

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 8, 2024

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes, TX 78570**

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Website:

lutheranmercedes.com

Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor

956.463.1305

eweber10@aol.com

Sunday

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service

10:30 A.M.

**Adult Bible Class/
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
Every Sunday**

**[www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs., M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510

**“ The word of God came
to John the son of
Zacharias in the
wilderness. And he went
into all the region around
the Jordan, preaching a
baptism of repentance for
the remission of sins”**

John 3:3



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 2024

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. 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.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10; 1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you... this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32).

Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17-34.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Prepare my heart room, O Lord, to receive with peace and joy the Savior made flesh, that at Your time of completion I may be found with faith and trust remaining in You, with knowledge and all discernment, so that I may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to

the glory and praise of God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - In this month of December, we find ourselves getting ready and preparing for many things, such as gatherings with family and friends, gifts to get and give to others, traditional treats to be made, and decorations for the season. The foremost preparation, of course, is for our Savior's birth. Today we are reminded of another time of preparation that would be after Jesus' birth and prior to His earthly ministry—that of John the Baptist, who would prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In our busy times of preparing to celebrate this season, today we draw our focus on and give thanks for the one who would raise valleys, level mountains, and make straight the paths for Him.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

PAGE 184

PRELUDE (A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Praise the Almighty

LSB 797



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and

(Continue on next page) 3



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.



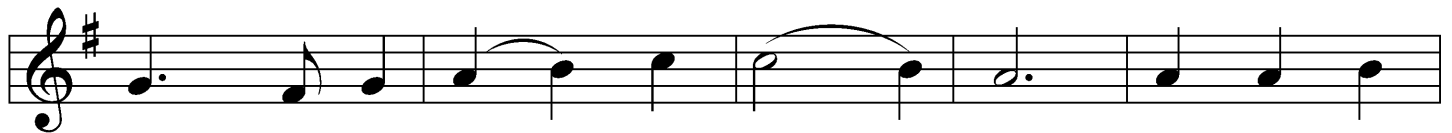
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er
4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in
God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.
in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia!
al - le - lu - ia!
al - le - lu - ia!
al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; 14:27; Luke 2:14; Psalm 4:6

P We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who came to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased," we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O LORD!'

C You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

P In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

C for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety."

Two Advent candles are lit.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357; vs. 3-4

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
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b*

P “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.

C **“Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me!**

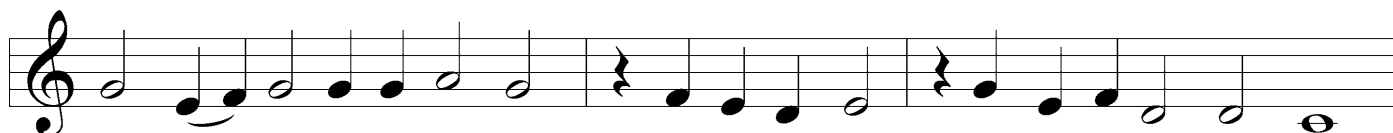
P I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

C **“But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me.**

P “Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!

