Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025 – 9:00am

OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Sunday—9:00m Service
Preaching: Pastor Judy Wozniak
Organist: Ruth Sheldon
Reader: Dan Rice
Sound: Al Skellenger
Live Stream: Brad Evenson
Acolytes: Gavin Levorson, Joralice Colon Rodriguez
Communion Servers:
Music Leaders: Al & Willie Skellenger & Others
Worship Coordinator: Mary Peterson
Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson
Altar Guild for November: Sharon Johnson, Margaret Okland

The Live Stream Broadcast is Given by the Members of Salem.

Salem Contact Information:

Delane Behr, Council President 641.592.4195 Organist: Ruth 641.592.0184	Office Admin: Marci Salem Office: 641.592.1771 salem@wctatel.net

INTRODUCTION

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE
BELLS
ANNOUNCEMENTS

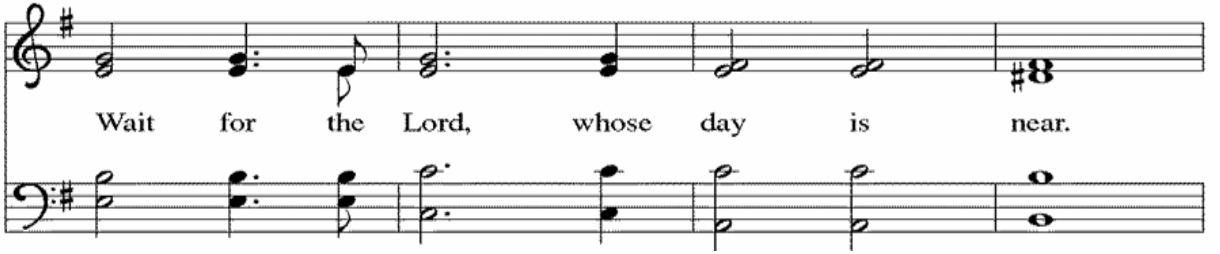
Please remain seated for the Lighting of the Advent wreath. The first candle will be lit as we sing the advent canticle which Ruth will play one time through first, and then we will sing the canticle ***three times through****.*

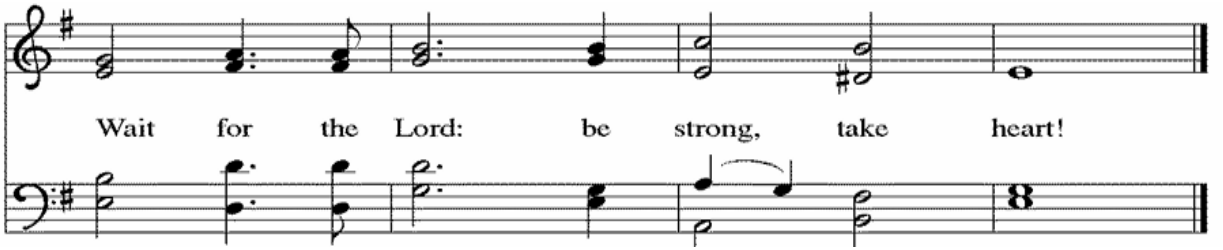
LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH
Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.

You show up in our lives at unexpected times.
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

