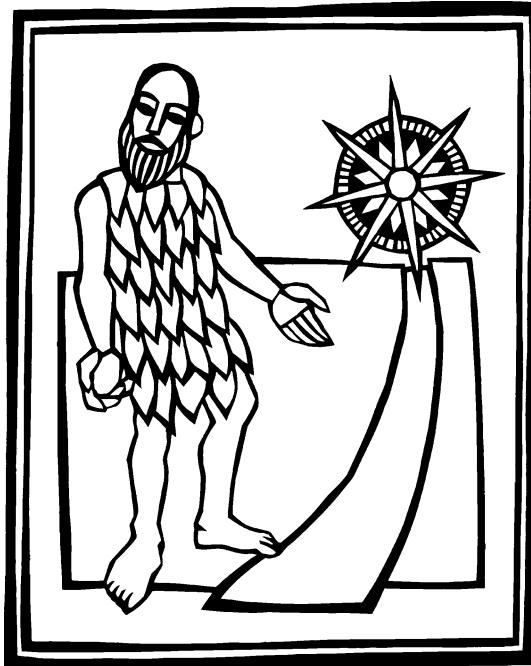


Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

1742 Dinkey Road
Lehighton, PA 18235

610-377-4242

www.dmlcashfield.com
Zoom ID: 586 370 219



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

*To all who are lonely and need fellowship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church opens its arms and bids you **welcome!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
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.

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.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GATHERING SONG *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)

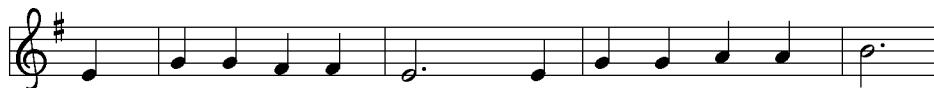
GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

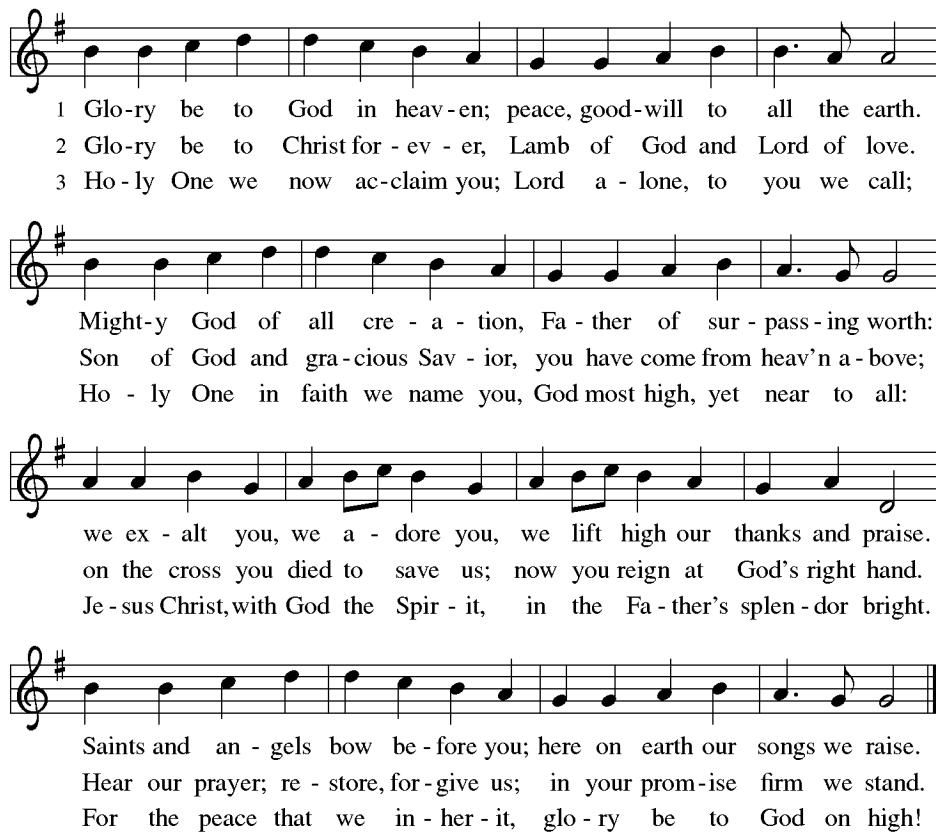


We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

ADVENT WREATH *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (ELW 240, verse 3)*

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

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.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (*Ps. 146:8*)

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob ¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹ LORD their God;

6 who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that ¹ is in them;
who keeps promises ¹ forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to ¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the ¹ captive free.

8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down;

the LORD ¹ loves the righteous. R

⁹ The LORD cares ¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked.

10 The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹ Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

The reading may be announced:

A reading from James.

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

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.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

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."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (ELW 254)

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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,
hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

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 sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. (*We pray especially for . . .*) In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy 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.

OFFERING

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Let the service begin.

