

“I BAPTIZE YOU
with water for
REPENTANCE,
but one who is
MORE POWERFUL THAN I
is coming after me;
I AM NOT WORTHY
to carry his sandals.”

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Second Sunday of Advent

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church
300 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2931 www.osluth.org
Pastor Randy Schroeder*

*Purdue Lutheran Ministry
330 West Fowler Ave., West Lafayette
743-2398 www.plm.org*

December 4, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

All are welcome here
All people of faith, All people of doubt
All people of any origin, race, ability, sexual orientation or gender expression
All people who seek a compassionate community

All are welcome here
Welcome to worship, Welcome to pray
Welcome to learn, Welcome to give thanks
Welcome to serve God and neighbors

All are welcome here
All are redeemed by a gracious God



Please read this before worship begins.

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. If you are visiting today, not knowing what to do, know through God you are welcomed and loved. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

I cannot say what Communion is any better than Luther, so I'll let him say it. In the Small Catechism Luther writes the following, and more in The Sacrament of the Altar.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

This is shown by the words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." In the Sacrament, forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words are, along with the bodily eating and drinking, the main thing in the Sacrament. Anyone who believes these words has what they say: that is, the forgiveness of sins.

- As we travel this wilderness of COVID-19, it is right and proper for us to participate in the Eucharist as we are gathered as the church in person, as well as live streaming. Holy Communion takes place in the assembly of the Body of Christ.
- Online Communion is new territory for us as we navigate our new context. After reading Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, after much prayer and discernment, I believe this technology should be used in such manners to share God's grace, love, forgiveness and acceptance.
- As we assemble in person or live stream, when confessions are heard and forgiven, as the Word is proclaimed, it is proper for Communion to take place as we are then sent out as the Body of Christ for the world. I ask you to only commune as the live Word is spoken and not commune to the recording of this service.
- Please use bread and wine or a gluten free option and grape juice. Please prepare a plate and cup prior to service to have and share. If you have one and not the other, know that God is fully present in both elements and only one is necessary.
- God is the One working through the spoken Word in the mystery of communion. We don't fully know how, rather we know Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body," ... "Take this and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as

you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” God is the source of love infused into us through the Spirit as we partake of the Eucharist. We don’t understand it fully; we fully believe Christ is there fulfilling His promises of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Remember: All Are Welcome – Hospitality fills God’s Table – Everywhere!

The Gathering

Prelude Music

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding, Robert Benson
Suo Gan, Edwin T. Childs

Stand

Gathering Words

P For God, change can be small,
evolutionary, atomic.
A crumbled resistance,
a slightly different direction,
a fresh idea in the middle of the night.
For God, change can rain down like a tempest,
a flood in every street
that sweeps into our lives
with energy that does not yield or listen.

C **God is urgently waiting
to finally arrive.**

P God, we have been waiting for you, too.

C **Yet you often arrive before we notice:
in the place we did not expect,
in the word we did not hear.**

P Do not be afraid,
your angels always say,
right before you change a life.

C **You are here to change this place.
We are not afraid.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P When deep blue darkness
steps aside for
softly spreading flame,
we take comfort
from the warmth
of living light.
This candle
on our Advent wreath
represents the joy of life,
which spreads as we share it.
Godly cheer can comfort us,
even when our surroundings
remain a mystery.
In time every person
will know the warmth
of God’s love.

But not yet,
not fully.

Hymn during the Lighting: *God of the Starlight and Moon*

1. God of the star-light and moon, mys-ter-y God of the
2. Beau-ty be-yond what we know, shap-ing a world that we
3. Out of the blue you ar-rive, weav-ing our lives with your
mid- night blue skies. Love draw-ing near, dream-ing new
can-not quite see. Form of a child, reach-ing to
con-stant sur-prise. Flick-er-ing flame, spark-ling with
fu-tures: fire of our hearts, a-rise.
greet us: time in e-ter-ni-ty.
prom-ise: God of the star-lit skies.

Text: traditional, adapt. Linnéa Clark
Music: OUT OF THE BLUE, Linnéa Clark
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Confession and Forgiveness

- P God is here,
And God sees through every defense
that fools the world.
Since we cannot hide from God,
there is nothing left to do
but to be honest with each other
and humble before God.
So, in humility,
we confess our sins.
- C **God, we have acted helpless,
even when you called us to action.
We have resisted your truth,
even when our lies were exhausting.
We have behaved as though we were alone,
even when you were beside us.
God, we have believed we were dying,
even when you helped us grow.**
- P God knows
we can never undo our sins.
We cannot ignore painful history
as though it does not affect us today.
Yet before our first mistake,
God perfected the plan for salvation,
And that salvation comes to each of us today.
Receive God's forgiveness.
This forgiveness is total.
No sign of your old life remains,
And if God has moved beyond your sin,
you have no reason to return to it again.
- C **We are healed.**

**No blemish remains.
Thanks be to God.**

Greeting

P Peace to you and welcome,
from the God who fills life with resilience,
the Savior who rushes to offer forgiveness,
the Spirit who supports us with endurance.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming
nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Sit

The Word

L A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to
the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the
people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppres-
sor. R**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon
endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the
mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till
the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of
Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your
glory. A- | men. Amen. R

L A reading from the book of Romans.

