

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 15, 2019
IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod**



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**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/**

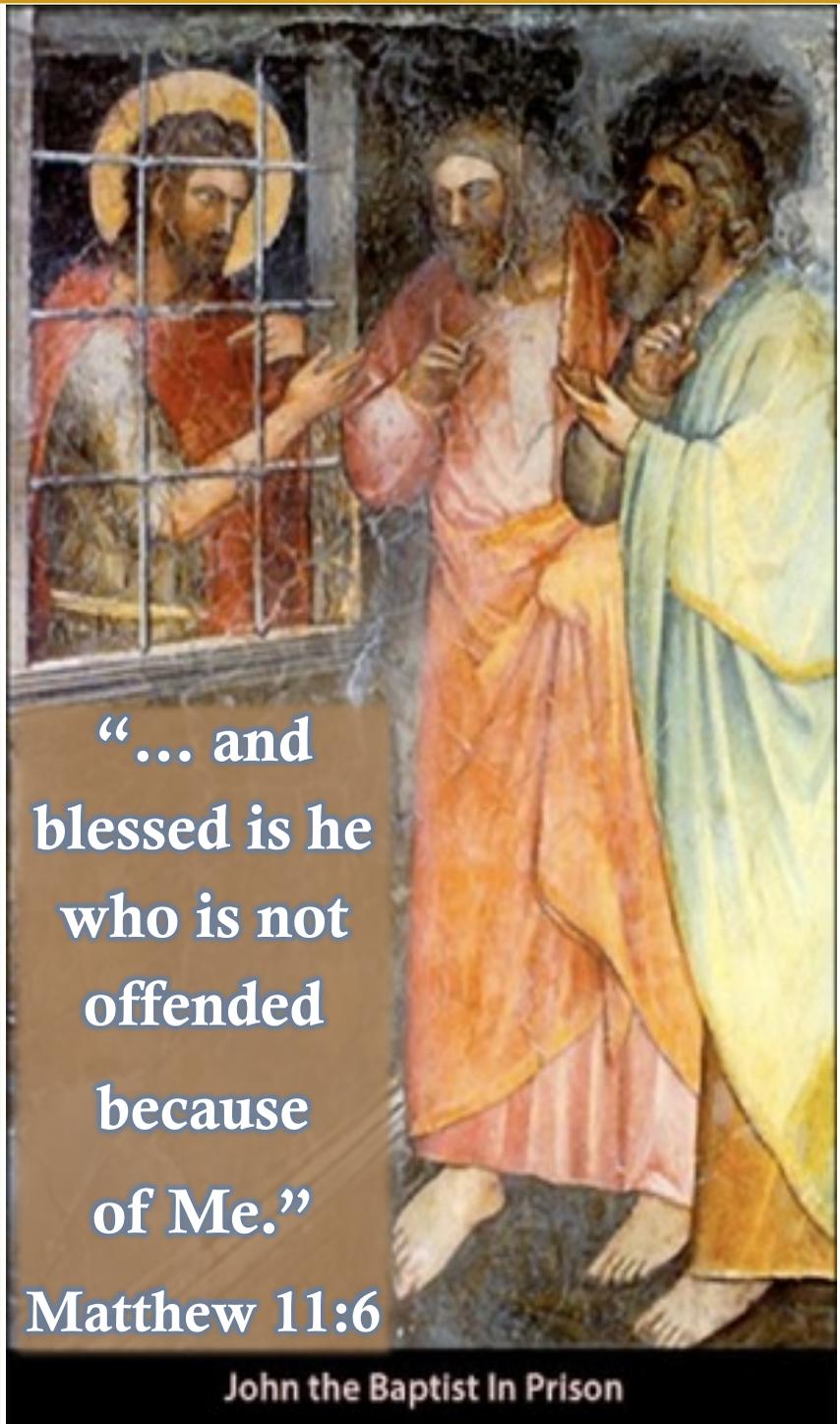
Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

CCLI # 2585510



**“... and
blessed is he
who is not
offended
because
of Me.”**

Matthew 11:6

John the Baptist In Prison

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2019**

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 - Lord Jesus Christ, You have freed me from the dominion of darkness and brought me into Your kingdom of light. Rule my heart and mind that I rejoice in You always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Our faces tell a lot about what's going on inside. Some days we might be gloomy. But when we hear truly joyful news, it changes us from the inside, a smile adorns our face, and we join our friends in rejoicing. Isaiah prophesied abundant joy when the Messiah would come, which He did centuries ago. In our resultant joy, we can wait patiently for His return, James encourages in the Epistle: as "the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth." Though our Lord will return as judge, Isaiah promises, "He will come and save you." Now there's great news to put a smile on your face!

