

9:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

"Are you the one who is to come,
or are we to wait for another?"

Matthew 11:3, NRSV



SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Lutheran Community of Christian Believers - ELCA

6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples, FL 34113-2913

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**DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Lutheran Community of Christian Believers

All Are Welcome!

All who have come to worship are heartily welcomed. Let us joyfully open our hearts to God and to one another.

You are encouraged to participate in all that Shepherd of the Glades has to offer and to make Shepherd of the Glades your spiritual home.

If Shepherd of the Glades can be of service to you or if you would like Pastor Jeff to contact you, please so indicate on the pew welcome sheet. The office phone number and Pastor Jeff's cell phone number are on the cover of the bulletin.

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025, 9:30 A.M. Worship

+ Indicates Please Stand

Bold Indicates Congregation Joins In

PRELUDE

Megan Cianflone, Director of Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A Long expected God,

C **We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

+ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C **Amen**

+ **GATHERING HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" ELW 242**

+ **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Jackie Masterson

P As we light the candle on the Advent Wreath, let us pray

C **Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.**

(verse 3)

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

+ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray.

C **Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus

² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 146:5-10 (Read responsively)

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**
who keeps promises forever;
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;**
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion,**
throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL according to: Matthew 11:2-11

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

+ **SERMON**

Pastor Jeff Unga

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”* ELW 246

A Let us proclaim our trust in the presence and power of God in our lives with the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

+ **APOSTLES’ CREED**

ELW 105

**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 to the dead.**

**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 life everlasting. Amen.**

+ **THE PRAYERS**

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

P When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for: The Family of Barb Balster, The Family of John Krentz, The Family of Marilyn Malinowski, The Family of Martha Jepsen, The Family of Gail Fesnak, The Family of Janet Connell, , Susan Schacht, Matthew Bailey, Clare Manzella, Dean Welch, Kai, Brenda Charleston, Lily Braumoeller, Craig, Nikki Wykstra, Carey Yaros, Erick DelReal, Aloise Olson, Barbara Carey, Patricia Lussky, Janice, Colleen Glackin, Nadine Kelly, Patty Musielak, Vernon Rasmussen, Nick & Anita Lehr, and others we name in our hearts or out loud. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A God of mercy, you are our resurrection. We give you thanks, oh God, for the celebration of birthdays and anniversaries within our faith community. Today we pray for Myrka Gonzales and Olivia Tibbetts as they celebrate their birthdays. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

P As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work.
God of grace,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C **Amen.**

+ **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

A The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

+ **OFFERTORY**

We give an offering to show thanks for God's blessings, and to support the ministries of God's Church, near and far. Offering collection plates are available upon entry to the sanctuary before worship or as you leave after its conclusion. To give electronically just scan this code with your phone or visit our website home page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>.+



OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

+ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

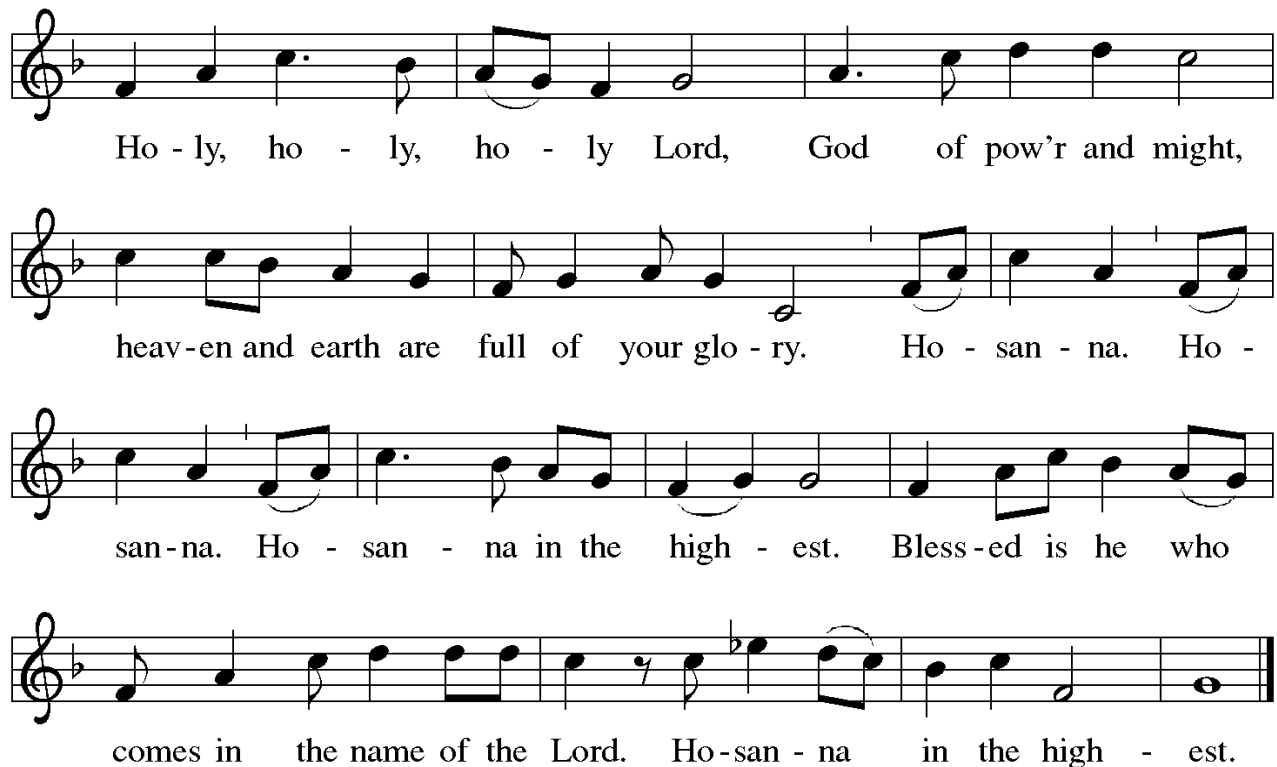
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

+ **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Spoken)*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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.**

+ DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are invited and welcome to come forward to partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please notify an usher. For your safety and convenience, you will have a choice of coming to the altar rail or taking communion in your pew in an individually sealed container.

If, for any reason, you are not comfortable receiving communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms, indicating you wish to receive a blessing. The Eucharist is celebrated by intinction. Our Altar Guild at all communion services offers grape juice (lighter color), as well as wine (darker color), for intinction, the dipping of wafer into the wine or juice. One chalice will hold both wine and grape juice. Note: Gluten free wafers are offered, as well, in the Narthex or as you come forward.

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

+ COMMUNION BLESSING

A God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

+ THE BLESSING

P May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN *“People, Look East”* **ELW 248**

+ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Lawrence & Maryann Buettner in celebration of their son, August's birthday.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Local hospitals are no longer calling church offices to advise of the hospitalizations of parishioners. If you are hospitalized, or know of someone that is hospitalized, please let the church office know so that we may keep you/them in our prayers and provide pastoral support.

BLESSING BAGS

Blessing Bags are now available in the Narthex. Be sure to take at least one to be a blessing to someone who could use one!

PAUL TODD, JR. CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TOMORROW! Monday, December 15. at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING! SAVE THE DATE

We will be going to Lely independent living again this year to sing Christmas carols and share Christmas joy. Join the fun next Sunday, December 21st after worship!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

Order forms for Christmas poinsettias to decorate the chancel for Christmas are now available in the Narthex or in the office. They will be \$22 each this year. We appreciate all who order poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary in honor of Christ's birth. Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve services. **DEADLINE FOR ORDERS** is this Friday, December 19th.

ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY

Please stay after worship for our annual meeting to approve the 2026 budget and vote for new Council Members, Nominating Committee Members, and Synod Assembly Representatives. Materials for the annual meeting are available in the Narthex.

