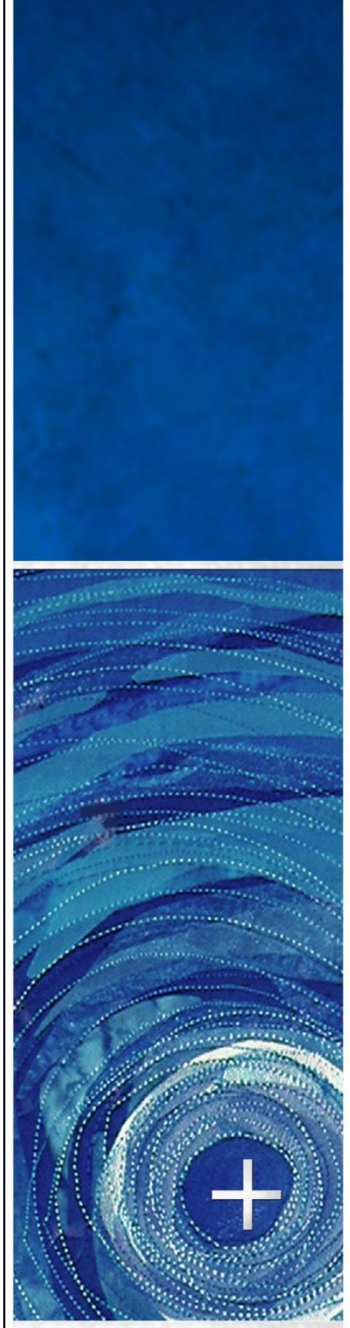
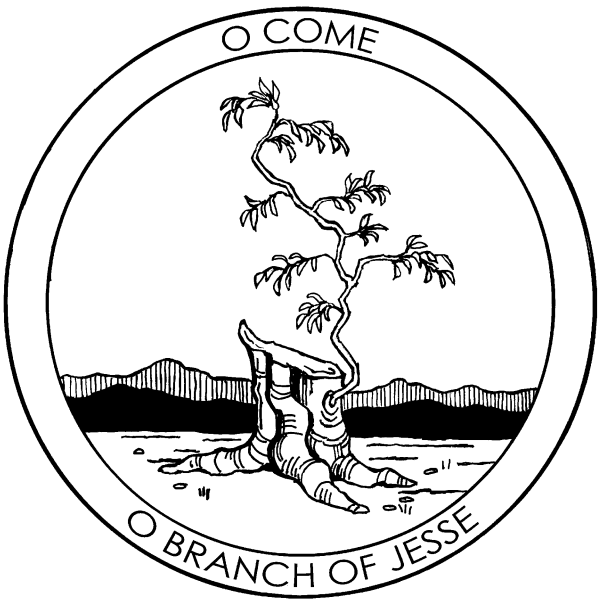


