

MID-WEEK 3  
ADVENT SERVICE  
DECEMBER 16, 2020

IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
*Missouri Synod*



703 W 3<sup>RD</sup> Street  
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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
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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](http://lutheranmercedes.com)

FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/  
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Office Hrs, M-F

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

CCLI # 2585510



**..an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”  
(Matthew 1:20-21)**

**Mid-Week 3 Advent Service  
December 16, 2020**

**WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. 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**      In Jesus' genealogy, we recognize Joseph, the head of Jesus' earthly family. At the time of Jesus' birth, Joseph was caring, not wanting to shame his fiancée Mary, and he was obedient, naming her son Jesus. Yet Joseph is not mentioned in the Bible after the account of Jesus' getting "lost" in the temple when He was twelve years old. But God did not forget Joseph! "Jesus" means "Savior," and He is Joseph's Savior, the Savior of all the unknown people in and out of His family tree, and our Savior. God remembers all people, well-known or not, and He has forgiven and forgotten all our sins, their penalty paid by Joseph's "adopted" Son. Come quickly, Son of Joseph.



# OPENING HYMN

## Mary, Mary, My Beloved



1 Mar-y, Mar - y, my be - lov - ed, now I  
2 Jo - seph, Jo - seph, God has giv - en me the  
3 Mar-y, Mar - y, I'll not shame you, hold you  
4 Jo - seph, Jo - seph, stop and hear me, speak - ing



find you great with child. Prom - is - es we  
child I soon will bear. Can you, trust - ing,  
up to pub - lic scorn; But my wife I  
in your mid - night dream! Do not fear to



once had spo - ken you have bro - ken and de - filed!  
still em - brace us, hold us in your lov - ing care?  
can - not make you, with my heart so grieved and torn.  
wed your Mar - y, though un - faith - ful she may seem!

5 Joseph, Joseph, God has given  
Mary's child, as yet unborn.  
By his coming, night will vanish;  
earth, redeemed, will greet its morn!

6 Mary, Mary, God has told me  
I should take you as my wife!  
'Jesus' we will name our baby  
he, God said, will bring us life!

7 Joseph, Joseph, trusting, loving,  
God's great task you do not shun,  
but in calloused hands will carry  
my dear child and God's own Son!

8 Jesus, Jesus, born of Mary,  
cradled child, yet Lord of all,  
Help us, like good faithful Joseph,  
hear in darkness God's clear call.

**+ VESPERS +**

Jeremiah 31:31, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:27, 31; Matthew 1:20, 25

P Jeremiah recorded the Lord's promise, "I will make a new covenant.

**C I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."**

P Paul reminds his readers, "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.

**C Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**

P The angel told Joseph, "Do not fear to take Mary as your wife."

**C Joseph "called His name Jesus."**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 25:1-15; antiphon: v. 7b*

P In this psalm, David asks God to remember him but to forget all his sins.

According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**C O my God, in You I trust;**

P let me not be put to shame;

**C let not my enemies exult over me.**

P Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

**C they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

P Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;

**C teach me Your paths.**

P Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

**C for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.**

P Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**C Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

P Good and upright is the LORD;

**C therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

P He leads the humble in what is right,

**C and teaches the humble His way.**

P All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

**C For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

P Who is the man who fears the LORD?

**C Him will He instruct in the way that He should choose.**

P His soul shall abide in well-being,

**C and his offspring shall inherit the land.**

P The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him,

**C and He makes known to them His covenant.**

P My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

**C for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

P According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!



## HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

## Sts. 1-2

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  
 3 O come, Thou Lord of great and small, And hear us, Sav - ior,

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
 as we call. For e - ven those the world can't see,

*Refrain*  
 Un - til the Son of God ap - pear  
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 Thou came to save e - ter - nal - ly.

