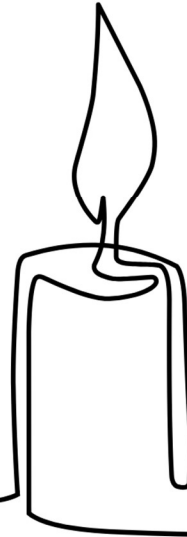


Joy
GROWS



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

WELCOME to Emanuel's Lutheran Church!

We eagerly await the coming of Christmas and are glad you are with us today.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Have you heard the good news? A baby is to be born in Bethlehem, and his birth will bring joy to the world!

C: Jesus will be born to make all things new!

P: Have you heard the good news? God anointed Jesus to proclaim good news to the poor.

C: Jesus will proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.

P: Jesus will set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

C: Let us worship with glad and joyful hearts—Jesus will be born soon!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. After his birth, Mary, his mother, witnessed the shepherds glorifying and praising God, filled with joy at what they had seen. She treasured these things in her heart.

AM: First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

P: Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

AM: Today, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

P: As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, joy is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray together.

C: God of abundance and joy, like the shepherds who heard the angel's good news, we celebrate the good news of your Son's arrival. Fill us with uncontainable joy as we lift our voices in praise and gratitude. While we gather in spirit and truth, comfort the sorrowful places in our hearts, and help us mend the broken relationships. Let the deep joy of this third week of Advent nourish our souls today.

Amen.

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 12:2-6

L: A reading from Isaiah.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

L: A reading from Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Rejoice! God is Near!"

Pastor Marcus

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

ELW 843

APOSTLES CREED

AM: Let us confess the faith of the church, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news.

Response to each petition: AM: Lord, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

AM: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

AM: As we prepare to pass the peace, let us remember the joy that comes from God's provision. Out of God's abundance come friendship, fellowship, and care toward all our physical, spiritual, and social needs. With grateful, joyful hearts, let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

"Hark the Glad Sound!"

ELW 239

Giving information is located on the back of the bulletin.

PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Vicar: Let us pray.

Generous God, we bring our gifts and offerings with joy and cheer because you have given us new life and freedom in Christ. Our small offering highlights the magnificent ways you have transformed our hearts and held our lives in your loving hands. We could never give enough to buy your love or favor, but we rest in the joy that your love is free and boundless. Bless these gifts to the ministry of your people.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The image shows three lines of musical notation in a single system, each on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The first line has two measures: "The Lord be with you." and "And al - so with you." The second line also has two measures: "Lift up your hearts." and "We lift them to the Lord." The third line has one long measure: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

A five-line musical score for the Agnus Dei. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a single voice line. The lyrics are: '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. A - men.' The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

COMMUNION

Communion will take place via continuous line. We welcome all baptized persons to the Lord's Table who believe Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children are welcome to be brought forward to receive a blessing. Participants will be offered a wafer and invited to eat with these words, "the body of Christ given for you." Gluten free wafers are available. Next, step to the side, to the silver tray that

contains glasses of white grape juice at the center and outer empty glasses for wine. Lastly, participants will step to the last assistant who will pour the wine and share these words, "the blood of Christ shed for you." Place your glass in the small silver bowl at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. If you wish to come forward and not receive either element, simply cross your arms for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

**"As the Dark Awaits the Dawn"
"Prepare the Royal Highway"**

ELW 261

ELW 264

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Vicar: Let us pray.

Faithful God, just as Zacchaeus was forever changed after a meal with Jesus, we leave this table with full hearts and transformed vision. Just as the shepherds left the manger's side with praise on their lips because of what they had heard and seen, we return to our daily lives with renewed praise, thankful you do what you say you will do. Bless us with joy this week.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: May Christ, the Bread of Life, in whom we find joy and strength for the journey, bring you cheer this week. May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and oppressed, surround you. And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a kingdom where all needs are met, strengthen you, now and always. Go in hope, peace, and joy to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Love Divine, Loves Excelling"

ELW 631

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS and RADIO BROADCASTS are sponsored by Emanuel's members. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one in this way, please call the church office, or sign up on the calendar on the Level 2 hallway outside the church office. Fees and submission forms are located in the narthex, the church office, and online. Thank you to everyone who participates in this meaningful worship ministry.

