

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 17, 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/](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

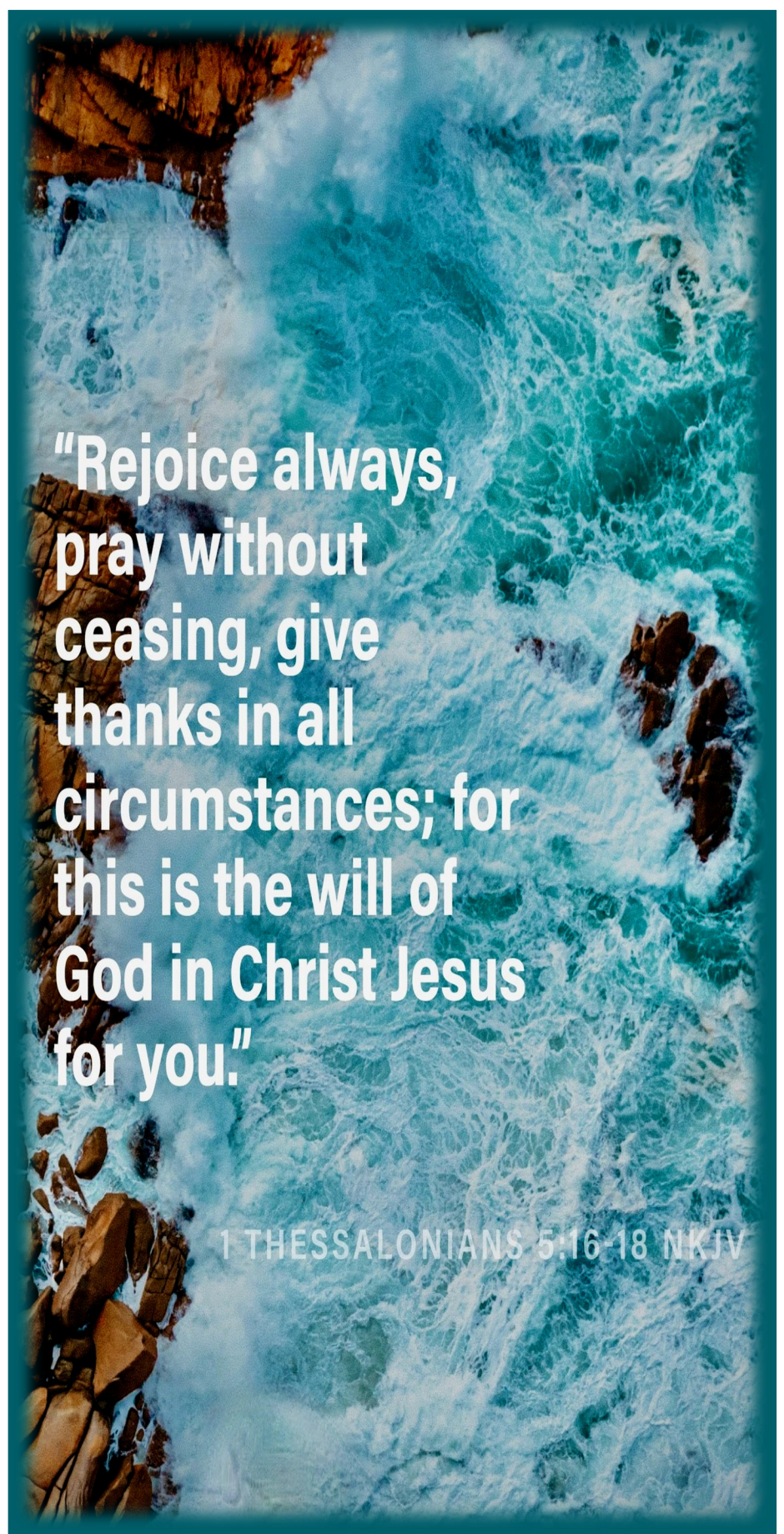
Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510



**“Rejoice always,
pray without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances; for
this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you.”**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 NKJV

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
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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, I implore You to hear my prayers. Embolden my witness to the true light that overcomes my darkness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Advent is the season of waiting! As we wait, we have a special job to do. We joyfully get ready for Jesus' arrival by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God's plan to save the world; no, John's life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to the rescue of His people. In many ways, we are invited to be like John. Through our personal witness to Christ in our interpersonal relationships with others,

God is working through us so that others will come to know His Son. Our goal is not only to trust in Jesus for ourselves but also to let the world know that He is coming to save them too. And His soon-to-come arrival will be well worth the wait!

