Lutheran Church of Hope
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Drawn together by God, Celebrating Grace, Serving All

November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent



Heaven Torn & Transformed

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

When the nights are long
and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.

When the work is demanding
and injustice unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.

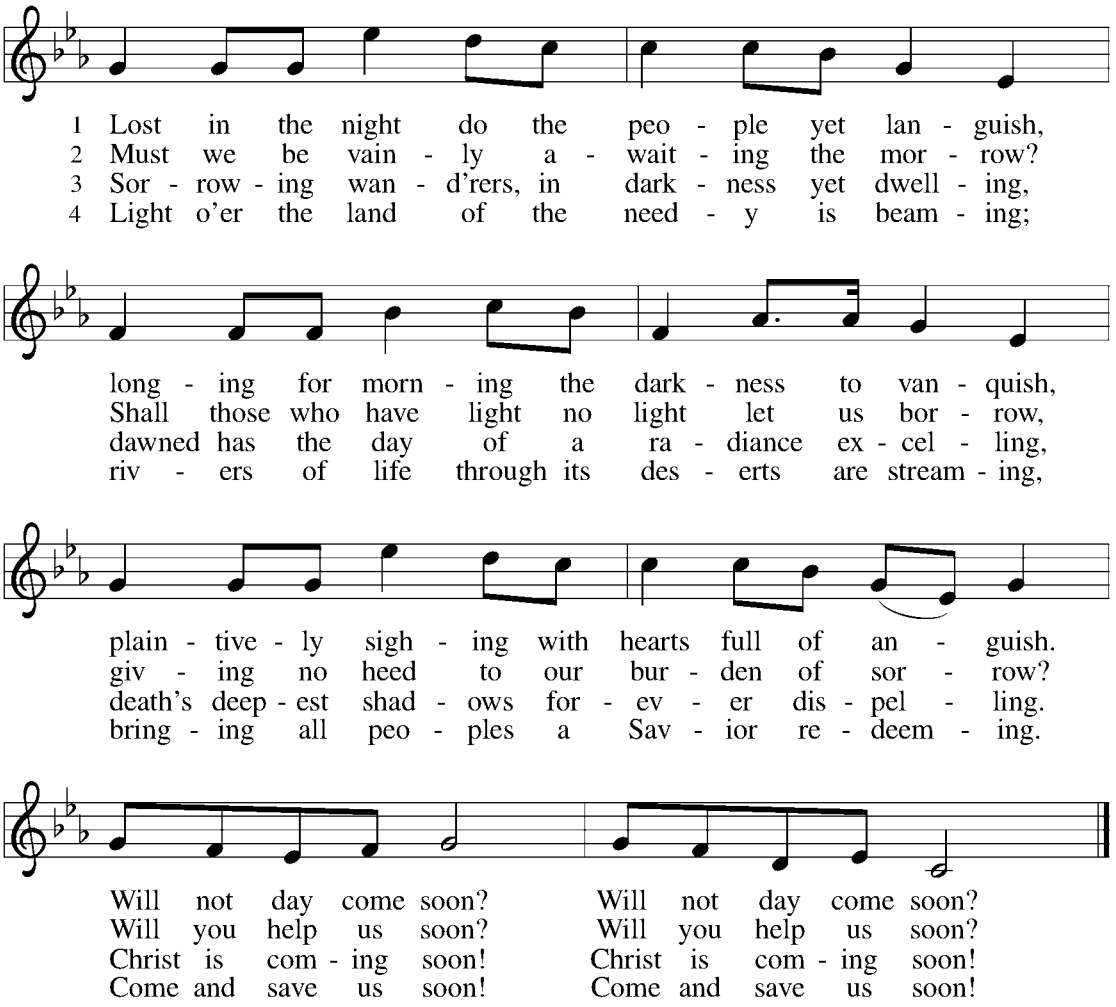
When fear looms large
and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.

And when the dawn of tomorrow
feels far away,
we gather together to light the candle of hope.

Like the stars above,
may this light shine bright.
May it guide our path.
May it inspire deeper hope.

Until God's promised day,
may it be so. **Amen.**

Lost in the Night



Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859–1943, alt.
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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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.

