



| **Saturday, December 15**

## The Dawn of a New Day

*But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety when I am in distress.*

*Psalm 59:16*

*I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.*

*Psalm 119:147*

There's something special about a sunrise. Most mornings my alarm clock wakes me before 5 a.m. While it often takes a bit of motivation to get myself out of bed to meet my friends, once I am outside on my run, I find it is one of the most precious parts of my day. I cannot help but to see God's beauty and hope in the mornings. And for me, when I see the sun rise, it reminds me of new beginnings. I find that I am filled with hope that light has been shed on a new day, with new possibilities and new potential.

But sometimes, with the chaotic schedules and juggling daily activities of my family of five, there are days that I seem to be in never-ending darkness. When I am overwhelmed, confused, unsure, and restless, I often struggle to see the dawn of a new day. It is then that I rely on those friends who meet me at 5:10 a.m. to encourage me with hope to push my faith to the front and remember that God is faithful and he will not leave me in this darkness.

I believe that hope is one of the most important gifts we can give to another person. When we bring hope, we bring life. God has given us the gift of hope every time the sky erupts with light at the break of dawn—just as my running mates give me hope that the finish line is just around the corner. The reliability that the sun will rise in the morning gives me hope. It has never failed coming up on those morning runs. Sure there are mornings where you can't see it because of the clouds, but it is still there.

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God reminds us over and over again in the scripture that he is more reliable than the sun, our hope doesn't hinge on the assurance of the sunrise, but on the faithfulness of the Risen Son. I encourage you to watch a sunrise during this Season of Advent, it will bridge your way to new hope!

*Thank you, Lord, for the hope you send with each new sunrise.  
Your mercies and compassions are new every morning! Amen.*

- Debra Yliniemi-Ahlin