FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

MELLINGERS STAFF

Pastor's Contact Information
Rev. Timothy L. Craven
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Director of Christian Education
Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the following people:

Rodger Sweigart, Dave Haldeman, Melanie Brubaker, Ethel Sensenig, Jane Pittman, Kelsey Reed Butler, Gil Hulshizer, Theda Raffauf, Lori Oberholtzer, Deb Emberger, Tom Parrish Sr., Kelly Parrish, Jay Weaver, Jay Stoltzfus, Ruth Hollinger, Fay Weitzel, Shannon Brown, Shirley Sweigart, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Mary Weidman, and Marty Leed & Family.

Clifton Center in Philadelphia: Mike Sawyer Gardens at Stevens: Nevin McQuate
Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer
Luther Acres Health Care: Judy Meckley Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla
Maple Farms: Vivian Gehr Mifflin Center Rehab, Shillington: Barb Moyer
Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen
Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Please pray for those in the Armed Forces: Chris Weidman

Please pray for friends and family at home:

Pastor Matt Lenahan, Brenda Gabig, Denise Hoffer, Denise Good, Kathy Lindman, Mary Morton, Pastor Dave Miller, Mary Thorn, Sheri Kiefer, Sam McClearen, Scott Coleman, Wendy Bentz, Nancy Good, Kevin Gavin, Brenda Reed, Doris McNally, Brandi Erhart, Deb Correa, Brooke Stewart, Mary Lou Crum, Lorna Buohl, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Brian Kerns, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay and Margaret Weller.

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Charles Roberts, Russell Shirker, Tina Strepko, Donna Sensenig, Barry Kreider, Dave Bentz, Eugene Hackamn, Pat McQuate, Leroy Landis, Marion Dissinger, Helen Blank, Mike Leed, Nicole Bibbus, Rob French, Donna Kennedy, Robert Hackman, Marion Briere, Carl Usner and Peggy French.

✝ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✝

*Please stand if you are able

AHAVA will be playing today

Welcome / Announcements

Preludes: *"All the World Awaits"* - Chris Tomlin

"Sombody's Knockin' at Your Door" - Spiritual

✝GATHERING✝

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: #248** *"People Look East"*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

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

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

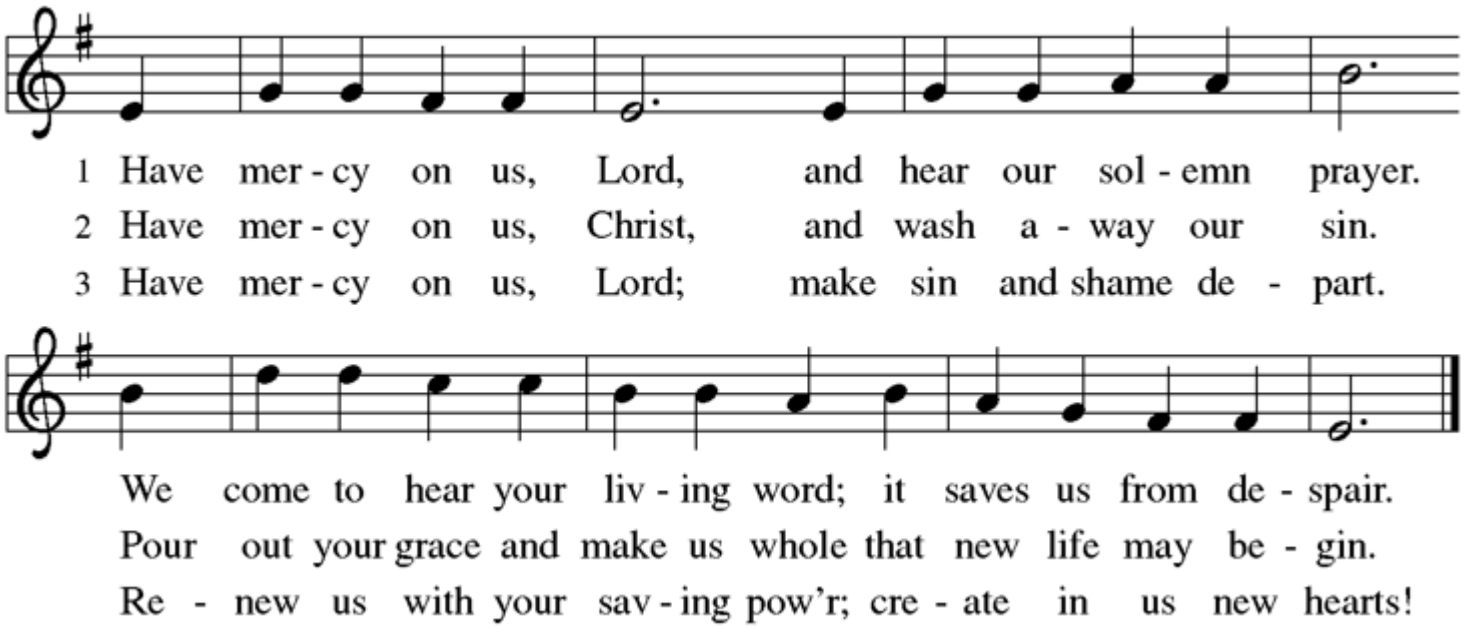
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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

