

“Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

~Matthew 24:42

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
1st Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2022
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
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Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.*

All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of Peace, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace.

We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of Offering, you are invited to share a gift as you are comfortable. You may also place any prayer requests for the pastor in the offering plates.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of the people.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING

Peace to you and welcome,
from the God who was there before the beginning,
the Savior who saved us before we recognized our trouble,
and the Spirit who completes our half-hearted prayers.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We join our voices together in song, waiting hopefully, expectantly for the fullness of Christ's presence in our lives and in our world. We light this candle as we look to our first flickering glimpse of God's goodness that will be born anew in our hearts in the coming of Jesus our Savior and Messiah.

Light the first candle during the singing of the hymn.

ADVENT SONG *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240)*



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

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 nor the hour,
You hurry to gather all people to your peace.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



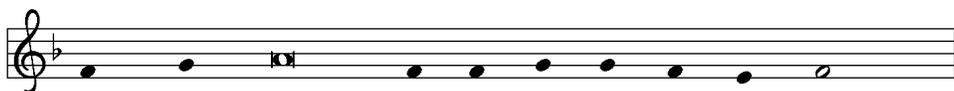
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

***CONFESSION**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

God is here, and God sees through every defense
that fools the world.

Since we cannot hide from God,
there is nothing left to do
but to be honest with each other
and humble before God.

So, in humility,
we confess our sins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your presence.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for discord instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

People of God,

Before our first mistakes,

God perfected the plan for our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Receive now the gift we have in God the Holy Trinity,

the gift of grace and the total forgiveness of all sins. +

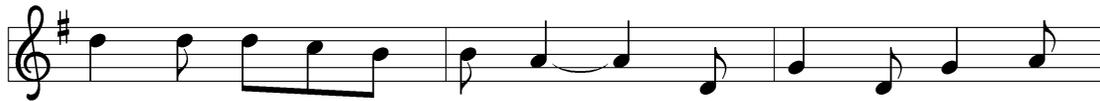
Be free to love and rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (ELW 242)**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

***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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In 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.

³Many 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.

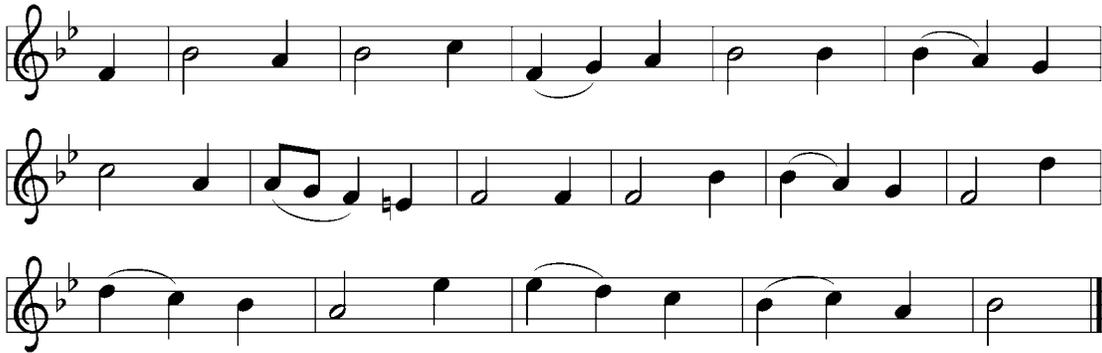
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122



1. Jerusalem: with what great joy
I heard them say, “Let us go there!”
And now at last we take our stand
Within your gates to offer prayer.

2. Jerusalem: a city built
To be a place of unity;
The tribes go up, the tribes of God,
To praise God’s Name eternally.

3. Jerusalem: within your walls
The thrones of justice serve God’s
will;
The ancient tribes of David’s house
Stand and unite God’s people still.

4. Jerusalem: pray for its peace:
“May all who love you find success;
Peace be to all within your walls,
And in your towers be righteousness.