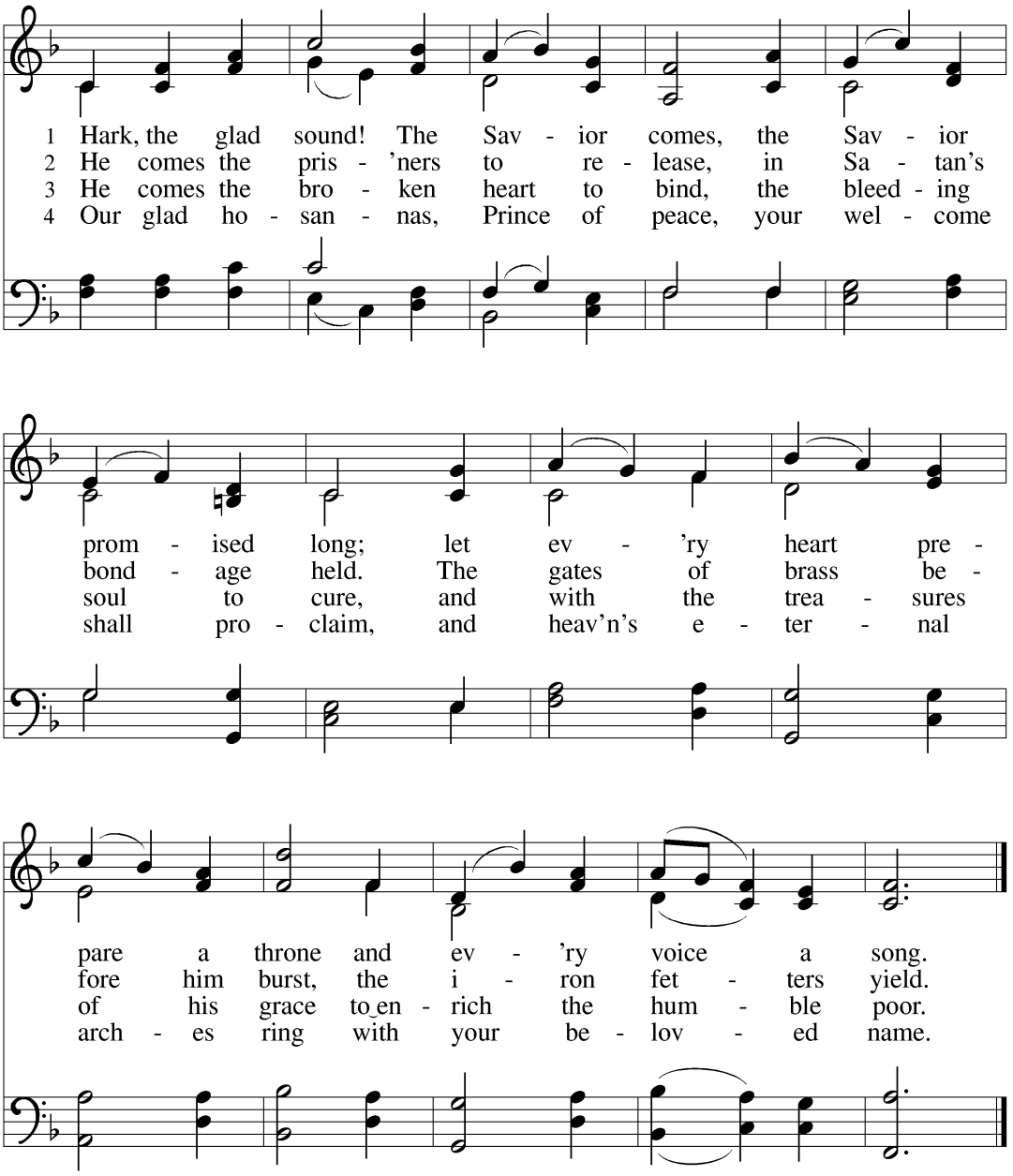


THE SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 South Defiance Street + Archbold, Ohio
www.the-welcome-place.org

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

(Verse 2 – Men and Low Voices Only; Verse 3 – Women and High Voices Only)

Second Sunday of Advent *December 7, 2025*

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent, be baptized, and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

The Church Gathers

PRELUDE ***"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"***
arr. M. Sedio

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"Hark, the Glad Sound"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come.
Make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:
Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.

For any lingering bitterness that scratches our soul:
Stir up our hearts, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:
Give us the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

In this season of hope and expectation, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

God of advent,
restore our hearts with your loving presence. In this season of decreasing daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We cling to the worldly things around us and we put ourselves above all. We often fail to serve you when we do not serve others. Free us from the power of sin and lead us to live as your holy people, in the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Hear the Good News: God's Son, the light of the world, was sent to free us from sin, to show God's infinite love and forgiveness for all. Jesus Christ has come into the world, has led the way through death that we may have life, and is coming again to make all things new.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*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 your power, Lord, and come, fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way. Clear our lives of hatred and despair, but instead have us sow seeds of joy and peace, that branches of hope may reach out so that we may live in harmony with one another. All this we pray as we eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

The Church Listens

First Reading — Isaiah 11:1-10

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of
counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide
by what his ears hear; 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity
for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath
of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion
and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge
of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nation shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING — Romans 15:4-13

