

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 19, 2021  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
Missouri Synod**



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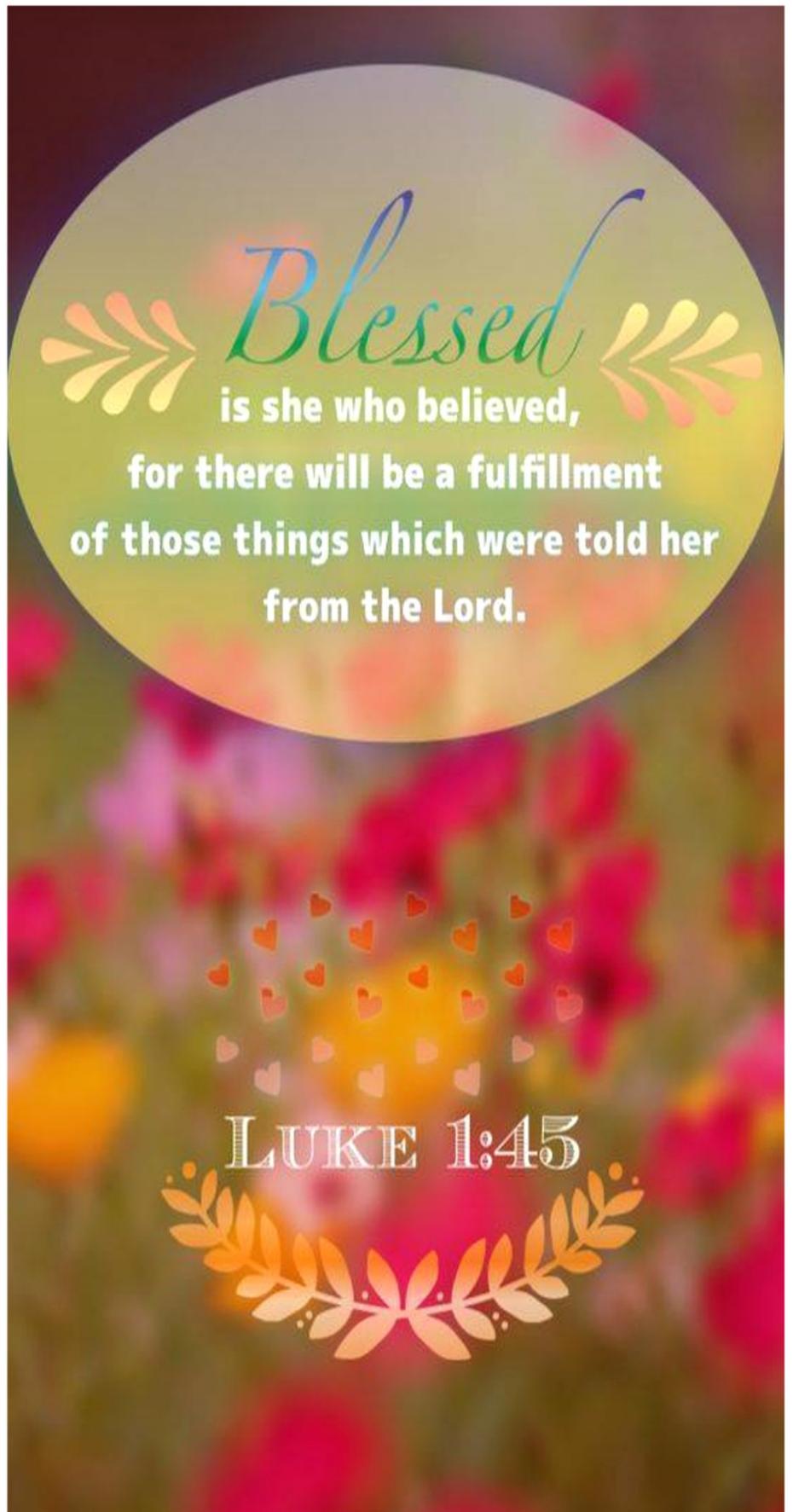
**Website:  
lutheranmercedes.  
com**

***Sunday*  
9:00 A.M.  
Worship Service  
10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Class &  
Sunday School**

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

**Website:  
Misionemanuel.com**

**Office Hrs, M-F  
8 am to 12 pm  
CCLI # 2585510**



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 19, 2021**

**WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

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** - Into this world of turmoil, You, O Lord, bring peace. Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of Mary so rule in my heart and mind that by Your power I may become a peacemaker in my home, in my community, and in my church; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**AS WE GATHER** - Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. Today's Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our

own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God's Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

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

## OPENING HYMN

*What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*

LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

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

C **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.  
Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2–5a*

(Out of little Bethlehem will be born a ruler for God's people, a Good Shepherd, who will bring peace.)

