

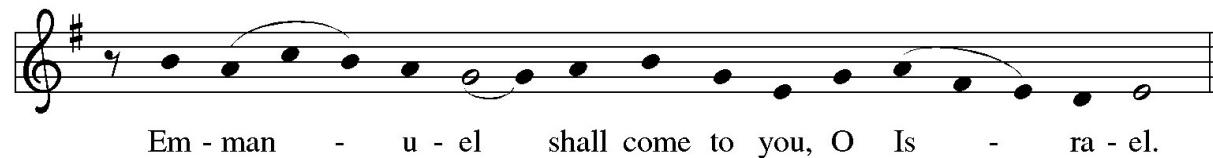
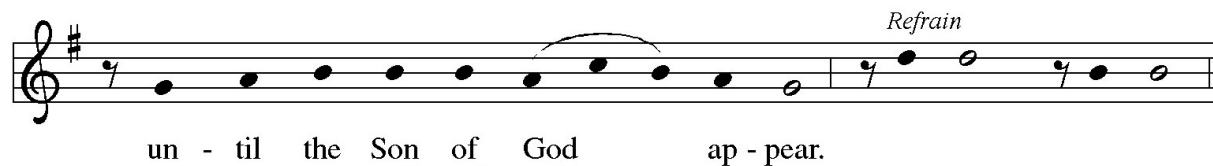
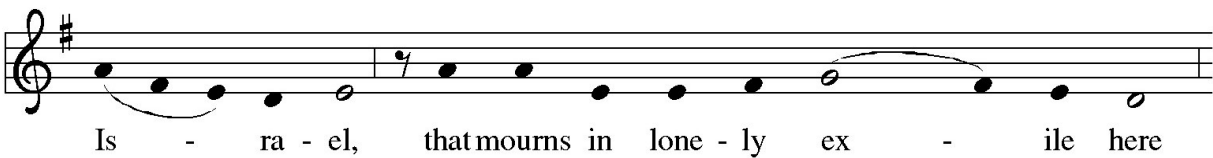
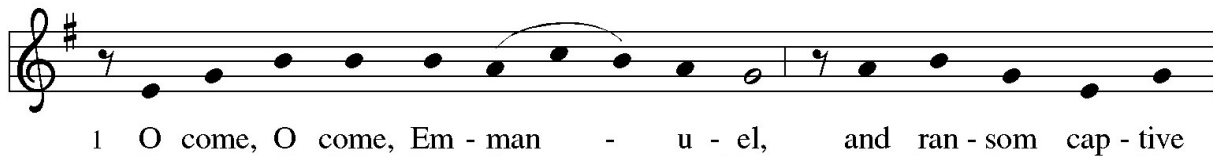
November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent
Messiah Lutheran Church, Amherst, NH

PRELUDE J. Abrams

WELCOME



YULE LOG ELW 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v. 1



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

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

All: Amen.

One: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

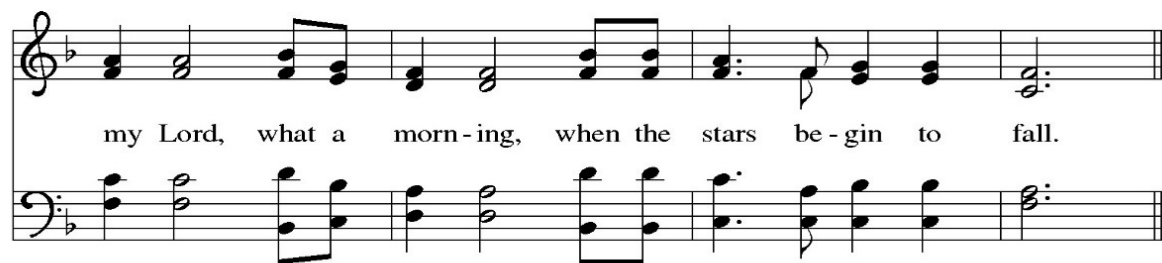
One: Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