4 Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by
steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the
God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in
accordance with Christ Jesus, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

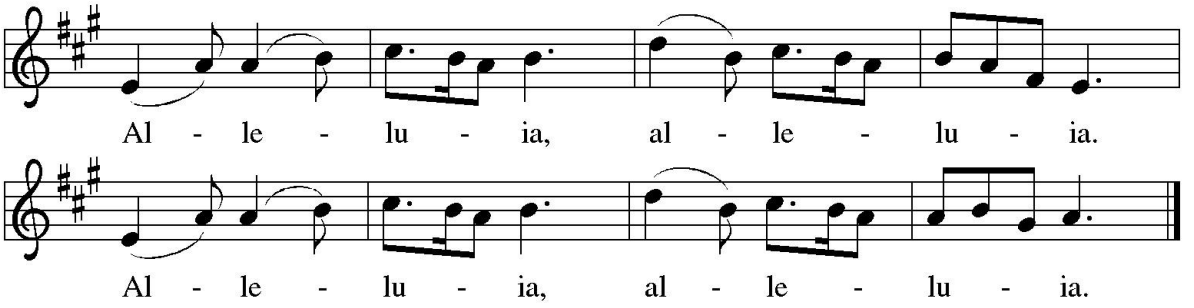
7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of
God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the
Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";
10 and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
11 and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
12 and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the
Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL READING — Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
2"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
3This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"
4Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
7But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
11I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

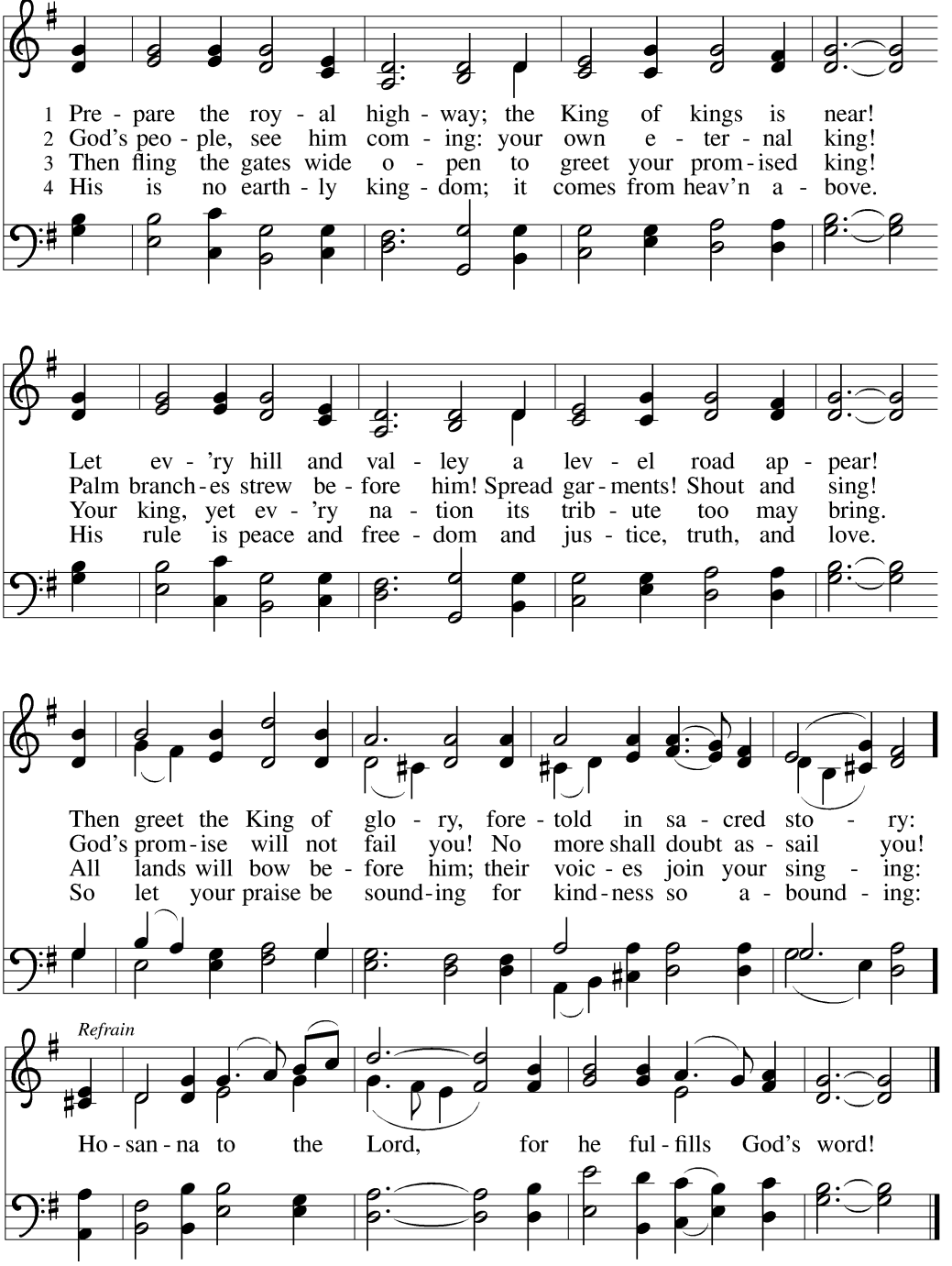
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Susan Short

