Sunday, November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
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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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

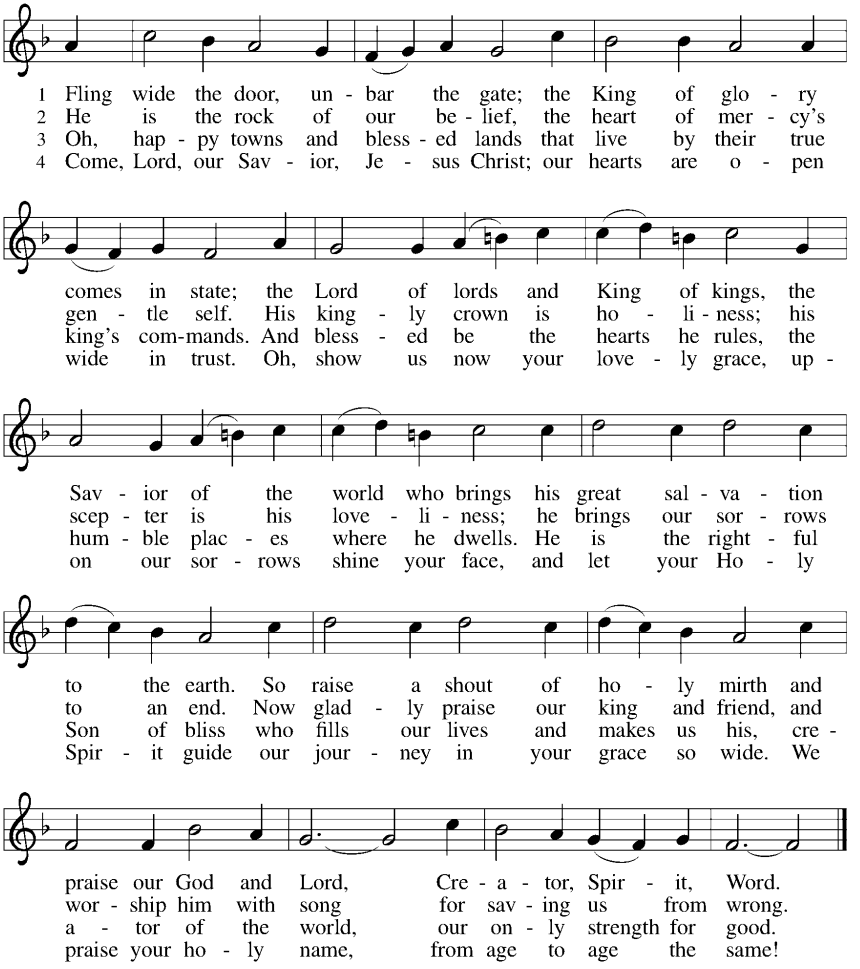
God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that lead us to participate in evil systems. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

