St. John's Episcopal Church

"*Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ*"

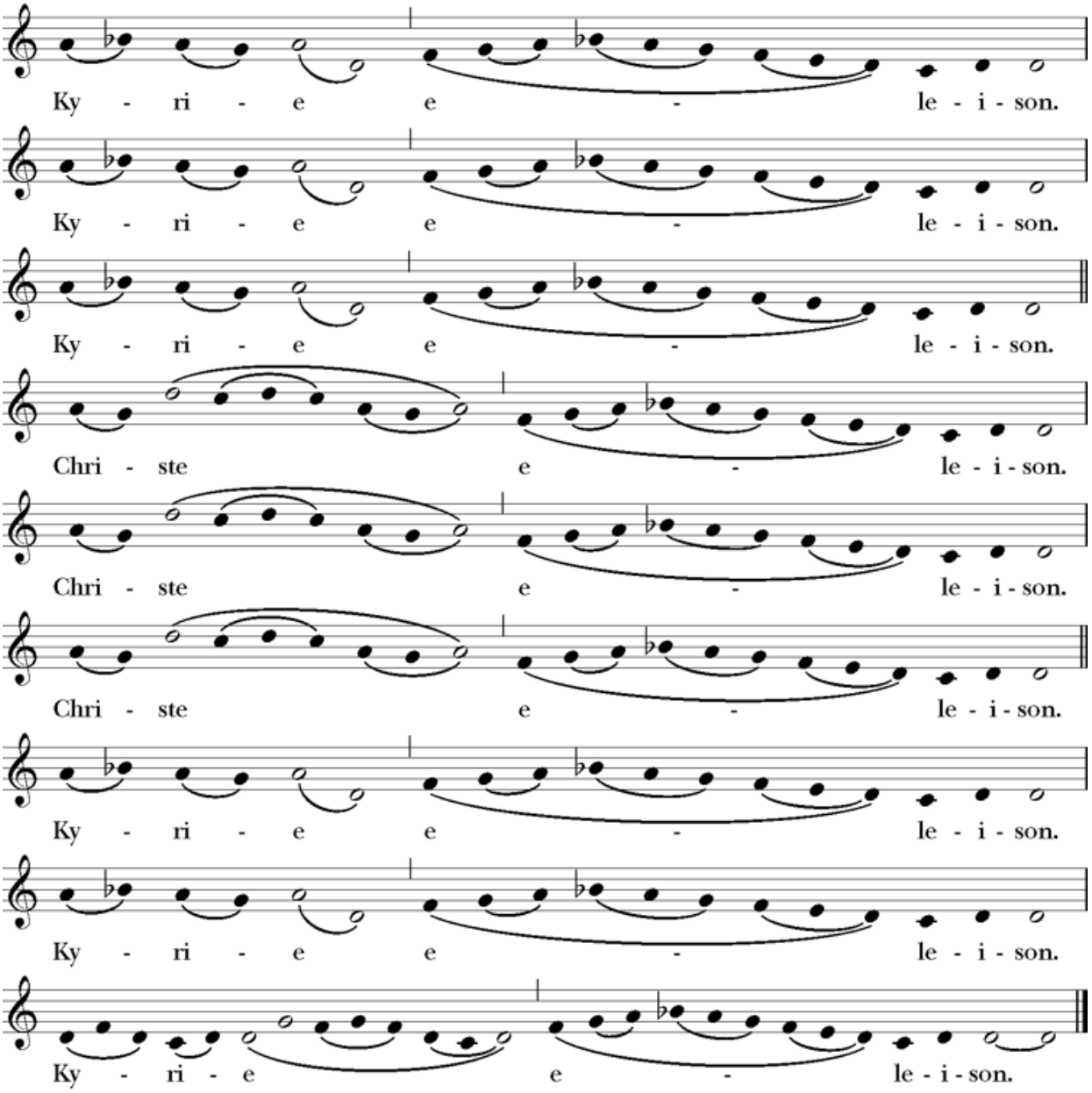
November 29, 2026
10:00am
First Sunday of Advent
The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Organ Voluntary

