Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Worship Service • December 24, 2023 Setting 1



God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex; or, if you are online during our worship service, drop us a line to say hello or that you and your family are attending, so that we know you have joined us for worship. For those who come in person, please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. Sunday School begins at 8:45 followed by a worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

A nursery room is available during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. At this time, there are no nursery attendants. We also have "activity binders" available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about using one.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607 (757) 245-7861 — http://trinitylutheran-nn.com Church Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



REV. TINA MELUSKY – Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

GEOFFREY BELL – Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

SHARON MATHISON — Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM – Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN — Ministers of the Word FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: http://facebook.com/TrinityNN TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://trinitynn.org

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm; Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

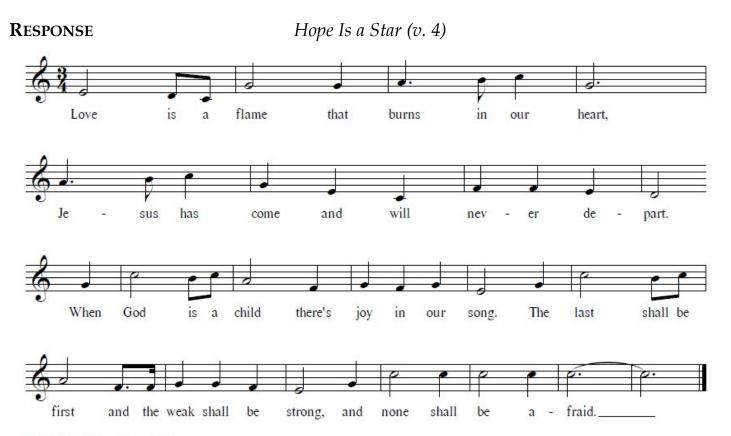
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J. S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Stevens Family

O ransomed people of the Lord, come, let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen



WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985 MUSIC: Jean Collier Fogg, 1987 © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

GATHERING

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

You love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
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.

People of God,

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.

The congregation turns to face the processing cross.

GATHERING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

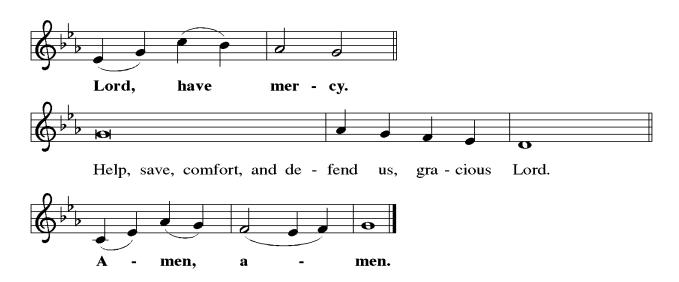
GREETING

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.

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assembly is seated.

Word

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

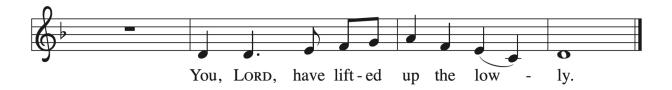
Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as

formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: LUKE 1:46B-55 (all sing the response before the reading and when directed.)



Luke 1:48 Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. R

and holy is your name.

You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the might from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

the promise made o our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

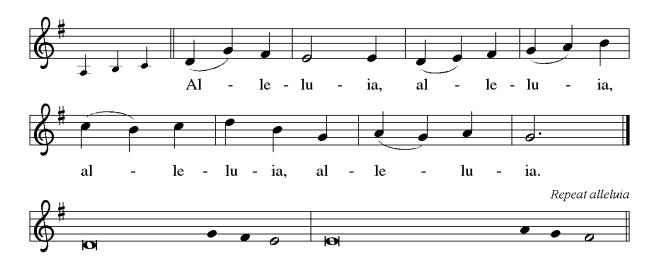
Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to God's gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Word of God, word of Life **Thanks be to God**.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Here I am, the servant | of the Lord; let it be with me according | to your word.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom

there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S CHAT Pastor Tina Melusky

SERMON Pastor Tina Melusky

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAYCanticle of the Turning

ELW 723

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

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,

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

The assembly is seated.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Almost There

arr. Heather Sorenson

Mary, full of innocence, carrying the Holy Prince, you're almost there. Mother of the Living Word, trusting in the voice you heard, you're almost there.

You're almost where the angels see redemption's plan unfolding. All hope is in the Son you'll bear; you're almost there.

A lonely road, a willing heart, prayer for strength to do your part; you're almost there.

Trust the Father to provide Bread of Heaven prophesied; you're almost there.

You're almost where the waiting ends, delivering the Life within, the answered prayer, Emmanuel; you're almost there.

You're almost where the journey ends, where death will die and life begins, the answered prayer, Emmanuel, you're almost there.

