

**DIVINE SERVICE**  
for the  
**Last Sunday**  
of the  
**CHURCH YEAR**

10:00 a.m.

November 23, A.D. 2025



## Saint John's Lutheran Church

---- Missouri Synod ----

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

(413)568-1417

Website: [www.stjohnswestfield.org](http://www.stjohnswestfield.org) YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield](http://www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield)

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***Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM***

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## **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!**

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

✠ HANDCHIME PRELUDE: *"Love Never Fails"* Julie Turner/Jeffrey A. Hall  
(In Honor of Sally Sienkiewicz)

✠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. **516**: *"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"*



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

## ✠ CONFESSON and ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## ✠ KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

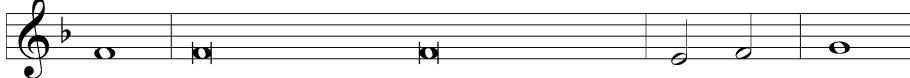


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## ✠ GLORIA IN EXCLESIS



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

■ And with thy spir - it.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, Heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, now and forever.



**(Be Seated)**

† OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:17-25

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; or like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

R: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

† GRADUAL:

**In many – colored robes the king’s daughter is led | to the king,  
with her virgin companions following be- | hind her.  
With joy and gladness they are | led along  
as they enter the palace | of the king.**

† EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. R:

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

† GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

† HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† GOSPEL RECESSIONAL

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.**

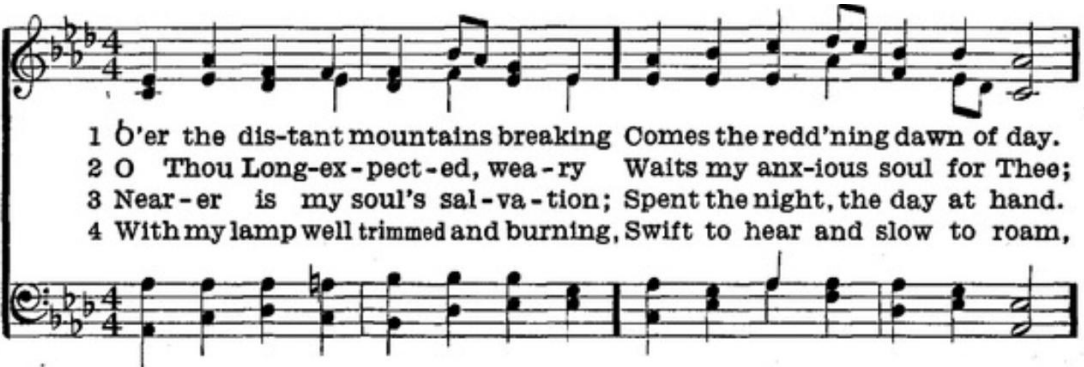
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped**

and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

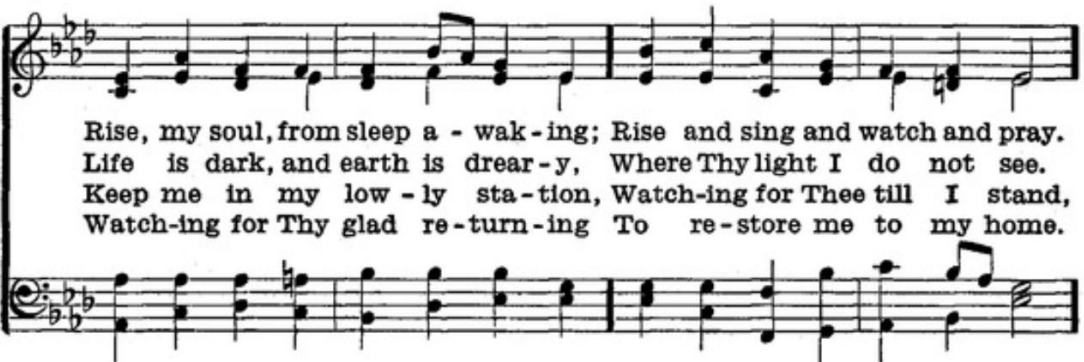
(Be Seated)

$\dagger$  CHILDREN'S SERMON

$\dagger$  SERMON HYMN NO. **606**: "O'er the Distant Mountain Breaking"



1 O'er the dis-tant mountains breaking Comes the redd'ning dawn of day.  
2 O Thou Long-ex-pect-ed, wea-ry Waits my anx-ious soul for Thee;  
3 Near-er is my soul's sal-va-tion; Spent the night, the day at hand.  
4 With my lamp well trimmed and burning, Swift to hear and slow to roam,



Rise, my soul, from sleep a - wak-ing; Rise and sing and watch and pray.  
Life is dark, and earth is drear-y, Where Thy light I do not see.  
Keep me in my low - ly sta-tion, Watch-ing for Thee till I stand,  
Watch-ing for Thy glad re-turn-ing To re-store me to my home.



