

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.**

For music, the words in regular type are sung by all,  
unless otherwise noted.

The Lord has brought down  
the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry  
with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

**MAGNIFICAT**  
**Luke 1:52-53**

# Prelude

*“Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth” • Richard Shephard*  
*MVLC Virtual Choir, vocals; Ellen Leapaldt and Joan Kohler, flutes*

## Welcome / Announcements

# Confession

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,  
when we ignore the mighty things you have done,  
**forgive us, O God.**

When we doubt your mercy,  
when we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,  
**forgive us, O God.**

When our power rests on the oppression of others,  
when our wealth causes others to go hungry,  
**forgive us, O God.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made.

# Absolution

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled.  
God forgives us and does not forget us.  
God's mercy extends from generation to generation.  
Oh how our souls rejoice in God!  
**Amen.**

# Opening Hymn • “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 264



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

# 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.**

# Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God,  
to prepare the way of your only Son.

By his coming strengthen us  
to serve you with purified lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Advent Wreath Reading based upon "The Magnificat"

Blessed are you, God of hope, for your promise  
to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse  
who will bring justice to the poor,  
who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor,  
who will be a sign of hope for all people everywhere.

As we light these two candles, turn our hearts to Mary's song,  
and our wills to bear the fruit of repentance.

Transform our hearts to live in justice  
and harmony with one another,  
and fix our eyes of this Child of Mary, Jesus Christ.

O people of heartache and hope, come,  
**rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord! Amen.**



# Reading Response • "Canticle of the Turning"

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 723*



2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .



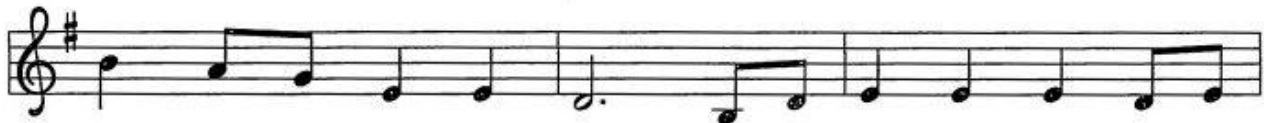
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the



depths of the past to the end of the age to be.



Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to



those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the



strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.



*Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# First Reading

A reading from Isaiah.

## Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

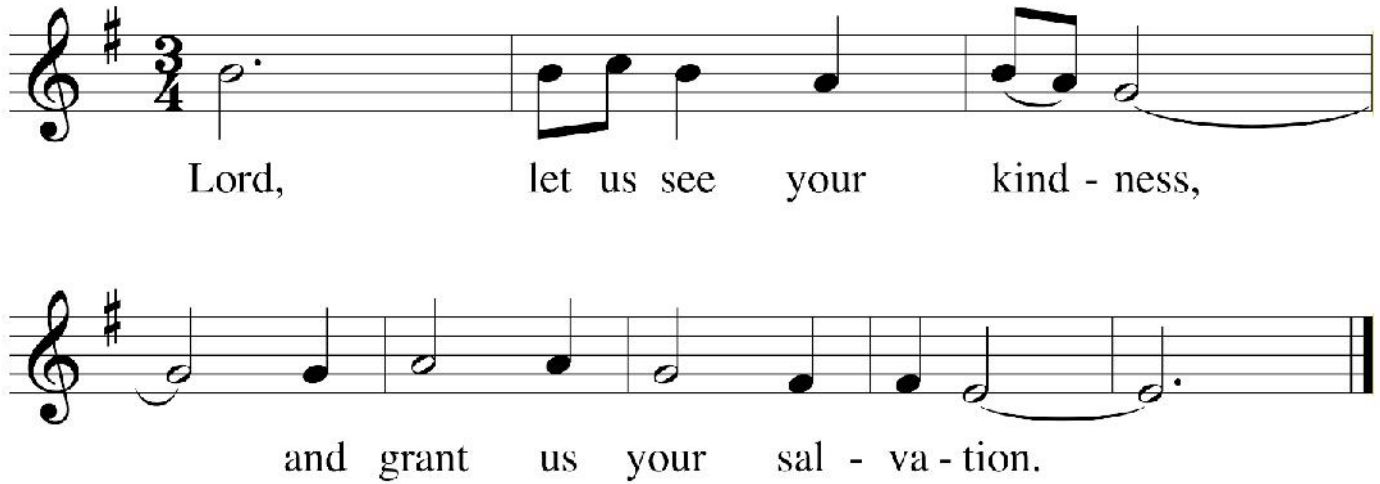
**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm 85 • “Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness”

