

**MID-WEEK 3  
ADVENT SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 14, 2022**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

*Missouri Synod*



**703 W 3<sup>RD</sup> Street  
Mercedes, TX 78570  
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**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
eweber10@aol.com  
956.463.1305**

***Sunday***

**9:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**10:30 am**

***Adult Bible Class***

***Sunday School***

**Holy Communion:**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Website:**

**lutheranmercedes.com**

**FACEBOOK:**

***www.facebook.com/  
lutheranmercedes/***

**Office Hrs, M-F**

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**CCLI # 2585510**

# The Third Week in Advent



## IN THESE LAST DAYS

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.  
(2 Timothy 3:14–15)

**Mid-Week 3 Advent Service  
December 14, 2022**

**WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**AS WE GATHER**      “The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27). The message brought by Gabriel to Mary seemed impossible. She, a lowly young virgin, had been chosen by the Lord to give birth to the Son of God! “How will this be?” Mary exclaimed. “Nothing will be impossible with God,” responded the angel (Luke 1:34, 37). Mary’s response has become the primary model for all who would come to believe in Jesus thereafter: “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). In the moments of our lives when it seems impossible that we could be forgiven and we are without hope, God comes to us with words of forgiveness in Jesus. “Let it be to me according to Your word.” When we are struck with grief in the face of death and hope seems distant, God comes to us with words of eternal life in Jesus. “Let it be to me according to Your word.” Advent brings hope into the midst of life’s most impossible situations.

# OPENING HYMN

*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

LSB 545



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our  
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the  
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.  
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.  
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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*Please Stand*

## + VESPERS +

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,

C **"Prepare the way of the Lord."**

P All who wait for Jesus to return pray,

C **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 141*

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C** **O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to You.**

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C** **Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips. Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers. But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.**

**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.**

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 24:7–10*

**P** Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

**C** **Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

**P** Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

**C** **Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.**

*Please Sit*

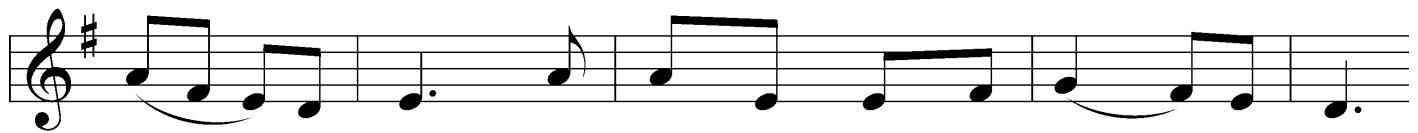
**HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

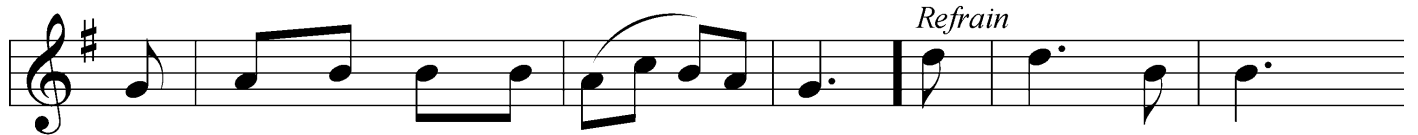
**LSB 357; vs. 1,2,6**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them,  
and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 It shall  
blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of

Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**      *2 Timothy 3:1-17*

As Equipped Men and Women of God, in Perilous Times

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers,

without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have earned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

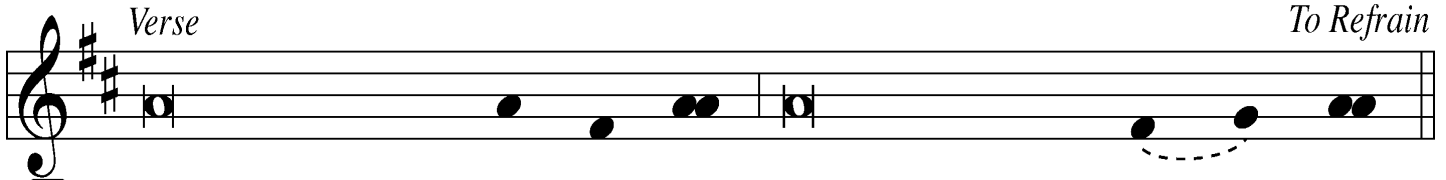
**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