Fling Wide the Door



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
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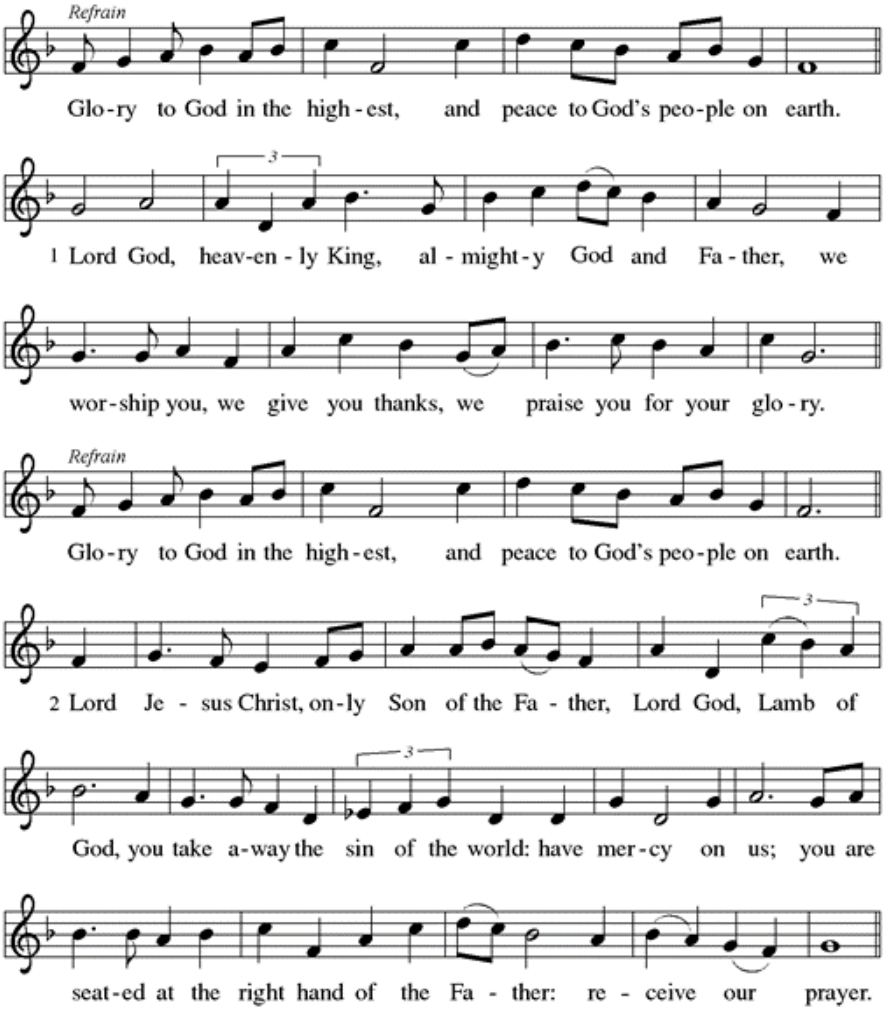
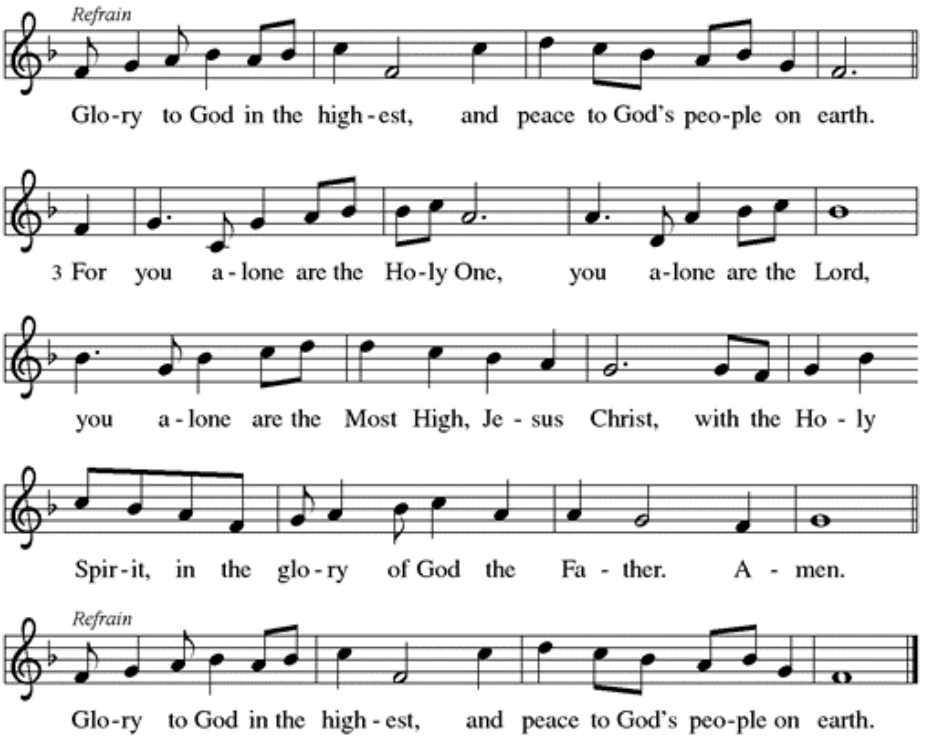
GREETING

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

Please sit

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

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

PSALM: 80:1-7, 17-19

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.