OneLicense #97694

*Cantor sings the refrain first, **then all repeat.***

*Cantor sings verses; **congregation sings refrain.***



I will hear what the LORD God speaks;  
he speaks of peace for this people and his faithful.  
His salvation is near for those who fear him,  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

**Refrain.**

Merciful love and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have kissed.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,  
and justice look down from heaven.

**Refrain.**

Also the LORD will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.  
Justice will march before him,  
and guide his steps on the way.

**Refrain.**

# Second Reading

A reading from Second Peter.

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Gospel Acclamation

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 175*

**Congregation: refrain; cantor: verse.**

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal staff (treble and bass clef) and a piano accompaniment staff (treble and bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a steady rhythm. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal lines.

O come, O light of Christ, so bright and clear  
and lift our spirits by your advent here.  
In all who gather, show us your face,  
that we may know the warmth of your embrace.  
**Refrain.**

# Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Sermon

Rev. Briana R. Merkle.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

# Hymn of the Day • “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship 256*



- 1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

# Apostles' Creed

Together, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
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.**



# Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might,  
tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.  
Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

*At the conclusion of each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God,  
and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Sharing the Peace

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

# Offering Prayer

Dear God,  
you blessed Mary by making her the mother  
of your only Son, Jesus Christ.

You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son,  
and indeed, with the gift of life itself.

Out of all these blessings,  
we give back our offerings to you this day.

Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled,  
we pledge our lives to you in anticipation  
of the coming of the one who brings peace to all.

**Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

God is with us.

**We are not alone.**

Christ is present here.

**The Spirit moves within us.**

We give thanks to God.

**In memory and in hope.**

Blessings be to you, Creator God, for in the beginning you brought light and life to the world and you continue to bring it love and light everlasting.

You came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way: promising her a son, who would be called Jesus; promising her that in her son the world would be changed.

And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:  
**O come, O come Emmanuel.**

And we lift our voices together with the praise of the ages:

# Sanctus

cyberhymnal.org

O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and

The first system of the Sanctus, measures 1-6. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "O ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and".

7 sky a - bove bear wit - ness to your Grace. Ho - san - na in the

The second system of the Sanctus, measures 7-10. The music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "sky a - bove bear wit - ness to your Grace. Ho - san - na in the".

11 high - est heav'n, cre - a - tion sings your praise. And bles - sed is the

The third system of the Sanctus, measures 11-14. The music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "high - est heav'n, cre - a - tion sings your praise. And bles - sed is the".

15 One who comes and bears Your name al - ways.

The fourth system of the Sanctus, measures 15-18. The music continues in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "One who comes and bears Your name al - ways.".

# Thanksgiving at the Table

Gathering the disciples together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation anew. At the end of the meal Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

*Take and eat.  
This bread is my body of Life,  
broken by the world.  
Eat it in remembrance of me.*

After that Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

*This cup is the sign of the New Covenant.  
Whenever you drink it remember me,  
for I shall not eat or drink of it again  
until the time of the heavenly banquet.*

**We remember how he poured  
his love out on all he met  
and look forward to his return  
and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.**

God, you poured out your Spirit upon Mary and she sang words of defiance and hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here. Strengthen us in our time of waiting and working for peace and justice. Gift us with courage to make the Christmas promise a reality. **Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

And now, as beloved children of a loving Parent, we pray:

**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

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.  
The Cup we share is the Cup of Promise.  
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Come and eat, the banquet is ready.

## Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



### **Open Wafer**

*The cup has a clear film top that noticeably reveals the wafer compartment. Lift the film to open and receive your wafer. (Hint: Bending the tab downward to snap will release the air tight seal on the film and make the edge very easy to find and open.)*

### **Open Cup**

*Open the cup by peeling back the pre-cut tab on the foil seal to drink the juice.*

# Communion Song • "We Shall Prepare"

Spirit & Song 2 #294/ OneLicense #83262

## Refrain



We shall pre - pare our hearts for new love. We shall pre - pare our



eyes for the blind-ing light. We shall pre - pare our faith to break the



dark of night. We shall pre - pare the way of the Lord!

