



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

[www.duluthernan.org](http://www.duluthernan.org)

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## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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### WELCOME

We are glad that you have chosen to spend time with us in worship. In our worship, we gather, before Jesus, our Good Shepherd, to offer him our love and praise. Our Lord builds us up in faith through his Word and equips us for living now and in eternity. Our prayer is that the good news of Christ's love touches your heart and transforms your life. Whether you're worshipping with us here today or watching online, we are happy you have joined us.

### WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [P] are spoken by the pastor, and the parts marked [C] are to be spoken or sung by the congregation.

### FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Each service includes a children's message which teaches God's truth to your kids. Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For more announcements and event information visit the church website at [www.dulutheran.org/events](http://www.dulutheran.org/events) or sign up for our weekly email at [www.dulutheran.org/subscribe](http://www.dulutheran.org/subscribe). You can also view the church calendar at [www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar](http://www.dulutheran.org/church-calendar).*

**Thank You:** A big thanks to everyone who helped to decorate our space for the Christmas season!

**Christmas For Kids: Birthday Breakfast for Jesus:** Thank you to everyone who helped with yesterday's Birthday Breakfast for Jesus! We had a great turn-out and the kids had a lot of fun learning about and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

**Call Meeting:** We will be having our second call meeting on **Thursday, December 12th**, following the advent service. All are welcome to attend; childcare will be available.

**Senior Fellowship Luncheon:** Please join us for lunch on **Tuesday, December 10th at 11:30 am** at Vallentini's, 4960 Miller Trunk Highway. We will be meeting in their separate room. Contact Kathy Hedin 651-332-1374 to RSVP or if you have any questions


**Giving Tree for Women's Care Center:** We're collecting items for the Women's Care Center again this year. All are welcome to visit the Giving Tree and select an item to donate. We ask that all items be brought to church by **December 15th**. Please speak with Kim Kirkland if you have any questions.

**Preschool Christmas Program:** We are looking for volunteers to help support our Little Lambs by assisting with their upcoming Christmas Program on **Wednesday, December 18th at 6 p.m.** We are in need of food items, help with set-up, or assistance with clean-up after the event. Please scan the QR code to sign-up.




**Lunches for Called Workers/Preschool Staff:** Our Care Committee has been providing a monthly lunch to the preschool called workers and staff. They would like to invite the congregation to help with this by taking turns providing a 2nd monthly lunch! You can sign up for which month you'd like to provide lunch via the QR code. Questions? Speak with Diane Schlossin or any member of the Care Committee.






1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, A  
 2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; Get  
 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; The




call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
 arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, A high - way for our God! The  
 peo - ple The com - ing of their King. Like the  
 na - tions, And he shall right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, The lof - ty  
 flow'rs of the field they per - ish; Like grass their  
 feed his flock like a shep - herd, The lambs shall



hills brought low; Make straight all the crook - ed  
 works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of  
 gent - ly hold, To pas - tures of peace shall



pla - ces Where the Lord our God may go!  
 na - tions Shall pass like a dream a - way;  
 lead them, And bring them safe to his fold.

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SIN & GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

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- P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- P: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: **Amen.**

## RESPONSE OF FORGIVENESS

**“Oh, Taste and See”**

p. 39 in front of Hymnal

*Sing after a brief introduction...*

**Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.  
Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;  
It stands firm in the heav-ens.  
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.  
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless-ed are they who take ref-uge in him.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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- P: Let us pray. [*minister says the Prayer of the Day*]
- C: **Amen.**

## ✠ READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD ✠

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### FIRST READING

**Malachi 3:1-7b**

<sup>1</sup>“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup>and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty. <sup>6</sup>“I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7</sup>Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

## SECOND READING

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### Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God..

## VERSE OF THE DAY

pg. 40 in front of the Hymnal

*Sing after a brief introduction...*

**Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!**  
**These words are writ-ten that we may be-lieve**  
**that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!**

## GOSPEL READING

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### Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup>As In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracōnitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
<sup>6</sup>And all people will see God’s salvation.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children in attendance today may come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Warskow. This service segment is intended to be more interactive and engage the children to help them understand today's message. They will return to their seats afterward.