OFFERTORY HYMN

We are Waiting for Jesus JESUS BRINGS PEACE

ACS 905

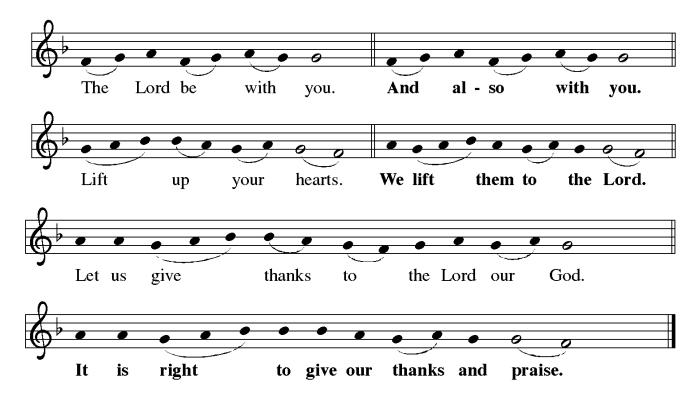
The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
By your merciful hand
Abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
And faithfulness for all people,
Through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

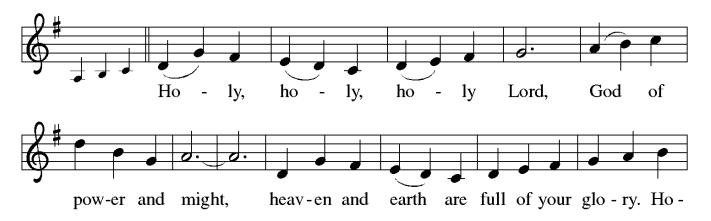


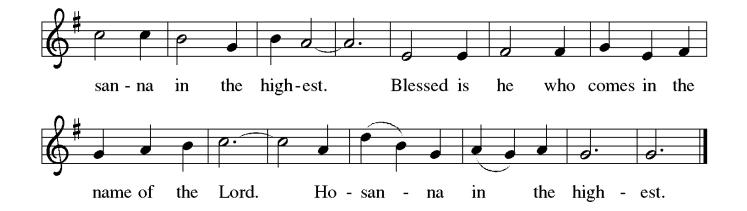
PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

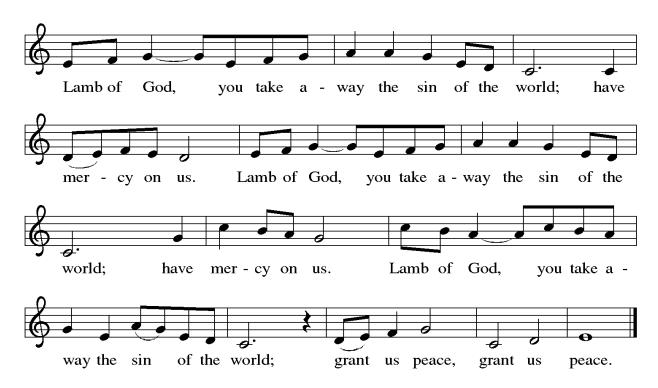
Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.
All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
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.

The assembly is seated.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION

Communion is held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycle baskets are located outside of the sanctuary doors for your plastic cups.

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

ELW 265

The assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord

ELW 200

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly turns to face the recessing cross

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

People, Look East

arr. Kristina Langlois

The flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Judy and David Hunt and in loving memory of my father Spindler Krause by Spindler and the late Shirley Krause.

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHU-INS: Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Jeanette Cantrell, Millie Christensen, Lucille Lebold, and Barbara Olson The Chesapeake, Assisted Living Room 317); Shirly Anderson Room 422 Sentara. Shutin at Home: Peggy Cash, Janet Edwards, Doris Moeser, and Louise Mozingo.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Heike Ahlen, requested by Kathy Stevens, **The Ahlen Family**, requested by Kathy Stevens; **Matt Adamo (Brother-in-law of Patricia)** requested by Patricia Fielding; **Matt Eggars (Sandy's nephew)**, requested by the Sniady family; the family and friends of **Patricia Goetz**, mother of Kevin Goetz; family and friends of **Nancy Gloss; Loyd Rawls**, requested by Laura Davis; **Mary Lou Hubble (Jacob's aunt)**, requested by the Wessler family; **Jessica Savage**, requested by the Dail Family; **Harry Hartman**, **Bill Wren and Patrick Soukup**, requested by Anne Obara; **Bill Selby (uncle) and Sherrie Strickland (cousin)**, requested by Wendy Mynoymany.

Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty: James Fielding, State Dept., Myanmar; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National Guard, LAFB; Josh and Ellen (Davis) Badgley, State Department, Bangkok, Thailand; Michael Titus, US Navy, Naval Shipyard, Washington, DC and wife, Elisabeth Bruce.