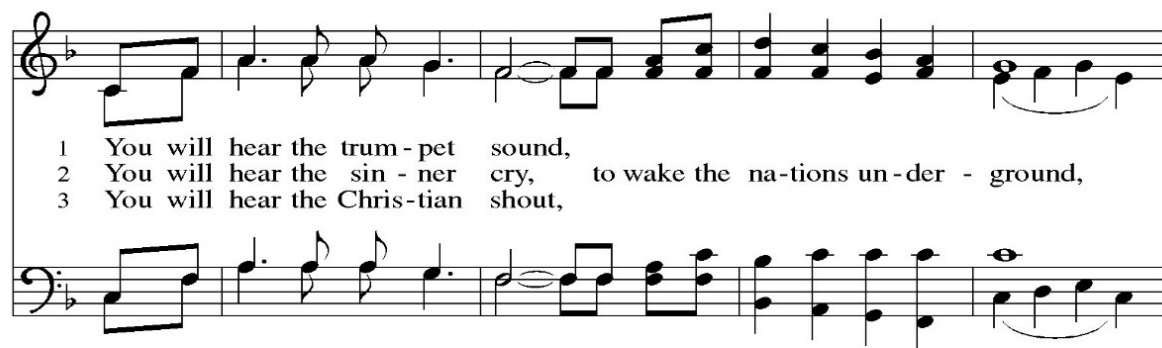
Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

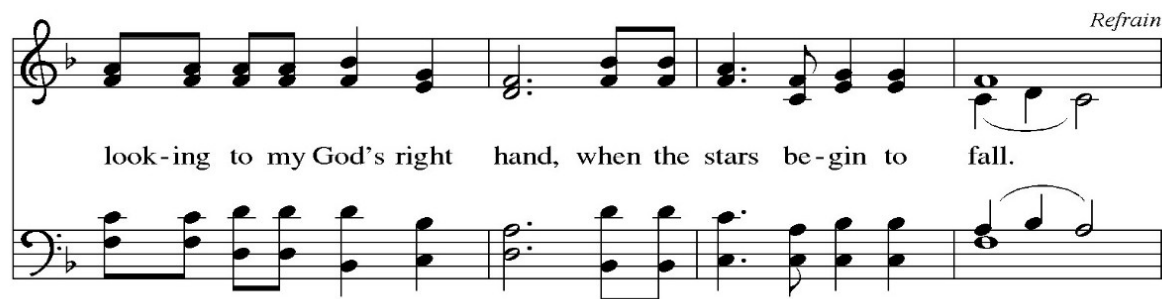


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
 2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

SALUTATION

*Presider:**Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Let us pray

a brief silence

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.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

One: A reading from Isaiah the 2nd chapter:

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!

Word of God, word of life.

All:

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY 122 (sung)

MLC Psalm tones by J. Abrams 2024

MLC Psalm Tone IV



One: ¹ I was glad when they | said to me,
"Let us go to the house | of the Lord."

All: ² **Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

One: ³ Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

All: ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord.**

One: ⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

All: ⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
"May they pros- | per who love you.**

One: ⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

All: ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

One: ⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God,
I will seek to | do you good."

SECOND LESSON

One: A reading from Romans the 13th chapter:

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

One: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

One: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.
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. 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."

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 949 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain

Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;

chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

CREED

One: Together we confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed:

All: 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 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.

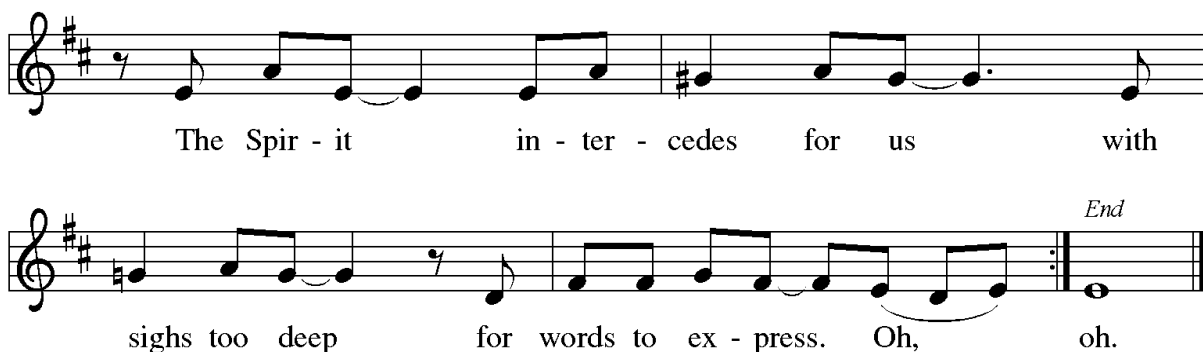
PRAYERS

One: Let us pray:

A brief silence.