## HYMN

### "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

CW 16

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift

es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on

for he brings Good news a - bout the King of kings.  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
us to shine, And fill the world with love di - vine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

✠ THE MESSAGE ✠

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## Listen to a True Advent Preacher

Luke 3:1-6

### CONFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

(THE APOSTLES' CREED)

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I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his 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 into  
hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at  
the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully and freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to make a donation. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code here or visit our website: [www.duluthlutheran.org](http://www.duluthlutheran.org) and click on the "GIVE" tab.*

✠ PRAYERS ✠

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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.
- C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**
- P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature
- C: **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**
- P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.
- C: **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: **Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: **We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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**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.**

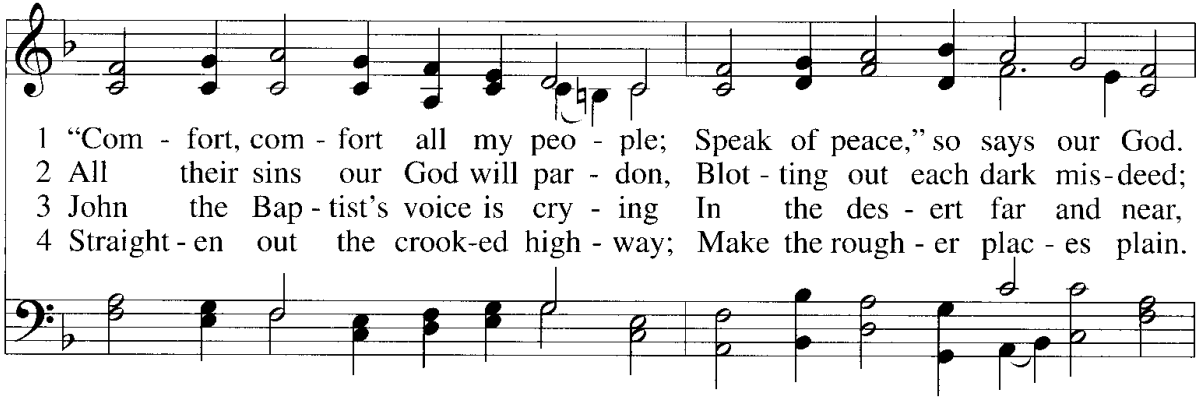
## HYMN

**"Comfort, Comfort All My People"**

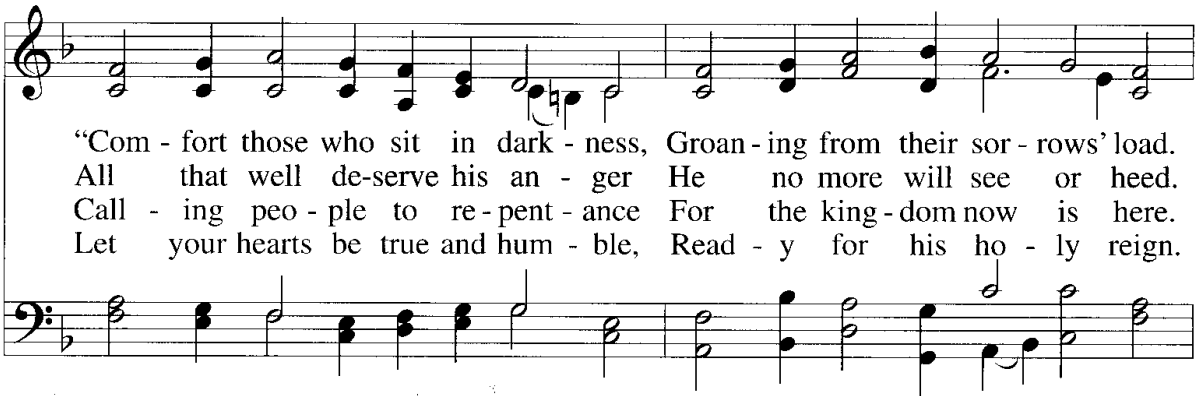
CW 11

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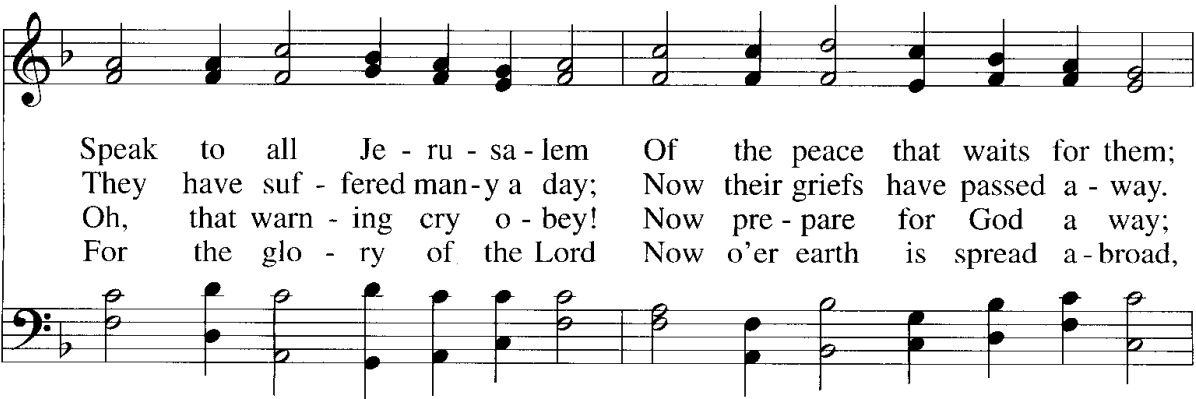