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

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WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

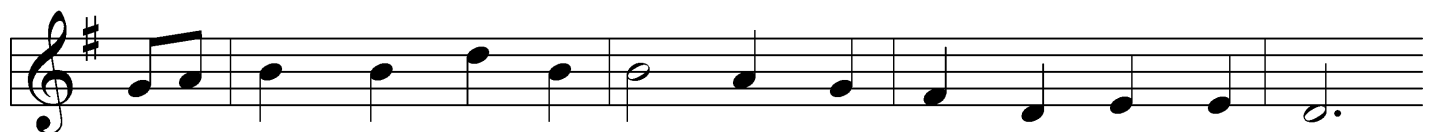
LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Please stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 40:1-3

P I waited patiently for the LORD;

C **He inclined to me and heard my cry.**

P He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

C **and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

P He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

C **Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.**

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,

C **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 85:8-9, 12-13; antiphon: v. 7*

P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us Your salvation.

P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C that glory may dwell in our land.

P Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

C and our land will yield its increase.

P Righteousness will go before Him

C and make His footsteps a way.

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.

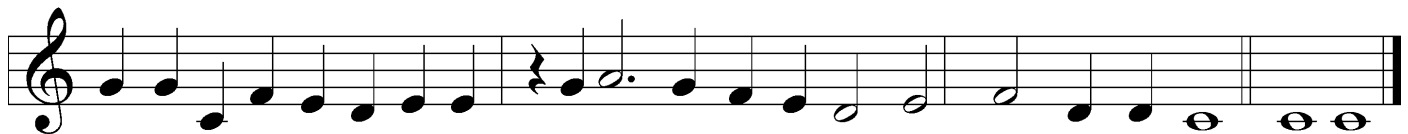
P Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us Your salvation.

GLORIA PATRI

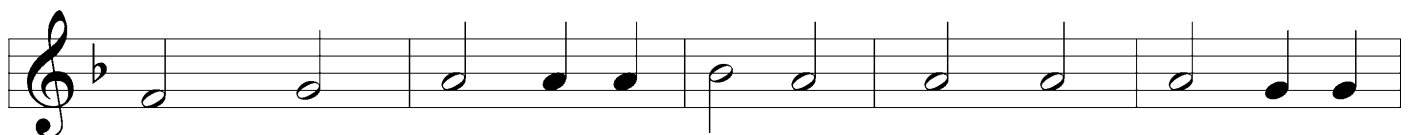


☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

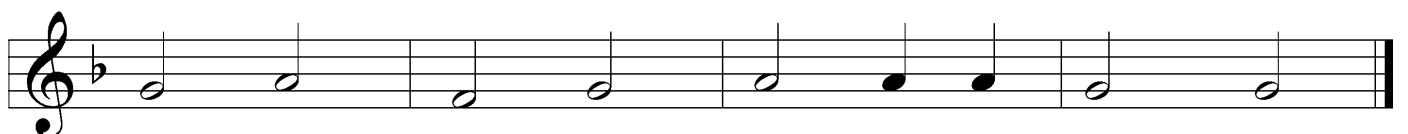


as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

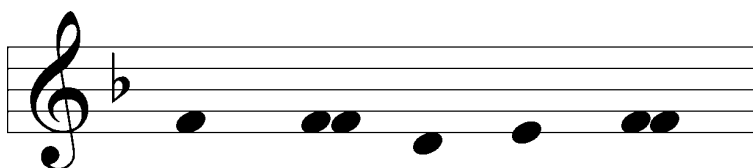


☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

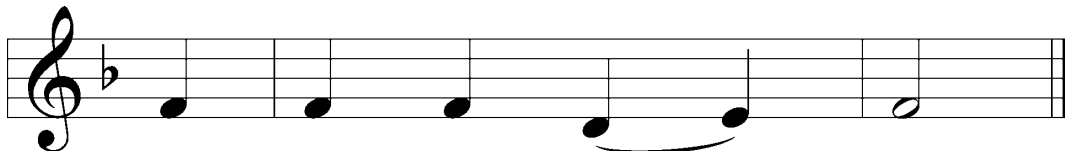


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

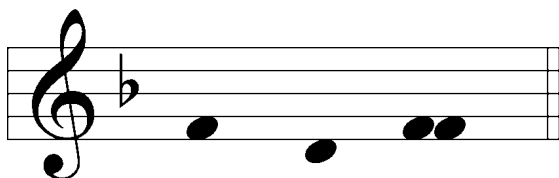
SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers. Enable our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The Lord's righteousness will "sprout up before all the nations.")

