FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



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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



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT NOVEMBER 28, 2021

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 - Ancient of Days, bring to all my days the hope and peace won for me by Jesus on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, that I may live by Your mercy until that day when Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead; through the same 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 - Advent is a season for us to grow in hope. We gather amid a world that in many ways seems hopeless. Extremists on both ends of the political spectrum seem to control almost everything we hear, read, and see. Deep divisions over race, politics, and economics loom over us like a dark storm cloud. How can the Church

possibly make a difference in all of this? Today's Readings acknowledge the distress and fear that the world's foundations are being shaken. And right in the middle of it all, there is hope. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Luke 21:33). The prophet Jeremiah declares God's promise to restore His people and all creation. If we were left to ourselves, there would be little room for such hope. But God does not leave us alone. By His Word and Sacraments, God establishes our hearts and prepares us for Jesus' coming final restoration. Until that day, we wait, we pray, we hope.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

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WELCOME

PRELUDE

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



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel-come You a-right?
- 2 Your Zi on strews be fore You Green boughs and fair-est palms;
- 3 I lay in fet-ters, groan ing; You came to set me free.
- 4 Love caused Your in car na tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light! And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms. I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



kin - dle, Lord most ho ly, Your lamp with - in my breast My heart shall bloom for - ev For You with prais-es er glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high be - yond all tell ing, That led You

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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

One Advent candle is lit.

P Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of this candle signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

P Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

- C Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?
- P Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
- C Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,
- P who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.
- C For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.
 - 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 Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

KYRIE



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

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 33:14–16*

(The prophet Jeremiah foresees a day when God would come to bring righteousness to His people.)

14 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:

15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'

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

PSALM Psalm 25:1–10; antiphon: v. 6

- P Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they are from of old.
- C To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- P O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.
- C Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.
- P Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.
- C Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.
- P Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving

- kindnesses, for they are from of old.
- C Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.
- P Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way.
- C The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way.
- P All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.
- ALL 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 Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they are from of old.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

(Paul reminds us that God can cause us to abound in love for one another as we await the coming of the Lord.)

- 9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?
- 11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.
- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

(The kingdom of God is near.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. 34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

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.



u - nite With Him

5 Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone, The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

mem - bers

all

Nor let your

And His true

in heav'n to reign.



All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free, With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

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SERMON

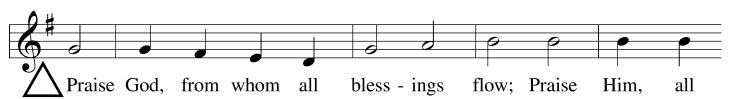
"Advent Check-in"

(1 Thessalonians 3:9-10)

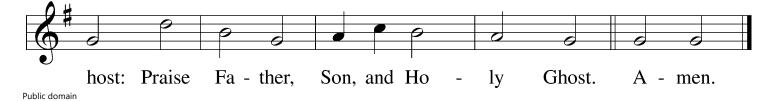
OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LSB 805







SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21) [using ASL (American Sign Language)]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn [CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially...]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who

travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord. \mathbf{C}

P O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord. \mathbf{C}

P O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

hear us, coming Lord. C

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

\mathbf{C} Amen.

(*Matthew 6:9–13*) LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy All 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.

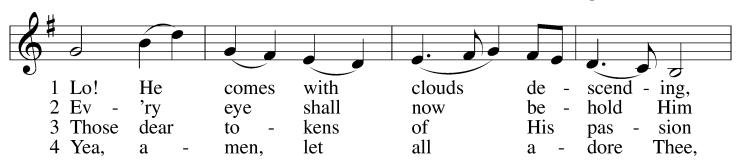
BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

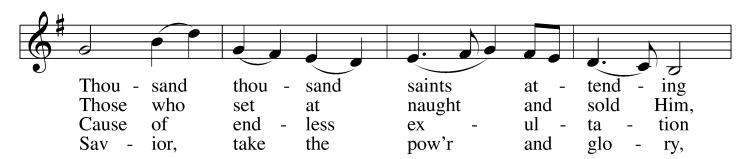
- P The LORD bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.
- C Amen.