Children's Message

Scripture — Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as 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!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From 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.
5 You 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.
6 We 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.
7 There 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.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Scripture — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

Gospel — Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] 24 “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and 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. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

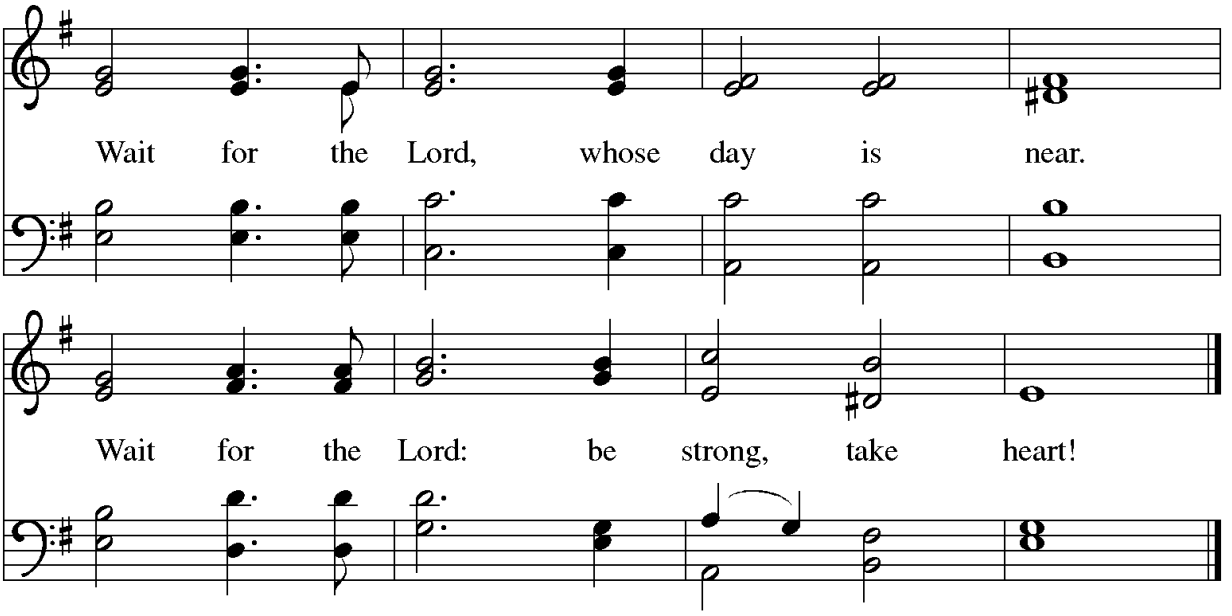
28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven 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. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It 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. 35 Therefore, 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, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

Sermon "Until the dawn....cry out." Pastor Liz Lowry

Wait for the Lord



Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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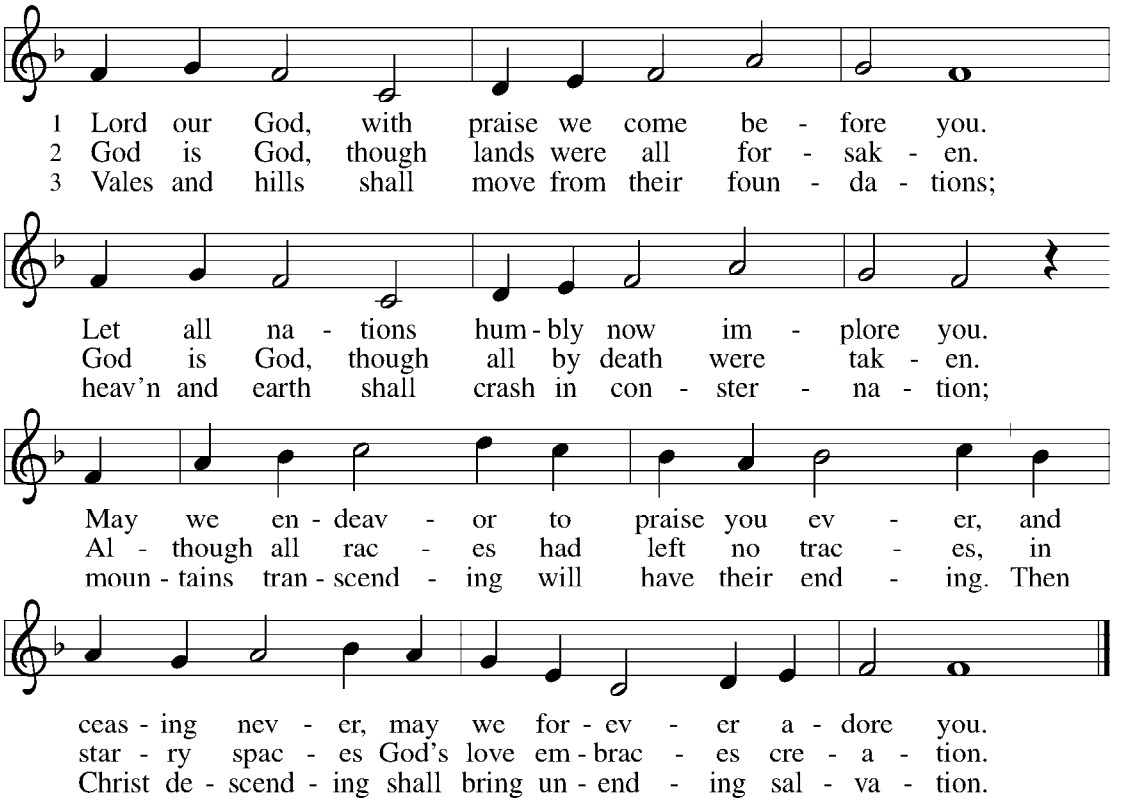
Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Praise Song **ELW 730**

