

*As a community following Christ,
we LOVE with an open heart,
GROW with a curious mind,
and SHARE with a generous spirit.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

- *Please turn off all cell phones.*
- *If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome and invite your questions and comments.*
- *Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your convenience.*
- *Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.*
- *Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.*

In the order of service, the words
that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Sunday, December 21, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to gather around the baptismal font.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptism of Owen Taji Shephard.
Son of Eric and Janet Shephard.

Baptismal sponsors: Curt Iffrig and Anna Morris Iffrig.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Curt and Anna

We present Owen Taji Shephard for baptism.

Eric and Janet, called by the Holy Spirit,
trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have Owen baptized into Christ?

Eric and Janet

We do.

As you bring Owen to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that Owen may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Owen grow in the Christian faith and life?

Eric and Janet

We do.

Curt and Anna, do you promise to nurture Owen in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Curt and Anna

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Owen and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you, as a community following Christ, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce all evil, every force that undermines the love of God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the abusive powers of this world, the structures of inequality, and the forces that threaten God's beloved creation?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce your own participation with these powers, your own actions and inactions that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

We give our thanks for the waters of life that surround us and nourish the earth: for the water of the Puyallup River; for Wapato, Hylebos and Clarks creeks; for Lake Tapps and the Puget Sound. We rejoice in the groundwater throughout the Pacific Northwest that fulfills our thirst. Through the watershed we live in, remind us of your gifts of life.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

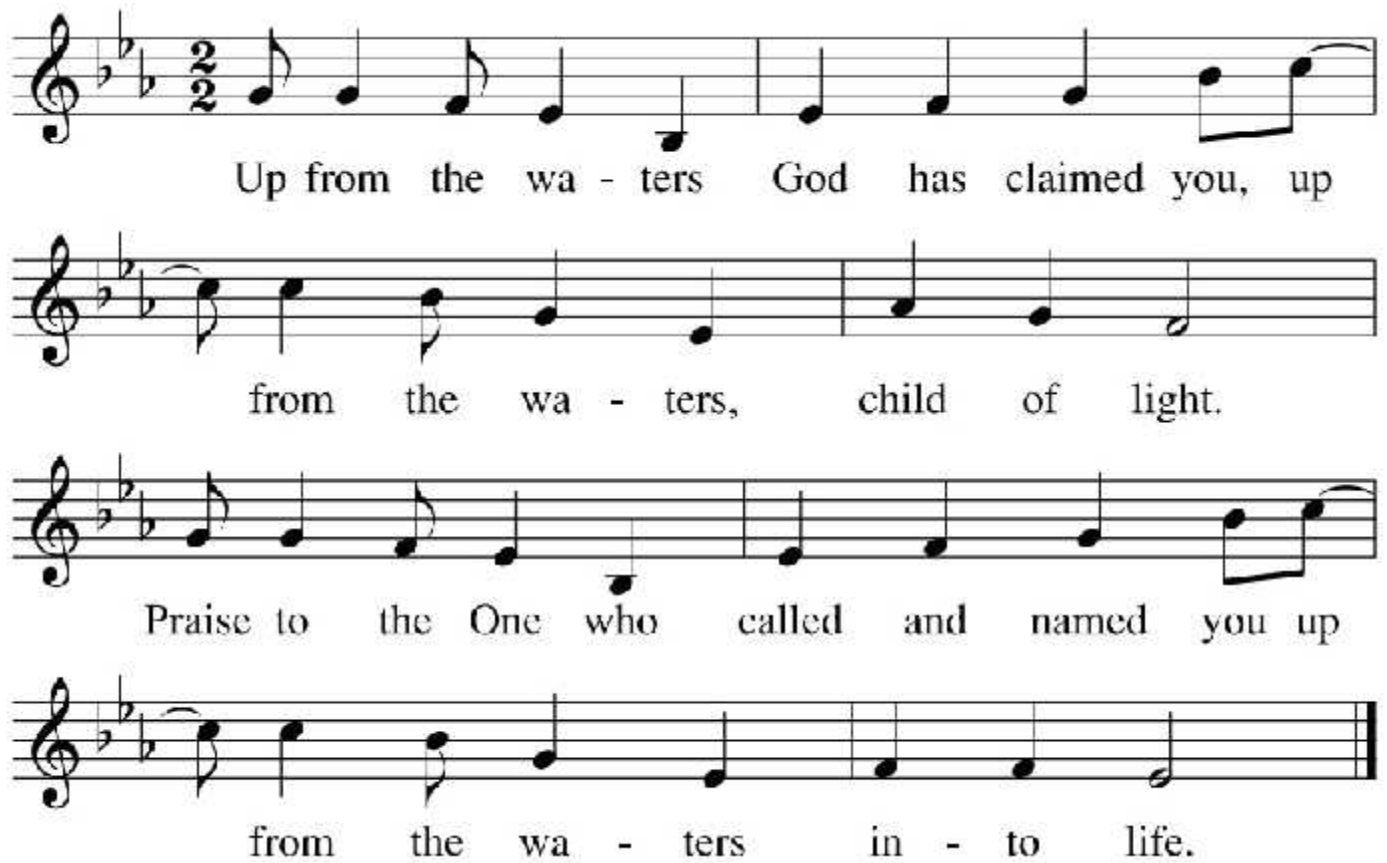
Amen.