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

From *Sundays & Seasons*, © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

DINKEY MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS *December 14, 2025*

The Altar Flowers are sponsored today by Kathy Leadbetter in memory of Sherwood Andrews; we miss you every day, Love Kathy, Jerry, Rhett, Shawn & Megan.

The Bulletins are sponsored today by Gary & Kim Schleicher in honor of family members .

Flower and bulletin charts for **2026** are on the bulletin board above the stairs. You may either sign up on the charts or by calling the office at 610-377-4242. It is appreciated if you pay for your sponsorship by the end of the month that you have sponsored. **All weeks are open for the Memorial Bowl. It is very important for flower sponsors to return the cans and plastic gold bowls that they take the flowers home in. Thank you very much for your cooperation.**

Office Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00AM to 2:00PM;
(610)377-4242

The Week Ahead:

Today	9:00AM	3rd Sunday of Advent Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
Monday	6:30PM	175 th Anniversary Meeting
Wednesday	9:00AM	Morning Prayer
	6:00PM	Advent Worship Service (SJ)
Thursday	9:30AM	Bible Study
	3:30PM	Community Food Pantry
Sunday	9:00AM	2 nd Sunday of Advent Worship
	10:15AM	Sunday School
	12:30PM	Confirmation

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! December 14 to December 20

12/15 Kara Newton

12/15 Jay Reinheimer

12/15 Holly Wilk

12/17 Deegan Berry

12/17 Thomas Steigerwalt

12/18 Donna Miller

12/20 Alice Scitney

Giant Gift Cards: If you would like to purchase any Giant Gift Cards please see Kathy Steigerwalt. We receive 5% from each gift card sold.

Fundraising: Dinkey is selling Streak free cloths; \$5 each. Please contact Jan in the office if interested.

Advent Toiletree: Dinkey will be collecting toilet paper and toiletry items for the Bare Necessities Pantry every Sunday through Advent. Bare Necessities supplies these items to residents in the Lehighton, Palmerton, and Jim Thorpe school districts. Please help those in need.

Poinsettias: Poinsettias for Christmas Eve can be ordered by December 14, 2025. Cost is \$9.50. Order forms are on the back window for anyone interested or you can call the office (610)377-4242.

Pizza Fundraiser: Dinkley will be having a pizza kit fundraiser; orders due by January 18, 2026; pick up on February 5, 2026. Order sheet in the back of church or call Karen Schleicher (610)390-1125 or the church office (610)377-4242.

Christmas recital: There will be a Christmas organ recital presented by organist Alex Haggerty on Friday, December 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church. Wear an ugly sweater or holiday pajamas. All are welcome.

Worldwide Children's Remembrance Day: Trinity Lutheran Church in Lehighton will be sponsoring a children's remembrance day (for those who have passed away) for all parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends on Sunday, December 14 2025 at 2:30PM. This event is hosted by Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow Ministry. Dinner and a ceremony featuring a candle lighting ritual & slide show to honor your beloved child, grandchild or sibling will be provided. RSVP & photo deadline is Wednesday, December 3, 2025. Contact & send photos to: Dylan and Gavin's Rainbow Ministry.

Lehighton Cold Weather Station: The LCWS is an important ministry for the homeless in the Lehighton area. When the temperature drops below 25 degrees overnight, the station is open to anyone in need to have a warm place to sleep overnight. Volunteers and donations are always needed, so if you would like to help in any way, please come out for one of the following information sessions:

MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM OR ASSOCIATED WITH DINKEY MEMORIAL

Noah K. Kunkel PSC41 Box 6927 APO AE 09464
1st Lt. Benjamin Cordova, 9300 Valencia St., Tucson, AZ 85747
Brendan Schleicher El Paso, Texas

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Darwin Berger
Arlene Bisbing
Sheila Flickinger
Tess Hinger

Debbie Meckel
Gordon Scherer
Alice Scitney
Debra Strohl

SICK/HOSPITALIZED/SPECIAL NEEDS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Alexis
Faith Beck
Eli Bowland
Sherri Bowman
Robert Coccio
Rick D
Lauren Dugan
Candy Everett

Louise Everett
Ann German
Dick German
Joseph Gorman
Stephen Hoffman
Barbara Niehoff
Janco
Doug Keller
Sandy Keller
Joe Kluk

Jim Koch
Deb Lilly
Emily Persinger
Kenny Schleicher
Tom Scott
Kathy Steigerwalt
Tanner Schleicher
Patti Walck
Sandy Walter
Betty Weber

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<u>Ministers:</u>	The Congregation
<u>Pastor:</u>	Reverend Anthony Pagotto
<u>Musician:</u>	Bella Moyer
<u>Greeters:</u>	Frey
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Rylee Keller
<u>Lector:</u>	Karen Wetzel

Worship Participants for December 21, 2025:

<u>Greeters:</u>	Sunday School
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Larkin Klotz
<u>Lector:</u>	Sunday School

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.



Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ry na - tion, joy of ev - ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - ri - ous throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887