

**Sunday, November 29th 2026**
**First Sunday in Advent Year B Until the Dawn**
**9:00 a.m.**

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***St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church***

**Reverend Maggie Westaby**
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ELCA

**Office: (715) 675-6950**
**Office Hours:**
**Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**
**Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**
***or by appointment***

**WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP**

In God's house,
**we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.**
In God's house,
**we may come exactly as we are.**
In God's house,
**we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.**
In God's house,
**all are welcome and all are heard.**
So come and worship.
**God is here. God is listening.**
Let us worship our with-us God.

**CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

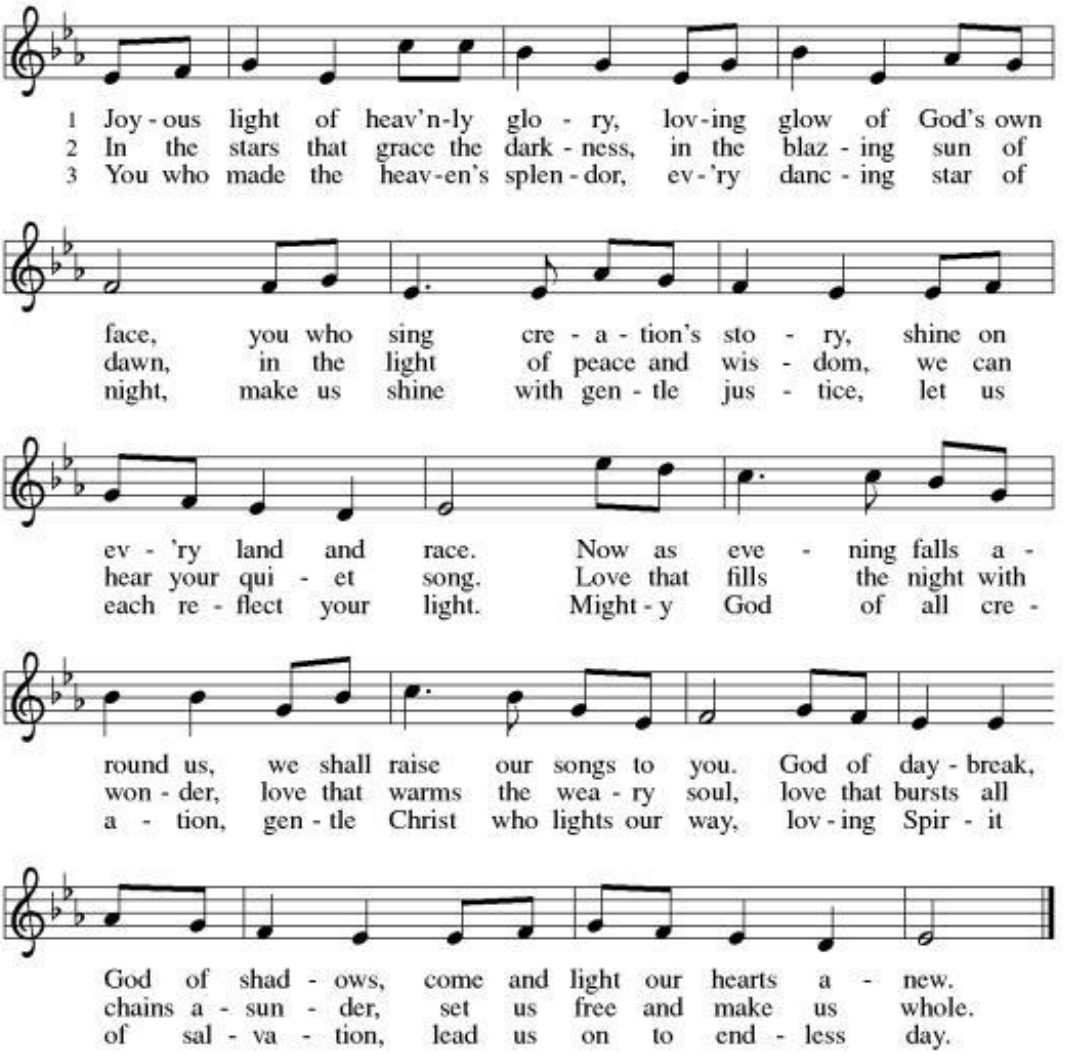
When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
**We turn our eyes to the stars.**
When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
**We stand together, arm in arm.**
When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
**We cry out to God without holding back.**
And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
**We gather together to light the candle of hope.**
*Pause for reflection as the candle is lit.*
Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
**May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.**
Until God's promised day, may it be so.
**Amen.**