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341

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 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more.

C **My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.**

P With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
C **I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.**

P O God, from my youth You have taught me,
C **and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

P So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

C **until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.**

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 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

KYRIE



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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH*Isaiah 35:8, 10*

P Isaiah wrote, "A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way."

HYMN*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"***[St. 5: LSB 357]**

P Isaiah wrote, "The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing."

P Let us pray.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open:

C Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

[Light three candles on the Advent wreath during the singing of the following stanza.]

HYMN*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"***[St. 1: LSB 357]****SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Isaiah 35:1-10*

(Isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah.)

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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C **righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE *James 5:7–11*

(Patience is needed as we await the Lord's return.)

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2–15*

(John the Baptist's disciples ask if Jesus is the Christ.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eleventh chapter.

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

2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" 4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 *The* blind see and *the* lame walk; **the** lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear; **the** dead are raised up and **the** poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." 7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses. 9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is *he* of whom it is written:

'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You'

11 “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to receive *it*, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* LSB 347

SERMON *“The Lord Comes to Proclaim His Good News to All Who Patiently Wait”*
(Matthew 11:3-6)

OFFERTORY *When All the World was Cursed* LSB 346

OFFERING

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Isaiah 35:1-4, 8, 10; James 5:7*

[Responses may be sung as phrases of “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (LSB 338).]

P In our rejoicing, let us go to the source of all joy and peace, mercy and love, praying to our Lord on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various

needs.

For people near and dear and those distant for whom life seems to be a wilderness, that God would provide pastors and teachers to remind them of their Baptism and bring them joy in the promises of God, so that their “desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus,” let us pray to the Lord.

C Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;

P For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, wherever People live amid joyless conflict and endless reprisals, that they find a measure of joy, believing that “your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God,” let us pray to the Lord.

C From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

P For those dealing with long-term ills of mind or body, [including . . .], that healthcare professionals and volunteers bring them joy as they “strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees,” let us pray to the Lord.

C Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,

P For people who have no true joy because they do not have the Gospel, that God would inspire artists and craftspeople, musicians and poets to share the good news, so that “they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away,” let us pray to the Lord.

C Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

P For the forgotten in prison and the unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as “the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,” let us pray to the Lord.

C Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!

P For those whose days are joyless, having succumbed to the criticisms of their acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to Christ’s gracious, forgiving presence in the proclamation of the Gospel and under bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar, so that they have joy restored and “see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God,” let us pray to the Lord.

C Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

P For the Church wherever it is opposed or persecuted, that God remind His faithful people of our Savior’s gift of His own righteousness and lift their eyes to joyfully behold the path to heaven that “shall be called the Way of Holiness,” let us pray to the Lord.

C By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

+ 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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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, 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. 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

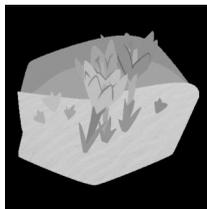
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.**



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. *Isaiah 35:1-2*

AGNUS DEI



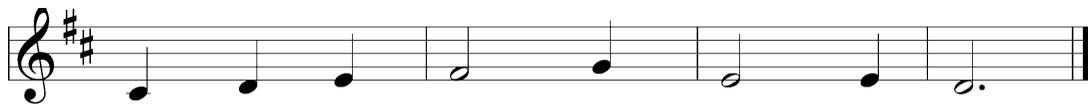
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332



NUNC DIMITTIS



C 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 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

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



*CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR SERVICES*

Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th

Soup Supper @ 5:00 p.m.