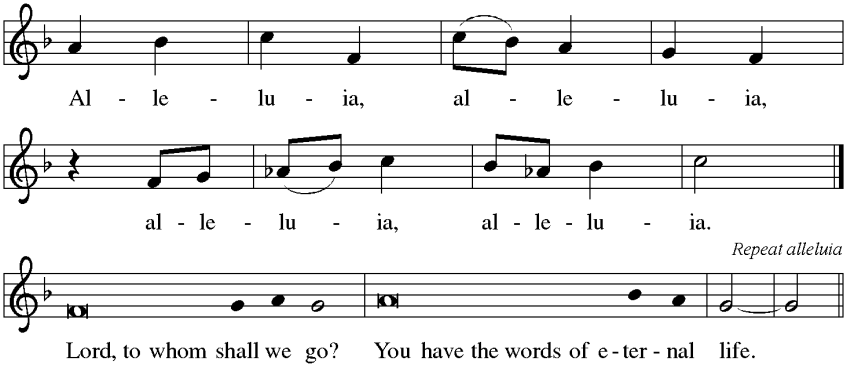
[6]**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7]Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
[17]**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
[18]And so will we never 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.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [4]I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, [5]for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—[6]just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—[7]so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. [8]He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Please stand



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according Mark. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

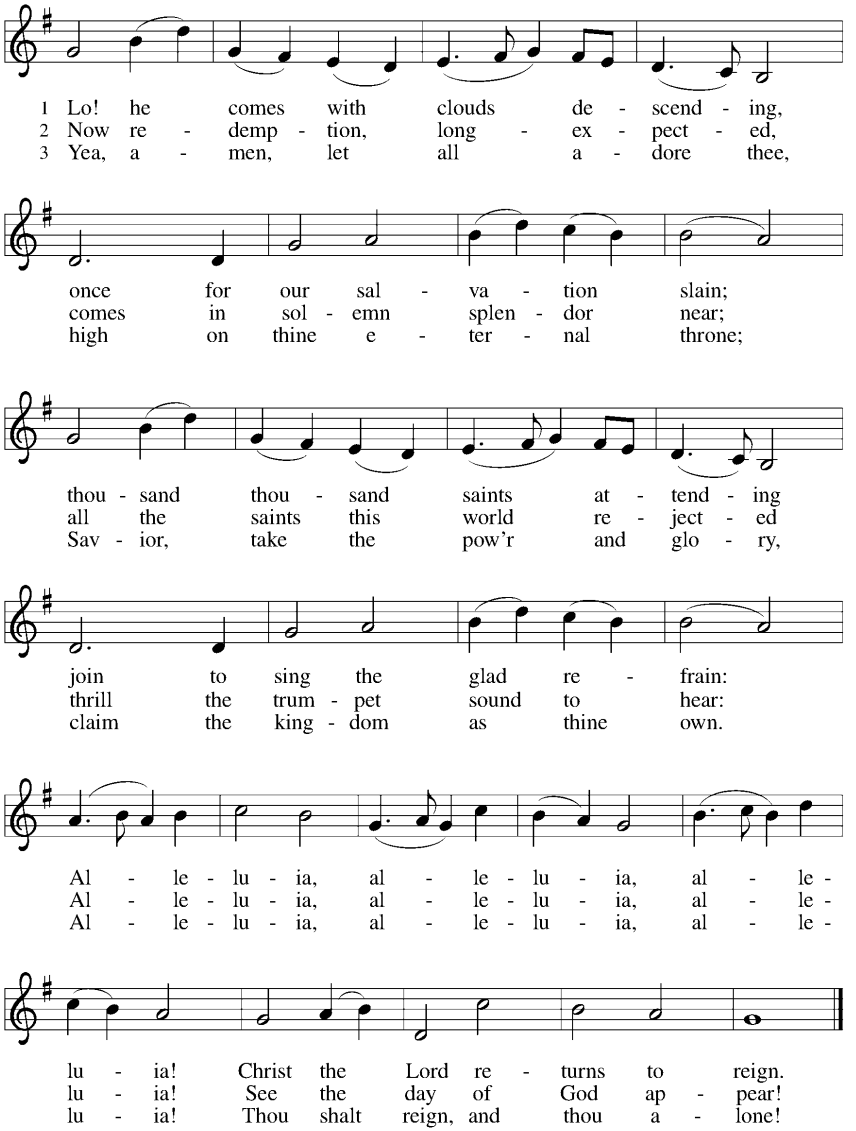
Jesus said: [24]"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the
moon will not give its light, [25]and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers
in the heavens will be shaken.[26]Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds'
with great power and glory. [27]Then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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Please stand