*The advent wreath is a symbol of God's never-ending love.*
*The candles acknowledge the blessings God gives us:*
*the blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love.*

*Today we light the candle for hope.*

**GATHERING HYMN & GRATITUDE FOR ADVENT LIGHT**

# Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory




Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen
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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In scripture, we see people cry out to God with honesty and authenticity. The Psalmists pray, "How long, O God?" They beg, "Come and save us," and "Let your face shine upon us." From their raw honesty, we know that we can go to God with just as much honesty about the truth of our lives. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in this moment of truth-telling. Just as the Psalmists did, let us go to God in prayer. Let us pray:

**Holy God, we have been known—to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known— to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.**

Family of faith, whether you pray like the Psalmists—raw and unfiltered— or you can't remember the last time you were honest with God, God still loves you. God sees you. And God longs to be in relationship. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay. We are seen, forgiven, and invited into deeper honesty and relationship.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

May 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.**

Let us pray… Gracious God, for generations, we have cried out to you, and you have listened. So as we turn to hear your Word read and proclaimed, give us the ability to listen as well as you do. Give us the ears and the heart to hear your words. In hope we pray.

**Amen.**

**READING: Isaiah 64:1-9**

[1] O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—[2] 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! [3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. [4] 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. [5] 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. [6] 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. [7] 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. [8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. [9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

**Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

**READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

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

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (page 205)*

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and
the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and
the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and
glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and
puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these
things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you,
this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor
the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the
time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and
puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be
on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of
the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or
else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I
say to all: Keep awake." The gospel of the Lord.

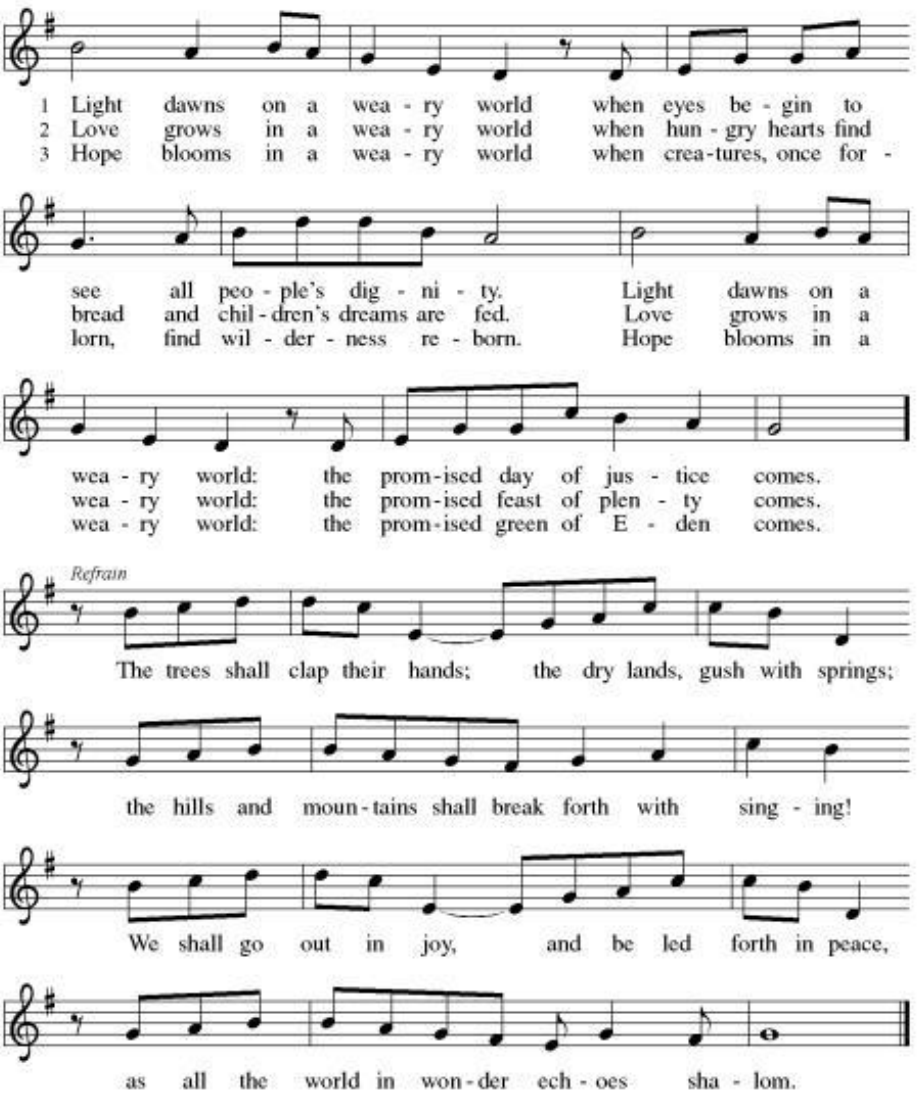
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

