November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent



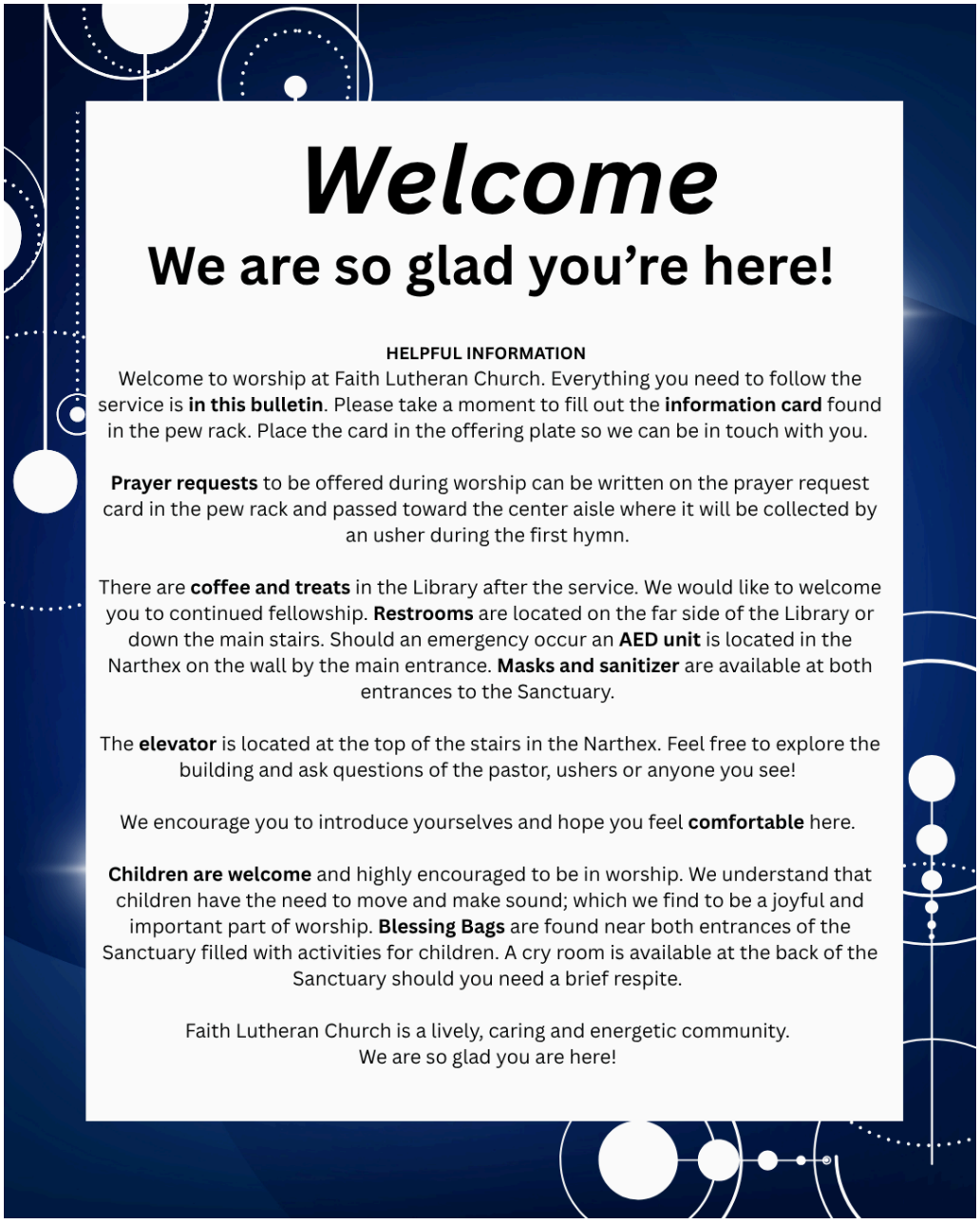
Into the Waiting, by Jan Richardson

We wait…with HOPE

Welcome to Worship

We are an intentionally inclusive community, proclaiming a warm welcome to people of every race, nationality, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, and ability into all aspects of our church life.
~ Faith Lutheran Church

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, including the Duwamish People past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe.