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed

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

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

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain 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. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM **O Come Messiah King**

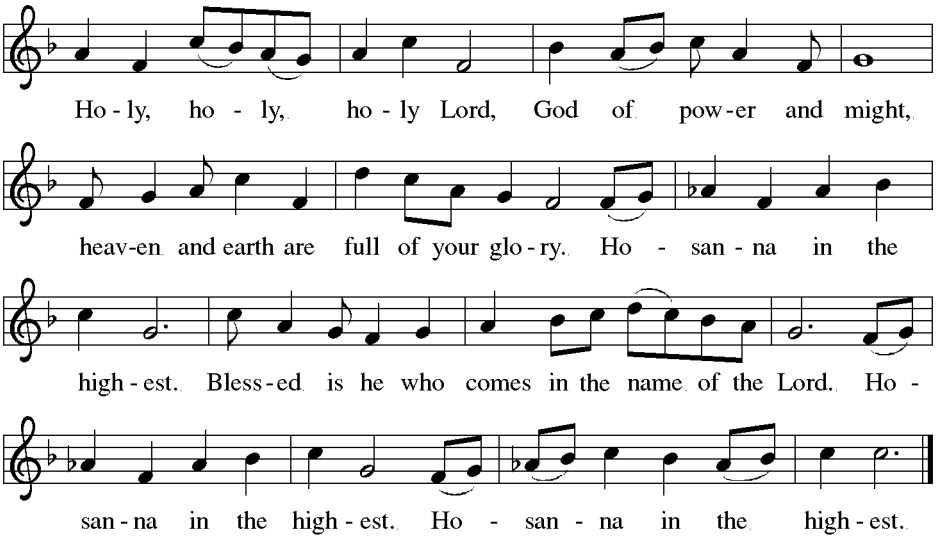
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

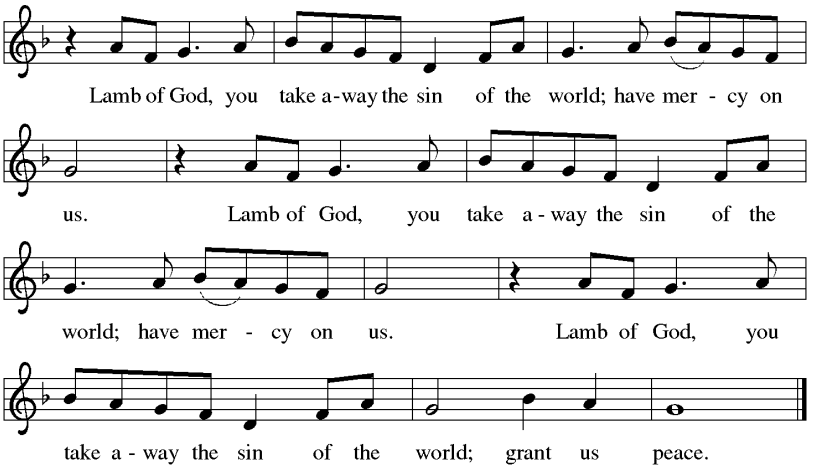
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