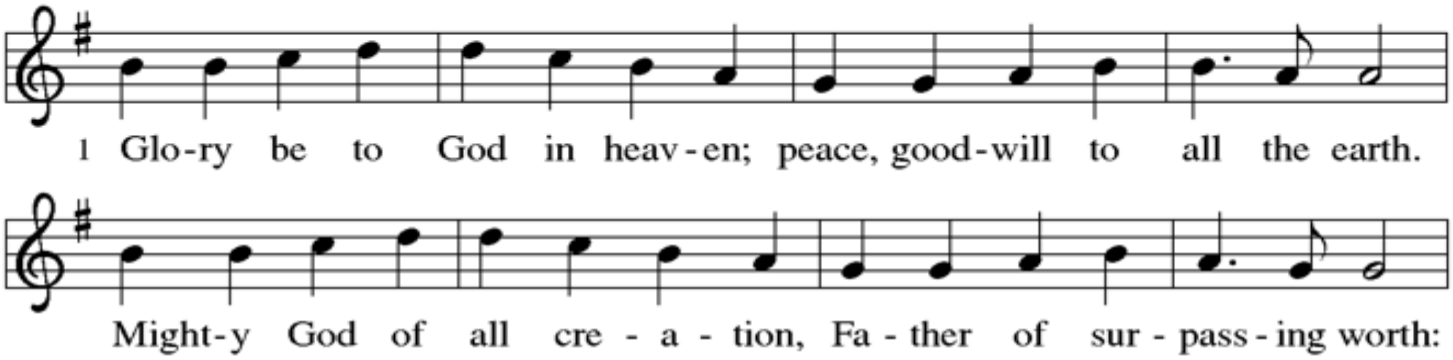
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen

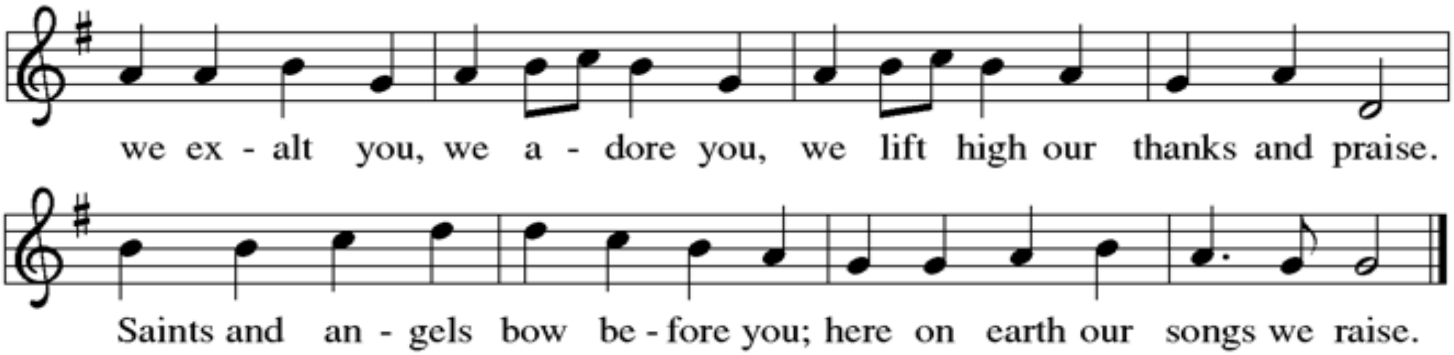
***GREETING**
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

***THE KYRIE**



HYMN OF PRAISE:





***THE 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

ADVENT READING

Linda Weaver: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send Divine love and light into our dark world in the Person of Jesus Christ Our Savior. We wait for a time of safety, a time of justice, a time of peace. We begin in the dark and today we light the first candle of Hope…

(the candle is lit and the song is sung)

(the reading continues….)