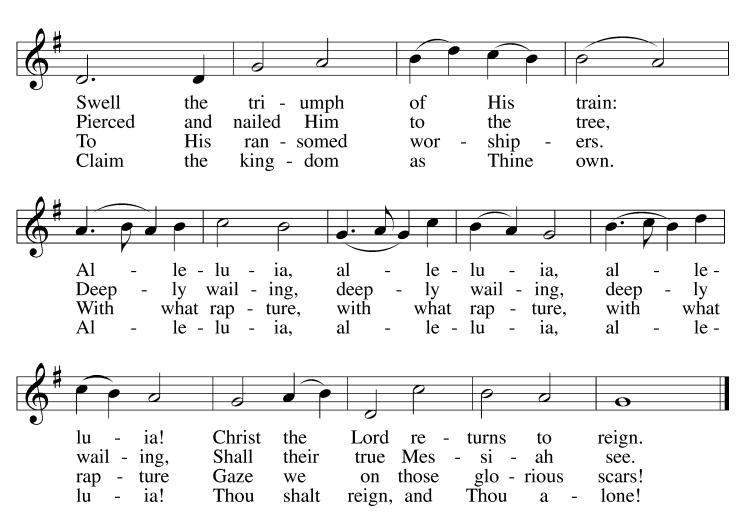
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SENDING HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending LSB 336









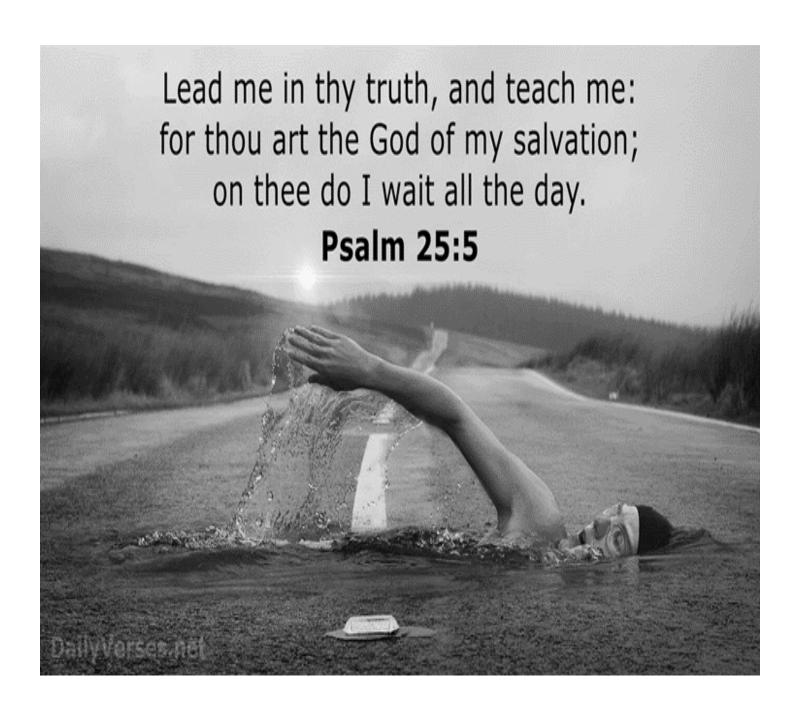
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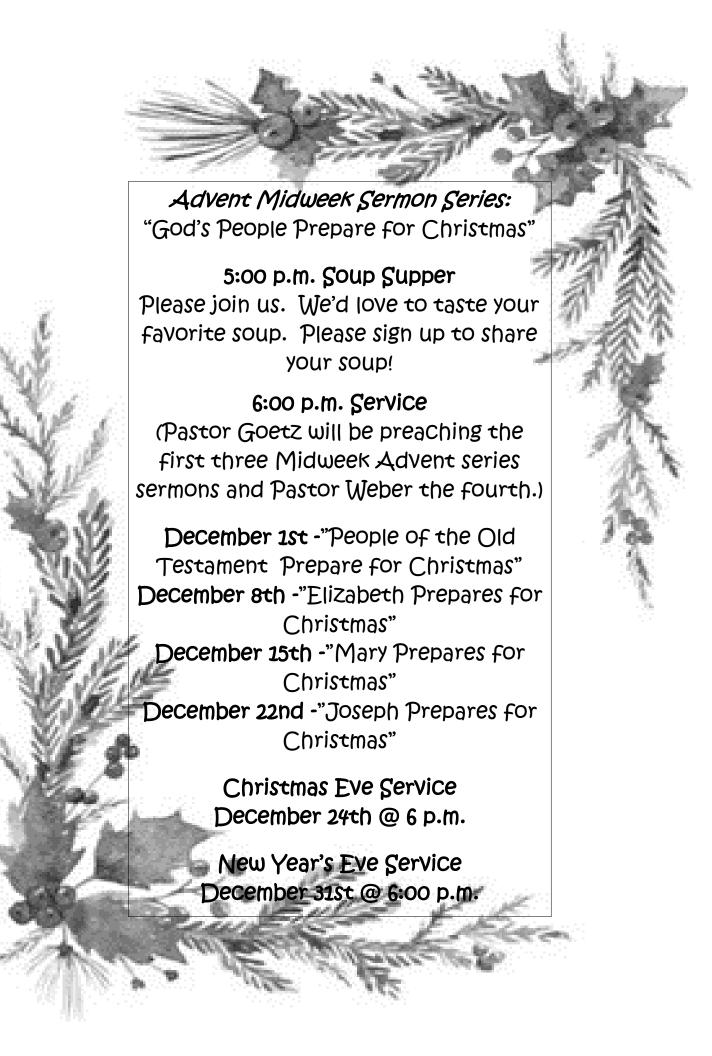
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord.!

