The Beginning of the End >



Encourage One Another

November 8, 2026

God's Word for Today:

Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner. You all have to wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? It's easy to focus on something else and even forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep.

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long? God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
www.dulutheran.org

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Pastor Todd Engel: Cell (651) 309-7311 · Office (218) 722-4364 · Email pastor@dulutheran.org

WELCOME!

WORSHIP SERVICE

The goal of our worship is to praise God and enrich your faith through his Word. To make your experience today easier, the worship folder you're holding has the entire order of service. The pieces marked [M] are spoken by the minister, and the parts marked **[C]** are to be spoken by the congregation. If you prefer to use a physical hymnal or wish to see the songs in four-part harmony, there are hymnals available in the pew stands. **Today's order of service follows Setting Two which begins on page 172 in the hymnal.**

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Our congregation enjoys the "worshiping family." Parents with small children are an essential part of God's kingdom. That's why children are never considered an inconvenience to our worship. We also want your family to be comfortable. There is a cry room outside the main doors to the right if you need a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers: Today's bouquet is given to the glory of God by Kim Kirkland in memory of Kevin Kirkland.

Senior Fellowship Luncheon: Please join us this week for food and fellowship at Crooked Pint Ale House. We will meet on **Tuesday, November 10th at 11:30am.** RSVP to Kathy Hedin in person or by text at 651-332-1374. We hope to see you there!

Youth Group SkyZone: Come jump this **Friday, November 13th from 6-8pm**. Please RSVP to Jesse Dunsmoor by this Wednesday, November 11th.

Youth Group Bowling: Save the date for **Friday, December 4th from 6-8pm** at Skyline for bowling, pizza, and arcade games. Please RSVP by November 30th to Jesse Dunsmoor.

Christmas for Kids: Children ages 3-11 are invited to join us on **December 12th from 1-3pm** to learn about the Good News of Christmas through crafts, games, and a movie! Stay tuned for a sign-up list for kids and volunteers. Please contact Kely Dunsmoor with any questions.

Bible Information Class: Pastor Engel has begun a Bible Information Class (BIC) on **Thursday nights at 6:00 pm**. If you are interested in membership, you are welcome to come to the conference room at church (end of the hall on the left). Workbooks are provided. Let Pastor Engel know if you need to schedule another time.

Silent Auction & Pie Social: All are welcome to Shepherd of the Hills on **Saturday, November 21st from 2-4pm** for our annual Silent Auction & Pie Social! Join us for pie, Bible Bingo, a kids' craft table, and a silent auction to raise funds for the local food bank, Second Harvest Northland. If you are willing to donate a pie or an auction item, please see the sign-up sheets near the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Kely Dunsmoor.

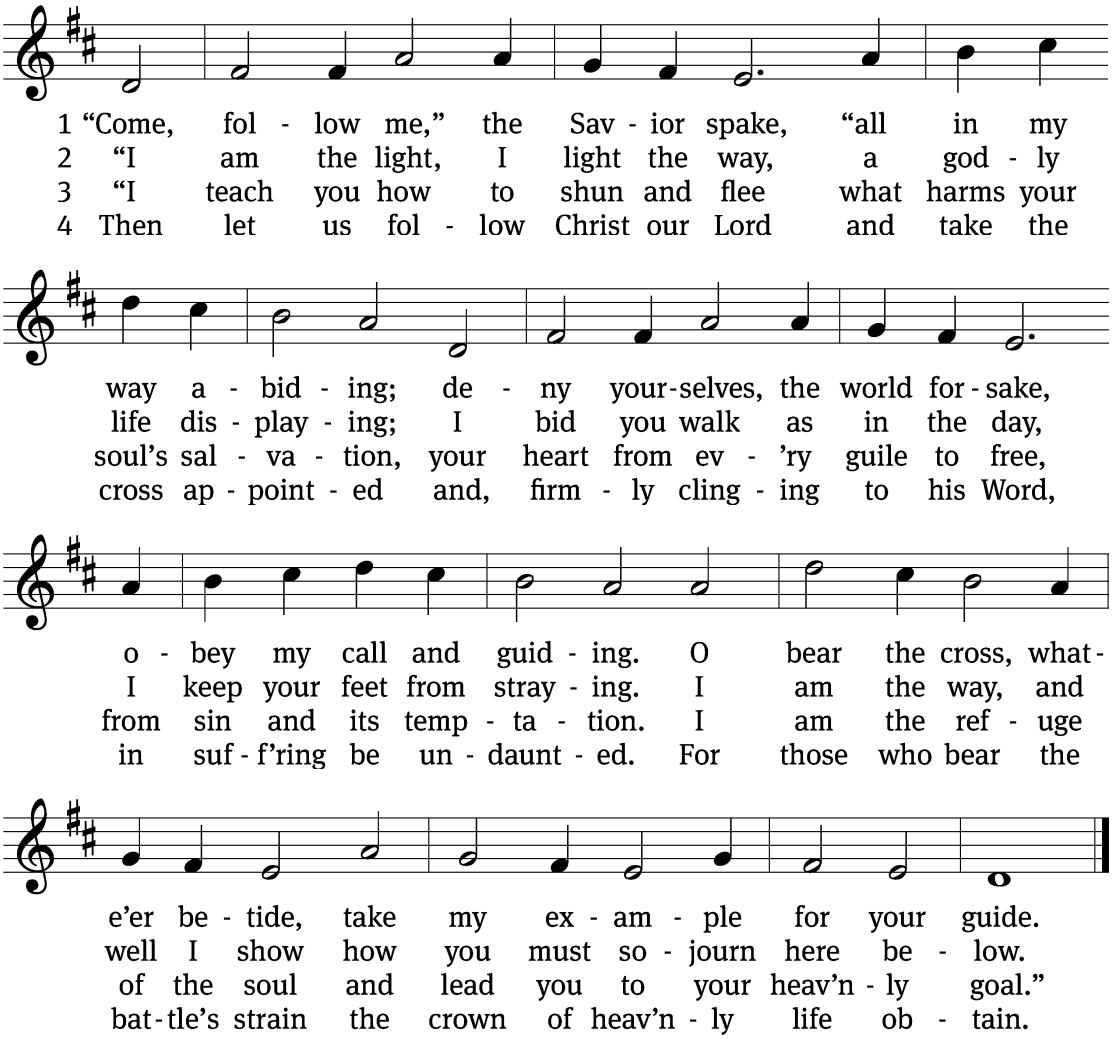
Food Drive: We are hosting a food drive! Nonperishable food items can be placed in the cardboard boxes near the front doors. These items will be donated to Second Harvest Northland for our neighbors in need.