BAPTISM

Owen Taji Shephard,
I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Congregation sings twice:



Up from the wa - ters God has claimed you, up
from the wa - ters, child of light.
Praise to the One who called and named you up
from the wa - ters in - to life.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Owen with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Owen Taji Shephard, child of God, you have been sealed
by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

WELCOME

Let us welcome Owen.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we
share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing
God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

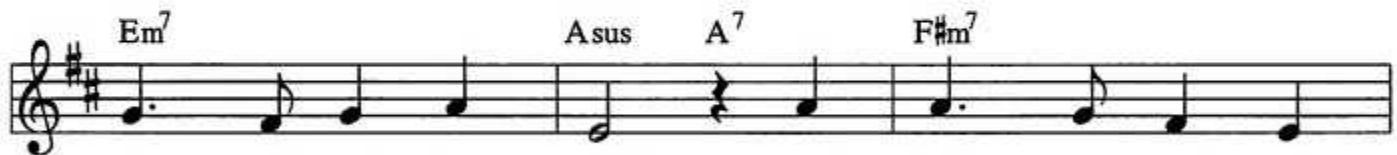
The congregation returns to their seats.

GATHERING HYMN • "A STORY FOR ALL PEOPLE"

Worship & Praise 2



1 As peo - ple wait in dark - ness, in
2 We come in - to your pres - ence, in
3 A time of prep - a - ra - tion: the
4 You call us to re - pen - tance, to
5 Re - newed by this en - coun - ter, we'll



fear of end - less night, send forth your word of
hope and joy re - stored. With ea - ger hearts we
guest is draw - ing near, as moun - tain plac - es
turn and start a - gain. You send your Ho - ly
go out and pro - claim. We'll tell of your sal -



com - fort, a mes - sage of great light. The
lis - ten, and gath - er 'round your word. We
crum - ble and straight - ened paths ap - pear. Pre -
Spir - it to drown the pow'r of sin. We
va - tion, and mag - ni - fy your name. The



world stands proud be - fore you, con - flict - ed, hun - gry,
watch and wait your com - ing, and pray for great - er
pare a hum - ble wel - come in ev - 'ry heart and
won - der in your mer - cy, your sing - ing fes - tal
ser - vant words of Mar - y will swell the faith - ful

A⁷_{sus} A⁷ G F# Bm F#m/A Bm

poor. Come, scat - ter pride and fool - ish - ness, and
 trust, to know that while we wait for you, Em -
 home, and cel - e - brate the prom - ise of our
 voice; and in your meal of bread and wine we
 soul, and you will bring your chil - dren home that

Em F#m⁷ G A G/D

mend all souls with Sav - ior love once more.
 man - u - el, you watch and wait with us.
 God who is, and was, and is to come.
 join the in - vi - ta - tion to re - joice!
 day when all cre - a - tion will be whole.

Refrain
D G A/G F#m⁷ B Em A

A sto - ry for all peo - ple, old sto - ry new to -

Am⁶/C B⁷ Em A F#m⁷ Bm

day. A song of love and heal - ing, a

Em F#m Em/G A⁷ G/D D

light to show the way.

GREETING

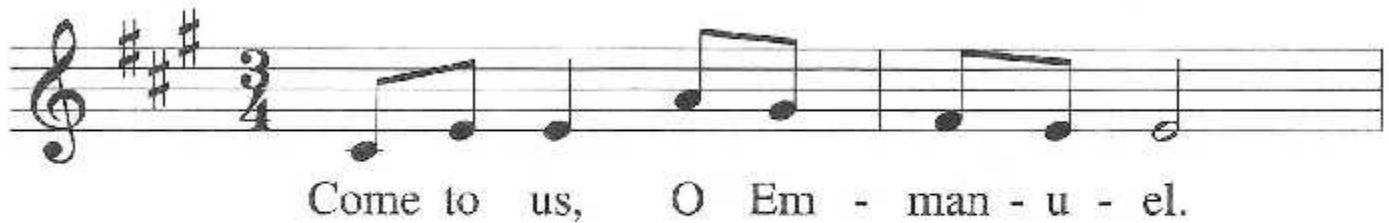
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Sit.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING • "COME TO US"

Gift of God



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Four candles on the Advent wreath are lit.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

In your Son, Emmanuel,
you have shown us your light
and saved us from the power of sin.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Increase our longing for your presence,
that at the celebration of your Son's birth
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

A brief pause for silence.