MESSAGE — *"He Really Is a Nice Guy"*

The Church Responds

* HYMN OF THE DAY — *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

(Please remain seated until the end of the hymn introduction)

* PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Apostles 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 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 THE CHURCH

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Chancel Choir ***"Advent Hymn"***

Arr. Martin

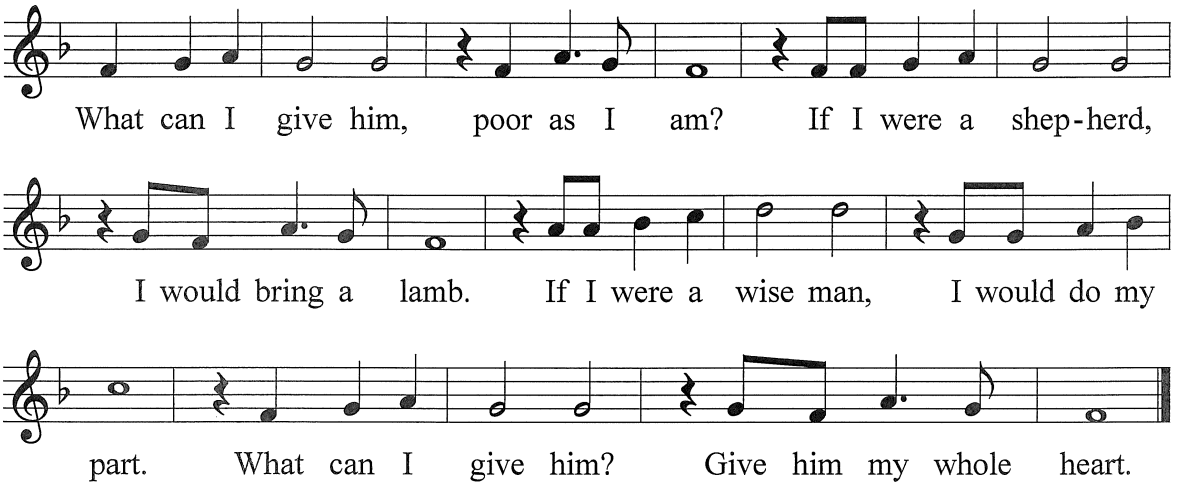
Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the everlasting light,
The Sun of righteousness, arise, and triumph o'er these shades of night.

Come, thou long-awaited One, in the fullness of Your love.
And loose this heart bound up by shame, and I will never be the same.

So here I wait in hope of You, and my soul's longing, through and through.
Dayspring, from on high be near, and Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn until Your love in me is born.
And joyless is the evening song until Emmanuel has come.

