

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Light On Candle to Watch for Messiah”

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 2025

Holy Communion 11:00 am

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn                      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*                      (ELW) No. 257

\*The Confession and Forgiveness                      (ELW) page 94

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

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: 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,.....in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting                      (ELW) page 138

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.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*)                      (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise                      *This is the Feast*                      (ELW) No. 140

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

(After the Old Testament Lesson is announced, Larry Sten and Olivia Lyons will light one candle on the Advent Wreath as the congregation sings verse 1 of Hymn No. 240, Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah) and prayer.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Hope in God*

Bell Choir

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 122

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**<sup>2</sup>Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem — built as a city that is bound firmly together,

**<sup>4</sup>to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed**

**for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>There thrones for judgment were set, the thrones of the house of David.

**<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!"

**<sup>8</sup>For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"**

<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

*Christmas is Coming*

Adult Choir

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Children's Sermon

Rev. Grewe

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*O Lord How Shall I Meet You*

(ELW) No. 241

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) No. 27

\*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

\*The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

*All Who Hunger Gather Gladly*

(ELW) No. 461

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

(ELW) No. 244

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

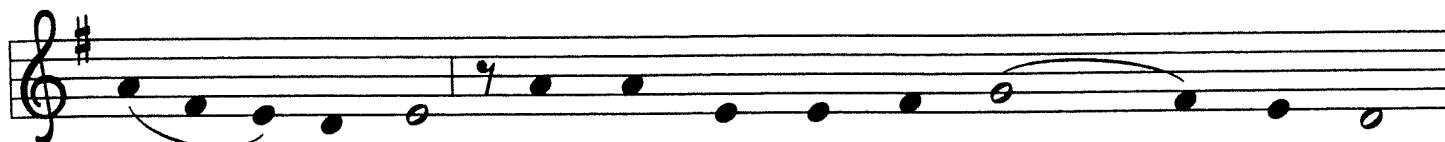
**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

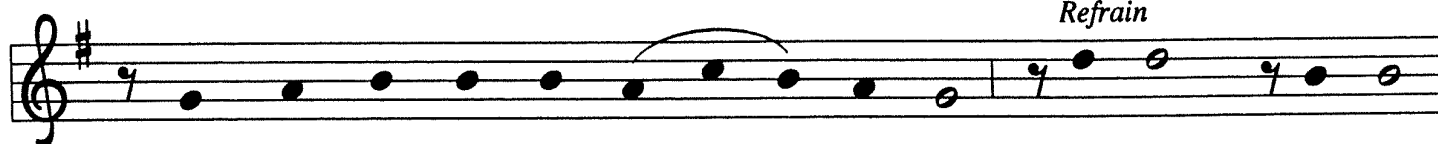
## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



- Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



- un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new.

*Refrain*

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight.

*Refrain*

- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

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



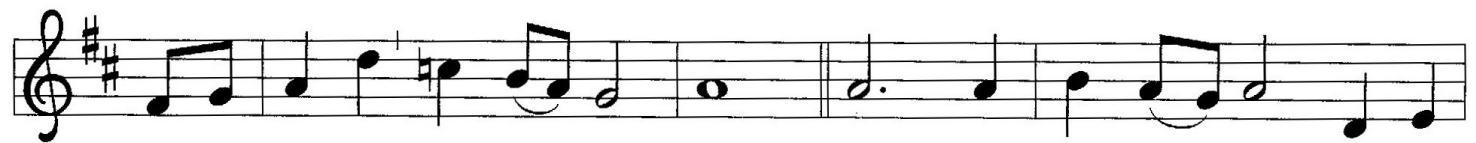
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



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

*Refrain*

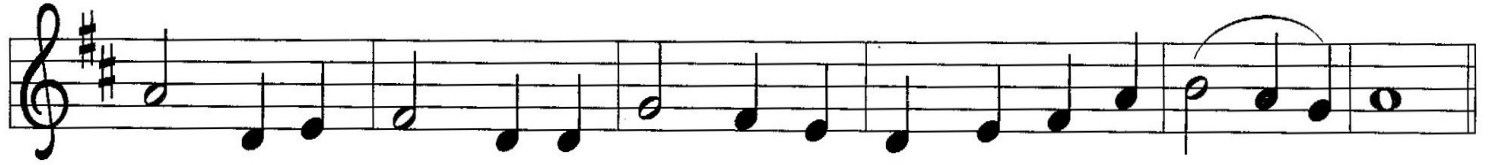
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

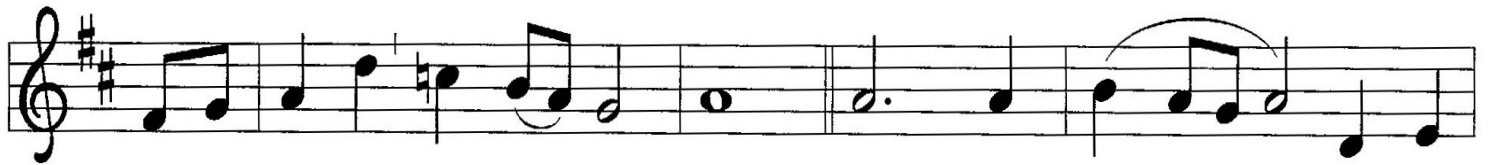


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*



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



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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

## 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 - joice, 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.



# The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -'.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics are 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -'.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly'.


Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

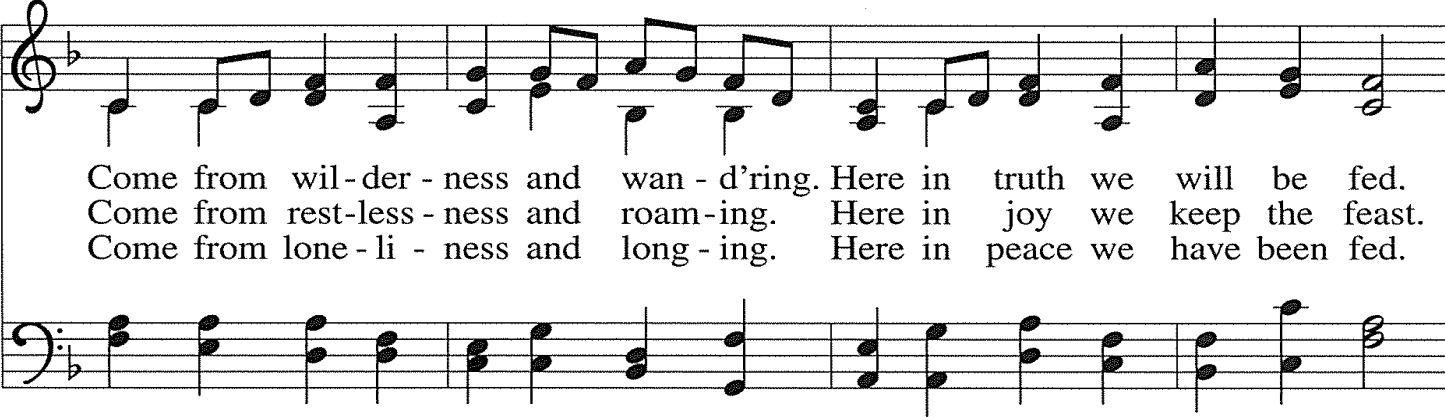
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'


## All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



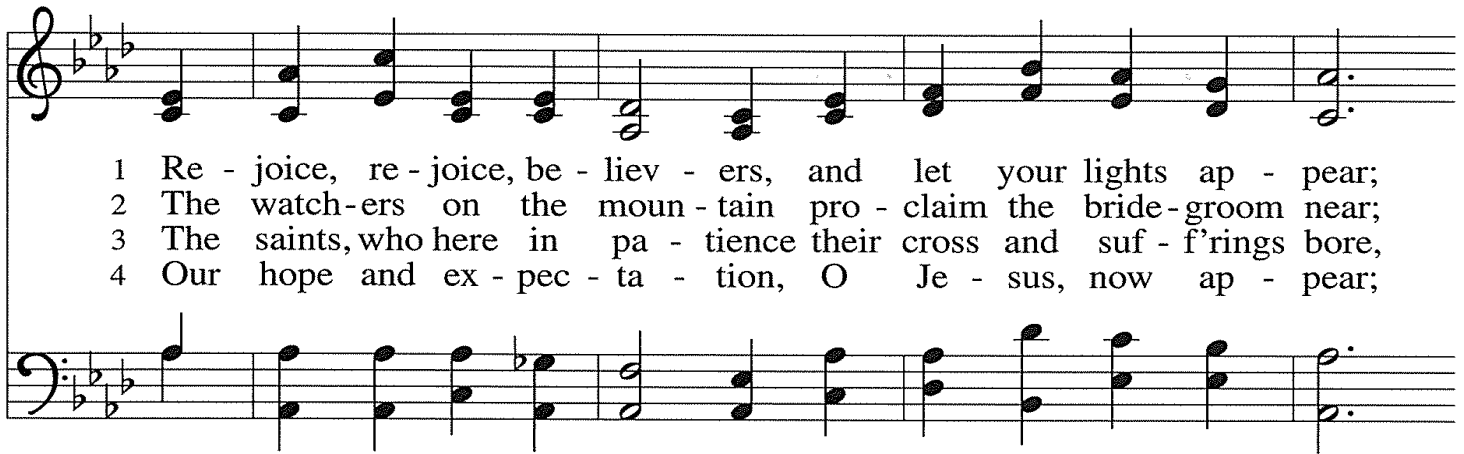
You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a - round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