5. Jerusalem: for kindreds’ sake
My prayers for you will never cease;
Because God’s house is standing there,
I pray forever for your peace.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the book of Romans.

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

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL READING: 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. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But 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. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

As we dwell in this season of preparation, let us pray for a world yearning for new hope.
A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the church to the needs of our time. Unite us through our different cultures and customs, and break down barriers that separate us from one another and from you. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission and ministry. Hear us, O God.

Sung Response:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guide us in ways of harmony and care. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. Hear us, O God.

Sung Response:

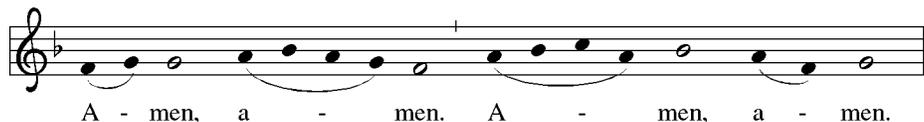
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. In your lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care especially Jeff, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Pastor Storm, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, and those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. Renew our trust in your promise of mercy, redemption, and new life. Hear us, O God.

Sung Response:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. You hear the prayers on our hearts that do not have words. We trust you to hear the prayers on the hearts of this congregation this day, especially (*received prayer cards are read*). In Jesus' name we pray.



***SHARING THE PEACE**

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *All Earth Is Hopeful* (ELW 266)

**Rise on 4th verse*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



yel sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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:

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff is in treble clef and contains a single melodic line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics for the first staff are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,". The second staff continues with: "heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.". The third staff continues with: "Ho - san - na in the high - est.". The fourth staff continues with: "Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.". The fifth staff concludes with: "Ho - san - na in the high - est.".

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
In great love you send to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

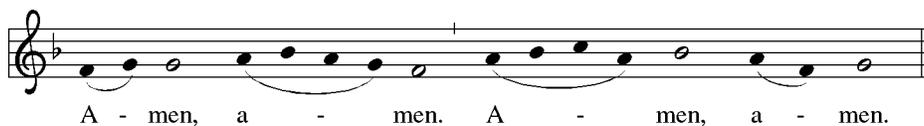
We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving death, resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God,
not as we ought but as we are able.
For you allowed yourself to die
the same way you were born: as a fragile person.
We ask you to bless in the meal we are about to receive,
that through your gifts of bread and wine,
we may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
in love and service to you and your people.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**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**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come and encounter the God who waits to love you.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *The King Shall Come* (ELW 260)



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

***BLESSING OF COMMUNION OUTREACH**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. Bless those who carry your heavenly food to those unable to be with us this day. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.

Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

***DISMISSAL**

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar today are from Larry and Amy Werner in honor of their Grandchildren.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward

Acolyte: Abigail Cardinal

Ushers: Larry Werner

Offering: Luca Knauff and Eva Knauff

Attendance last week: 55 + 6 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Christians await the second coming of Christ, the *parousia*, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and today's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

St. Paul exhorts us in today's second reading to lead lives of faithful obedience until the final day. He also challenges us to participate in God's dominion in the here and now, calling us to wake from sleep, to "put on Christ." Eyes wide open and wrapped in Christ, we are called to a new day. Isaiah describes his own vision: gathered by God, learning and teaching God's ways, walking in God's paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks. Wide-awake, active, and ready for encounters with Jesus, we may find God's dominion when and where we least expect it.

Today's Music

Light One Candle o Watch for Messiah. Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954, Music: Yiddish folk tune. Augsburg Fortress.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen.

GIA Publications, Inc.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus. Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835.

Public Domain.

Psalms 96. Text: *The New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008.* Music: *GERMANY*, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815, Public Domain.

All Earth Is Hopeful. Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946, Music: Alberto Taulé. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

Wait for the Lord, Text and Tune: Taize Community, Jacques Bertheir, 1923-1994. © GIA Publications, Inc.

The King Shall Come. Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003. Public Domain / CPH Publishing (SESAC)..

Joy to the World. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain

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