2025 GIVING TREE

Thank you to all who took gift tags from the Giving Tree. Remember the gifts are due back to the church this Tuesday, December 16th.

BAKE SALE ENCORE

If you missed out last week (or are craving more), goodies will be on sale after worship today!

Ministries for Today

Altar Assistants: Mary Winsor, Gail Fitch, and Liz McGuire

Lector: Penny Morken

Altar Guild: Lori Bernabei

Ushers: Gail Fitch, Liz McGuire, Bonny Dery, and Betty Sauer

AV Technicians: Abraham Ungs and Kelli Ungs

THIS WEEK AT SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES:

The office is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pastor Jeff is available by appointment in the office or by cell phone.

Monday, December 15th

7:00 p.m. Paul Todd, Jr. Christmas Concert

Monday, December 15th and Wednesday, December 17th

9:00-10:00 a.m. Bone Builders in Hanson Hall

Tuesday, December 16th, 2025

8:30-11:00 a.m. Sew-Sews meeting in Hanson Hall

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025

10:00 a.m. Bible study with Pastor Jeff

3:00 p.m. “Love Never Ends” grief support group

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 21, 2025

9:30 a.m. Public worship with Pastor Jeff. Worship will also be live streamed on YouTube, or you can access on our website. See website for details -www.sotgweb.org.

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Our Mission is "Transforming lives through the Living Word of God."

Pastor

Rev. Jeffrey T. Ungs

Director for Discipleship

Mary Winsor

Director of Music

Megan Cianflone

Congregational President

Penny Morken

Administrative Assistants to the Pastor Deanna Colbert & Lynn Dickerman

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

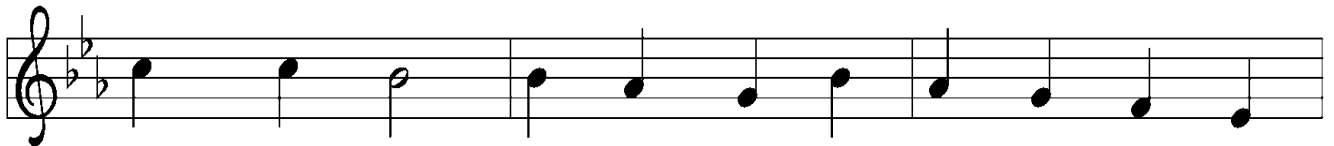
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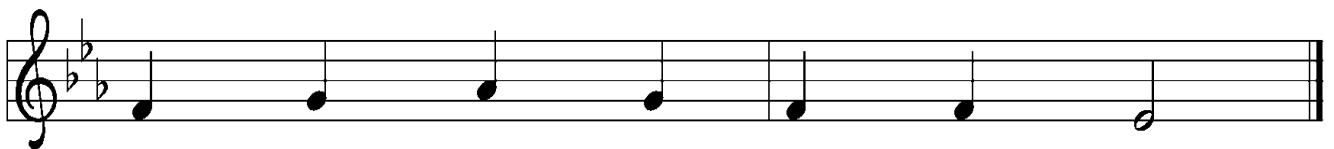
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv'n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

People, Look East



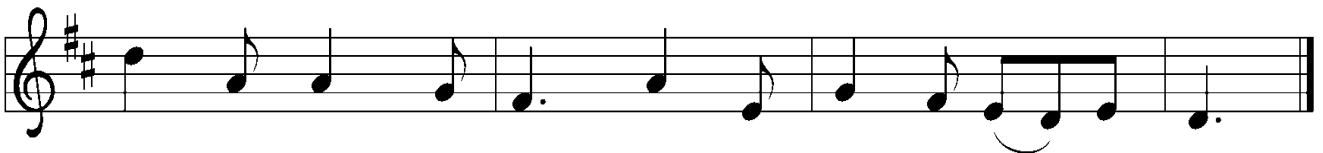
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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