# Light Dawns on a Weary World




Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**
Responding to "God, in your mercy" with "**receive our prayer."**

**PEACE**
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**
How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love? With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God. https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEVQ/home

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***GIVE THANKS***
**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

**OFFERING PRAYER**
God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**
God of every tomorrow, God of the stars above us, God of the sunrise before us, we gather at your Table today. We gather here, hungry for a better tomorrow. We gather here, hungry for your promised day. We gather here, hungry for a glimpse of your Spirit. So today we pray, meet us in this holy moment. Meet us in this ordinary bread and cup. We know there is joy to seize, courage to summon, words to speak, songs to sing, and people to love. So until the dawn rises—until your holy tomorrow, we will gather at your Table—remembering that on the night in which he was betrayed…

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 & ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

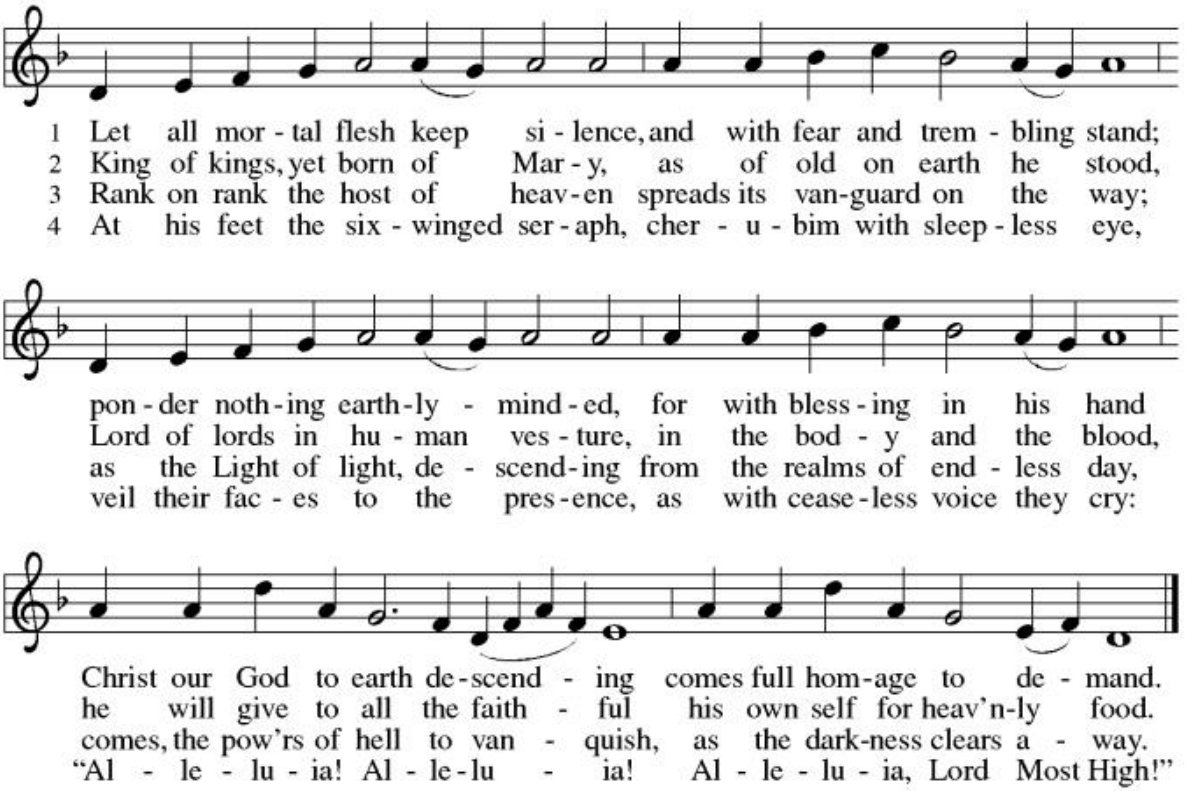
Advent is a season of waiting. We wait for the birth of the Messiah. We wait for God's promised day. We wait for the sun to rise on a morning when swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears will be turned into pruning hooks. But our waiting is not passive. While we wait, we will gather at this Table. While we wait, we will break bread, tell stories, and remember who we are and who we belong to. So, come to this table. Come and be nourished for the journey ahead. For just as surely as the sun will rise, God will always meet us here. All are welcome.