Lord our God, with Praise We Come



Text: Petter Dass, 1647–1707; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959, alt.
Music: ROMEDAL, Norwegian traditional
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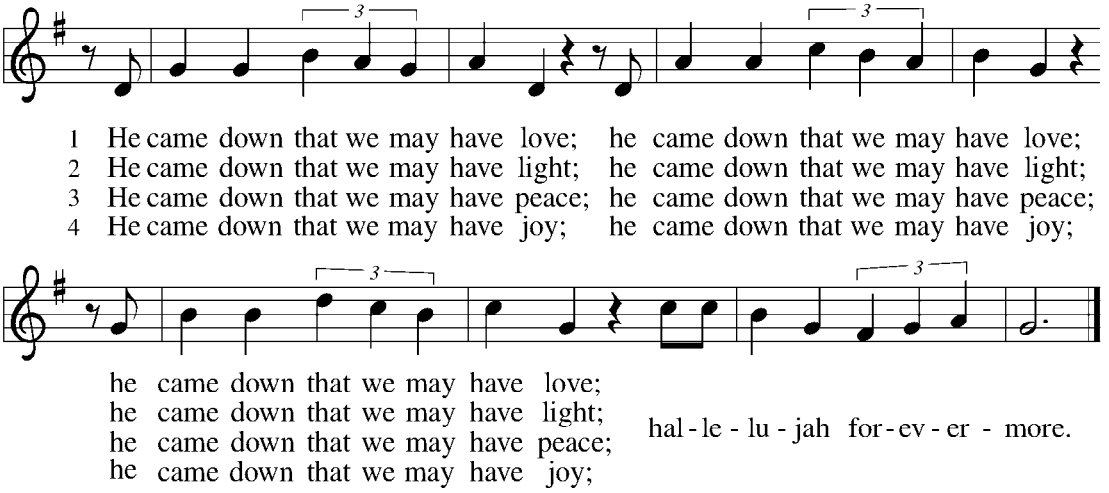
Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering

The offerings received by this congregation support this church and local ministries in Anchorage. Checks can be made out to "Lutheran Church of Hope." You may also use the iPad at the entrance to the sanctuary to make a secure donation via Square or scan the QR code in the insert to donate via Tithe.ly.

He Came Down



Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: IIE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts; shape them and our lives for your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