C **“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.**

GLORIA PATRI



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

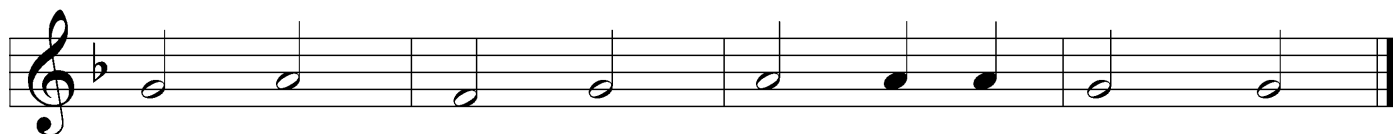


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

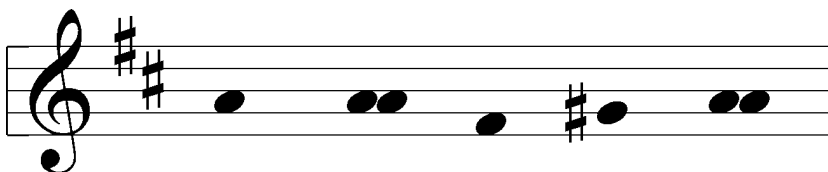


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

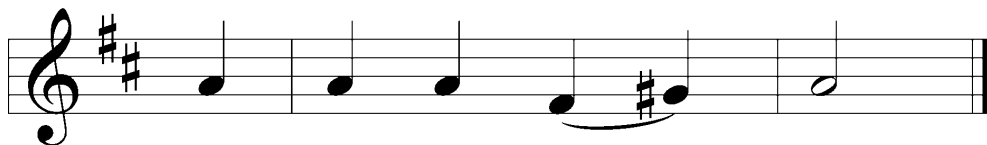


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

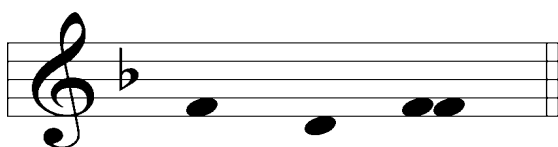
SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.

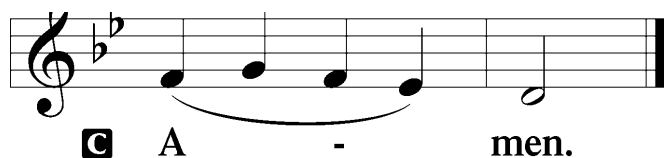


C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

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.



Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1–7b

(The messenger to prepare the way of the Lord)

1 “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.

2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap.

3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness.

4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years.

5 And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien—because they do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts.

6 “For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

7 Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 66:1–12; antiphon: v. 12b*

P But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

C Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth!

P Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious.

C Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.

P All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name.”

C Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.

P He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him.

C He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; do not let the rebellious exalt themselves.

P Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard,

C Who keeps our soul among the living, and does not allow our feet to be moved.

P For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined.

C You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs.

P You have caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;

C But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:2–11*

(Paul’s thanksgiving and prayer)

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all,

because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

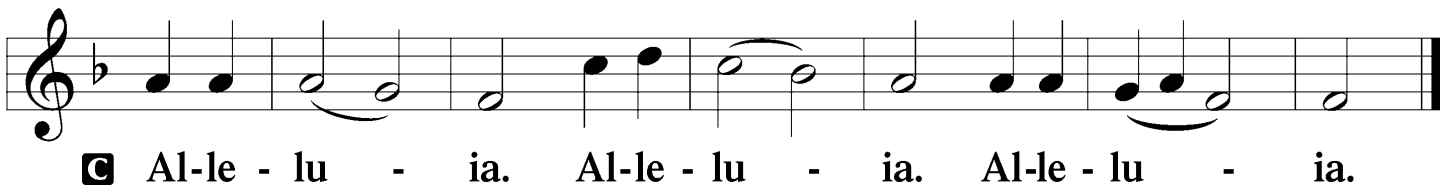
9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA

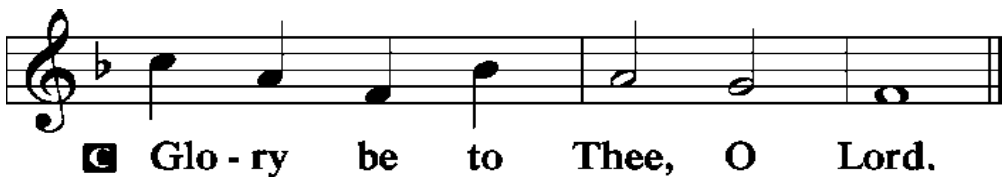


HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-20

(John the Baptist prepares the way)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.



1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.

(Continue on next page)

5 Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth;

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?”

11 He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.”

12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?”

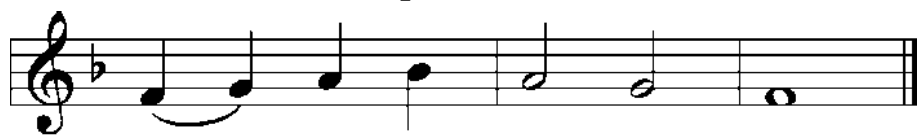
13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, “And what shall we do?” So he said to them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages.”

15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not, 16 John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 And with many other exhortations he preached to the people. 19 But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, 20 also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



P Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

All: *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.