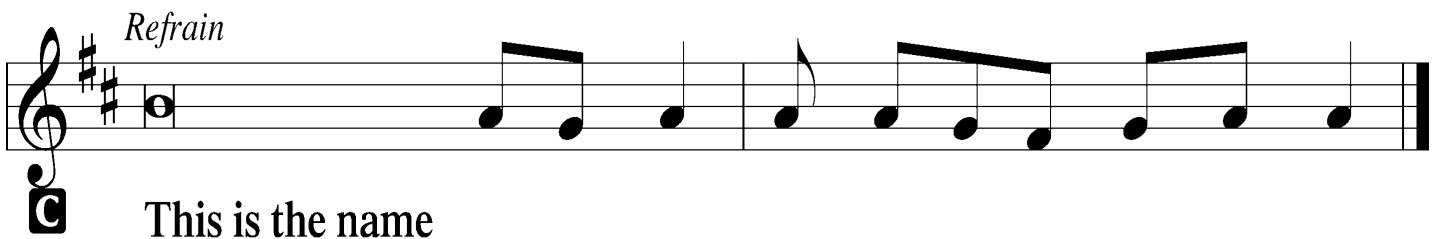
P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old  
By the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His  
Son.**

**RESPONSORY**     *Based on Jeremiah 23:5–6; Acts 2:36; Luke 1:32–33*



**L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a righteous Branch.  
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell securely.  
3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

# *Be Still, My Soul*

**LSB 752**

1	Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;	Bear pa - tient-
2	Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take	To guide the
3	Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part	And all is
4	Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on	When we shall

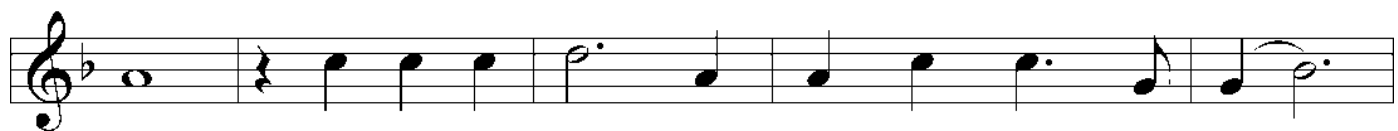


ly the cross of grief or pain;	Leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as He has the past.	Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
dark - ened in this vale of tears;	Then you will bet - ter know His
be for - ev - er with the Lord,	When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and





and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -  
noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at  
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your  
fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend  
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay  
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.  
From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.  
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

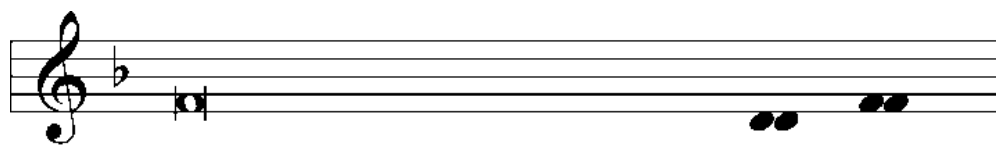
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## SERMON *"As Equipped Men and Women of God, in Perilous Times"* (2 Timothy 3:1-17)

