

**SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS**

JANUARY 2, 2022

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes**

Texas 78570

956.565.1518

**Immanuelmercedes
@gmail.com**

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

**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

**Website:
lutheranmercedes.
com**

Sunday

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

**Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

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

**Website:
Misionemanuel.com**

Office Hrs, M-F

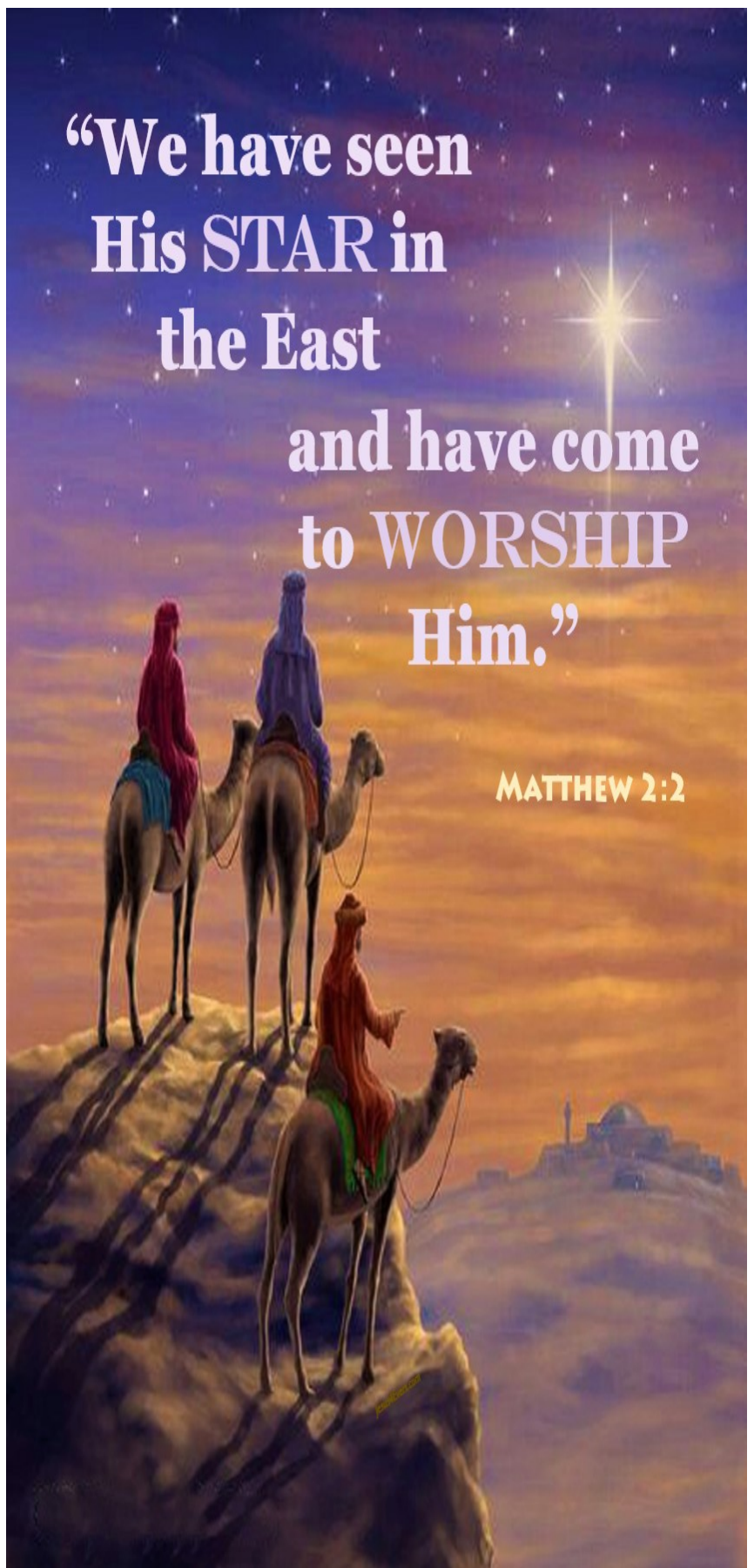
8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510

**“We have seen
His STAR in
the East**

**and have come
to WORSHIP
Him.”**

MATTHEW 2:2



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 2, 2022

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.

This week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Gracious heavenly Father, You have shown repeatedly throughout history how much You love Your chosen people. Fill my life with Your love so I may share it with all whom I interact; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Have you tired of those Christmas gifts yet, or are you still enjoying them? God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom. God's wisdom was a gift Solomon displayed vividly at times, but at other times, it seemed he had regifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple, at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. God

continues to reveal His wisdom to us through the Bible.
What is your plan for connecting with God and His wisdom
this year?

