

MID-WEEK 3
ADVENT SERVICE

DECEMBER 20, 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 3rd Week in Advent



"The Lord has done great
things for us,
And we are glad."
(Psalm 126:3)

Mid-Week 3 Advent Service
December 20, 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.

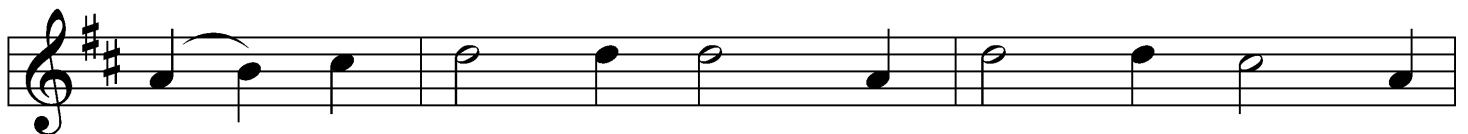
AS WE GATHER We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 126, which speaks of the exiles that returned to Zion. And our joy shall be greater, for we will return to the new Eden, God's great garden!

OPENING HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* *LSB 344*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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 126*

P When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream.

C Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

P The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

C Bring back our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the South.

P Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

C He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Please Sit

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

LSB 357; vs. 1,6,7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

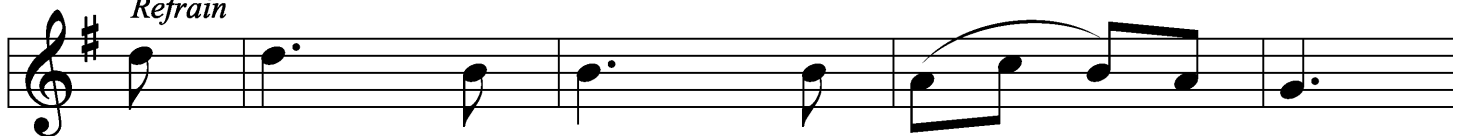


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

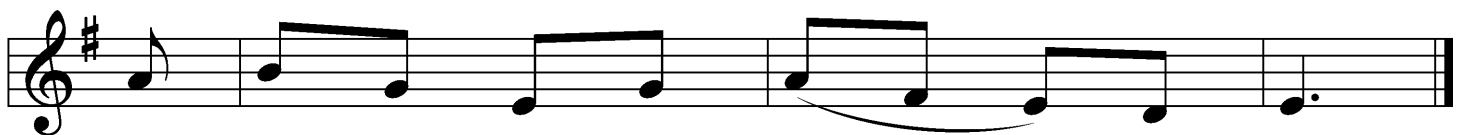


ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain



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



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

Text and tune: Public domain

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The prophet promises not only a return, but one in rebuilding with freedom and joy.)

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the acceptable year of

the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, 3 to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” 4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

8 “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed.” 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13–22

(By our Baptism, we return to the Father with a new reality in Christ.)

13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for

doing good than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING

Luke 1:5-22

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. 10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled,

and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

18 And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.”

19 And the angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.”

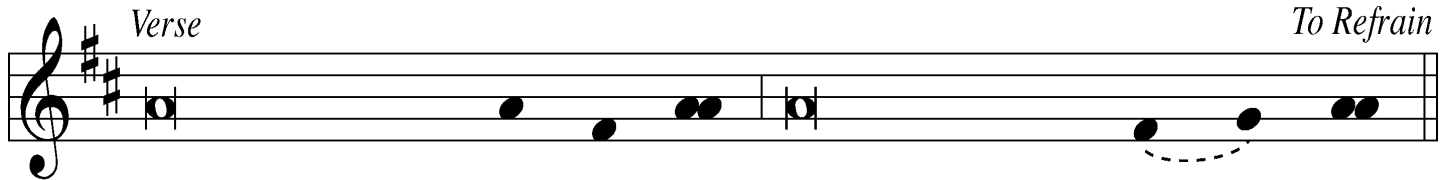
21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. 22 But when he came out, he could not speak to them; and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

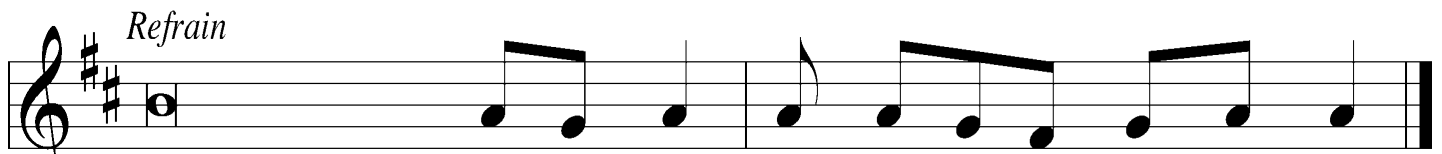
C Thanks be to God.