## Final



Lord. We shall pre - pare the way of the Lord!

## Verses



1. A voice strong and clear cries out in the night:
2. ♪ There shall be one \_\_\_\_\_ who is to come,
3. ♪ Chil - dren of God, \_\_\_\_\_ come change your hearts.



1. "Make straight the way of our God."
2. might - i - er than you or I.
3. Come to the wa - ter of life.



1. The moun - tains bend low, \_\_\_\_\_ the plains will rise up
2. ♪ We shall be changed, \_\_\_\_\_ bap - tized with fire
3. ♪ Of - fer your hand, \_\_\_\_\_ of - fer your heart



1. to the glo - ry, the glo - ry of God!
2. of the spir - it, the spir - it of God!
3. to the peo - ple, the peo - ple of God!



# Communion Sending Prayer

We pray:

**O God of pregnant expectations, O God of Christmas promise, we have eaten and drunk from your table. Fill us with hope in a world of despair. Make us beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come will give us the hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.**

## Blessing

The mercy of God,  
which extends from generation to generation,  
be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

The illumination of the Holy Spirit,  
prepare you for the coming of our Lord.

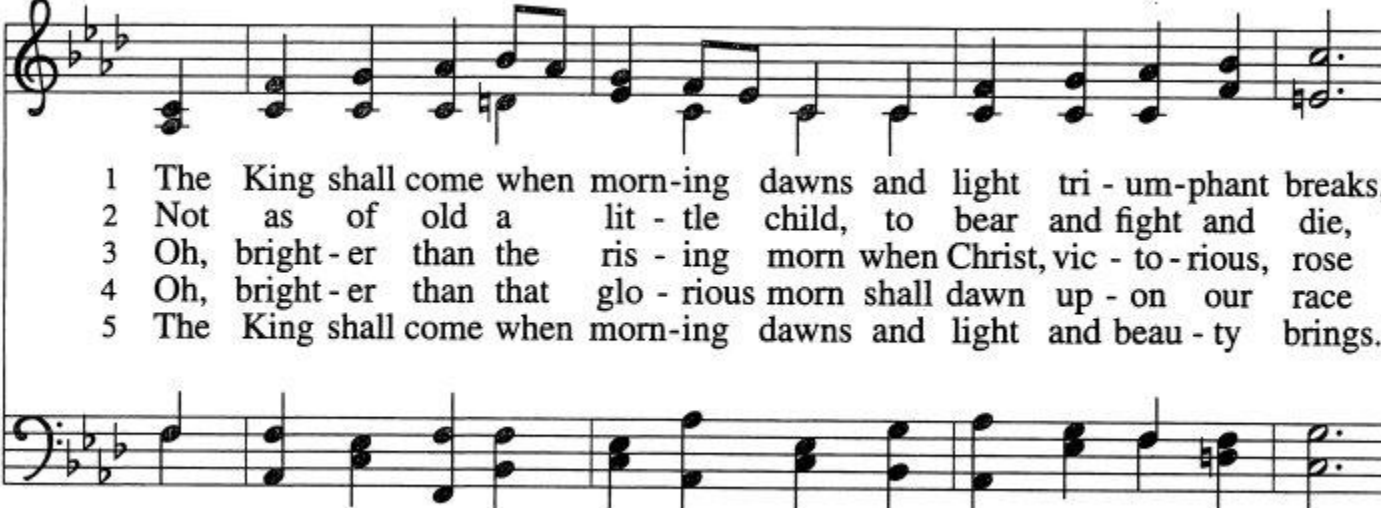
**Amen.**

The peace of the Christ child,  
who comes to partner with us,  
bring forth through you  
the kingdom that will never end.

