of Music	Terry McCandless
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries	Ali Adams
Office Administrator	Dori Holbrook
Bookkeeper	Ken Schafer

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