Musician: Edward Workmon, organ

WORSHIP LEADERS for today, December 15, 2024: Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Marcus; **Assisting Ministers:** Gerry Harrison, Vicar Rudy; **Communion Assistants:** Dave English, Cindy Pique, Bev Seidenschwarz, Elaine Giesber, Emily Prochnow; **Reader:** Brandon May; **Ushers:** Jacqueline Springs, Rissa Springs, Ilene Cherry, Darlene Zies; **Altar Guild:** Cindy Pique, Dave English, Sheila English; **A/V Tech:** Steve Anderson; **Council Greeter:** Sarah Kennedy; **Hospitality:** Doris Jefferies, Barbara Haas; **Safety Attendants:** TBD

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, December 22, 2024: Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Marcus; **Assisting Ministers:** Melissa Barbre, Vicar Rudy; **Communion Assistants:** Fran Vinyard, Liz Witten Sdarlene Zies, Elizabeth Jandt, Janelle Leon-Weinman; **Reader:** Allison Eladhari; **Ushers:** Tim Troell, Joe Kane, Deborah Almquist, Bev Seidenschwarz; **Altar Guild:** Cathy Anderson, Tonya Darnell, Jimed Darnell; **A/V Tech: NEEDED;** **Council Greeter:** Darlene Zies; **Hospitality:** Deborah Almquist, Gerry Harrison, Carolyn Blumberg, Sheila English; **Safety Attendants:** Joe Kane, Brandon May

EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP is in-person, online, and aired on KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH NURSERY is available for children 4 and under on Level 2 anytime between 9-Noon.

SUNDAY STUDIES:

- **THE HERITAGE CLASS (307):** 9:15am. Participants explore the deeper meaning found in the Bible and seek to unlock its wisdom through fellowship and robust group discussion. The aim is to make the Bible relevant and applicable to daily life.
- **JOY CLASS:** Bible stories and songs for adults with intellectual disabilities. Class meets once a month in the WMR at 9:00am.
- **"THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS" ADULT CLASS** (Family Life Center): 9am December 8 and 15. Join us during Advent as we rediscover the powerful birth narratives in the Gospels.
- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** During worship Children's Ministry Coordinator Jordana leads our PK to 5th grade learners to the Children's Church room, just down the hall from the sanctuary, as we begin the "Gathering Hymn" and then return as we "Share the Peace."
- **THE COMPASS COOPERATIVE** has their Christmas Party today and will resume regular Sunday gatherings on January 12, 2025 with our four church partners- Emanuel's, St. Andrew's, Spirit of Joy, and Friedens Church - at Spirit of Joy campus. Middle School (6-8 grades) from 4-5pm, dinner for everyone at 5pm, and High School (9-12 grades) from 5:30-6:30pm.

- **CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets **Sunday, December 22**, immediately following worship in the Women's Ministry Room, due to the upcoming Christmas holidays. Lunch is provided and all of our 6th to 8th graders are encouraged to attend.

•
WEEKDAY STUDIES:

Faith Circle (Women's Ministry Rm): 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00

Joy Circle (Women's Ministry Rm): 2nd Thursday at 9:30

Ladies Aid (Women's Ministry Rm): 1st Wednesdays at 2:00

CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE! Pick up your fabulous new photo directory on Sunday morning in the narthex. Shout out to Susan Y., Sheila E. and Sharon K. for keeping up with the project from the beginning to the end. Pick up will also be available in the church office during the week. Thanks to everyone for your patience. We love seeing your smiling faces and are thrilled to have this valuable tool available to further connect our Emanuel's family!

3C (Community-Connection-Conversation) is a time of gathering, starting **Tuesday Mornings** out under the Oak Tree, from 7:30-8:30am. Bring a chair and join us as we share in fellowship, invite new faces to sit and share their stories, and welcome visitors who pass us on the street. Our format is to be open, very fluid, and provide a place to share, visit, and grow together as a community of faith.

ADVENT MIDWEEK MEAL AND WORSHIP: *From the Manger* on Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Women's Ministry Room. Hunger is a universal human experience, drawing attention to our most basic needs for food and nourishment and our more complex needs—peace, liberation, and meaning in this life. So, it's no wonder that the story of Jesus—the one who came to feed the hungry—begins, ends, and centers around food. On Wednesday evenings during Advent we will begin with a shared meal followed by a time of devotion as we prepare for the coming of Christ. There is a place at the table for you.

Help is appreciated with the meals. Sign-up sheets for food and serving help are in the narthex after the Sunday services.