***LAMB OF GOD (page 154)***

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

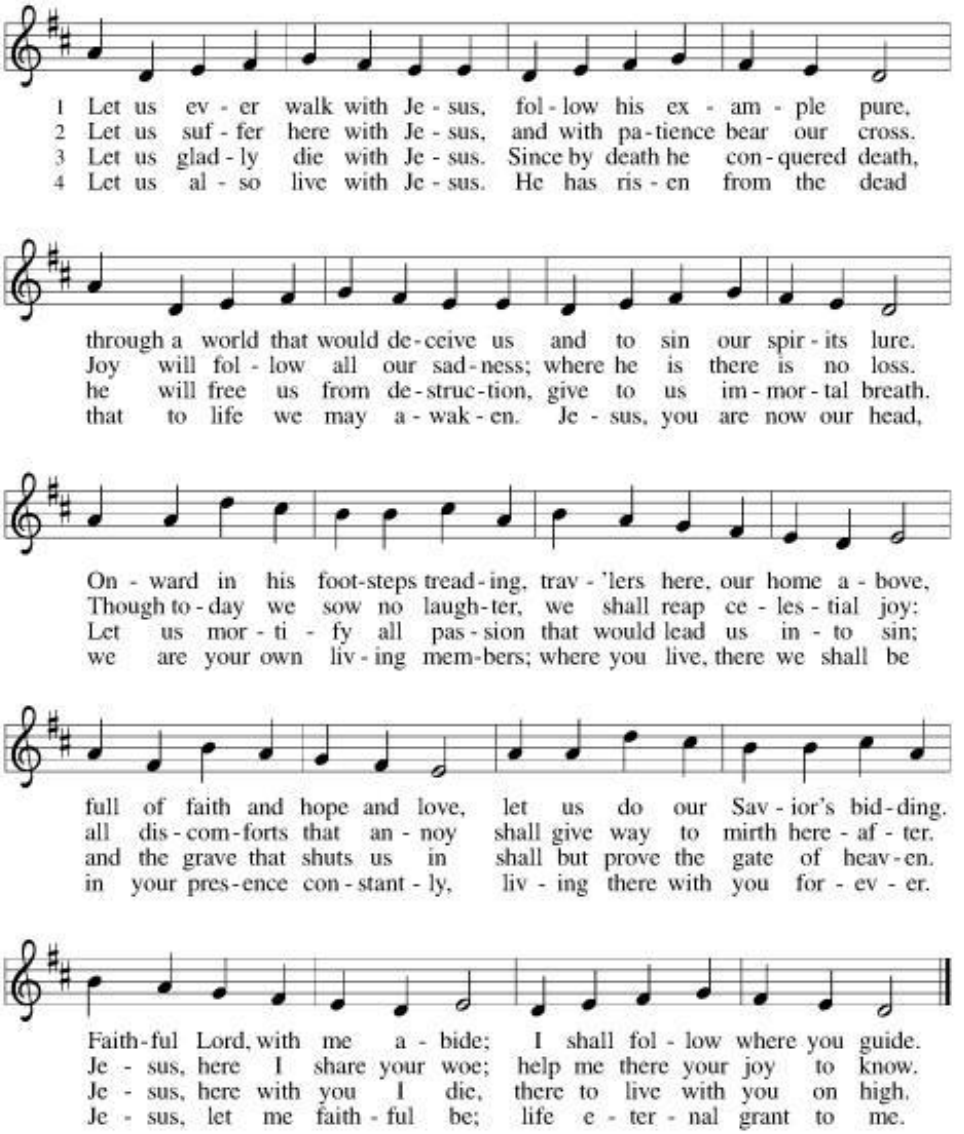
**COMMUNION HYMNS**

# Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence




Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

# Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus




Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
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**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,
Until the dawn, until your promised day, until the sun rises on a world that finally knows peace and harmony, until all people know their love and worth, until that day, until that dawn, until that holy tomorrow, we will gather at this Table. We will break bread, and we will remember what it looks like for all to be fed. Thank you, loving God, for meeting us here once more.
**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

