

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025  
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OHIO 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# INTRODUCTION

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

## TURN ON. TUNE IN. WAKE UP!

In the 1960's people were urged to turn on, tune in, and drop out—to leave the material world behind in favor of an alternate reality. In today's gospel, Jesus also urges us to tune into an alternative to the material world, one he called the coming of the Son of Man. In Jesus' person, the dominion of God comes into the world, and the risen Christ continues to give us abundant signs of its presence. Jesus commands his followers not to drop out of the world, but to be on the lookout for him in it.

Christians await the second coming of Christ, the *parousia*, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and today's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

St. Paul exhorts us in today's second reading to lead lives of faithful obedience until the final day. He also challenges us to participate in God's dominion in the here and now, calling us to wake from sleep, to "put on Christ." Eyes wide open and wrapped in Christ, we are called to a new day. Isaiah describes his own vision: gathered by God, learning and teaching God's ways, walking in God's paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks. Wide-awake, active, and ready for encounters with Jesus, we may find God's dominion when and where we least expect it.

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\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

*"My Soul in Stillness Waits"  
by Marty Haugen  
Chancel Choir*

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits.  
Truly, my hope is in you.

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
Your radiance shines in all who look to you.  
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,  
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.  
Come, make us whole; be comfort to our hearts.

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
And in your advent, draw us all to you,  
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pastor Mallory Morris*

## \*\* CONFESSION

*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.**

**\*\* FORGIVENESS**

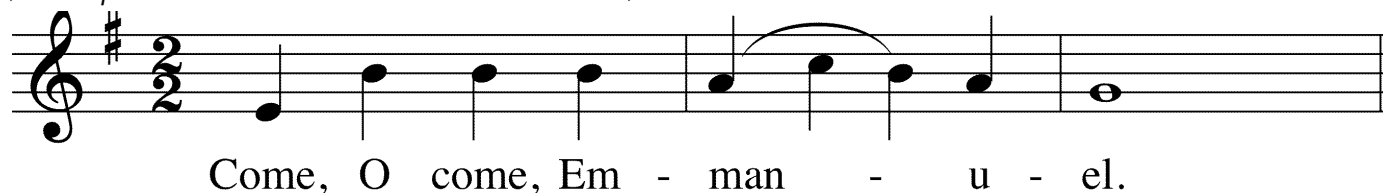
God judges us not as we deserve,  
 but according to God's own righteousness.  
 † You are freed and forgiven,  
 saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

**\*\* GATHERING HYMN**

"Come, Emmanuel"

**Verse Response**

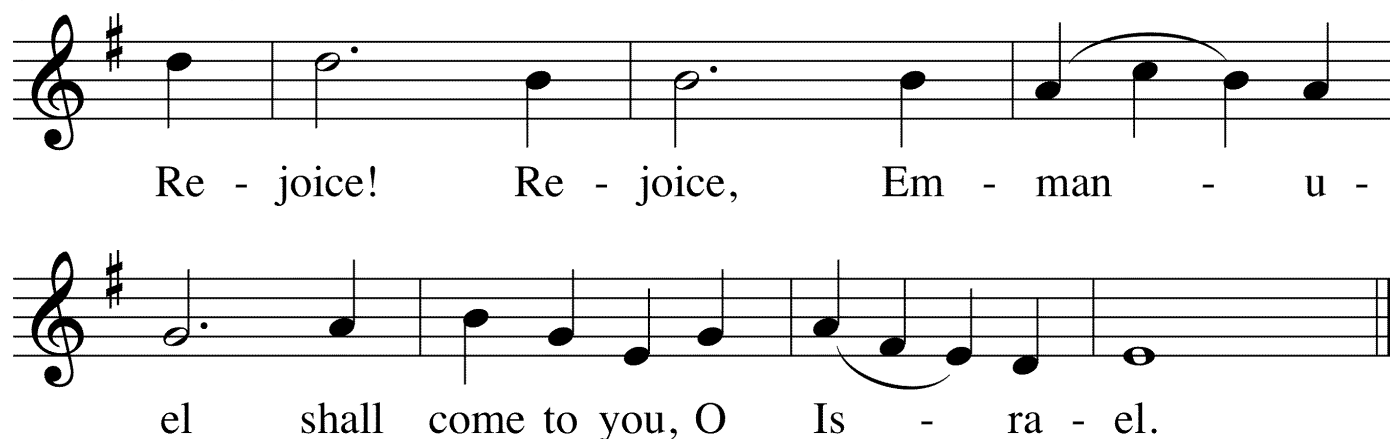
*(Corresponds to the bolded text of each verse)*



