

MID-WEEK 2
ADVENT SERVICE

DECEMBER 13, 2023

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Missouri Synod



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
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Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 am

Adult Bible Class
Sunday School

Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

Website:

lutheranmercedes.com

FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/](http://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)

Office Hrs, M-F
8:00 am to 12:00 pm
CCLI # 2585510

The 2nd Week in Advent



Truth shall spring
out of the earth,
And righteousness shall
look down from heaven.
(Psalm 85:11)

Mid-Week 2 Advent Service
December 13, 2023

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this evening. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

AS WE GATHER We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people who lived before God's promises were fulfilled in our Savior's coming. This Advent, we focus on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 85, which pleads with the Lord of hosts, "Revive us again!" That's asking for more than a little energy; it calls for rebirth and resurrection. And so the answer had to wait until Jesus came. We have been revived by our inclusion in the Body of Christ. Let the rejoicing resound!

OPENING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
LSB 340 vs 1-2, 5



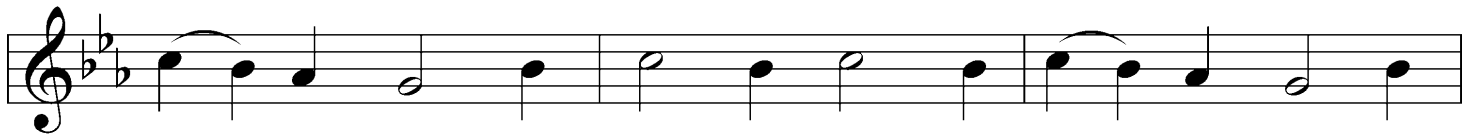
1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
 mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His
 Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
 scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
 face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
 woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

+ VESPERS +

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

PSALM Psalm 85

P Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Continue on next page

C You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.

P You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

C Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.

P Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

C Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

P Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

C I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.

P Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

C Yes, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.

P Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His foot steps our pathway.

Please Sit

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

LSB 357; vs. 1,3,4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

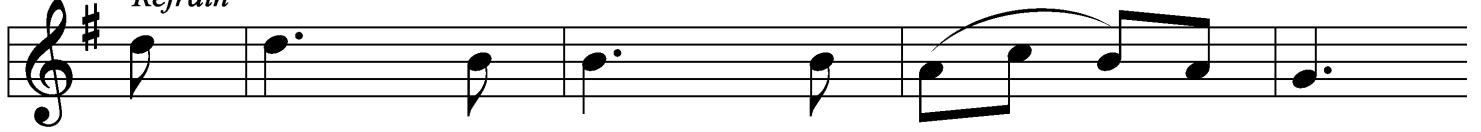


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

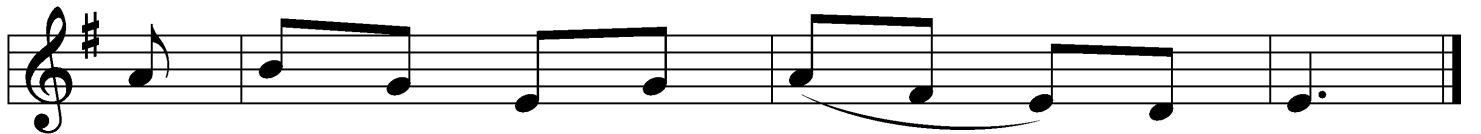


ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 4

(Rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem)

1 But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. 2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?"

3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."

4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! 5 Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.

6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

Continue on next page

7 Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, 8 and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. 9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

10 Then Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall.”

11 And our adversaries said, “They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.”

12 So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, “From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us.”

13 Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.”

15 And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. 16 So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. 17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. 18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

19 Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, “The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us

there. Our God will fight for us.”

21 So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. 22 At the same time I also said to the people, “Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day.” 23 So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Mark 1:1-8

(John the Baptist promises a rebirth by the Holy Spirit.)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets:

“Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
who will prepare Your way before You.”