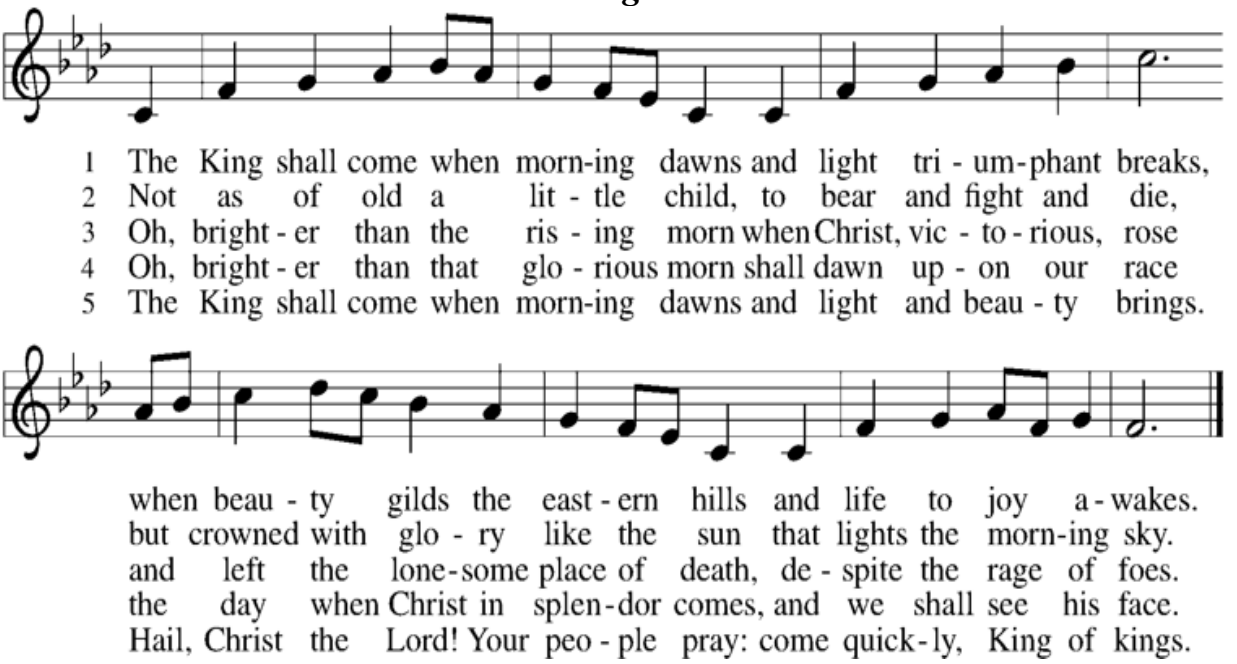
ADVENT CANTICLE ***Wait for the Lord*** ELW #262





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.**

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*
GATHERING HYMN ***The King Shall Come*** ELW #260



PRAYER OF THE DAY
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 In
days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest
of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to
it. 3 Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and
that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the
word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He shall judge between the nations and shall
arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their
spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither
shall they learn war any more. 5 O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light
of the LORD! Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 122

We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.

1 I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
2 **Now our feet are standing**
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
4 **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,**
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

5 For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
6 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
"May they prosper who love you.

7 Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
8 **For the sake of my kindred and companions,**
I pray for your prosperity.

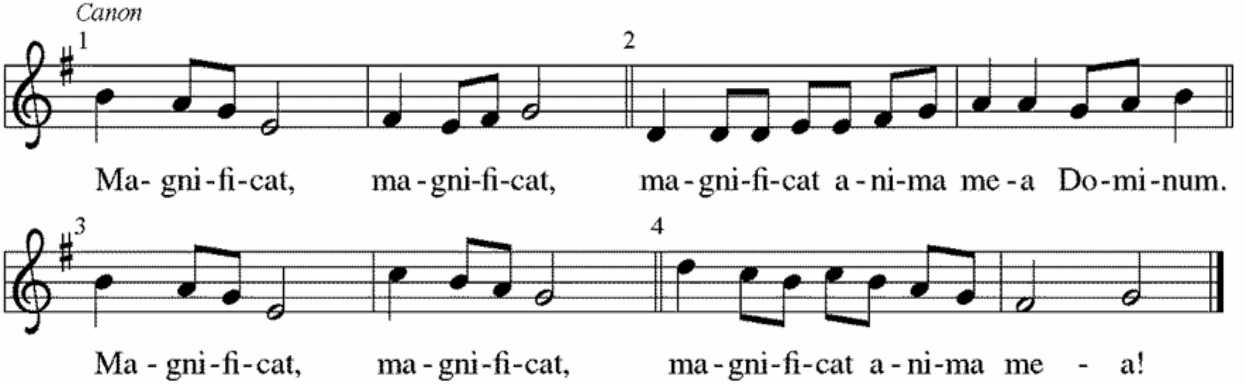
9 Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good."

SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to
wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became
believers; 12 the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works
of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us walk decently as in the day, not
in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling
and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for
the flesh, to gratify its desires. Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able. Ruth will play the Gospel Acclamation one time through first, and then together we will sing one time through.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW #236**



GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

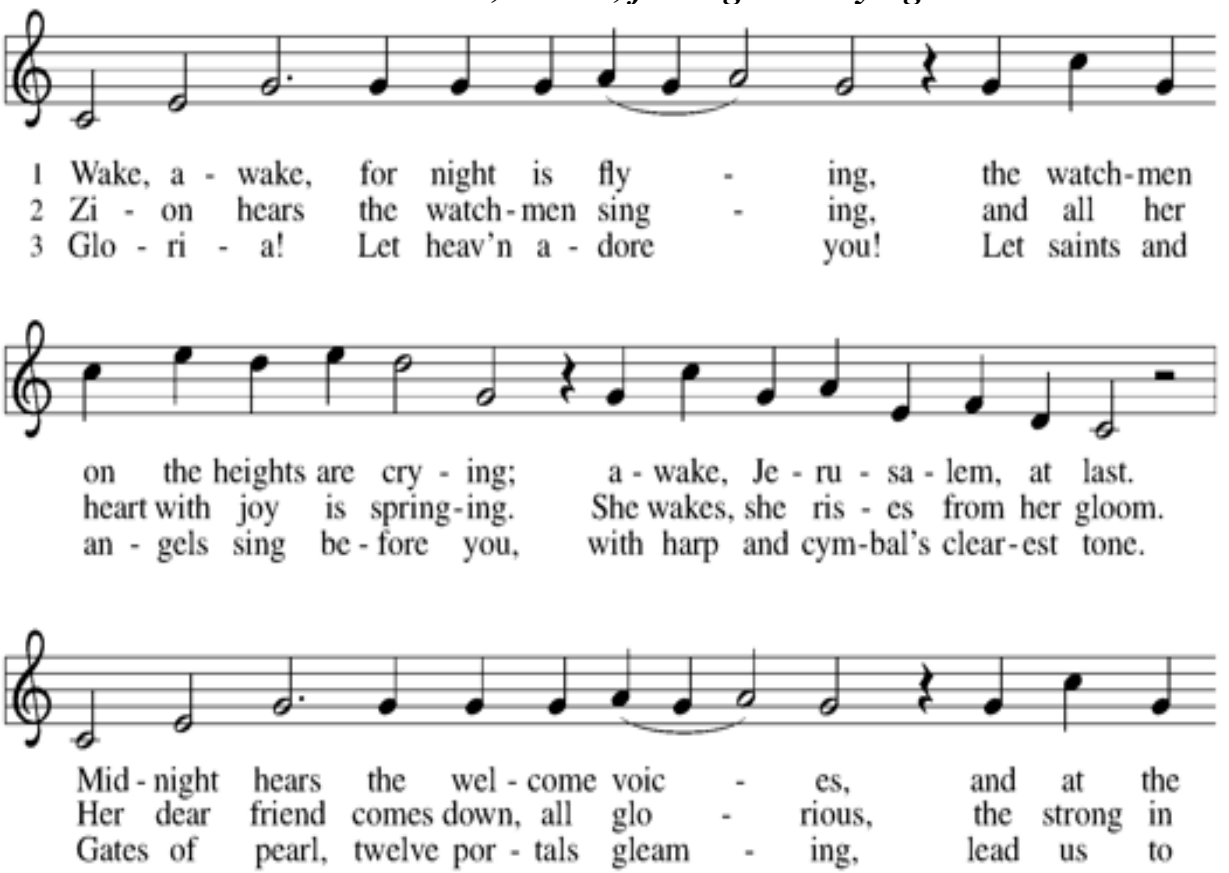
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

