

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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Mercedes**

Texas 78570

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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

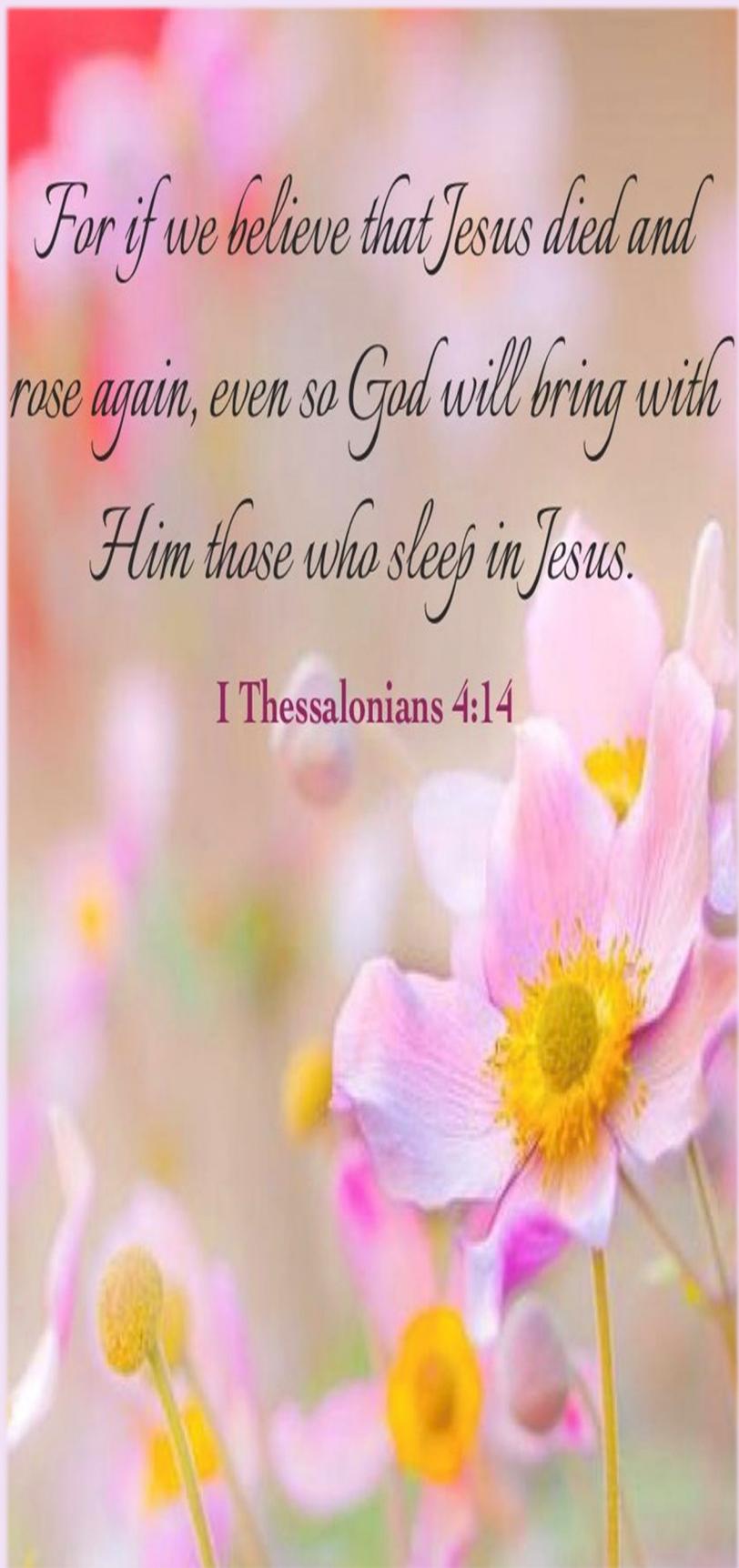
Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510

*For if we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so God will bring with
Him those who sleep in Jesus.*

I Thessalonians 4:14



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 12, 2023

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.

Next 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 - Lord God, I do not know the day nor the hour of the coming in glory of the Bridegroom, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As I wait, continue to nourish my faith until I enter the eternal wedding feast, through 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 - It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world—not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when

that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

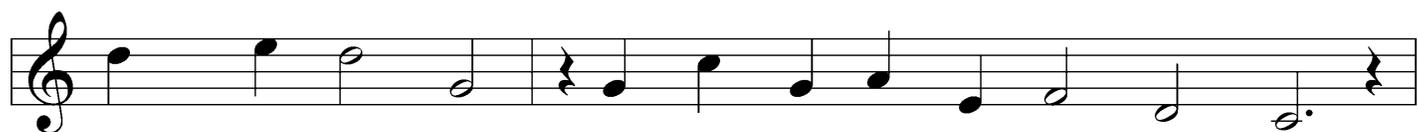
OPENING HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

LSB 516



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."