3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’ ”

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING

1 Samuel 1:1-20

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there. 4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. 6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. 7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" 9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the Lord. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish. 11 Then she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. 13 Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. 14 So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

15 But Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

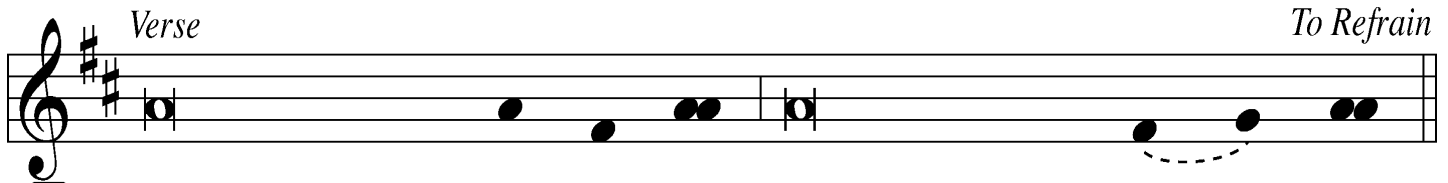
19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. 20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

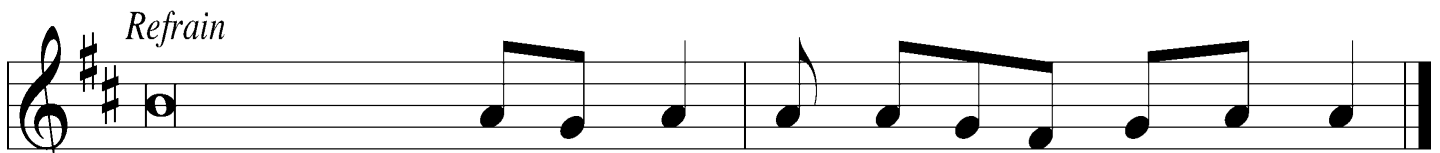
C Thanks be to God.

ADVENT RESPONSORY

Based on Jeremiah 23:5-6; Acts 2:36; Luke 1:32-33

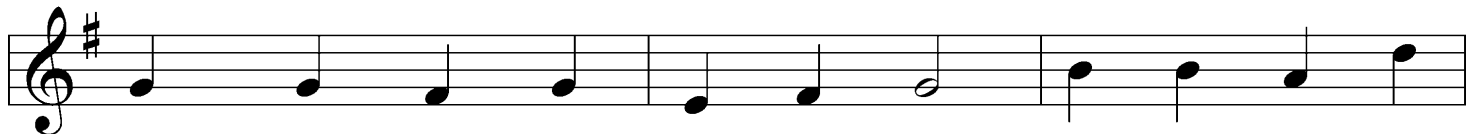


- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

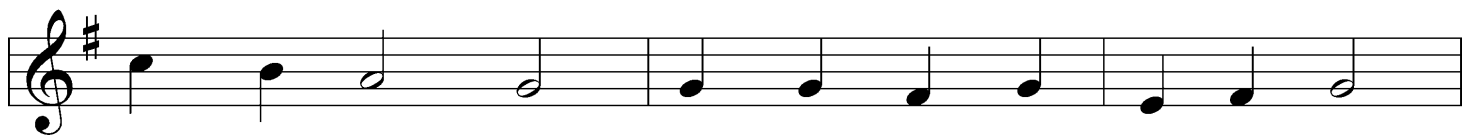


C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Right-teous-ness.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come* **LSB 350**



- 1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

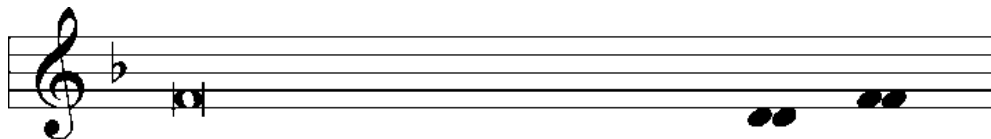
“Baby Samuel”

(1 Samuel 1:1-20)

