Bethlehem Lutheran Church
November 29, 2026

Temple Talk ***Handing Down the Flame, Part 1: The Awake Body***

We Gather

All are invited to stand as they are able. And may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Call to Worship
The night is nearly over, the day is at hand.
We are awake and ready!
Be on guard, stay alert, for the Master will return at any moment.
We are awake and ready!
Clothed in the light, strengthened by His Spirit, we are an alert body standing prepared.
We are awake and ready!
Come, let us worship the Lord who awakens our hearts,
who fills our hands with purpose, and our souls with the hope of His coming.
We are awake and ready!

Gathering Song ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** **Hymn 257**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high
embracing all things far and nigh
in strength and beauty come and stay
teach us your will and guide our way ***Refrain***

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe ***Refrain***

Greeting & Prayer of the Day
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,….. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. **Wake us from our slumber and shake off our complacency, for the night is far gone and your day is near. Stir up your Holy Spirit within the awake body of your church. Keep us vigilant, alert, and active in our stewardship, ready to hand down the burning flame of your gospel mission to the next generation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

We Proclaim

Advent Candle Lighting – Hope
Today we light the first candle of Advent—the Candle of Hope. In a world that often feels uncertain, we remember that Christ is the dawn breaking through the night, the promise that God's love will never fail.

As this flame burns, it reminds us that hope is not wishful thinking—it is confident trust in the One who is coming again. We watch, we wait, and we serve with hope, knowing His light will guide us.

Candle is lit

Let this candle's glow be a sign in our hearts: the darkness will not overcome the light,
and the light of Christ will lead us into His kingdom.

We are awake and ready!

Candle-lighting Song ***Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*** **Hymn 240**

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

First Reading **Psalm 145:3-7**

This Psalm reminds the peoples of God's great goodness offered to his people and extended from generation to generation. There is a pledge to remember and recount the deeds of salvation. We will hear these words throughout our Fall Stewardship campaign and consider ways we share God's goodness from generation to generation.

3 Great is the Lord! Greatly praise him! His greatness is beyond discovery! **4** Let each generation tell
its children what glorious things God does. **5** I will meditate about your glory, splendor, majesty, and
miracles. **6** Your awe-inspiring deeds shall be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness.
7 Everyone will tell about how good you are and sing about your righteousness.
Word of God; Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading **Romans 13:11-12**

"And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."
Word of God; Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ***He Came Down*** **Hymn 253**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

2 He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

Gospel **Mark 13:33-37** **CEV**

Jesus teaches that believers must remain continually watchful, spiritually alert, and faithful in their responsibilities because Jesus' return will be sudden and its timing unknown. This passage uses the image of a master leaving servants in charge to stress vigilance, readiness, and obedience until Christ returns.

The holy gospel according to Mark 13 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

33 So watch out and be ready! You don't know when the time will come. 34 It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything. He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the guard to keep alert. 35 So be alert! You don't know when the master of

the house will come back. It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning.
[36] But if he comes suddenly, don't let him find you asleep. [37] I tell everyone just what I have told you.
Be alert, stay awake!
This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel in Spanish
Una lectura según Marcos**,** Capítulo 13. **Gloria a ti, O Señor**
El evangelio del Señor. **¡Alabamos a ti O Cristo!**

Message for the Day ***The Awake Body*** **Pastor Dawn Roucka**

Song of the Day ***Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*** **Hymn 436**

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

Prayers of God's People…… God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**
The Peace
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
(You are invited to share the Peace of the Lord with those around you, then be seated.)

<u>We Give Back</u>

Gathering of Gifts

Offering Music

Offering Response ***We Rejoice in the Grace of God***
We rejoice in the grace of God
poured upon our lives;
lovingkindness has come to us
because of Jesus Christ.
We rejoice in the grace of God,
our hearts overflow.
What a joy to know the grace of God!

Offering Prayer Giver of Light, the coming of your Son draws near. Consecrate these Time and Talent sheets as an act of holy preparation. Mesh our tiny micro-steps into a unified shield against

burnout and fatigue. Teach us to share the watch over this house, so that no single member collapses under the weight of the flame. Keep us awake, yoked to Jesus, and bound to one another as we watch for your dawning grace. **Amen.**

We Are Fed

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

Words of Institution for God's Table of Grace……and join their unending hymn (*sing)*: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

…… Lord, Jesus Christ, be our Light and teach us to pray: **The Lord's Prayer**

Invitation to Communion
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Communion Distribution Notes

All are welcome to receive Jesus' invitation and gift of grace through the sacrament
Communion will be distributed in a continuous fashion.
Start by center aisle. Please use outside aisle to return to seat.
Feel free to pray at the communion rail following consumption of elements.
Gluten free available, just ask.

Communion Music

(Congregation stays seated)
Post Communion Blessing
May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Prayer
Let us pray. Light of the World, you have fed us at this altar while we wait for your dawn. You have called us by name and given us a place to stand. As we go out into the Advent night, let our shared commitments to this body bear witness to your unforced grace. Keep us awake, keep us yoked together, and let our distributed service bring joy to our common life**. Amen.**

We Are Sent

Announcements

Blessing
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song ***Come Jesus Come*** **Video**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Stay Awake! Live generously, love boldly, and witness to the Generations of Grace.
Thanks be to God.