OFFERTORY** ***"What Can I Give Him?"



***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Lord of Advent,

accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. Gladden our hearts as we watch for your coming and help us to share that gladness with all. Amen

We Share in the Meal

***THE THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, King of glory. You sent your only Son, Jesus Christ, into the darkness of our world to be a light among us.

In weakness, he took on our flesh in the form of a child to live and grow as one of us. In weakness and strength, he showed forth your love and followed your call, even to death upon a cross for the sake of our sins. Then you raised him from the dead to reign with you in glory, and promised his return to us in power to bring us into your everlasting kingdom.

For all this, we thank you, O God. We live in that hope and await his coming again, raising our voices in prayer.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Be with us at our table, O God, in our eating and in our drinking, that the Spirit of hope is kindled in our hearts and in our lives, uniting us in him who came and will come again, Jesus Christ our Lord.

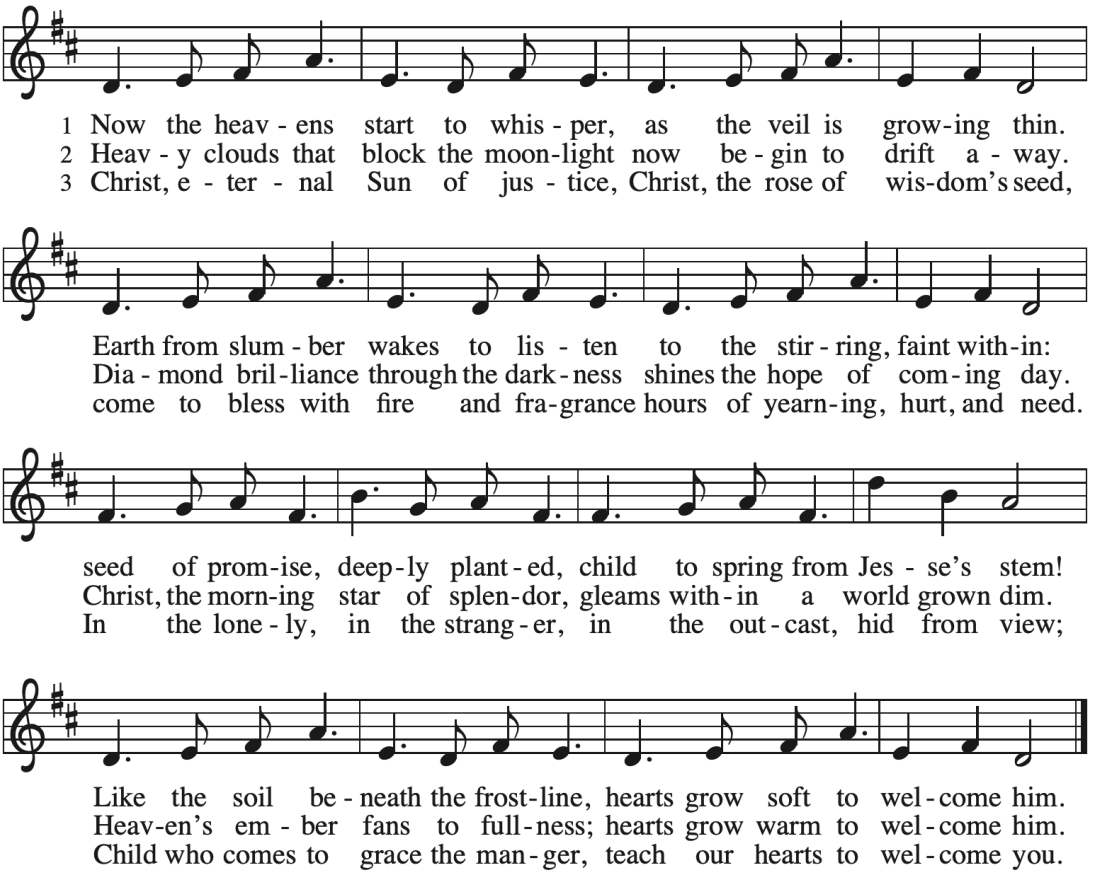
Amen

* The 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.

