

MID-WEEK 4  
ADVENT SERVICE  
DECEMBER 22, 2021  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
*Missouri Synod*



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
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*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



Love



*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*

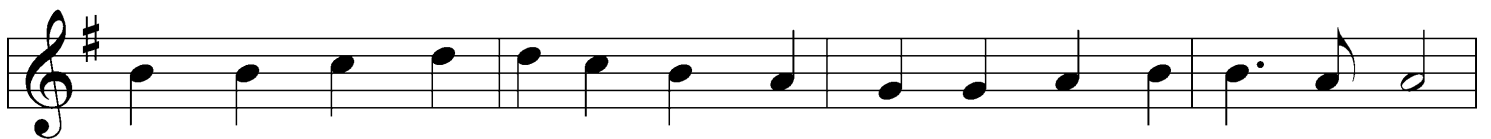
Mid-Week 4 Advent Service  
December 22, 2021

**WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

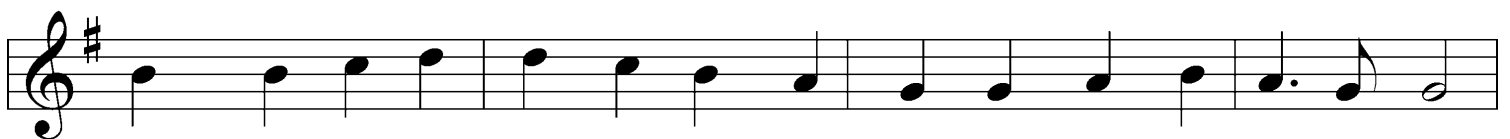
We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this evening. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance.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

**AS WE GATHER** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, and the day is almost over. Let your light scatter the darkness and illumine your Church. Joyous light of glory: of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever. O Son of God, O Giver of life; The universe proclaims your glory.

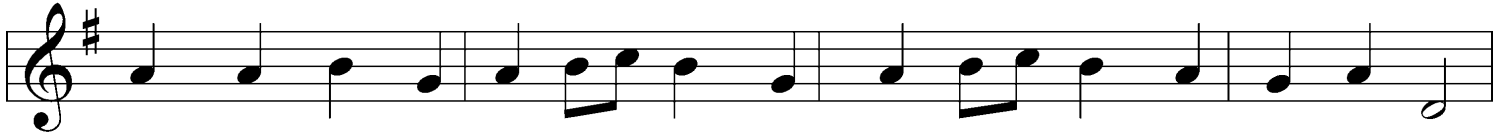
**OPENING HYMN** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* **LSB 803**



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a-way.  
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, Flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it, Foun-tain-head of love di-vine:



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain Call us to re-joice in Thee.  
Joy-ful, we Thy heav'n in-her-it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

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## + VESPERS +

### PSALM

*Psalm 89:1-8*

P I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

C **For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens."**

P "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:

C **'Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations.'** "

P And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

C **For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord?**

P God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him.

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

**HYMN***O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

LSB 357; vv. 1, 2, 6



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



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!



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

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

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**FIRST READING***Deuteronomy 18:15-19*

15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again

the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

17 “And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**      *Luke 1:25-56*

25 “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

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.

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.”

46 And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. 53 He

has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, 55 As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.”

56 And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

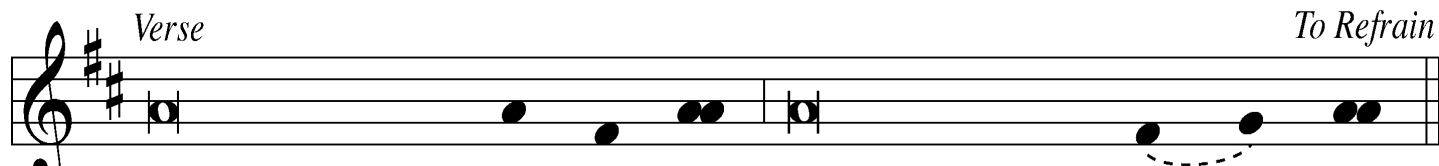
P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