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

8 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed." 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5*

(Rejoicing in the great things of the Lord.)

P Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

C When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream.

P Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

C The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

P Bring back our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the South.

C Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

P He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

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 Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24* (Rejoice always.)

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

(The testimony of John the Baptist)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



☐ **Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' ' as the prophet Isaiah said.'" 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if

you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose." 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Can I Thank You, Lord

LSB 703



1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;
3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion
4 Grant that Your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways giv - en
△ 5 O Fa - ther, God of love, Now hear my sup - pli - ca - tion;



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!
O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.
And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.
Lest I should fall a - gain And lose the way to heav - en.
O Sav - ior, Son of God, Ac - cept my ad - o - ra - tion;



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,
Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn
My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.
Grant that He give me strength In my in - fir - mi - ty;
O Ho - ly Spir - it, be My ev - er faith - ful guide



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.
Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.
Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.
May He re - new my heart To serve You will - ing - ly.
That I may serve You here And there with You a - bide.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“Your continuous sanctified life through our faithful Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

OFFERING

Please stand

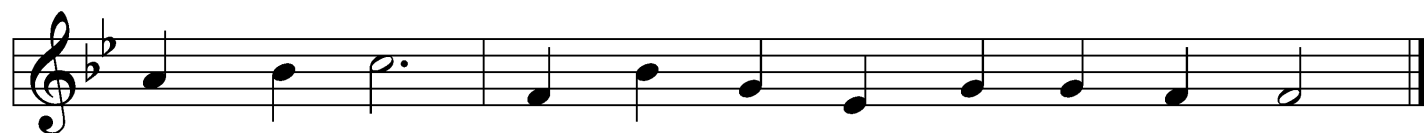
OFFERTORY *Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest* **LSB 498 vs. 1,5-7**



1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, And make
5 Drive far a - way our wi - ly foe, And Your
6 Teach us to know the Fa - ther, Son, And You,
△ 7 Praise we the Fa - ther and the Son And Ho -



our hearts Your place of rest; Come with Your grace and
a - bid - ing peace be - stow; With You as our pro -
from both, as Three in One That we Your name may
ly Spir - it, with them One, And may the Son on



heav'n-ly aid, And fill the hearts which You have made.
tect - ing guide, No e - vil can with us a - bide.
ev - er bless And in our lives the truth con - fess.
us be - stow The gifts that from the Spir - it flow!

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE *"Peace be with you"*
[through use of American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *1 Thessalonians 5:16-17; Psalm 105:1-4*

P Because it is our Father's will for His children to pray, let us
"rejoice always, pray without ceasing," giving thanks in all
circumstances.

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son
into our world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By His suffering
and death, by His resurrection and ascension, by His reign at
Your right hand and promise to come again, we are given joyful
hearts and confidently bring our prayers before Your throne of
grace. Your kingdom is the eternal kingdom, O God, and we are
blessed to witness to all peoples the saving work You have
accomplished in Christ, our Lord and King. Oh give thanks to the

Continue on next page 11

LORD; call upon His name;

C make known His deeds among the peoples!

P Mighty God, stretch forth Your hand and defend Your people from all effects of sin and death, giving victory over the enemy of darkness by shining into our world the light of Your truth. Work in our midst as the mighty fortress of our lives, providing protection to those who labor for the benefit of others and to those who wear the uniform of our land. Grant wisdom to those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and reach into every troubled corner of the world to bestow upon us Your mercy and peace. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

C tell of all His wondrous works!

P Savior of the nations, by our Baptism into Your death and resurrection, You clothe us with Your righteousness and fill us with Your Spirit. You have enabled our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord Jesus, take away from us any fear or doubt, any hesitancy or reluctance to share with others the hope that is within us. Open doors of opportunity for us to be like John the Baptist, giving faithful testimony to You and preparing the way for Your coming kingdom. Glory in His holy name;

C let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

P Great Physician of body and soul, take great care of all those who are suffering in physical pain, mental illness, emotional stress, and broken relationships. Comfort Your people who are sad and lonely. Warm all troubled hearts with the assurance of Your never-failing presence. Grant wholeness and healing to those in need, [especially . . .]. We give You thanks, Lord God, in all circumstances, including our struggles, for we know that You are working all things together for the good of those who love You and have been called according to Your purpose. Seek the LORD and His strength;

C seek His presence continually!