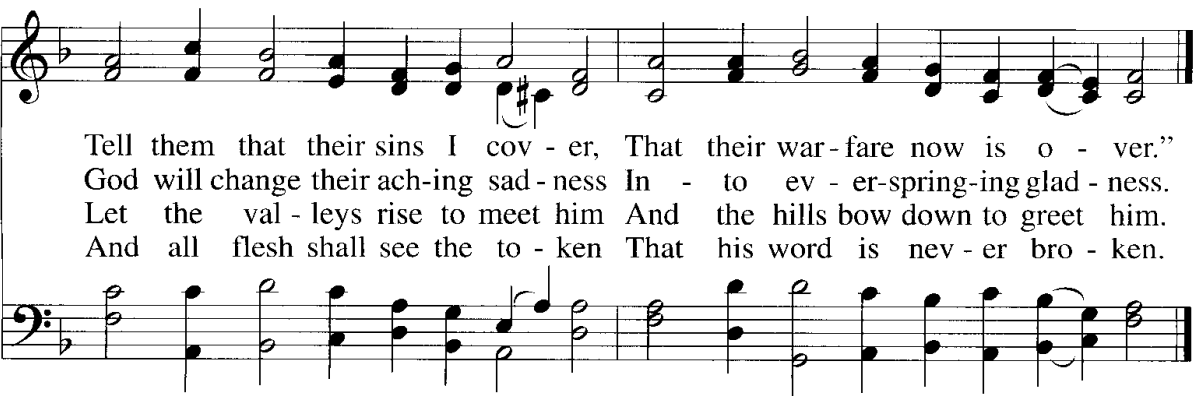
1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace," so says our God.  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;  
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,  
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load.  
 All that well de - serve his an - ger He no more will see or heed.  
 Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance For the king - dom now is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, Read - y for his ho - ly reign.



Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 They have suf - fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, That their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

## CLOSING PRAYER

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P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

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P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

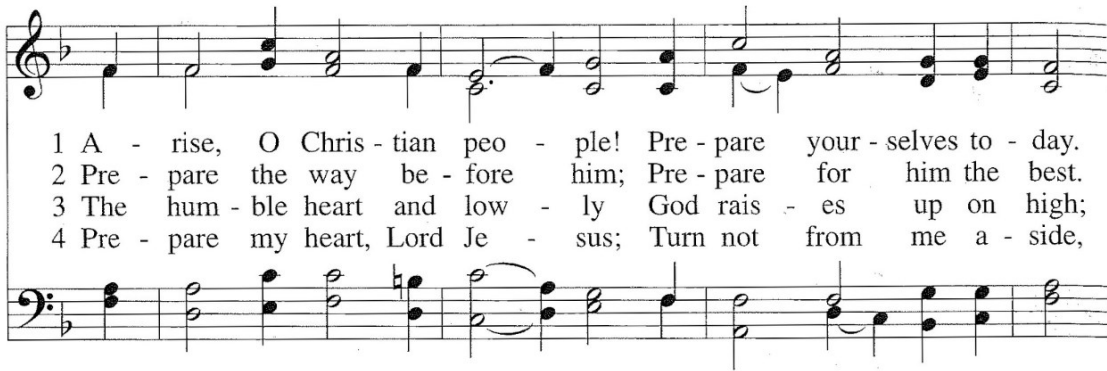
C: Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