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

When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346



- 1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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SERMON

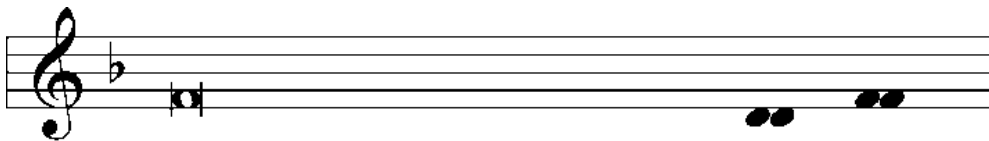
“Baby John”

(Luke 1:5-22)

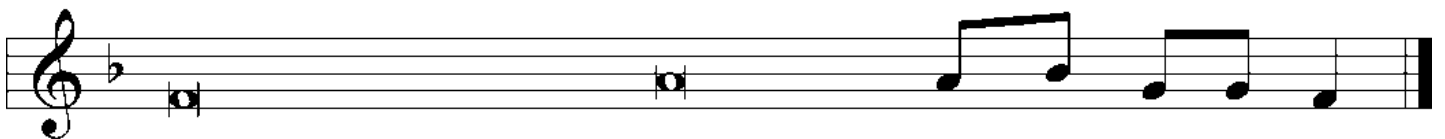
OFFERING

Please Stand

CANTICLE

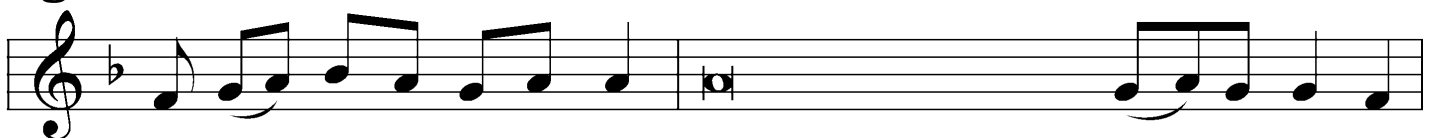


L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

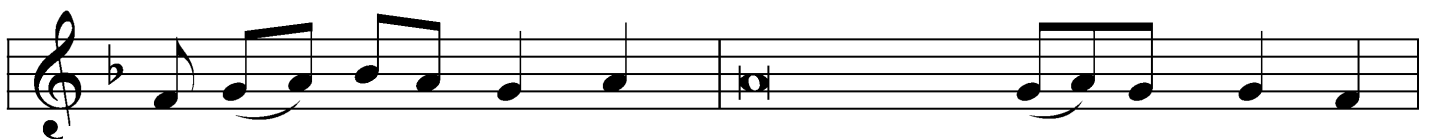


C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

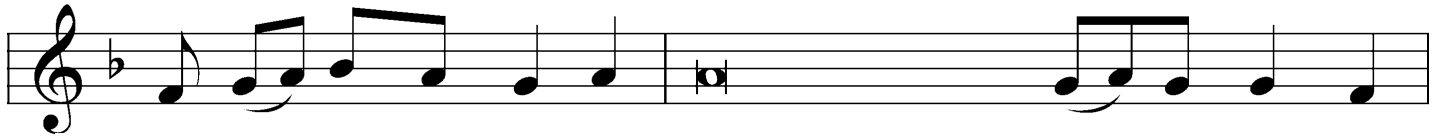
Magnificat



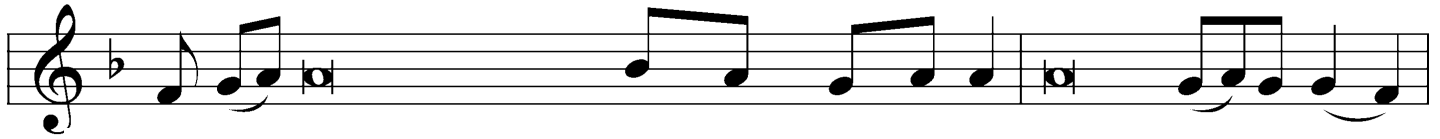
C My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav - ior;



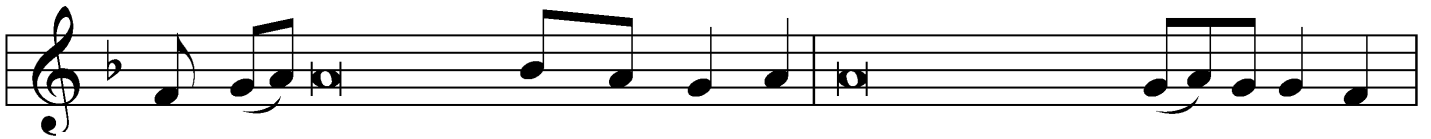
for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.



