TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 19, 2023
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



703 W 3RD Street Mercedes, Texas 78570 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com

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

Website: lutheranmercedes.com

Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service

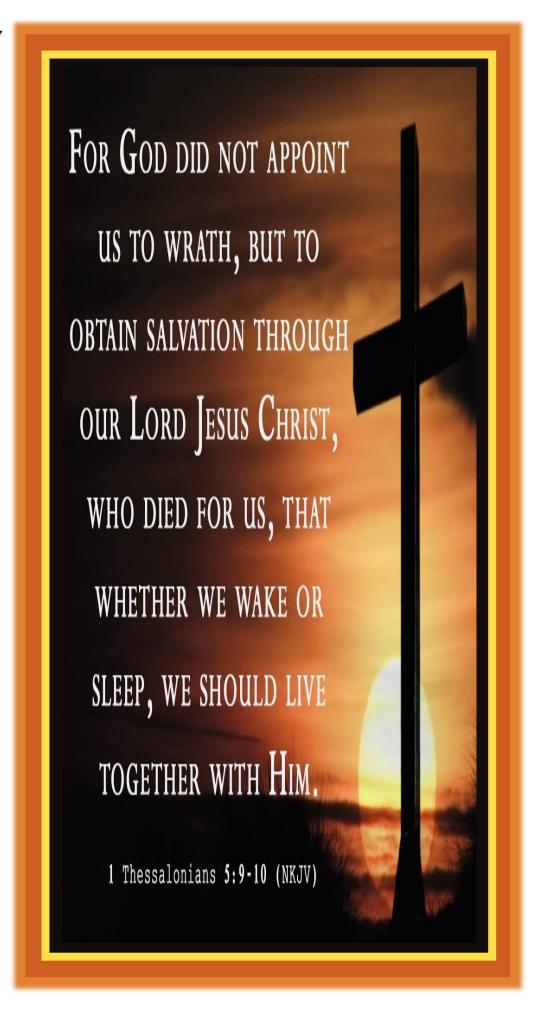
10:30 AM Adult Bible Class Sunday School

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

www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website:
Misionemanuel.com
Office Hrs, M-F
8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 19, 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.

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 Heavenly Father, Your Son died for the sins of the whole world. Embolden me to share His love with everyone I meet until the day I hear His gracious blessing, "Well done, good and faithful servant"; through the same Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
- **AS WE GATHER** The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God's purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God's blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God's very gracious Word, "well done!" and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

OPENING HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733





Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home: Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure. From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same. Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

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.

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,
- 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 107:1-2, 41-42: antiphon v. 8*

- P Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!
- C Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
- P Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
- C Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, and makes their families like a flock.
- P The righteous see it and rejoice, and all iniquity stops its mouth.
- 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 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!

KYRIE



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



In 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. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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 Zephaniah 1:7–16

(A day of wrath is coming.)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand, for the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. 8 "And it shall be, in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. 9 In the same day I will punish all those who leap over the threshold, who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit. 10 "And there shall be on that day," says the Lord, "The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills. 11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; all those who handle money are cut off. 12 "And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.' 13 Therefore their goods shall become booty, and their houses a desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine." 14 The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out. 15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and

desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 90:1–12; antiphon: v. 17*

- P And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.
- C Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- P Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
- C You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men."
- P For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.
- C You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up:
- P In the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it is cut down and withers.
- C For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified.
- P You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.
- C For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; we finish our years like a sigh.
- P The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
- C Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.
- P So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

- 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 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

(Encourage one another to live in God's light.)

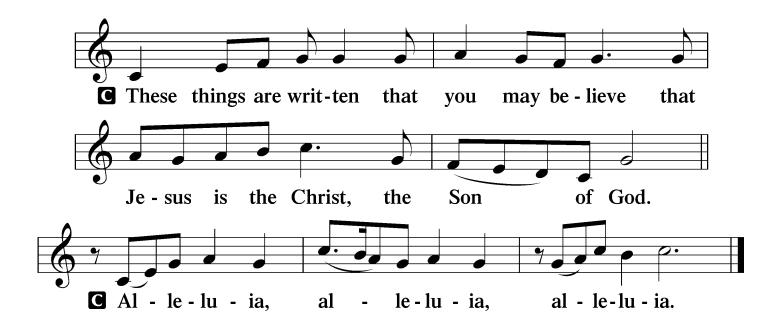
1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

- 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUA and VERSE





HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

(God gives talents, expecting them to be used for His purposes.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more

talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- 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



SERMON

"Preparation for the Day of the Lord!"

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)

OFFERING

Please stand



SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21)
(Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.
 - Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.
- C Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.
- P O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.
- C Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.
- P Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.
- C Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.
- P Heavenly Father, grant peace and love in families, give wisdom to parents and willingness to learn to children, and provide faithful congregations, caring friends, and extended relatives to support them through all the changes in life.
- C Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.
- P Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [including . . .], as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy.