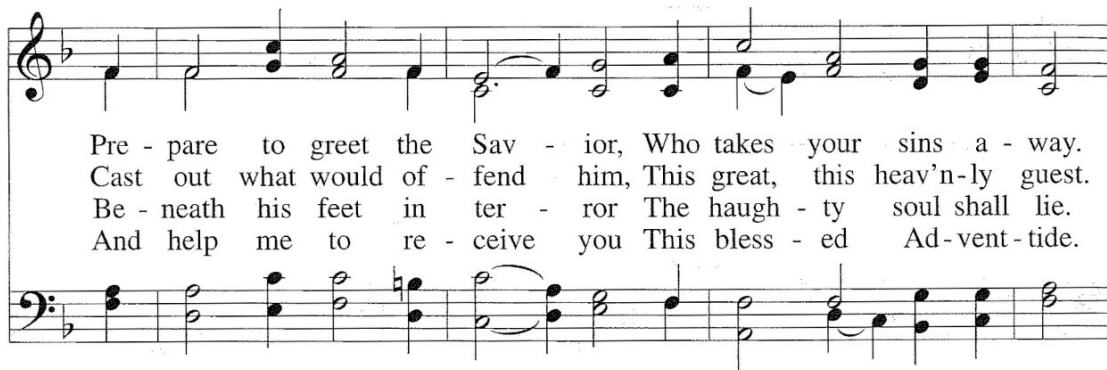
“Arise, O Christian People”

CW 14

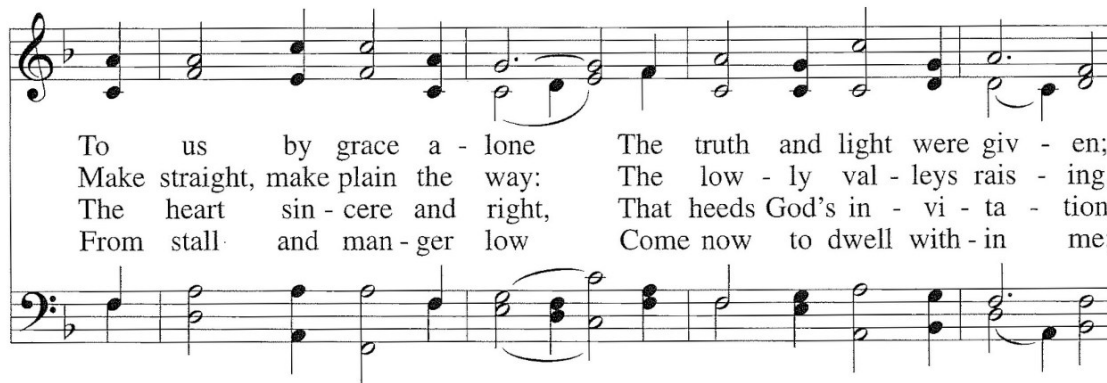
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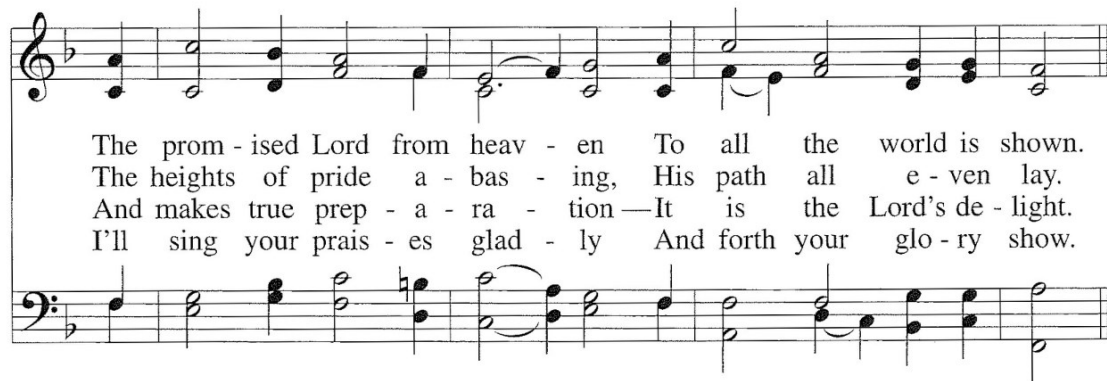
1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to - day.  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre - pare for him the best.  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on high;  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a - side,



Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way.  
 Cast out what would of - fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest.  
 Be - neath his feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie.  
 And help me to re - ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide.



To us by grace a - lone The truth and light were giv - en;  
 Make straight, make plain the way: The low - ly val - leys rais - ing,  
 The heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion  
 From stall and man - ger low Come now to dwell with - in me;



The prom - ised Lord from heav - en To all the world is shown.  
 The heights of pride a - bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
 And makes true prep - a - ra - tion—It is the Lord's de - light.  
 I'll sing your prais - es glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

