

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

Mission Statement

To reflect God's love through caring service to our church, the community, and the world.

Welcome Statement

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."
-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Anne Andert
Organist/Choir Director—Cheryl Licary
AV Assistant—Grant Dusso

Acolyte—Bryson Shear
Assisting Minister—Rebecca Wallendal
Communion Assistants—Mark and Nancy Lindsey
Communion Prep—Nancy Lindsey
Lector—Skip Rath
Greeter—Julie Rath
Ushers—Jon, Megan, and Drew Nelson

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

GATHERING

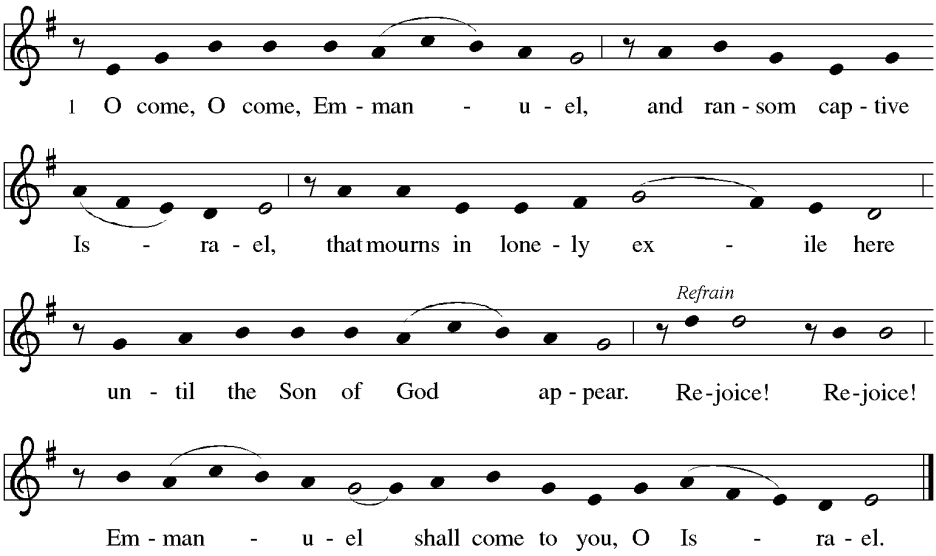
PRELUDE

Please take a moment to fill out the yellow worship card, which will be collected during the gathering hymn.

WELCOME

ADVENT HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel—ELW #000



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI. EMMANUEL. French processional, 15th cent.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Joanna Waxler and family*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

Today we light the first candle of the advent wreath, the candle of hope. We watch and wait in a dark world, trusting in god's promise of a great light.

Lord, as we begin this Advent season, fill our hearts with hope. Help us to focus on the promise of Your coming and the light that you bring into the darkness of our world. Strengthen our faith as we wait and prepare for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GATHERING LITANY

P: Come, let us journey together.
Let us journey through the mystery of the night.
Let us take God's hand and wander
toward the coming of Christ.

C: I will trust you, Lord, on this journey.
I will hold your hand in the night.
Together, we will trust that you move alongside us.

P: Let us await the Prince of peace,
eager to learn of the promise God makes with the world.
While chaos is in abundance, there is solace in God's wonder.

C: We will find consolation in community.
We will learn hope in fellowship.
Together, we will bear witness to the beauty at dusk.

P: The darkness is where life is formed.
God whispers to God's beloved ones at night.
Creation awaits us in the deep, rich abyss.
Come, let us journey together.

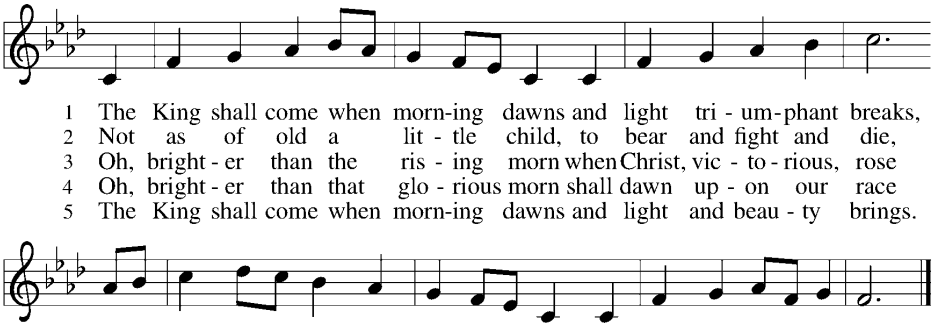
C: I will trust you, Lord, on this journey.
I will listen for your hushed words in the shadows.
Together, we will celebrate the coming of Christ.

