

“You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” *Matthew 1:21*



St. John’s Lutheran Church & Valley Bible Academy (K-8)

1107 14th Street, Clarkston, WA
 10:15 am Sunday School and Bible Class, 11:00 am Service
www.ClarkstonLutheran.org
 Watch the Service at www.ustream.tv
 (Search: St. John’s Lutheran Church, Clarkston, WA)
 Nursery Room with Service Monitor

Peace Lutheran Church

13946 1st Ave, Orofino, ID
 7:30 am Bible Class, 8:00 am Worship Service
orofino.clclutheran.org

Members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession – CLC
 Organists: Deena Irby, Donna Lowary, Sue Martin
 Pastor Dave Naumann – VBA Teacher Desirae Naumann
 1119 14th Street Clarkston, WA 99403
 email: pastordavenaumann@gmail.com Cell: 920 266-5384
 Church and School: 509 758-8261

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 27 (front of the hymnal p. 109)
 The Hymns: 90, 61, 70, 87:1

Personal Prayer: Lord Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, strengthen our faith in You, the only true God, and increase our wisdom in Your holy Word. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit working in our hearts by that Word, give us a cheerful heart and voice prepared for Your Day of Judgment. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 90

The Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Congregation sings:

A - men.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

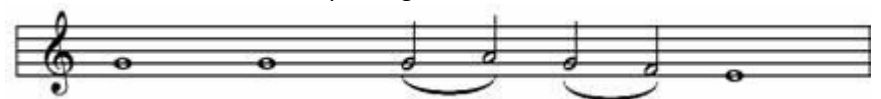
Pastor Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



C: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of

my sin

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

PASTOR: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of God’s Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ; I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.



C

A - men.

(congregation is seated)

THE INTROIT

Having received the Lord's forgiveness, we are glad to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving.

This entrance is made in the Introit with the Lord's own Word, often from the Psalms.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always:

C: And again I say, Rejoice!

P: Let your moderation be known to all men:

C: The Lord is at hand.

P: Be careful for nothing: but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

C: Let your requests be made known to God.

P: Lord, You have been favorable to Your land:

C: You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *Gloria in Excelsis*



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

PASTOR The Lord be with you.



C: And with thy spir - it.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

PASTOR Let us pray.



C: A - men.

THE BIBLE READINGS

God speaks to us.

The Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

THE GRADUAL

The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

C: Stir up Your strength and come.

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel:

C: You who leads Joseph like a flock. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: Stir up Your strength:

C: And come and save us. Hallelujah!



C: Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

PASTOR The New Testament reading is from 1 Thessalonians 5 beginning in verse 16

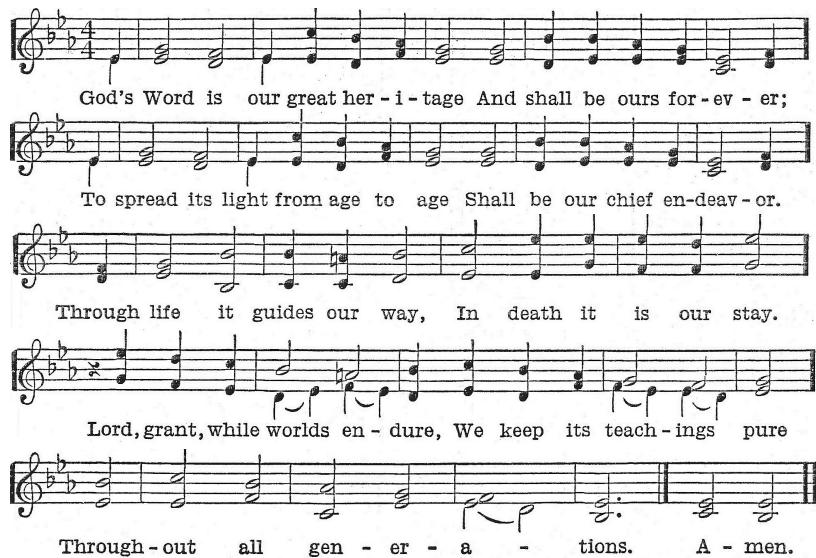


C: Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

The New Testament Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

PASTOR: Here ends the New Testament Reading. Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



God's Word is our great her-i-tage And shall be ours for-ev-er;
 To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief en-deav-or.
 Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay.
 Lord, grant, while worlds en-dure, We keep its teach-ings pure
 Through-out all gen-er-a-tions. A-men.

THE NICENE CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 22)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 61

THE SERMON

John 1:6-8, 19-28 There was a man sent by God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not

the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,' ' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Theme: EFFECTIVE WITNESSING OF THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

With humility (6-8)

With rejoicing (19-23)

With faithfulness (24-27)

Sermon Notes

THE OFFERTORY

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen**

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 712:3:

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him.
 The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

PRAYERS - (Pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (All)

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.

The Communion Liturgy

THE PREFACE/ PROPER PREFACE

Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration. Please stand.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

PASTOR: Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment, for You kept Your promises through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Your Son. By His death He has destroyed death and by His resurrection has restored to us everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn.