Women's Book Group: During the Advent season, we will be reading "The Gift of Jesus: Meditations for Christmas - Devotional Reflections to Prepare Your Heart During the Advent Season" by Charles F. Stanley. We will not formally meet to discuss this book.

Children's Christmas Service: Please save the date! Our Children's Christmas Service will be **Sunday, December 20th**, during the regular 9am service time.

For more announcements and event information, visit the church website at dulutheran.org/events or sign up for our weekly email at dulutheran.org/subscribe. You can also view the church calendar at dulutheran.org/church-calendar.

HYMN: Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake *CW 702*



Stand

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

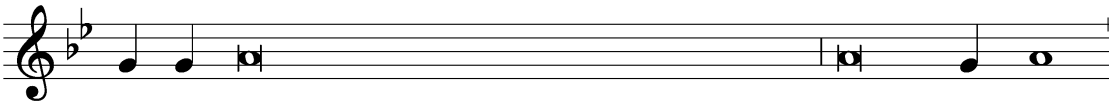
DECLARATION OF GRACE

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

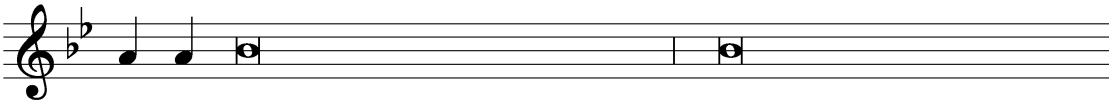
C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy







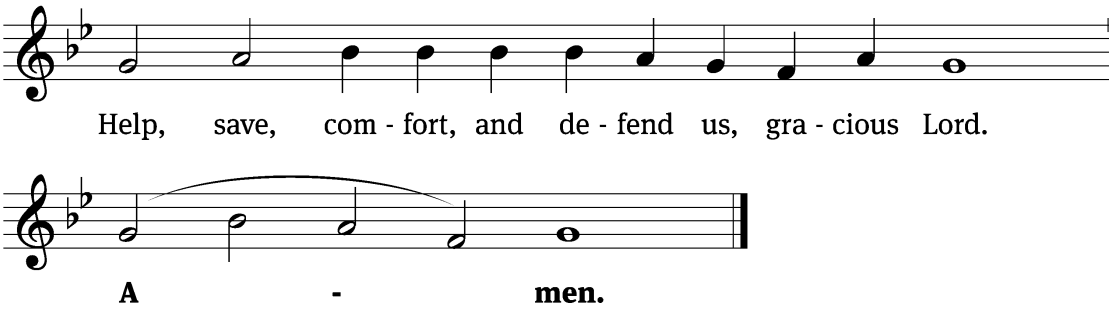












Glory to God in the Highest





SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.
Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

FIRST READING ***Isaiah 52:1–6***

[1]Wake, awake!
Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.
Put on your beautiful garments,
Jerusalem, you holy city,
for never again will the uncircumcised
and the unclean enter you.
[2]Shake off the dust.
Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.
Loosen the chains from your neck,
you captive daughter of Zion.

[3]Yes, this is what the LORD says.
You were sold for nothing,
and you will be redeemed without money.

[4]Yes, this is what the LORD God says.
In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while.
Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.

[5]Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.
Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.
Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.
My name is continually despised all day.
[6]Therefore my people will know my name.
So on that day they will know that I am the one—
the one who is saying, "Here I am!"