Communion Distribution

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" *(from All Creation Sings #901)*



"What Feast of Love" **WOV 701** *(Blue hymnal)*

The Church Is Sent to Serve

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*PRAYER

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

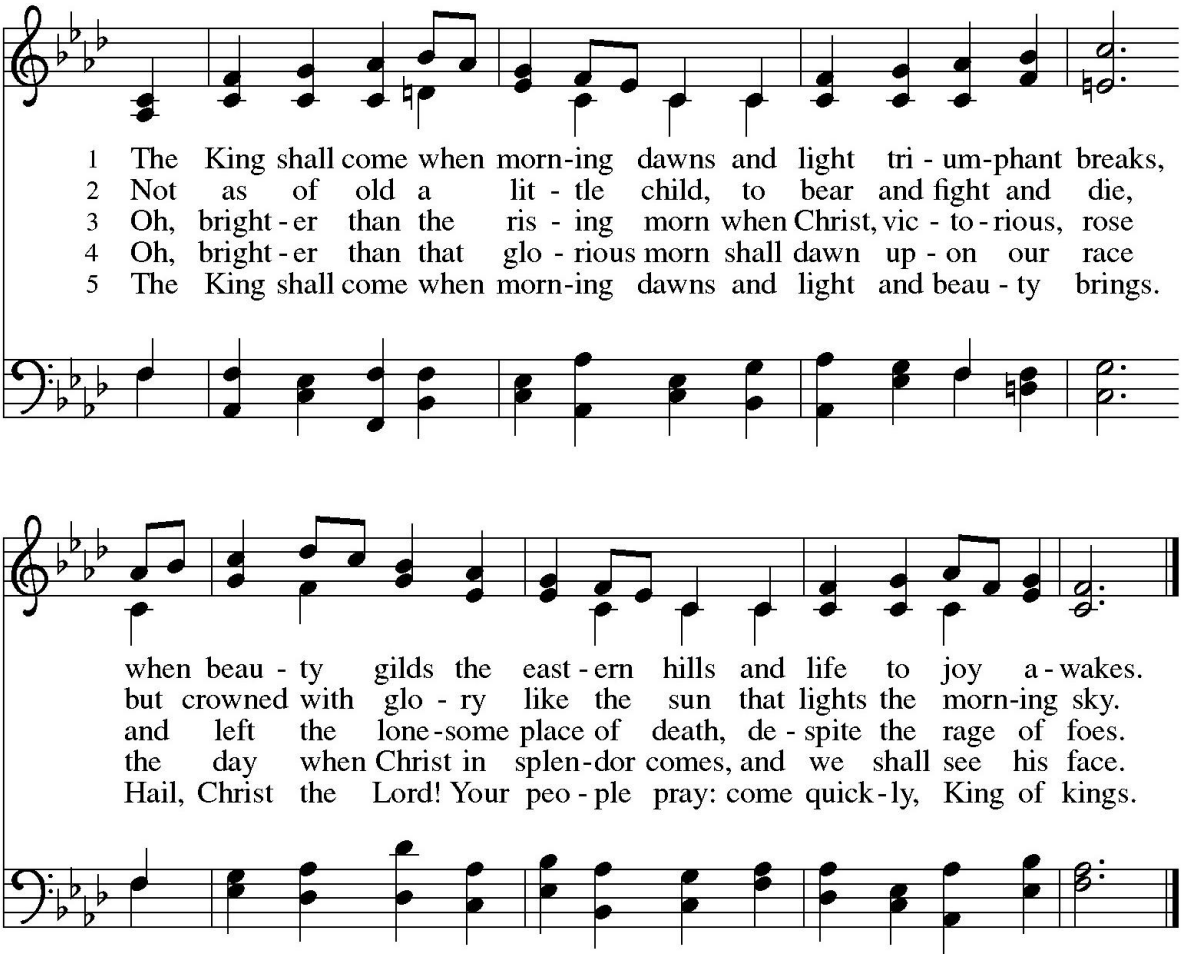
Amen.