And 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 of the world to come. Amen.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

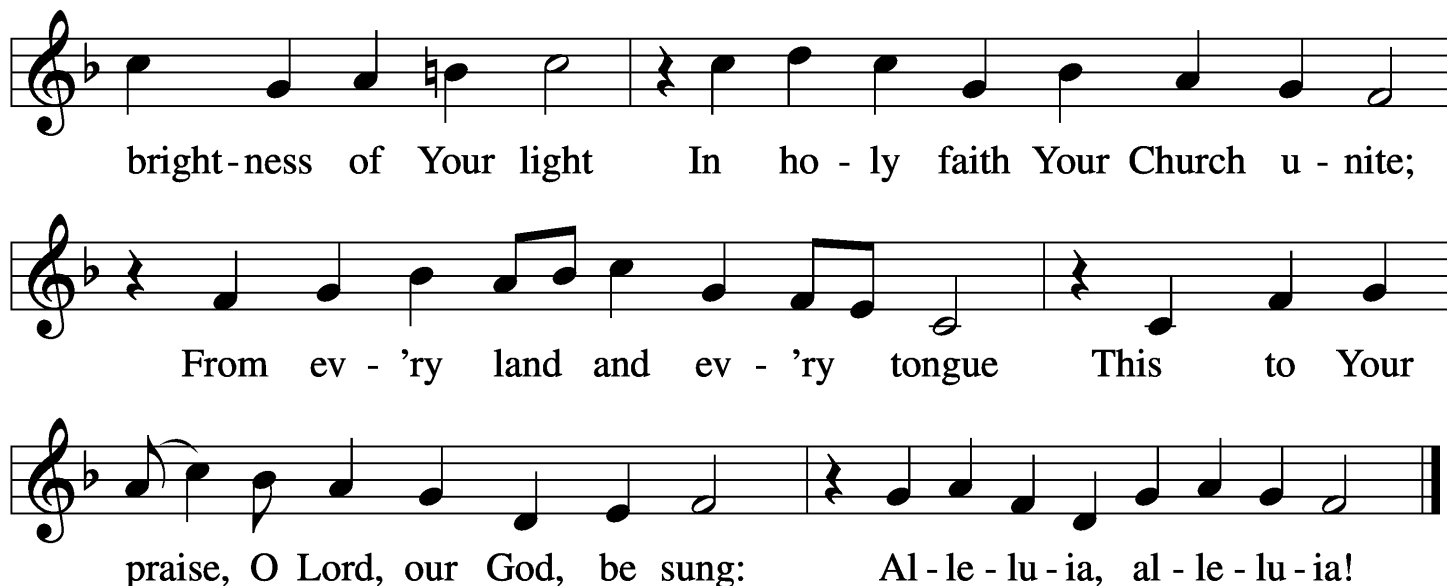
LSB 497

1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, God and Lord, With all Your grac - es

now out-poured On each be - liev - er's mind and heart;

Your fer - vent love to them im - part. Lord, by the

(Continue on next page) 13



- 2 Come, holy Light, guide divine,
 Now cause the Word of life to shine.
 Teach us to know our God aright
 And call Him Father with delight.
 From ev'ry error keep us free;
 Let none but Christ our master be
 That we in living faith abide,
 In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Come, holy Fire, comfort true,
 Grant us the will Your work to do
 And in Your service to abide;
 Let trials turn us not aside.
 Lord, by Your pow'r prepare each heart,
 And to our weakness strength impart
 That bravely here we may contend,
 Through life and death to You, our Lord, ascend.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

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SERMON ***"Fruits of repentance from the Fire of the Gospel"***

Luke 3:16

OFFERING

Please stand
OFFERTORY

Create in Me

LSB 192



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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE *"Peace be with you"* [American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Philippians 1:3-11

P Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gathering of us together around Word and Sacrament, as You call, gather, and enlighten us through Your Spirit. Keep Your church united in truth, as Christ has completed His work for the sake of humanity as we await His return. As You continue to work in us and through us Your grace and mercy, empower us by Your Spirit to live holy lives according to Your will and to live as Your witnesses among our neighbors, coworkers, and community. As we pray to You now, we also pray with Paul upon

(Continue on next page) 15

ourselves and all believers who call upon Your name:

C **"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."**

P Be with all who bear Your Word, including those who serve as missionaries both near and far. Grant open ears and eager hearts to receive the good news of a Savior given, and forgiveness assured. For all who face trials, persecution, and even death for confessing Your name, grant a steadfastness of faith even in the most dire times.