Why are we using the First Nations Version (FNV) *instead of the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition (NRSVUE) for the New Testament readings and Lord's Prayer?*

The First Nations Version is an Indigenous English translation of the Christian Scriptures—primarily the New Testament—created by Native North American translators and published by InterVarsity Press in 2021, with Psalms and Proverbs added in 2025.

November is often a time when the stories of Indigenous people are misread, misunderstood, and misinterpreted. The ***First Nations Version (FNV)*** *is a dynamic-equivalence translation of the Bible crafted to reflect the* ***storytelling patterns, rhythms, and cultural idioms*** *of many First Nations and Native American communities. It aims to communicate Scripture in a way that resonates with Indigenous oral traditions.*

Overview of Scripture
Advent 1: We wait…with HOPE
Stir up your power, and come! Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. There is a crying 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *Savior of the Nations, Come* JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH*
(TEXT: *ELW* 263)

GATHERING: Blessing for the Waiting
We wait for a new heaven and a new earth. 2 Peter 3:13

Blessing for Waiting

Who wait
for the night
to end

bless them.

Who wait
for the night
to begin

bless them.

Who wait
in the hospital room
who wait
in the cell
who wait in prayer

bless them.

Who wait
for news
who wait
for the phone call
who wait for a word

who wait for a job
a house
a child

bless them.

Who wait
for one who
who will come home

who wait
for one who
will not come home

bless them.

Who wait with fear
who wait with joy
who wait with peace
who wait with rage

who wait for the end
who wait for the beginning
who wait alone
who wait together

bless them.

Who wait
without knowing
what they wait for
or why

bless them.

Who wait
when they
should not wait
who wait when they
should be
in motion
who wait
when they need
to rise
who wait
when they need
to set out

bless them.

Who wait
for the end
of waiting
who wait
for the fullness
of time
who wait
emptied and
open and
ready

who wait
for you,

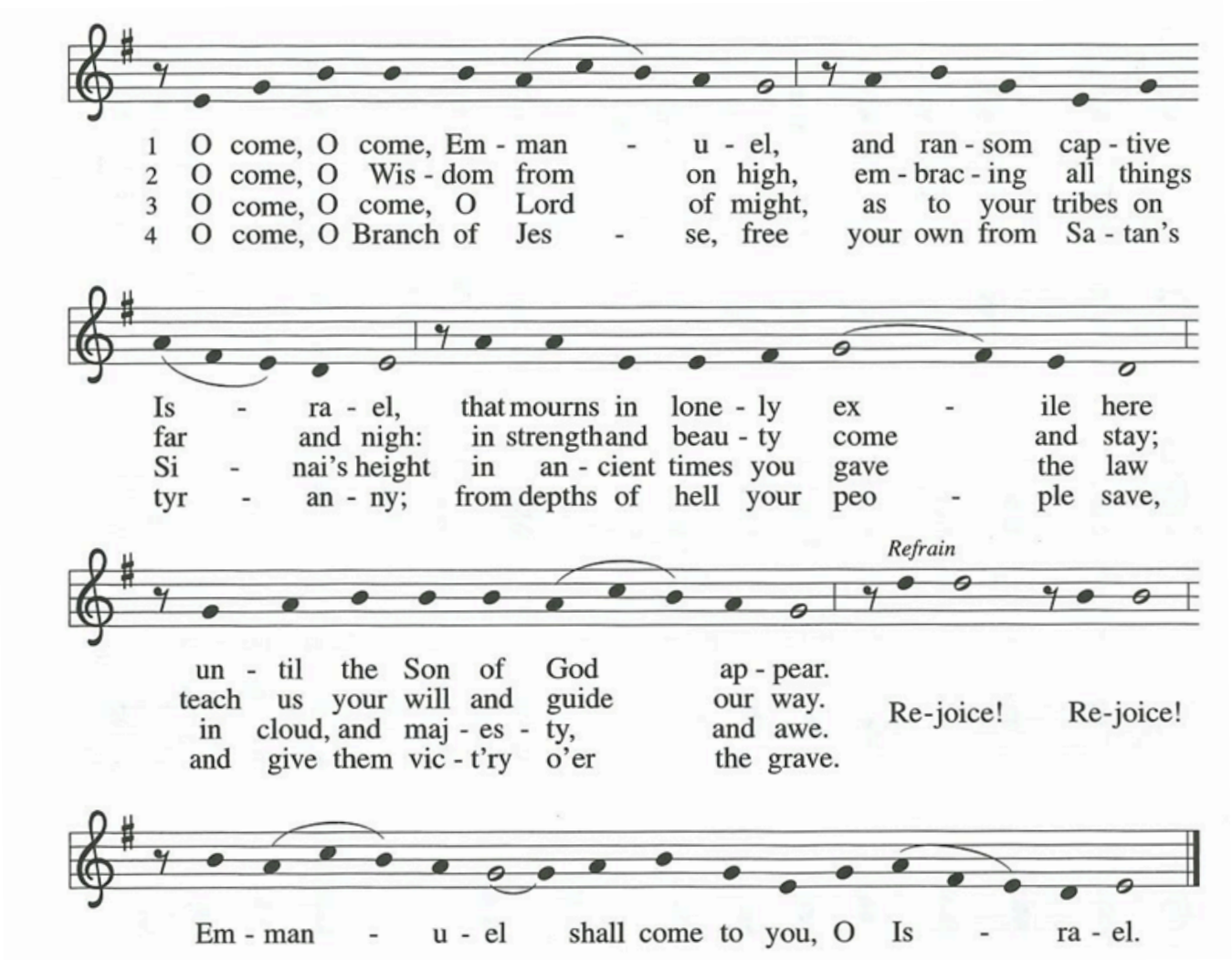
O, bless.