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." 3 Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM *Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7*

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C** let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

**P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

**C** You who lead Joseph like a flock!

**P** You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your

might and come to save us!

**C Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

P O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

**C You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

P You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

**C and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

P Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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 Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 10:5–10*

(Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we live.)

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said:

“Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body

You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings

and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I

said, ‘Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book

it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’ ”

8 Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings,

and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in

them” (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He

said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes

away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will

we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of

*Continued on next page* 7

Jesus Christ once for all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL**                      *Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)*

(Even while in Mary's womb, the presence of Jesus caused Elizabeth and the baby in her womb to rejoice!)

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

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

39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

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.*

*Please sit*

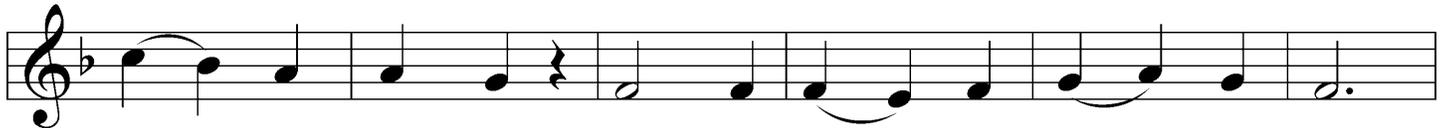
**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

**LSB 940**



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we  
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -  
3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred  
4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,  
bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy  
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with  
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to  
As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.  
sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.  
bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.



Holy Father, holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;  
Though in essence only one,  
Undivided God we claim Thee  
And, adoring, bend the knee  
While we own the mystery.

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**SERMON**

***"Blessed"***

**(Luke 1:45)**

# OFFERING

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

### *My Soul Rejoices*

**LSB 933**



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

P O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers. We pray,

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

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

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

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

for many. We pray,

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

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

**C hear us, coming Lord.**

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

**C Amen.**

## **+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

### **PREFACE**

P The Lord be with you.

*[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]* 13

**C And also with you.**

**P Lift up your hearts.**

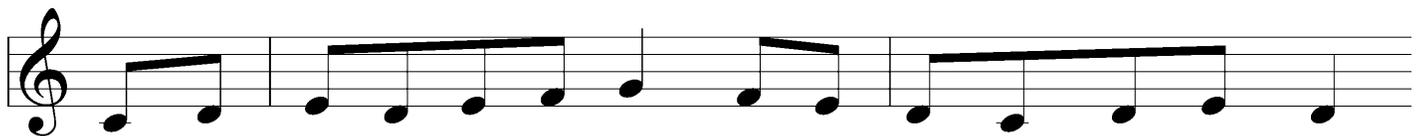
**C We lift them to the Lord.**

**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, who made peace between God and humanity by dying on the cross and being raised by the Father. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

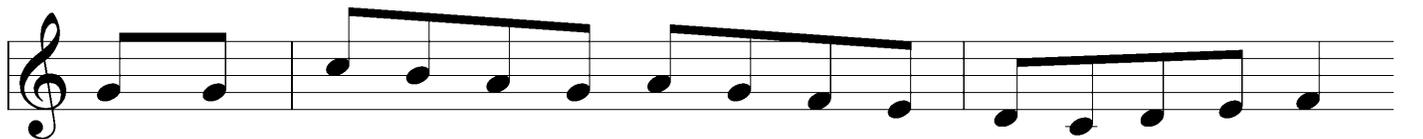
## SANCTUS



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth 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** Thank You, Lord of all creation, for Your constant, abiding, seeking love, given to us now in the Supper of our Lord. You created the heavens, the earth, all creatures, and human beings. You promised a Savior when Adam and Eve rebelled against You. You made Your covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless the world through their offspring. You saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and guided them through the wilderness. You sent prophets to people who had again rebelled against You. In the fullness of time, You sent to us Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended. You provide for us the body and blood of Christ to forgive our sins, and You empower us to love the world as You have first loved us. In You we find the peace that surpasses human understanding.