C **"It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."**

P For all who are sick, lonely, and in need of comfort, we lift them up to You, [including . . .]. According to Your will, grant healing. According to Your promises, remain with them with the comfort and peace of Your presence in times of affliction. Be with doctors, nurses, and medical staff as they use the gifts and abilities given to them. Help us and others to serve as Your instruments that we may show compassion in times of need, speak words of hope in times of hopelessness, and serve according to needs had in times of helplessness. For all people, as we prepare to receive and rejoice in the Savior given and born for us, keep us prepared for the day of His coming again.

C **"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."**

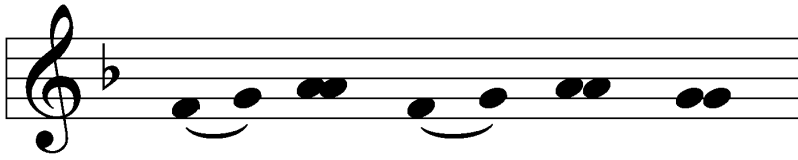
Additional petitions may follow.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

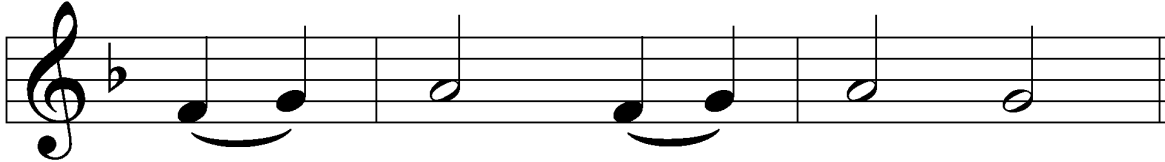
C₁₆ **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE



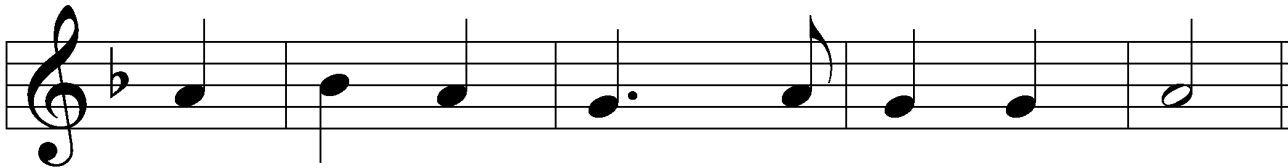
P The Lord be with you.



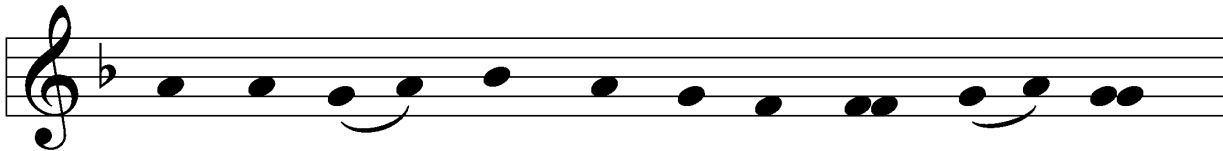
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and

(Continue on next page) 17

magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



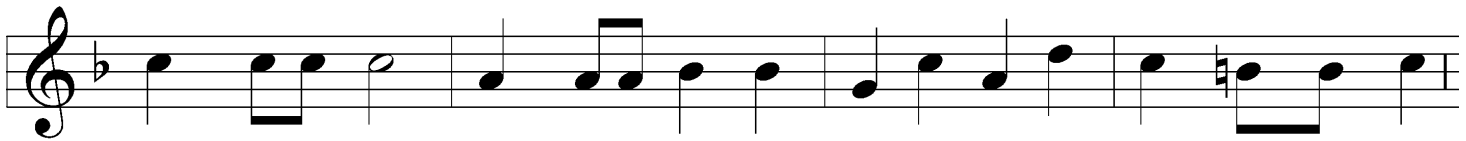
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



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.

