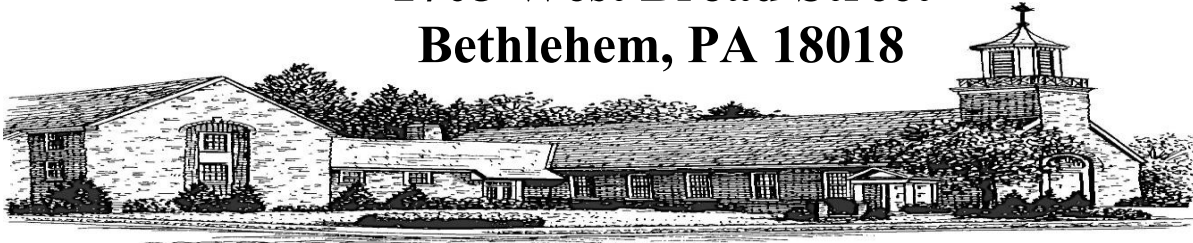
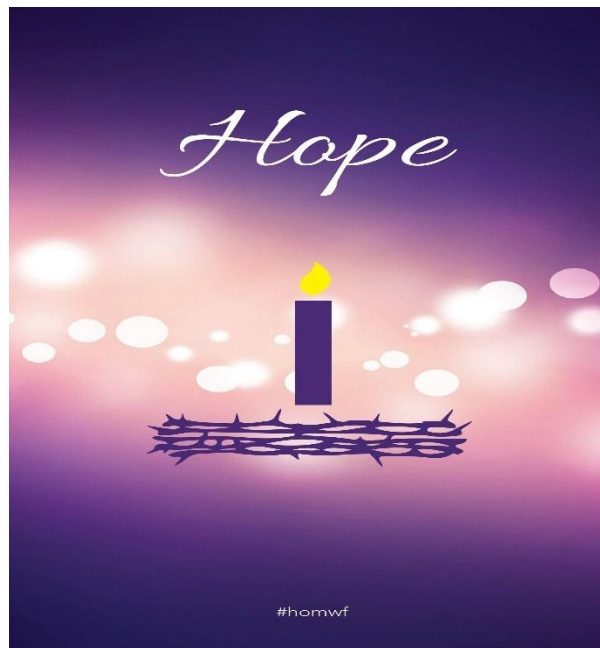


**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT**

**1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



**LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025**



OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class,
physical or mental ability.**

WELCOME

Lector Good Morning. My name is Donna Mallard.
A warm welcome is extended to all. Especially those who are gathering at BT@R for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Today we observe the First Sunday of Advent. Everything you need to follow along with the worship service can be found in your bulletin. Please join us for fellowship following the gathering.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*
- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The assembly stands as they are able.

RECONCILIATION

Pastor When peace is hard to find, open our eyes to look again,
O God. Open our minds to search again for your presence and your purpose. Loving Spirit, search our hearts and meet us in this place.

Silence

Pastor Gracious God,
**Assembly We know that we are the ones who are divided
and we are the ones who must come back together.
May we learn love, compassion, and honor
that we may heal the earth, each other, and ourselves.**

Pastor May we know the grace of forgiveness and offer that grace to others.
May the fires of hope be rekindled among us, giving light and warmth to the world.

Assembly Amen.

Hope

Hope is not blind optimism – it is where expectation and commitment meet.

We celebrate hope:

- *that good will conquer evil*
- *that unconditional love is the most powerful force in the world which can truly change the world*
- *that forgiveness is available to each of us, to free us from the guilt of the past*
 - *that each of us is loved and valued*
- *that we will achieve hope in our own lives, by bringing hope to others*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Assembly sings stanza one.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles 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.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