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

Text: Sts. 1-2: Latin, ca. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; st. 3: James Pierce. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**FIRST READING***Jeremiah 31:31–34*

P God promises that a new covenant will be written on the hearts of even the least of His people. A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 31.  
31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING***1 Corinthians 1:26–31*

P Most of those whom God has chosen are weak, lowly, common people. Our boasting, therefore, must be only about our Lord. A reading from First Corinthians, chapter 1.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

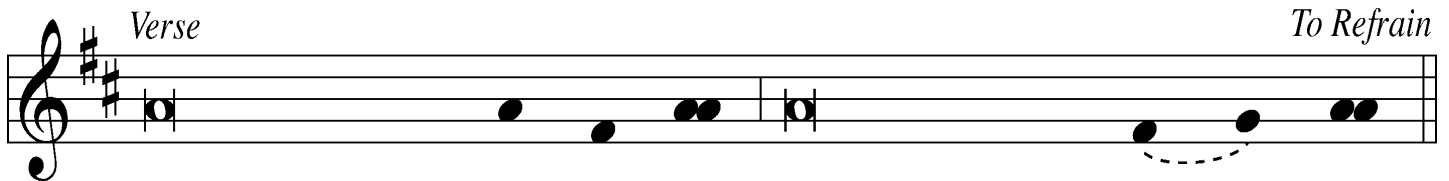
**THIRD READING***Matthew 1:18-25*

P Although he thought about divorcing Mary quietly, Joseph obeys the angel's command, takes Mary, and names her Son Jesus, God among us to save us from our sins. A reading from Matthew, chapter 1.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

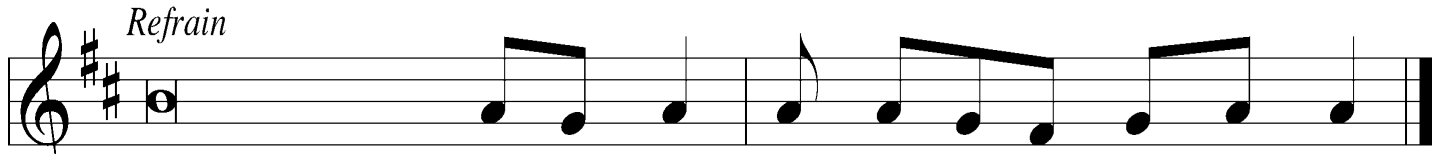
P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSORY** *Based on Jeremiah 31:31, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:28; Matthew 1:21*

- L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.





*Refrain*



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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring* **LSB 353**



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

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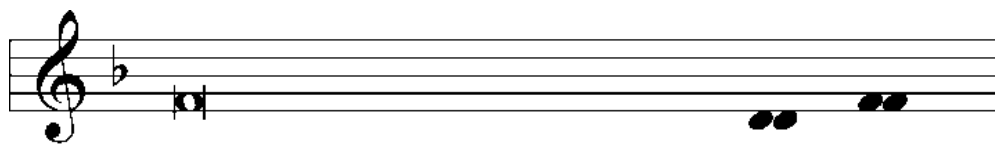
**SERMON**

*"God's Wisdom of Jesus' birth - revealed to Joseph and to You"*

(1 Corinthians 1:30)