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night - Joe Utterback

Welcome and Announcements

Choir Introit
Blue Hymnal #S84 - Kyrie eleison
Sung by Choir



Processional Hymn

Blue Hymnal # 57 - *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending*

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

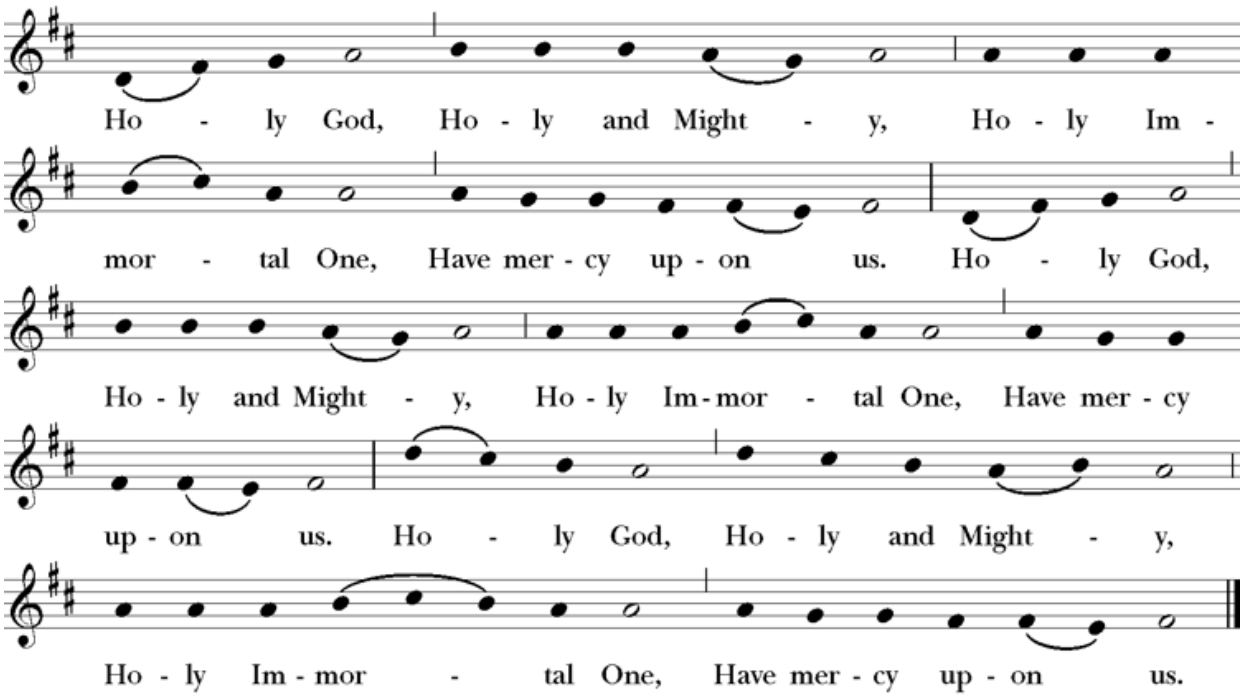
Opening Acclamation (Book of Common Prayer page 355)

One: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord
Many: **Make straight in the desert a highway for our God**
One: The glory of God shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together
Many: **The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:**
One: They that dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them the light has shined.

Collect for Purity (BCP p. 355)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trisagion S 100



The Collect (BCP p. 357)

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**
One: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence– 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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 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. 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. 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. 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. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

Sung by the choir

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 of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

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; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Blue Hymnal # 672 - *O very God of very God*

O very God of very God,
and very Light of Light,
whose feet this earth's dark valley trod
that so it might be bright:

Our hopes are weak, our fears are strong,
thick darkness blinds our eyes;
cold is the night; thy people long
that thou, their Sun, wouldst rise.

And even now, though dull and gray,
the east is brightening fast,
and kindling to the perfect day
that never shall be past.

O guide us till our path is done,
and we have reached the shore
where thou, our everlasting Sun,
art shining evermore!

We wait in faith, and turn our face
to where the daylight springs,
till thou shalt come our gloom to chase,
with healing in thy wings.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

One: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Many: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then 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.