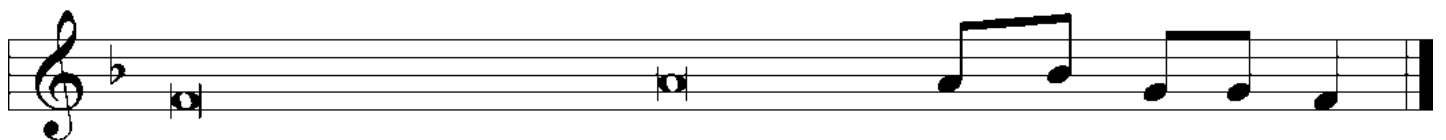
OFFERING

Please Stand

CANTICLE

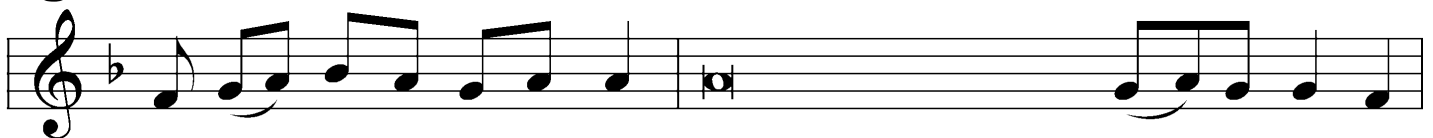


L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

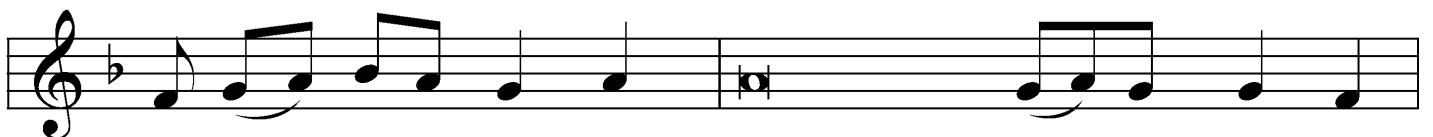


C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

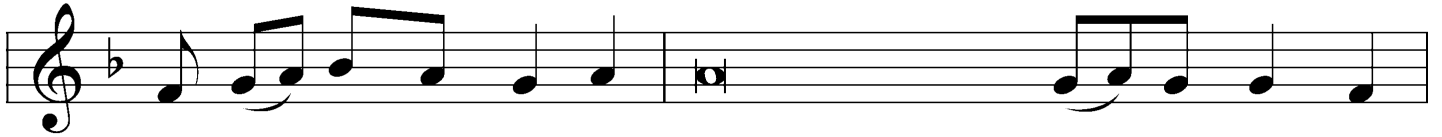


C My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav - ior;



for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.

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For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



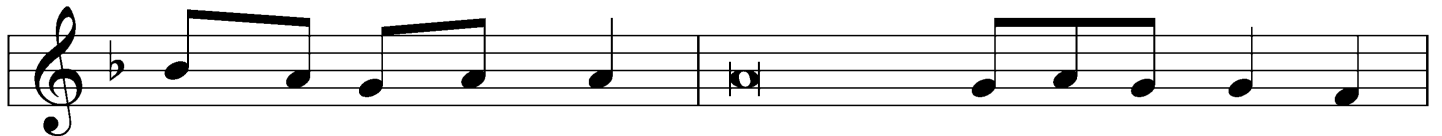
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



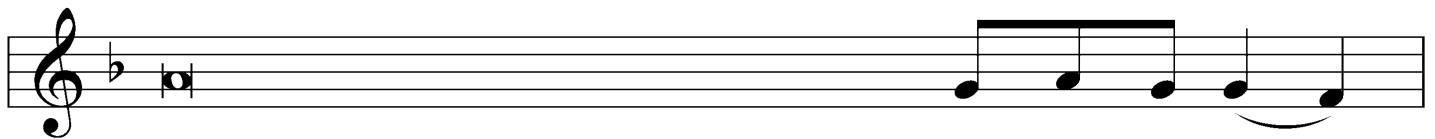
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the



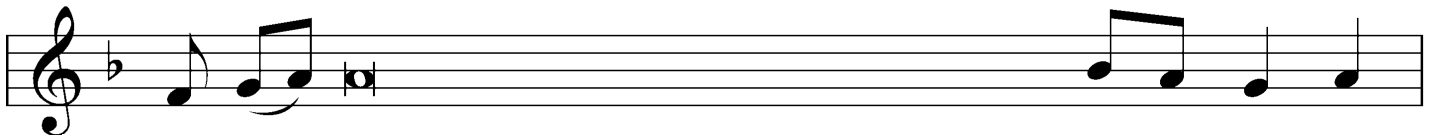
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