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

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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



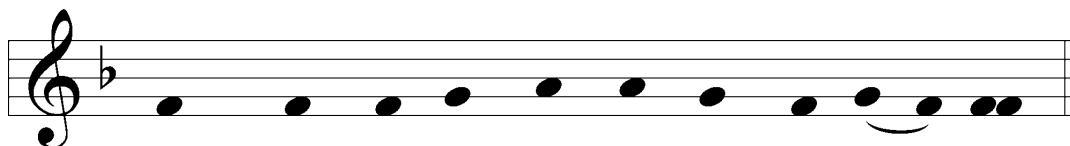
1 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

P 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

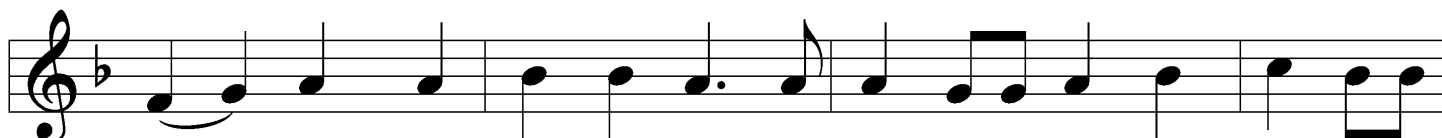


P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

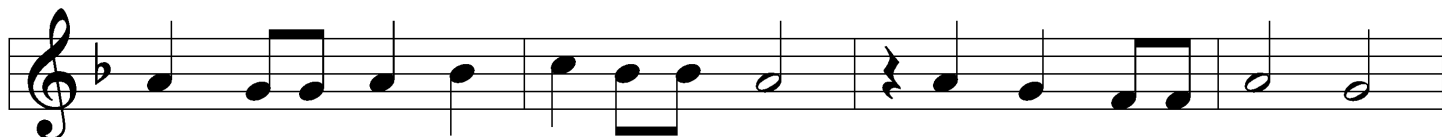
AGNUS DEI



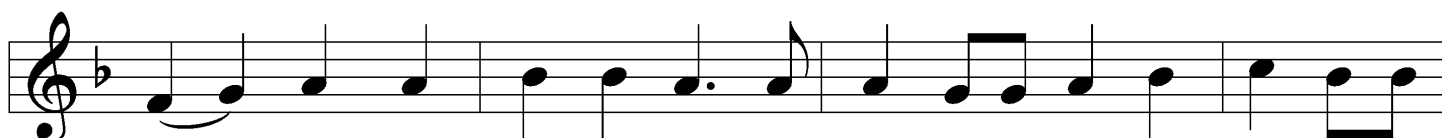
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

Continue on next page 19



Please sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow

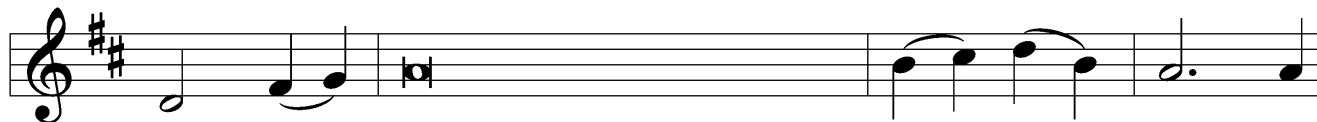


Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS



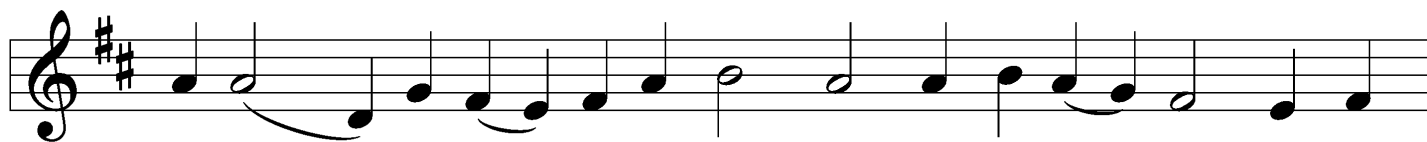
Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



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



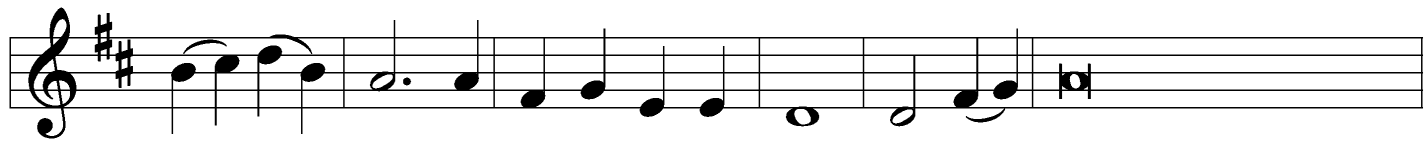
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



