SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026



WELCOME & GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader One: We yearn and we hope.
We wait for God to fully realize God's promises.

So, too, did the prophet Jeremiah yearn and hope for Messiah to come.

Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of the hope that others may know that we are watching and waiting, staying awake for God's sign yet to come.

And we see this light for what it is—a glimmer of light in a dark world yearning for the promise.

(Light first blue candle)

This is the Candle of Hope, illuminating God's Promise.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship the Lord, who is enthroned forever,
whose name endures for all generations.
Nations fear the name of the Lord,
and all its leaders God's glory.
Praise the Lord, who answers prayer,
whose love endures forever.

CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. *(Pause for silence and reflection.)*

Merciful God, **we come before you with contrite hearts, aware of all the ways we have failed to do what you would have us do, and the ways we have insisted on doing what we know does not contribute to our flourishing or that of the world. As we anticipate and celebrate your selfless act of becoming one of us in Jesus the Christ, re-center us on your call to empty ourselves as you did, so that we might serve you and all of creation with open, loving hearts, and work diligently for the peace and justice you desire for all that you have made.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
The One who was and is and is to come hears your confession and declares to you that you are forgiven. Free of the burden of your sin, go forth in gratitude and joy to love and serve. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Holy Jesus, **no one on earth knows the hour of your return. Only keep us watchful and awake, that we might always be at work in your kingdom. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— 2as 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! 3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4From 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. 5You 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.

6We 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. 7There 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. 8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
18 Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1: 3-9

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37

24"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will
not give its light, 25and 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. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his 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. 29So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven 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. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will
come. 34It 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.

35Therefore, 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, 36or else he may find
you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