THE SANCTUS

Latin: "Holy." We join our voices to the angels who sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" around His throne"

1 HOLY are You, the heav'- nly King! With an - gel hosts we
 2 HOLY are You, our Lord most high! Bless-ed is he who
 3 HOLY are You, through endless days! Our glad ho - san - nas

join to sing, Your ma - jes - ty fills ev' - ry - thing!
 now draws nigh In God's own name! with joy we cry:
 now we raise To greet You with ex - al - ted praise.

Al - le - lu - ia! . . . Al - le - lu - ia! . . . Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! . . . Al - le - lu - ia! . . . Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! . . . Al - le - lu - ia! . . . Al - le - lu - ia!

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

(The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time

PASTOR: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C A - men.

THE AGNUS DEI

Latin: "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to be thinking about the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross.

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the

world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the

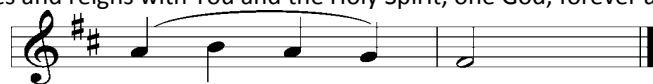
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

The Distribution of the Sacrament *(congregation is seated)*

A Note To Our Guests About Communion: All CLC Churches practice "Close Communion." We ask that only those who are members of our church or another congregation in the CLC come forward to receive the Sacrament. This is NOT a judgment on your faith! Rather, it is an expression of our own faith and unity. If you would like more information, or are interested in becoming a member, please speak to Pastor Naumann.

(After Distribution, the Congregation stands)

PRAYER BY THE PASTOR: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us by the forgiveness of our sins through this Sacrament, and we beseech You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.



☐ A - men.

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

PASTOR:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn 87:1

**** Silent Prayer ****

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

WELCOME EVERYONE! We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe, teach, confess, and practice. Where and when? Your convenience.

IN OUR PRAYERS Barb and Everet Martin, John Schaller, Bob Jensen, and all our loved ones who need the LORD's healing.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY Please join us at 10:30 am.

CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S – DON'T MISS THIS!
Next Sunday at 5:30 pm the children of Valley Bible Academy and St. John's will present the Bible's account of the birth of Jesus Christ. These young people have spent hours and hours diligently memorizing Luke chapter 2, as well as many traditional Christmas hymns to help us all rejoice at God's greatest Gift of His Son.

This special service is an event worthy to invite your family relatives and friends. This past Friday the children sang some anthems and recited Luke 2 at the Royal Plaza nursing home, an event organized by Donna Johnson. It was well received, and many of the elderly people expressed their joy that children were still taught to memorize the truths of God's Word and sing His praises.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN'S IN CLARKSTON

Tuesday – Bible Study at 10:30 am

Wednesday – 3rd Midweek Advent Service at 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve, Sunday Dec. 24 – no morning service. 5:30 pm service.

Christmas Day – 11:00 am service

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PEACE IN OROFINO

Wednesday – 3rd Midweek Advent Service at 3:30 pm

Sunday Dec. 24 – 8:00 am Christmas Eve service

CHRISTMAS DAY – 8:00 am service

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES THIS WEEK The final midweek service is this Wednesday at 3:30 pm at Peace and 6:30 pm at St. John's. Is there a better way to spend your time in this busy holiday season?

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

Christmas Eve Children's Goodie Bags There is a box set out in the fellowship hall for items for the bags given to the children on Christmas Eve. Candy, goodies, fruit, etc are welcome! (as yet we have no fruit) The bags will be assembled this week.

Poinsettias for the Altar You are welcome to bring poinsettias to decorate the front of church, or you may contribute to the Ladies Aid toward their purchase.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFERINGS LAST SUNDAY

From thankful hearts: Received: \$2,911. Needed: \$2,215 (+ \$696). YTD: -\$353
"Bring (your offerings) to... My house, and try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

W E E K L Y M E M O R Y V E R S E

"Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!"