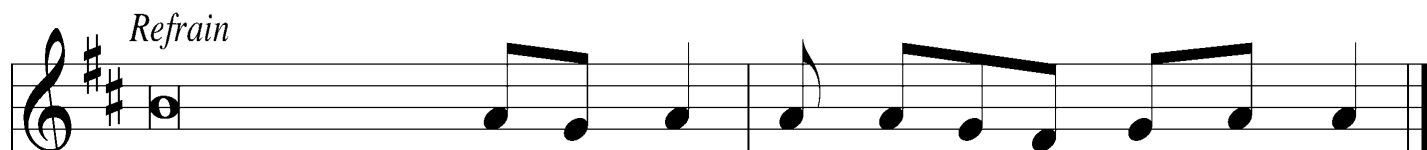
P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**RESPONSORY** *Based on Jeremiah 23:5-6; Acts 2:36; Luke 1:32-33*



- 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.



**C** This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Right-teous-ness.



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
 taste, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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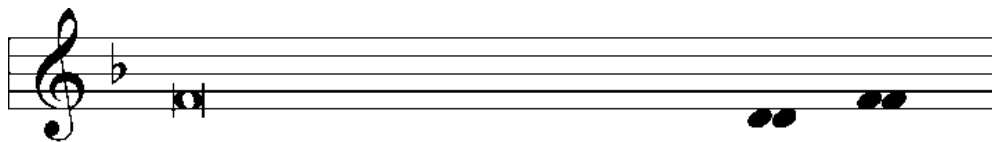
**SERMON**

*“Mary Prepares for Christmas”*

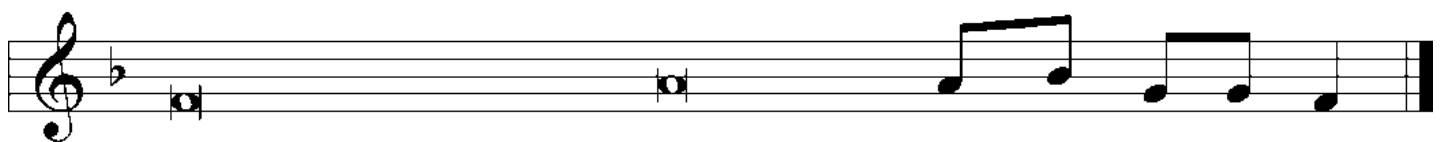
(Luke 1:25-56)

**OFFERING**

**CANTICLE**



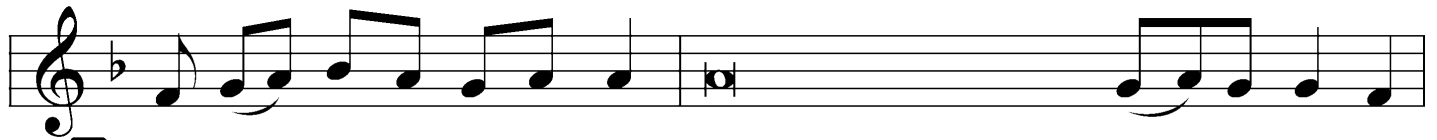
**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



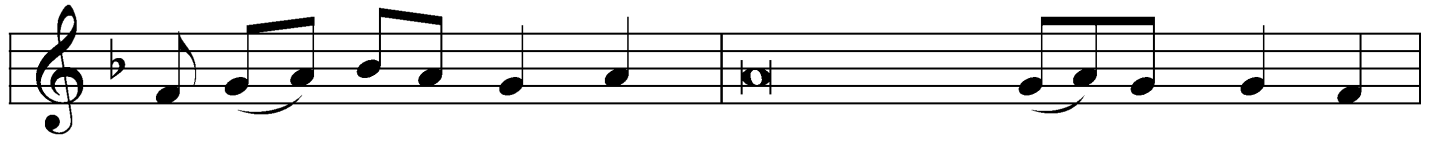
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**Magnificat**