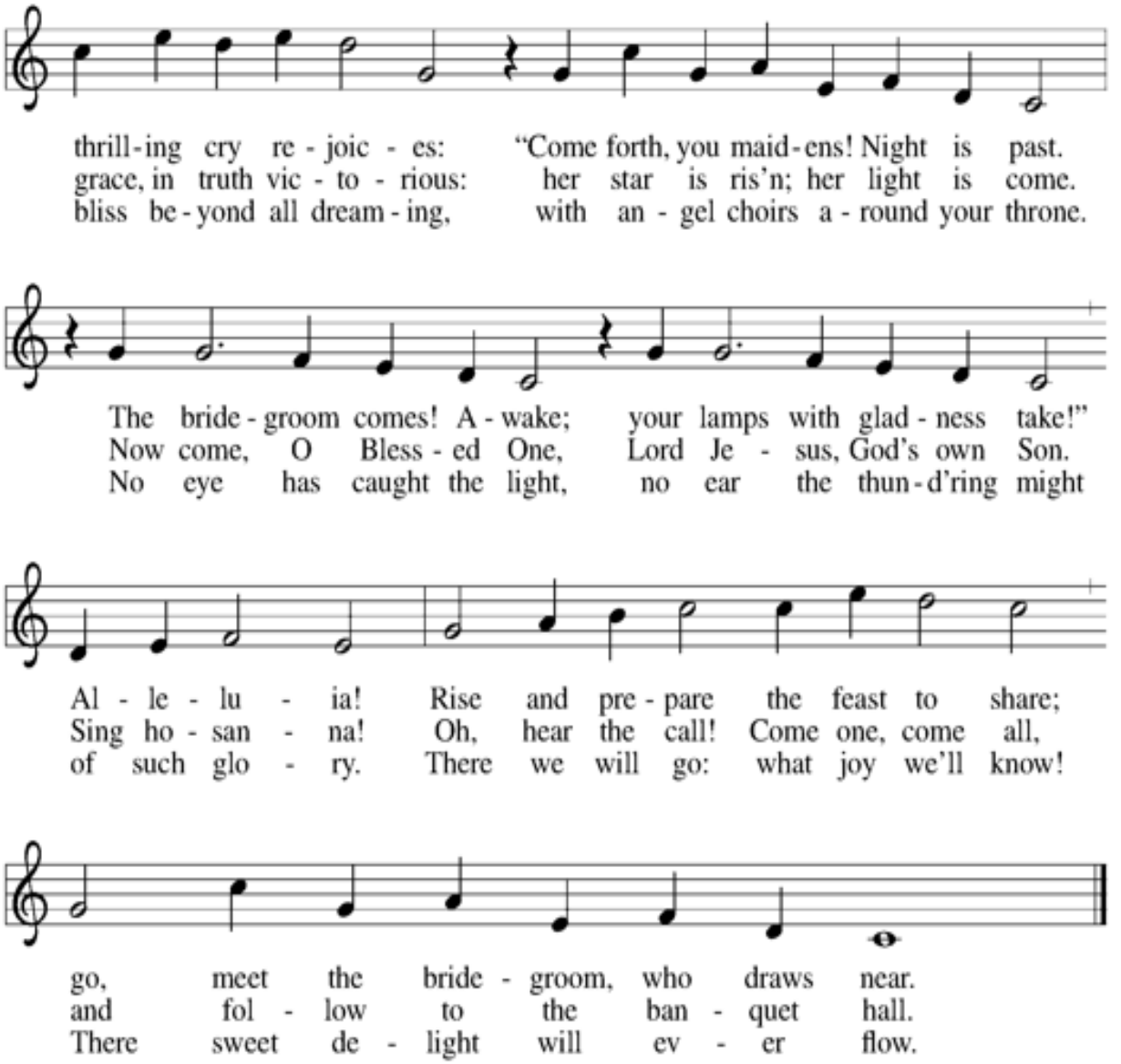
[Jesus said to the disciples,] 36 "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the
angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah
were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in the days before the
flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the
day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and
swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two

will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. [41] Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. [42] Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. [43] But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. [44] Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*(***Please be seated.)*
SERMON

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*
HYMN OF THE DAY ***Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*** ELW #436





AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

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 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.