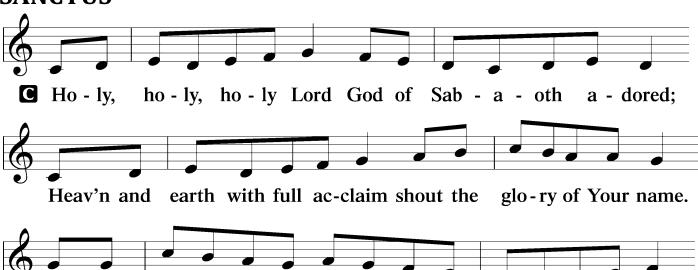
- C Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.
- P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.
- 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



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



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, 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 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*)

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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

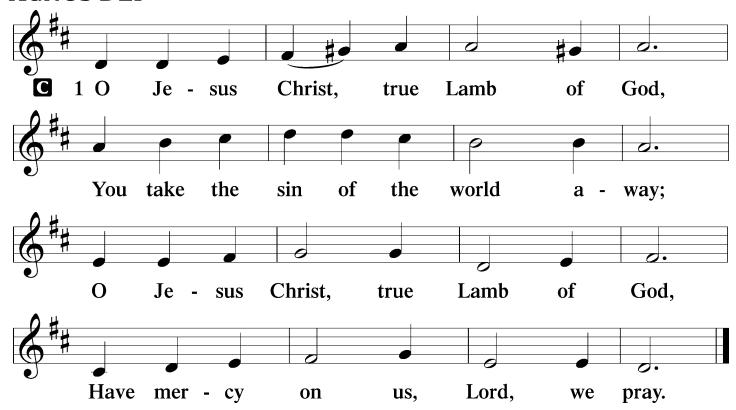
- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when 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



2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, 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.

COMMUNION HYMN Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared LSB 622



5 Though reason cannot understand,

Yet faith this truth embraces: Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places. I leave to You how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me; I trust its truth unfailing.

- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears
 Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
 And, truly grieving for our sins,
 May prove by our behavior
 That we are thankful for Your grace
 And day by day may run our race,
 In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages! Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages. Grant that this sacrament may be A blessèd comfort unto me When living and when dying.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS





All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- 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 Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God. C

BENEDICTION

(Numbers 6:24–26)

- 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

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

LSB 660



- Je sus, 1 Stand up, stand up for Ye sol - diers of the cross.
- Je sus; The 2 Stand stand up for trum - pet call o - bev; up,
- 3 Stand for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone. up, stand up
- Je sus; stand up for The strife will 4 Stand not up, be



high Lift His roy - al must not suf - fer loss. ban - ner; It Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo-rious day. of flesh will dare not trust your The arm fail you, Ye own. This day the din of bat - tle. The next the vic-tor's song.



vic - t'ry His From vic - t'ry un - to ar - my He shall lead His faith-ful serve Him A - gainst un-num-bered all foes: Let ar - mor; Each piece put on Put the Gos - pel with prayer. Their crown of life sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing,



Till ev - 'ry foe is van-quished, And Christ is cour - age rise with dan - ger Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, with the King of Glo - ry And

Lord in - deed. And strength to strength op - pose. want - ing there. Be nev - er Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for 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

All are invited to join in welcoming your Winter Texan Family. Winter Texan Potluck Luncheon

after Bible Study in the Social Hall **Today**, 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

Christmas Brunch

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.

Memory Verse Challenge

This week's memory verse: Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Sermon Notes		
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So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:12 (New King James Version)

God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others

The Day of the Lord is "near and hastening fast," and it will be "a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation" (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish "the men who are complacent" concerning His Word, "who fill their master's house with violence and fraud" (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: "Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them" (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are "good and faithful" stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and "the master of those servants" settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, "God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also "put on the breastplate of faith and love" in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

11/1	2/2023
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Sunday Worship 41

Plate: \$ 187.00

Envelopes: \$ 2,605.00

On-line

Donation: Dorm Project Grant from

Brake Bush Family Foundation \$ 20,000.00

Total: \$ 2,792.00

Bible Class: **22** \$ 18.00

Last Sunday of the Church Year Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Matthew 25:31-46

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule			
	November Sunday Servants:	December Sunday Servants:	
Elder:	Earl Neuhaus	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	S. Wehling/R. Cisneros	Donna Jackson/Lorri Marchant	
Music:	Doris Pickering		
This Week	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost		
Usher:	Don Vogel		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00 am		
	Sunday School & Adult Bible S	Study 10:30 am	
Next Week	Last Sunday of the Church Year		
Usher:	Dan Wehling		
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am	
24	Sunday School & Adult Bible S	Study 10:30 am	