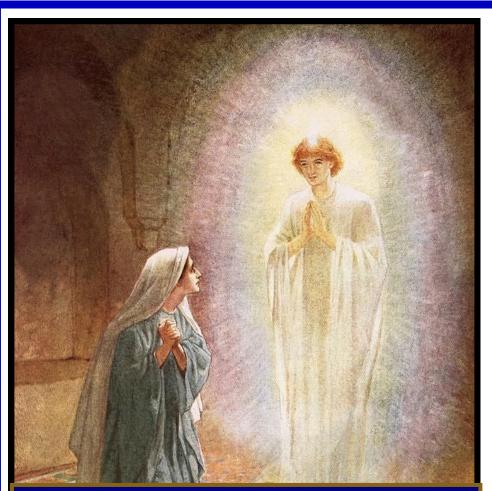
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2020 IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod



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/ Website: Misionemanuel.com **Office Hrs, M-F** 8 am to 12 pm **CCLI # 2585510**



"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest" (Luke 1:31-32)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2020

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 - Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in me, and keep me by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - God told King David by the prophet Nathan that He would build him a house. The mystery, however, was that He didn't mean a structure of wood and stone but an inheritance and a kingdom—the house and lineage of David. The mystery of salvation is made known only and alone through "the prophetic writings" and living Word of God in the Holy Scriptures. As we prepare to celebrate the greatest mystery of the Word made flesh, the incarnation and birth of the Son of God, Jesus, the Savior of the world, the best mystery is that God through the very telling of this story in our ears gives, works, and builds the gift of faith in the heart so that we believe it. We believe that Jesus was born for us, for me. He came down from heaven to be the only acceptable sacrifice for my sin, to redeem me, and give me eternal life through the forgiveness of my sins. O come, Emmanuel, God with us. O come, let us adore Him.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)



OPENING HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending LSB 336 clouds scend - ing, 1 Lo! He with de comes shall 2 Ev eye be hold 'ry now Him 3 Those kens His sion dear to of pas --4 Yea, let all dore Thee, a men, a _ Once for - 'ry slain; ev sin ner glo - rious Robed in maj es ty; daz - zling Still _ His bod У bears, High Thine nal throne; on e ter 0 Thou - sand thou ing sand saints tend at -naught Those who sold Him, set at and of Cause end _ less ex ul ta tion _ ior, Sav take the pow'r and glo ry, Swell the tri - umph His of train: Pierced and nailed Him the tree, to ran - somed ship His To wor _ ers. Claim king - dom the Thine as own. Al le - lu - ia. al le - lu al ia. le ---_ ly wail - ing, Deep deep deep ly wail - ing, ly With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what Al le - lu - ia, le - lu le -_ al _ _ ia. al _



▲ 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.

▲ LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

- P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
- C the light no darkness can overcome.
- P Let Your light scatter the darkness
- C and illumine Your Church.

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

▲ HYMN

We Light the Advent Candle

Sts. 1-4

- We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to come.
 With hope, we trust the promise That He will bring us home.
 Our hope is in our Savior
 Who wins for us God's favor.
 We wait with growing light
 Till God makes all things right!
- We light the Advent candle
 And thank the Lord for rest.
 With peace, we know our Jesus
 Has come to be our guest.
 This peace beyond all knowing
 Within our hearts is glowing.
 We wait with growing light
 Till God makes all things right!

- 3 We light the Advent candle And sing with cheerful heart. With joy, we spread the message— A blessing to impart. Our joy is never ending; The Son to us is sending. We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!
- We light the Advent candle 4 And share the wondrous Word. With love, we tell of Jesus Till all around have heard. God's love is for each nation Throughout His whole creation. We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right! Text: Lisa M. Clark. Copyright © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b ▲ INTROIT

- "Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies Р pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together.
- The heavens declare the glory of God; and С the firmament shows His handiwork.
- In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, Ρ
- Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, С and rejoices like a strong man to run its race.
- Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the Ρ other end;

C And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

P "Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together.