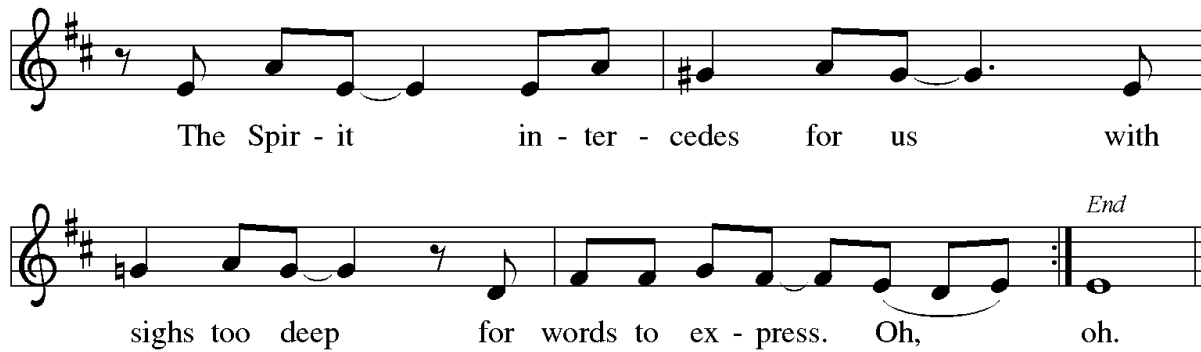
In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

... come Holy Spirit



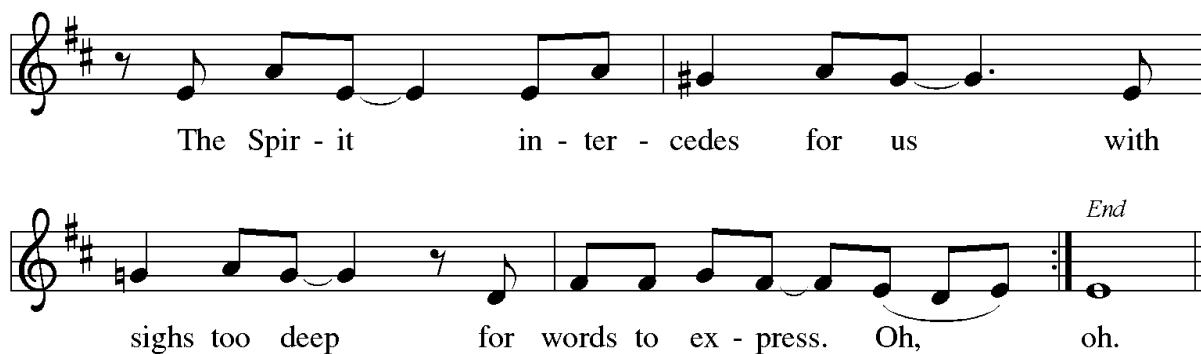
God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths.

... come Holy Spirit



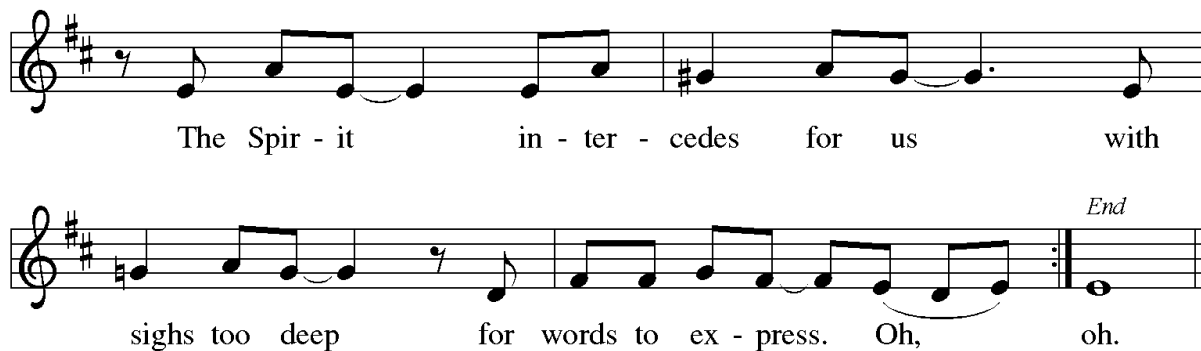
God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us.

