# *First Sunday of Advent*

***Sunday, November 29, 2026***

8:00 AM (spoken) & 10:15 AM (with music)

***Also Live Streaming at***
**https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/**

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**VOLUNTARY**

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us — Johann Ludwig Krebs

Sean Dunnahoe, oboe

*(Please stand)*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us — Bulletin Page 16

*(Verses 1 & 2)*

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Presider* Blessed are you, Holy and living One.
*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

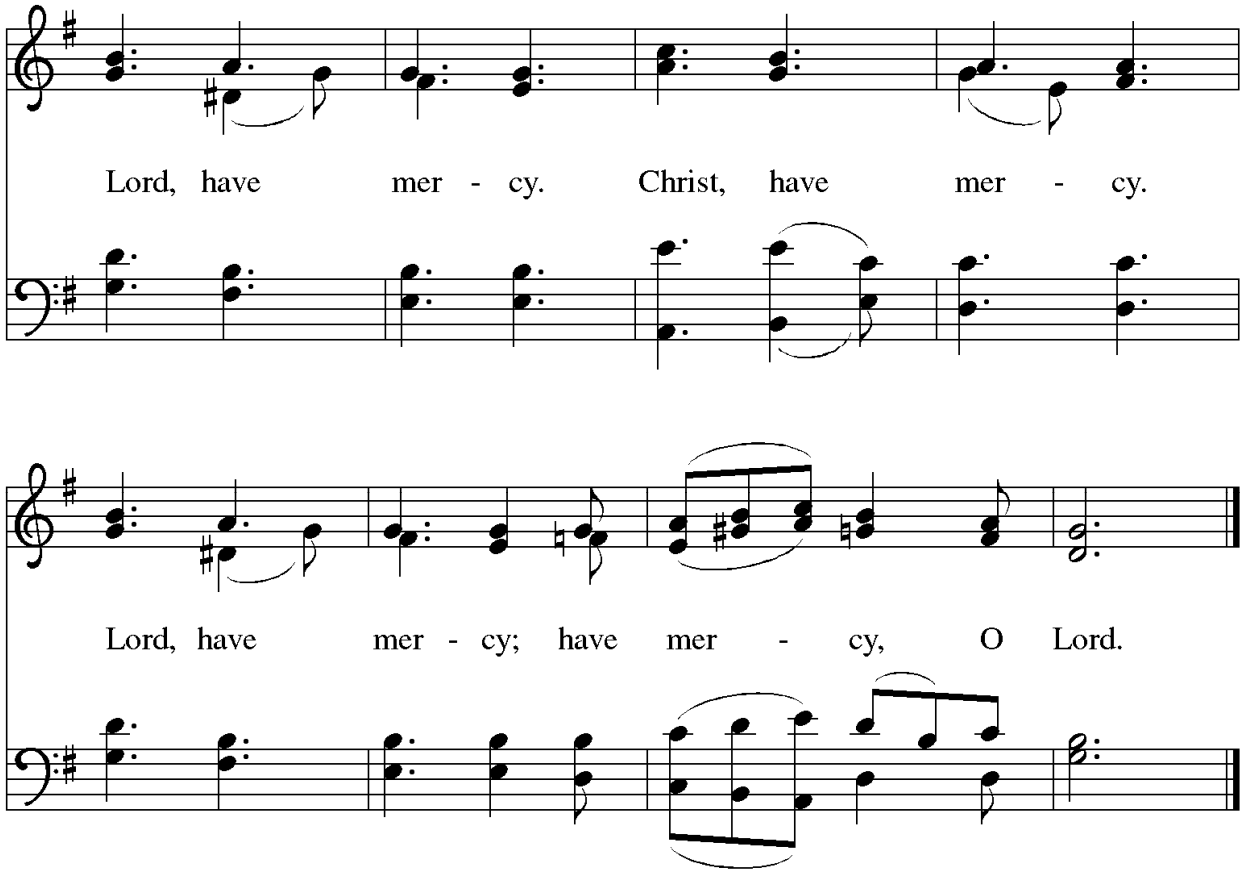
**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**KYRIE** *(8:00 Service)*

Lord, have mercy.
**Christ have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.

**KYRIE** *(10:15 Service)* Avon Gillespie




Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.
*People* **And also with you.**
*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 64.1-9

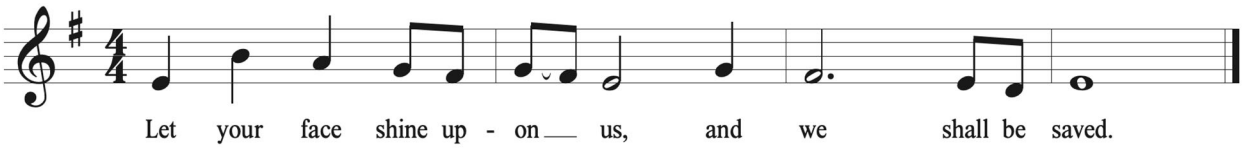
*Lector* A Reading from Isaiah

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80** Setting: David York

*The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.*




Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us. ***Antiphon***

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink. ***Antiphon***

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. ***Antiphon***

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

*Lector* A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

Savior of the Nations, Come! Bulletin Page 18

*(Congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then vv. 3 & 4 are sung)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 13.24-37

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark.
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON** The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

*(Silent reflection)*

**NICENE CREED** *(Please stand)*

**We believe in one God,**
**the Father, the Almighty,**
**maker of heaven and earth,**
**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**
**the only Son of God,**
**eternally begotten of the Father,**
**God from God, Light from Light,**
**true God from true God,**
**begotten, not made,**
**of one Being with the Father.**
**Through him all things were made.**
**For us and for our salvation**
**he came down from heaven:**
**by the power of the Holy Spirit**
**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,**
**and was made man.**
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**
**he suffered death and was buried.**
**On the third day he rose again**
**in accordance with the Scriptures;**
**he ascended into heaven**
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**
**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**
**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**
**He has spoken through the Prophets.**
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,** ✠
**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *(Please stand or kneel)*

Creator of the stars in the sky, the sun, and the moon, You are the light by which we wake and work.

**Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Surround your church, her leaders, and people, with your armor of light. We pray especially for Sean, our presiding bishop; Antonio, our bishop; and Michael, our priest. Strengthen them as they reach out to you in prayer and hope. Open their hearts to your will.

**Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

We pray for our leaders: especially Donald, our president; Gavin, our governor; Xavier, our governor-elect; and the Congress and courts of this land. Savior of the nations, guide those who govern, and awaken those they lead, that we may all live in the spirit of cooperation and share so that all may have enough: food, care, and peace.

**Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

For people across the world whose spirits bend under the yoke of oppression and struggle, give the people of this community a sense of togetherness and support. Open our eyes to those who fall by the wayside and whose faces and needs remain invisible.

**Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Lover of our souls, you continue to mold us in your image and hold us in your hands. We ask your blessing on those who struggle with illness, anxiety, grief, or isolation, especially those we mention now silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God,
**Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

Father of us all, we pray for those who have recently returned to your embrace and those who are broken with grief, especially those we mention now silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Silence)*

Restore us, O God,
**Illumine our darkness, and keep us alert.**

*Presider* O God, you promise a peace the world cannot give: overwhelm us with such an awareness of your peace and presence that we become your peacemakers; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Presider* Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

God of all time,
**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.**
**We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**
**In your mercy forgive us.**
**Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.**
**Amen.**

*Presider* Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ✠ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen**.

### THE PEACE

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

*(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

***Birthday and Anniversary Prayer***: Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

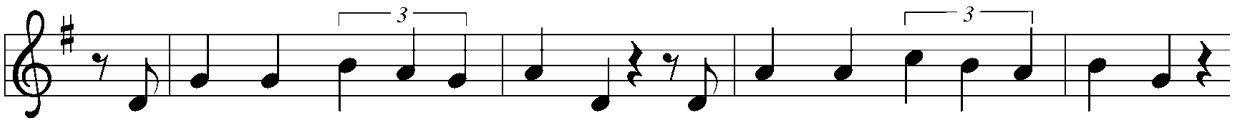
### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" from *Messiah* G.F. Handel
Mary Mac Cullity, soloist

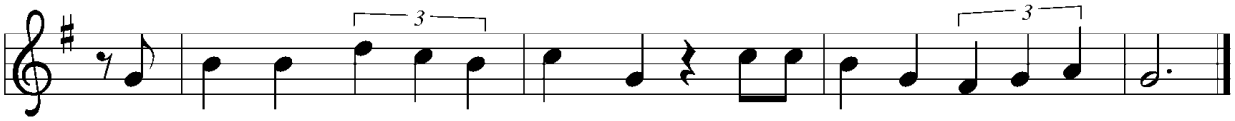
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your God! O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