P: God of wandering and wondering,
empty us of our biases and harms.
Teach us to dwell in the obscurities of your truth,
the beauty and richness that we have been taught to fear.
Miraculous things happen in the dark—
creation, dreams, and restoration—
but we have been taught to reject what we cannot see.
Unveil who we are called to be as followers of your word
so that we, too, may hold your people in the twilight.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns—ELW #260



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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.

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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9

L: A reading from Isaiah.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

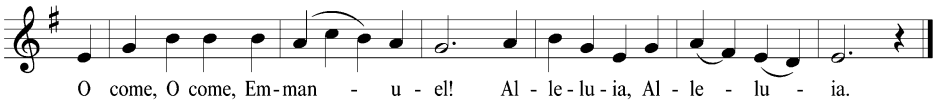
L: We read Psalm 80 responsively:

[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
[2] **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
[3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
[4] **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
[6] **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
[17] **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
[18] And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
[19] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

P: The holy gospel, according to Mark, the 13th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

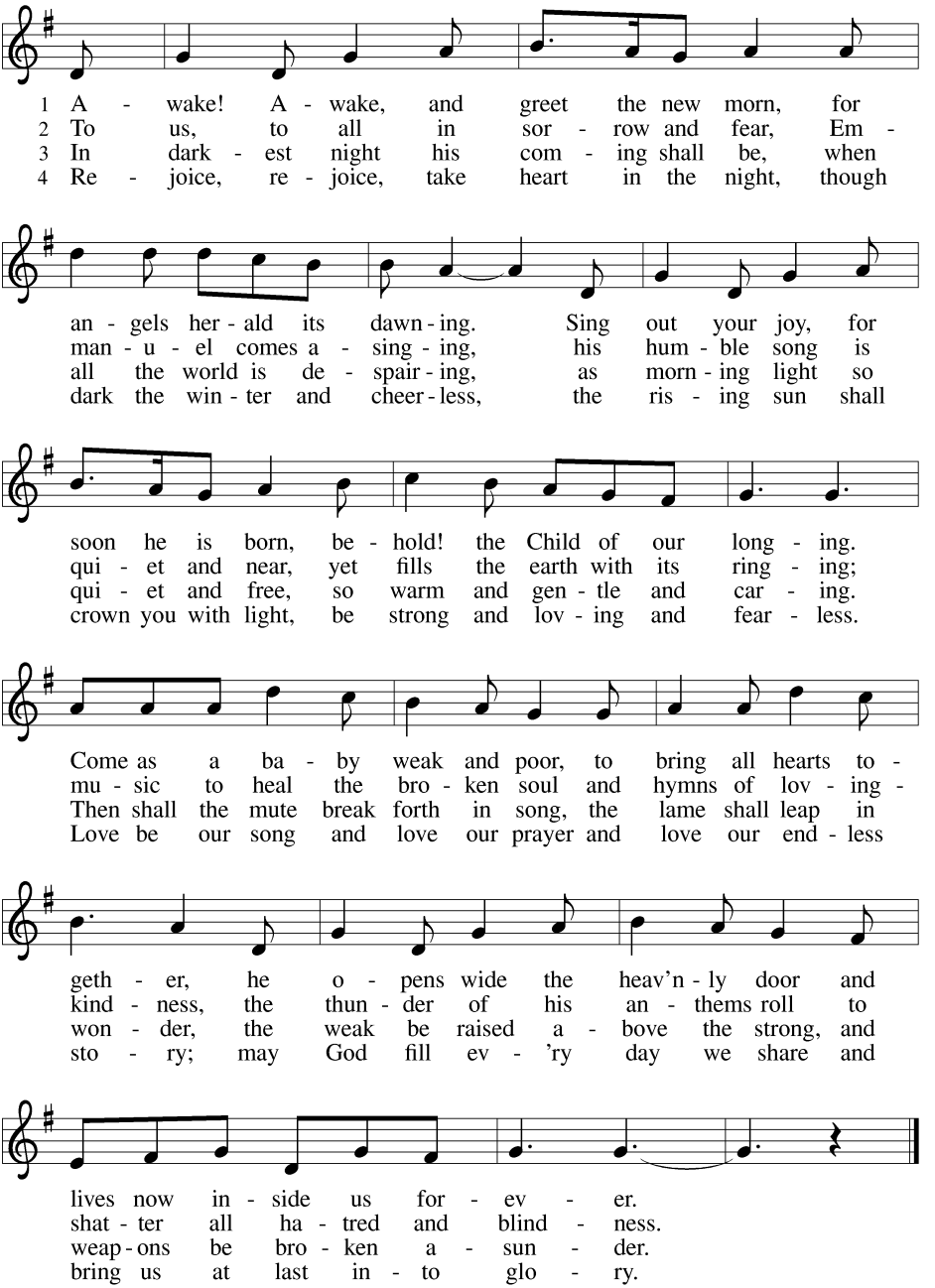
Please be seated.