Continue on next page 3

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all
The wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light,
No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we
Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: 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 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 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3*

P Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

C **How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!**

P O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed.

C **For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

P For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly

C **O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!**

P Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

KYRIE



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

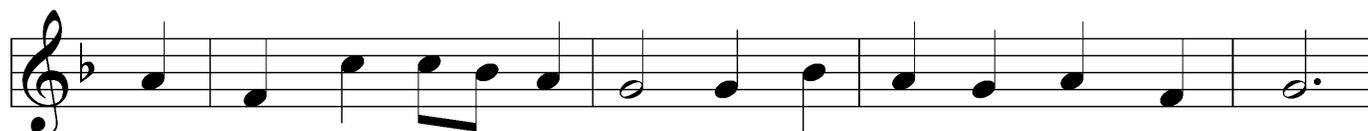
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 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;



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.



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,



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—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:18–24*

(The day of the Lord and justice)

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? 21 “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. 24 But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 70; antiphon: v. 4*

P Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!”

C **Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord!**

P Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life; let them be turned back and confused who desire my hurt.

C Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, "Aha, aha!"

P Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

C But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

P Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

(The coming of the Lord)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

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

Matthew 25:1-13

(The parable of the ten virgins)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Continue on next page

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

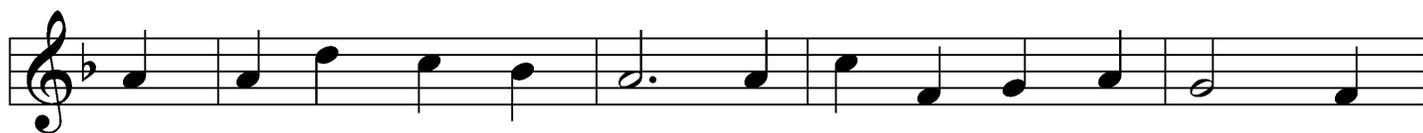
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

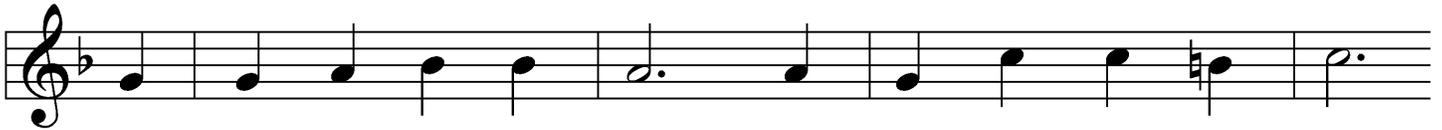
LSB 696



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con-science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

- 5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.
- 6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“What about the resurrection?”

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

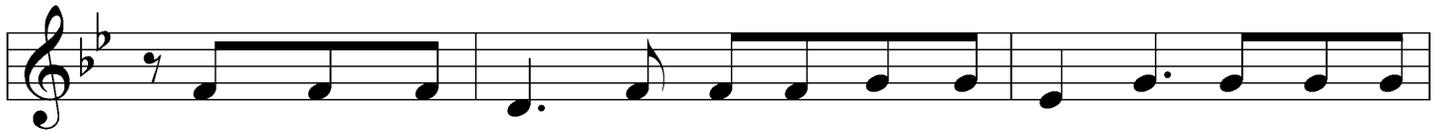
OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

How Great Thou Art

LSB 801 vs. 1,3,4



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and

supplications, we commonly close our prayers with Amen.” Derived from a Hebrew verb, amen means “certainty” or “to confirm.” As Martin Luther put it, amen means, “Yes, yes, it shall be so.” As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” We, in our wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our “amens,” and confidently invite Him to come.