"Tis thy Sav-ior, 'Tis thy Sav-ior, On His bright re-turn-ing way.  
O my Sav-ior, O my Sav-ior, When wilt Thou return to me?  
O my Sav-ior, O my Sav-ior, In Thy bright, Thy promised, land.  
Come, my Sav-ior, Come, my Sav-ior, O my Sav-ior, quick-ly come.

† SERMON

† CHOIR ANTHEM: *"Wake All People, Put on Strength"* Eugene Butler

*(Please Stand)*

† OFFERTORY



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter His eternal wedding feast. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Lord, You have anointed and enlightened us in Holy Baptism, and You call us always to renew our light by the ministry of Your Church. Keep us by Your Word and Sacraments until Your Son comes. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Creator God, You have called us to build and to plant and so cultivate the world by our various vocations. Endow the faithful with Your Spirit, that they may bear rich fruit in their lives and enjoy the work of their hands. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



P: Loving God, shed Your grace on all nations of the earth. Bless especially our country, its inhabitants and all who are in authority, that Your truth, righteousness and peace would abound. Look favorably on all who serve in our armed forces, that they would do so with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Lord, be near to all who cry out to You in the midst of suffering. Remember the sick and those who mourn. Heal them according to Your will, comfort them with Your steadfast love, and strengthen them to bear their crosses as they follow You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful Lord, You defend the vulnerable and hear the cries of those in danger. We commend to Your compassionate care all refugees and all who face the threat of violence or death if returned to lands where they have no earthly safety. Grant to civil authorities compassion, that human life, which You have created and redeemed, would be honored and protected. According to Your gracious will, preserve all who face danger and harm, uphold those who work for their aid, and grant that all who suffer may find their refuge in Your Son, our Redeemer. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage and led Your people, Israel, on dry ground in the midst of the sea. Guide all who travel. Bring them safely to their destinations and then bring them safely home again, that their homecomings would be joyful. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, give us repentant hearts, that we would eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and proclaim joyfully His death until He comes in glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

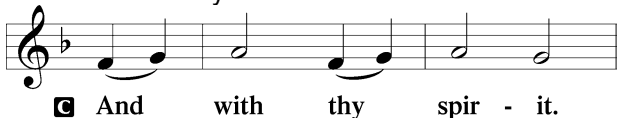
**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

**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.**

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

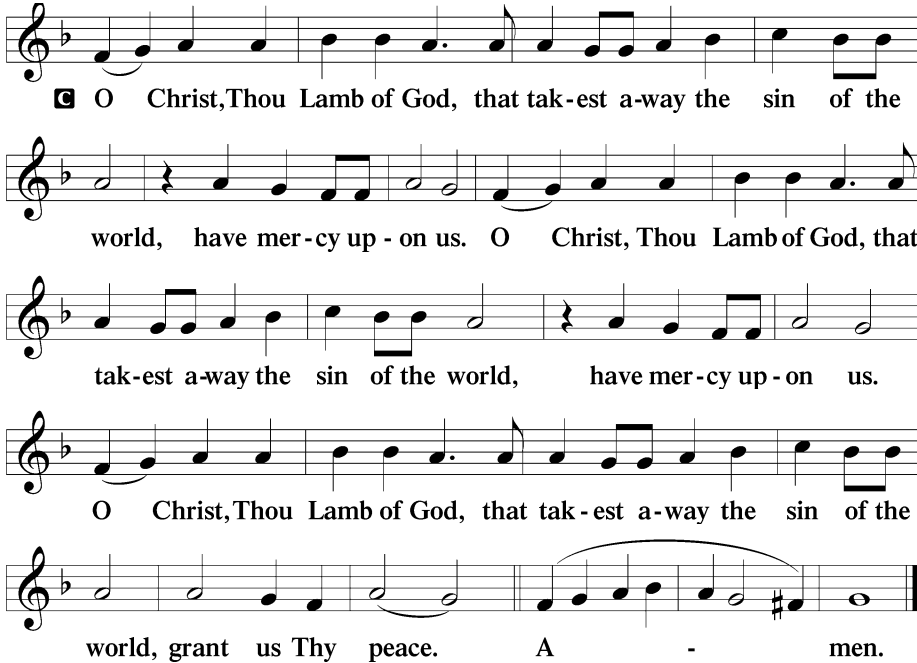
In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

† PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



† AGNUS DEI



(Be Seated)

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

*At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by*

*crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

† **DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. 514: "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"**



1 The Bride - groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed - ding feast."  
 2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re - deem - er's face;  
 3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,  
 4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum - ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.  
 The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:  
 From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,  
 With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



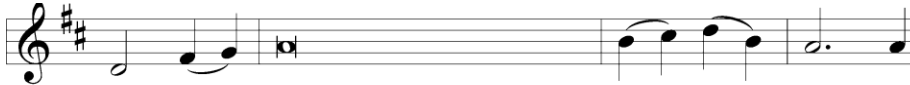
May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more  
 The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;  
 From sick - ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,  
 While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!  
 A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.  
 And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.  
 A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

**(Please Stand)**

† **NUNC DIMITTIS**



☐ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

# ✠ THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A - men.

# ✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



☐ Thanks be to God.

✠ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

✠ RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. **515**: *"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'ings 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!