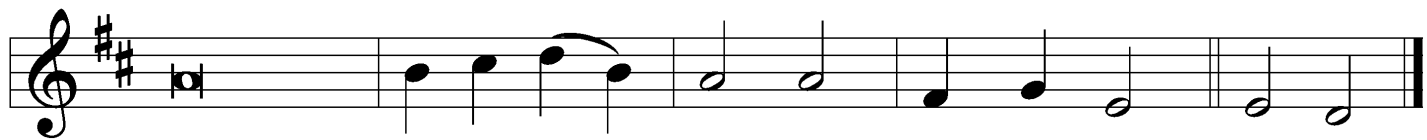
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

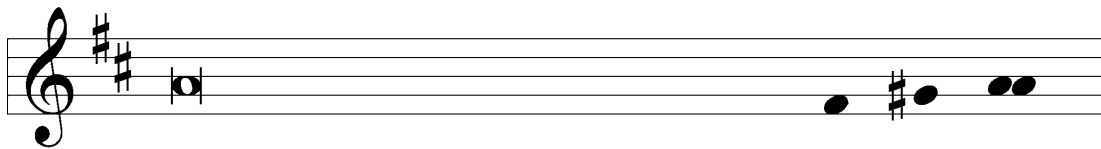


to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

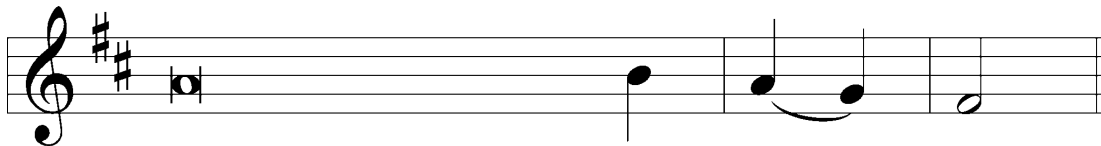


is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



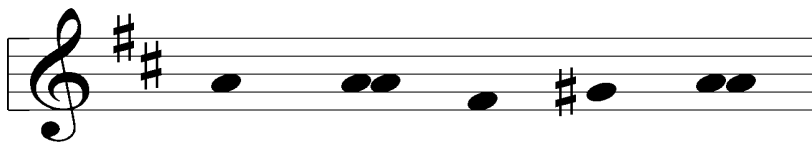
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

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 in 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.



C A - men.

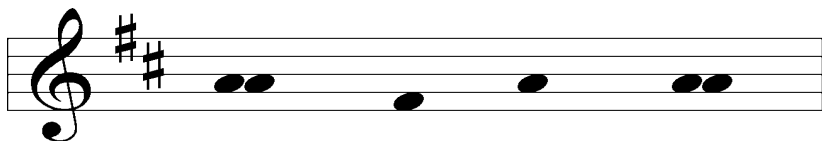
BENEDICAMUS



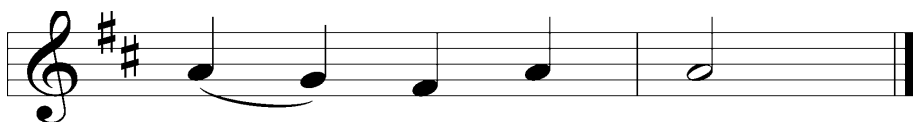
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

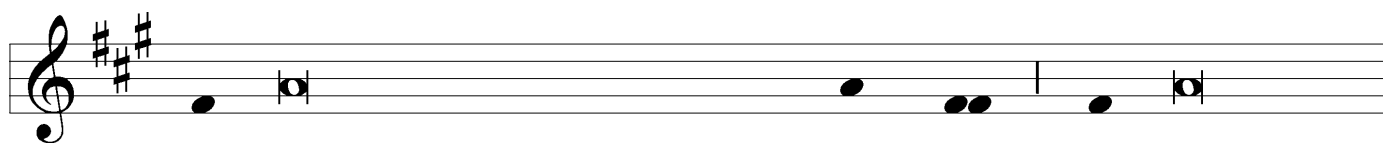


A Bless we the Lord.