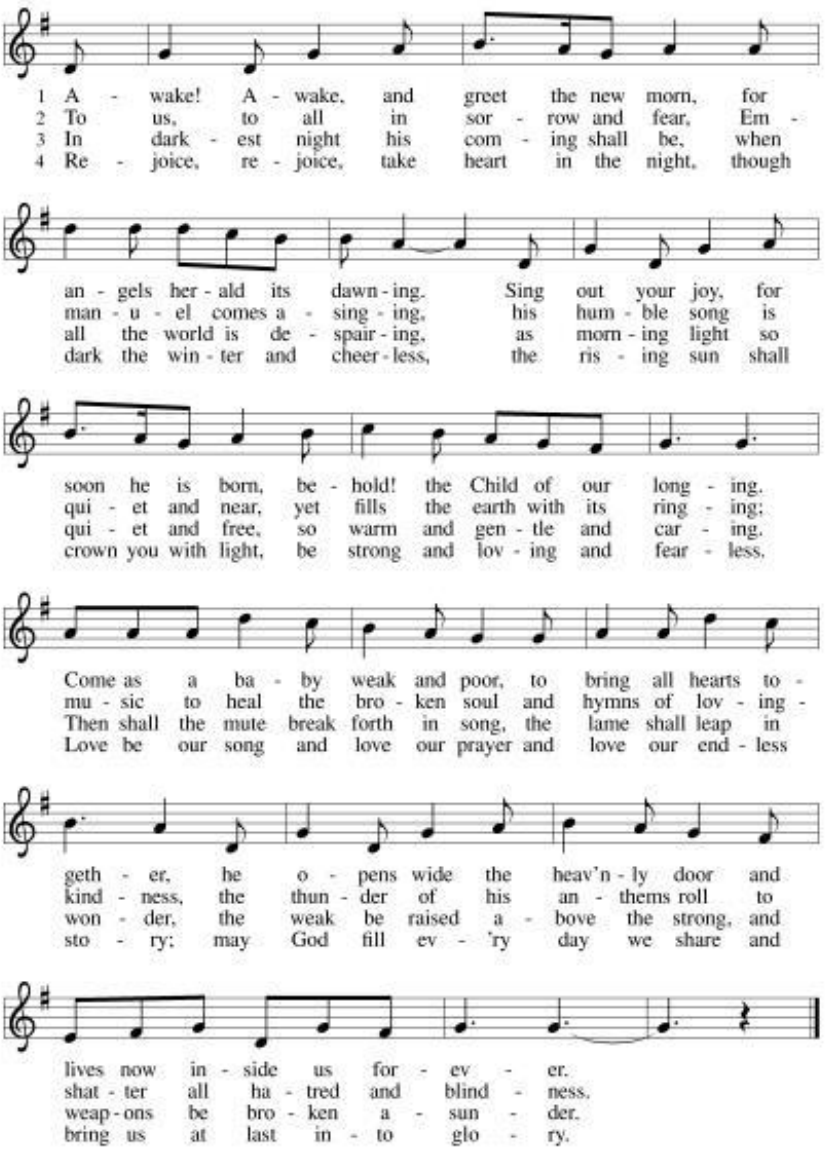
**BLESSING**

As you leave this place, may you speak the truth in love, may you hold fast to courage, may you be quick to joy, may you listen for the angels, and may you build each other up.
Until we reach God's promised day—when the lion will lie down with the lamb and the sun will rise over all of us.
That is what we move toward. That is what we dream of. So look toward the horizon, and go with hope. Go in peace.