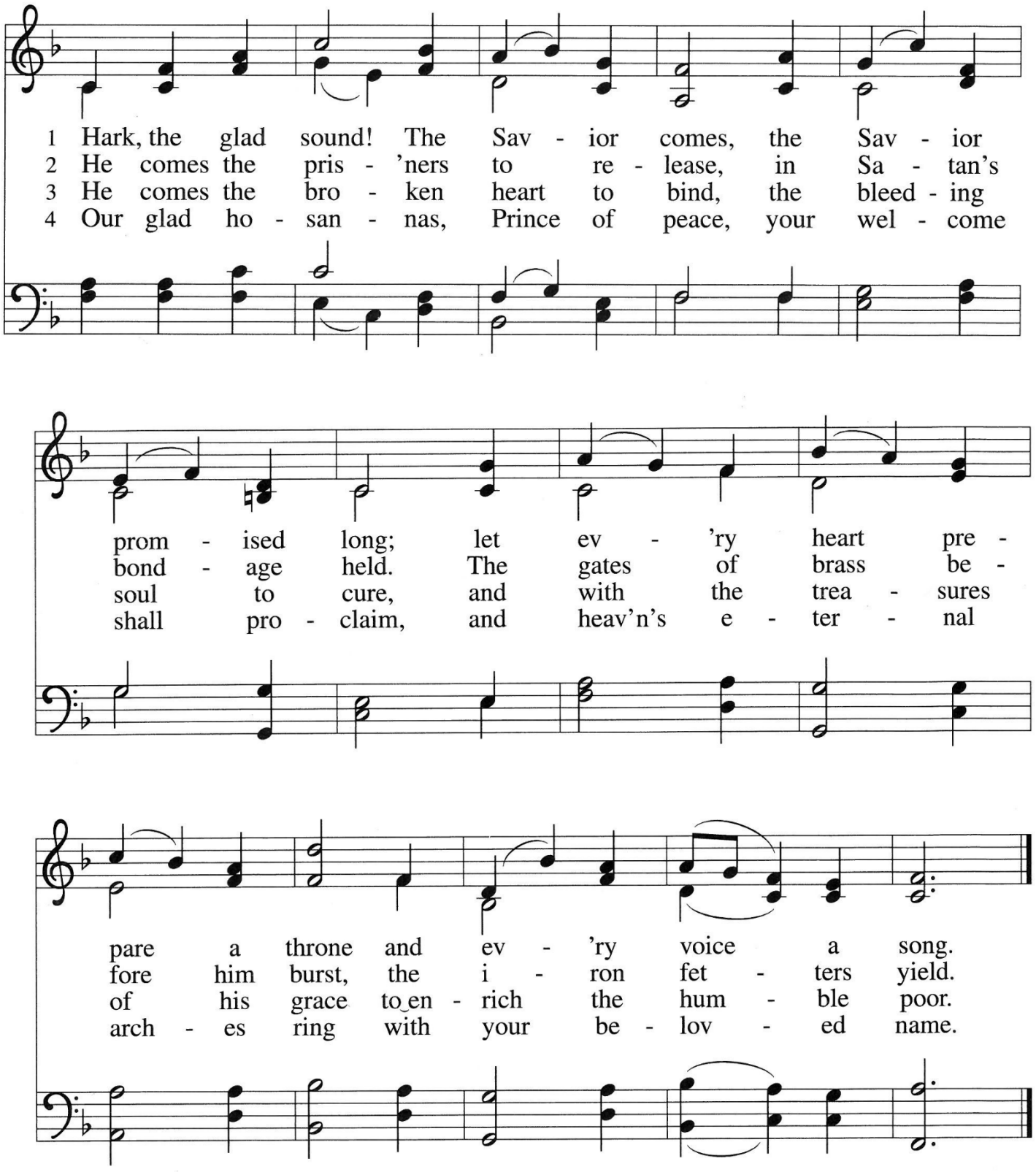
SERMON REV. JANET KETTERING

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Eternal God, **you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY | HARK, THE GLAD SOUND! ELW #239

239 Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751
Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

CHESTERFIELD
CM

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING—WELCOME OF PEYTON SAWYER INTO MEMBERSHIP

This morning we're blessed to welcome Peyton Sawyer as a new member into the faith family which is Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection. Today we welcome you, Peyton, as a members of this family in the larger body of Christ.

And so I ask, do you desire to join the membership of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church? If so please answer: "I do."

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for our sister, Peyton, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold your daughter in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With humble anticipation of God's promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

There are many who claim to have special knowledge of your plan to redeem the earth, O Lord. Do not allow us to be led astray, keeping us focused instead upon all the ways you are calling us to live out our discipleship here and now. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

We take our clues from nature to know what season it is. May we be as keenly aware of other people and when the time is right to share your word and mediate your grace and love to them. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for veterans who faced the distress of combat, the judgment of many, and subsequent injuries and traumas which impact them to this day. May we care for them to the best of our ability, and not allow them to be forgotten. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for colleges and universities which spread your loving invitation through Campus Ministry. Shower Bread+Belonging at CU in Boulder with your blessings and empower the colleges and universities that host these programs. Guide the leaders who lead, the donors who provide, and the students who are fed, especially those who seek out campus ministry as a pathway to growing closer to you. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

We ask your healing power upon all those who are dealing with addictions and impulses difficult to control. Send your Spirit also to those whom we know are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. We pray especially for Clover, Ross, Bob, Terry Schreier and his family, Ken, Dorothy, Ben, George and Jessika, Carl, Devon, Matt, Jim and Sally, Dave, and all those named on our Prayer Chain. Where there is no earthly healing, comfort us in our grief. Where there is restoration, rejoice with us. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, help us to offer love and support for all those who provide care for their loved ones, especially James and Chris Elkins, and Kirk, Clare, and Gwen Fallon. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, through the needs of others, you extend your grace into the world. We pray for the work of the Joshua School. May our relationship with them reflect your love and care for those with special needs. We pray that all those on the Autism Spectrum, especially those in our faith family, that they might find fulfillment, joy, purpose, and love. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

Show us magnificence in those who are often dismissed as insignificant. Let us see what is truly remarkable in all your children. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

(Please offer your personal prayers at this time, either silently,
or by coming to the center microphone or unmuting yourself on Zoom.)