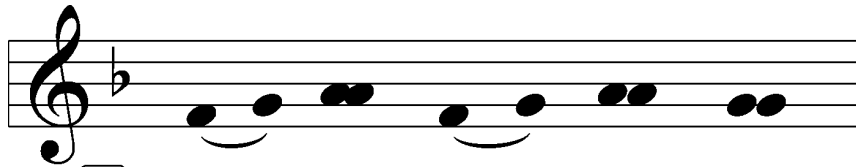
P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for

whom we pray, waiting in joyful expectation for Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

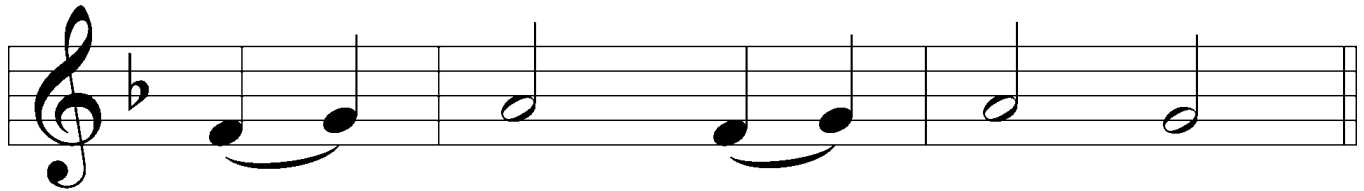
C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

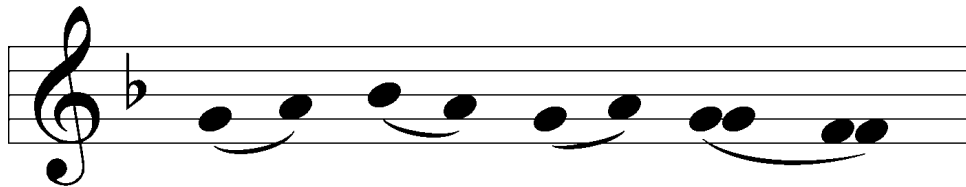
PREFACE



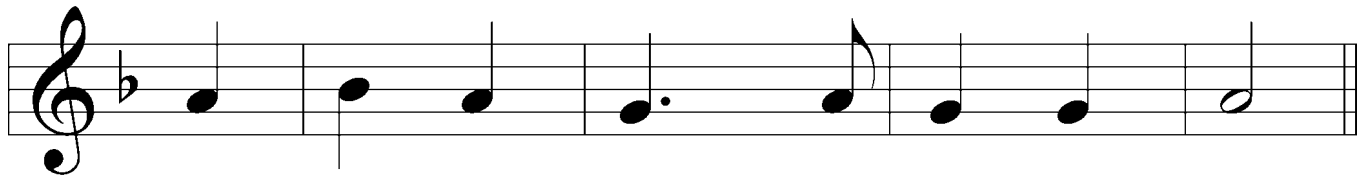
P The Lord be with you.



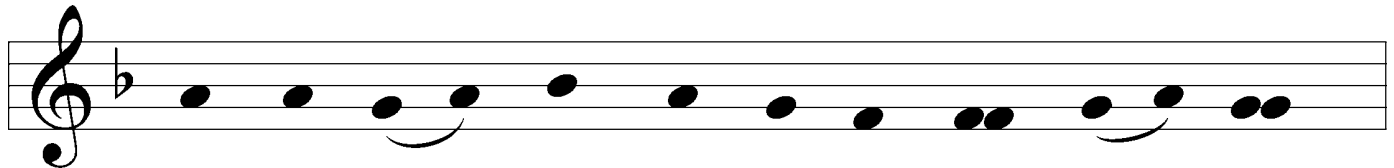
C And with thy spir - it.