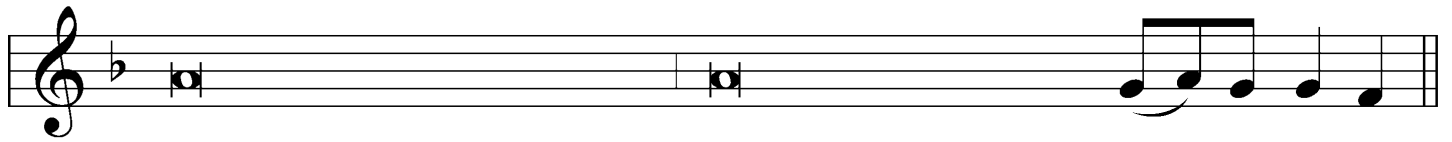
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



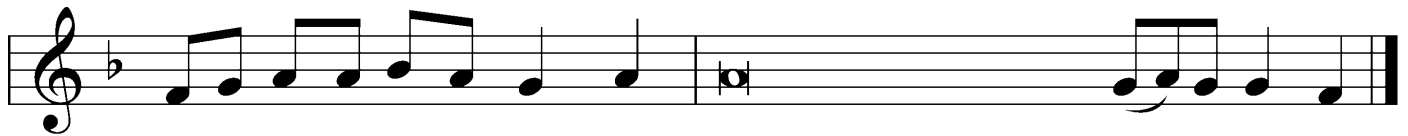
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

All: 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.

COLLECT FOR TODAY

P Revive us again, Lord our God, and give us Christ's own righteousness so that we may serve You and love the people around us as living stones of Your temple; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

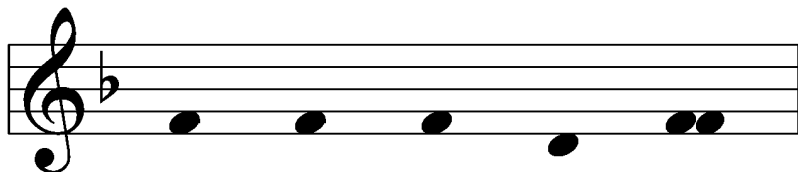
P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

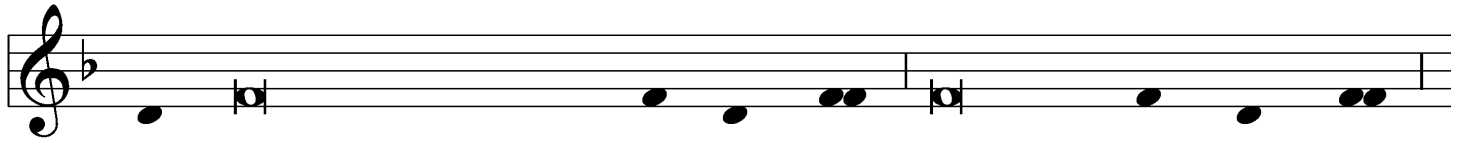


L Let us bless the Lord.

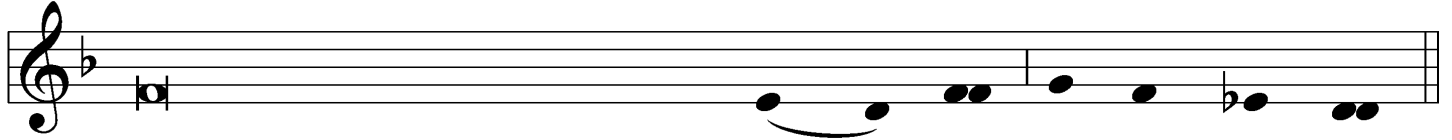


C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Please Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

LSB 873



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer - less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa - nied by Thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise; Tri - umph o'er the shades of night.
Joy - less is the day's re - turn Till Thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day - spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
Till they in - ward light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
More and more Thy - self dis - play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