BLUE SANTA CAMPUS HOSTS NEEDED! We are excited to again host The Seguin Police Department 2024 Blue Santa giftwrapping in our Fellowship Hall every **Tuesday and Thursday** between **December 3 – December 19** from 4-8pm. Toys and gifts are collected throughout the city in November/December and will be wrapped by volunteers before being distributed to children in need by Christmas morning. Your assistance as a campus volunteer will help make the evenings run smoother and provide a cheery welcome to visitors. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Outreach and Service Team member Sarah Kennedy (281) 734-3845 can answer any questions.

"THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS" adult class meets in the Family Life Center at 9am on **Sundays, December 8 and 15**. The birth of Jesus is narrated at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke, but is not mentioned in Mark, and alluded to very differently in John. Although the story may seem familiar, a close analysis shows that there are significant differences between the accounts, with little in common between them. Join us during Advent as we rediscover the powerful birth narratives in the Gospels.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING: Two days to serve! We'll be at Walmart on **Monday, December 9** from 9am – 5pm AND **Saturday, December 21** from Noon - 9pm. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Fran (830-379-5041) can answer your questions.

SHARE THE GOOD MOOS!!! With your donations, **poinsettias** will grace the sanctuary of Emanuel's this Christmas and ELCA Good Gifts will make a difference throughout the world. You may honor or remember a loved one by supporting the ELCA Good Gifts Project (any dollar amount or as indicated on the specific ornament) and/or with a red poinsettia (\$15 each). Check out the decorated trees in the narthex and by the chapel. Forms and payments may be put in an envelope and placed in the offering basket, given to our advent tree attendants, or delivered to the church office. Online payments accepted. **Deadline is Monday, December 16, 2024**

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE is **Thursday, December 19** at 6pm at Emanuel's. This service is a time of reflection, prayer, and music, drawing attention to the reality that while Christmas is a joyful time we also know it can and does bring many griefs. We invite you to share a time of worship and reflection acknowledging our griefs and losses, taking seriously those feelings and hurts, while also hearing words of hope shared in community.

LUTHERAN LUNCH BUNCH is a lively group of post-worship food enthusiasts who gather at a local restaurant on the first Sunday of every month. With full hearts from the service and empty stomachs ready for fellowship, you're invited to dive into hearty meals, laughter, and lively conversation. From swapping recipes for casseroles to friendly debates about whose sauerkraut salad recipe is best left forgotten, the Lutheran Lunch Bunch is a place where faith, food, and fun unite. It's the perfect blend of sacred and savory, where everyone leaves nourished—body, soul, and spirit. Join us on **Sunday, January 5** after worship at Los Cucos, 920 I-10, Seguin, TX 78155.

ALL TEAM MEETING NIGHT RESUMES on Wednesday, January 8. All of Emanuel's Ministry Teams gather on a single evening each month to share a meal, collaborate, plan, and schedule upcoming events and ministry projects. Council Members act as team leaders/coordinators, but Ministry Teams are open to, and run by, everyone in the congregation. Please join us at 5:30 in the Women's Ministry Room as we discuss what 2025 holds in store for Emanuel's!

PATHWAYS TO HEALING support group reflects on the journey through grief while learning to navigate life with loss. Each gathering highlights a different topic and invites open sharing in a safe and supportive environment. The next meeting is **Sunday, January 12** at 2pm in the Family Life Center. Donna Simmons, Emanuel's Bereavement Care Coordinator, donna@elcsequin.org



Emanuel's Lutheran Church
There is a place for you here.

*Christmas Eve
Services*

Tuesday, December 24
4 & 7 pm



206 N. Travis St., Seguin, TX
www.EmanuelLutheranChurch.com

EMANUEL'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President, Rissa Springs, *Worship Team*
Vice President, Garry Miller, *Stewardship Team*
Secretary, Melissa Barbre, *Worship Team*
Treasurer, Susan Yeatts, *Congregational Care Team*
Sheila English, *Congregational Care Team*
Bryce Kennedy, *Outreach & Service Team*
Sarah Kennedy, *Outreach & Service Team*
Tim Kent, *Congregational Care Team*
Debby Richardson, *Stewardship Team*
Paul Sims, *Education Team*
Darlene Zies, *Outreach & Service Team*
In memoriam, Aaron Jenke

ALL TEAM MEETING NIGHT

January 8, 2025

All of Emanuel's Ministry Teams gather on a single evening each month to share a meal, collaborate, plan, and schedule upcoming events and ministry projects.