The Kingdom of God is drawing near. May we prepare our hearts for God's light to bring hope to Jerusalem and to every city and country in the world. Let us pray: Almighty God, give us Grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. In Jesus' Name, Amen

✝ GOD'S WORD ✝

FIRST READING **1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9**

Lay Reader (Nancy Eberly): A reading from 1st Corinthians the 1st chapter.

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

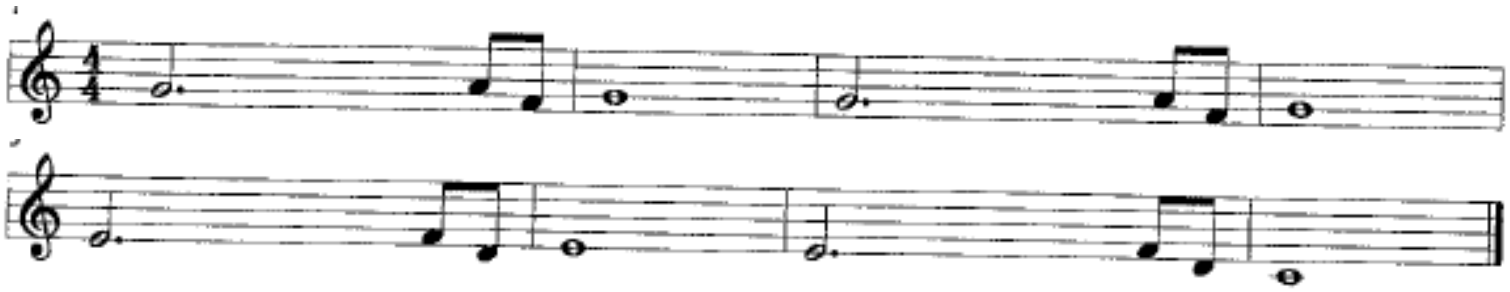
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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 whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY **PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19**