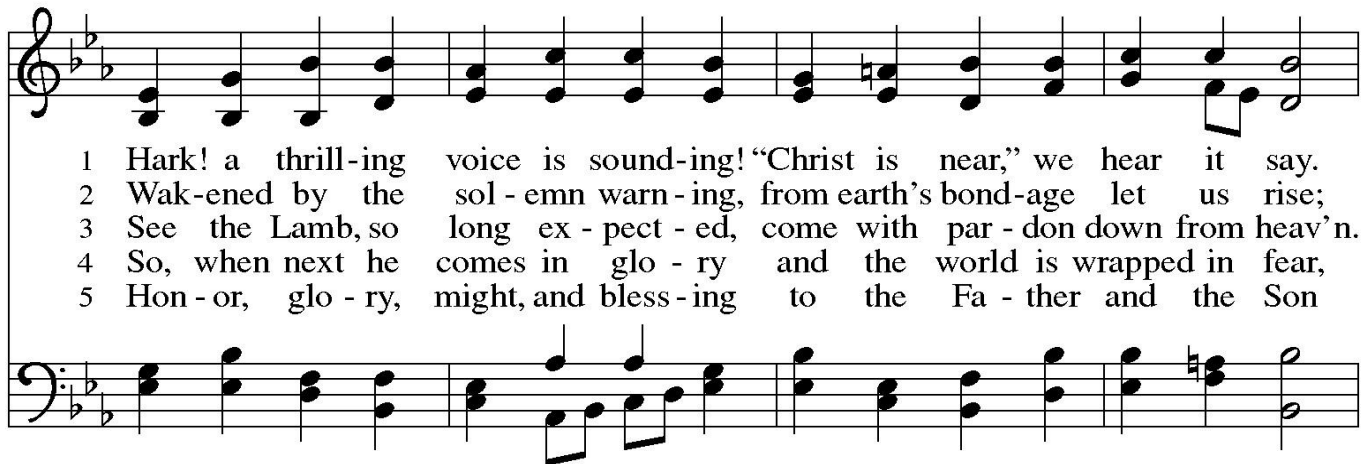
The Assembly may be seated.

Leader Advent is a time to hope for peace between people, and to walk in the light God gives us. The Advent wreath is round to remind us of God's never-ending love. The branches are green to remind us of new life. The candles remind us of the light which came into the world with Jesus: light to brighten all of earth's dark places; light that grows stronger when we join in his work of building and rebuilding lives. Today we light a candle for hope.

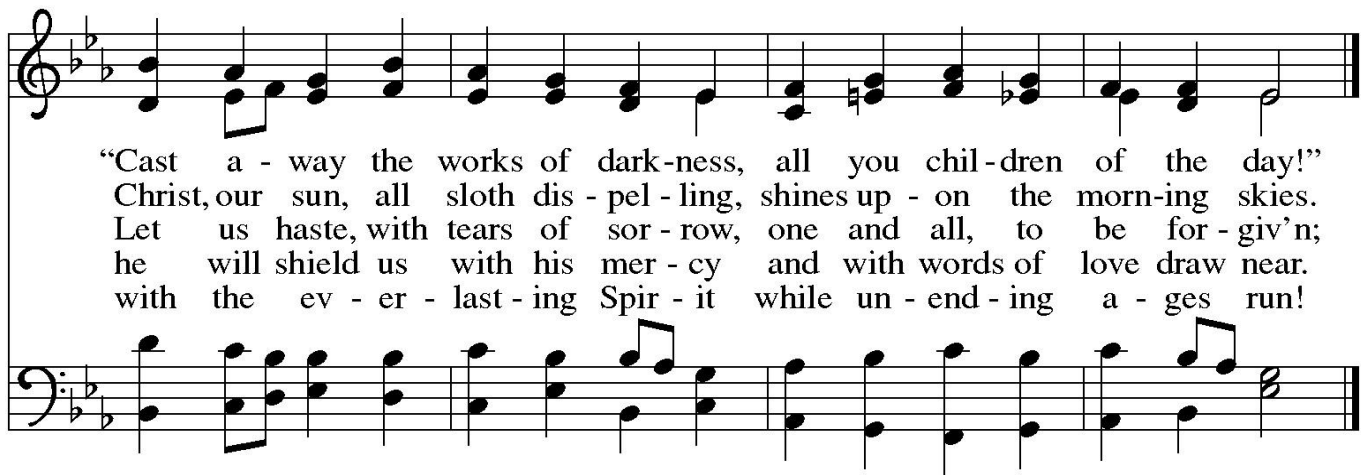
Assembly Come, Christ, Hope of our hearts.

Enter our lives so that all people may have a place to stand.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader The days are surely coming when I will fulfill the promise I made: I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; who will execute justice in the land. - *Jeremiah 33*

Pastor The Lord is with you.
Assembly and also with you.

Pastor God our deliverer, whose approaching birth still shakes the foundations of our world, may we so wait for your coming with eagerness and hope that we embrace without terror the labor pangs of the new age.

Assembly Amen! May it be so!

The assembly may be seated for the readings.

A READING Isaiah 2:1-5

Lector A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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!