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Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

"The reign of God, the eschatological liberation of the world, is already in process, is already being established. It takes shape in concrete modification of actual life."
--Leonardo Boff, Brazilian theologian, philosopher, and writer.

OPENING HYMN 257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI, EMMANUEL

(SING VERSES 1-4)



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

VENI, EMMANUEL
8 8 8 8 8 8

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.

We wait...with HOPE

Psalm 27:14
Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Romans 8:25
25 But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 240 *Light One Candle* TIF IN VELDELE

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel; God fulfills the promise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
In this strange season when we are suspended between realization and expectation, may we be found honest about the darkness, more perceptive about the light. Move over the face of our deep, our darkness, our endless restless chaos, and create, O God; trouble us, comfort us, stir us up, and calm us, but do not cease to breath your Spirit into our awakening soul. **Amen.**

ANTHEM *Keep Your Lamps!* SPIRITUAL, ARR. ANDRÉ THOMAS*+

WITH JOHN MONSEN, PERCUSSION

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is growing nigh.
Children, don't grow weary, the time is growing nigh.
Christian journey soon be over, the time is growing nigh.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9
This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

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.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 247 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* OSOSŎ

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

GOSPEL Mark 13:32-37 (First Nations Version)
The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

32 "But no one knows the day or hour when these things will take place—not the spirit-messengers from the spirit-world above, not even Creator's own Son—only the Father knows.
33 "So keep both eyes open and be ready at all times, for no one knows when this time will come.
34 Be ready, like a chief who goes away on a long journey. He appoints the young men to watch over the village while he is gone, giving each of them responsibilities. Then he sets his warriors to guard the village gate.
35 They must stay awake and be ready, doing what he says, for they do not know when the chief will return. It may be when the sun is setting, or late into the night, or when the rooster crows early in the morning.
36 When the chief comes, he better not find them sleeping!
37 "I am telling all of you the same thing. So be ready and stay alert!"