"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. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

One: The Gospel of the Lord.
Many: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel

The Nicene Creed (BCP p. 358)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We 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.
We 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.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
  and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

We all fade like the leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. None of us have sought after you as we ought; nor have our eyes rightly perceived your ways. Yet you, O Lord are the potter and we are the clay:
Restore us, O God of hosts!

We have been enriched in speech and knowledge of every kind, given spiritual gifts and strengthened to make testimony to Christ; for God is faithful to those called into the fellowship of the Son. Fashion us into vessels of honor, and make us useful for your work:
Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Be with your Church this Advent Season, remembering our leadership and all the people of God:
Restore us, O God of hosts!

Keep us awake for the tasks of our generation, swift in service to justice, alert to the needs of the poor, attentive to the hungry and the migrant, and sensitive to the promptings of your Holy Spirit:
Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

In this season of preparation, tend the hearts of our children that they might be made ready to keep a true Christmas, open to the joy and wonder of Christ's birth, and enlivened by the message of his Gospel:
Restore us, O God of hosts!

Be with those who are lonely as the holidays arrive, granting them the solace of your presence, the gladness of community, and the sustenance of Christian fellowship. We intercede also for those who are ill or in any kind of trouble including The Sanchez family, Kent & Sallie, Bill & Ann, D., M., L., Robin, Katie, Ross, MarLynne, Russell, Charles, Nancy, Sean, Kent, Ann, Earlene, Donald, Jane, Frank, Kimberley, Marsha, Veronica, Susan J., Laurel, Ann, Elena, Jay, Susan S., Loretta, David B., Debby, Kenny, Jane P., Henry, and Kelly, that your mercy might shine bright in their lives:
Show the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Make us to keep watch over those things placed into our spiritual care, vigilant in stewardship, alert for the times and seasons, attuned to the Gospel, always quickening to your work in the world and ready in your service:
Restore us, O God of hosts!

We pray for all who are seeking a relationship with God and a church community to support their faith. Lord God, bring them to our community so we may know and share the love of God with them and be blessed by the gifts they bring.
Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

Confession of Sin (BCP p. 359)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence is kept for examination of conscience.
Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

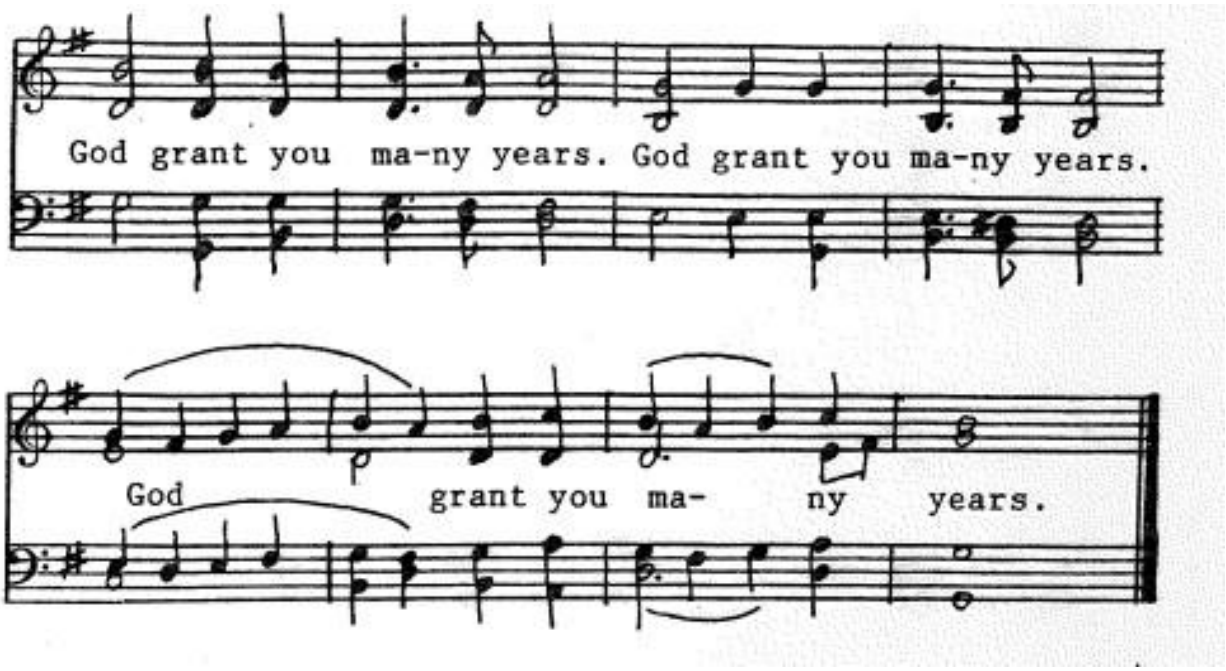
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace (BCP p. 360)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Anniversary and Birthday Blessings