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

In Your Midst
I, God, am in your midst.
Whoever knows me can never fall,
Not in the heights,
Nor in the depths,
Nor in the breadths,
For I am love,
Which the vast expanses of evil
Can never still.
- Hildegard of Bingen

PSALMODY

Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing 68

Refrain



Verses

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the house of the Lord,"
and now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
2. Jerusalem is a city built with unity and strength.
It is there, it is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.
3. For Israel's law is to praise God's name and there to give God thanks.
There are set the judgment thrones for all of David's house.
4. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May those who love you prosper;
May peace ever reign within your walls, and wealth within your buildings!"
5. For love of my family and love of my friends, I pray that peace be yours.
For love of the house of the Lord our God I pray for your good.

Text: Psalm 122; Michael Joncas, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL
Music: Michael Joncas, © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.

Andrew, Apostle The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Lector A reading from the world around us: *Now is the Time* - Mzwakhe Mbuli

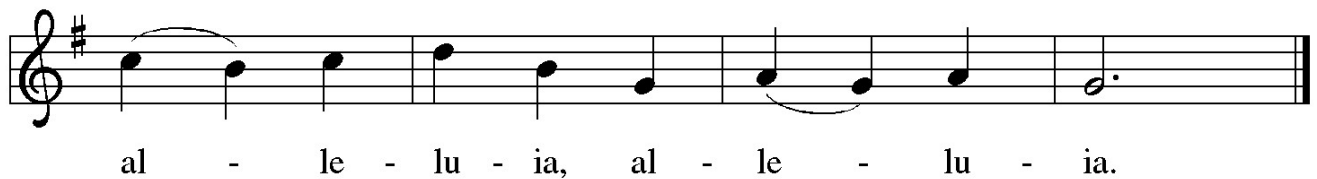
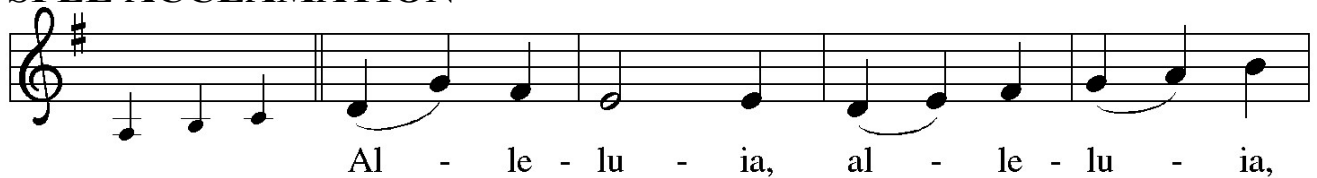
Now is the time,
To climb up the mountain
And reason against habit.
Now is the time.

Now is the time,
To renew the barren soil of nature
Ruined by the winds of tyranny,
Now is the time.

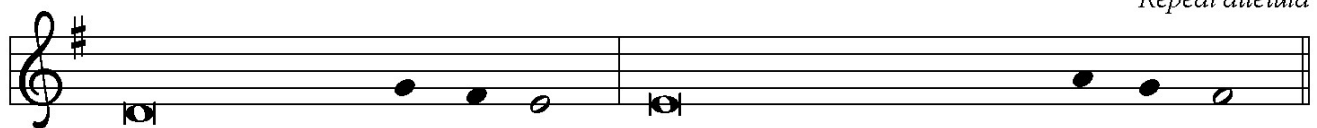
Now is the time,
To commence the litany of hope,
Now is the time...

Now is the time,
To give me roses, not to deep them
For my grave to come,
Give them to me while my heart beats,
Give them today
While my heart yearns for jubilee,
Now is the time...

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor Reading from the Holy Gospel + as written to us by Matthew.

[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.”

Pastor This is Good News from the Lord.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

Advent by Gretta Vosper

We've always been waiting. Waiting for life to finally begin.

Waiting to grow up. Waiting to get out of here.

Waiting for our ship to come in.

Waiting for the right guy, the right girl, the right somebody.

Waiting for the next shoe to drop. Waiting for a smile.

Waiting for someone to know who we really are.

We've always been waiting.

In the moments, minutes, hours, days, years that we have,
then - the time between now and whatever is waiting to happen -

let's have a *good* time

and make it rich and beautiful for all.

Into and out of these waiting times,

we weave our lives...

The assembly stands as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY Hymnal 436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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The assembly may sit or kneel for prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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OFFERING *The offering plates are at the front and back entrances.*

Use your phone's camera to scan this code
to give a gift to Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
and to view our website and social media sites.