SERMON *Ready or Not, Here I Come!* Pastor Anne Andert

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn—ELW #242



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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APOSTLES' 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: O Holy One, in this season of anticipation, strengthen your church and nourish all who gather for worship. Let us know with certainty that you are always near. Merciful God,

C: kindle your light within us.

A: God of mystery, we wait. We watch. We wonder. How long, O Lord? With the prophet we say, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down." Restore the earth and restore our souls. In this time of transition here at Our Savior's, prepare us, as well as the pastor whom you are preparing to serve in this place. Merciful God,

C: kindle your light within us.

A: Reconciling God, we long for a world of justice, peace, and simple decency. Grant wisdom and integrity to leaders of all kinds in our communities and across the nations, and protect from harm all who serve. Merciful God,

C: kindle your light within us.

A: You who are the Great Physician, kindle your hope in all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. [silence for your prayers] Within this community of faith, heal what divides us, make us generous in sharing, and send your Spirit to strengthen all who serve and proclaim your word. Merciful God,

C: kindle your light within us.

A: You who are the light of the world, as the darkness lengthens, lights are hung, trees are decorated, and ovens are busy, help us to remember that it is your coming we are anticipating. Merciful God, **kindle your light within us.**

P: We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: ***Peace be with you.*** *After the sharing of the peace, you may be seated.*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

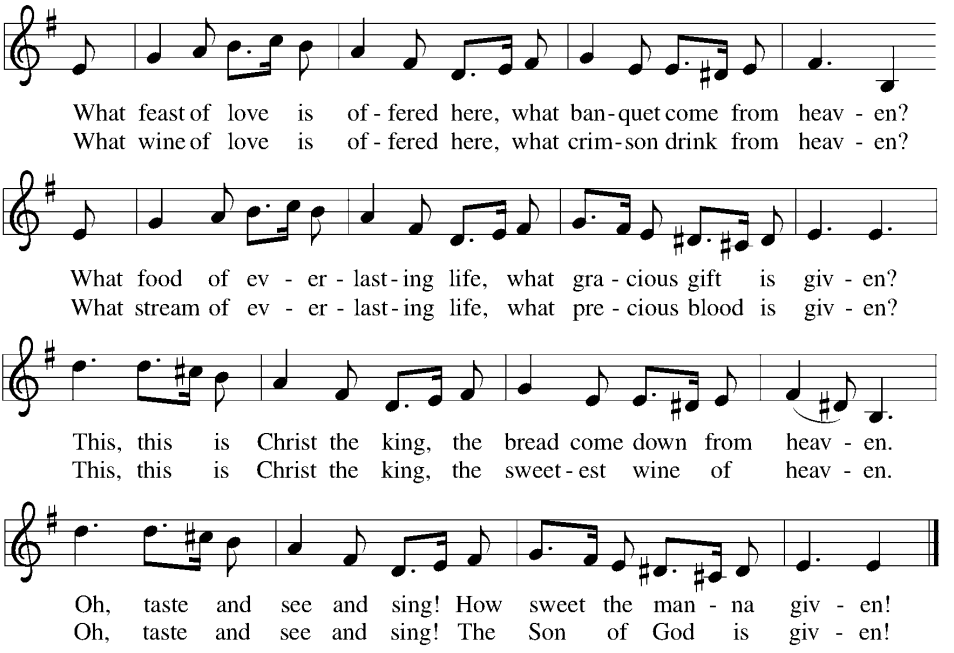
For online giving, simply scan QR code:

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

What a Feast of Love—ELW #487



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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray… Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

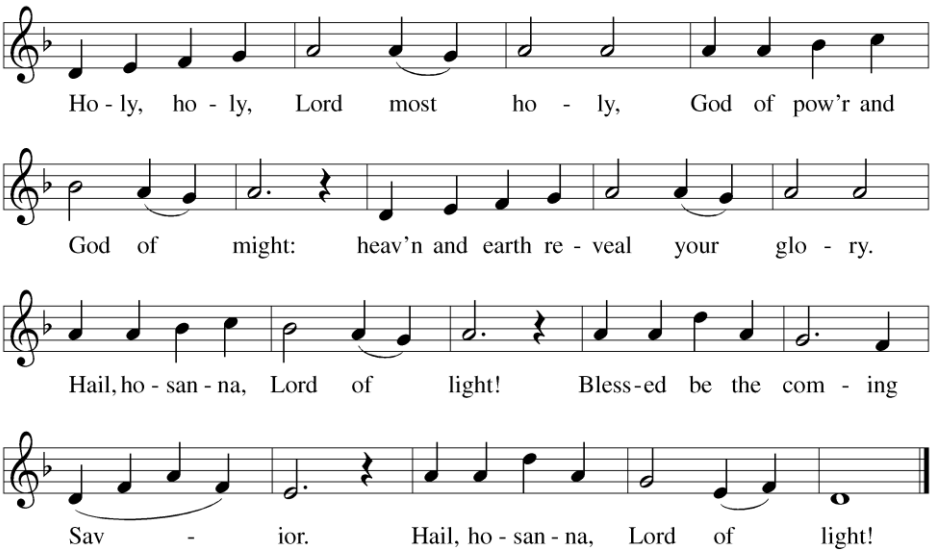
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,
O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on the Sanctus
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion.
Come forward by the center aisle and return to pews by side aisle.
The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

HOLY COMMUNION

For those joining us by livestream.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray… Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

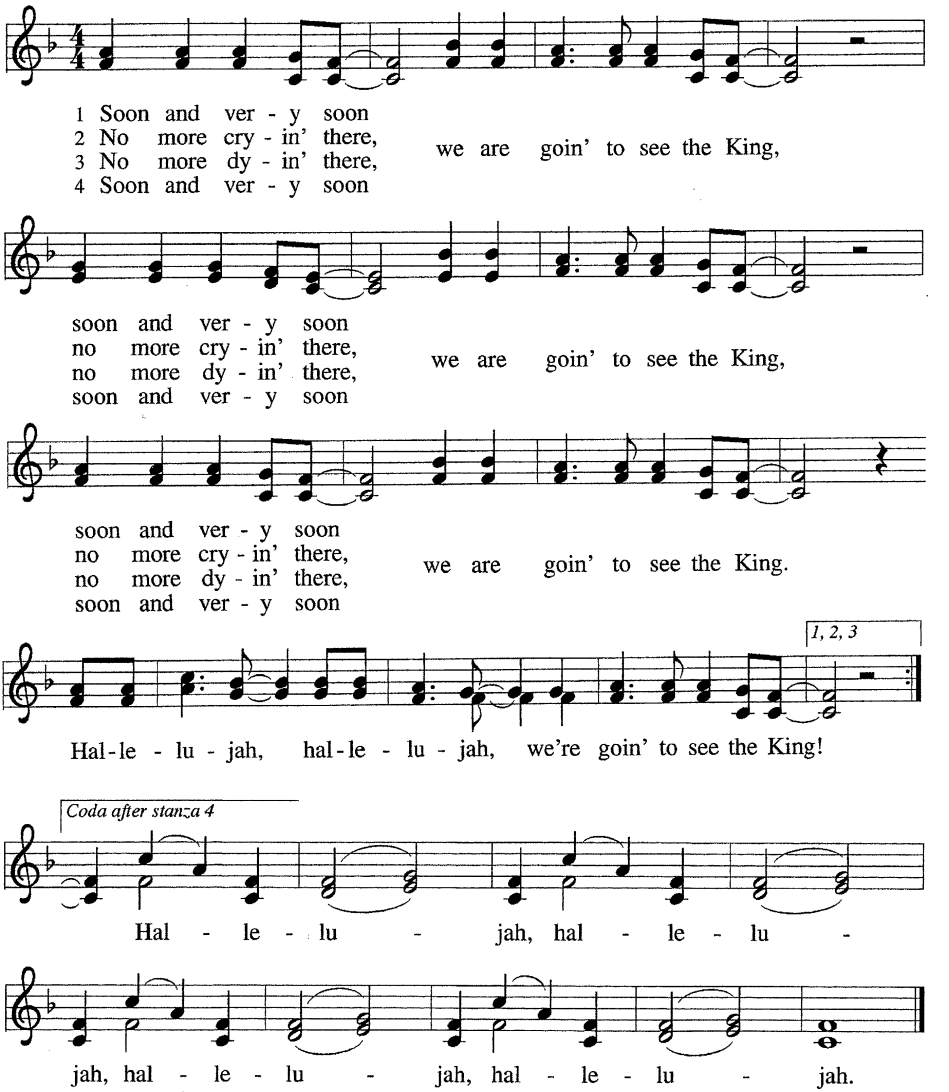
SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION ✣

SENDING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon—ELW #439



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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: We will! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING BUDGET MEETING
Our next Congregational Budget Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 6 immediately following worship** in the sanctuary. During this meeting, we will review the revised proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and vote to approve the 2027 budget. All active members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important meeting.

YOUNG @ HEART
Let's celebrate the season with good food, fellowship, and Christmas cheer! Join us on **Thursday, December 10, from 12:00–2:00 pm** for a Christmas Celebration. Enjoy a delicious holiday meal featuring ham, cheesy hash brown potatoes, rolls, salad, and dessert. Everyone is welcome! Please sign up on the sheet located on the counter in the Commons by Sunday, December 6, so we know how many meals to prepare. We look forward to celebrating with you!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
The annual Children's Christmas Program will take place on **Sunday, December 13 during our 9:30 am** worship service. Be ready for a morning of song, puppetry, and a celebration of Jesus's birth!

There will be a dress rehearsal for all those involved in the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 6 AFTER the 9:30 am worship. Please stay to practice with the microphones and music. And then enjoy pizza and cookie decorating. Yum!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR
Help us fight hunger in our community by participating in our annual food drive. For your convenience, a list of requested non-perishable food items can be found in the Commons. Please bring your donations to the church throughout the month of December and place them by the Giving Tree.

TASTE OF CHRISTMAS
WELCA invites you to a special holiday coffee hour on **Sunday, December 20** immediately following worship. You don't want to miss this festive event!

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED
Catch Sunday services (9:30 am) on YouTube.
Links and bulletins: oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	November 29	8:**15**a	Choir
		9:30a	Worship
		10:15a	Kids Connect/Youth Connect
		1:00p	Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Monday	November 30	8:30a	Sewing Bee
		5:00p	Education
Tuesday	December 1	9:00a	Staff Meeting
		5:30p	Worship Music Arts Meeting
		6:00p	Scout Troop #608
		6:30p	Board Meeting
Wednesday	December 2	9:00a	Men's Group (Riverside)
		5:00p	Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
		5:30p	Anna Circle
		6:30p	Confirmation
Thursday	December 3	9:30a	BAREA Meeting
		6:00p	OA
		6:30p	Board Meeting
Sunday	December 6	8:**15**a	Choir
		9:30a	Worship
		10:45a	Congregational Budget Mtg
		10:45a	Christmas Program Rehearsal
		1:00p	Televised Worship (Ch. 992)

IN MEMORY OF JOHN C. WAXLER, JR.
The additional flowers displayed this morning are from the Waxler family in memory of John C. Waxler, Jr., following his funeral service this week.

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for next week by studying the scriptures.

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8

STAY CONNECTED

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ONLINE GIVING ►

Our Savior's Lutheran Church