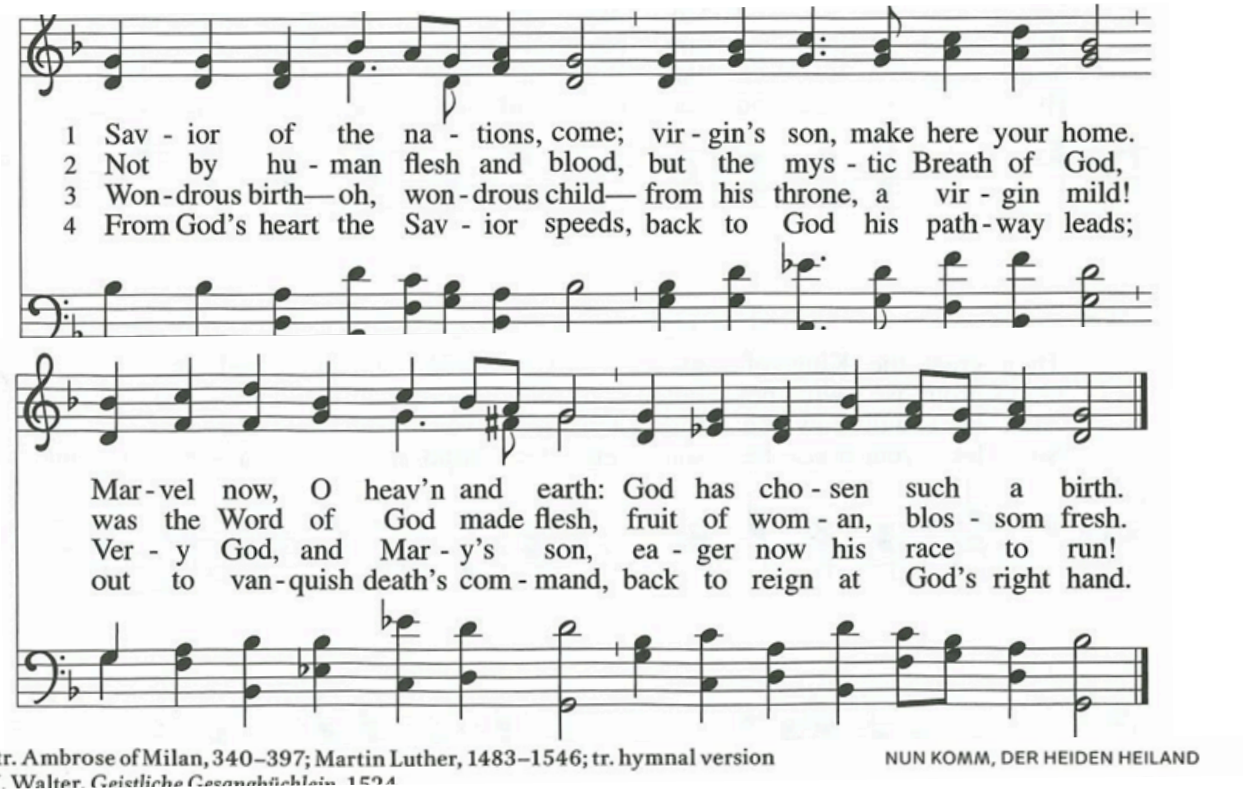
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

"Behold, I am coming soon."
-Revelation 22:7

"God of every creature that takes flesh and for from your own desire;
When night is at its deepest, may I know the comfort of home beneath your welcoming wing, that when day comes to the window, I mat gather up my dreams and fly."
-From Passion to Passion, Advent Devotional

HYMN OF THE DAY 263 *Savior of the Nations, Come* NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND*
(SING VERSES 1-4)



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
Music: J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

ADVENT BLESSING: *A Blessing Called Sanctuary*
You hardly knew how hungry you were to be gathered in, to receive the welcome that invited you to enter entirely— nothing of you found foreign or strange, nothing of your life that you were asked to leave behind or to carry in silence or in shame.

Tentative steps became settling in, leaning into the blessing that enfolded you, taking your place in the circle that stunned you with its unimagined grace.

You began to breathe again, to move without fear, to speak with abandon the words you carried in your bones, that echoed in your being. You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing is that it will not leave you alone, will not let you linger in safety, in stasis. The time will come when this blessing will ask you to leave, not because it has tired of you but because it desires for you to become the sanctuary that you have found— to speak your word into the world, to tell what you have heard with your own ears, seen with your own eyes, known in your own heart:

that you are beloved, precious child of God, beautiful to behold, and you are welcome and more than welcome here.

—Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com, Used with permission.