### OFFERING

*Please Stand*

### CANTICLE

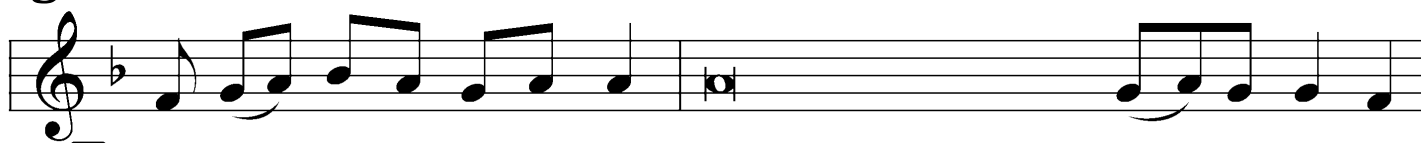


**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

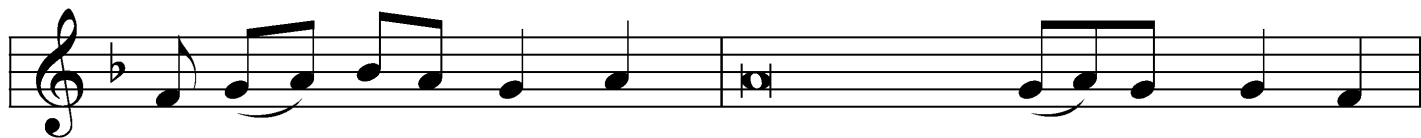


**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

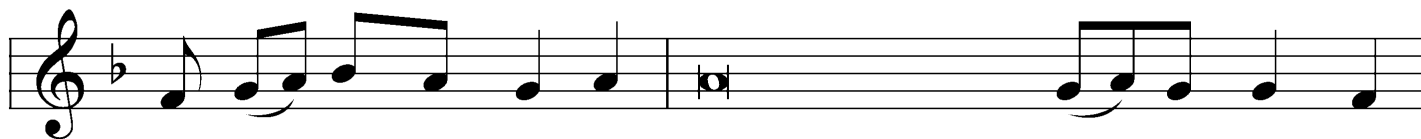
# Magnificat



My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



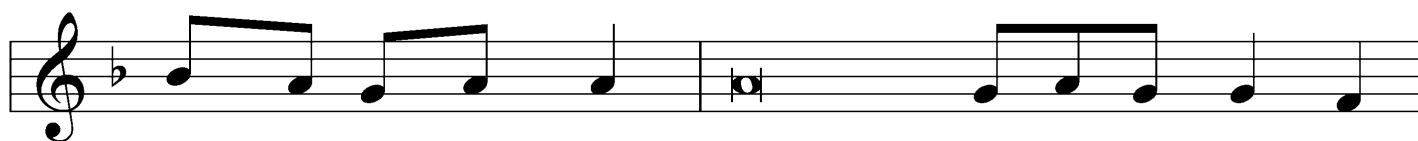
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



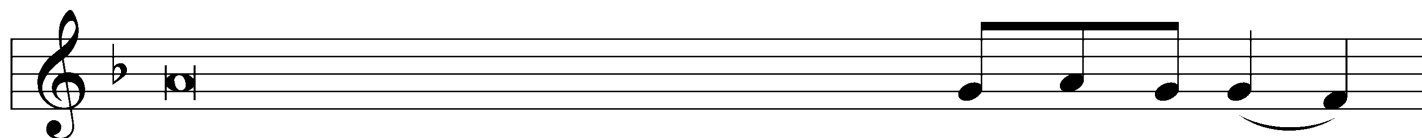
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the



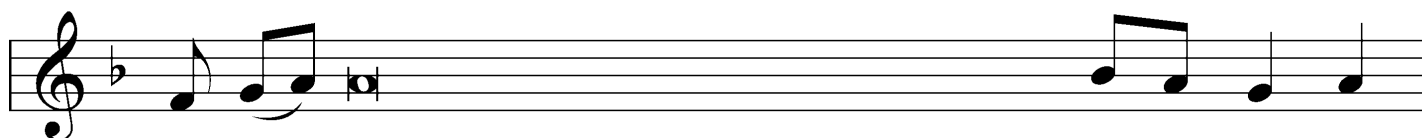
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



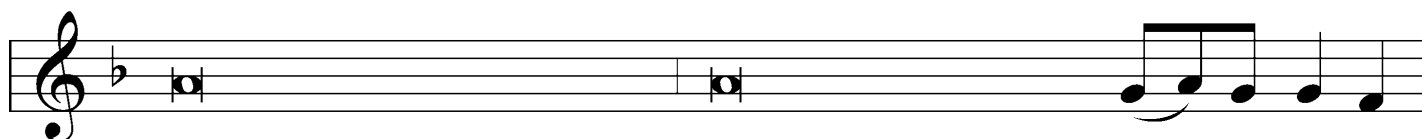
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

## **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

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE 11

**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.**

## **COLLECTS**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins

**where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

### **BENEDICAMUS**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C** Amen.

*Please Sit*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

**LSB 979**



1 God, whose al - mighty - y word Cha - os and  
2 Lord, who once came to bring, On Your re -  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard And took their flight: Hear us, we  
deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight, Health to the  
ho - ly dove, Speed forth Your flight; Move on the  
Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as



hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day  
sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:  
wa - ter's face, Bear - ing the lamp of grace,  
o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,



Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!  
Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!  
And in earth's dark - est place Let there be light!  
Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!

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