The Offertory

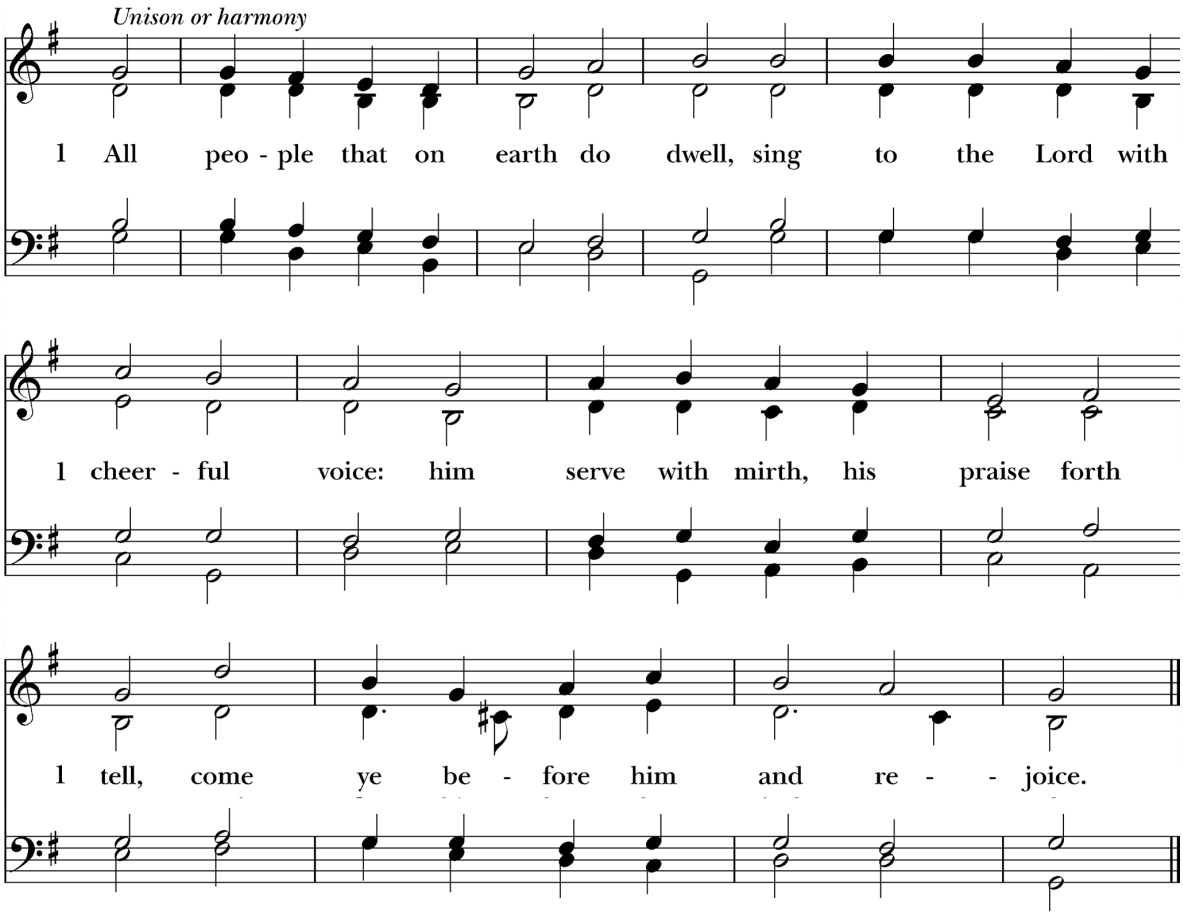
Offertory Anthem

God of the Watching Ones
lyrics by Herb Frombach, music by Lee Dengler

Want to make an offering but don't have cash on you?
Use this QR code to securely give online.