*Benediction

In all our Advent preparations,
we remain watchful with our eyes on Christ,
whose birth in a manger is but a promise of his coming again in glory.
And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit
be with us now and forever.

Amen

* Closing Hymn *"The King Shall Come"*



* Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+

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Worship Matters

What is Advent? Advent means "coming" or "arrival". It is the first season of the new Church Year, a season of preparation that looks toward the celebration of Christmas. The color for Advent is blue, a tradition that began in Swedish churches centuries ago. Blue suggests hope, a primary theme of Advent. Knowing that Jesus already came once in a manger, on the Sundays of Advent we focus on the second coming of Jesus, John the Baptist as he heralds the coming of Christ, and the virgin Mary as the obedient servant chosen to bear the Son of God.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Alexa Schneider
Lector	-Amy Blankenship
Organist/Pianist	-Matthew Wachtman
Percussion	-Mike Short
Usher Team Leader	-Mark Weaver
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Janet Wyse & Jan Delaney
Offering Counters	-Nona Rupp & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore is open! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email, or scan the QR code provided.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

End of Year Giving: If you would like your end of year giving to go toward 2025, please have it in to Jo Ann Liechty by December 20th.

There will be a Parent's Night Out Event on December 13th! Drop your kids at the Outback from 6-8:30pm and get any last-minute Christmas Shopping or wrapping done! It will be a night of games, friends, & faith-filled activities for the kids. **Sign up through Jake or the QR code listed in the Friday email or on our website!**

NEW MINISTRY CONVERSATION! Jake and Pastor Steve have been having conversations with the Archbold Elementary Principal since the end of last school year. If anyone is interested in being part of developing and implementing an after-school program to provide possible tutoring assistance for students, please reach out to Jake or Steve.

The Church Directory has been up and running for a year and a half now! We are noticing it as a helpful tool for our congregation as it gets a lot of traffic week to week. We'd like to remind you that you can go online and make any changes for you and your family or contact the church office to do it for you. Any changes of address, please send to the church office so the directory and database can be updated. At the beginning of every year, the church office will update anything that we notice needs refreshed. Thank you all for your help and participation making the directory a helpful tool for our congregation.

CHRISTMAS SIP & SING: Come join us at Knotty Vines Winery, **on Monday December 8th** from 5:30-7:30pm for our Christmas Sip & Sing Event. Come with your amateur singing voices and join the holiday spirit with your St. Martin's family. Knotty Vines will have their menu items available.

Christmas Cheer Tree: Please support Fulton County Christmas Cheer by taking tags from the tree in the Narthex and purchasing the items on the tags. Your donations help to put food on the table of local families & gifts into the hands of children on Christmas morning. Please bring the items back to church by 10am TODAY. If you're not able to pick up tags, you can donate monetarily via fultoncountychristmascheer.org. Together we can do great things!

You are invited: We will begin a **new Bible Study in January** for those who are interested in Growing Older and Wiser! **Mary Martha Circle** has selected this topic for their next study. We would love to have you join us starting on January 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
If you are interested and would like the Bible Study guide, please let Kris Jemmott know by December 15th so that the guides can be ordered.

The Annual Report is approaching! If you are someone who usually submits something to the office for that report, please do so at your earlier convenience. The deadline is typically December 31, but this year any report that can be submitted a little earlier is appreciated by the 19th! Thank you for your help with this project.

Join us next Sunday for the Kids Christmas Program during worship! The kids have been working hard and are excited to share it with you. Afterwards there will be a brunch to raise funds for the Puerto Rico Mission Team.

OUR MISSION TEAM IS READY!

We are excited to share that a team of **13 volunteers from St. Martin** will be traveling to **Puerto Rico from February 22–March 1** to help repair a home whose roof was destroyed by hurricanes. This project is coordinated through **Techos Pa' Mi Gente** ("Roofs for My People"), a local organization dedicated to restoring safe housing for families in need.