**PRESENTATION HYMN**

He Came Down — Cameroon Traditional



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

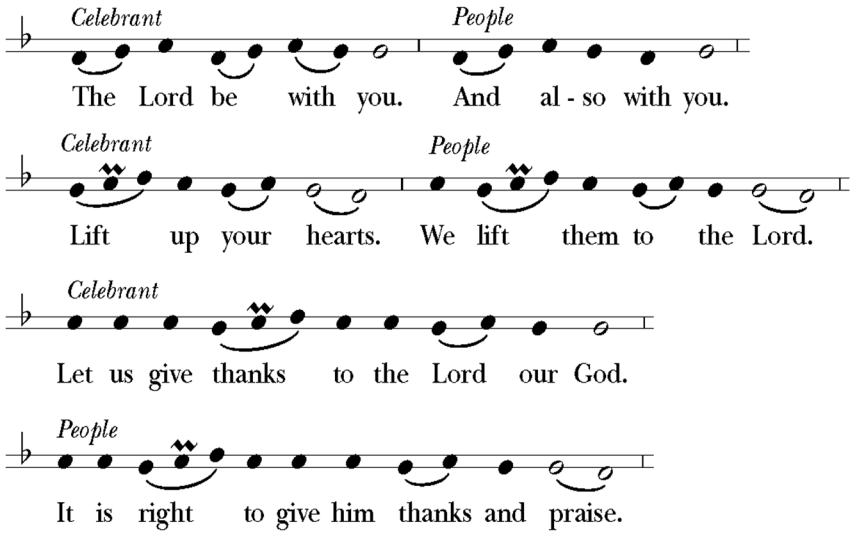


he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**




It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

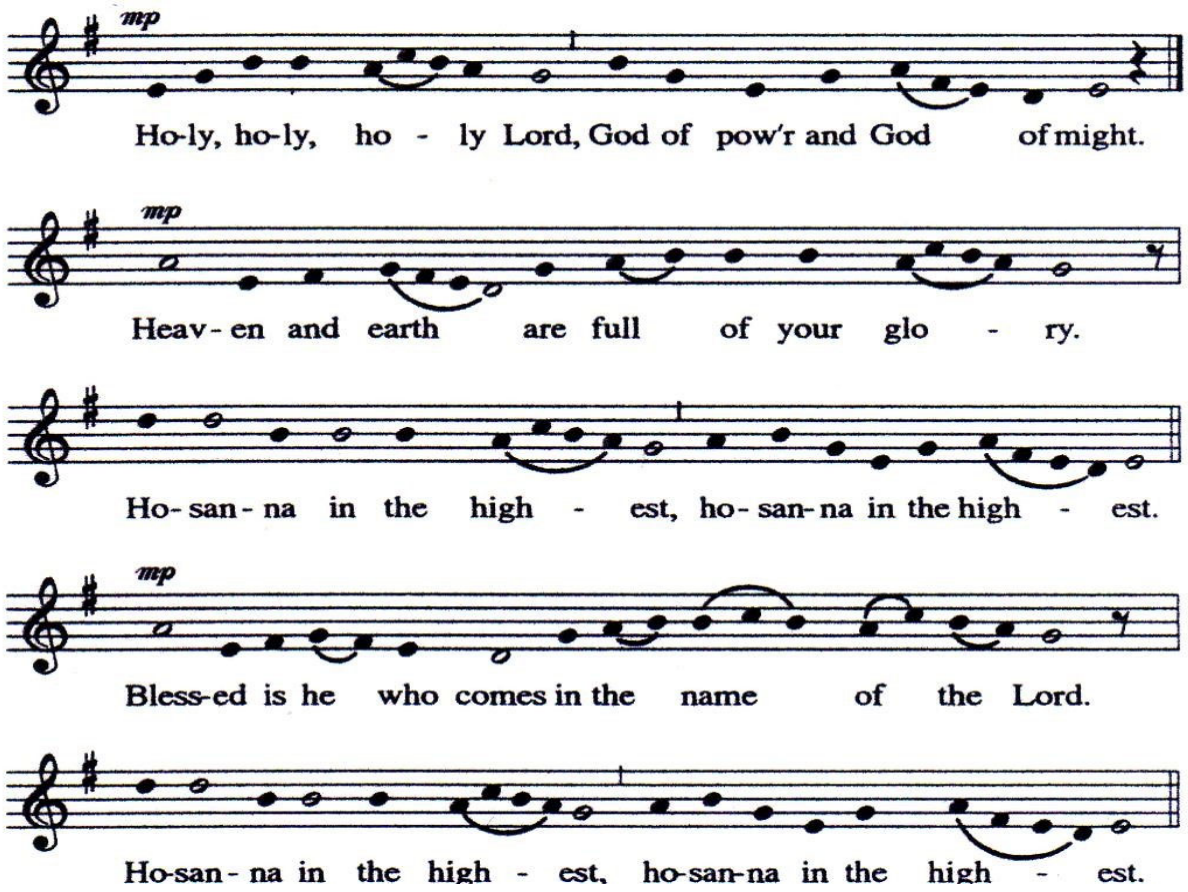
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*At the 8:00 Service:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**
**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**
**Hosanna in the highest.**

*At the 10:15 Service:*

**Sanctus** Missa Emmanuel, Richard Proulx




We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

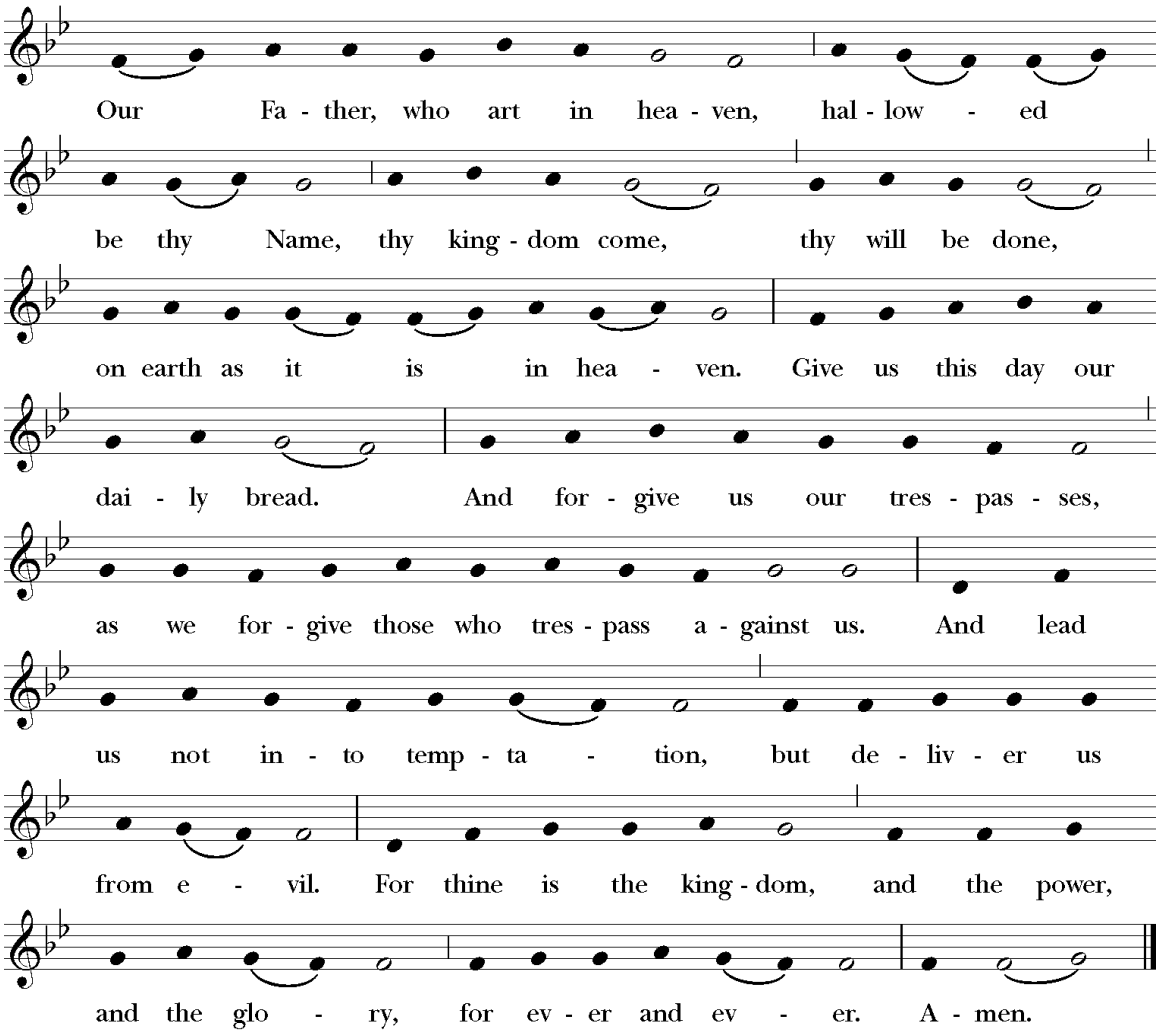
**We remember his death,**
**We proclaim his resurrection,**
**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [ _____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:




**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*(A period of silence is kept after the Celebrant breaks the host)*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**AGNUS DEI** *(Sung by the Choir)* David Clark Isele

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

*The Presider says the following or a similar invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion.* ***Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*Those who are participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits of actually consuming the consecrated elements.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God — G.F. Handel

Brianna Zucker, Dylan Wicks, soloists

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God, come. Thy truth unseal, Thy love reveal. Lord, hear Thou in mercy our prayer to Thee. Come in Thy might. Send forth Thy light. Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God. For Thee we long. Hear Thou our prayer. To Thee be glory now and evermore.