Doxology

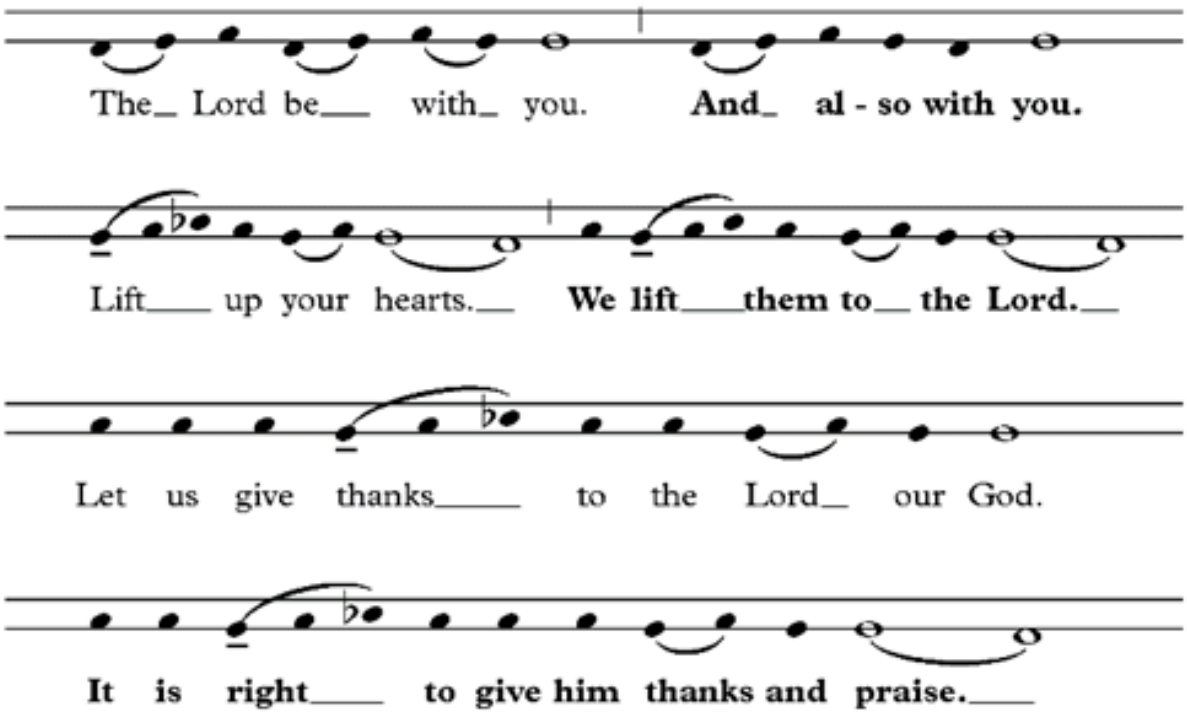
Blue Hymnal #377 v. 1 - Praise to God



The Liturgy of the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda (BCP p. 361)