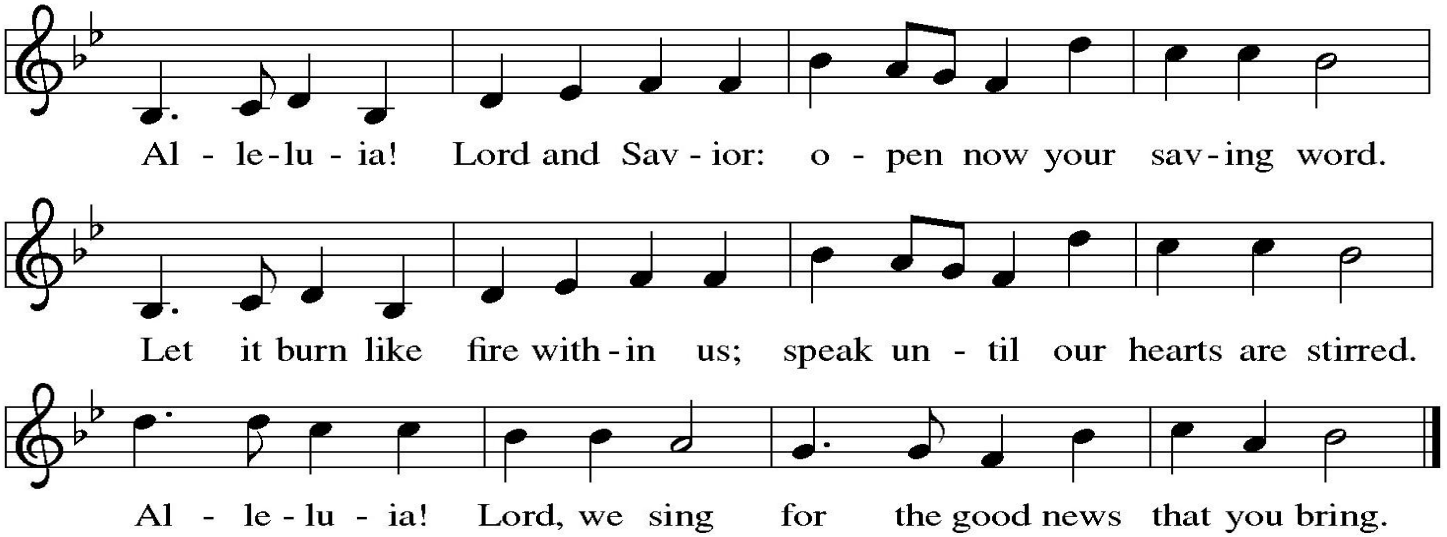


Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.)

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on 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? R
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. R
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

CHILDRENS SERMON

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE HOLY GOSPEL** **MARK 13: 24-37**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[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.

MESSAGE: *“We Are The Harvest”* -Pastor Tim Craven

SPECIAL MUSIC: *“Emmanuel God With Us”* - Chris Tomlin

***THE NICENE CREED**
C: 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one Holy Christian 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 Intercession ✝

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

P: 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,
C: receive our prayer.

P: 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,
C: receive our prayer.

P: 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 (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry (*especially*). Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

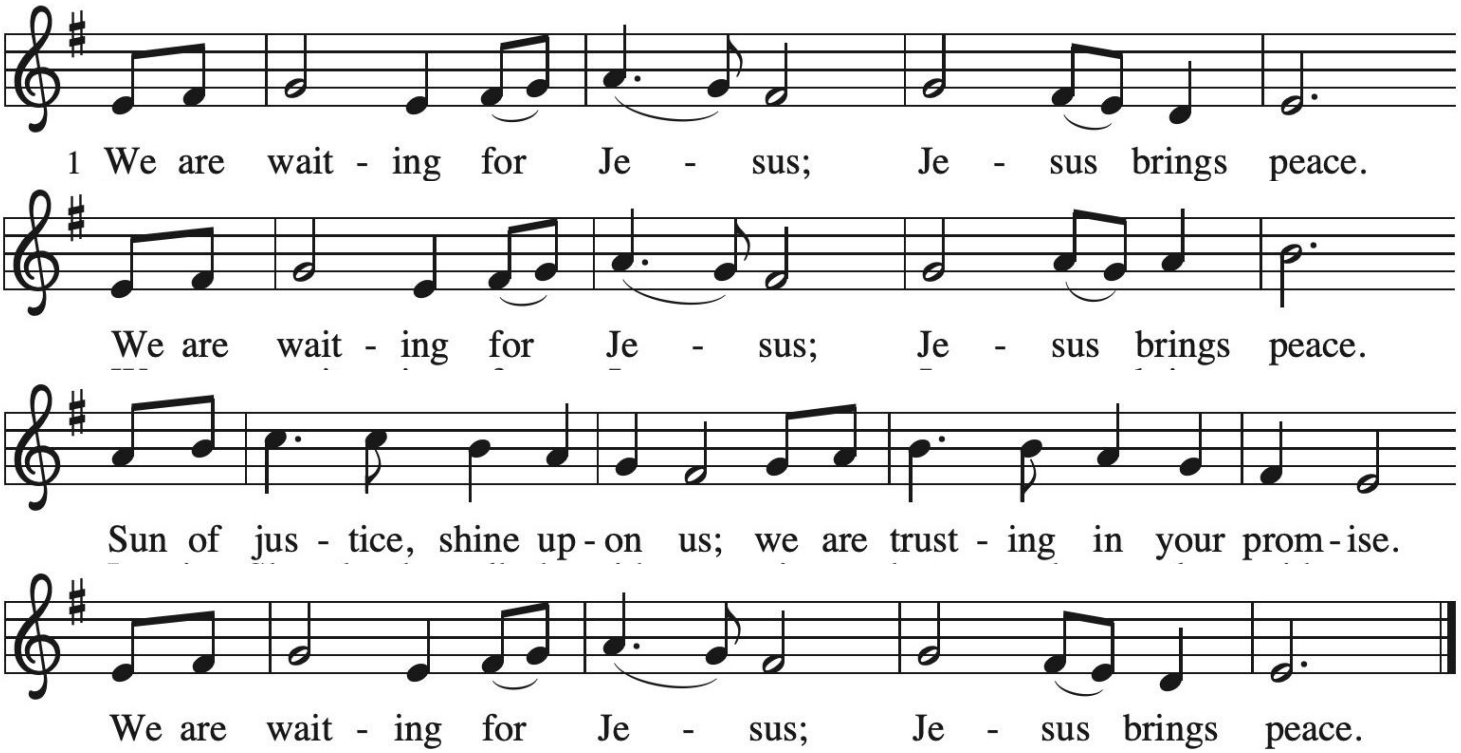
P: Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.
Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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,
C: receive our prayer.