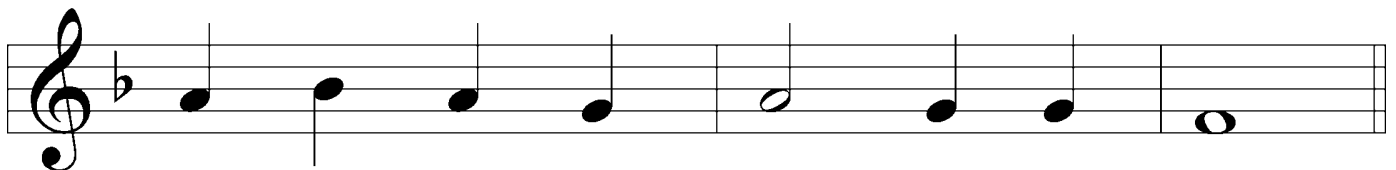
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

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, ever

Continue on next page 13

lasting 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 our sin, giving witness to the light of the world, whose coming scatters the darkness of death. 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



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your witness, John the Baptist,

to point us toward Christ and His coming kingdom. With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

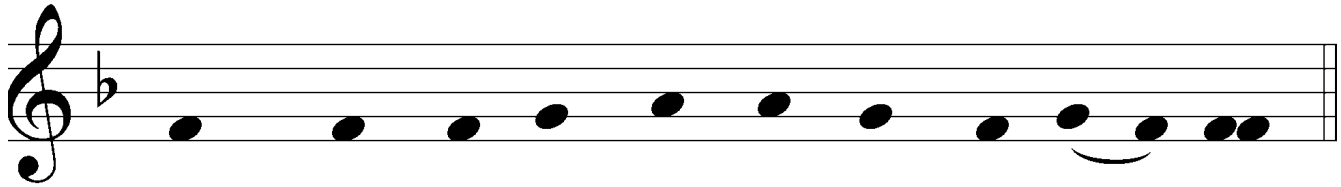
The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the words "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the". The second staff contains the melody for "glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

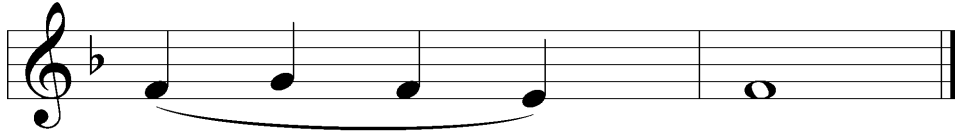
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

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 al - ways.

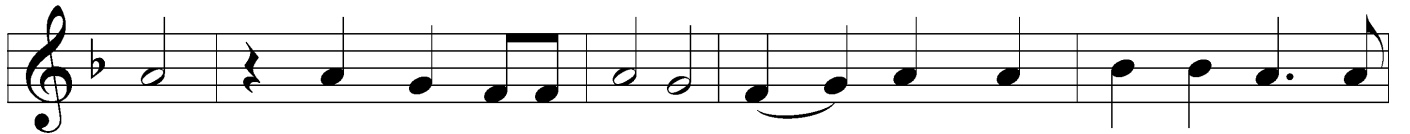


C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Please sit

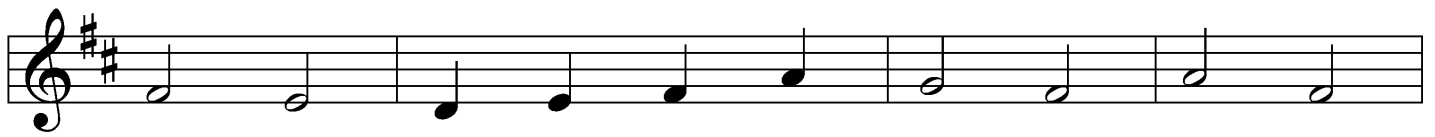
SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

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 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* **LSB 636**



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.



2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver
 5 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, Tru - est



lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is
 friend, and dear - est trea - sure, Peace be - yond all un - der -



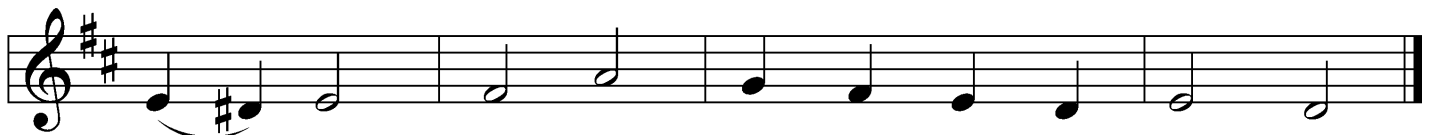
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:
 stand - ing, Joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:



O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to
 Hum - bly now, I bow be - fore You; Love in - car - nate,



there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -
 I a - dore You; Wor - thi - ly let me re -



ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!
 ceive You And, so fa - vored, nev - er leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

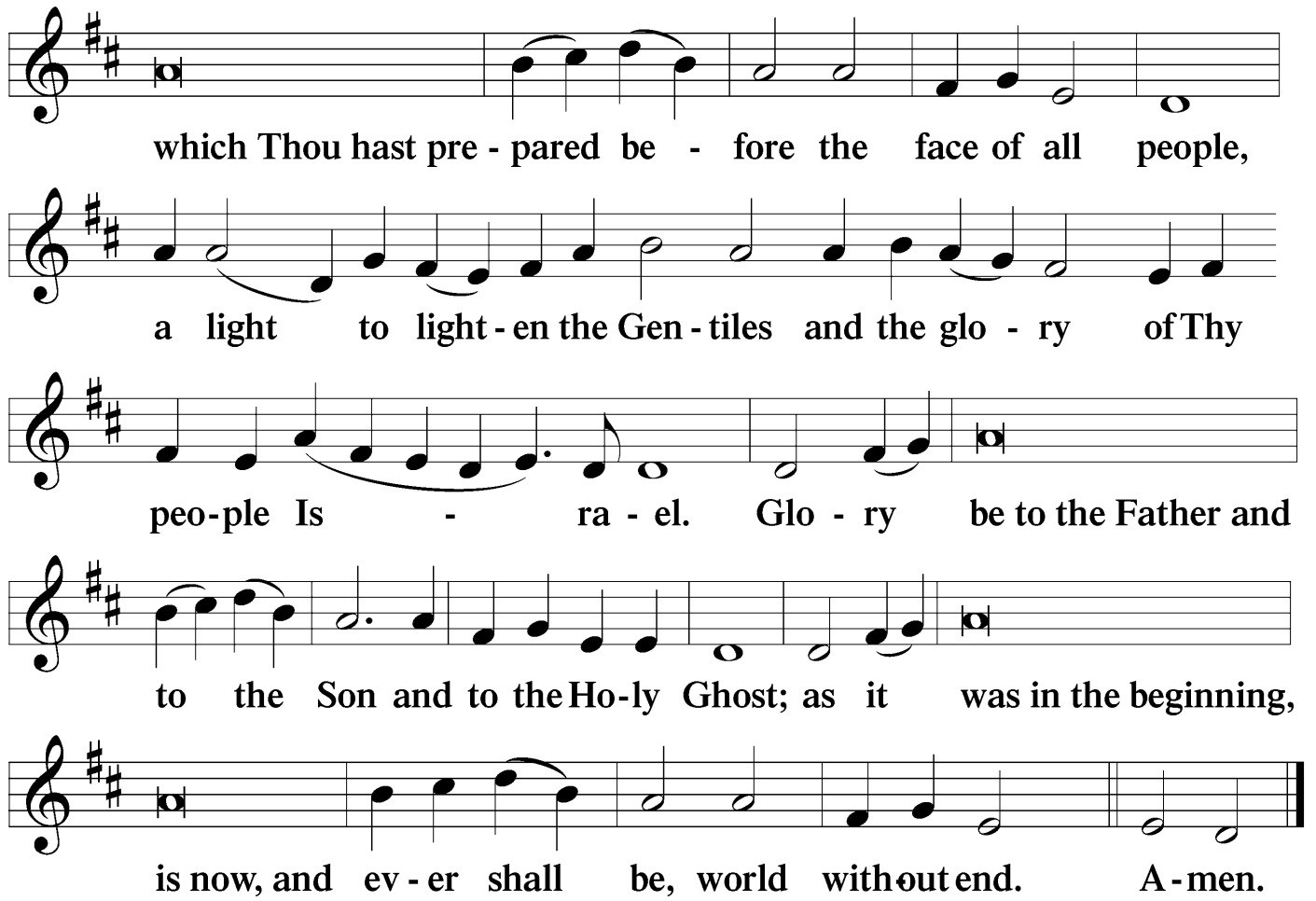
Text (sts. 1, 4–5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005188 Text (sts. 2–3, 6–8) and tune: Public domain