Let us pray.

Eternal God of power and grace,
who comes to us in surprising ways—
in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies,
and in resurrection from the dead—
show us the face of Emmanuel in our time.

Bring us from fear to awe, we pray;
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION • “MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS”

Hymnal Supplement 1991 724

Refrain



GOSPEL

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON + SERMON

Stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY • "NO WIND AT THE WINDOW"

All Creation Sings 906



1 No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door;
2 "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, don't hide from my face.
3 This child must be born that the king - dom might come:
4 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made;



no light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace.
sal - va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some;
no wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played.



no dream born of tired - ness, no ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun,
both end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess,



just an an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
and . . . you are re - quest - ed to . . . moth - er God's Son."
both . . . vic - tor and . . . vic - tim, both . . . yours and di - vine.
re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell . . . God I say yes."

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

At the conclusion of each petition:

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All that we have is the Lord's.

All that we may become and receive is in God's hands.

For the sake of the joy that is ours
when our bonds grow deep with other,
let us give generously for the well-being of the world.

You can participate in the Offering electronically
by scanning the QR code and filling out the online form.



OFFERING

"Carol for Advent" • by Don Besig

Joan Kohler, flute; Debbie Hushagen, keyboard; Amy Boers, piano

OFFERTORY RESPONSE • "GOD OF JUSTICE EVER FLOWING"

Sing! A New Creation 101



Some may cel - e-brate with pres-ents; some may greet the day through tears.



Still in all, your ho - ly pres-ence glad - dens hearts, casts out our fears.



Teach us how to live more sim - ply, that we all may sim - ply live,



car - ing for the poor and lone - ly, in Christ's name our love to give.

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

**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.**

COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION

We are here because Jesus has called us—
strangers and friends, locals and visitors,
believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table where, in bread and wine,
he meets us and through him, we are joined to each other.

So come,
not because you understand,
but because you are understood.

Come,
not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.

Come,
not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please
let your server know.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an
usher know and you will be served where you are seated.

LAMB OF GOD

With One Voice, Light of Christ

© Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG • "CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT"

Andrew Bruhn

MVLC Choir

COMMUNION HYMN • "COME NOW, O GOD"

All Creation Sings 902



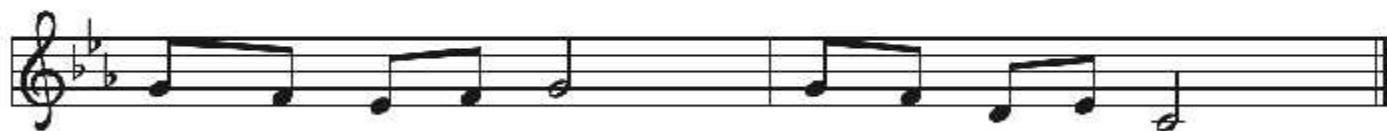
- 1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
- 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
- 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

COMMUNION HYMN • "ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 266



1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

COMMUNION HYMN • "PEOPLE, LOOK EAST"

With One Voice 626



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

**Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.**

Amen.

DEACON SENDING

Deacons are called to “make Christ
and his redemptive love known by word and example.” (1 Timothy)

Such love is expressed in the extension of Holy Communion
to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Gracious God,

**as Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her
son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament
with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In
your love and care, nourish those to whom we bring this
communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we
may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Bless the Lord with all your soul,
and may the blessing of God be with you.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • "JOY TO THE WORLD"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

SENDING

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

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Worship leaders include:

PREACHER: Pastor Eric Bostrom.

PRESIDERS: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Deacon Traci Vatne.

ASSISTING MINISTER: David Cowan.

DIRECTOR of MUSIC: Amy Boers.

VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.

ALTAR GUILD: Flora Larson, Janet Larson, Diane Nelson, Karen Slavens.

USHERS: Skip Harrison (head usher), Diane Nelson, Ryan Riley, Michelle Schwei Kl.

GREETERS: Tom Fairchild, Deborah VanderLey.

LECTOR: Marlene Wright.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Janice Harrison, Charlotte Thompson.

SOUND: Beth Ann Johnson.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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