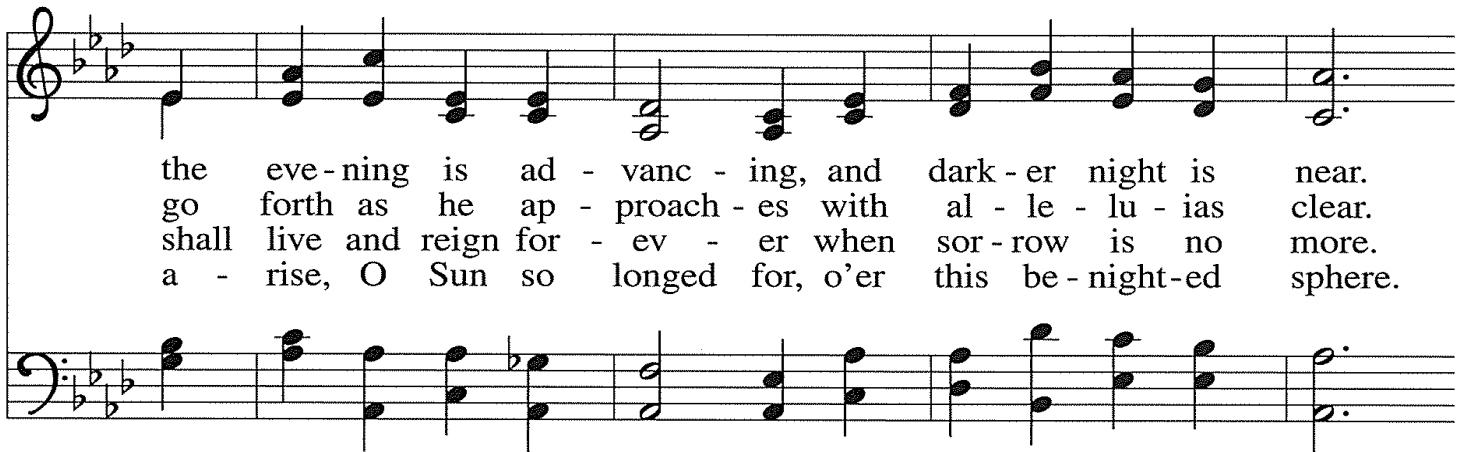
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

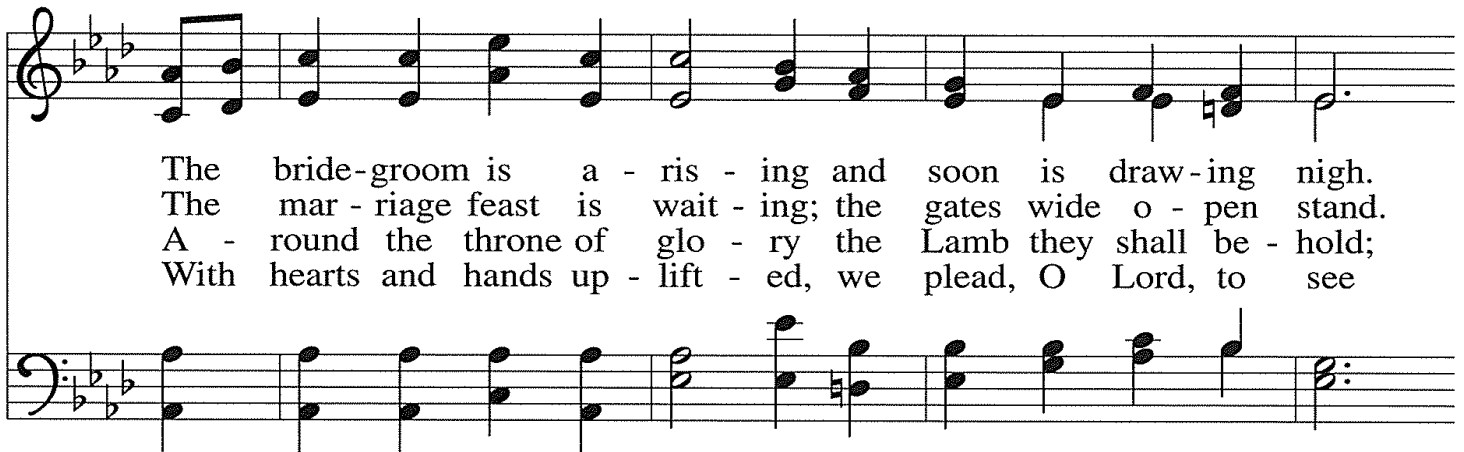
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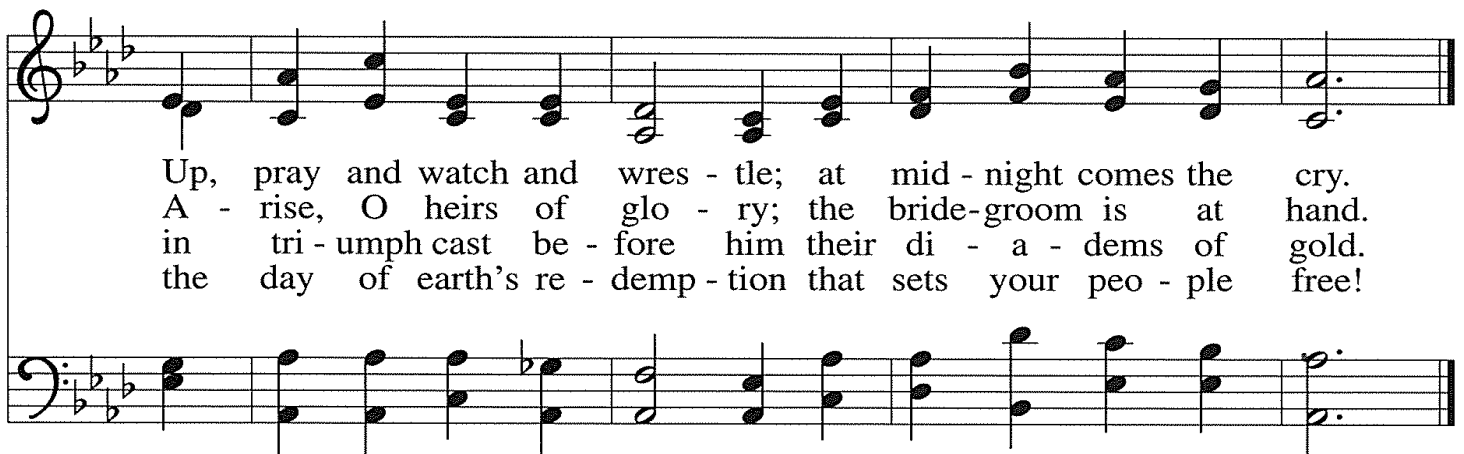
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## **First Lutheran Church**