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Randy Schroeder

Stand

Hymn of the Day: ACS 901: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang-er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version

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Apostles' Creed

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

- C** **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

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

A God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

A You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones especially Jason, Fil, Shirley & Eric, Rosalie, Jeff, Denise, Janet, Helmut, Carol, Richard & Karli, Victoria, Jennifer, Jeanette, Suzanne, Shelby, Eric M, David O, Gary, Kevin, Nancy, Ann, Mary, Sean, Mayor Dennis, Mary M, Jane, Omarion, John M, Robert M, Sue W, Tom, Jim W, Peter H, and Steve. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
C **Amen.**

Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Sit

The Meal

This is an invitation and not an expectation. As a called and ordained pastor of the ELCA, my responsibilities are to share the Word and Sacraments, so they are available to you, the Body of Christ. If you wish to participate; you are welcomed and loved. If you believe Holy Communion should take place only in church or only in the live presence of a person ordained in Word and Sacrament, you are welcomed and loved even if you are not participating in online Communion. This decision is personal and spiritual and only you can make it. I feel called to give you the option.

- Please have your wine and bread ready for the Meal. It would be best to use grape juice or wine and a small portion of bread or gluten free option for the Eucharist.
- Please participate by lifting the bread and the wine as the pastor lifts the bread and wine.
- If everyone in the family is healthy please take the time to commune each other; presenting the bread first and saying, “the Body of Christ given for you” and then the wine/juice saying, “the Blood of Christ shed for you.” If you’re not feeling well, please commune yourself as you are able.
- The elements (bread and juice or wine) should be consumed in their entirety or returned to the earth as once they are consecrated they are the Body and Blood of Christ. Please do not throw Jesus in the trash or down the drain.

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, please read the following:

For today’s distribution of Holy Communion, after the Invitation to the Table, the presiding pastor will invite the worship assistants (lector, assisting minister, ushers) to commune behind the altar. The presiding pastor will then commune those worshipping via Zoom and those in the sanctuary who wish to commune in their pews. Then the presiding pastor will commune those who wish to come up to the altar while the Lamb of God is played. Thank you for your patience as we acknowledge the awkwardness of experiencing something different in worship. God is with us in this meal. God is also with us as we experiment with new worship practices.

Offering

Please feel free to send your regular tithes in the mail, drop it off to the church office or if you have not checked out our website and the "Your Offering Made Easy" tab, this could be your opportunity. (John Mills is available to answer any questions about the Vanco Online giving option if you wish to contact him. His email address is john_r_mills@icloud.com)



Offering Prayer

P Please pray with me.
C **God, we have labored and toiled
for our money
and our time
and our families
and our freedom.
We have cherished
what we thought was ours.**

P Yet in a moment,
we recognize
that every truly good thing

was a treasure
we had taken
from your open hand.

**C We give you these gifts
as a sign of your love and faithfulness.
Use them to grow
more hope in this world.**

Stand

The Great Thanksgiving

P Holy Jesus, be our guest.
For you are already here.
God is with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts in praise.

C We life them to our God.

P Let us give thanks
to the God of our salvation.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P Holy God,
once you made humankind
you could do nothing but love them.

Holy Spirit,
once you called the prophets,
you gave them words to afflict
and words to heal,
and they could do nothing but speak them.

Holy Jesus,
once you committed to take the human frame,
you walked the path to the end.
You did not rush through childhood.
You never used your power for yourself.
You faced your enemies on their terms.
You taught your friends until they learned.

You allowed yourself to die
the same way you were born:
as a fragile person,
in a filthy place,
where bare flesh and blood
were spilled to give life.
This is rarely a kind world,

C but you love it anyway.

P This was rarely an innocent world,

C but you saved it anyway.

P We are rarely peaceful people,

C but you have swaddled us in peace.

P We will always hunger for healing.

C Nurse us with grace.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth o - ver - flow with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is the per - son who comes, comes in the name of the
Ho - ly One. Heav - en and earth o - ver - flow with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Memory of That Night Around the Table

P While Pilate rested in his palace,
and the city of Jerusalem slept,
while the priests set their plot in motion,
the disciples sat down at the table.
The bread was on the table;
the wine was in the glass.

This was the night
for which Jesus was born.

Even if you know
this is part of God's plan,
you might still grieve.
To say goodbye
to your closest friends,
who do not know you will die.

To end the chapter of friendship
with the one you love,
before they turn away.

Even good days
bring sadness and loss.

And it was a good day,
that final day,
filled with certainty and hope,
when Jesus lingered at the table
and took that bread and cup.

Words of Institution

P That night,
the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

At a meal like this,
we savor the food while its lasts;
we cling to love
before we step out of reach.

And we pray
that God will give us each day
the blessing we share in this place.

So, we pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

P Holy Spirit,
just as you made a stable
into a nursery fit for the sovereign of heaven,
you make this table
a holy cradle for salvation.