**C** **We thank You. We praise You. We adore You. Amen.**

**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.**

## **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

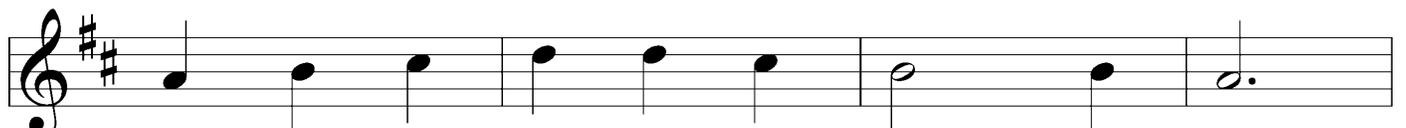
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

## AGNUS DEI



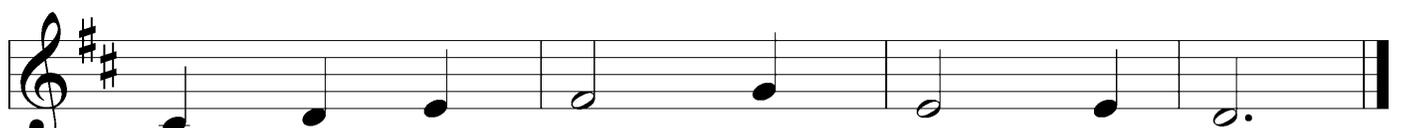
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



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.

*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.

**THE DISTRIBUTION**

**LSB 636**

*Please stand*

## 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. Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes to us through Christ's body and blood. Help us leave this Table so filled with Your peace that it overflows to our homes, our church, and our community; 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**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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

**C Amen.**

*Please sit*

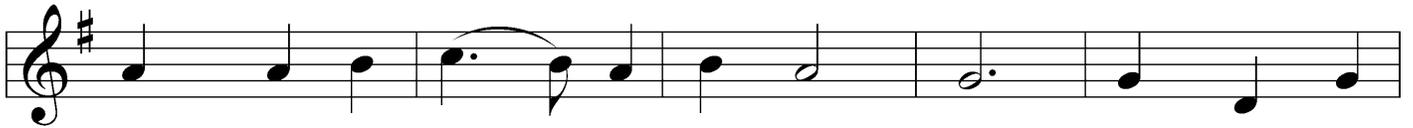
**SENDING HYMN**

*Praise the Almighty*

**LSB 797**



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!  
2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;  
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er  
4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and  
Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their  
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -  
Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as  
coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark  
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in  
wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and  
grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no  
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in  
God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren

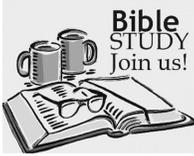


all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.  
help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.  
in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.



*From Pastor's Desk*

*Portals of Prayer  
January to March 2022 are available in the  
Narthrex or office.*



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

**THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE**

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

**This week's memory verse:      *John 20:31***

*But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

***Advent Midweek Sermon Series:***  
**"God's People Prepare for Christmas"**

**5:00 p.m. Soup Supper**

**6:00 p.m. Service**

**December 22nd -"Mary Prepares for Christmas"  
Pastor Weber**

**Christmas Eve Service  
December 24th @ 6 p.m.**

**New Year's Eve Service  
December 31st @ 6:00 p.m.**



## The Lord Comes to Visit Us in Peace

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her and did great things for her (Luke 1:48–49), so also He manifests Himself and His glory to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes to rule His people in peace, to “shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord.” He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 4). He comes to sacrifice Himself, in fulfillment of His Father’s will, for the salvation and sanctification of His people (Heb. 10:10). He who once visited Elizabeth while hidden in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:39–45) now comes to visit us today, hidden in the lowliness of simple water, bread and wine.

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