

## **Postlude**

### **Praying Together**

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:** Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginnhy Robinson, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

### **Last Week**

**General Fund receipts for week ending 11/23/2025:\$ 767.00**

**General Fund receipts for week ending 11/30/2025:\$ 650.00**

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. Headings preceded by an asterisk \* indicate when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.



## **\*Post Communion Prayer**

Loving God,  
In a world racked with fear, you gather us together.  
You set the table.  
You meet us here.  
You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.  
You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win.  
So with renewed courage,  
with renewed hope,  
with renewed conviction,  
send us out into the world.  
Help us to feed others as you have fed us.  
With gratitude we pray, **Amen.**

## **\*Blessing**

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.  
May you reach for each other's hands.  
May you choose courage whenever you can.  
And in all things, may you remember that good news  
is louder than fear.  
In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends,  
and the one who journeys with us—  
go in peace and be not afraid. **Amen.**



## **Serving in Worship Today**

Presiding Minister

Rev. Andrea McDonough

Organist

Gerry Mass

Assisting Minister

Ted Lockmiller

Lector

Peggy Smith

Crucifer

Adrian Bernardo

Advent Wreath

Gwen Susaneck

Charlotte Zaranaka

Parish Administrator

Jennifer Lasher-Dobush

Custodian

Vince Besednjak

## \*Offertory Payer

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people. Through our offerings and your meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and a good and joyful thing...and with your people on earth who live in this hope, we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:



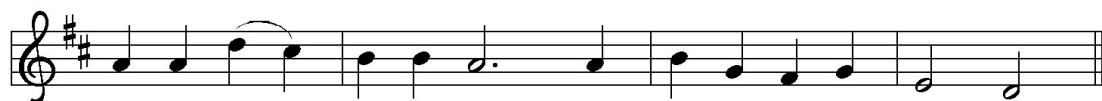
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

# \*Processional Hymn: Awake, Awake, Greet The New Morn

## ELW# 242



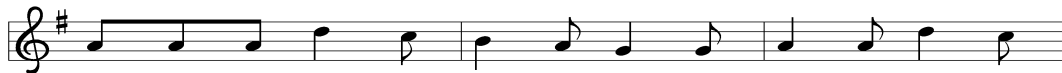
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In the dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



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



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



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



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



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

4

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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birth among us. We thank you for the gift of your love.

Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We pray for the church throughout the world, and for all the ministries that build up the body of Christ, that in our many vocations we may serve to your glory. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We pray for this nation and for all nations, remembering especially those who are victims of political and social injustice. We pray for elected officials and all leaders, that they will govern with courage and equity. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We pray for all in need: for the sick, the destitute, and the dying; for strangers in our land, for the invisible ones; for the elderly and children; for parents and grandparents; for those who live alone and those who live lonely in the midst of family. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We remember with mercy those who sleep without shelter, cold and vulnerable, lacking enough food; those who are overworked and those who have no work. Stir up in us the capacity to see ourselves in their struggles and to act so that others may have life abundant. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We pray for this community, for our neighbors and friends, and for those with whom we study and work. Guide and strengthen all people in our common life to know the gifts of your grace and love. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, asking that our gratitude for their witness be apparent in all that we do. Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

May all that we ask and all that you see is needed in our world, be given to your people; through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Children's Moment

## First Reading: Isaiah 43:19-21

This is what God says,  
the God who builds a road right through the ocean,  
who carves a path through pounding waves,  
The God who summons horses and chariots and armies—  
they lie down and then can't get up;  
they're snuffed out like so many candles:  
“Forget about what's happened;  
don't keep going over old history.  
Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.  
It's bursting out! Don't you see it?  
There it is! I'm making a road through the desert,  
rivers in the badlands.  
Wild animals will say ‘Thank you!’  
—the coyotes and the buzzards—  
Because I provided water in the desert,  
rivers through the sunbaked earth,  
Drinking water for the people I chose,  
the people I made especially for myself,  
a people custom-made to praise me.

The light shines in the darkness.  
**And the darkness did not overcome it.**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19** (sung responsively with Psalm tone 3)



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# \*Hymn of the Day: Praise The One Who Breaks the Darkness

## ELW #843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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would come true for them. As a result, the non-Jewish outsiders have been able to experience mercy and to show appreciation to God. Just think of all the Scriptures that will come true in what we *do*!

The light shines in the darkness.

**And the darkness did not overcome it.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.

**\*Gospel: Matthew 11:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**