... come Holy Spirit

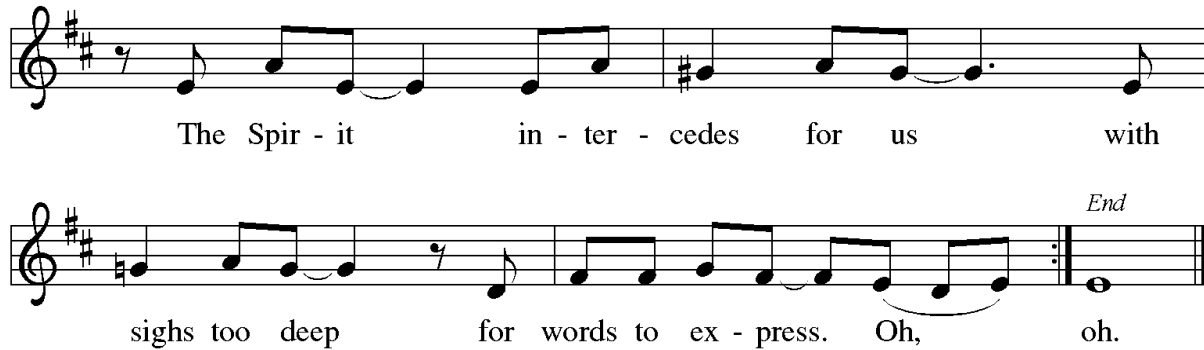


God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace.

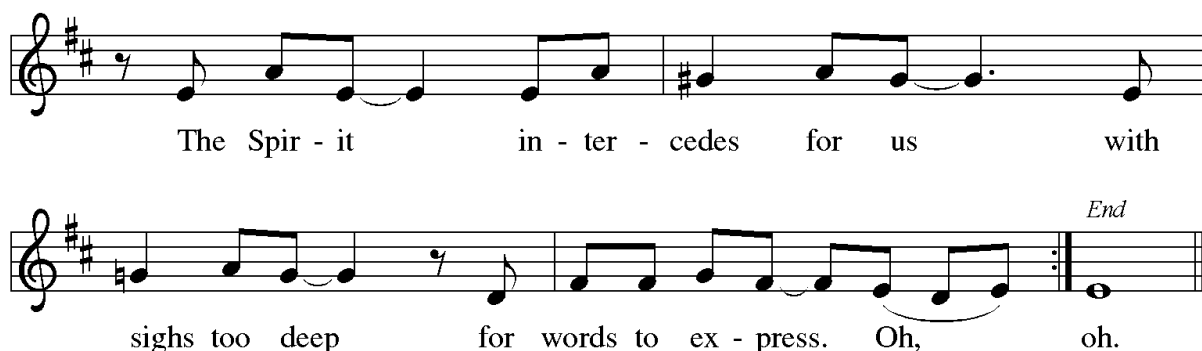
... come Holy Spirit



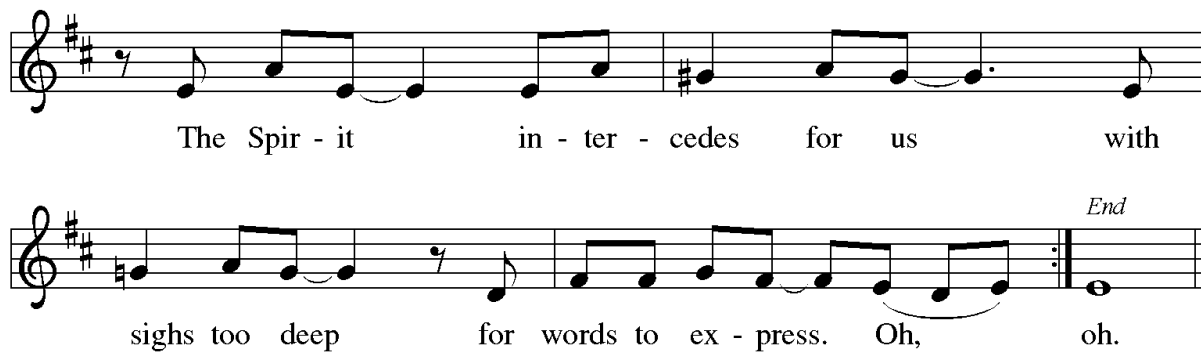
God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially*) Claudette Briere, Ed Costa, Norm and Polly Cote, Deloris Jay, Carol Clark, Elia Herlinda Soteldo Cuica, Kayann Laughlin, Terri and Mike Yensz, Timothy Alexander, The Wurst Family, Rev Bob Kocher, Carly Hoeni, Shelly Stama, Eric Ball, Connor McCaffrey, Marc Bouchard, Jeffery Lindenberg, Jim Bellig, Diane Hazel, Linnea Micciulla, Phil Stinnett, Susan Poutre, Krista Seckinger, Carly King and the Demello family. Surround all with care and consolation. ...come Holy Spirit