**COMMUNION HYMN**

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns — Bulletin Page 19

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

**God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ in our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ADVENT SEASONAL BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen***.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen***.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen***.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Soon and Very Soon Bulletin Page 20

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

Savior of the Nations, Come Paul Manz

**FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

# Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the worship service

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

## TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

| | 8:00 SERVICE | 10:15 SERVICE |
|---|---|---|
| Presider and Preacher | Fr. Michael Fincher | Fr. Michael Fincher |
| Music Director | — | David York |
| Crucifer | — | David Luebben-Morrill |
| Lector | Kris Brooks | Susan Mora |
| Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) | Holly Graham<br>Tamera Benedict | Beth Eldon<br>Fran Luebben-Morgan |

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Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at
http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/

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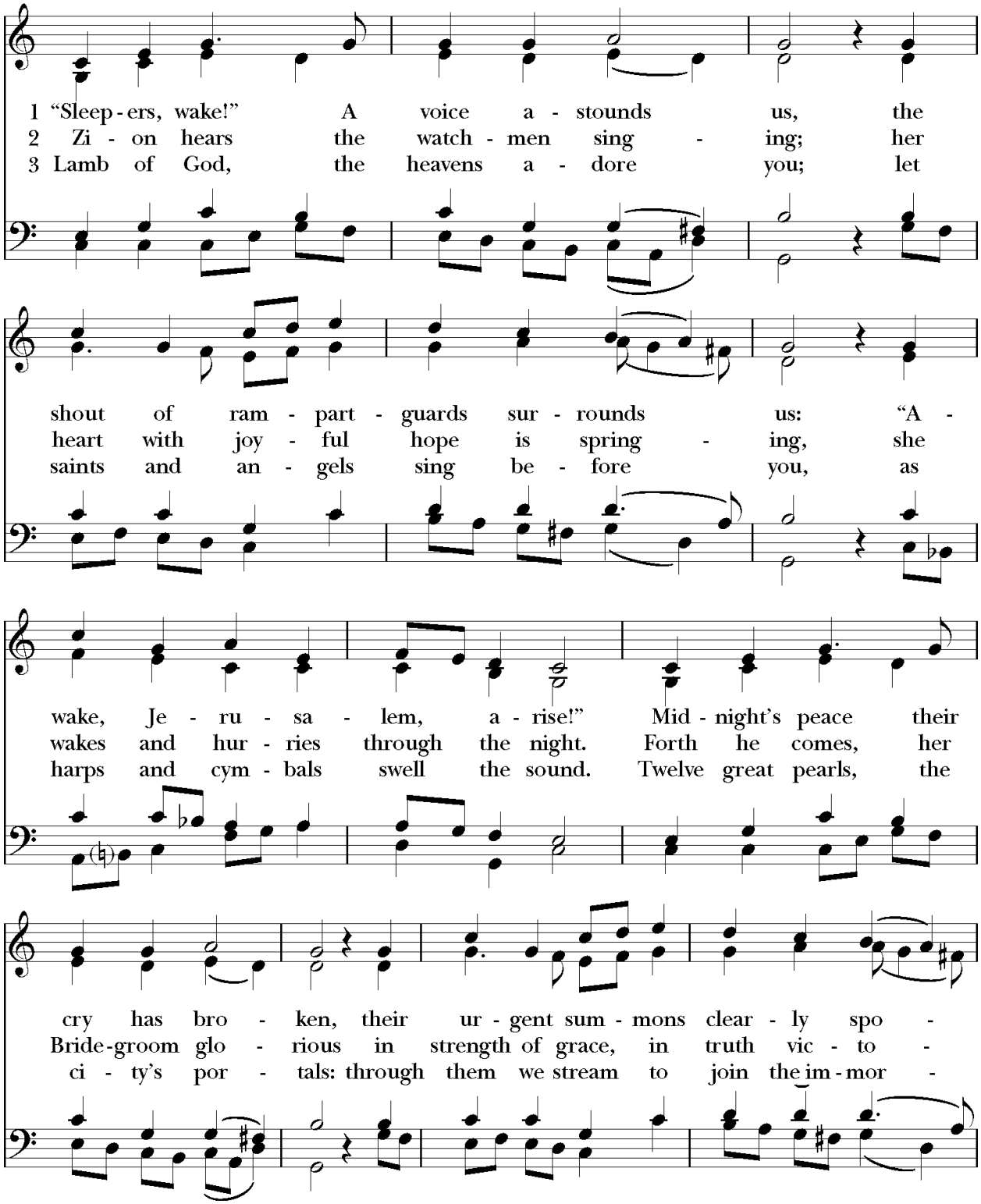
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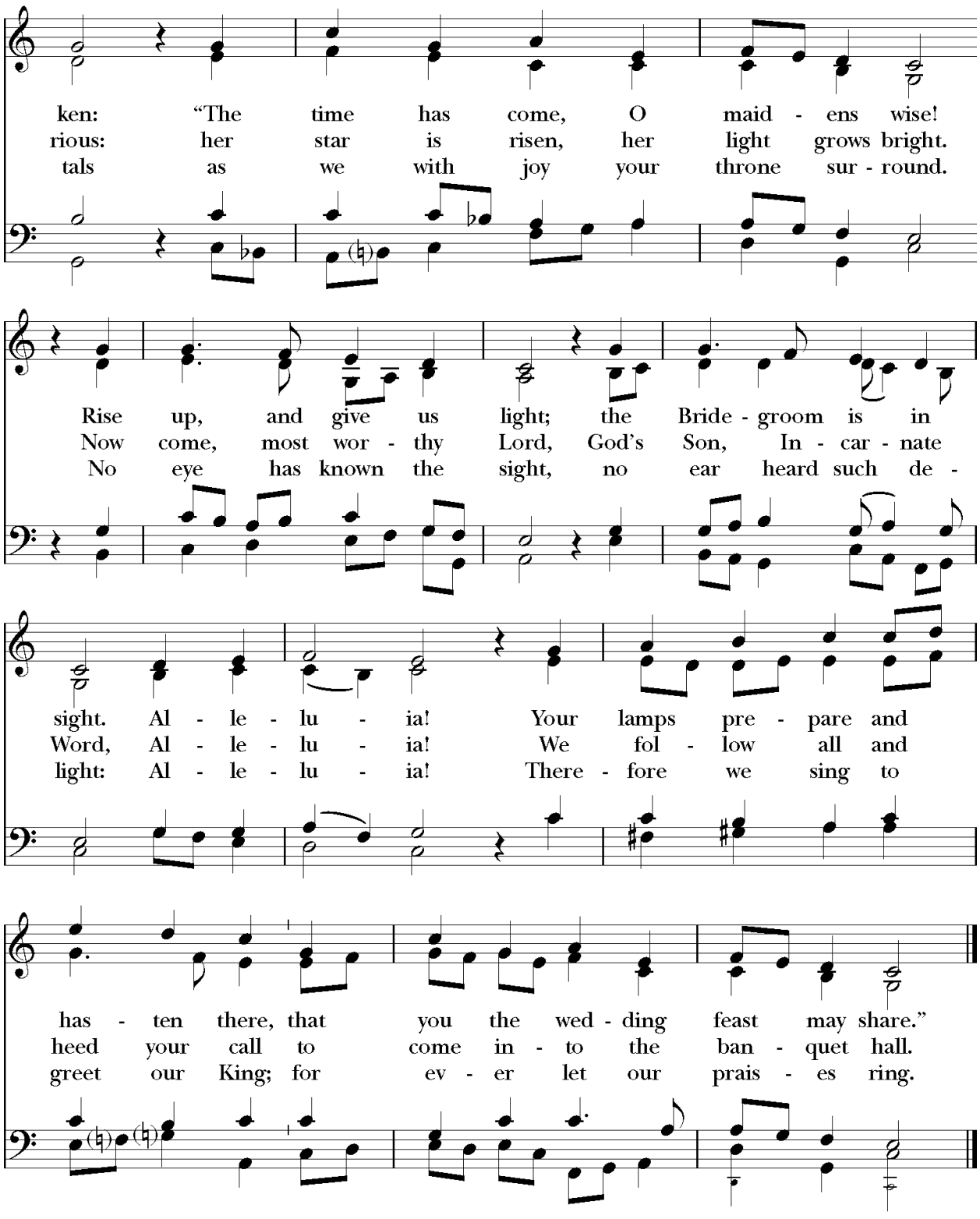
## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Hymnal 1982*, Hymn 61

"Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us — *Wachet auf*

*(Verses 1 & 2)*



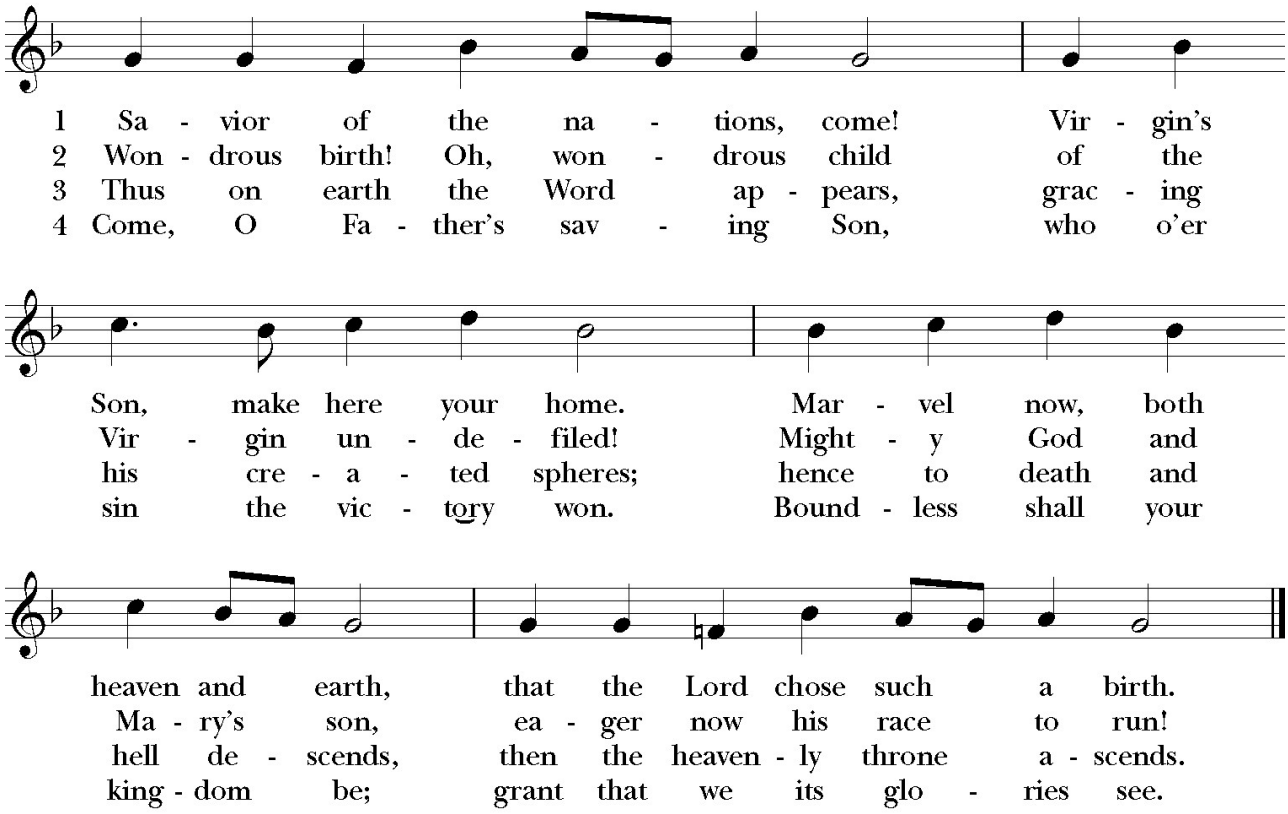

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.
Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -
sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to
has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*Hymnal 1982*, Hymn 54