▲ KYRIE



SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

▲ 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Samuel 7:1–11,16*

(The Lord's covenant with David)

1 Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." 3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." 4 But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, 5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? 6 For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. 7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?' "' 8 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. 10 Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, 11 since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord tells you that He will make you a house. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' "

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm* 89:1–5 (19–29); *antiphon: v.* 8

P O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

- C I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.
- P For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens."
- C "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:
- P 'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.' "
- C And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.
- P O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Children remain seated)

EPISTLE *Romans* 16:25–27 (Doxology)

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

▲ HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:26–38

(The birth of Jesus foretold)

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

C Glory to You , O Lord.

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." 34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing will be impossible." 38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

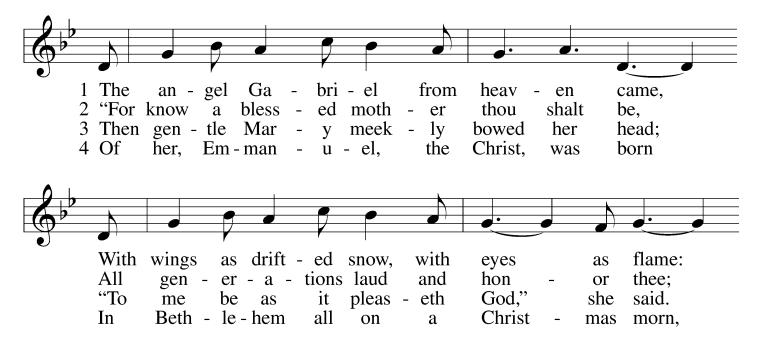
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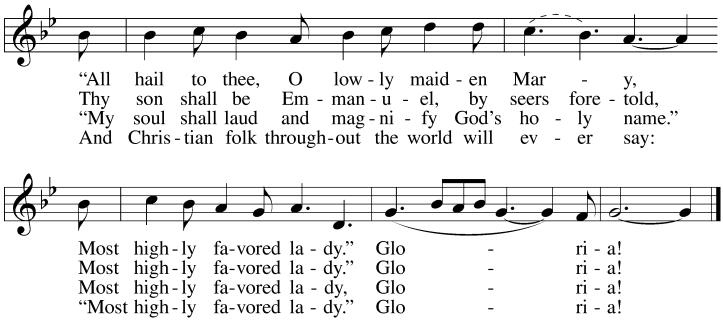
All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

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 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came LSB 356



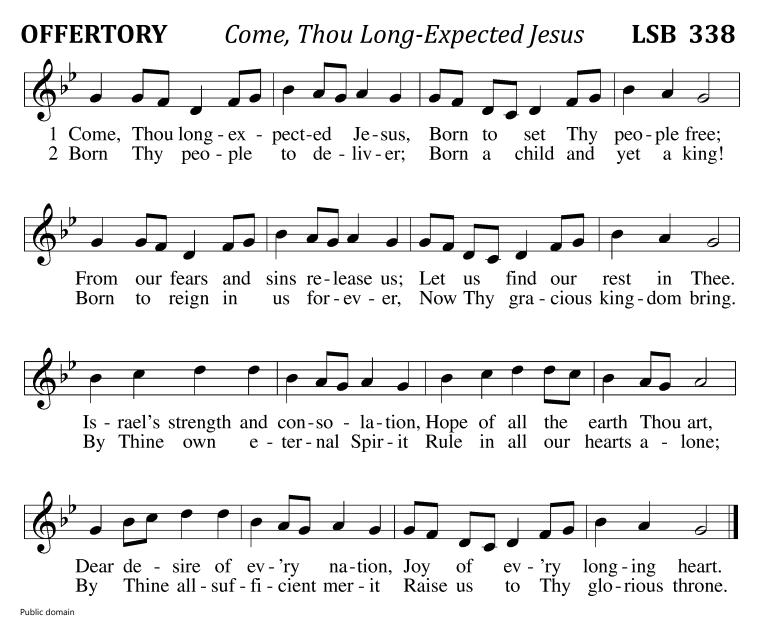


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SERMON"The Impossible is done for You through Jesus, the Son of
God's Birth"God's Birth"(Luke 1:37)

OFFERING (Please place your offering in the offering plate as you leave.)