You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries including Share, bless the efforts of AMMPARO, the ELCA congregations of the New Hampshire conference, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Disaster Response, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire, Border Servant Corps, His mansion. ... come Holy Spirit

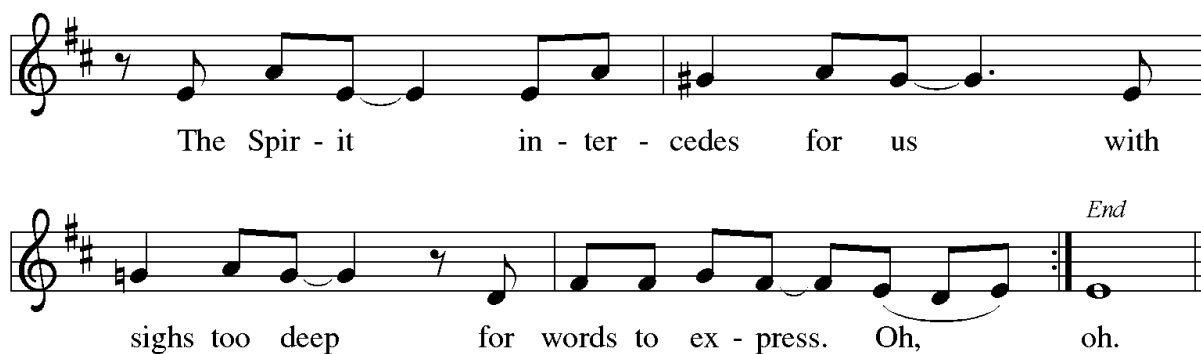


God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others.
... come Holy Spirit

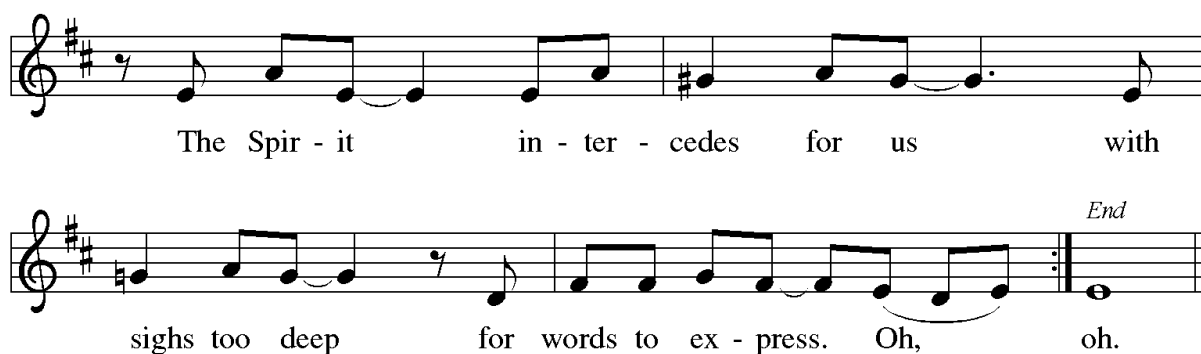


Here other intercessions may be offered.

...come Holy Spirit



God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (especially) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home.
... come Holy Spirit



Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

PEACE

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

OFFERING

AS THE GRAINS OF WHEAT

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

One: Let us pray:

Merciful God,

All: everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written for a Presider and a Congregation. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 God thanks and praise."

