

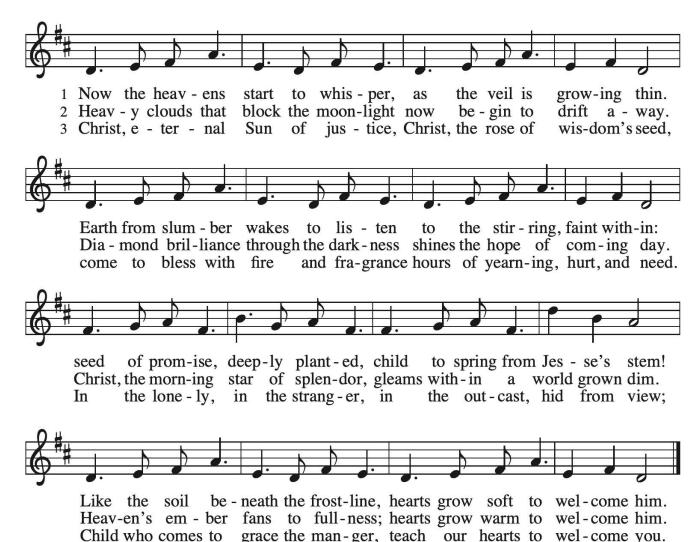
GATHERING -

Prelude

Welcome

GATHERING SONG

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

## After Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession, the congregation prays together:

Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray: Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray: Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray: Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" God's love keeps showing up for us. In the name of + Jesus Christ, you are loved, you are claimed, and you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! Amen.** 

## 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.

**K**yrie

ELW pg. 98

**O**PENING **P**RAYER

Let us pray -

Eternal God, we wait with hope for the coming of your Son into our hearts and into our world. Prepare our hearts for the brightness of your glory and for the fullness of your truth, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. Word -

STORYTELLING AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.* 

PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

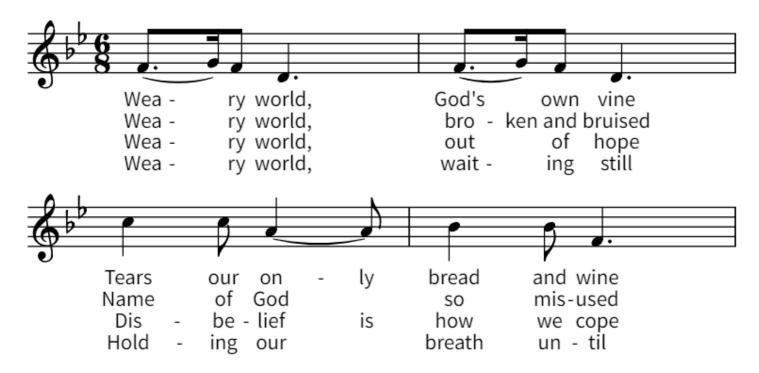
GOSPEL: LUKE 1:1-23

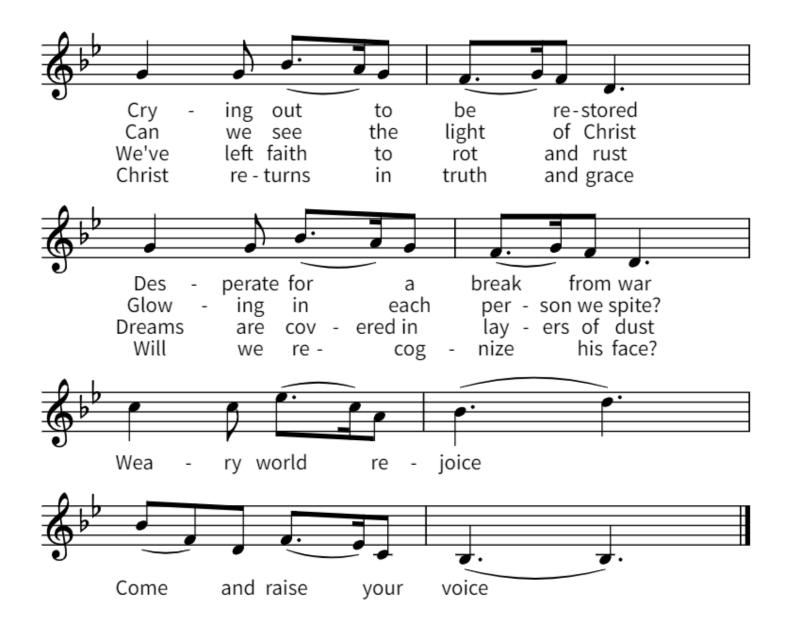
*In response to the readings:* Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.** 

Sermon

Hymn

WEARY WORLD REJOICE





PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always! And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others.

Offering

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Preface

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 108

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

At Pastor Aleese's direction, the congregation responds "Come, Lord Jesus" and "Come Holy Spirit" in the midst of the prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.

Lamb of God

ELW pg. 112

Prayer after Communion

MEAL -

ELW pg. 107

Sending —

Blessing

SENDING SONG

AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN

ELW 242

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is coming. Thanks be to God!

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