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)

OPENING HYMN

The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB 412



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.



6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you

and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:19-23)

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 147:1, 5, 11-12; antiphon: John 1:14*

P And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

C Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

P Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

C The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.

P Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

KYRIE



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord God, You are the fountain and source of all wisdom. You made Solomon a wise king. Your Son demonstrated this wisdom in the temple. Grant us Your wisdom so that we may share it in our communities and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Kings 3:4–15*

(Solomon asks for the gift of wisdom.)

4 Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?” 6 And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” 10 The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you

before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 13 And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. 14 So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” 15 Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 119:97–104; antiphon: v. 99*

P I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

C Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

P You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

C I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

P I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

C I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.

P I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.

C How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

P Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:3–14*

(In His infinite wisdom, God gives us an eternal inheritance.)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE] 9


the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

P This is the Word of the Lord.


C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

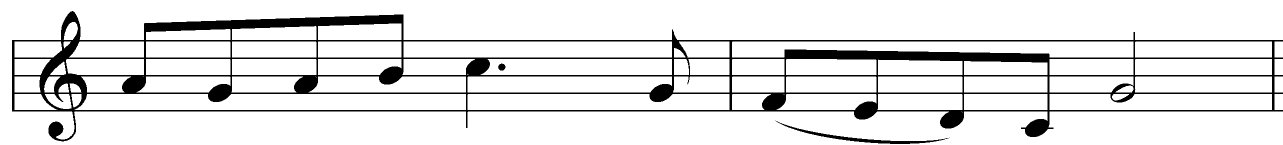
ALLELUIA and VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:40-52*

(Jesus is found sharing His wisdom in the temple.)

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

C **Glory to You , O Lord.**

40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

41 His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He was twelve years old, they went up to

Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. 43 When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; 44 but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. 45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. 46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. 48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. 51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, 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.*

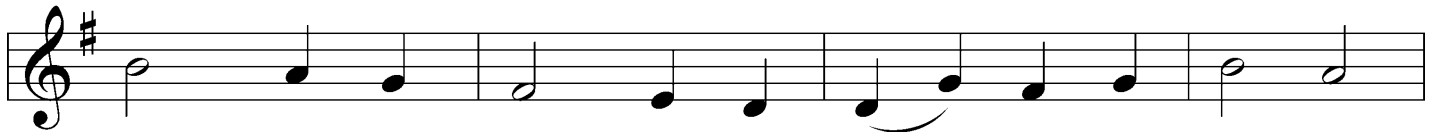
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven 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.

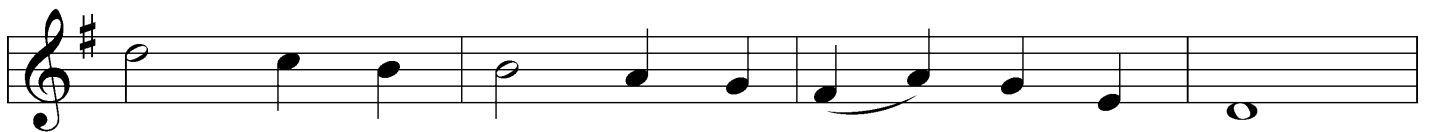
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission 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 *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*
LSB 400



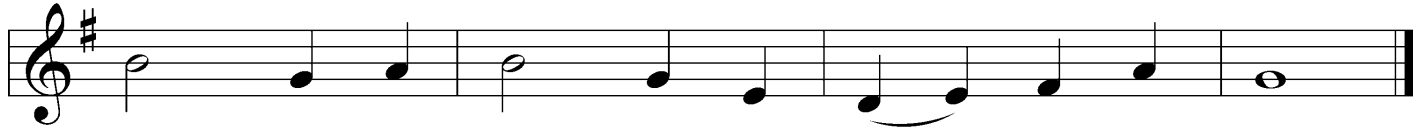
1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
 Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
 Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'ring di - vine,
 Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

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SERMON

"The Greatest Treasure Hunt"

(Matthew 2:2)

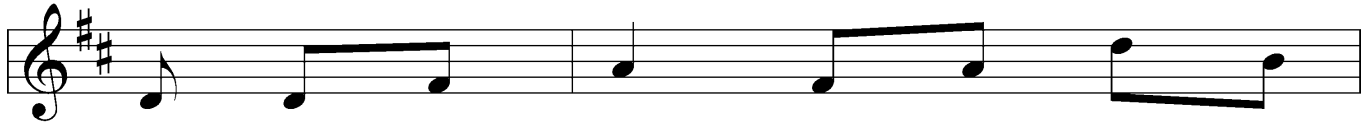
OFFERING

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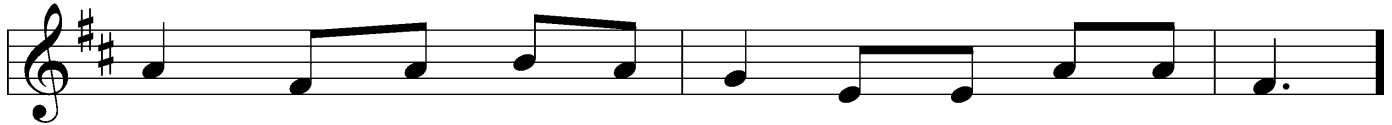
OFFERTORY

God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using ASL (American Sign Language)]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us go to God in prayer for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all people in their various circumstances.

Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we may be a blessing to others. Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and

guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we pray for all who lead—in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church—that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, [especially . . .] that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian, there is someone to help them understand the mystery of Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Individual petitions may be added.

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

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

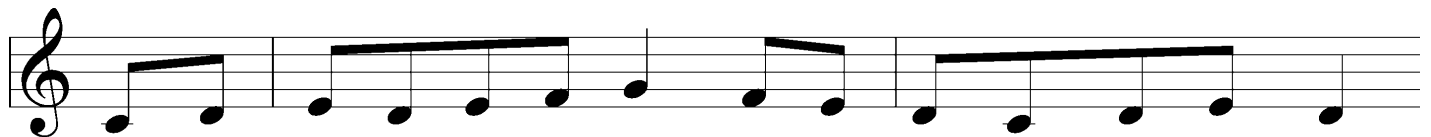
C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was born of Mary, visited by the Magi, and who amazed those in the temple with His understanding and answers. Through Jesus, You have revealed Your love for all humanity through His suffering, death, and resurrection. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

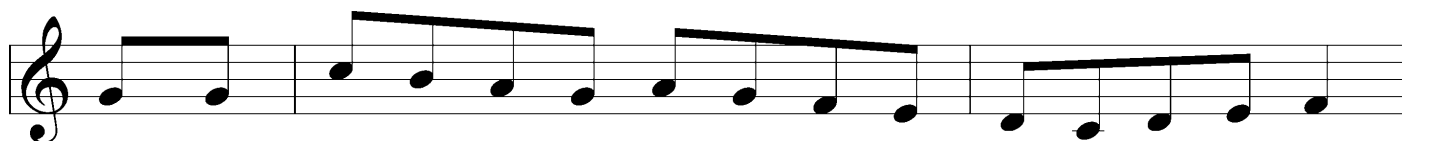
SANCTUS



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, for in Your divine wisdom and in the fullness of time You sent Your beloved Son to be born of Mary. In the mystery of Your will and Your great love for humanity, He not only became human but also sacrificed His body and His blood on the cross as He died for the sins of the world before rising to life again. We receive this immense gift of grace with repentant joy.

As we gather here in Your name, Lord Jesus, we beg You to give us redemption through Your blood, the forgiveness for our trespasses according to the riches of Your grace. Grant us faithfully to eat Your body and drink Your blood and fill us with Your wisdom and Your grace.

Gather us together, Holy Spirit, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver, enlighten, and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.**

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 always.

C Amen.


AGNUS DEI



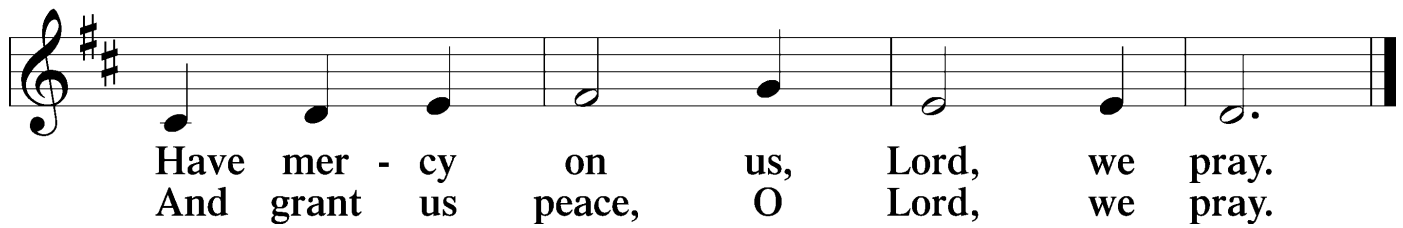
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please sit

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

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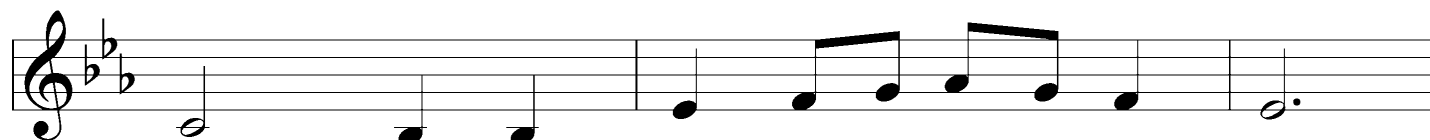
NUNC DIMITTIS