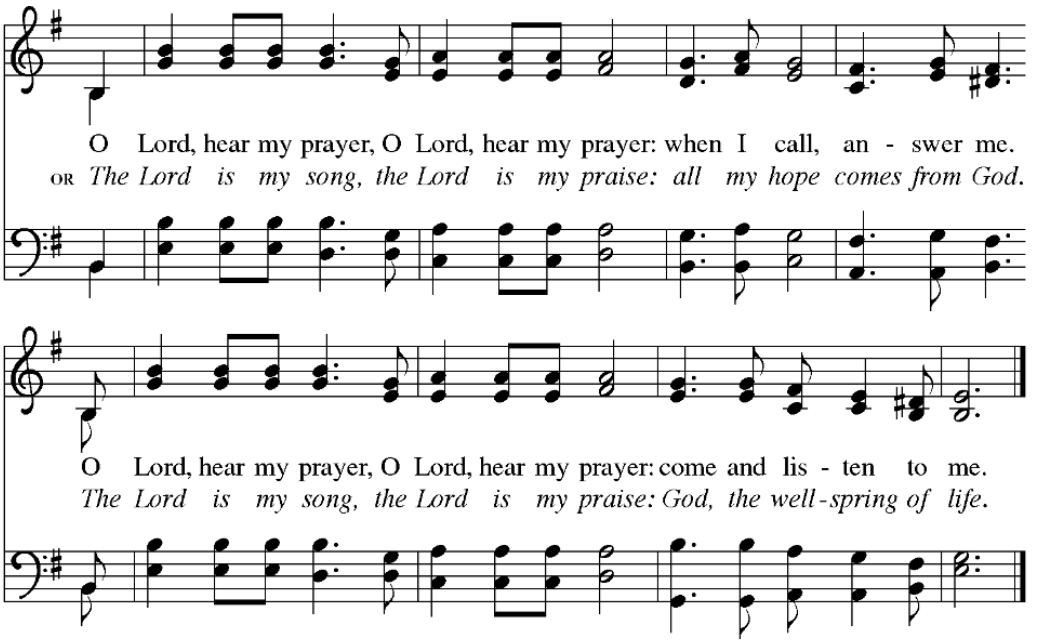
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymns

ELW 751

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
The Lord Is My Song



Text: Psalm 102:1–2; Taizé Community, adapt.
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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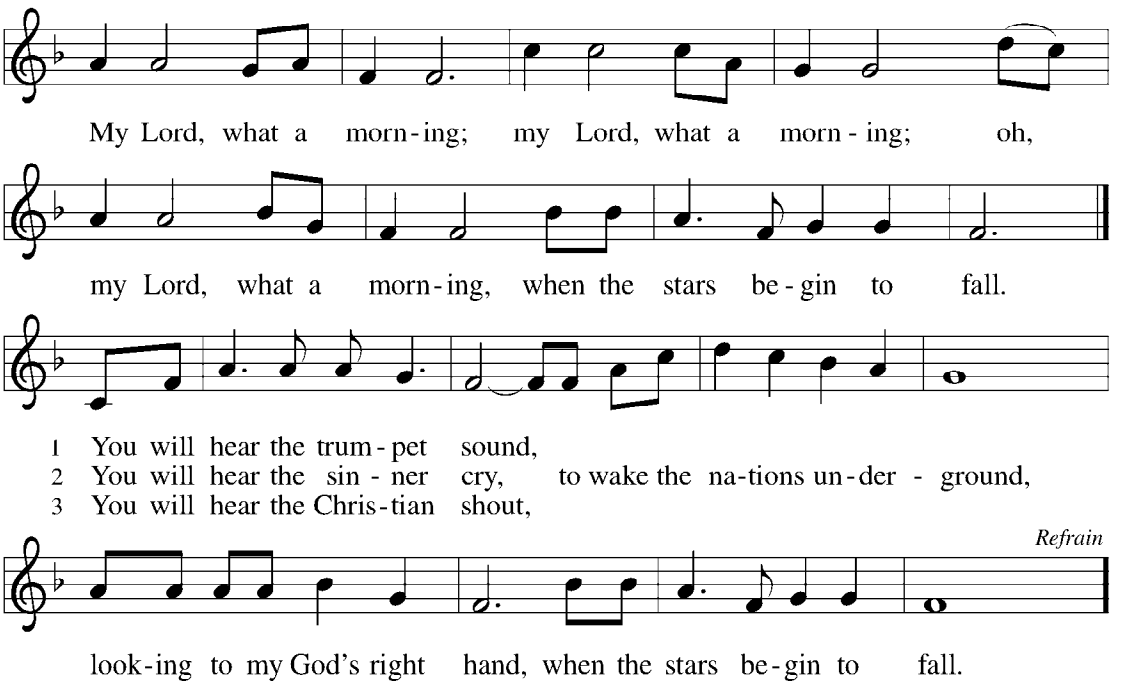
ELW 438

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain



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

Post Communion Prayer

Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence
in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Announcements

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

Charge & Benediction

As you leave this place,
may you speak the truth in love,
may you hold fast to courage,
may you be quick to joy,
may you listen for the angels,
and may you build each other up,
until we reach God's promised day—
when the lion will lie down with the lamb
and the sun will rise over all of us.
So look toward the horizon,
and go with hope.