Advent Service @ 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th @ 6:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Service

Tuesday, December 31st @ 6:00 p.m.

From Pastor's Desk

Portals of Prayer for January to March are available in the Narthrex.



Join us for *Sunday School and Bible Study* at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

You have fellowship with one another and also enrich your spiritual life with the Word.

Rev. Weber is leading the Bible Study.

Youth Confirmation Classes

@ 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Pastor's Office

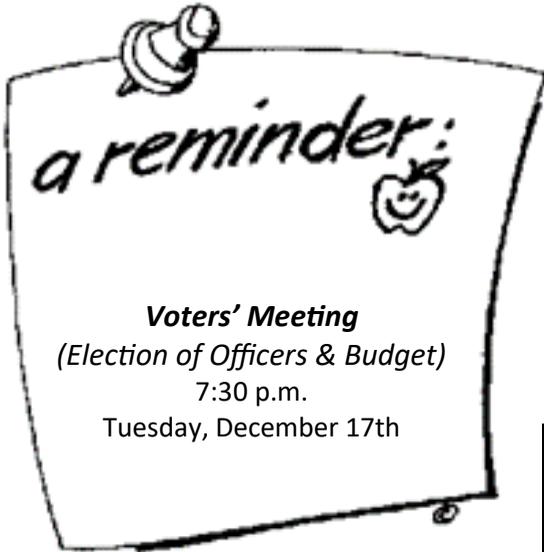
Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 21st @ 2 p.m. (meet at the church)

Thank you to all who joined the school's fundraiser-Christmas Around the World!

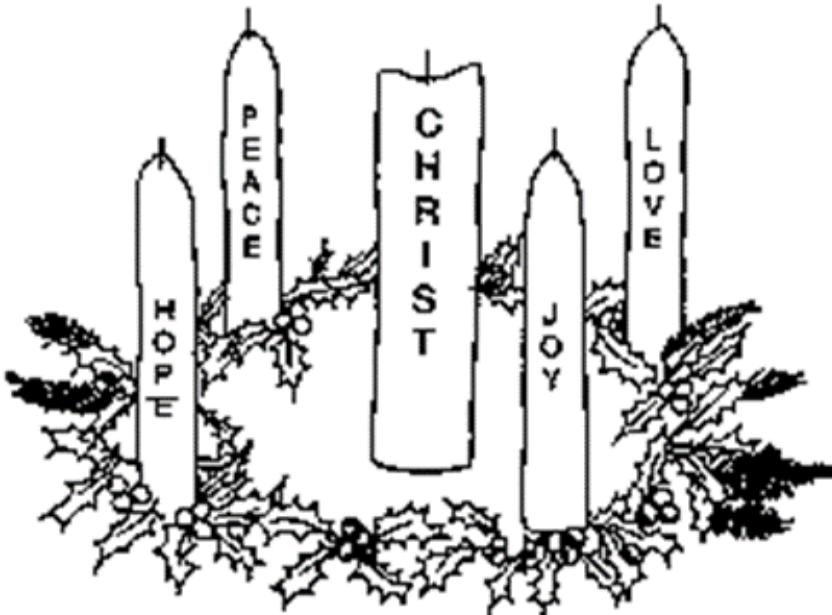


Winter Texan Family, we've missed you!



Voters' Meeting
(Election of Officers & Budget)
7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 17th

12/4/2019	
Midweek Advent 1	
Worship	18
Plate:	\$ 35.00
Envelopes:	\$ 35.00
Donation:	
Total:	\$ 70.00



The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “be patient” and “establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is. 35:10).

12/8/2019		
Sunday Worship	59	
Plate:		\$ 188.00
Envelopes:		\$ 2,053.00
Donation:		
	Total:	\$ 2,241.00
Bible Class:	30	\$ 29.00

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-17

Psalms 24

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
<i>December Sunday Servants:</i>	
Elder:	Ken Eilers
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lori Marchant
Music:	Bonny Winston
This Week	Third Sunday in Advent
Usher:	Don Vogel
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am
Next Week	Fourth Sunday in Advent
Usher:	Dan Wehling
Sunday:	Worship Service 9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am