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with

Presider: you. *Congregation:* Lift up your hearts. We

Presider: lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION 1 (for use with other Eucharistic prayers)

Presider:

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will

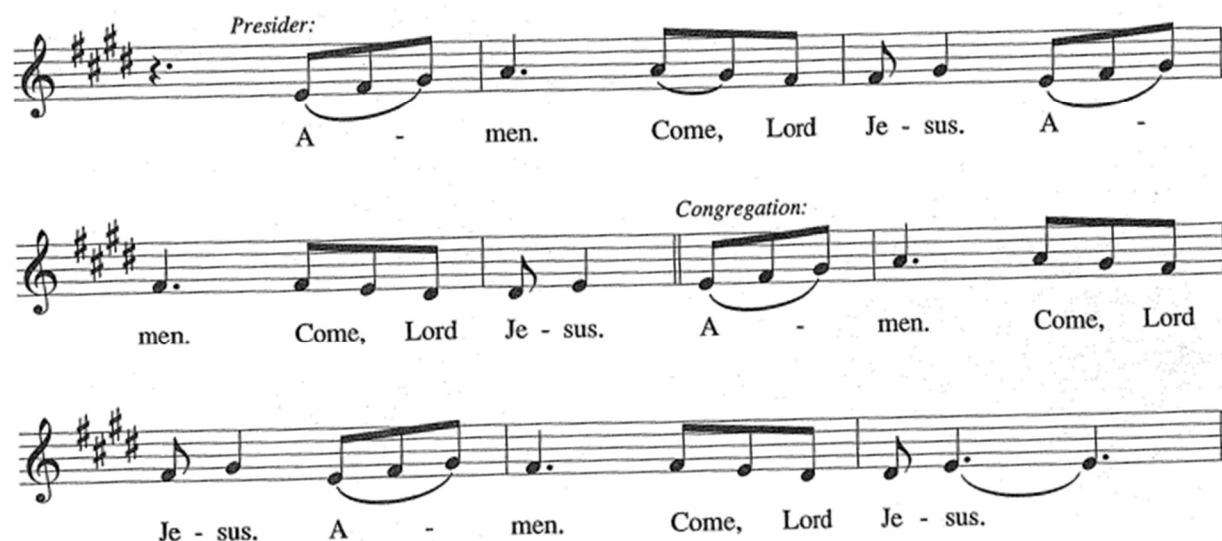
Congregation:

come, come a - gain. Christ has died. Christ is

ris - en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION 2

Presider:



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A -

Congregation:



men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord

Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATION 3

Presider:



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A -

Congregation:



men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly

Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

THROUGH CHRIST, WITH CHRIST, IN CHRIST

Congregation:

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is yours, O God, now and for ev - er. A - men.' The word 'Amen' is written below the final staff.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

One: Together we pray the prayer our Lord taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the
 * you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world:
 fear:
 peace:
 love:

have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,



mer - cy on us.

Final time Cong. or assistant:

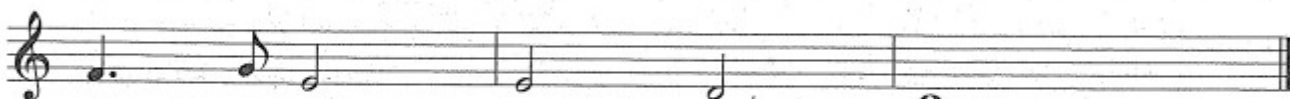
Lamb of God, you



Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world:

grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

**At the repeat, one or more of these verses may be sung, or one of the seasonal verses which follow.*

Advent: You give us hope as we wait for you:



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever

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After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words:

Presider: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and for ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

Morten J. Luvaas

Moderato

Lord, now let-test thou thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-

cord - ing to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy sal-

va - tion, Which thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of thy

peo - ple To be a light to all

(f) thou hast pre - pared be-fore thy peo-ple To be, to to

to be a light To all

gen - tiles

be a light and to be the glo-ry of thy peo-ple Is - ra - el.

ren - tiles

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

One: Receive a blessing from the Lord:

May God bless us and keep us.

May God's face shine on us and be gracious

May God look on us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 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: André Crouch, b. 1945
Music: André Crouch
Text and Music © 1976 Bad John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

VERY SOON
12 12 12 and refrain

One: Go in peace and serve the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE J. Abrams

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flame image on yule log Designed by macrovector_official / Freepik

LITURGY

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Karl Hester

Musician

Jon Abrams

**Now the
Feast and
Celebration**

Marty Haugen

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