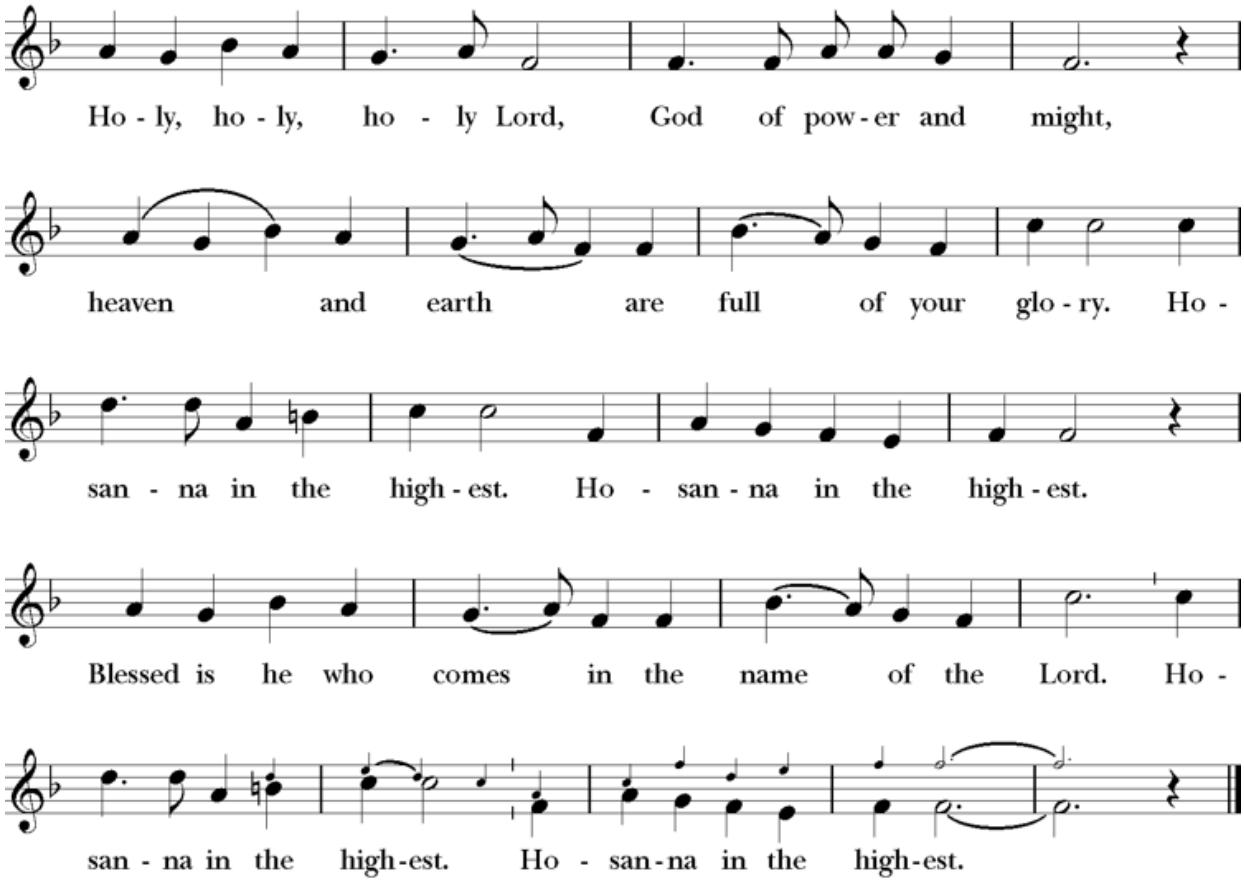
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Blue Hymnal #S125 - *Holy, Holy, Holy*



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms of love upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice of love for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

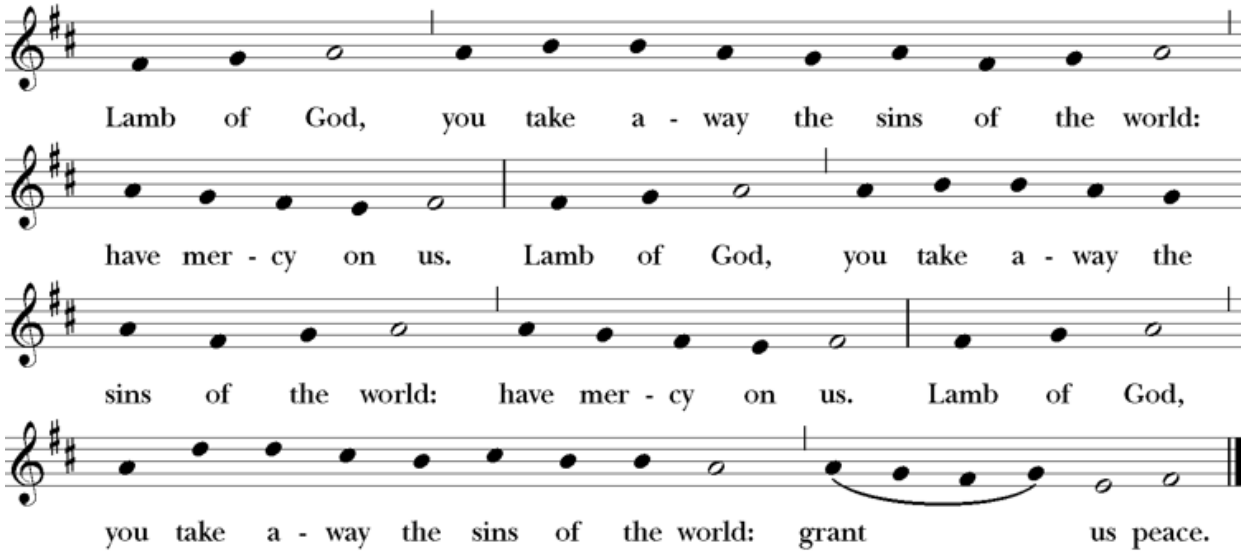
The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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.