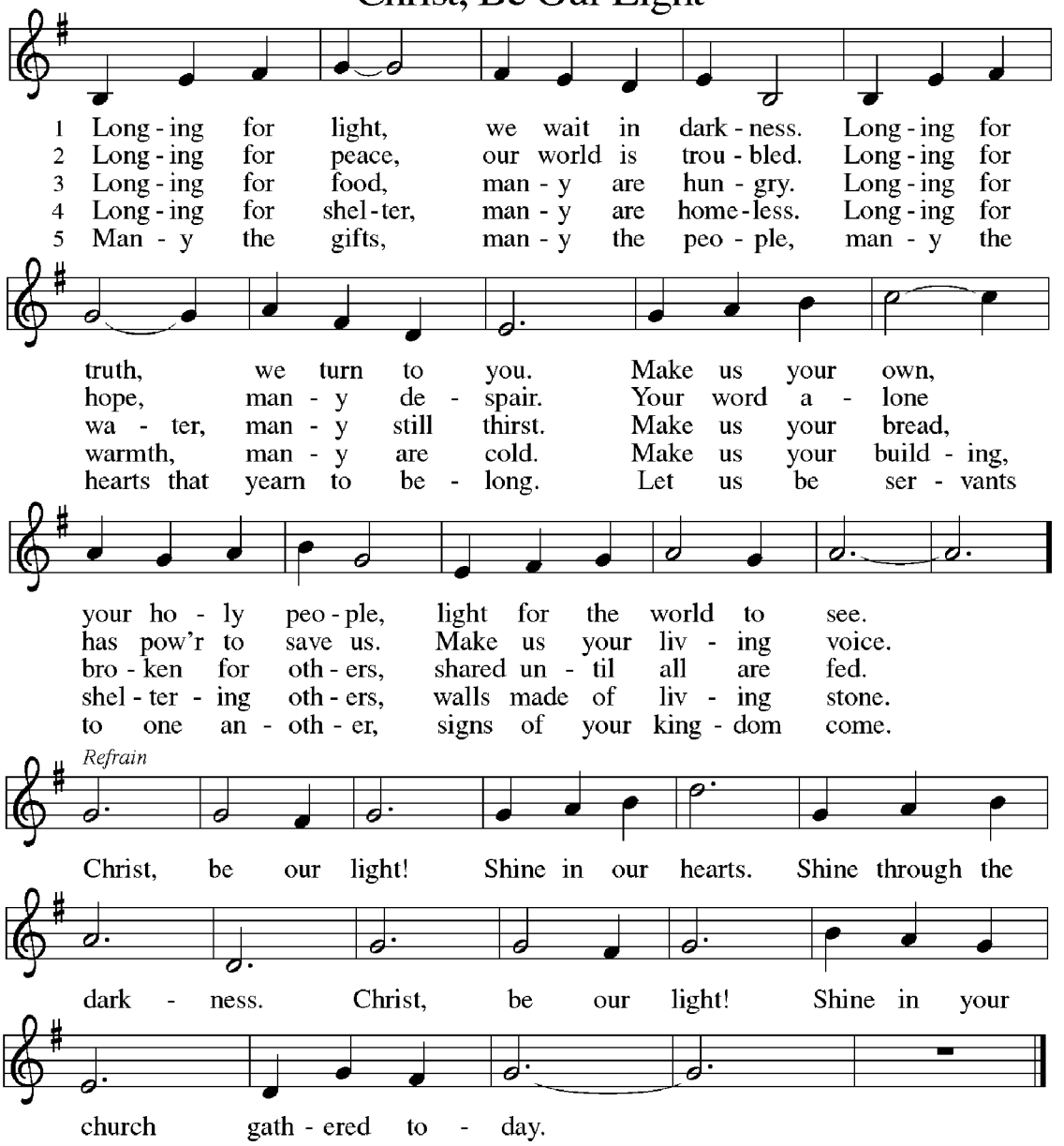
Almighty, God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song *(next page)* **ELW 715**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
Thanks be to God.

Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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