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

***THE PEACE**
P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

***OFFERING HYMN** *"We Are Waiting For Jesus"*



***OFFERING PRAYER**

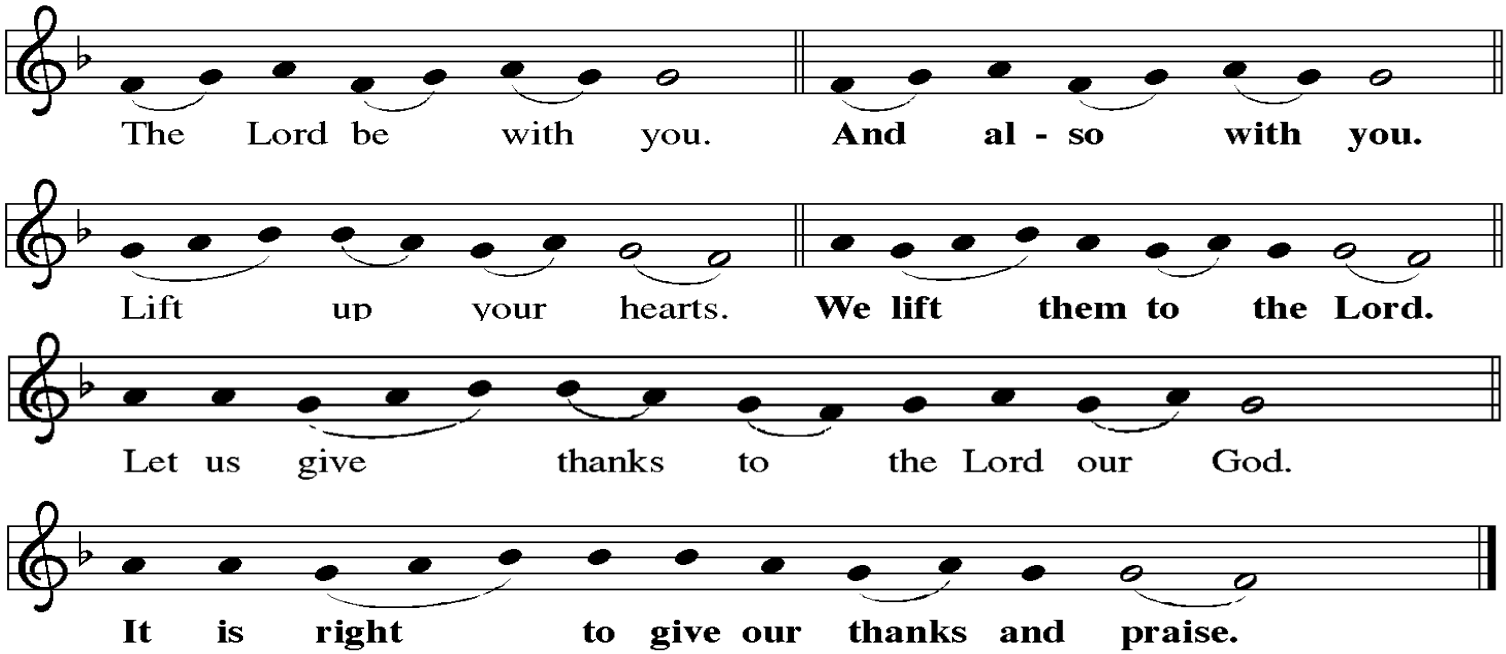
P: Merciful Father,

C: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts towards those who hunger in any way, that all may know you care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