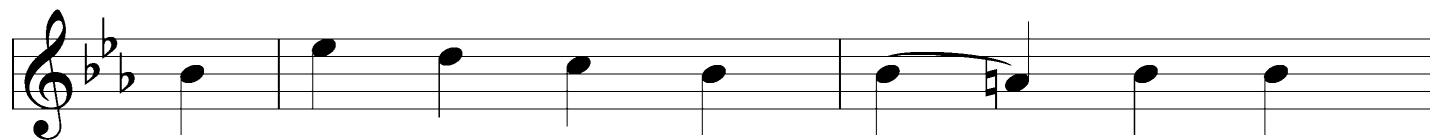
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



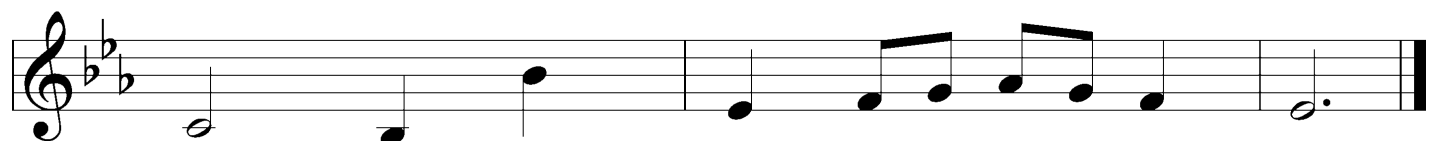
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C His steadfast love endures forever.

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty and omnipotent God, that You have filled us with Your forgiveness in this sacred Meal of Your Son's body and blood. In Your mercy, fill us with Your wisdom and Your grace, and lead us to love one another; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

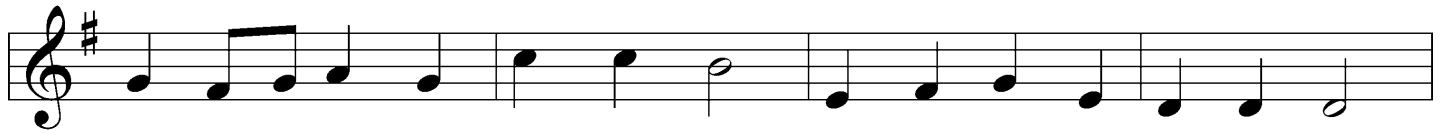
C Amen.

Please sit

This week's memory verse: *Matthew 5:16*

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE] 21



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
 There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
 So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
 And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
 So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
 All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
 Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
 There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

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DISMISSAL

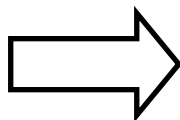
P Go in peace and serve the Lord.!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Announcements, continued on next page



Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, January 4th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Financial Reports and Announcements

12/15/2021	
Mid-Week 3 Advent	
Worship	29
Plate:	\$ 55.00
Envelopes:	\$ 260.00
Total:	\$ 315.00

12/19/2021	
Sunday Worship	46
Plate:	\$ 340.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,600.00
Donation:	\$ 20.00
Sidewalk	\$ 200.00
Rental	\$ 160.00
Total:	\$ 2,320.00
Bible Class:	27 \$ 19.00

12/22/2021	
Mid-Week 4 Advent	
Worship	28
Plate:	\$ 165.00
Envelopes:	\$ 140.00
Total:	\$ 305.00

12/24/2021	
Christmas Eve Ser-	104
Plate:	\$ 805.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,680.00
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 2,485.00

12/26/2021	
Sunday Worship	31
Plate:	\$ 247.00
Envelopes:	\$ 983.00
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 1,230.00
Bible Class:	17 \$ 19.00

Announcements:

Congregation Secretary - We have a need for a congregation secretary; main job is to take minutes at quarterly meetings.

Monetary Gift - Please consider a monetary gift to help pay for the new paving at the church entrance.

The Baptism of Our Lord
Readings:

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Romans 6:1-11

Luke 3:15-22

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus “grew and became strong” (Luke 2:40); He “increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might “have redemption through his blood” (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up “to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41); when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in “the word of truth, the gospel,” by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain “an understanding mind” to go about our vocations, discerning “between good and evil” (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand “before the ark of the covenant of the Lord” (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	January Sunday Servants	
Elder:	Don Vogel	
Altar Guild:	Billie Jo Neuhaus & Maribel Perez	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	<i>Second Sunday after Christmas</i>	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	<i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i>	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am