▲ SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21) (Learning and sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

▲ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
 Almighty God, as we draw closer to the grand celebration of the incarnation and birth of Your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we thank You for making known the mystery of Your love from the very first promise to Adam and Eve, through the continued witness of the holy prophets, apostles, and evangelists, and finally through

Your living voice through the ministers of Your Church to this day. Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

 P Keep all You have called to preach and teach and care for Your people in true faith, guard them against the attacks of the evil one, and give them health and joy in their ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Send Your Spirit over the whole world that those who lead in the authority of Government acknowledge Your laws and will, making for times of peace that we may live faithfully in safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P By Your Holy Word and Sacrament, strengthen us to obedient living. Send Your grace, mercy, peace, and love to surround our families, inspire those of various vocations in the world, comfort, defend, and heal all those in times of illness or distress. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Individual petitions may be added here.

- P By the mystery of our Lord's incarnation, His life of obedient faith, and His Substitutionary death on the cross, establish us in the one true faith, and strengthen us in lives obedient to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

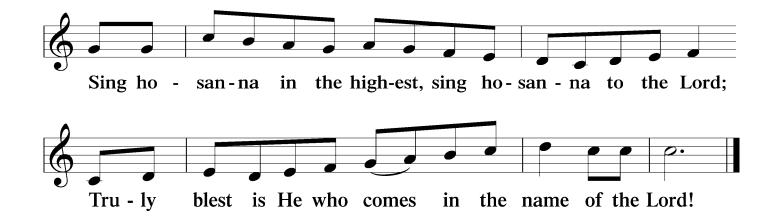
+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

▲ 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





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. ¹⁷

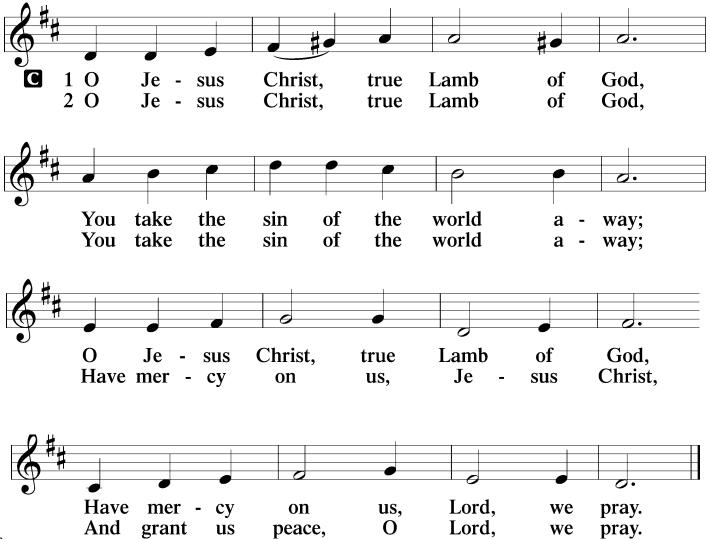
▲ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- 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.

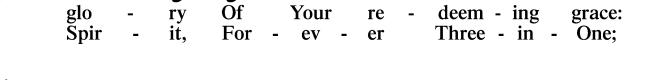
AGNUS DEI



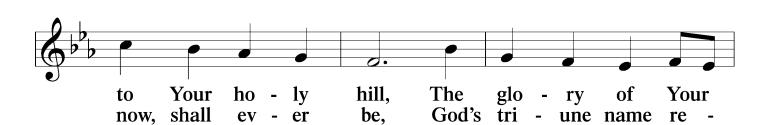
THE DISTRIBUTION



▲ NUNC DIMITTIS **C** 1 0 Lord, let Your now ser 2 All glo - ry Fa to the 0. part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have glo - ry the Son, All glo - ry to









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A POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