EMANUEL'S STAFF

Senior Pastor, The Rev. Marcus Bigott, 830-377-8643 cell, pastormarcus@elcsequin.org
Visitation Pastor- San Antonio, The Rev. Darwin Huartson, dhuartson@porterloring.com
Day School Director, Michelle Martin, mmartin@elcsequin.org
Bereavement and Senior Care Coordinator, Donna Simmons, donna@elcsequin.org
Office and Campus Administrator, Sherry Hardwick, sherry@elcsequin.org
Accountant and Bookkeeper, Jeni Payton, jeni@elcsequin.org
Principal Organist, Edward Workmon, edward@elcsequin.org
Director of Choirs, Samuel Bigott, sbigott@ingramisd.net
Children's Ministry Coordinator, Jordana Gutierrez, jordana@elcsequin.org
Seminarian, Vicar Rudy Salazar, vicarrudy@elcsequin.org
Compass Cooperative Program Director, Hannah Hansen, hannah@elcsequin.org
Nursery Attendant, Aaliyah Kirton

EMANUEL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "To be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all."

GIVING AT EMANUEL'S: Donations and tithes to the church may be given by envelopes in the pews, mailed to the church, online, or scanned with QR Code below.



Emanuel's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
206 North Travis Street | Seguin, Texas 78155
(830) 379-5046 | info@elcsequin.org
Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8-5
www.EmanuelslutheranChurch.com

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In 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.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 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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Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

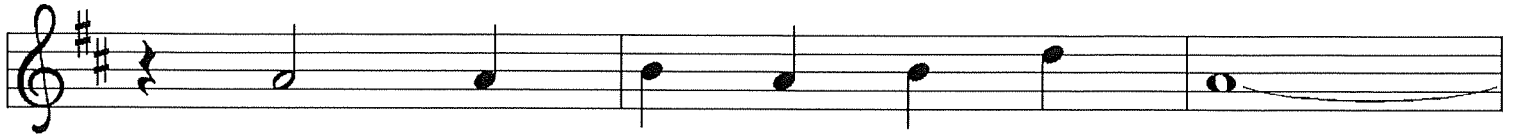


pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

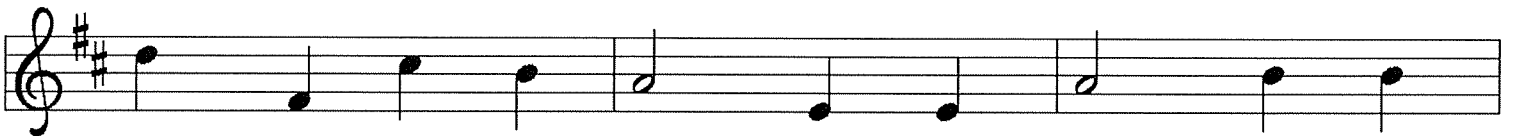
As the Dark Awaits the Dawn



1 As the dark a - waits the dawn,
 2 As the blue ex - pec - tant hour
 3 As the moon re - flects the sun
 4 Shine your fu - ture on this place,



so we a - wait your light. O Star of
 be - fore the sil - v'ring skies, we long to
 un - til the night's de - crease, may we your
 en - light - en ev - 'ry guest, that through us



prom - ise, scat - ter night, lov - ing bright, lov - ing
 see your day a - rise, whole and wise, whole and
 heal - ing light re - lease, liv - ing peace, liv - ing
 stream your ho - li - ness, bright and blest, bright and



bright, till shades of fear are gone.
 wise, O lu - cent Morn - ing Star.
 peace, un - to your ho - ly dawn.
 blest; come dawn, O Sun of grace.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



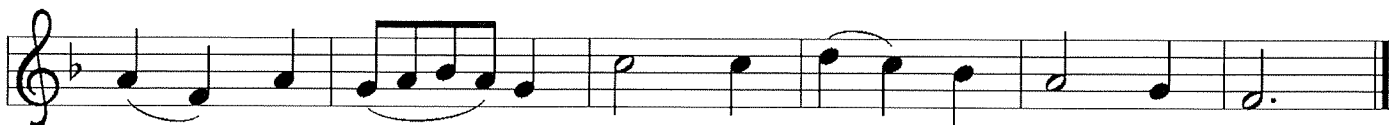
earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!