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

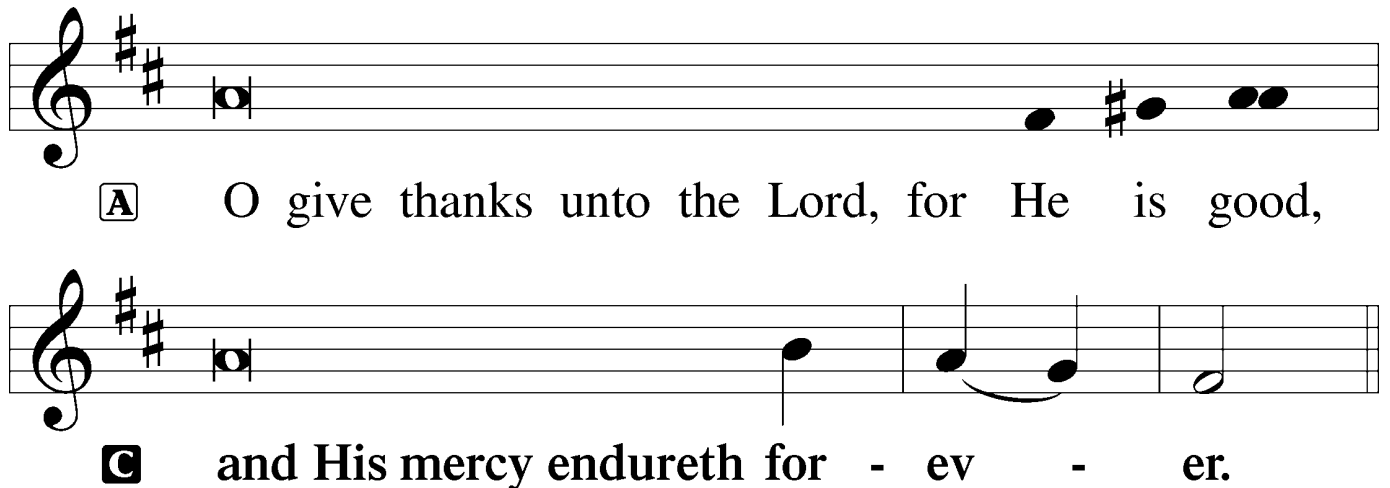
The musical notation is written on two staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the Latin text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ,

Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A musical score for two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics "men." are written below the notes. A common time signature 'C' is shown in a square box. A '2' is written below the first measure of the bass line.

BENEDICAMUS

A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

P The Lord be with you.

A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. A slur is placed under the last two notes (B4 and A4).

C And with thy spir - it.

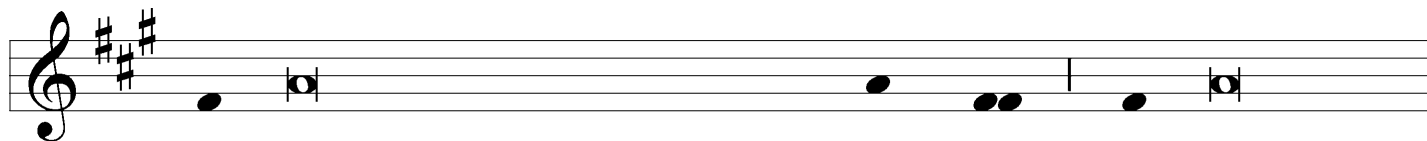
A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4.

A Bless we the Lord.

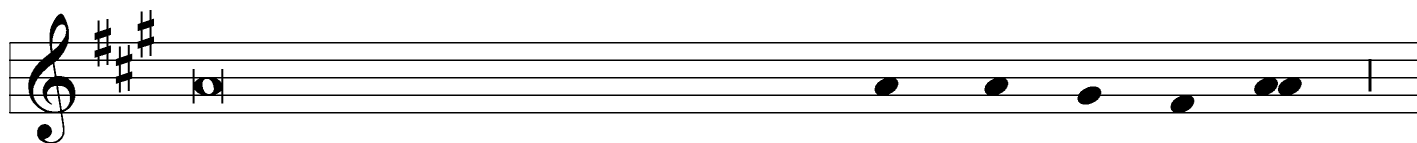
A single staff of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. A slur is placed under the first three notes (G4, A4, B4).

C Thanks be to God.