The Breaking of the Bread

One: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Many: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Blue Hymnal # S161 - *Lamb of God*

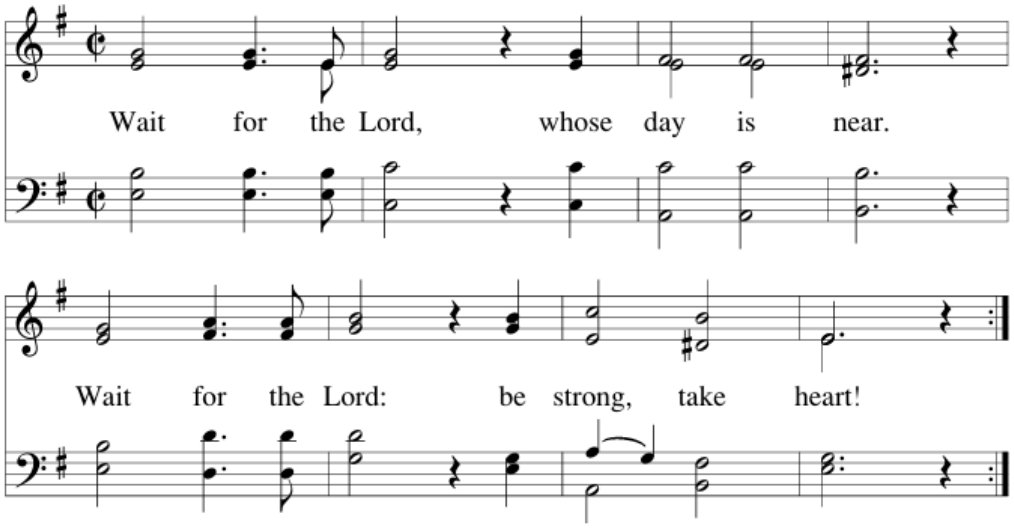


Invitation to Communion (BCP p. 364)

Communion

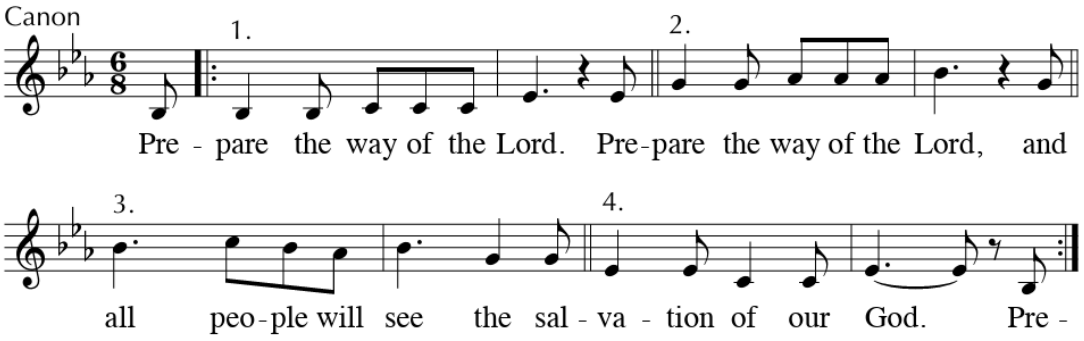
Communion Taizé Chants

Wait for the Lord



Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Prepare the Way of the Lord



Text: Luke 3:4, 6; Taizé Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds, hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the wicked, defend me.
At the hour of my death, call
and bid me come to you
That with your saints I may praise you
For ever and ever. Amen.

