The Evangelical Lutheran
Church of the Good Shepherd
Vespers Evening Prayer
December 2, 2026
7:00 p.m.

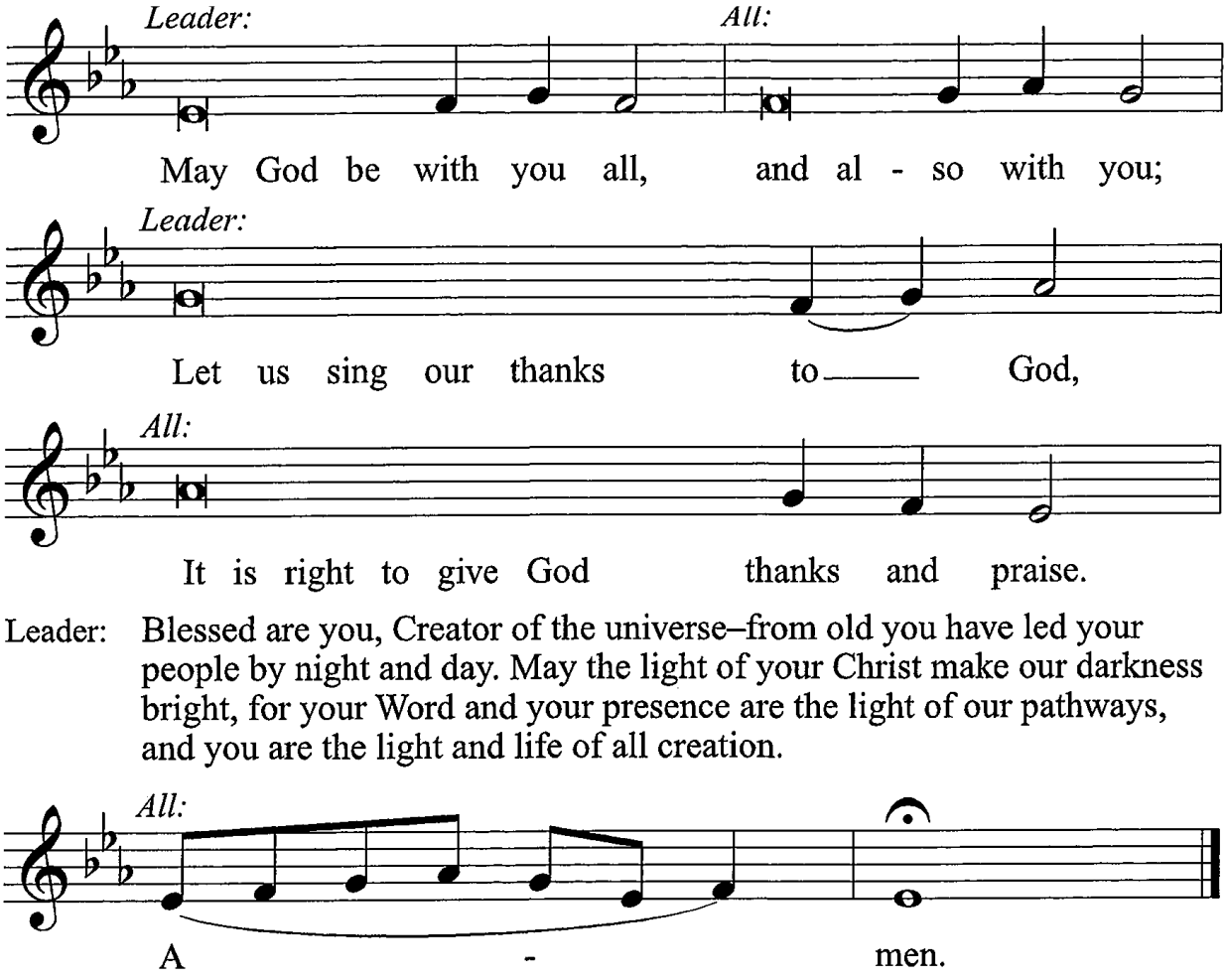
Procession



Evening Hymn



Evening Thanksgiving



Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe–from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

Psalmody, Readings, and Canticles — Psalm 141

All may sing with either group.


All:
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
fore you, the lift - ing up of my
hands as an of - fer - ing to you.
Leader or Group One:
O God, I call to you, come to me
All or Group Two:
O God, I
now; O hear my voice when I
call to you, come to me now; O
cry to you. Let my prayer rise
hear my voice when I cry to you.


up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an
you. Keep watch with - in me, God;
of - fer - ing to you. Keep
deep in my heart may the light of your love be
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the
burn - ing bright. Let my prayer rise
light of your love be burn - ing bright.


up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to
fore you, the lift - ing up of my hands as an
you. All praise to the God of all– Cre -
of - fer - ing to you. All
a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the
praise to the God of all– Cre - a - tor of life; all
Spir - it of love. Let my prayer rise
praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.