*(***Please be seated.)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially . . . and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and

relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.
Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

PEACE
The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

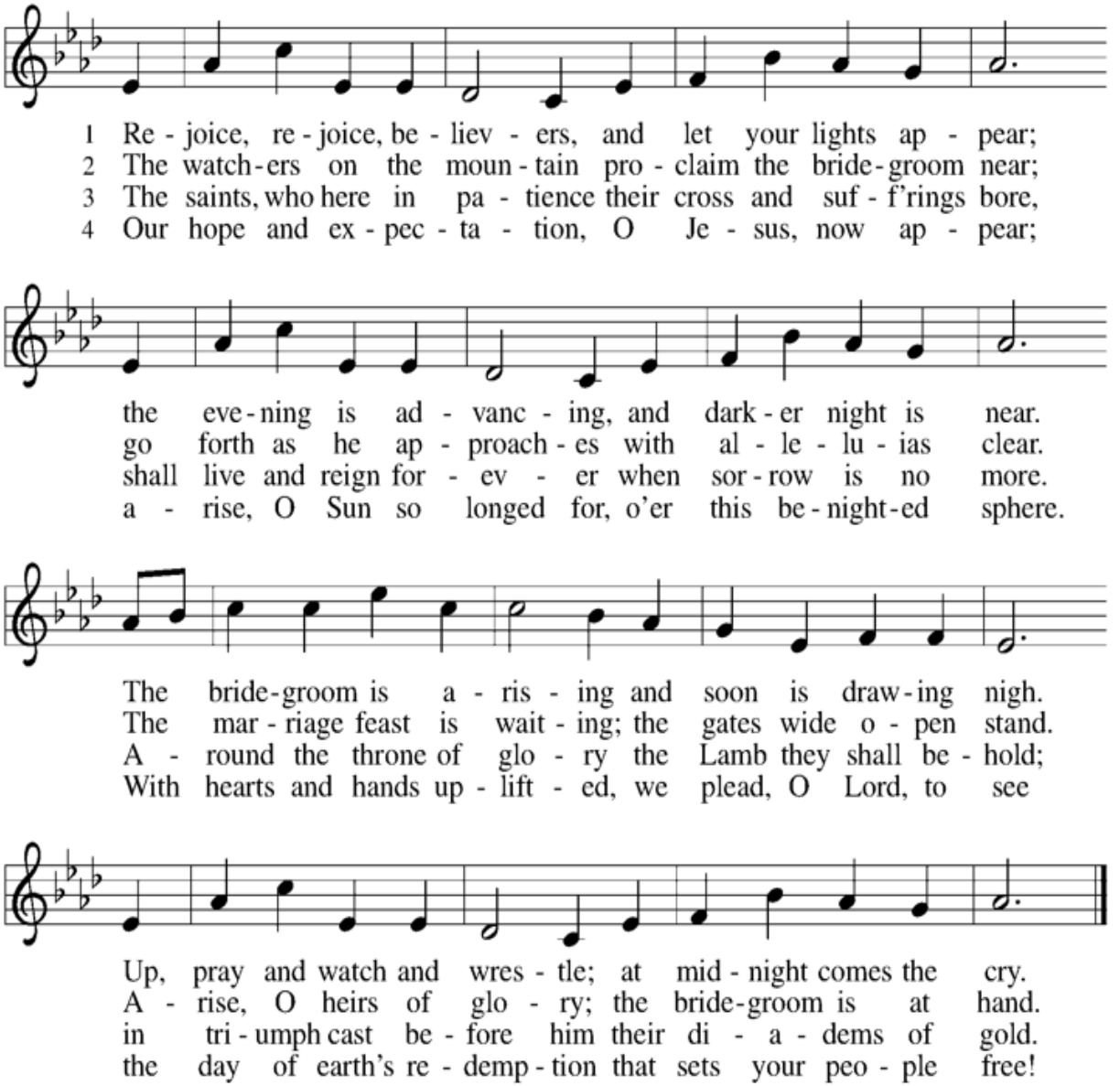
OFFERING
MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER
Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

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.