✝ WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER ✝

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

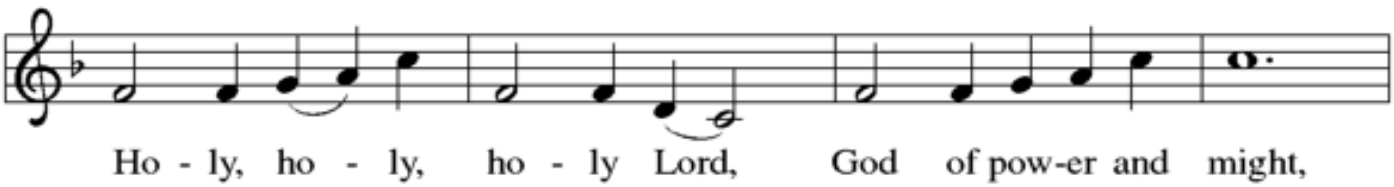


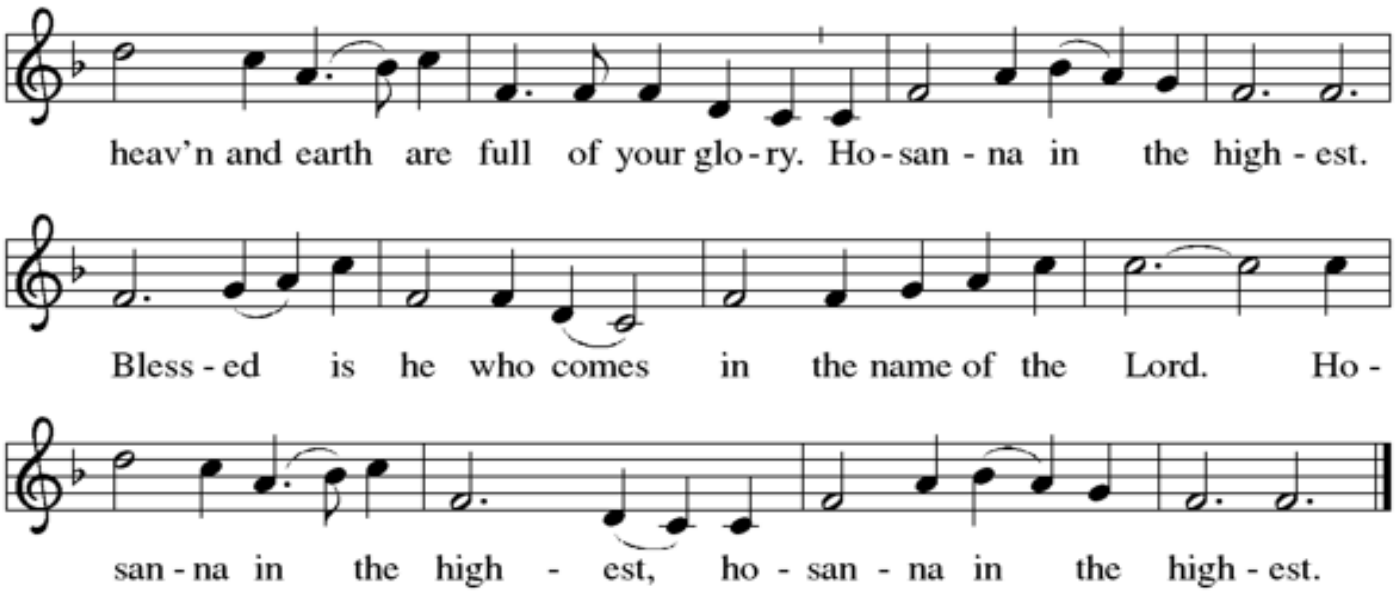
***THE PREFACE:**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