Savior of the Nations, Come! Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

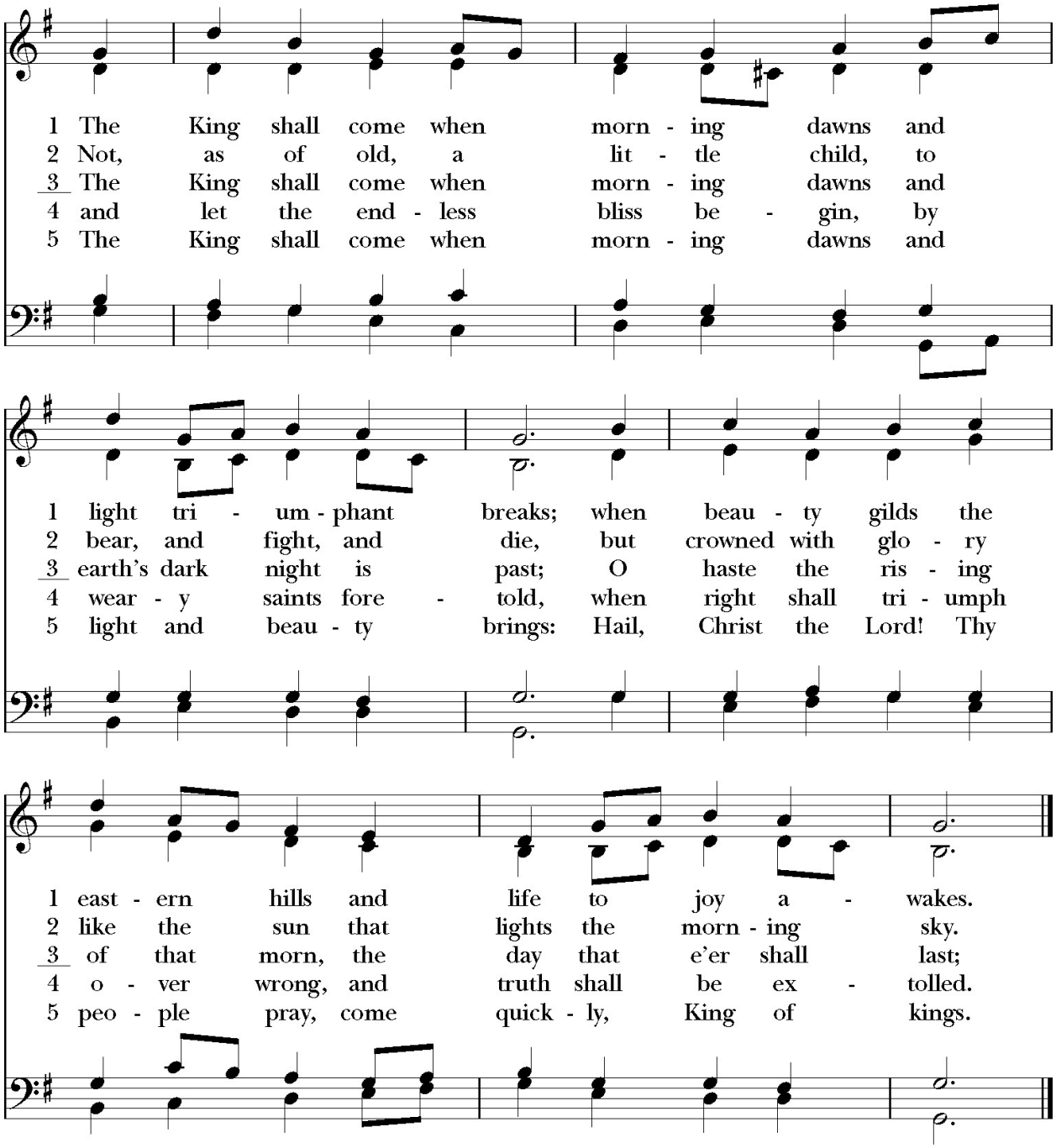
*(Congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then vv. 3 & 4 are sung)*