(Verse 1 - Music Ministers / **All**)

You are Wisdom, from the mouth of God. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
 You are Wisdom, playing before God. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
 You are Wisdom, wondrous Word of God. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
 You are Wisdom, loving friend God. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

**(Refrain - All)**



(Verse 2 - Music Ministers / **All**)

You are Wisdom, mother to us all. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
 You are Wisdom, truth told to us all. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
 You are Wisdom, promise to us all. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
 You are Wisdom, banquet set for all. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**(Verse 3 - Music Ministers / All)**

You are Wisdom, straight our paths to you. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

You are Wisdom, hearts on high to you. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

You are Wisdom, here we watch for you. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

You are Wisdom, open arms to you. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

**(Refrain - All)**

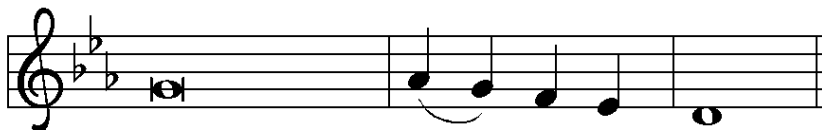
**Rejoice, rejoice! Emanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**\*\* GREETING**

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**

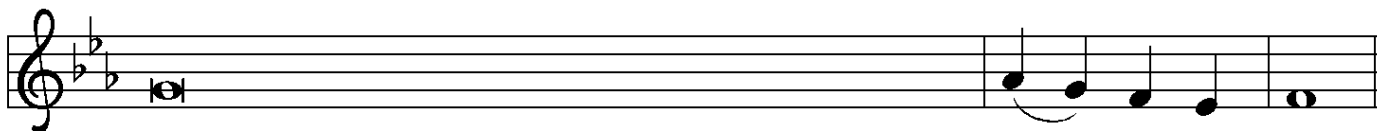
*Assisting Minister*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



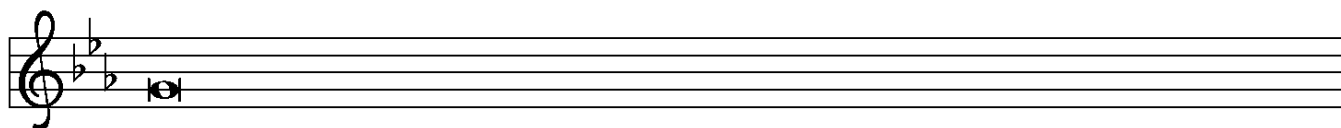
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



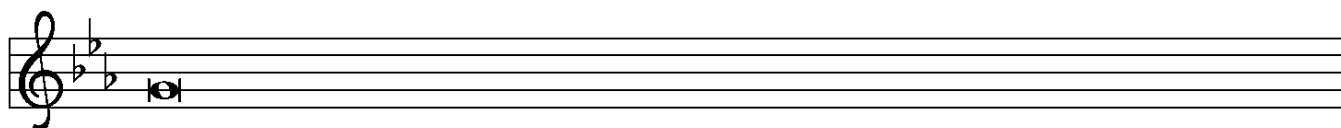
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



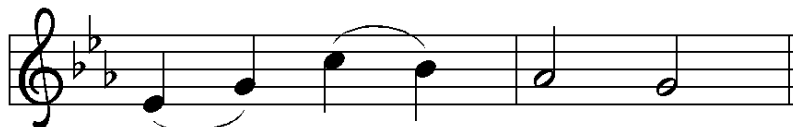
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## \*\* LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

**Advent Week 1**

Advent Week 2

Advent Week 3

Advent Week 4

**November 30**

December 7

December 14

December 21

**Verse 1**

Verses 1 &amp; 2

Verses 1-3

Verses 1-4

**Verses**

1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
3. Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban ish
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,  
 dark - ness. He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd,  
 dark - ness. Lift your heads, and lift high the gate - way  
 dark - ness. He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings.



God - ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 for the King of glo - ry.  
 Let your lights be shin - ing!