***THE SANCTUS**





***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

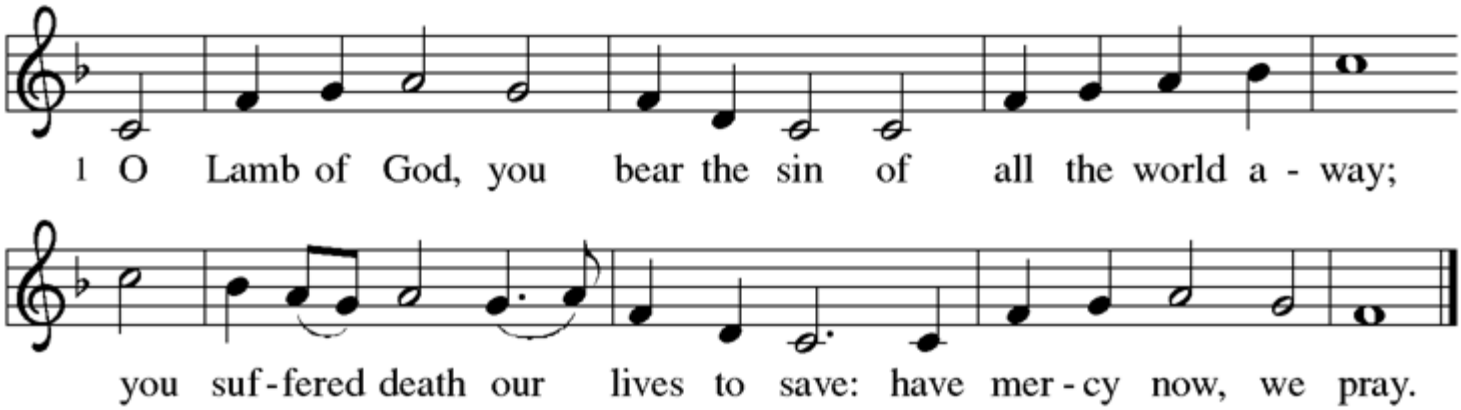
P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying: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

***TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER**

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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



All Baptized Christians are welcome for Communion.
(If you would like baptized, see Pastor Tim.).
We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. To receive the sacrament wine, take an empty cup from the tray. A grape juice option and gluten free communion wafers provided. If you cannot come to the Chancel, Communion will be taken to you.
Please notify an Usher.
Those in the parking lot partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion
Hymn #249: *"On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*
Hymn #251: *"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"*
Hymn #254: *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*
Hymn #616: *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210:** *"Blessed Be God"*
Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

✝ WE LEAVE TO SERVE ✝

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN: #715** *"Christ Be Our Light"*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven
Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold
Organist: Vickie Kissinger
Lay Reader: Nancy Eberly
Communion Assistant: Kimberly Craven
Psalmist: Pastor Tim
Advent Reader: Linda Weaver
Candle Lighter: Choir
Videographer: Hayden Leonhard
Soundboard: Joe Brubaker
Ushers: Linda Weaver, Vic Richard and Alternate Lowell Yost



The Altar Flowers and Bulletins are dedicated
to the Glory of God by
The Leonhard Family
in memory of Kenneth Sweigart

Weekly Receipts Report as of 11/25/26	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	**66**
Online Attendance	**177**
General Receipts	**$3,802.00**

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.

First Sunday in Advent

Although the historical record is sketchy, it appears that our Advent arose out of a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany. By the sixth century, an eschatological emphasis was present. Our Advent comprises the four Sundays before Christmas.

Each year, the first Sunday deals with our readiness for divine judgment, the second Sunday the ministry of John the Baptist, the third Sunday the Baptist's call to a repentant life, and only on the fourth Sunday a narrative concerning the birth of Jesus.

God comes, in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday and in the sufferings of our time, and in the future at the end of all things. The lectionary appoints readings to fit this pattern, and its tone stands in stark contrast to our society's weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Liturgical advice to keep a meaningful Advent without a December long celebration of Christmas is meant not to be a kill-joy, but to awake our longing for the surprising ways that God comes to us.





6:00 Wednesday

December 2, 9, 16 & 23



7:00 Wednesday

December 2, 9, 16 & 23

Bell ringers needed for Advent and Christmas Eve!

Let me know if you are interested in ringing bells. You do NOT need to be able to read music. I look forward to seeing you ring!





Hanging of the Greens & Christmas Party

Sunday, December 6, 2026, following Worship Service

The sign up deadline is today the 29th.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday December 13, 2026, following Worship Service



Christmas Gifts for Children

Collection boxes for new unwrapped gifts are in the Narthex. Choose the gift of your choice for a child up to 15 years old. Sunday December 13th will be the last day to bring in gifts for the children. Any questions please see Anita Soto or call 717-419-5520

Thank you and God Bless, Social Ministry



Peter's Porch food drive

Collection of food and non-food items will be held until Sunday November 29th.

Reminder to look at gluten free, appropriate for diabetics and food allergies alternatives.

There are lists of what items you can donate at the boxes, contact Ashley if more are needed.



"Very few people realize this, but the cornerstone of this church is actually a fruitcake given to me by Ethel Mabeline during the Christmas of '72."