

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

8:45 AM

NOVEMBER 30,
2025

Jeffery Gramza

Senior Pastor

Tim Jordan

Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**

Dir. of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church - First Sunday of Advent

3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640

November 30, 2025, 8:45 am

PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft die Stimme

stg. J.S. Bach
Charly Sly, organ

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The night is far gone, and the day is drawing near.
The world waits in shadow, but light is rising on the horizon.
We come to watch for the dawn.
We come to walk in the light of the Lord.

God's vision still calls to us—
a world where swords are shaped into plowshares,
and fear is turned into friendship.
We long for that day.
We open our hearts to the Prince of Peace.

Keep awake, beloved ones! Christ is coming—not in thunder or terror, but in quiet grace, in steady love, in the small and certain light of Advent.
We will stay awake.
We will watch and wait.
We will walk in the light of hope.

May the God of promise stir your hearts from slumber,
may the Christ of peace guide your steps in the way of love,
and may the Spirit of hope keep your eyes lifted toward the rising light.

Go forth as children of the day—
ready, radiant, and alive with expectation.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the ✠ Holy Spirit.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
See next page

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf

stg. Wayne L. Wold
Charly Sly, organ

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"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" arranged by J.S. Bach
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"Wachet auf" setting by Wayne L. Wold

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Come, Now, O God



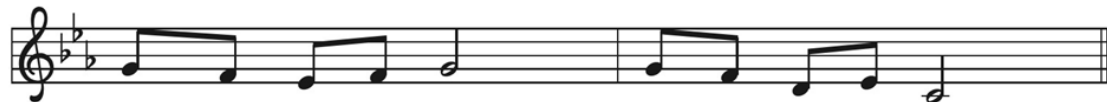
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
 Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
 Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
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BENEDICTION

Go now into the waiting world—
 awake and unafraid,
 for the dawn is breaking and the light of Christ is near.

Come, people of God—let us worship the one who is our dawn,
 our peace, our promised day.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
 down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
 shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 and with words of love draw near.
 while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW #241

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
**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.**

Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the dawning day, you break into our darkness with the promise of light.
Awaken us from our sleep, and open our eyes to the hope that rises with you. In a
world restless with fear and conflict, teach us to walk in your ways of peace—to
shape compassion from anger and faith from weariness. Keep us watchful, not with
worry, but with wonder and trust, ready to welcome Christ whenever and howev-
er he comes. Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our light. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

CHILDREN’S SERMON & CANDLE LIGHTING

This Sunday we light the candle of hope.

KIDS’ PRAISE

*At this time children age 3 – grade 5 are now dismissed,
at the parent’s discretion, to the Chapel.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

Page 489

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!”

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122

With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim



1 With joy I heard my friends ex - claim: “Come,
2 How beau - ti - ful does Zi - - on stand, a
3 For Zi - on’s peace let prayers be make; may



let us in God’s tem - ple meet;” With - in your gates, O
cit - y built com - pact and fair; the peo - ple of the
all that love you pros - per well! With - in your walls let



Zi - on blest, shall ev - er stand our will - ing feet.
Lord u - nite with joy and praise to wor - ship there.
peace a - bide, and glad - ness with your child - ren dwell.

SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERTORY

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying arr. J.S. Bach
Chancel Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and giving God, in this season of waiting and wonder, we bring these gifts before you—tokens of our gratitude, symbols of our hope. As you once came to dwell among us in love, come now and dwell in what we offer: in our hands, our hearts, our time, and our treasure. Transform these offerings into light for those who wait in darkness, bread for those who hunger, and welcome for those who long to belong. Through Jesus, the Light of the World, we pray. **Amen.**

THE 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.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The night is far gone; the day is near. Christ is coming—not to catch us in fear, but to wake us to life. Let us confess our sin before the God who calls us to walk in the light.

Silence for reflection

God of the dawning light,
we confess that we have grown drowsy with comfort and distraction.
We have built our lives around what fades
and ignored what endures.
You call us to watch, but we slept through your summons.
You call us to walk in your light,
but we have chosen our own paths and stumbled in the dark.
Forgive us, awaken us,
and teach us to live as people of the day—
expectant, courageous, and full of hope in you.

People of God, hear this good news:
The dawn has already begun. Christ comes with mercy, not judgment—to rouse us, renew us, and set our feet on the path of peace. In the name of the one who is coming and is already here—your sins are forgiven, your hearts are awakened, and your lives are made new.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Refrain

Come, let us go to the house of the Lord,
Zi - on, sing; sing out your peace and joy.

Words: "Psalter", 1912, alt.; ref. Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.
Music: English carol; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958 © 1919 Stainer & Bell Ltd.

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.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

Page 21

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.

After the reading:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #436

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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