BLESSING
May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*** ELW #244

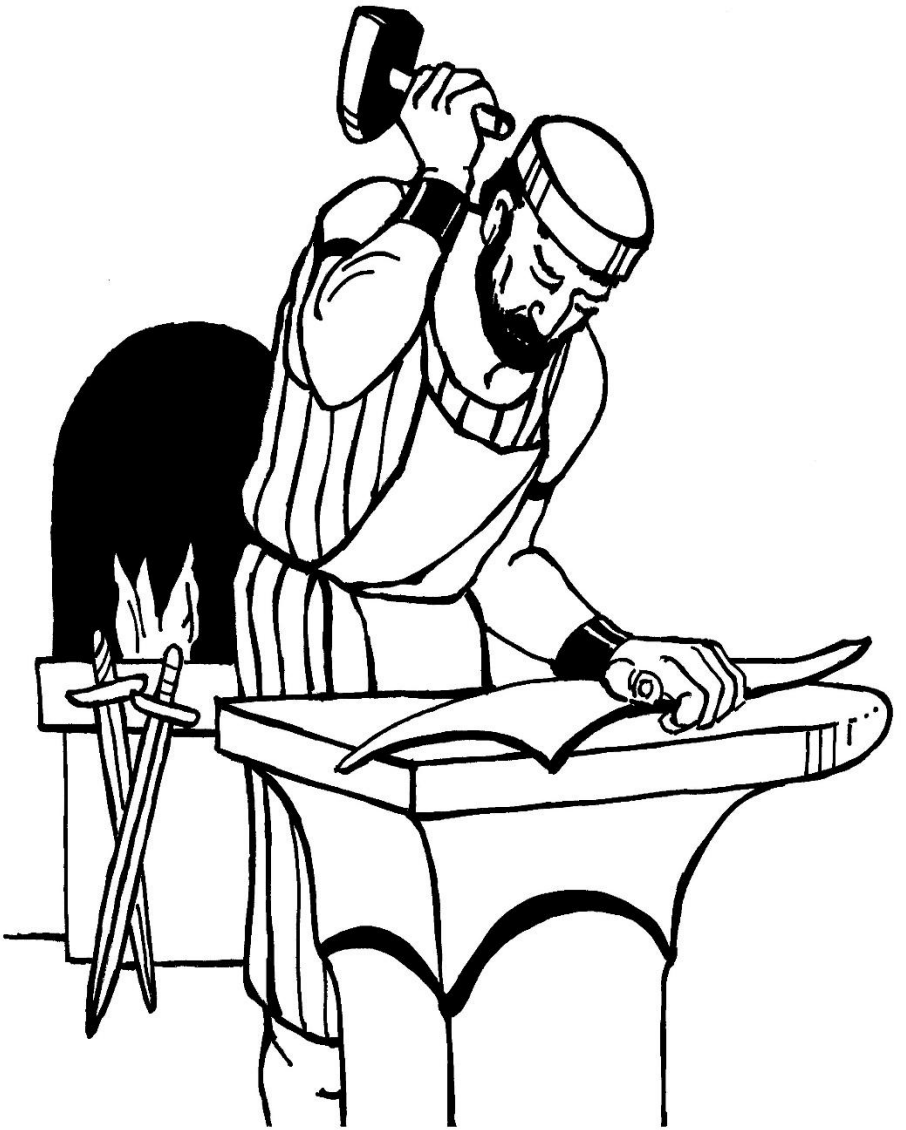


DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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