Serving the Assembly

Crucifer Emma Recupero

Acolytes Carter Recupero

Lector Anne Obara

Ushers/Greeters/Presenters Judy Hunt

David Hunt

Camera/Livestream Cliff Obara

Notes

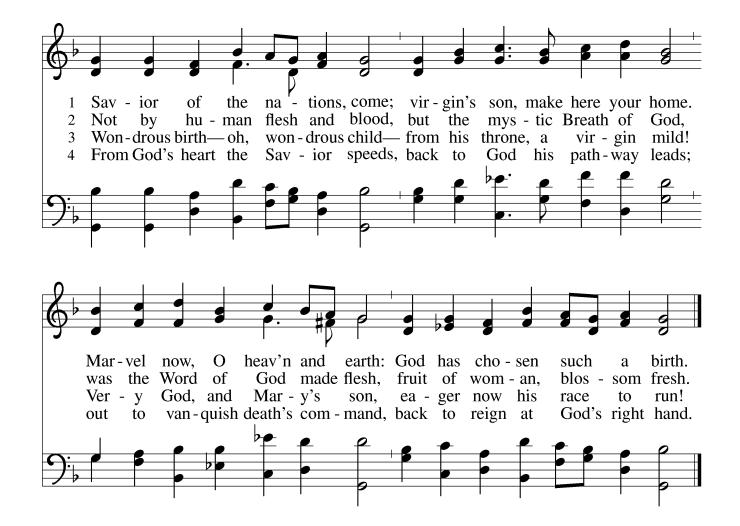
Thank you to those of you who have been contributing to the red food box. Our need for food to replenish the red food box is greater during the winter season please prayerfully consider donating

There will be no bible study on 12/26 and 1/2

Pastor Tina will be on vacation 12/25 through 1/2

CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of Dick Sallade upon his passing on Friday, December 15, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 11 am. Please keep Dick's family members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. The address to send expressions of sympathy is Maureen Sallade, 305 Savannah Ct. Newport News, VA, 23606. "Thanks be to God who gives us victory over death through Jesus Christ our Lord."

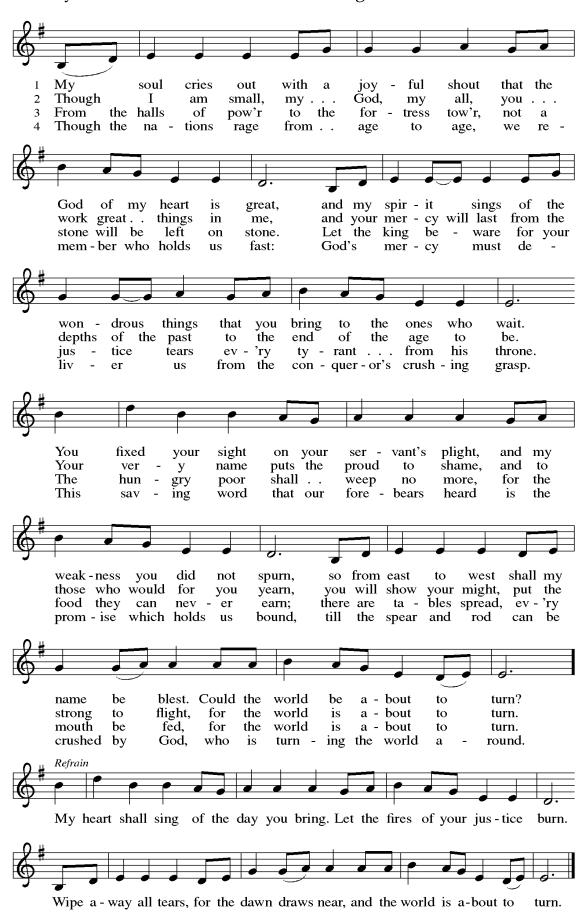
CHRISTIAN HOPE AND SYMPATHY are extended to the family and friends of Kay Scougal our Sister in Christ, upon her passing on, Monday December 18, 2023. Details of her memorial are still being planned. Please keep family members and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

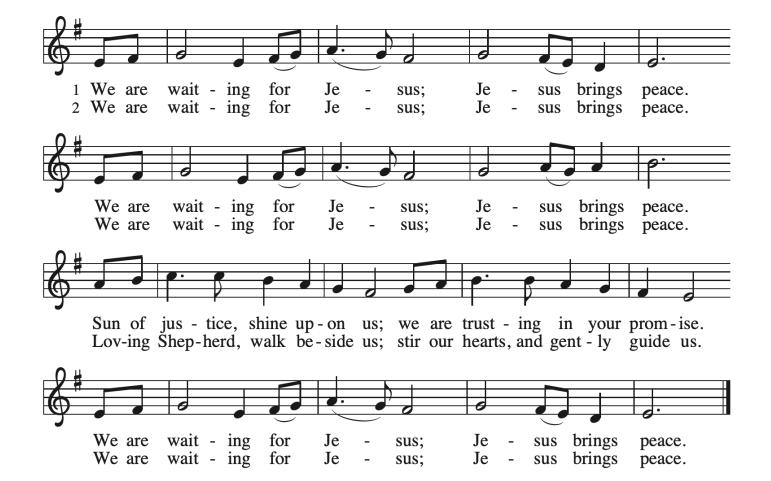


- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924



Music: Detroit Folk Mass, Tillis Butler, d. 2002, and James Harris Music © 1986 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
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