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;



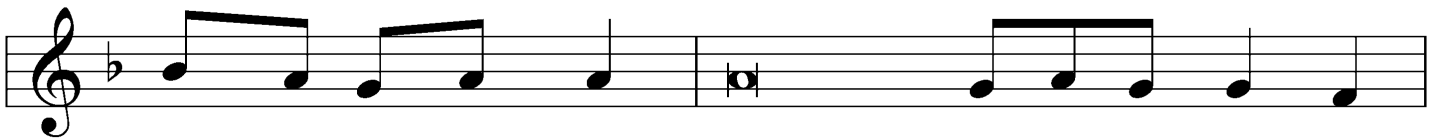
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



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



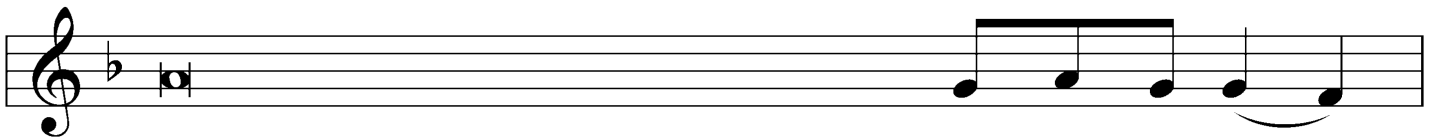
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the



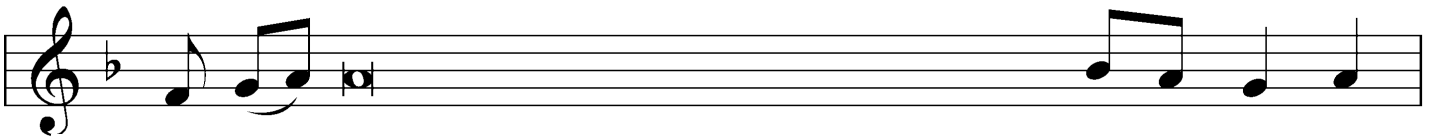
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



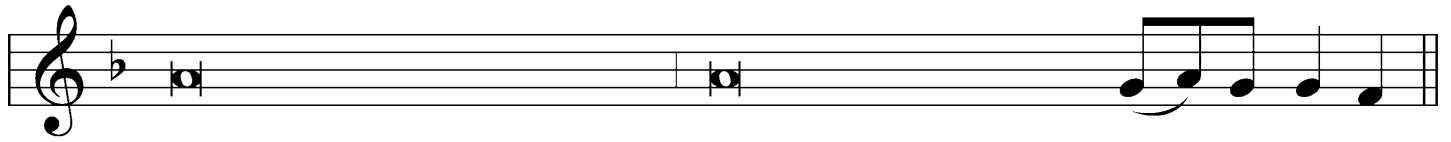
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



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



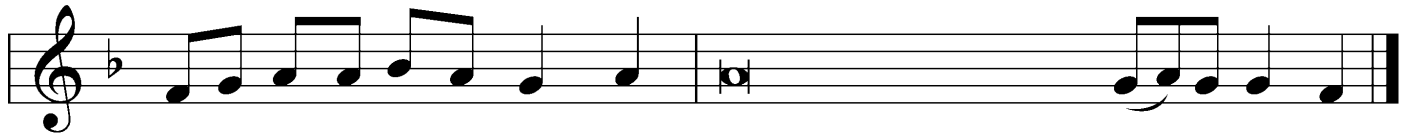
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



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 Return us to Your eternal Eden, Lord our God, and grant us such a sense of joy that the people around us may seek You and Your gracious blessings; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

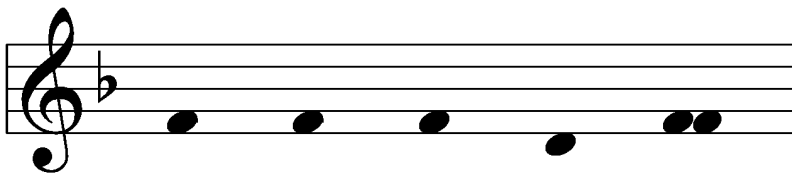
P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

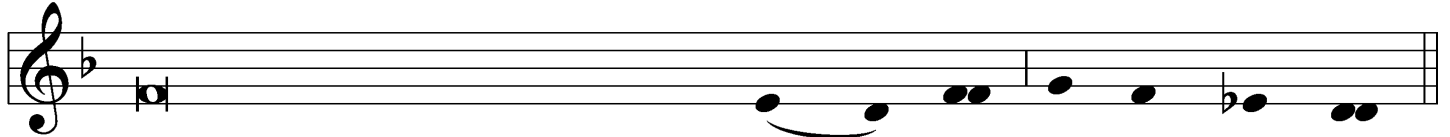


C Thanks be to God.

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.



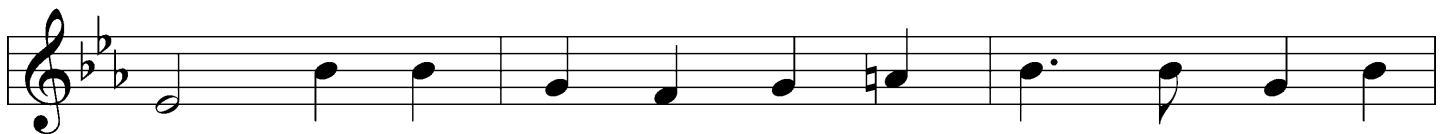
C A - men.

Please Sit

CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