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day *Psalm 90D*



5 Time, like an everrolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

SECOND READING *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

[1]Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, [2]for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. [4]But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day could take you by surprise like a thief, [5]for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

[7]To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***Matthew 24:42***



GOSPEL ***Matthew 25:1–13***

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to
meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish ones took
their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; 4 but the wise took oil in their containers with their
lamps. 5 While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 But at midnight
there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins got up and
trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps
are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go
to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were away buying oil, the
bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door
was shut. 11 Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' 12 But he answered,
'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' 13 Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or
the hour.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

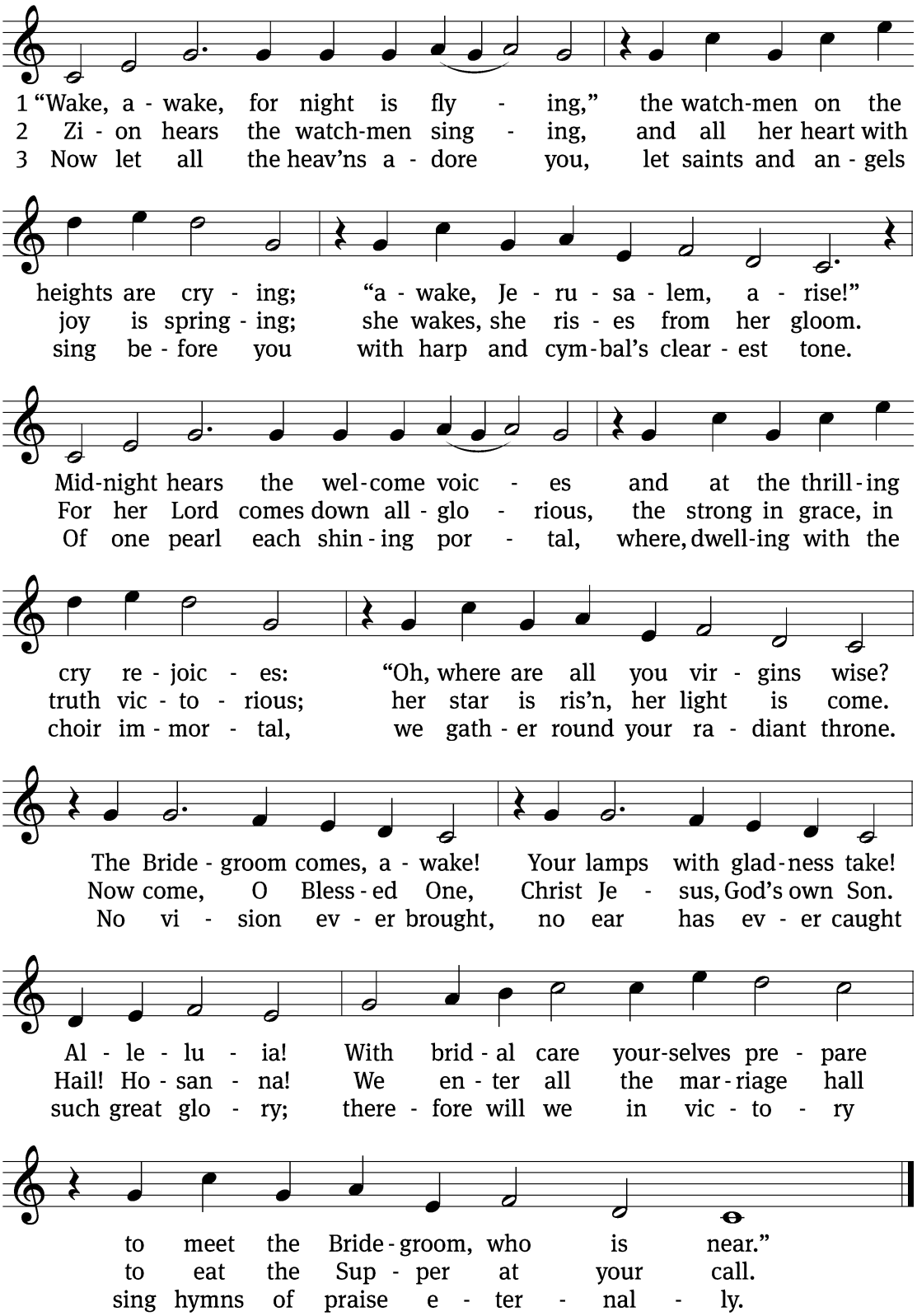
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children up through 5th grade are invited to come up to the altar steps and sit for a special devotion with Pastor Engel. This service segment is intended to engage the children and help them understand today's message. They will return to their seats afterward.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying *CW 486*



SERMON: Encourage One Another
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERTORY: Sunday School & Youth Tone Chime Choir ***Change My Heart, O God***

WORSHIPING THE LORD WITH OUR OFFERINGS

Members of Shepherd of the Hills respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully & freely according to how the Lord has blessed them. If you are a guest today, please know that there are no expectations for you to donate. If you wish to support us by making an online offering, scan the QR code or visit dulutheran.org and click on the "GIVE" tab.

HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ***CW 713***
Printed on the next page

HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light *CW 713*



Stand

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN: Now the Light Has Gone Away *CW 784*



Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship
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