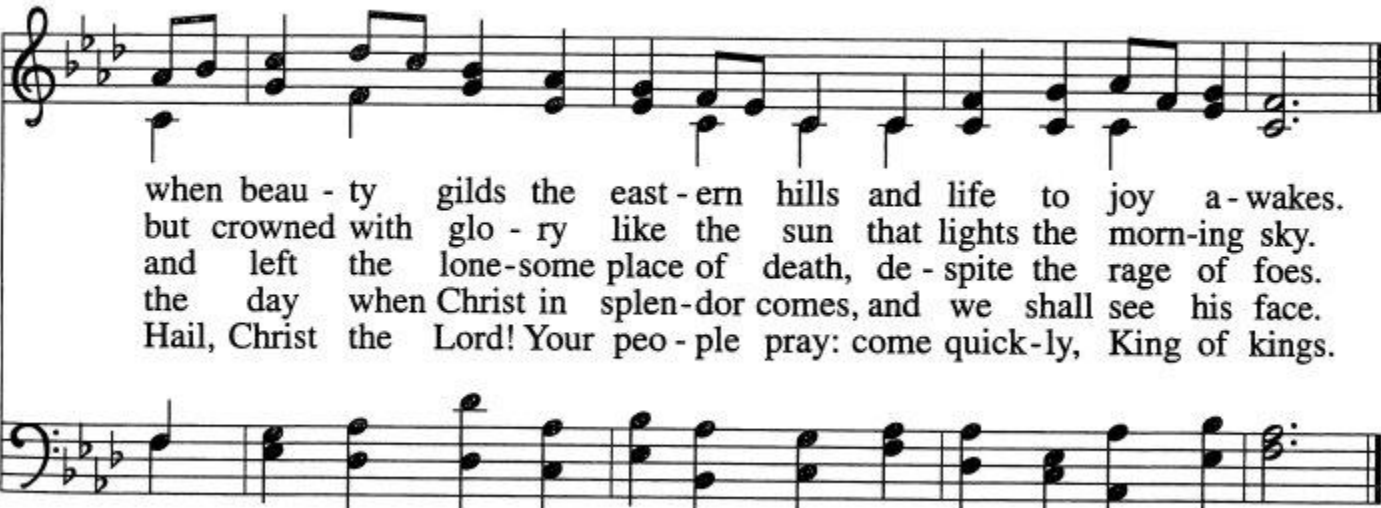
**Amen.**

# Sending Hymn • "The King Shall Come"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

# Dismissal

Go in peace, strive for peace,  
for Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Postlude

*“Freu dich sehr” • Georg Böhm*

*For those participating in worship from home,  
please register your worship attendance online at  
[www.mtviewlutheran.org/worshipattendance](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org/worshipattendance)*

*Please submit prayer requests online at  
[www.mtviewlutheran.org/prayerrequest](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org/prayerrequest)*

# Offering

We give to the Lord of our tithes and offerings.

*You can mail an offering to:*

Mountain View Lutheran Church  
3505 - 122nd Ave E  
Edgewood WA 98372

*Ways that you can give electronically:*

## TEXT

- Text “Give” to 253-292-9599.
- You will be sent a message to (a) text your giving amount and/or (b) set up recurring giving.

## ONLINE via the MVLC WEBSITE

- Visit [www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org).
- Hover over the “GIVE” dropbox.
- Choose “Make a Donation via Bank Account” or “Make a Donation via Credit/Debit Card.”
- Fill out all information on the page and then click the blue “GIVE” button.
- If you want it to remember your information, visit “SIGN IN” and create an account.
- NOTE: Online giving is a one-time gift unless you check “Make this Gift Recurring.”

# Worship Leaders

## PREACHER/PRESIDER

Pastor Briana R. Merkle

## DIRECTOR of MUSIC MINISTRIES

Susan Bloomfield

## LECTOR

Joel DeWitt

## VIDEOGRAPHER

David Burch

## VIDEO OVERLAY

Marlene Wright

## SOUND

Beth Ann Johnson

## ALTAR GUILD

Flora Larson, Diane Nelson

# Mountain View Lutheran Church

3505 - 122nd Ave E, Edgewood WA 98372

253-863-5171 • [www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org)

## Mountain View Lutheran Church

- ) website: [www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org)
- ) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mtviewlutheran](http://www.facebook.com/mtviewlutheran)
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- ) YouTube: [www.youtube.com/mtviewlutheran](http://www.youtube.com/mtviewlutheran)

## Mountain View Community Center

- ) website: [www.mtviewcommunitycenter.org](http://www.mtviewcommunitycenter.org)
- ) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mtviewcc](http://www.facebook.com/mtviewcc)

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