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Savior of the Nations, Come* JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH*

OFFERING PRAYER
Eternal One, we wonder and marvel at your constancy. You alone are steadfast, unwavering across the ages. Use our gifts and all that we offer, helping us to discern where your Holy Spirit is leading us, and give us patience as we wait and listen. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION
As we gather for communion, all are invited to come forward to the bottom step near the baptismal font. You will receive the bread (host) and the wine or grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available and the baked bread is gluten free. If you are communing from another location, we trust that Christ is present through the Holy Spirit in the bread and the wine/grape juice. Please note the importance of the words of institution and the invitation to communion, holding holy worshipful space within this sacrament.

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.

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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER *(First Nations Bible Translation)*
O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor your name as sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.
Provide for us day by day — the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.
Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.
Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.
Aho! May it be so!

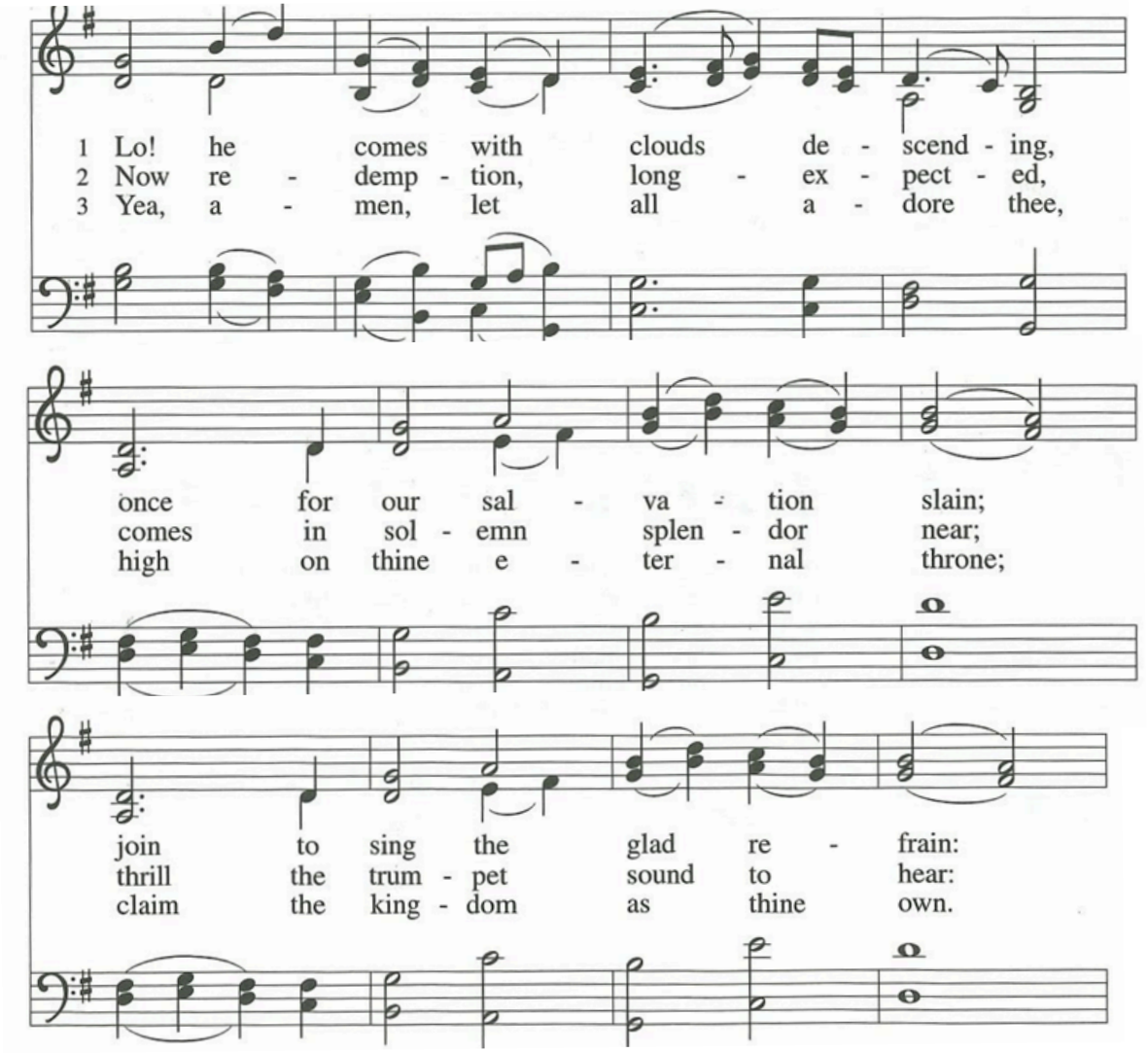
COMMUNION INVITATION
The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