**OFFERING**      *(Please place in offering plate as you leave)*

**CANTICLE**

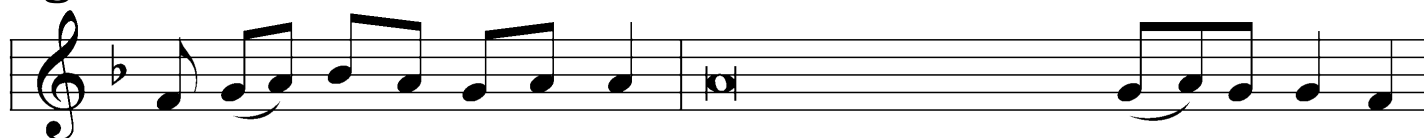


**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

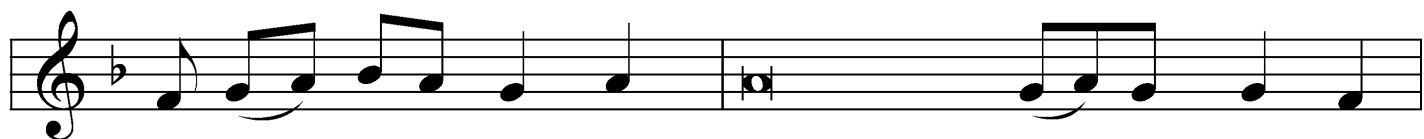


**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**Magnificat**



**C** 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;



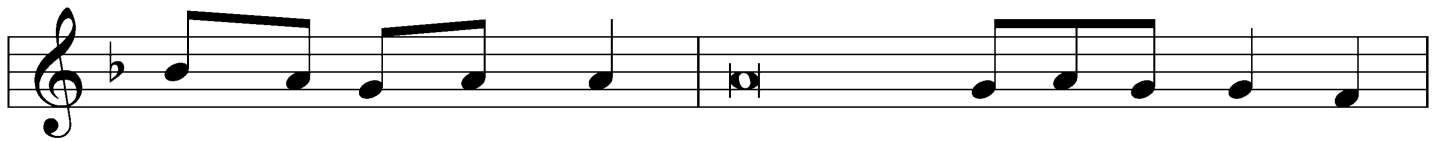
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



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



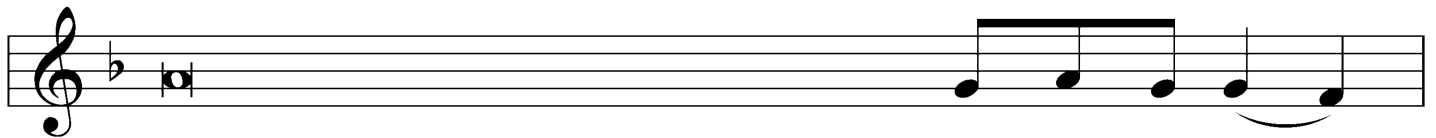
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the



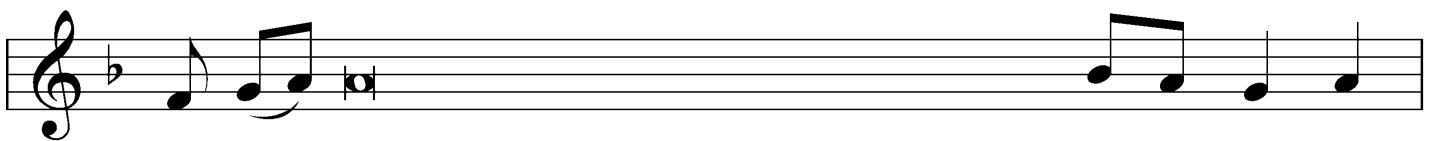
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



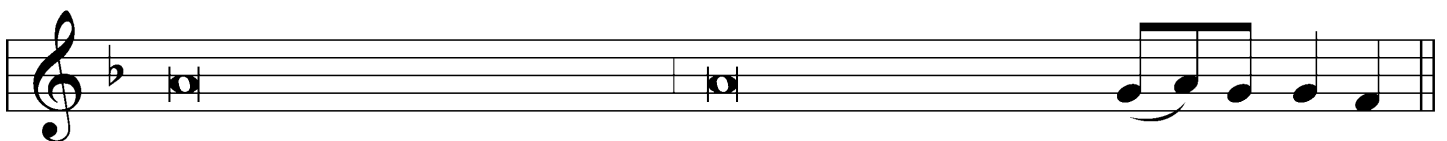
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



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 also with you.