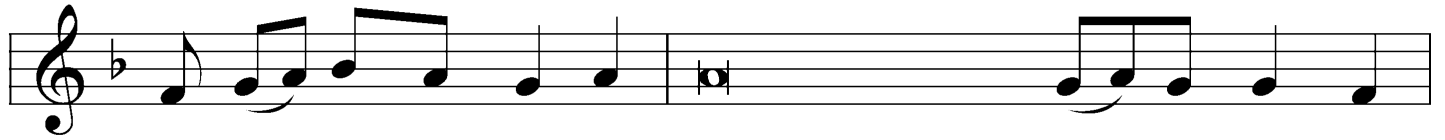




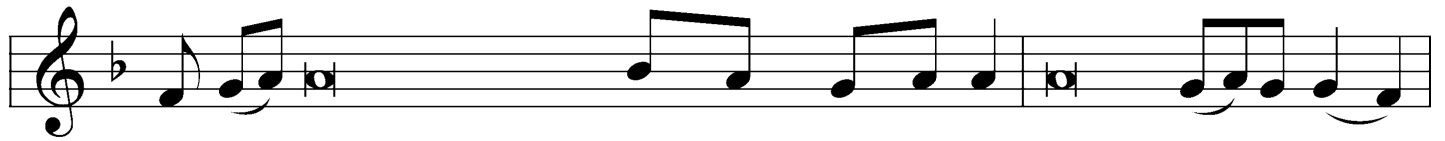
**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



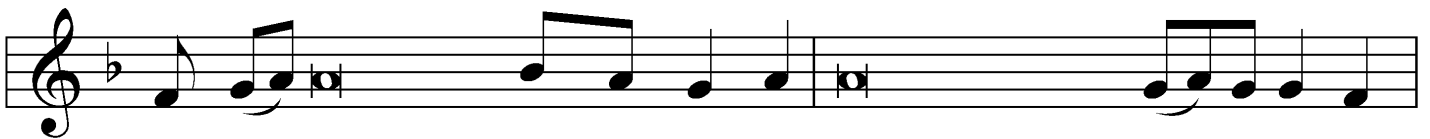
for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



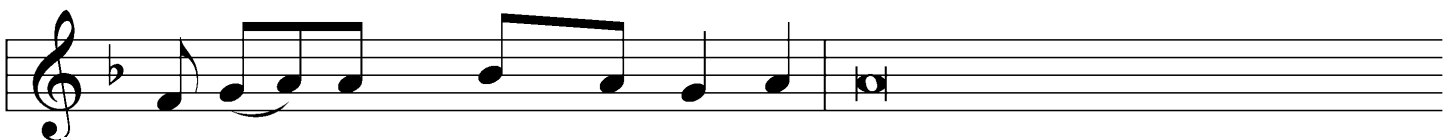
For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



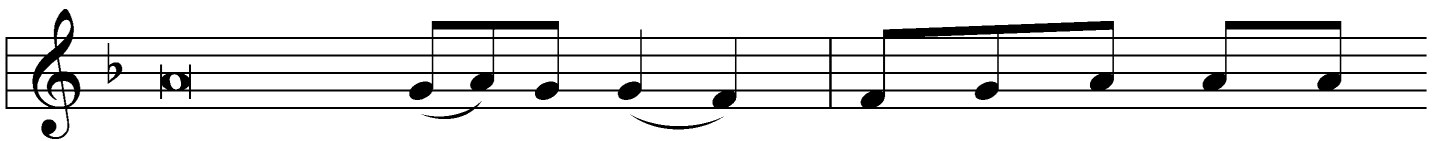
For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



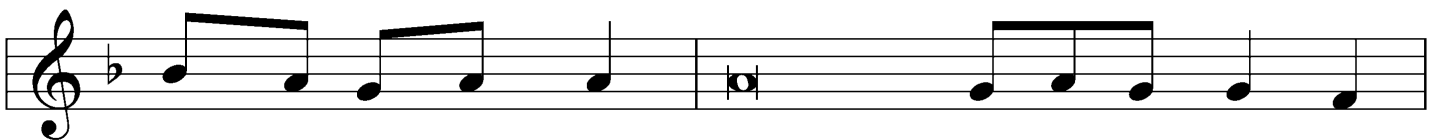
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