## COMMUNION HYMN

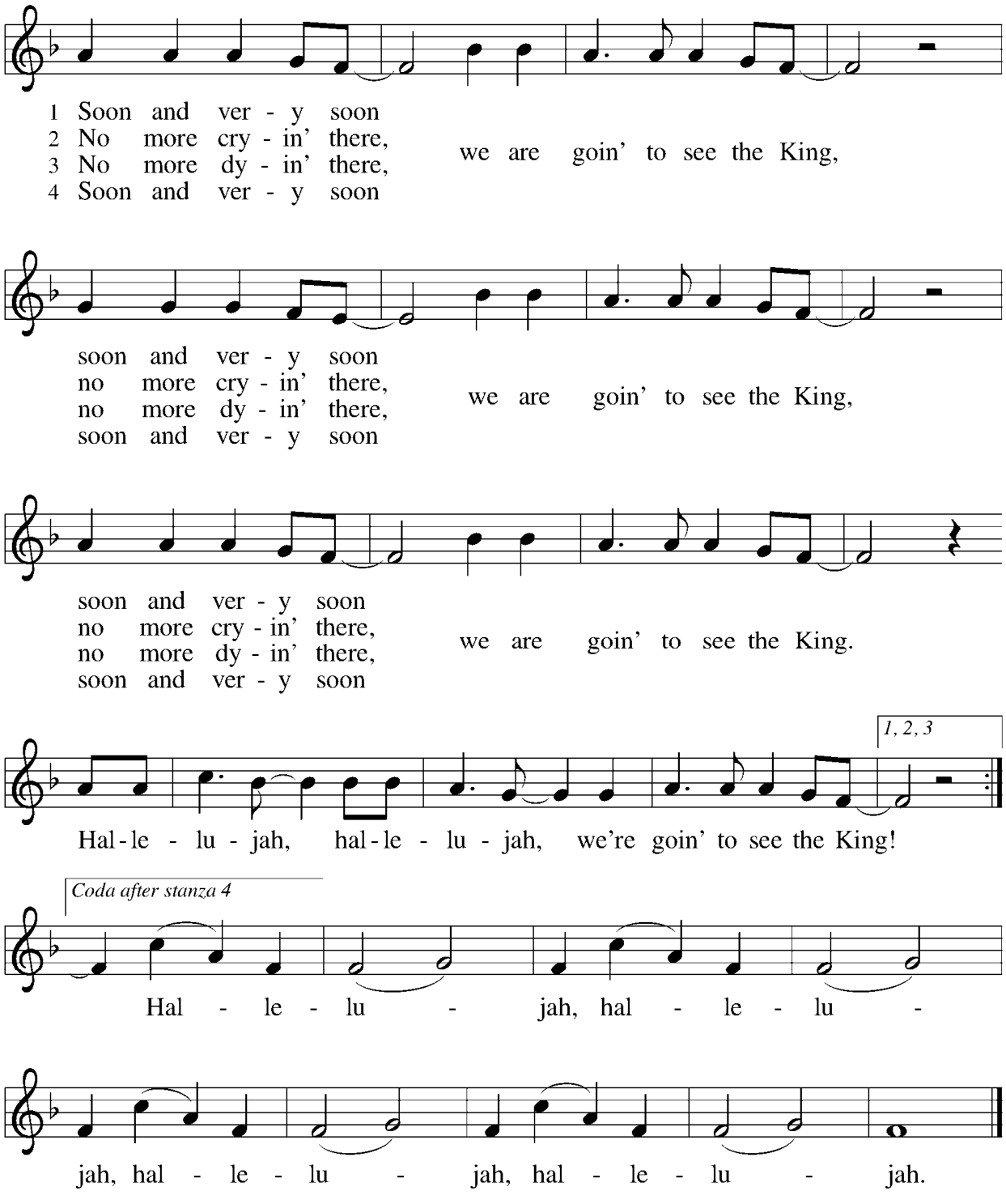
*Hymnal 1982*, Hymn 73

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns *St. Stephen*



## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Soon and Very Soon *Very Soon*




Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

# *THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S*

## Tuesday, December 1

**Centering Prayer** at **6:30 PM** on Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

## Thursday, December 3

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service** at **10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

**Bible Study** at **11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

**Choir Rehearsal** at **7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

## Sunday, December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

**Holy Eucharist** (spoken) at **8:00 AM** in the Church.

**Holy Eucharist** (with music) at **10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/).

**Sunday School** at **10:15 AM**, as follows:

**Beginners** Grades K to 2) in the Youth Room
**Juniors** (Grades 3 & 4) in the Youth Room
**Seniors** (Grades 5 & 6) in Room 7

***Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)***

## Evening Prayer (Tuesday through Thursday)

**Evening Prayer:** Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/).

*For Evening Prayer, you will need either a* Book of Common Prayer *or you can download the Evening Prayer liturgy and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website (www.stgregoryschurch.com).*

# SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

## Sunday, December 13 – A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

This traditional service of readings and music is inspired by services held at King's College, Cambridge for over 100 years. Stories from biblical prophecies foretelling the birth of Christ are interspersed with familiar Advent hymns and carols. St. Gregory's Choir sings music by G.F. Handel, John Gardner, and Richard Shephard. Note that we only have one service at 10:15 AM on this day.

## Sunday, December 20 – Music at Four: Blessing of the Crèche

Join us at 4:00 PM for a service of the blessing of the crèche. The crèche is a traditional symbol of the Advent and Christmas seasons, depicting the manger scene in Bethlehem, changing over the weeks of Advent in preparation for Jesus' birth. As the crèche is assembled, the Choir and members of our Sunday School will present carols, music, and readings for the season. The annual parish Christmas dinner will follow the concert.

## Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

**Christmas Carols and Anthems** at 6:30 PM

**Choral Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist** at 7:00 PM.

## Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day

**Holy Eucharist** at 10:00 AM.

# *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**United Thank Offering UTO Ingathering:** November is a month of sharing our abundance with others such as family friends and our community as we begin our UTO ingathering this month, please remember that UTO grants often focus on urgent human needs meaning your individual gratitude gift help racial reconciliation efforts, to end poverty and so much more. The ingathering will continue until **TODAY, November 29, 2026** Please give generously to this amazing program.

**Advent Devotionals:** In the run-up to Christmas, there are always so many things to be done: decorating, shopping, preparing for and attending special holiday parties and events, and so on. It can all be a bit overwhelming at times. The season of Advent is a set-apart time of anticipation and intentional preparation for the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. While we cannot help with all those other preparations, we can help you prepare spiritually. As we do every year, we are making available the Living Well Through Advent daily devotional, with Scripture readings, reflections, and spiritual practices to help focus on the true meaning of the season and to prepare your heart, spirit, body, and mind for the joyous annual celebration of Jesus'

birth. Copies are available on the Information Table in the Parish Hall or you can download a PDF version at https://stgregoryschurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Living-Well-Through-Advent-2026.pdf.

**Christmas Flower Donations:** Christmas is just around the corner! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the wreaths and poinsettias, you can do so by sending a check to the church with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. Or you can go through the parish website or the Vanco app and use the Other Designated Gift category (just be sure to put Christmas Flowers in the adjacent box). And if you would like to make your donation in Memory of, in Thanksgiving of, or in Honor of someone, you can call the parish office or send an email to info@stgregoryschurch.com with the appropriate information. We need dedications no later than **Sunday, December 21st** to get information into the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias will be available for pick-up after Christmas. More on that down the road.