## **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.

## **COLLECTS**

**P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those

who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Jesus, Light of the world, You restored Your temple through faithful leaders after the exile in Babylonia, to shine the good news of Your Messianic coming. Lead the people of this age to come to Your Holy House, and shine the light of Your salvation through Your word and Your sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Keep us faithful to You by the power of the Holy Spirit as we await Your final coming, that we may ever abide with You. Son of Zerubbabel,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, when You came to save all mankind, You graciously used lowly, imperfect people in Your human family.

**C Use us now, we pray, to spread the news of Your holy birth, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.**

P Son of Joseph,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

**C that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **BENEDICAMUS**

P Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **BENEDICTION**

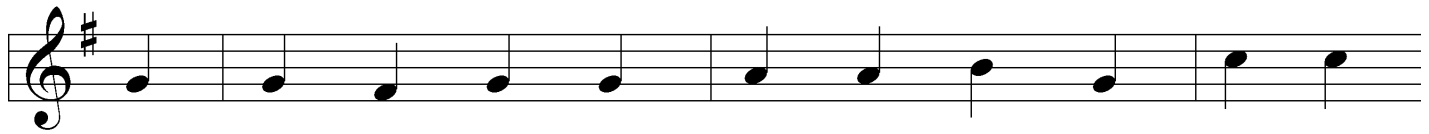
P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN

## *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night*

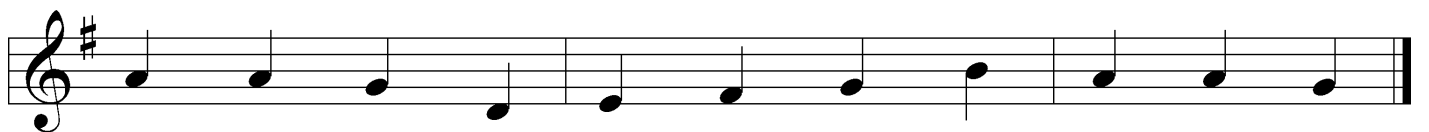
LSB 883



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the  
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that  
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as  
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,  
I this day have done, That with the world, my -  
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that  
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.  
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.  
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

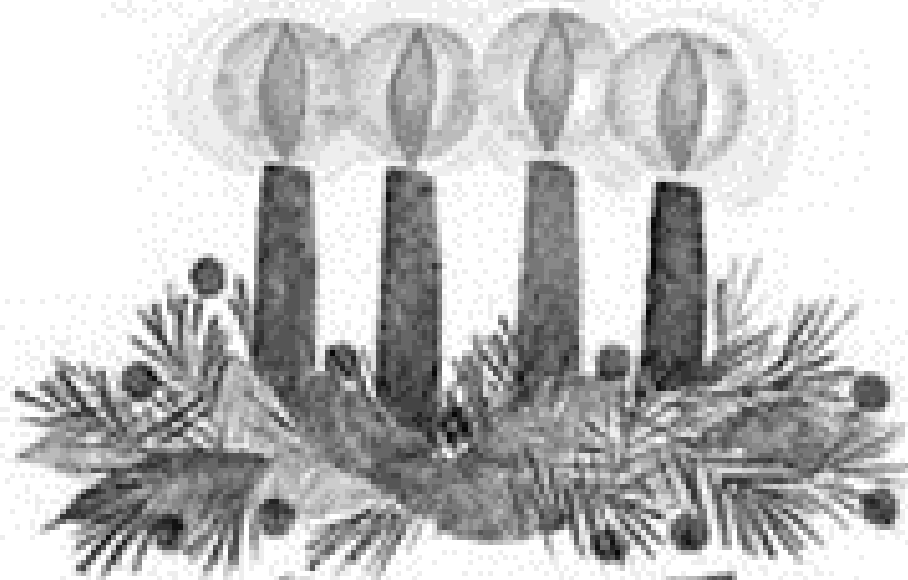
5 When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.



6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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A D V E N T



○ come . ○ come . Emmanuel