We celebrate all saints who have renewed the church, promoted a living faith among its members, and advocated for working people's rights. Bless all who follow in their example. God of hope, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all for whom we pray this day, and keep us alert to the ways you are working in the world, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)

OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER

The things which we value are rarely eternal ones, O God. Teach us to let go of worldly temptations and to offer what resources we have: time, abilities, and wealth, to your service. Bless these gifts we bring before you, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and good to give you thanks and praise, O God, because from the beginning, you invited us on a journey with you: A journey of wonders and miracles, a journey of healing and joy, a journey of mystery, full of life and love.

In You, we have a constant source of hope. Hope as a rainbow for a world in chaos. Hope as bread for wanderers in the desert. Hope as a land restored and renewed. Hope as a baby born long ago. Hope at a table set with symbols.

At this table we remember the child and the man. A child born in poverty. A man rich with grace. The child, a promise of love and salvation. The man, a fulfillment of forgiveness and grace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In his last hours, as in his first, Jesus was surrounded by love. Celebrating the meal and sharing a wonderful new birth of hope, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the meal was ending, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood which is shed for you. This cup is a new covenant that God is making with us. A covenant of hope, a covenant of peace, a covenant of love, a covenant of joy.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. Hear us now as we boldly pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

OUR 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.

Heaven and earth may pass away, but your word will endure forever, O Lord. May we trust the truth made real to us in this holy sacrament: that you have come to redeem all, and desire that no one be left out. Let us come now to our savior's table!

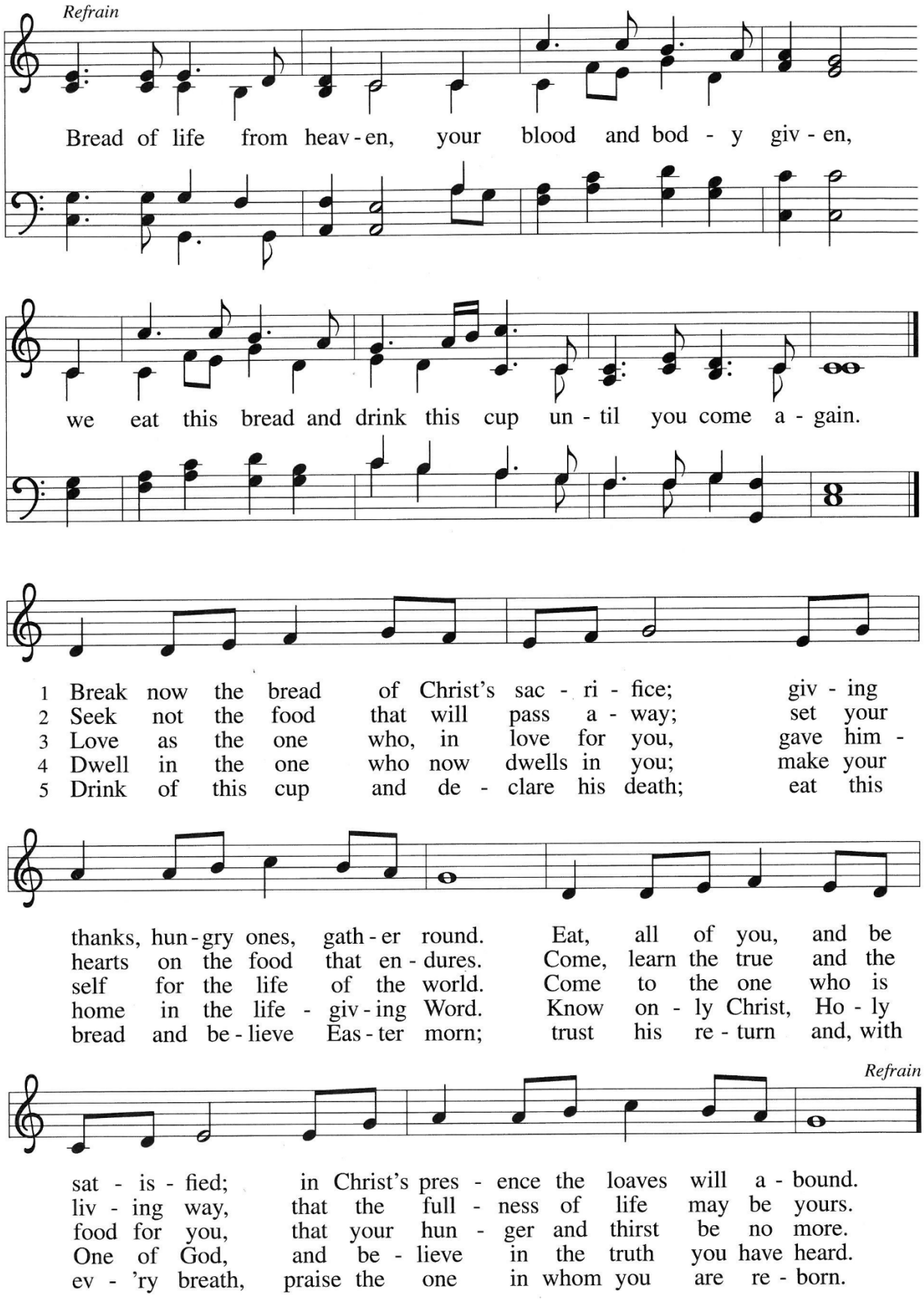
SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.
This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

