

# St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church



December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

## Bishop of Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly

## Church Staff

### *Rector*

The Rev. Gayle Catinella

### *Director of Music*

Justin Bays

### *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

Al Stephens

### *Sextons*

Diane Reeves & Charleigh Garcia

### *Administrative Assistant*

Kim Schrinel

### *Financial Administrator*

Gretchen Rohm

## Vestry

### Class of 2025

David Braun – Clerk

Jim Carlisle

Joe Gerhardinger – Senior Warden

### Class of 2026

Sara Roberts

Ruth Ann Sailstad – Junior Warden

Terri Ward

### Class of 2027

Kate O'Connell

Sam Rumpf

Angela Sturtz

Craig Van Horsten

### *Treasurer*

Laura Randall

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:15 am—2:15 pm

# Welcome to St. Michael's in the Hills!

**We are so glad you have joined us today!**  
**Please take a minute to grab your name tag off the rack before the service.**

Congregational responses are printed in **bold type**. Music is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714012  
**Children** are welcome and encouraged to share in our worship.

## Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude: O Lord How Shall I Greet Thee

arr. Ernst Pepping (1901-1981)

### Lighting of Advent Wreath

*Celebrant:* Jesus Christ is the light of the world

*People:* **A light no darkness can overcome!**

*Celebrant:* Today we light our third candle, the pink one: the candle of Love. We are reminded of God's great love for us, and how we are to share that love in the world.

*People:* **Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.**

**Declare His glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. (Psalm 96:2-3)**

*Readers:* Come to us quickly, God of Love, and fill us with your grace and mercy. Help us to turn from the consumerism and busyness of this season, and rest in your love alone.

Bind us together in your love, O God, that we might show the world all the blessings that you give us, and in our generosity, bring people to know your abundant love.

This week, reflect on how you show the love of God in the world.  
O come, O come Emmanuel.

Hymn 436

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates*

Truro

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the  
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
\*4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to  
5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner  
5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.  
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.  
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

The Bidding Prayer

The Rev. Gayle Catinella

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and blessed Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant and People:*

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Officiant:* The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Senior Choir Carol

*Christmas Hath a Darkness*

The Third Lesson: Baruch 4:36—5:9

A Young Adult  
Via Bridges

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Bell Choir Carol

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

The Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

A Choir Member  
Anne Morris

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hymn 32 (VF)

*Comfort ye my people*

*Psalms 42*



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the king - dom now is here.  
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Fifth Lesson: *Isaiah 64:1-9a*

An Altar Guild Member

*Debbie Carlisle*

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.

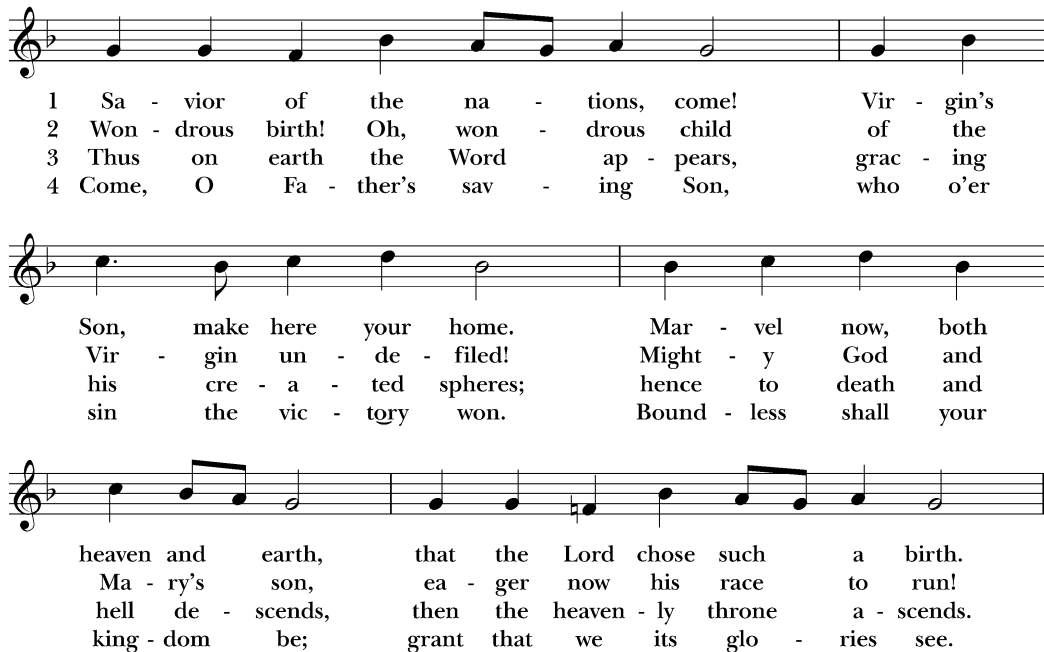
You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the 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.

Hymn 54

*Savior of the nations, come*

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

The Sixth Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-18

An Usher  
 Ron Volk

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Senior Choir Carol

*Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing*

The Seventh Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-15

The Junior Warden  
 Ruth Ann Sailstad

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Senior Choir Carol

*The White Dove*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Hymn 124 (vss. 1-4)

*What star is this, with beams so bright*

*Puer nobis*

*Unison or harmony*

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous  
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the  
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them  
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges  
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with  
 4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful  
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.  
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.  
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.  
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.



In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Senior Choir Carol

*Gabriel's Voice*

Sermon

The Rev. Gayle Catinella

Advent Prayers from “*Praying the Scriptures*” by Jeremiah Williamson

*Leader:* Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Surely, it is God who saves us; therefore, we joyfully pray to the Lord, “God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**”

*Leader:* Though hindered by our sins and in need of your bountiful grace and mercy, you never leave us. You are ever in our midst. Renew your Church in love.

*The congregation is invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

*Leader:* God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**

*Leader:* Make your deeds known among the people, O God. Save the lame; gather the outcast. May the exiles know home and all people know your peace.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**

*Leader:* May your springs of salvation renew the earth. Heal our planet and restore in us a sense of responsibility and gratitude.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**

*Leader:* Merciful God, in this month of great excess and consumerism, call the financial and business communities to act justly and generously. Grant that those without coats be clothed and those without food to be fed.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**

*Leader:* O God, you have done great things. With thankful hearts we pray to you for those burdened by shame, grief, or weakness. Be for them a stronghold and a sure defense.

We especially remember the O’Connell family, as they mourn the loss of Mark, and the Tuttle and Edwards families, as they mourn the loss of Jerry.

*The congregation is invited to add their own petitions, followed by silence.*

*Leader:* God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**

*Leader:* God of our salvation, gather us, with all those who have died, into your sacred heart. Grant us to sing our praises for all eternity.

*Silence*

*Leader:* God our salvation:

*People:* **Thank you.**

*Celebrant:* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### Offertory Prayer

*Officiant:* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Offertory:* *My Lord What a Morning*

arr. Richard Bellingham (b.1934)

### The Collect and Blessing

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.**

Hymn 57 (*See next page for music*)

### The Dismissal

*Officiant:* Keep awake, for the Lord is coming.

*People:* **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

*Postlude:* *O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide*

arr. Ernst Pepping



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.