With our team assembled, we are now moving into the planning phase—booking **airfare, housing, and van rentals**. We even have photos of the home we'll be repairing.

How You Can Help

Your support makes this mission possible. Would you consider giving a gift toward the trip?

- **$100** – Groceries for the team
- **$500** – Housing for one volunteer for the week
- **$1,000** – An airfare ticket
- **$700** – Van rental

Gifts of any size are deeply appreciated. Please note *"mission trip"* on your donation so it can be directed appropriately.

Upcoming Fundraisers

The team will host a **brunch on December 14**, following the children's Christmas program. We hope you'll stay, enjoy a meal, and support our mission efforts. We also plan to host a **coffee hour** early in the new year—more details to come!

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as we prepare to serve our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

This Week at St. Martin's

Next Sunday – December 7-Advent 2
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth Load Christmas Cheer, 10:30am
Middle School & High School to Christmas Cheer
Youth Christmas Party, 6:30pm

Monday – December 8
Sip & Sing, 5:30pm
Friendship Circle, 7pm

Tuesday – December 9
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday – December 10
WPW Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm
Kids Klub-Christmas Party, 6pm
Adult Circle, 6:30pm
Catechism, 6:30pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30p,
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday – December 11
Women's Breakfast Study, 7am
Bulletin Deadline, 9am
Christmas Program Rehearsal, 6:30pm
Church Council, 7pm

Saturday – December 13
Christmas Program Rehearsal, 9am
Parents Night Out Event @ Outback, 6pm

Next Sunday – December 14-Advent 3-Sunday School Program
Worship, 9am
Brunch following Worship
Sunday School, 10:20am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth, 10:30pm
Bell Choir @ St. Paul, 5pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
Phone Number: 419-445-4656
Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org
Email: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Tues, All Day
Wed. PM
Thurs, & Fri, AM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. 8:30-12:00 & Fri. 8:30-12

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

We welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 11/30/2025, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$1,707.00	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,329.00
Benevolence Received	$310	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$713.00
Other Designated Income	$550.00	**AS OF 10/31/2025**	
Total Income	$2,567.00	YTD Operating Received	$313,624.77
Worship: Sunday/Wed/Total	73/23/96	YTD Operating Expenses	($331,734.96)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	($18,110.19)

St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:

- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, Tanzania, and Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer, Toledo, may they continue to carry out God's ministry in their areas of mission.
- Those caught in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine; those recovering from recent natural disasters and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and other relief agencies.

For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God:

Bob Alley, Louise Beldon's brother-in-law, health concerns
Tim Anderson, Bjorlin cousin, cancer
Bonnie Badenhop, pancreatic cancer
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Jan Delaney, knee replacement
Jim Hayes, brother of June Hayes, health concerns
Jeanise Hoeffel, Jane Sonnenberg's sister
Jayne Jewell, Diana Ziegler's cousin
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon Blair, Leukemia
Sue Keil, Jake's mom
Bonnie R. Lauber
Anne McCarty, health concerns
Ed Miller, Joan Smith's son-in-law
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Thana Morong
Dick Nagel, health concerns
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bruce Pearson, Trudel family friend, cancer
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Mark Thatcher, health concerns
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, health concerns
Joe Wyse
Homebound – Milla Kohv, Jerry & Alice Geiger

For those who need God's protection and the assurance of God's presence:

All members, family & friends who serve in our military: Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns, Kasyn Schaffner

Any prayer requests to add or remove can be sent to the Church Office by Thursday of each week: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org **We include a person's name and details only with their permission.**

Christmas at St. Martin's

December 14 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 am – Sunday School Christmas Program
Brunch following worship hosted by the Puerto Rico Mission Team

December 21 – 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 am - Worship with the Chancel Choir
10:20 am - Sunday School

December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Song & Story, Communion & Candle lighting
7:00 pm - Festival Worship with Communion & Candle lighting

December 25 – Christmas Day

9:00 am – Worship with Communion