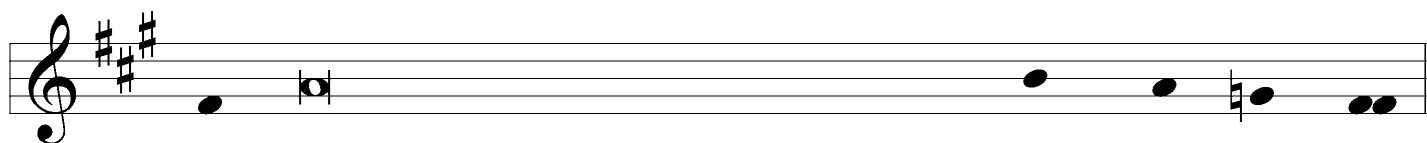
BENEDICTION



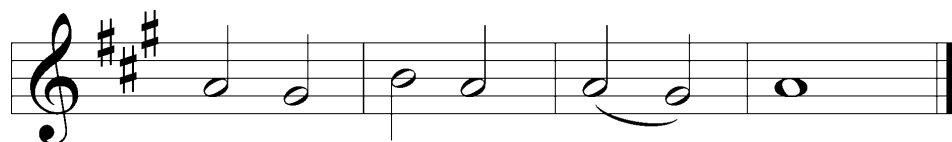
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please sit

SENDING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

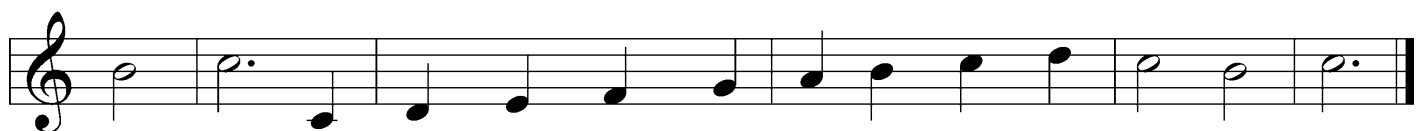
LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



Advent and Christmas Events

***Mid-week Theme: MIRACLE BABIES OF
THE BIBLE***
and How They Tell of Christmas

Mid-Week 1 Advent

Wednesday, December 6th
5:00 p.m. - Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. - Service

Mid-Week 2 Advent

Wednesday, December 13th
5:00 p.m. - Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. - Service

Mid-Week 3 Advent

Wednesday, December 20th
5:00 p.m. - Soup Supper
6:00 p.m. - Service

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

(Holy Communion)

Monday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service

Sunday, December 31st at 9:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for January to March 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

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

December Activities



Immanuel will be giving turkeys to families in need on December 21st, from 3 to 6 p.m. @ Misión Emmanuel. If you would like to help volunteer in this project, please talk to Pastor Weber or call the office. If you would like to support this project with a donation, please write a check to: Immanuel Lutheran and write **“Christmas Turkey”** in the memo. Thank you and blessed Christmas!

Sponsored by a Thrivent Action Team

January Activities

Men's Steak Night Bible Study
Thursday, January 18th
6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

LWML Women's Retreat

January 26-27, 2024 at the Harlingen Convention Center.
See flyer/enrollment form for complete information
(Forms available in the Narthex, Office, and Social Hall)

Polka Fest

Saturday, January 27th
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers needed to help with cooking! (talk to Dan Wehling)
Sign up sheet for sides and desserts posted on the door.

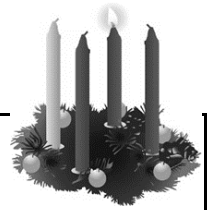
Memory Verse Challenge

This week's memory verse:
Isaiah 40:1

*Comfort, comfort my people, says
your God.*



12/6/2023



Mid-Week Advent 1 Worship	32
Plate:	\$ 295.00
Envelopes:	\$ 465.00
Total:	\$ 760.00

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule

December Sunday Servants:

Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lorri Marchant	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
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:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salvation” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).



12/10/2023		
Sunday Worship	71	
Plate:		\$ 496.00
Envelopes:		\$ 2,368.00
On-line:		\$ 500.00
Donations: Camera		\$ 500.00
Bunk Beds		\$ 460.00
Total:		\$ 4,324.00
Bible Class:	21	\$ 22.00

Fourth Sunday in Advent ***Readings:***

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
Psalms 89:1-5 (19-29)
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38