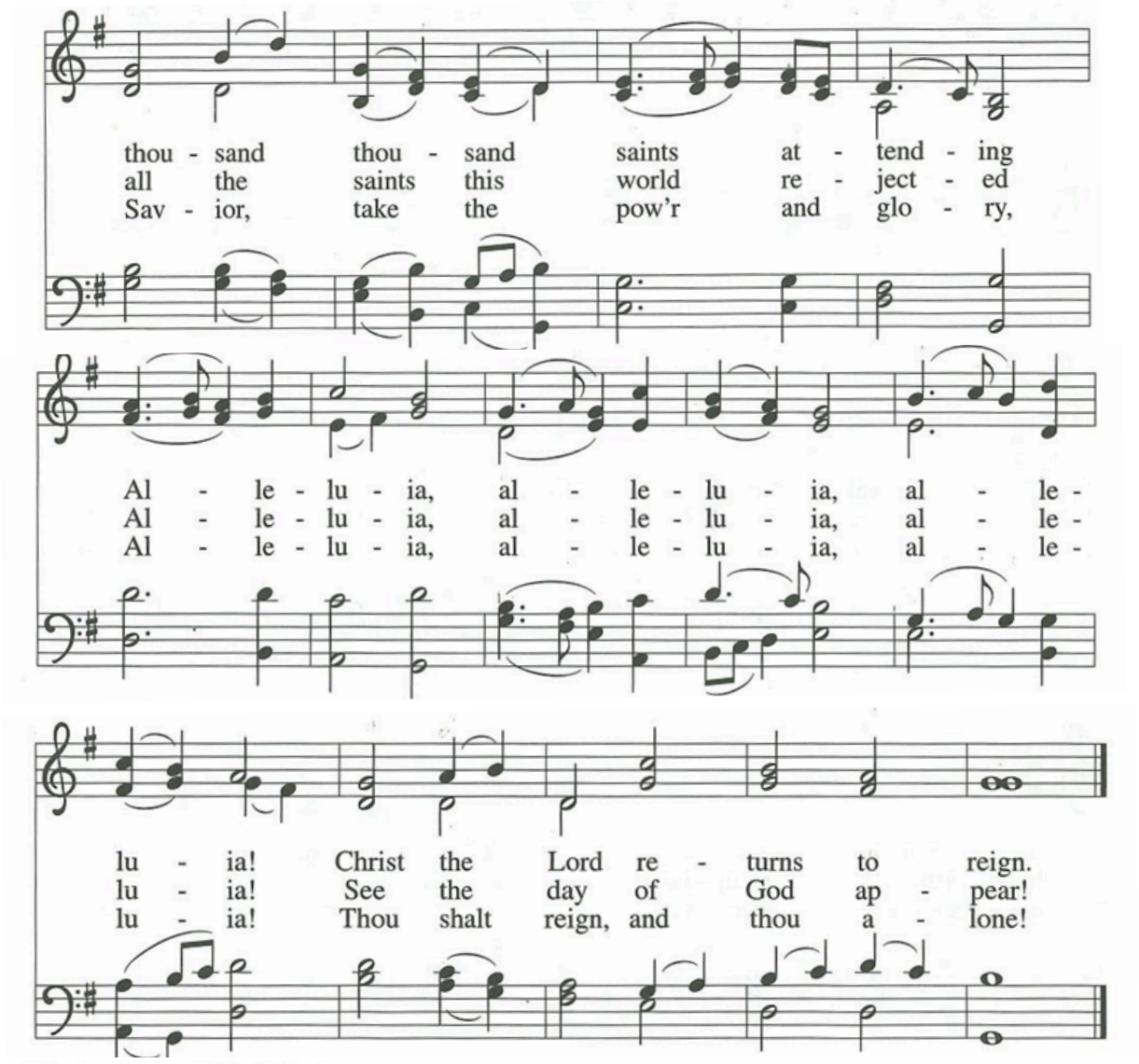
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING
May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and forever, Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYER
Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance
you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence in the way
of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 435 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* HELMSLEY