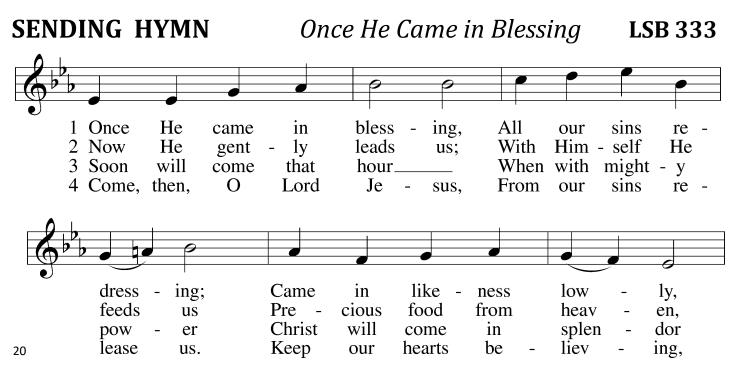
- P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

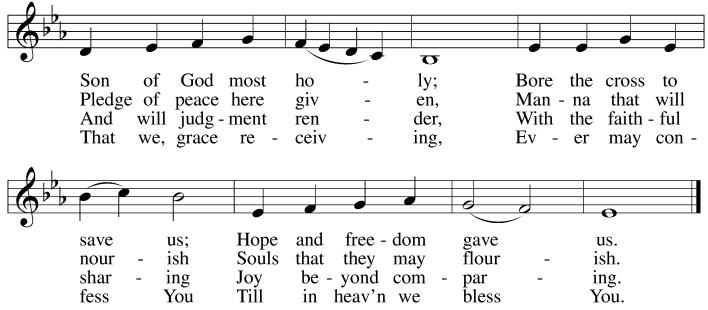
BENEDICAMUS

- 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.





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DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE:

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Christmas and New Year Services*ThursdayDecember 24thChristmas Eve Service6:00 p.m.*ThursdayDecember 31stNew Year's Eve6:00 p.m.Service

From the Pastor's Desk

Portals of Prayer for January to March 2021 are available in the Narthrex or office.

Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Weber leading the class!

A warm welcome to our Winter Texans as they arrive weekly to the Rio Grande Valley. *Stay safe!*

12/9/2020 Mid-Week 2 Advent Service	23	1411
Plate:	\$ 30.00	
Envelopes:	\$ 105.00	
Donation:		
Total:	\$ 135.00	

Immanuel will be giving turkeys to families in need on December 23rd. If you would like to help volunteer in this project or receive a turkey, please talk to Pastor Weber or Mellie Peach.

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

Memory Verse Challenge

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

This week's memory verse: John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David "lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies," he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary" (Apostles' Creed). That holy child, the incarnate "Son of the Most High," receives "the throne of his father David" and begins to reign "over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is "the mystery that was kept secret for long ages" but is now "made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God" in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

12/13/2020				First Sunday after Christmas		
Sunday Worship	4 2	2		Readings:		
Plate: Envelopes:		\$	12600	Lagiah 61.10 62.2		
		\$	1,993.00	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 111		
Donation: Cemetery		\$	500.00	Galatians 4:4-7		
Turkey Project		\$	65.00	Luke 2:22-40		
Total:		\$	2,684.00			
Bible Class:	20		\$ 19.00			
	Bi-Weekly	Church	Activity S	Schedule		
	December S	unday Se	rvants:	January Servant:		
Elder:	Ken Eilers			Joe Winston		
Altar Guild:	Donna Jack	son & L	orri Marcl	nant B. J. Neuhaus & M. Perez		
Music:	Bonny Wir	Bonny Winston				
This Week	Fourth Sun	Fourth Sunday in Advent				
Usher:	Don Vogel					
Sunday:	Holy Com	nunion V	Norship S	ervice 9:00 am		
	Sunday Scl	nool & A	dult Bible	Study 10:30 am		
Next Week	First Sunday	First Sunday after Christmas				
Usher:	Dan Wehli	Dan Wehling				
Sunday:	Worship Service 9:00 am					
24	Sunday Scl	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am				