COMMUNION HYMN | BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN ELW #474



Bread of Life from Heaven 474



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.

ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD
9 9 9 9 and refrain

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, **in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

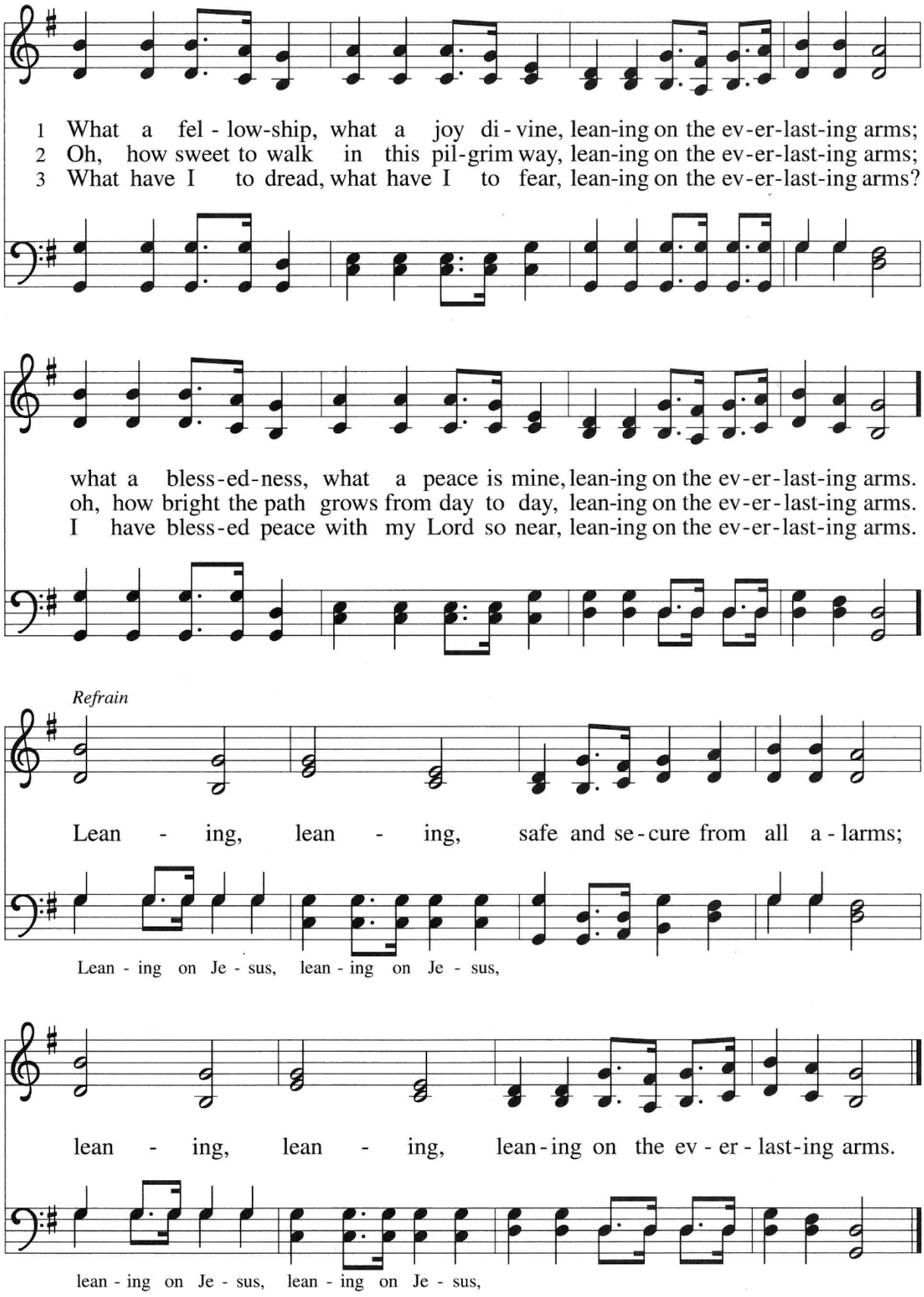
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Go with us now into the world. We can begin again! Everything is about to change, so make everything new. Make us new. Reveal your glory in our lives and in the rhythms of our lives. Let nothing get in the way of your coming. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE ELW #774



774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

SHOWALTER
10 9 10 9 and refrain

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Click link to access readings, sermons & special events from past Sundays:
https://www.youtube.com/@shepherdofthehillslutheran6221/videos

WORSHIP RESOURCES:

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PRAYER OF THE DAY – RCL WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2026 CLERGY STUFF
SCRIPTURE READINGS – NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION
RESPONSE TO THE WORD – ERIC MILNER WHITE
ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH – NATHAN NETTLETON, *AS ADAPTED*.
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BLESSING & BENEDICTION – APRIL YAMASAKI, *AS ADAPTED*.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: THE MICHALAKS
ALTAR GUILD: RAEANNE & STEVE MILLER, GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY
ASSISTING MINISTER: REV. PHIL KETTERING
AUDIO TECHNICIAN: MARK "FUZZ" NEWKIRK
COFFEE AND CONVERSATION HOST: PASTORS IN HONOR OF PEYTON SAWYER
LECTOR: ERIC MICHALAK
PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

Shepherd Happenings: November 29 – December 6, 2026

Sunday, November 29th – First Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m.—Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation Immediately following Worship

Wednesday, December 2nd

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study
5:30 p.m. – Zoom Advent Study: "Becoming a Micah 6:8 People"

Friday, December 4th

7:00 a.m.—Men's Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m.—Friday Night Perspectives Zoom Gathering

Sunday, December December 6th– Second Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m.—Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation immediately following Worship

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

PR. PHIL 11/4
WENDALL B. 11/17
JOHN Y. 11/19
LAURA F. 12/10
KELLY M. 12/11
ROBERT S. 12/18
CHRIS B. 12/27
DAN W. 12/30

WELCOME! *Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

GUESTS

Please sign our Guestbook and/or fill out the brightly-colored Info Slip and place it in the offering plate. This helps us get to know you better so that we can serve you more effectively.