C Thanks be to God! **POSTLUDE**

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From Pastor's Desk

Portals of Prayer

October to December 2021 are available in the Narthrex or office.



Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Goetz is leading the class.

The LCMS invites everyone to join together in memorizing a verse each week.

This week's memory verse: 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



We ask the Lord for safe travel for the Winter Texans who will be joining us later during the coming months

Reminder!!!

Elders' Meeting Dec. 7th, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Sermon Notes:

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Sunday Worship 52

Plate: \$ 52.00

Envelopes: \$ 1,153.00

Memorial:

Ellen Jean Weibel \$ 1,500.00

Total: \$ 2,705.00

Bible Class: 26 \$ 22.00

Second Sunday in Advent Readings:

Malachi 3:1-7B

Psalm 66:1-12

Philippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. The Son of God came long ago to be our Savior, "a righteous Branch" descended from David (Jer. 33:15). As He then came into Jerusalem, riding on a lowly donkey to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world (Luke 19:28–40), so does He come to His Church today in the humility of Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of His Passion: the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He absolves us and establishes our hearts "blameless in holiness before our God and Father" (1 Thess. 3:13). The same Lord Jesus, who came to Jerusalem then and who comes to us now in peace, will come again with power and great glory on the Last Day. Then there will be "distress of nations in perplexity," with "people fainting with fear." Yet, as we anticipate that great and terrible day, He bids us to rest securely in Him: "Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:25, 26, 28).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	November Sunday Servants:	December Servants	
Elder:	Earl Neuhaus	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Wehling D. Ja	ckson & L. Marchant	
Music:	Doris Pickering		
This Week	First Sunday in Advent		
Usher:	Dan Wehling		
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible St	udy 10:30 am	
Next Week	Second Sunday in Advent		
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Serv	vice 9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible St	udy 10:30 am	