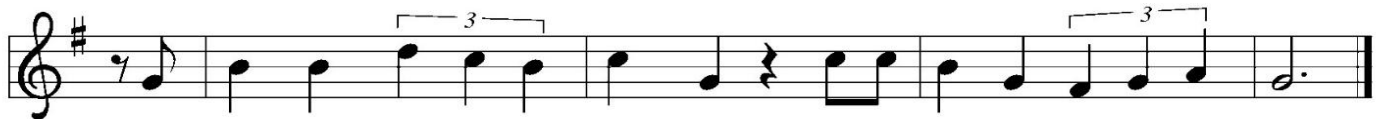
OFFERTORY MUSIC *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* - Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

THE OFFERTORY HYMN Hymnal 253

He Came Down



2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader May we be empowered to find a meaning in life, a purpose, a belonging.
And in finding pleasure in receiving from life
may we also receive satisfaction in enriching life.

Assembly **Amen. May it be so!**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pastor Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

Assembly **Blessed be God forever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

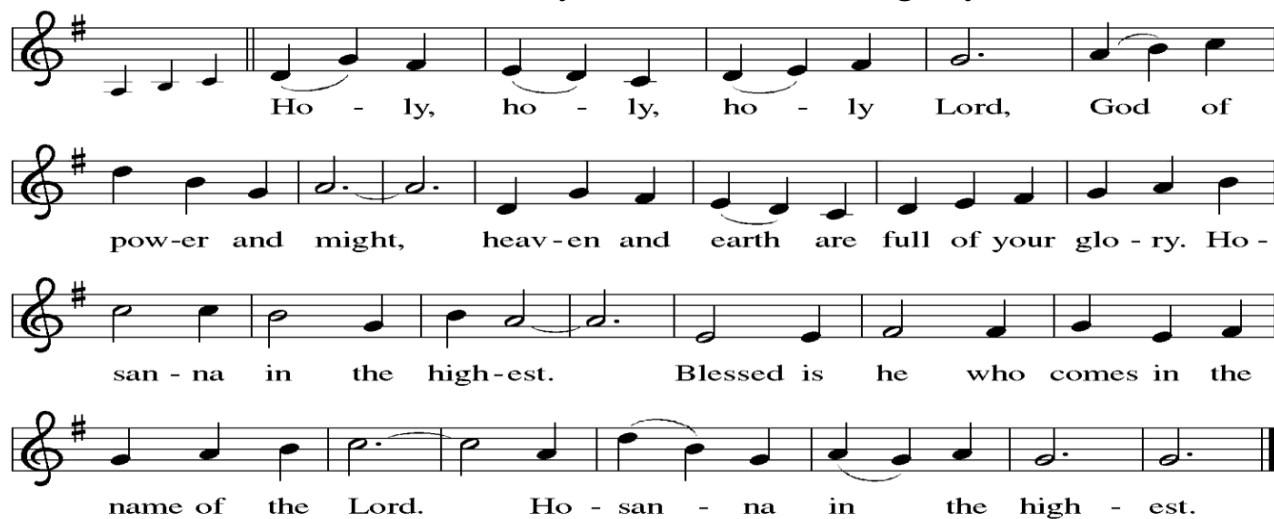
Pastor God's hope is in us.
Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them up to God.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

Assembly **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Pastor O God, Mystery of winter skies, we look for you in these shorter days
for opening our eyes to see your beauty; for parting the wide heavens to
send your gentle light; for offering your word to take our mortal flesh.
Jesus was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the
Baptist cleared the way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph
accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws
near again to show us who we really are with honesty and love. Now we
take up the song of hope that we might awaken to his coming among us
and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:



Pastor On 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.