**Refrain**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to - day.

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Assisting Minister*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching and song.*

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 2:1-5

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



## PSALM

Psalm 122

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)*

I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

**Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;  
**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.

**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**  
**"May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.

**For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek to do you good."

## SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

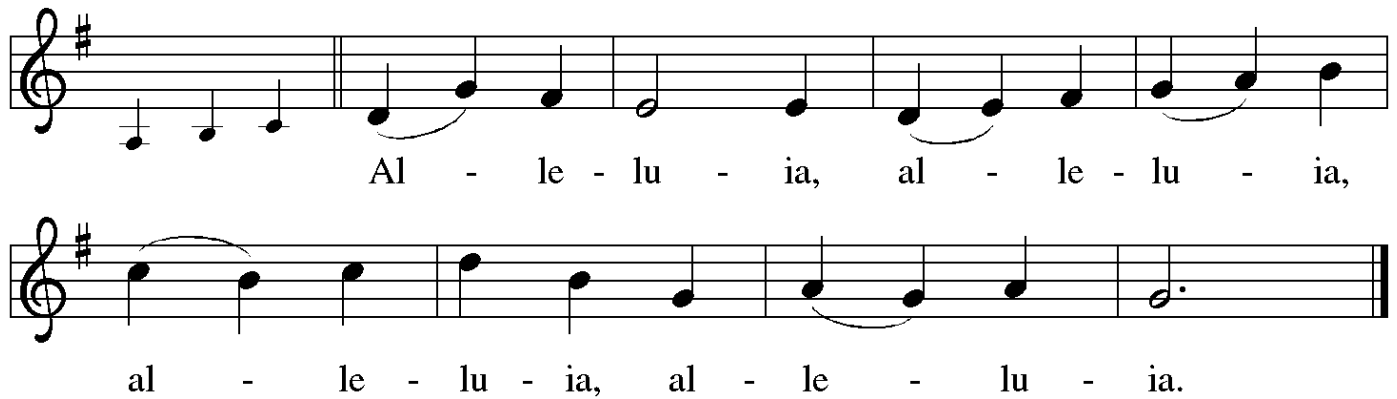
A reading from Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*\* GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## YOUTH MESSAGE

*Karin Linch*

## MESSAGE

*Pastor Mallory Morris*

**(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)**

**For all You are, all You have done,  
We worship You, Eternal One-  
Savior and Lord forevermore,  
You are Messiah.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**Down on our knees, pleading as one,  
Together we pray Your kingdom will come.  
In Heaven and earth, Your will be done,  
You are Messiah.**

**(Chorus - All)**

**Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
You are Messiah.**

**Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
You are Messiah.**

**(Verse 3 - All)**

**Radiant hope, we long for You.  
Deep in our hearts, Your Word is true.  
Be lifted up in all we do,  
You are Messiah.**

**(Chorus - Music Ministers/All)**

**Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
You are Messiah.**

**Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
You are Messiah.**

**You are Messiah, oh!**

(Verse 4 - Music Ministers)

For all You are, all You have done,  
We worship You, Eternal One-  
You are the Lord forevermore;  
You are Messiah.

Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come.

(Chorus - All)

**Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
You are Messiah.**

**Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
Let Your kingdom come,  
You are Messiah.  
You are Messiah.  
You are Messiah.  
You are Messiah.**

**\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
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**

*Assisting Minister*

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.*

*Each petition concludes:*

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.**

**GATHERING OF THE GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*\* OFFERING PRAYER**

*Assisting Minister*

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.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his

disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

## **\*\* 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.**

## **\*\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

**COMMUNION** – *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

\*\* COMMUNION HYMN


"Lost in the Night"



1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,  
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?  
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,  
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;



long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,  
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,  
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,  
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,



plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.  
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?  
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.  
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.



Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?  
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?  
 Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!  
 Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

## \*\* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## \*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Assisting Minister*

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. **Amen.**

## \*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* 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

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with each line of music corresponding to a line of text. The lyrics are: 1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

*Refrain*

Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;

chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

*Assisting Minister*

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Created, saved and gifted by God,  
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Justus Falckner, died 1723;  
Jehu Jones, died 1852;  
William Passavant, died 1894;  
pastors in North America**

**Monday, November 24, 2025**

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

## **Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748**

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

## **Andrew, Apostle**

Sunday, November 30, 2025

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

## **Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552**

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

## **John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749**

Thursday, December 4, 2025

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

## **Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342**

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.