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: [secretary@flcwash.church](mailto:secretary@flcwash.church)

Online services posted weekly on website: [www.flcwash.church](http://www.flcwash.church)

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

[revrob@flcwash.church](mailto:revrob@flcwash.church)

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Mark Black, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God by with gratitude for God's many blessings. A donation was made to the Restoration Fund by Cindy Linville.

**The Lay Reader** is Kimberly Grewe.

**Acolytes** are

**Counters/Greeters** today are K. Luketich and L. Sten.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**The Flower Chart for 2025** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2025.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2025.** Please sign up.

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**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Ron Erdmann, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti and June Gosnell.

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**GIVING TREE**

**The money we collect will go to help a family of 4 (Mom, Dad and 2 young boys in elementary school).**

**Mom had to give up her job to care for her Mom who has aggressive cancer. Dad is working. They are having trouble paying bills and buying food.**

**Please place a donation in the Giving Tree Box at the back of the Sanctuary.**

Movie and Meal after Service.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

# Listening for the Promise

## Weekly Devotional

**First Sunday in Advent – November 30, 2025**

*“<sup>36</sup>{Jesus said,} ‘But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. <sup>37</sup>For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.’”*

*- Matthew 24:36-39 -*

One thing I don't like is to feel caught off-guard. I like to feel well-prepared, especially if something big is about to happen. But that isn't always how life presents itself. God warned Noah that he would bring a flood down on the earth, and God told Noah how to be well prepared for said event. Back in September 2019, I was serving a two-point rural parish in Southeast South Dakota. Earlier in the week, Sioux Falls had experience four tornadoes in one night. Later that week, we were planning to celebrate Homecoming in our town. But the weather report turned everyone's plans upside down.

One of the dams had broken up North of where we were located. We'd had lots of rain waters, and we were receiving word that the Jim River, which runs close to the small country church I served, would soon be filled with raging water, and we should expect the worst for flooding. Our time was limited, but people in the community came together to sandbag and help put up a levy to keep the flood waters from damaging the little stone church. We didn't have a lot of time to prepare, but we had just enough. The waters came, but the church was safe. The news of flood waters coming our way, however, caught us off-guard. We had to drop whatever it was we were doing and heed the warnings of others.

Jesus tells us that we will not know the day or the hour of when he will return to us. No one knows. Not the angels. Not even Jesus himself, the Son of God. However, God has given us plenty of time to prepare for that unexpected moment when Jesus will come back again. God has given us his gifts of grace, forgiveness of sin, and eternal life through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We wait for Jesus' imminent return, and as we do so, we witness the pain and heartache around us. We bear witness to conflict, violence, disease, and death. But we also bear witness to the promise that God is always with us. He comes to us through the waters of baptism and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Thanks be to God! Come, Lord Jesus!