Let us pray for the people of God in the Bridegroom, Christ Jesus; His Bride, the Church; and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, grant to us all things needful and dissuade us from all things harmful. Fill the oil in our lamps, strengthen and nourish our faith, that united, together we as Your Church and as Your people confidently and courageously shine Your light to our neighbors, our community, and the world. Amen.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Heavenly Father, keep us ready in our waiting for the promised day to come when the door is opened and we are welcomed to the wedding feast. In our wait, keep us from earthly distractions that would lead us away from You. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us prepared to welcome Jesus when He comes in all His glory at the hour and the day You have set, as we remain trusting in Your promises made, promises fulfilled, and promises to come. Amen.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Heavenly Father, You have already called faithful servants from this life as they are in Your glorious care and await the resurrection. For we who remain on this earth, give comfort

and hope to those who grieve, [especially . . .]. For those who struggle with health of mind or sickness of body, grant healing according to Your will and lasting peace in light of affliction, [especially . . .]. For all those whose needs are known only to You and for all who face the afflictions of this life while awaiting the Last Day at Your time, grant patience. Amen.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Heavenly Father, as we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” awaiting His return, we know that in the meantime He even comes to us now through Your Word and Means of Grace. In the body and blood given and shed for us in, with, and under the bread and wine given and received, forgive us our sins and nourish our faith in our waiting that our hearts and lives be reflective of the grace You freely give. Amen.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Additional petitions may be added.

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

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.

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.

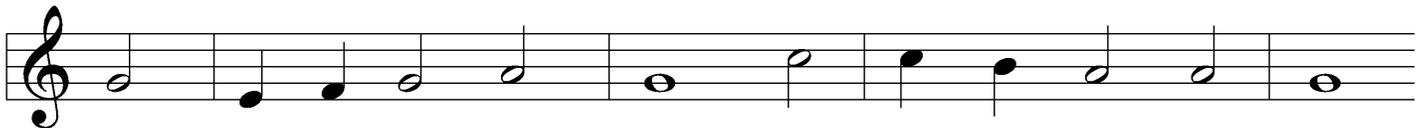
C Amen.

Please sit

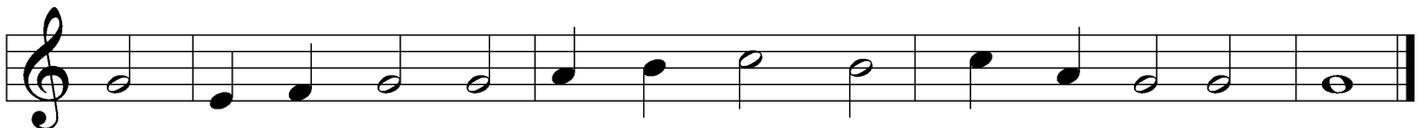
SENDING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

LSB 649



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.
And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

A black and white photograph of a monarch butterfly perched on a flower. The butterfly is the central focus, with its wings spread, showing the characteristic orange and black patterns. The background is a soft-focus floral scene. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**Let all those that
seek thee rejoice
and be glad in thee:
and let such as love
thy salvation say
continually, Let
God be magnified.**

Psalm 70:4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer-October to December 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Weber will be leading the class.*

November Activities

*Winter Texan Potluck Luncheon
after Bible Study in the Social Hall
Sunday, November 19th, 2023*

*Church Council Budget/Nominating Meeting
Tuesday, November 21st, 2023
7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall*

*Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 22nd at 6:00 p.m.
Followed by Pie Social*

*Office Closed, for Thanksgiving
Thursday & Friday, November 23-24, 2023*

*Extra Christmas Brunch Extra
Ladies of Immanuel are invited to a brunch
at St. John in San Benito
on Saturday, December 2nd from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Bring your favorite dish.
Singing of Christmas hymns will be included.*

*Extra LWML Women's Retreat Extra
January 26-27, 2024
Harlingen Convention Center*

See flyer (posted on church door) for complete information.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

This week's memory verse: *1 Peter 1:24-25*

The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.

11/5/2023

Sunday Worship	57	
Plate:		\$ 483.00
Envelopes:		\$ 1,168.00
On-line		\$ 500.00
Donation:		
	Total:	\$ 2,151.00
Bible Class:	24	\$ 26.00

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

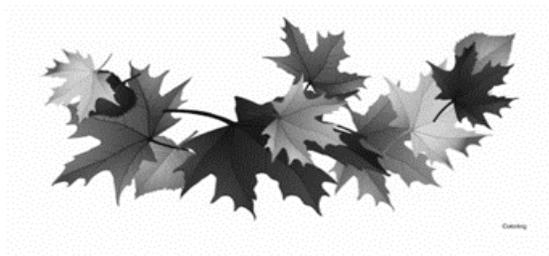
Readings:

Zephaniah 1:7-16

Psalms 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30



The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is “darkness, and not light” (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their “burnt offerings and grain offerings,” nor will He look upon their “peace offerings” (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets “justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the “lamps” of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the “oil” of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us “to the dealers” (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we “encourage one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes “with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,” and “we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	November Sunday Servants	
Elder:	Earl Neuhaus	
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Wehling/Rose Ann Cisneros	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am