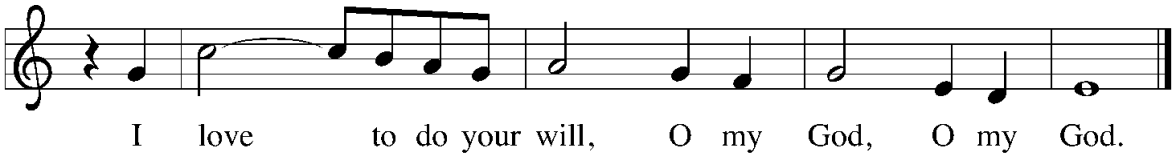
P May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

C Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11

The refrain will be sung by the cantor/choir and repeated by the assembly. The Psalm is sung antiphonally with congregation singing verses in bold. The refrain is then repeated as indicated R.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm Tone



[1] I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.
[2] **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,**
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.
[3] The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.
[4] **Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!**
They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies. R

[5] Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be com- | pared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I can count.
[6] **Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;**
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required. R

[7] And so I said, "Here I | am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:
[8] **'I love to do your will, | O my God;**
your law is | deep within me.' "
[9] I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.
[10] **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;**
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.
[11] You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe. **R**

Psalm Prayer

P O God, none can compare with you; your wondrous deeds for our salvation are without number. Make us bold witnesses to your faithfulness, that all the earth may rejoice in your love toward us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn **ELW 245**

Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

1 Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you hear us when we call.

2 When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blessed mother mild.

3 At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.

4 Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.

5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Reading **Isaiah 40:1-5**

P A reading from Isaiah

1 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

P Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

P The Light shines in the darkness.

C and the darkness has not overcome it.

P An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

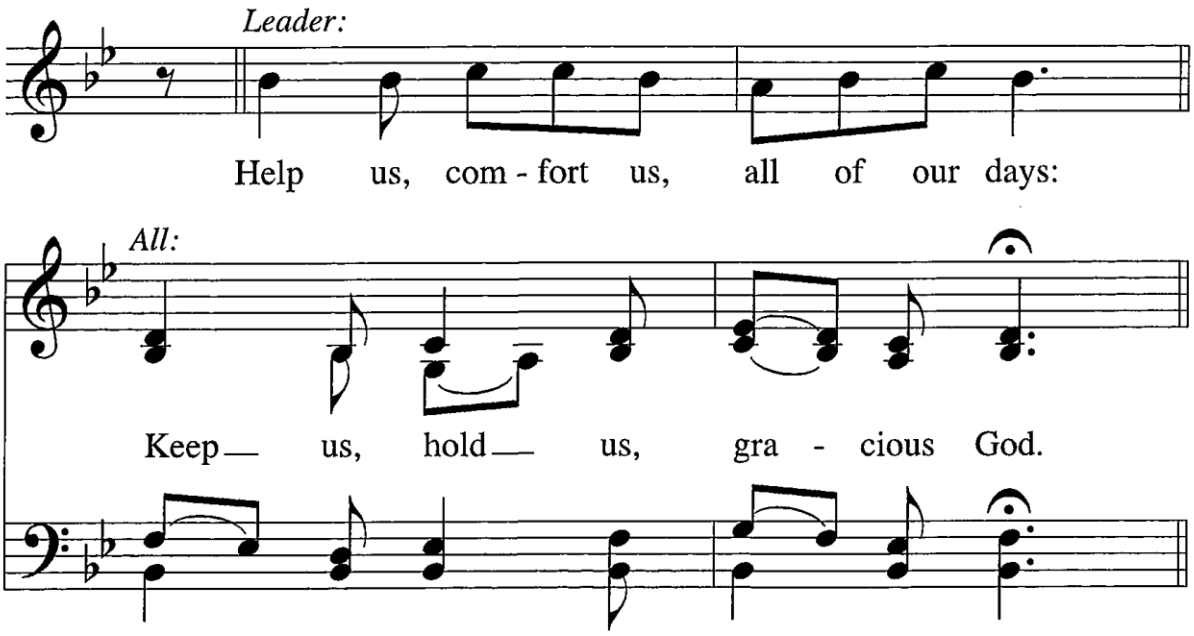
The Magnificat **Luke 1:46-55**



Litany and Prayers



3. For peace be-tween na - tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos - pel:
6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus - tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la - bor in ser-vice to oth - ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour - ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan - ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer - cy:



P Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray

C 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.

Final Blessing



The assembly may depart in peace.

Serving God's People
At The Liturgies

Preaching and Presiding	Father James E. Lease Ecumenical Officer for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg and Pastor at St. Katharine Drexel Church in Mechanicsburg
Pianist	Nicholas P. Werner

The Parish Staff

Kathleen J. Baker, STM, pastor	Kester T. Sobers III, Pastor Emeritus
Nicholas P. Werner, Director of Music	Herbert O. Fowler, Cantor Emeritus
Carol J. Thai, Church Administrator	

The Church Office is open
Monday through Thursday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Phone: (717) 564-0385
Email: goodshepherdpaxtang@gmail.com
Web Site: www.goodshepherdpaxtang.com

Pastor Baker can be reached at home at (717) 213-9443
and by email at goodshepherdpastor@gmail.com

Make Ready for Holy Disruption:
A Contemplative Advent Midweek Series
Overview

Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the manger, and we also await Christ's coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by "getting ready": planning, organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ's arrival disrupts—disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
3700 Rutherford Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111
www.goodshepherdpaxtang.com

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.