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYERS?

Prayer Changes Things. The Shepherd Prayer Chain members stand by ready to help. You'll find our Prayer Box on the table to your left as you enter the building, as well as paper and pencils. Please write your prayer request and place it in the box. *You are not required to sign your request or give the name of the person for whom we will pray, unless you wish.* If you desire a private conversation with Pastor Janet, please contact the Church Office or call her on her cell phone at 507-360-1625. **All prayer requests will remain confidential.**

CHILDREN ARE CHERISHED AT SHEPHERD!

In our Sanctuary, you'll see a coloring table and soft toys. Children's bulletins are available on the table just outside the Sanctuary. If at any time you wish to take your child out for some quiet time, our Nursery/Library is stocked with supplies for playing, coloring, studying the Children's Bulletin, or reading.

REMEMBRANCE

On the north wall of the Sanctuary a table is set with candles. You are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one at any time before, during, or after our worship service.

COMMUNION

At Shepherd of the Hills, we recognize that the Table of Communion is not our table. It is not a Lutheran table. It is our Lord's Table—a meal prepared for all—prepared in love. *Please come.* All who long for the Good News in Jesus Christ are truly welcome at this table. As Jesus called children to be close to him, we, likewise, extend this invitation to all children. Should you not feel comfortable receiving the Sacrament, please come forward indicating that you wish to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP

Arrangements can be made to bring communion to you at a time convenient for you. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend normal services, such as a hospital stay or for personal reasons, and wish to have communion brought to you, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Janet at 507-360-1625.

MEMBERSHIP

At Shepherd, we worship as one Faith Family. If you wish to extend your worship to include membership, please see Pastor Janet.

Shepherd of the Hills
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

THE MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE

PASTOR: REV. JANET COLBY KETTERING

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: RAEANNE & STEVE MILLER, KEN & GERRY MOORHEAD,
LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPY

ASSISTING MINISTERS: TIM KIRCHOFF & REV. PHIL KETTERING

AUDIO TECHNICIAN: FUZZ (MARK) NEWKIRK

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE: ERIC & CAROLINE MICHALAK

BUILDING CONSULTANTS: JIM TIMMERMANN & WAYNE OTTO

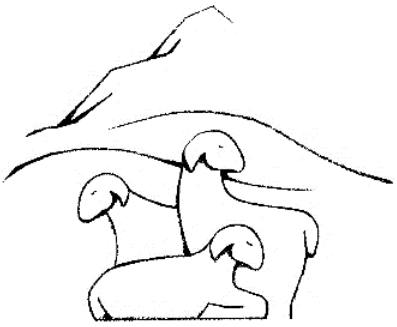
COUNTER: ERIC MICHALAK

PIANIST: MARGARET SCHARFF

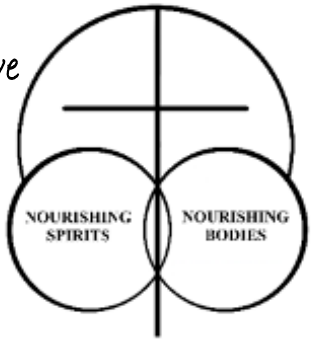
PRAYER CHAIN ADMINISTRATOR: KATHY WOOTTON

SHEPHERD COUNCIL:
MICHELLE KIRCHOFF, PRESIDENT
JANICE IRISH, VICE-PRESIDENT
KELLY MAURER, SECRETARY
REV. PHIL KETTERING, TREASURER
JIM TIMMERMANN, BUILDING CONSULTANT
PASTOR JANET KETTERING

OUR MISSION STATEMENT



Marked by the Cross of Christ Forever, we
† Gather in Love
† Grow in Faith
† Share God's Love & Grace
† We are Empowered to BOLDLY
Proclaim & Witness God's Word



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