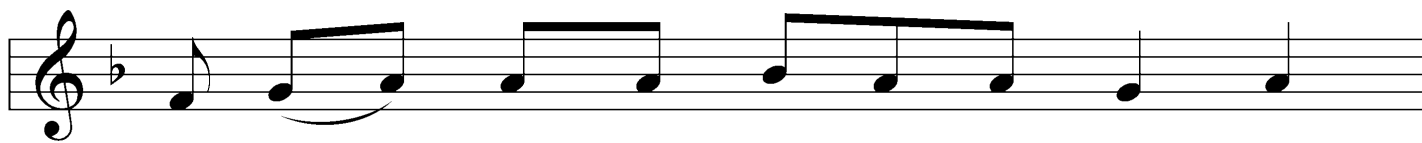
He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



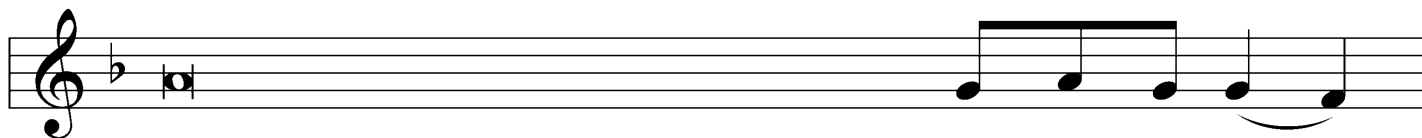
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the



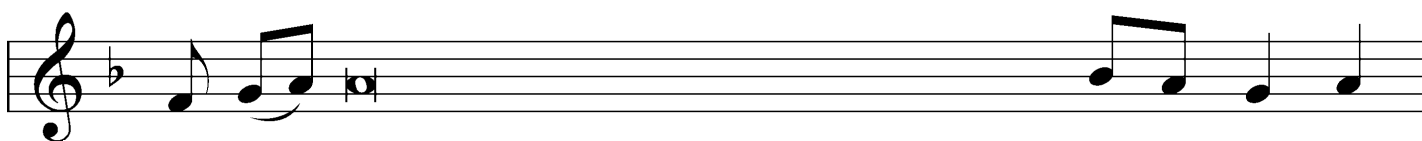
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



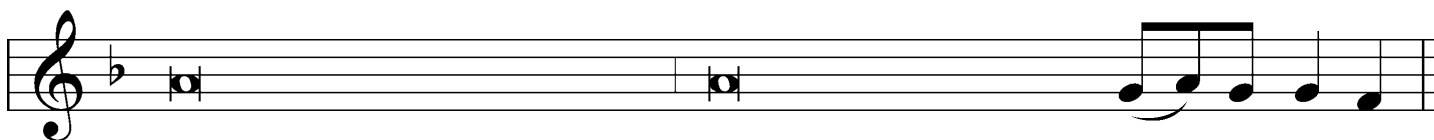
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



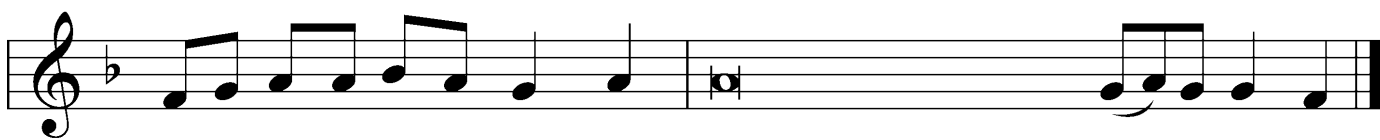
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



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** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that on the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended

from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

**C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

## **CLOSING SENTENCES** *Matthew 9:36; Isaiah 63:9; Hebrews 5:7*

**P** When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless,

**C like sheep without a shepherd.**

**P** In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them;

**C in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.**

**P** In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,

**C to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.**

## **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***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* **LSB 340**

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of  
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple  
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The  
 mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His  
 is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To  
 set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -  
 Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
 dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - 'reign  
 face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To  
 woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
 joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To  
 en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