**Christmas Music Donations:** A lot of special music is planned for the upcoming weeks leading up to Christmas. If you would like to help offset the expenses for the wonderful musicians that will be joining us for the season, please send a check to St. Gregory's with "Christmas Music" as the memo line. You can also donate on our website using the Vanco app. Click the "Other Designated Gift" category, putting "Christmas Music" in the adjacent box. We thank you for your support of our wonderful music ministry!

**Return of the Roamin' Gregorians:** The Roamin' Gregorians are returning for an upcoming Roamin' Gregorians Prince of Peace Walk on December 6. Contact Susan Mora (310) 894-0731 or sign up in the Narthex after church.

**Air Conditioner Fund:** We have recently replaced the heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Sanctuary, to the tune of $120,000. While we are able to cover the expense out of our reserves, this will greatly deplete those funds. We are asking that parishioners consider giving to help offset the cost of our new HVAC system. You can do so by writing a check to St. Gregory's with "HVAC" in the memo line. Or you can make a donation online through our parish website at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4WR/campaign/C-12C50 and put HVAC in the note box. Thank you for your generosity.

**Columbarium Niches:** Many people do not realize we have a columbarium at St. Gregory's. Having your ashes placed in the columbarium is a less expensive option than burial at a cemetery and provides for your continued presence in a place that has been important to you during your life. For more information, contact the Parish Office.

**Vestry Minutes and Reports:** Following Vestry meetings, the approved minutes and reports are posted on our parish website (https://stgregoryschurch.com/). Click on the "About" tab and the last option under the dropdown menu is "Vestry Minutes & Reports." Approved minutes (without reports) are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Fireside Room. In addition, anyone is free to review minutes and reports of previous meetings, available in the Parish Office.

**Stitches of Faith:** Are you looking for a space to share your creativity, enjoy fellowship, and be inspired? Stitches of Faith is a gathering for anyone who loves to craft—or wants to learn! Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, paint, or want to try your hand at another craft, this group is open to all skill levels, including beginners eager to discover something new. We meet on Sundays from 1:00–3:30 PM in the Conference Room. Each week, we will enjoy time for projects, encouragement, and conversation in a relaxed, faith-filled environment. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring your supplies, your curiosity, and your kind spirit. Come create, connect, and grow in community with us!

**Lend a Hand:** Like any older building, St. Gregory's constantly needs maintenance and touching up. Fred Cornett has made up a list of things to do in the near future: Cleaning and arranging the janitor's closet and the storage areas, cleaning the trash cans, etc. Many hands make light work, and most of the jobs won't take much time if two or three people join in. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, and Fred is always available for consultation or questions: (562) 308-6955. Thanks, Fred, for getting the projects going!

**Altar Flower Donations:** Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

**Episcopal News Updates:** The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit https://tinyurl.com/ydxd2jn6 and enter your email address in the box provided.

**Feed My Lambs:** Here's How You Can Help

- On the first Saturday of every month, Feed My Lambs serves our neighbors at St. Luke's. There's a lot that happens before Saturday morning—and we would love to have you join us!
- **We Need Hard-Boiled Eggs!** Every Feed My Lambs lunch includes a hard-boiled egg, and we need more egg donors! You do not have to commit every month—even an occasional contribution helps.
  **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please clearly mark your egg carton "FML." We share refrigerator space with other church ministries, and if the carton isn't marked FML, we won't know the eggs are ours to take early Saturday morning.
- **Bake Homemade Cookies**: Our guests love homemade cookies, and we can always use more! Please place your cookies in Ziploc bags and label them with the date and "FML."
- **Dropping Off Eggs or Cookies**: Donations may be dropped off at the St. Gregory's church office Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Because our office administrator occasionally needs to leave on church errands, please call ahead to make sure someone will be there to receive your donation.
- **Come Work With Us!** You don't have to do everything—or even stay for the whole day. Pick the job and time that work for you:

- Friday before Feed My Lambs
  - 11:00 a.m. — Cookie Bagging
  - 12:00 p.m. — Sandwich Building
  - 3:00 p.m. — Lunch Packing
- First Saturday of the month
  - 6:00 a.m. — Load Out at St. Gregory's
  - 7:00 a.m. — Set Up & Serve at St. Luke's

Interested in volunteering or have questions? Contact Tamera Benedict at tlbenedict4@gmail.com or 562-301-6800.

**Food Bank:** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:

- Bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
- Any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)

Please contact the Parish Office (info@stgregoryschurch.com, 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon (billeldon@gmail.com, 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

**Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish:** We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

**Parish Directory:** Our online parish directory is at https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the "Instant Church Directory" on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

**One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal:** The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/.

**Forward Day By Day:** For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact the Parish Office at 562-420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

**In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest!** In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478). And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That's why we are here – for YOU!

## *PRAYER LIST*

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Mother Beryl, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Culbertson, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Anne Cantrell, Matt Burger, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Carlos Cruz, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Nancy Luebben, Michelle Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Edith Finney, Marty Wong, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nellie Bell, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Brett W., Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Daryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Meg Wagner, Annette Ffrench, Barbara Barton, Rosan Curtis, Nick Playter, Mary Playter, David Caffrey, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Casey Ramsdell, Maria Cortez, Gloria Smith, Lynda Hartman, Gary Laursen, Vivian Anaya-Outler, Greg Highstand, Keith Johnson, JR Amos, Loretta Scott, Jim Moody, Ruth Contreras, Holly Cardone, Dayna Kinkade, Laurie Baker, Lisa Fincher Bailey, Lori Topps, Dennis La Carra

*Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.*

# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

## WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

## ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:
To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Rev. Dr. Antonio José Gallardo Lucena
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

David Sachs, Parish Administrator
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Monday – Friday
www.stgregoryschurch.com