Psalm 27:14

CLC Mission Opportunities Prayer List

From our foreign Missionary Pastor Todd Ohlmann - December 2017

1. Six pastors/evangelists/students in Livingstone, Zambia met for pastoral training on Dec. 1st and 2nd. They have been in studies with Pastor Ibrahim for the past two years. On Sunday, Dec. 3rd they received certificates of completion for the first phase of their instruction.
2. The main leader in the Livingstone Zambia district recently died and there have been many struggles as a result. But it would appear that the Lord is using even this tragedy to strengthen His work in this area. More will be reported in an upcoming Spokesman article.
3. Pastor Ibrahim and I will be traveling back to Lusaka by bus tomorrow (12/5) where we will spend the next four days training pastors and doing evangelism and home visits in two different areas on the outskirts of Lusaka. Then we will travel to Kitwe, a city near the D.R. Congo border where we will meet with Pastor Yumba of the CLC in D.R. Congo.
4. Before I return to the U.S. I will visit the D.R. Congo embassy in Lusaka with a letter from Pastor Yumba requesting a longer-term missionary visa. In recent years it has become quite difficult to obtain any type of visitor visa, making CLC visits impossible. The last CLC visit to D.R. Congo was in January of 2013 when Missionary Ude and his wife Vanessa visited. Pray that the Lord will bless this effort to secure the necessary visa.
5. The CLC-India, BELC-India, CLC-Myanmar, National Lutheran Church of Myanmar, and the Himalayan CLC of Nepal are all making preparations for the 2018 Joint Asia Pastoral Conference scheduled for early February. Pastor Tim Daub is making plans to attend as well. I will also be in India during this time and will be privileged to attend.
6. Part-Time Visiting Missionary David Koenig and I are making plans to visit Myanmar in late February. Seminars will be held with both church bodies that we work with in Myanmar. The National Lutheran Church is located in Yangon on the South-East border and the CLC-Myanmar is located on the South-West border.
7. Following the Myanmar visit, I will be in Nepal for a few weeks in early March to work with the pastors and leaders of the HCLCN.
8. Sanju Bhitrakoti – Raju's wife was diagnosed with gestational diabetes. She is doing much better. They are expecting their baby on January 15.
9. Pastor Kham in Myanmar recently reported that they were successful in registering their church body with the local and state government and they are now

in the process of registration with national government. They will register as the Church of the Lutheran Confession of Myanmar rather than the Zomi Lutheran Church (as they have been known) which only identifies them with the local Zomi tribe.

10. Pastor John Hein and Pastor Em. Dave Koenig have recently returned from Liberia. Pray that the Lord will bless His word that has been taught and proclaimed. And thank Him for this new opportunity to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.
11. Individuals in Senegal, DR Congo, Haiti, and Bangladesh continue formal Online Theological Studies correspondence courses this month.
12. Pastors from the Nigerian-CLC of the Lutheran Confession and MELC in Togo met last week. Pastor Kossi had some difficulties in his travels from Togo to Nigeria but the Lord protected and delivered him safely to the conference and home again. Thank the Lord for His protection of His servant in difficult circumstances.
13. Progress has been made in preparing for Missionary Ohlmann and Pastor Mayhew's visit to Tanzania in early 2018. It has been three years since the last CLC visitation to Tanzania and there is much work to be done. They will conduct pastoral training seminars and will also be investigating opportunities to reestablish organized efforts to train pastors.
14. The MELC in Togo has just recently been approved by the Togo government to begin caring for orphans and providing for children in need in the impoverished portion of the city of Lome where the main congregation is located. Through Kinship sponsorship they are now caring for five orphans. They are also providing help with a weekly nutrition program, clothing, school supplies, and a weekly Bible school.
15. The BELC in India continues to train new men for leadership roles as the opportunities to start new pastoral training districts increase.
16. The CLC-India makes preparation for their Christmas outreach efforts. Pray that the recent anti-Christian rhetoric does not interfere with their plans to proclaim the birth of the Savior of the world.



The Old Testament Reading:

3rd candle is the Shepherds candle. Here in Isaiah 1-3 we hear of the work of our Messiah – the Good Shepherd. Vs. 10-11 remind us of our joy and responsibility to share the Savior and His promises. The shepherds left their task and went with haste to see the Christ-Child, then they returned to tell others about the good news of the Savior. Let us do the same! We read...

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

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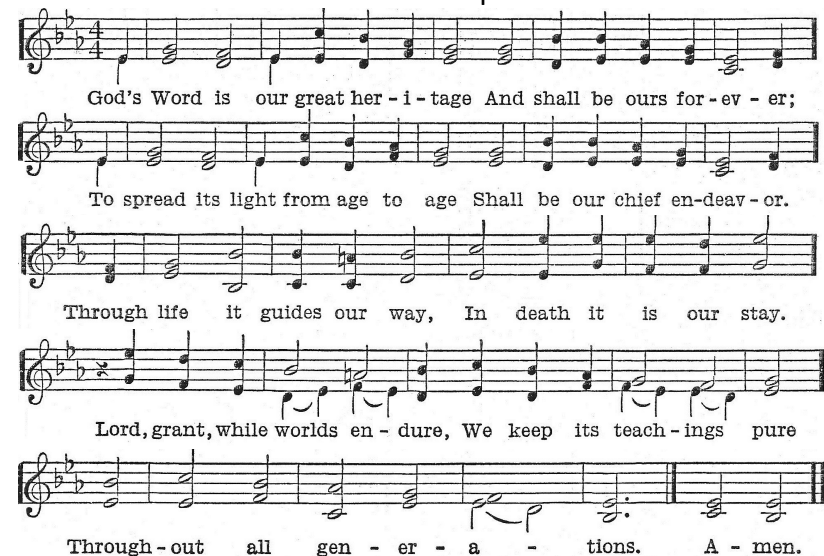
P: Stir up Your strength:

The New Testament Reading:

Here in these verses we are given a doable to-do list for Advent. It's doable because God sanctifies you, through the Word the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens you and declares you holy through faith in Jesus, so that you be blameless and well prepared when Christ comes again in glory on Judgment day. We read...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

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