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

HELMSLEY
87 87 127

BLESSING
(Ephrem, Fourth Century Blessing)
Though the Lord has established the signs of the coming, the time of their fulfillment has not been plainly revealed. These signs have come and gone with a multiplicity of change; more than that, they are still present. The final coming is like the first. Deep peace + be with you all, as you wait with HOPE.
Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Keep Your Lamps!* ANDRÉ THOMAS*+

SENDING
Go in peace. Wait with hope.
Thanks be to God.

+ + +

***Worship Notes:** In addition to our singing the chorale as our Hymn of the Day, this morning's service features two more settings of **NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND**, one of the great reformation hymns with a text paraphrase by Martin Luther.

In the Call to Worship, we hear a distinctive treatment of the hymn tune by **J. S. Bach**: An *organ chorale*, which presents the chorale melody without interludes (as would be the case in a *chorale prelude*). Bach uses the harpsichordist's "broken style" (*style brisé*) technique to portray a mounting urgency for salvation as well as a "step motive" in the pedal, perhaps representing the faith that lets us "step out" as believers, as Peter stepped out of the boat to meet Christ on the water.

The Offertory is a *chorale prelude* on the same hymn tune; a rhapsodic musical prayer, the ornamented melody twists and turns, rising and falling, like incense over an altar.

André Thomas is the Owen F. Sellers Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University. He studied at Friends University, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois. Before coming to Florida State University he was a faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin. He is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director of Honor/All-State Choirs throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia. *Keep Your Lamps* is one of his most popular choral arrangements.

Many thanks to percussionist **John Monsen** for joining the choir this morning!

+Anthem & Benediction Response copyright 2003 by Hinshaw Music.

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TODAY IN WORSHIP
Music: David Buice, Chancel Choir, John Monsen

A Word of Thanks

Dear Faith Family,

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone at Faith who helped with and attended Mary Semeling's memorial service. She cherished her years worshiping, volunteering, and being part of the family at Faith. We received many kind words about how meaningful the service was, how smoothly everything ran, and how welcomed our friends and family felt—thanks to all who contributed to her celebration of life.

Thank you also for your prayers, support, and friendship.
Oris Semeling, Brent Semeling, and Lorissa Warren

Blood Drive at Faith Lutheran
Wednesday December 16

Date: Wednesday 12/16 Time: 12:00-5:30p
Location: FLC Library Signup link: Use the QR Code
Blood donations are needed year-round, but they're most critical during holidays when donations drop and fewer people have time to donate. We are looking for 41 donors, so please consider this remarkable gift.

If you wish to donate on a different date, visit www.bloodworksnw.org to search for other sites.
With a song in your heart, please give blood!
Cyndi Musar & Sheryl Schmeling Blood Drive Coordinators

grant awarded

Faith Lutheran received a
“Building Resilient Communities”
grant from the NWWA Synod
to support the Move-In Bins



Synopsis of Church Council Retreat

On Sunday November 8, after an enjoyable potluck lunch (including Jane Rieke’s Jello salad), your Church Council met for their fall retreat.

Discussion focused on both near term and longer term matters. An updated RIC Welcome Statement was approved, potential new FLC logos were reviewed, and personnel related topics such as a reconstituted Personnel Committee and an updated Personnel Manual were discussed.

The path forward from the ongoing congregation discernment conversations was reviewed, which will lead to the identification of a small number of core values and principles to guide Council in the coming years. Roles and responsibilities of the Pastor, other staff, the Council and its committees were discussed, leading to ideas for two potential new committees to be considered, as well as improved documentation of operational procedures.



All ministries of Faith Lutheran
run on donations.

Thank you for whatever you have to share!

Scan the QR code or CLICK HERE to make a donation.