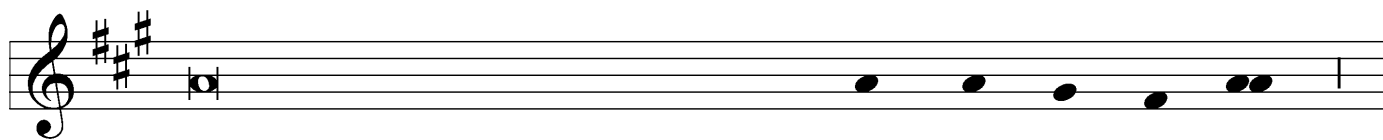


C Thanks be to God.

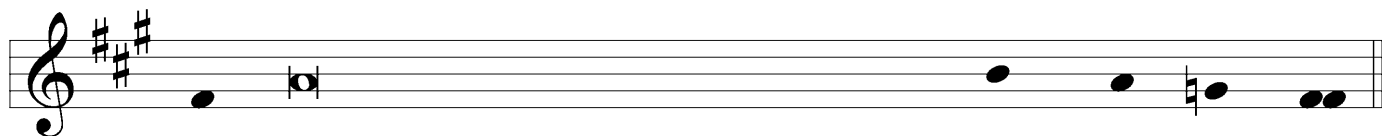
BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



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



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please sit

SENDING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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2024 Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday and Midweek Advent Services

Dec. 8	Second Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.
Dec. 11	Midweek 2 Advent	6 p.m.
	with Soup Supper at 5 p.m.	
Dec. 15	Third Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.
Dec. 18	Midweek 3 Advent	6 p.m.
	with Soup Supper at 5 p.m.	
Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.

Christmas and New Year's Services

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	6 p.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service	9 a.m.
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Service	6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for October to December 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Goetz is leading the class.

December Activities

Family Confirmation Class on Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Fajita Night Bible Study Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheet is posted on church door. (free will offering)

January Activities

German Polka Fest, Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Sign up sheet posted on the church door.)

January 2025 Women's Retreat

Chosen : A Study of Esther

Friday, January 24th - 6-9 p.m. and
Saturday, January 25th - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

@ St. Paul Lutheran Church; 602 Morgan Blvd.; Harlingen, TX

Registration is \$50.00 Includes : Retreat materials, snacks, coffee and tea, & Friday night - catered dinner; Saturday - breakfast crumpets and catered lunch. For more info go to: splch.breezechms.com/form/2025retreat



Welcome back! You have been missed!

Memory Verse Challenge:
This week's:



**DO NOT BE ANXIOUS
ABOUT ANYTHING,**

but in everything by **prayer** and
supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made
known to God.

And the **peace** of God, which
surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and
your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHIL. 4:6-7

MEMORY VERSE



lcms.org



“COME and see
the works
GOD; of
He is AWESOME
in His
doing *toward*
the SONS to MEN”
Psalm 66:5

11/26/2024

Thanksgiving Service 50

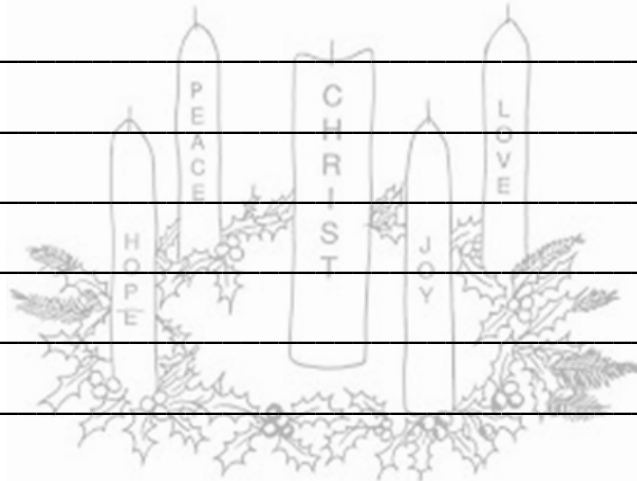
Plate: \$ 70.00

Envelopes: \$ 195.00

Envelopes-Other

Total: \$ 265.00

Sermon Notes



12/1/2024

Sunday Worship 58

Plate: \$ 254.00

Envelopes: \$ 933.00

Envelopes-Other:

On Line

Donation:

Memorial:

Total: \$ 1,187.00

Bible Class: **23** \$ 20.00

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Psalm 85

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism “of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3–4).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	December Sunday Servants	
Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Lori Marchant/Imelda Aguilera/ Donna Jackson	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	Second Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Third Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am