And may the blessing of the Holy Trinity ☩ God, our Creator, Christ, our Immanuel, and the Holy Spirit, who fills us with hope be with you now & always.
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

# Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn




Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

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***Thank You to the Reissman Family for the beautiful Christmas Tree donated in memory of Louie Reissman.***

***Welcome to all!*** Happy Advent! *Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.*

***Welcome to all!*** *Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones.*

***To those who are visiting:*** Welcome to St. John Immanuel and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

***Reminder!*** **If you are in need of Pastoral care, or if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John Immanuel (715) 675-6950**

***Prayer Ministry.*** Each week we uplift members (selected randomly). You may pray for these members this week: Nicole Melander, Chavalin Chadwick, Jackson Mueller, Eleanor Grueneberg, Nicholas Oelke, Mason Mielke, Addilynn Van Der Geest, Kassidie Augustine.

***Prayers for Health & Healing:*** Sharon Gilles, Renell Bahr, Chuck Eno, Deb Grueneberg, Cullin Oelke, Doug Luce, Karen Spoehr, Rita Radant, Anthony Barneson, Will Rode, Karen Voigt, Mike Hoffman, Fritz Poeske, Susan Knight, Dorothy Westfall, Rose Rosenau, Anne Ohrmundt, Carol Fitzke.

**Food Basket.** Each week you are invited to bring **non-perishable grocery** items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart.*

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Open Council Positions 2027** Vice President, Secretary, Fellowship, Trustee, Education

**Monday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. the Book Club** will discuss *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston*

**Sunday, December 6th after worship** The Christmas Choir will be practicing after worship. If you haven't already signed up you are still welcome to join us. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**Tuesday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m.** Calling all ladies! The Sisterhood Gathering is right around the corner. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with additional details.

**Sunday, December 13th Noisy offering!** Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: "**Youth Gathering** – *We're raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith!*" Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

**Sunday, December 13th 1:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Bowling** At Days Bowl-A-Dome. Pizza and soda provided!

**Monday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study** will discuss Acts 10 & 11

**Thursday, December 17th Candlelit Shepherds Meal Doors open at 5:00 p.m.** ***Dinner starts at 5:30***. Join us in a simple Shepherds Meal of soup, bread, dried fruit, nuts and cheeses by candlelight. You are invited to bring wine to share with your brothers and sisters in Christ. After our meal, we will move into the sanctuary where we will watch "Journey to Bethlehem," a 2023 "live-action Christmas musical adventure... that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told." $10/participant paid that evening. Sign-up in the narthex. *This is intended for adults and older/mature children.*

**Sunday, December 20th Worship is at 10:00 a.m.** Join us for our Children's Christmas Program! Following worship, enjoy our Winter Market Bake Sale, complete with a Hot Chocolate Bar and a Mimosa Bar! Want to help make this festive event a success? Stop by the narthex for more information and to sign up to donate baked goods or ingredients. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!

**Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service** A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

**Tuesday, December 22nd at 5:30 p.m. Pizza & Movie Night** Pizza and movie night is BACK! Join us December 22nd for *The Grinch*. Pizza will be at 5:30pm, movie from 6-8pm. Bring your favorite blanket, pillow and stuffy! Bring a friend! Please sign up in the Narthex! Any questions please reach out to Maddie Grueneberg 715-574-9095

**Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve Worship! Worship services will be held at 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. – **Please note the time change for the 2:30 pm service. It will be at 2:00 pm on the 24th.**

**2nd Year Confirmation Food Drive!** The 2nd year confirmation students want to help the people in need by starting a food drive. They are looking for non-perishable items, and no expired food please. Items can be placed into the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall. Food will be distributed to local food banks.

**Parking Lot Update:** Please see the minutes located in the Narthex.

**Do you like Texas Roadhouse? Enjoy a meal on a Sunday and earn money back to St. John Immanuel!** Bring our church bulletin, turn it into your server, and St. John Immanuel will receive 10% back from your food sales!

**Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website!**
Help support St. John Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!

**Live Streaming and Photography Notice.** When you enter St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

**Coming This Week @ St. John Immanuel November 29th – December 6th**

**Today – Sunday, November 29th**
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / No Sunday School/ Tree Decorating - all are welcome to help.
10:15 a.m. Endowment Meeting / Christmas Choir Practice

**Monday, November 30th**
9:00 a.m. Book Club – "The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife"

**Wednesday, December 2nd**
8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

**Thursday, December 3rd**
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

**Sunday, December 6th**
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Christmas Program Practice
3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Community Dinner – First United Methodist Church
****Donations from Coffee hour will go towards a new refrigerator in our Fellowship Hall Kitchen.**