THE OUR FATHER

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

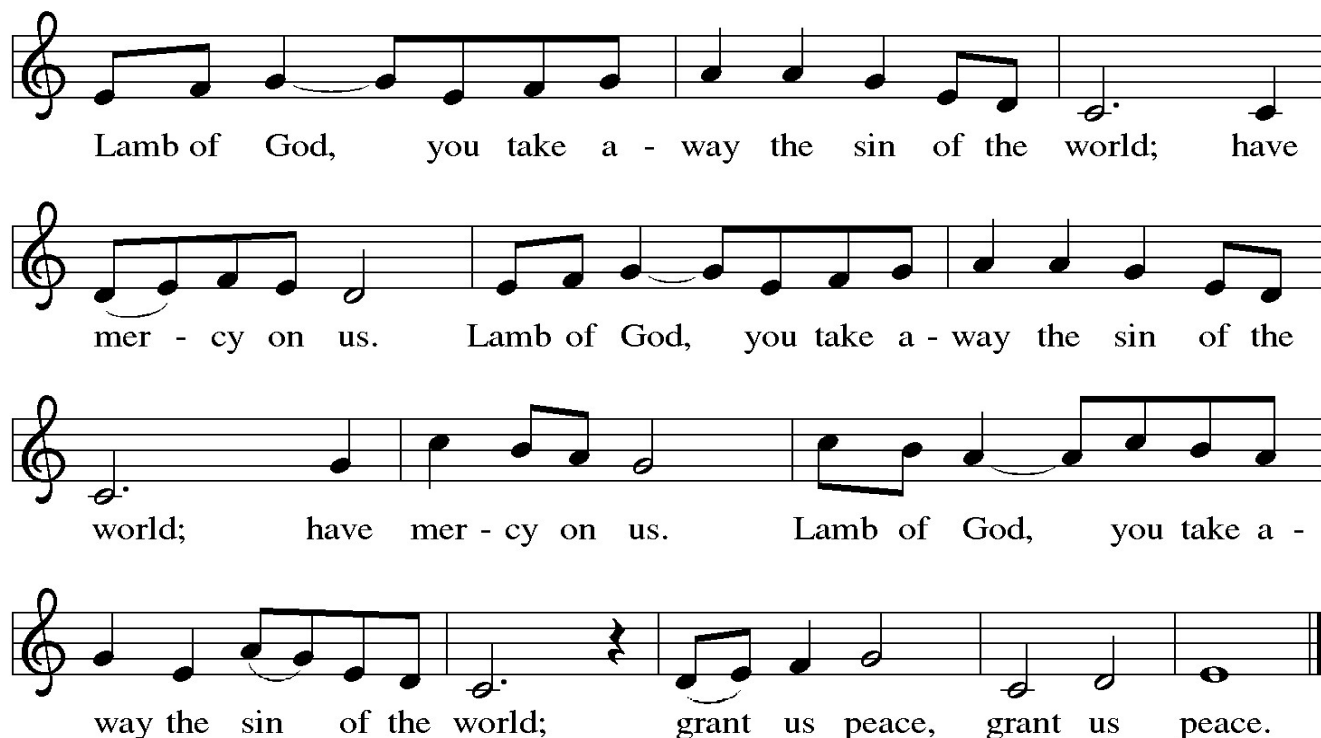
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
**Assembly God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

THE INVITATION

Pastor Come to this table of grace. Here there are no barriers, no requirements, no tests of worthiness. No matter your faith, your doubts, or your background – all are welcome, all are loved, all are fed. Come, taste and see the goodness of God.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE BREAD AND WINE

All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine. There are gluten free wafers; ask the Pastor or Communion Assistants to provide one to you. A chalice of wine will be offered to you - simply touch the wafer to the wine. If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward simply let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – Hymnal 244

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You – Hymnal 241

The assembly may stand as they are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader We thank you, generous God
abiding in every part of the city,
In each other, and in the stranger, who waits with us
for a place at the table of life.
May we also learn the way to make room for all.

Assembly Amen.

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PARTING WORDS

Pastor Celebration need not cease.

Assembly It can echo in our lives,
in our words,
in our deeds,
in our moods,
in our dreams.

Pastor Carry wonder and celebration with you wherever you may go.

Assembly We will be a blessing in our
going out and your coming in.

The Altar Candles and Care Candle are extinguished.

SENDING HYMN Hymnal 439

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

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WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor May God bless you with appreciation for all the beauty
that resides within you,
may your coffee or tea be delicious,
may you laugh deeply and often,
and may God give you time to enjoy your family today.
And the blessings of God, + Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life,
Be with you this day and always.

Assembly Amen! May it be so!

Thank you for worshipping with us at BT@R today.
We are grateful for your presence and pray that you were blessed
by the service.



BT@R

FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee and tea are now served.

You are invited upstairs to Laros Hall to share in this time of fellowship.

You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.



Use your phone's camera to scan this code
for upcoming events at
Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont.



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DON'T LOSE HOPE

The world is burning, twinkling lights betray
a damaged conscience, we have lost our way.
Our neighbors drown, we build on solid ground,
as Jesus weeps while songs of praise resound.
Within this season darkness clouds each mind,
consumption numbs the pain we ought to find
when hearing news of hunger and of drought,
a stable's birth should soon erase all doubt: