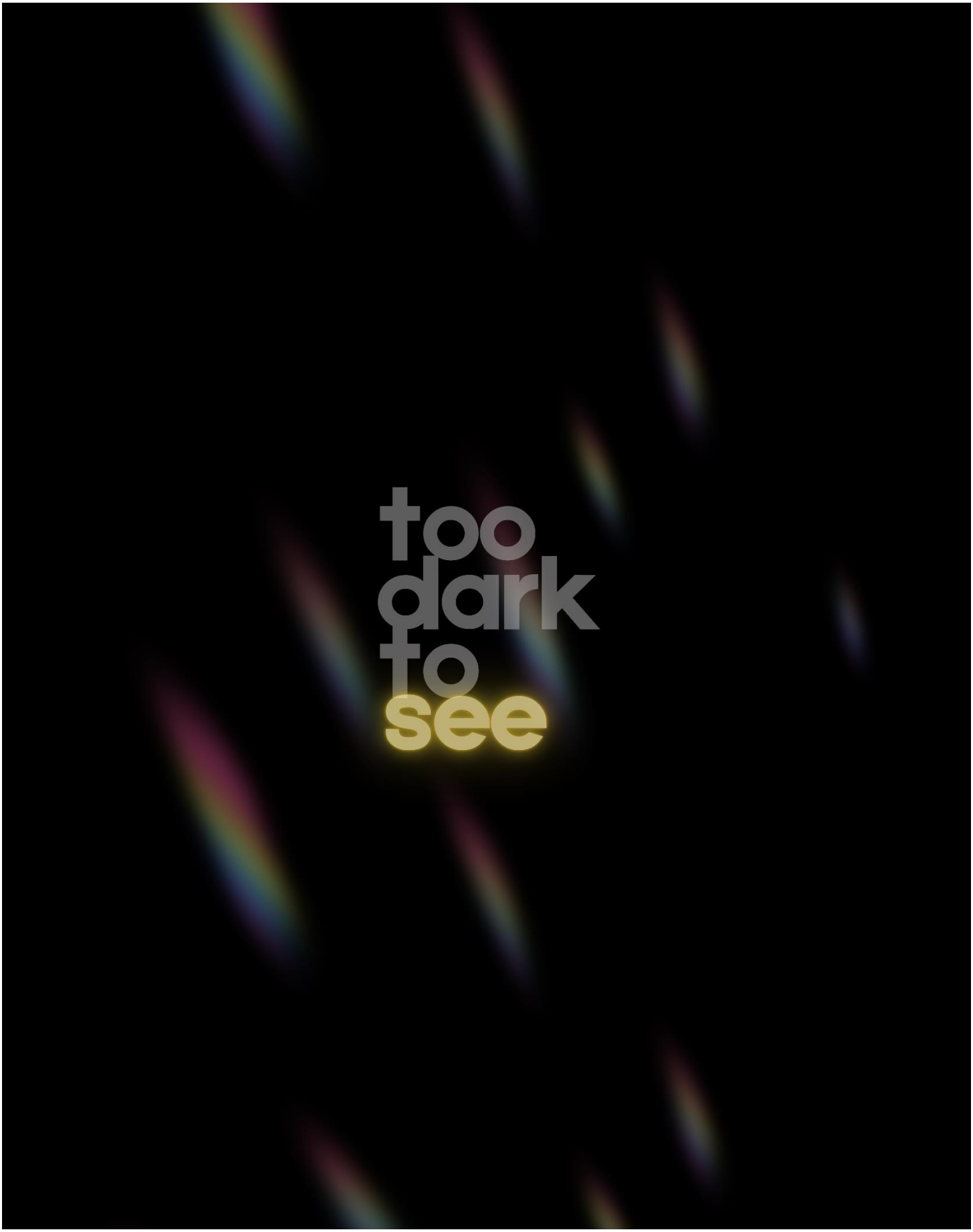


Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach
November 8, 2026 Pentecost 24

As We Gather:

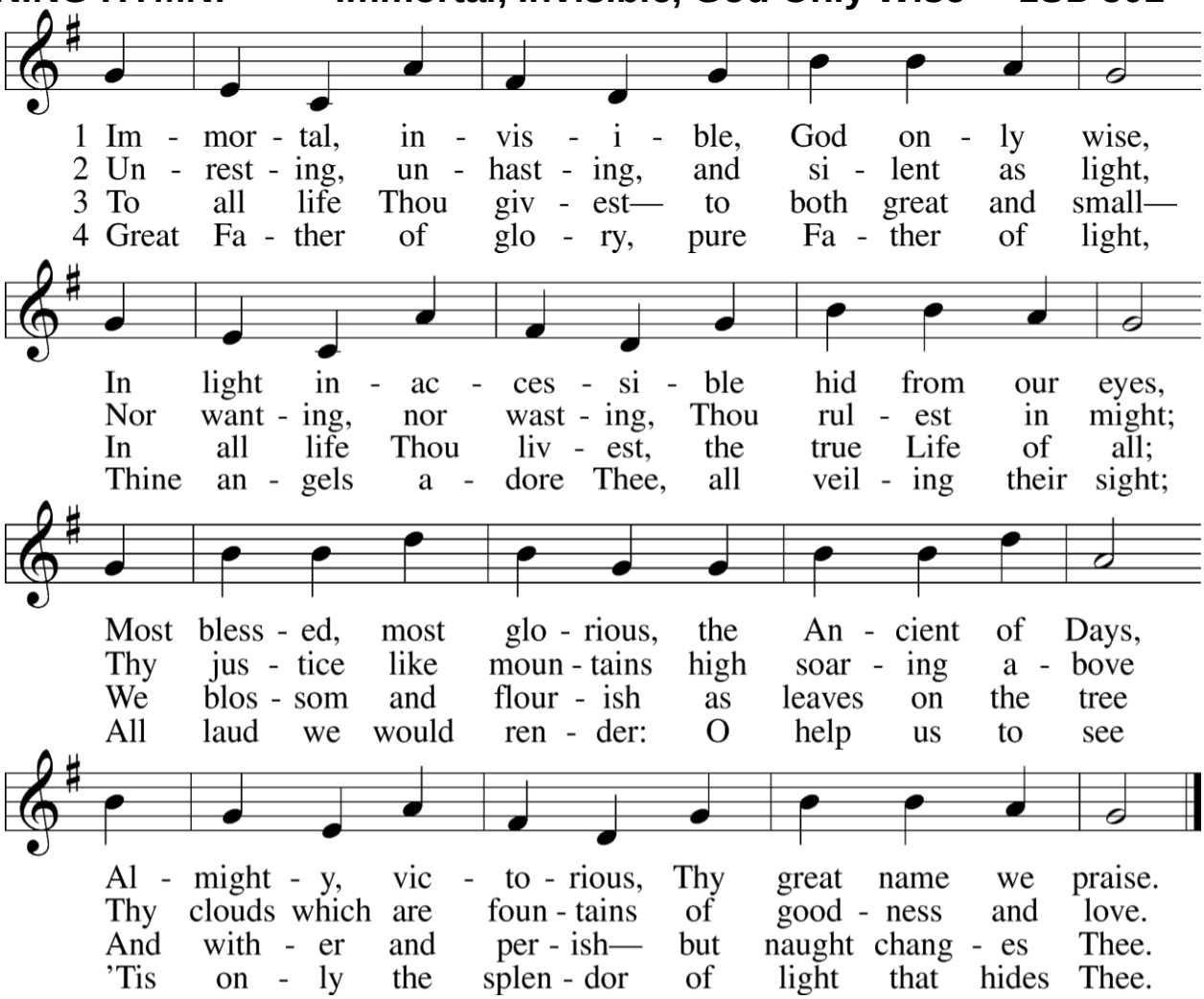
One of the most prominent themes throughout God's Word is light and darkness. From God creating light in Genesis (Genesis 1:3) to Revelation's promise that God Himself will be the only light we need in the new creation (Revelation 22:5), God consistently speaks to us about light and darkness. The Psalms, Prophets, Gospels, and Epistles all communicate God's desire to call people out of darkness into His light. As we await Jesus' return, we still experience darkness in this world—darkness that, at times, is blinding. Nevertheless, Jesus is the light of the world—a light that shines in this darkness and overcomes it.

PRELUDE: "'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme', BWV 645" Organ

~ J. S. Bach

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" LSB 802



INVOCATION:

L: Arise! Shine! Your light has come, and the glory of the Father has dawned over you. Jesus is your everlasting light, and the Holy Spirit shines within your heart.

P: **Amen.** *(Adapted from Isaiah 60:1, 19; 2 Corinthians 4:6)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Let those who walk in darkness and have no light, trust the name of Jesus and depend upon their God.

P: **Jesus has come into the world as the light of the world so that everyone who believes in Him will not remain in the dark but will have the light of life.** *(Adapted from Isaiah 50:10; John 8:12, 12:46)*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

L: This is the message of Truth from God: God is light, and there isn't any darkness in Him. Jesus, the light of the world, has come into the world, but we have loved the darkness rather than the light, because of the evil of our sin.

P: **I have sinned and twisted what was right, but it didn't pay off for me. I have stayed in the dark so that my evil won't be exposed. I have asked the darkness to hide me and the light to become night around me.**

(Time of silent confession)

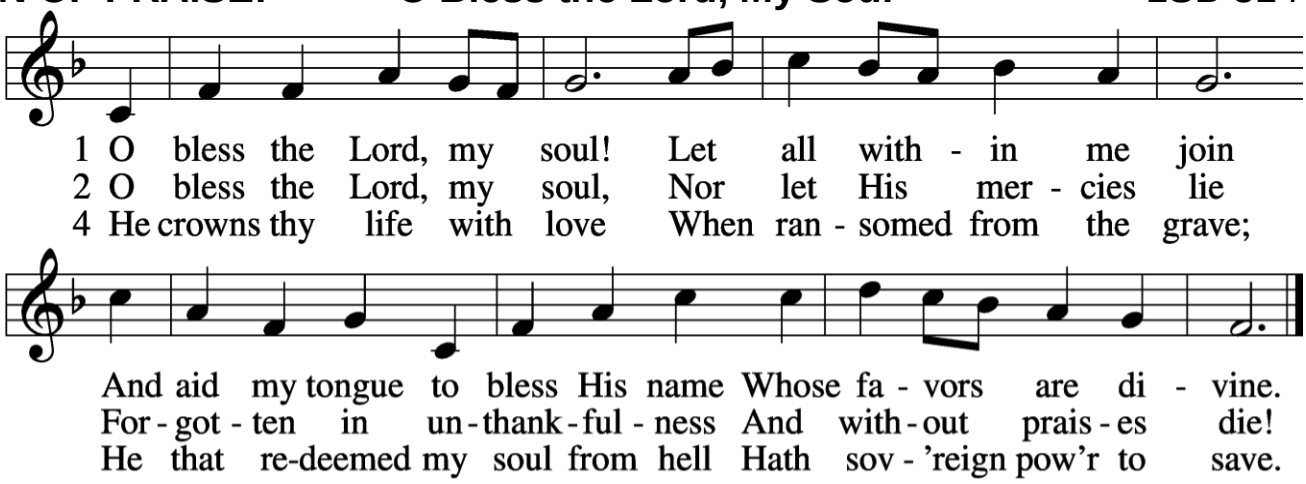
L: But even the darkness isn't dark to you, God. The night shines like the day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

P: **I come into Your light to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son.**

L: People of God, the Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in His wings. You are forgiven and cleansed of all your sin. Jesus has rescued your soul from going down into darkness, and you now live in His light.

P: **Amen.** *(Adapted from Job 33:27-28, Psalm 139:11-12, Malachi 4:2, John 3:19-21, 1 John 1:5-7)*

HYMN OF PRAISE: "O Bless the Lord, My Soul" LSB 814



PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the universe. You led the people of Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

P: **Enlighten our darkness by the light of Jesus Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

L: For You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation.

P: **And we, Your people, glorify You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.** *(Adapted from "Thanksgiving for Light," Evening Prayer, LSB)*

FIRST READING: *Amos 5:18-24*

How horrible it will be for those who long for the day of the Lord!
Why do you long for that day?
The day of the Lord is one of darkness and not light.
It is like a person who flees from a lion
only to be attacked by a bear.
It is like a person who goes home and puts his hand on the wall
only to be bitten by a snake.
The day of the Lord brings darkness and not light.
It is pitch black, with no light.

I hate your festivals; I despise them.
I'm not pleased with your religious assemblies.
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I won't accept them.
I won't even look at the fellowship offerings of your choicest animals.
Spare me the sound of your songs.
I won't listen to the music of your harps.
But let justice flow like a river
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. —GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **"It Is Good"** Grades K-2 **9:30**

~Mary Rice Hopkins

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:1-13*

"When the end comes, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids. They took their oil lamps and went to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish bridesmaids took their lamps, but they didn't take any extra oil. The wise bridesmaids, however, took along extra oil for their lamps. Since the groom was late, all the bridesmaids became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight someone shouted, ‘The groom is here! Come to meet him!’ Then all the bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready.

“The foolish ones said to the wise ones, ‘Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.’

“But the wise bridesmaids replied, ‘We can’t do that. There won’t be enough for both of us. Go! Find someone to sell you some oil.’

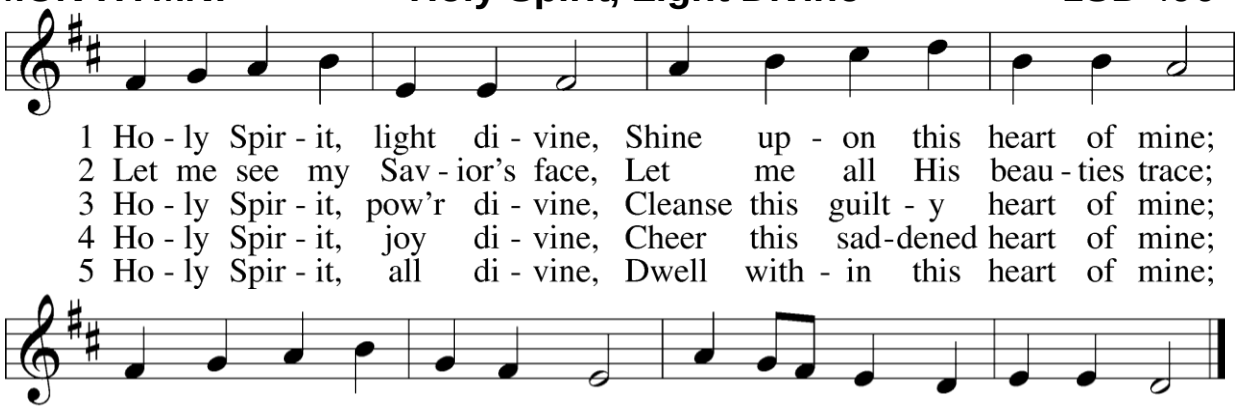
“While they were buying oil, the groom arrived. The bridesmaids who were ready went with him into the wedding hall, and the door was shut.

“Later the other bridesmaids arrived and said, ‘Sir, sir, open the door for us!’

“But he answered them, ‘I don’t even know who you are!’

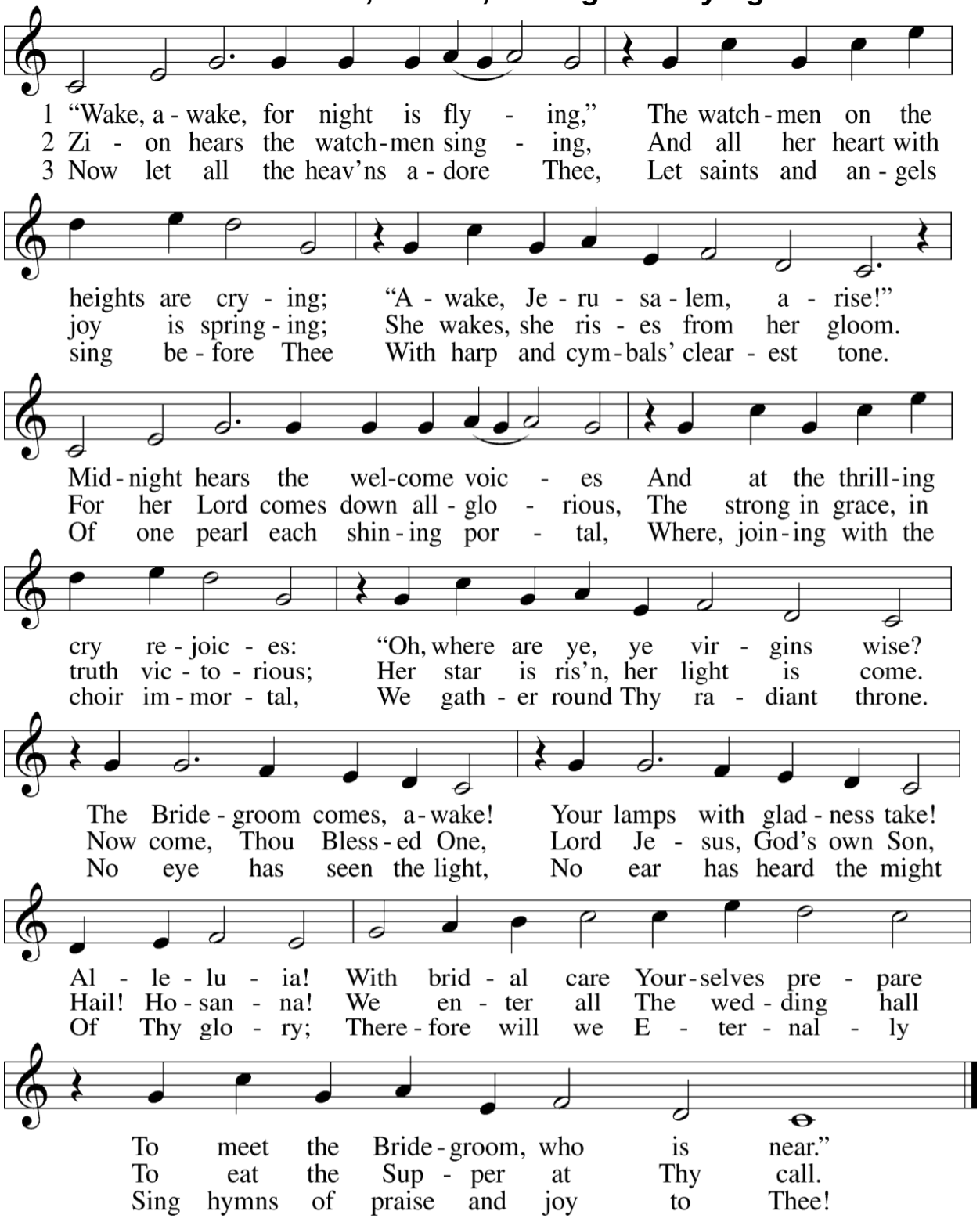
“So stay awake, because you don’t know the day or the hour. —GW®

SERMON HYMN: “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” LSB 496



MESSAGE: *“Too Dark to See” Amos 5:18-24*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" LSB 516



CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED: *(*catholic means the universal Christian Church)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy *catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATING THE GIFTS:

L: Lord, we believe Thy Word, though dim our faith may be.
P: **And all the things we do, O Lord, we do it unto Thee.** *(LSB 781, stz. 6)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 and ever. Amen.

****** At our 8:00 a.m. service, we will continue on page 10 with Announcements.***

****** At our 9:30 a.m. service, we continue with the Celebration of Holy Communion:***

✢ Service of Holy Communion ✢

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

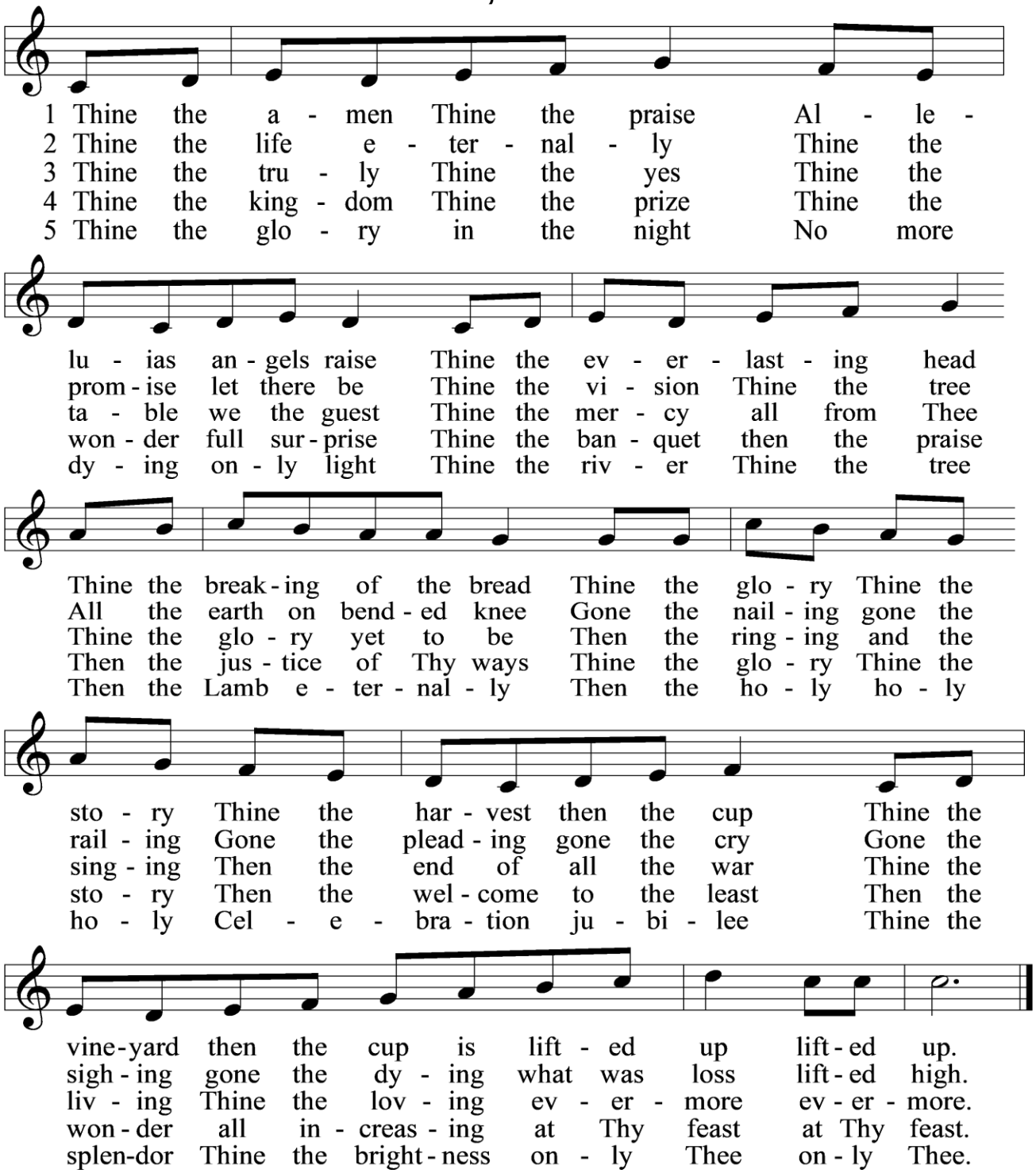
To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the Lutheran Service Book. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this, Your meal, that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts. Amen."

*For those communing, who so desire, center cups in each tray are **alcohol free.***
*For those with dietary restrictions, the wafers next to the Christ candle are **gluten free**;*

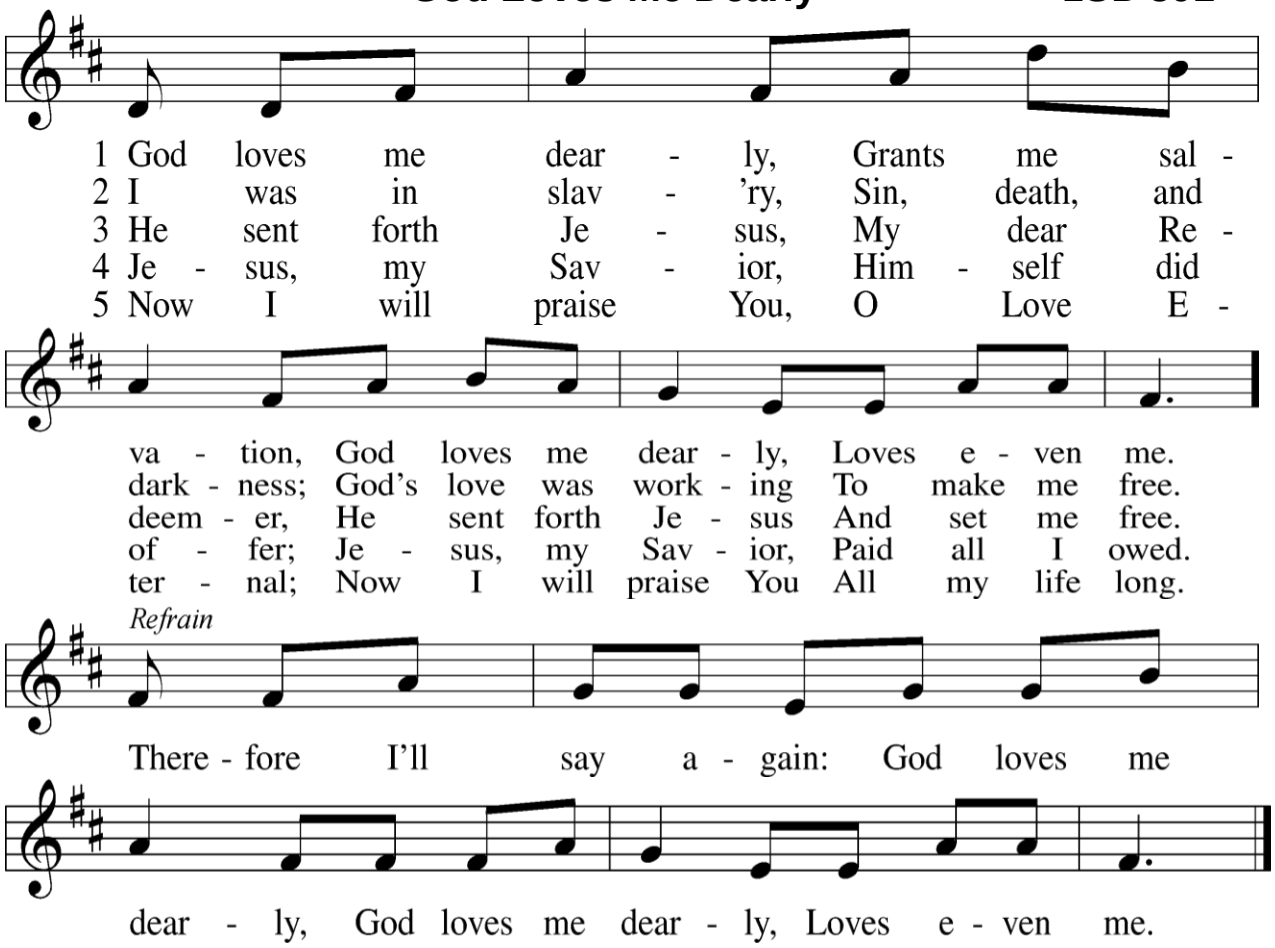
We will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION: **"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"** LSB 680



“God Loves Me Dearly” LSB 392



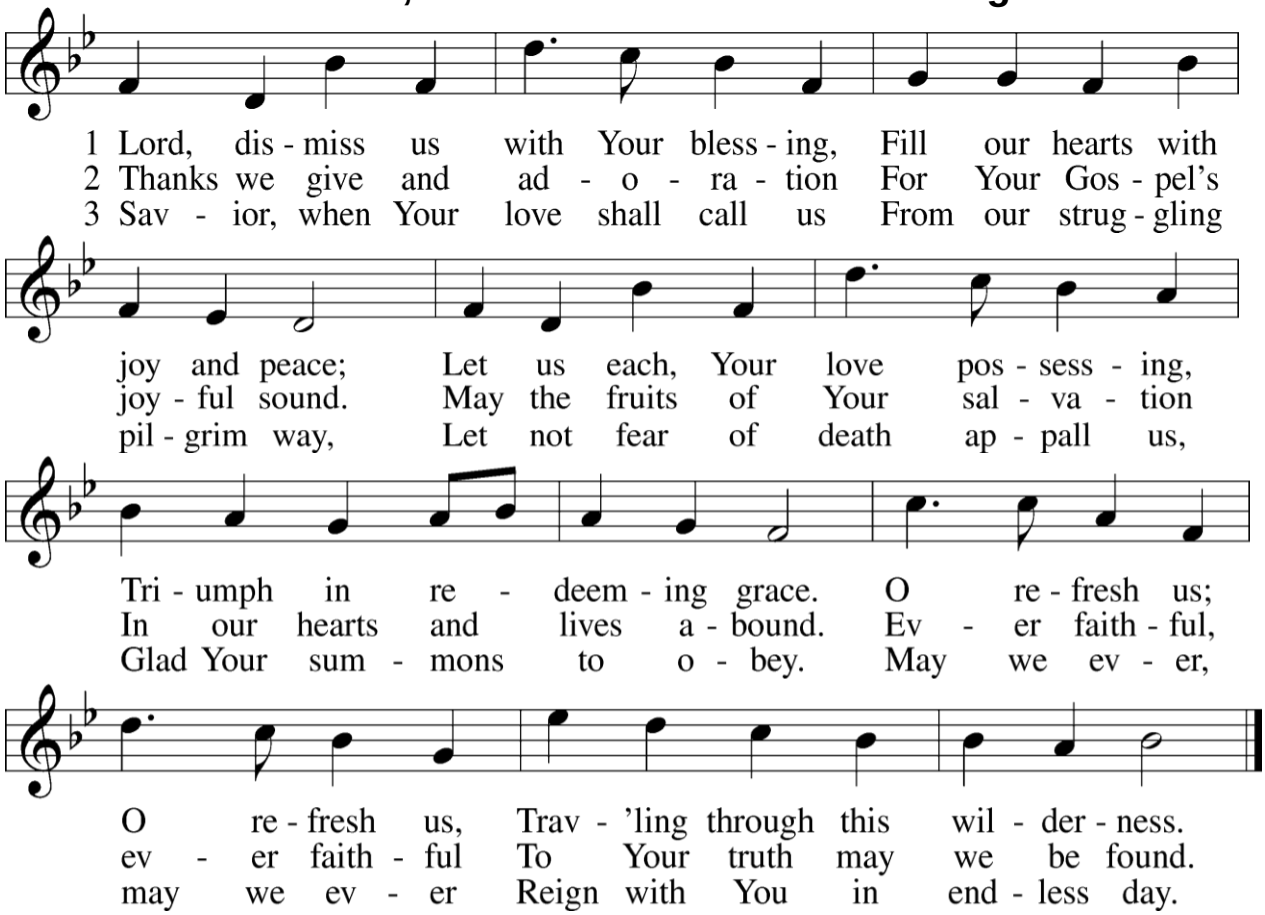
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

L: God our Father has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of His Son, whom He loves. Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with the light of His Spirit. Go now as children who have that light.

P: **Amen.** *(Adapted from Ephesians 5:8; Colossians 1:13)*

CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LSB 924



POSTLUDE: "*Final* from Symphony No. 1, Opus 14" Organ

~ Louis Vierne

✢ ✢ ✢

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"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" LSB 802
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"O Bless the Lord, My Soul" LSB 814
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.Text and Music: Public Domain

"It is Good"—Grades K-2
CCLI Song #373255 Mary Rice Hopkins ©1986 Big Steps 4 U. Admin by Music Services, Inc. For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License No. 396555

"Holy Spirit, Light Divine" LSB 496 Text: Andrew Reed. Tune: Orlando Gibbons; setting: based on Orlando Gibbons. Text & music: Public domain.

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" LSB 516
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"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LBW 259
Text: attr. John Fawcett, sts. 1-2; Godfrey Thring, st. 3, alt. Tune: Henry Smart; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text &n Tune: Public domain

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00…Ruth Lopez
Liturgist…Pastor John Alwood
Organist…Robert Bottoms
Children's Message…Rebecca Pevy
Sound/Production…Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

9:30…Sheri & Tom Esswein
Preacher...Vicar Johnny Trinklein

✢ ✢ ✢

If You're a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.

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Parents of Young Children: We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, "worship bags" are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.

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