You fashion this bread and wine
into the presence of Christ's love.
And you make us
your people,

who can never separate from you again.
God, your heart split with the pain of the world,
so you left yourself in heaven
to be born a child
like one of us.
Now bless this bread,
which is broken,
so we might
draw together as one.

Invitation to the Table

P People of God,
come to the table
and encounter the God
who waits to love you.

Sit

Hymn: ACS 998: *In Silence We Wait*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "come to us; bring us your light." The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

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Blessing

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us,
now and forever
C **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A The meal has ended.
Now let the remembering begin.

Remember you have met God in this place.

Remember that no person meets God
Can ever be the same.

We pray:

C **You have called us.
We have listened.
You invited us.
We took our place at the table.**

You have sat with us
so we might follow you.

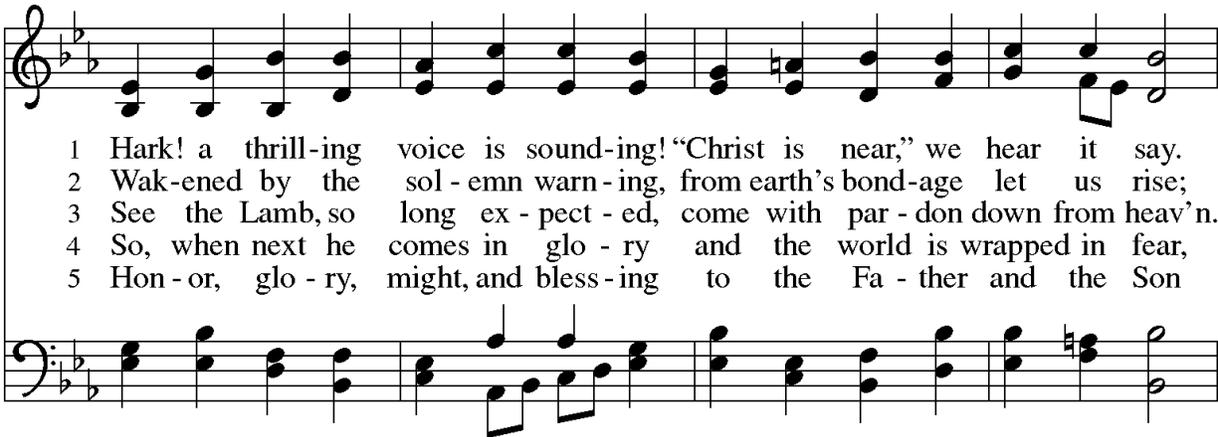
Now there is nowhere else we can go,
because you alone have the words of life.

The Sending

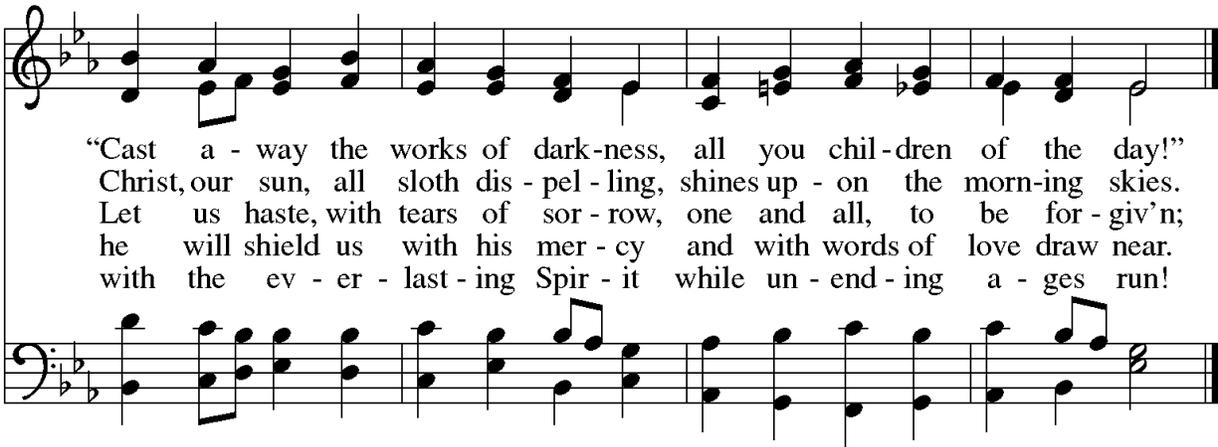
An Invitation

Stand

Sending Hymn: ELW 246: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

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P God, we do not know the end
to which you call us.

C **God, let us be your servants,
wherever this road goes.**

P God, you could have judged us,
but you chose us.

C **You have made us worthy
so we might speak your words.**

P You alone guide us
down the path that leads to life.
C **Every other path
is no longer a path for me.**

Dismissal

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

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Worship Assistants Today: Beth Dana (Musicians), Mary L Waltmann (Assisting Minister), Peter Bunder (Lector), Mark Hermodson (Cantor), Jesse Grogan (Usher), Mike Williams (A/V & Livestream Specialist) Matt Ohland (Assistant to Mike Williams)