- The Anima Christi

Sending out Eucharistic Visitors (as needed)

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors: (they say the names of those they will visit.)

Congregation: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread one cup.**

Final Blessing (BCP p.366)

May Jesus whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.**

Hymn at the Retiring Procession

Blue Hymnal #640 - *Watchman, tell us of the night*

Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.

Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

Dismissal

One: Let us go forth preparing for the Messiah.
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Lo, He Comes, with Clouds Descending - Franklin Ritter

Upcoming Advent / Christmas / Epiphany Events

Advent Lessons and Carols - December 13th at 4:00pm
The Greening of the Church - December 20th immediately following the service
Christmas Caroling Downtown at the Christmas Tree - December 20th at 2:00pm
Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist - December 24th at 4:00pm and 9:00pm
Christmas Day Eucharist - December 25th at 9:00am
Contemplative Worship Service in the style of Taizé - December 31st at 5:00pm
The Epiphany Pageant - January 3rd at 10:00am

Serving on Sunday November 29th at 10:00am:

Acolytes - Dakota M., Edmund H., Matilda H.
Chalice Bearers - Nancy D. and Jacquie W.
Counters – Jim B. and Roger G.
Lectors – Brandon M., Emma P. and Chris M.
Ushers – Roger G. and Zach W.

Serving on Sunday December 6th at 10:00am:

Acolytes - Grant P., Isaac P. and Dakota M.
Chalice Bearers - Grant P. and Richard W.
Counters – Ken H. and Paul J.
Lectors – David F. and Brandon M.
Ushers – Jeff P. and Ben O.

Thank you to all who volunteer as **Acolytes, Chalice Bearers, Counters, Lectors,** and **Ushers**. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please let us know.

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Parish Prayer list

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact the church office or prayers@stjohnsbangor.org.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer: The Sanchez family, Kent and Sallie, and Bill and Ann. **Continued prayers for** – D., M., L., Robin S., Katie B., Ross M., MarLynne M., Russell M., Charles L., Nancy M., Sean C., Kent C., Ann C., Earlene B., Donald K., Jane Z., Frank B., Kimberley M., Marsha, Veronica Y., Susan J., Laurel, Ann, Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, David B., Debby, Kenny B., Jane P., Henry L., and Kelly M.

For our Homebound Members: Bonnie A., Kathy C., Ginny F., Carolyn L., Evelyn L., Roberta D., Carolyn S., Gary S., Deborah T., Lee W., Donna W., Lura W., Lilly P., Earlene B., and Eileen H.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in places of violence or oppression, and for the many places in our world where there is danger and desperation. We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and for the people in the Middle East and Sudan. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced.

For our Nation: For the healing of divisions and the celebration of diversity; for the recognition that no single viewpoint on any issue, no matter how important, is without human error; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression and exploitation.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald J. Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills our Governor; and Daniel Carson our Mayor; for those who administer justice in the courts of this land, that they all may serve our nation and the world with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Spencer S., Sarah M., Dillan L., and Joshua M. For all members of our military currently in harm's way. We pray for peace.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Cassy P., Lorraine S., Inez T. and Lorna W.

For the Departed: for our service members killed in the current conflict.

The Ministers: *All the members of this church because we believe in the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:5).*

Vestry and Officers

Christopher Morin, *Sr. Warden,* christopher_morin@alumni.brown.edu
Jeff Perry, *Junior Warden,* 944-6413
Ken Huhn, *Treasurer*, khuhn49@gmail.com

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2027

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jcamm@stjohnsbangor.org

2028

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Mary Wright
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2029

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The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown, *Bishop of Maine*
The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel, *Rector*
Mr. Colin Graebert, *Music Director*
Mr. Mark Sorensen, *Organist*
Ms. Vanessa Young, *Office Manager*
Ms. Mary-Frances Beesorchard, *Director of Christian Education*
Ms. Tricia Kelly, *Sexton*
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