

# *Unfailing Light*

Midweek Lenten Worship Service

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Wednesday, March 25, 2026

7:00 pm



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

45 North Reading Avenue

Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512

610.369.1024 | [www.stjohnsboyertown.org](http://www.stjohnsboyertown.org)



# Unfailing Light – Lenten Worship, Conversations with Jesus


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*The disciples urged Jesus strongly, saying,  
“Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.”  
So he went in to stay with them.*

*The congregation may stand.*


## GATHERING

*Assisting Minister*




O ser-vants of God, let us sing our praise.

*All*




We bless your ho-ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*




From the ris-ing of the sun to its set-ting,

*All*




We bless your ho-ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister*




You lift up the weak and hun-gry.

*All*




We bless your ho-ly name, O God.

*Assisting Minister* *All*



And your glo-ry shines a-bove the heav-ens We



bless your ho-ly name, O God.



*All*  
1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each  
(2. You) walk with us a - long the way, your  
(3. Re-) freshed by sab - bath rest this night, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing  
Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now at  
wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ, un -



on the night, and all cre - a - tion sings your  
close of day, our un - known guest, our host and  
fail - ing Light, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you  
feast. Grant those who share this eve - ning meal the  
home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and  
faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that  
sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -  
hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by  
mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2. You  
grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re -  
bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty God, your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us to receive your word with believing hearts, so that, confident in your promises, we may have hope and be lifted out of sorrow into the joy and peace of your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **READING**

**John 11:1-6, 17-27**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** *'Mary and Martha after Lazarus' death'*

**Bethany Calderwood**

The congregation may stand.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Let Evening Fall



1. Let eve - ning fall on field and for - est, on  
2. Let moun - tain now re - sound with chant - ing, and  
3. Let those who la - bor in the day - light now  
4. Let ev - 'ry heart that har - bors ha - tred re -  
5. Let day - light fade and shad - ows length - en when  
6. O Mak - er of cre - a - tion's choir, O



des - ert me - sa, can - yon deep; let  
mead - ow ech - o an - ti - phon; let  
bring their work - ing to an end; let  
lease its hold, re - ceive your grace; let  
those we love draw near to death; at -  
Song of love sung out for all, O



coy - ote prowl and night hawk cir - cle while  
dusk - y breez - es rus - tle as - pen while  
oth - ers rise to keep the vig - il, the  
ev - 'ry mouth that spoke in an - ger seek  
tend our prayers, our weak faith strength - en as  
Spir - it, breath of all our sing - ing, let



sol - emn owl her wise watch keeps.  
lake and land join ev - en - song.  
weak to guard, the sick to tend.  
par - don's peace, then sing your praise.  
you re - ceive their fi - nal breath.  
praise a - rise, let eve - ning fall.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### Refrain

*All*

Watch, O Lord, with all those a -  
wake this night. Watch, O Lord, with all those who  
weep. Give your an - gels and saints  
charge o - ver all who sleep.

### Verses

*Assisting Minister*

*All*

*Assisting Minister*

in your love, Lord.  
in your love, Lord.  
in your love, O Lord of all.

Text: Prayer by St. Augustine, adapt. Marty Haugen; © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music: AUGUSTINE; Marty Haugen, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

## GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4. A repeat sign follows, with the word "All" written above it. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4. The lyrics are: "1. The eyes of all look to / 2. To all who hun - ger". The third staff has lyrics: "you, O God, to give them life and food. You / you pro - vide the fruit of vine and field. From". The fourth staff has lyrics: "o - pen wide your gra - cious hand and / these, your gifts, we set a - side a". The fifth staff has lyrics: "grant them ev - 'ry good. With / por - tion for this meal, where". The sixth staff has lyrics: "all cre - a - tion we pro - claim your / you draw near to those who cry, their". The seventh staff has lyrics: "stead - fast love and glo - rious reign. We / heart's de - sire to sat - is - fy. We". The final staff concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are: "bless your ho - ly name. / bless your ho - ly name."

1. The eyes of all look to  
2. To all who hun - ger

you, O God, to give them life and food. You  
you pro - vide the fruit of vine and field. From

o - pen wide your gra - cious hand and  
these, your gifts, we set a - side a

grant them ev - 'ry good. With  
por - tion for this meal, where

all cre - a - tion we pro - claim your  
you draw near to those who cry, their

stead - fast love and glo - rious reign. We  
heart's de - sire to sat - is - fy. We

bless your ho - ly name.  
bless your ho - ly name.

Text: Susan Briehl, © 2004, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers  
Music: Marty Haugen, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful; you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger that all may know your care. Prepare us now to receive your mercy: Jesus Christ, the bread of life. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* *All*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Presider* *All*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## LENTEN PREFACE

*It is indeed right and good everywhere and always to give you thanks and praise, Holy God, mighty and immortal, through your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Who calls us to return to you and live, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, full of love, and faithful to your promises.*

*And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

*All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord,  
 God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is the One who comes, who  
*Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,*  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Marty Haugen, © 2004, GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell with every breath.

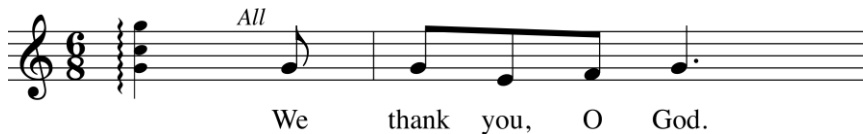
*All*

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the waters, across the wilderness, by night and day, out of exile, into the future.



We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

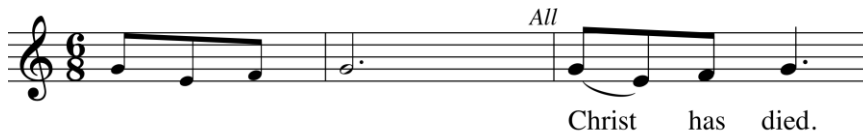


## COMMUNION

On the night he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end.

*All*  
A - men.  
A - men. A - men.

Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### LAMB OF GOD

*All*  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
1., 2.  
world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.  
3.  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Please fill out a communion card and hand to an usher or place in the box at back of sanctuary. Tonight we receive the sacrament at the altar rail. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available at the center aisle. Return to your seats by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion can be brought to you.*

## **BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SENDING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Creator of the stars of night, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us as darkness deepens and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*All*



Now Lord, you let your  
ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-filled. My  
own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-  
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: a  
light to re-veal you to the na-tions, and the  
glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.  
Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

## BLESSING

Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, and give you peace this night and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING

Go in peace. Rest in God. Rise to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*Watch, O Lord:* words and music © 2003 by GIA Publications, Inc.  
*Let Evening Fall:* words and music © 2002 by GIA Publications, Inc.



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# *Serving in Worship*

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## **MESSAGE**

Bethany Calderwood

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Atsuko Hanson, Sam Kulp

## **SOUND**

Melissa Eidle

## **USHERS**

Martha Bentley, Jodi Dykie

## **VIDEO**

Abbe Grofe

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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

We believe God's purpose for the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to develop joy-filled children of God who love the Lord and share God's Word.

*We do this by:*

- Maintaining a trusting and welcoming environment.
- Praying daily.
- Reading scripture regularly.
- Sharing our faith through action-based service.
- Encouraging holy conversations.
- Feeding our faith with music.

*With a focus on:*

- Activities that build relationships.
- Worship that is relevant.
- Meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.

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