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
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please sit

LAMB OF GOD



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

SENDING OF COMMUNION
Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will come after to receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

FAMILY TIME

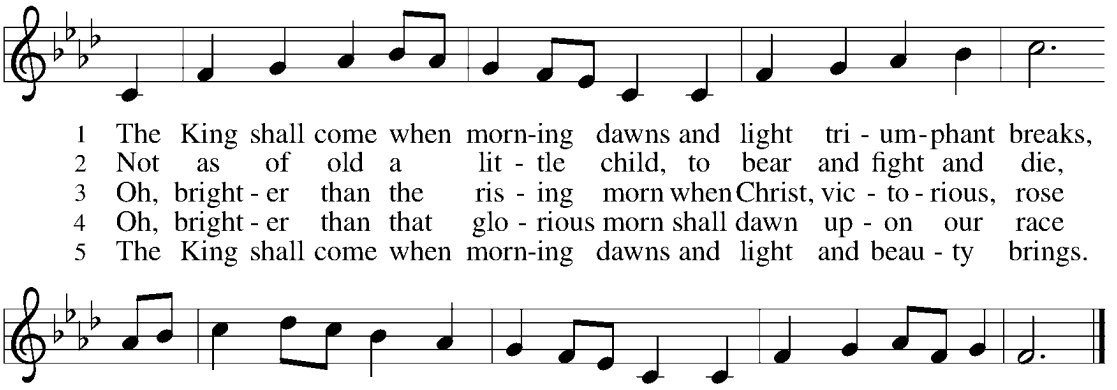
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING
God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ✢ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand

SENDING HYMN

The King Shall Come



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.
Thanks be to God!

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"The King Shall Come"
"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"
"Fling Wide The Door"

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SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 6, 2026 Good Shepherd will be holding its annual budget meeting to vote on the proposed 2027 budget. The meeting will take place following the 9:45am service. Please mark your calendars to attend. The meeting will start at approximately 11:00am.



Help fill the sanctuary with the beauty of the season by ordering a Christmas Eve poinsettia! Orders are being accepted through Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at a cost of $10.00 per plant. To place your order simply complete the sign-up sheet in the narthex and enclose your payment in the provided envelopes. If you can't make it to church to sign up, please call the church office at 727-391-4644 or email us at office@mygoodshepherd.net



ANGEL TREE

Share the joy of the season by picking a tag from the Angel Tree in the narthex! Each tag features a gift request for a student at Mildred Helms School. To participate, simply select a tag and return it attached to your unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 13, 2026. This deadline ensures we have plenty of time to deliver the presents to the school for distribution to local families. If you have any questions please contact Marilou Nemeth at 727-546-9580 (home) or 727-242-1304 (cell).

Monthly Financial Summary

	Monthly: October 2026			YTD: January - October 2026		
	Total	**Church**	**Little Lambs**	**Total**	**Church**	**Little Lambs**
Budgeted Expenses	$79,873	$26,051	**$53,822**	$806,476	$268,256	$538,220
Actual Expenses	$83,498	$25,390	$58,108	$872,882	$288,625	$584,257
Budgeted Giving / Income	$81,294	$20,356	**$60,938**	$814,596	$205,216	$609,380
Actual Giving / Income	$85,175	$10,974	$74,202	$864,052	$175,213	$688,839
Surplus / (Deficit)	$1,678	($14,416)	$16,094	($8,830)	($113,412)	$104,582

Annual Deficit will be funded from the Good Shepherd Bank Reserves

Balances as of October 31, 2026			
Bank Reserves			$224,102