

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 24, 2023

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes**

Texas 78570

956.565.1518

**Immanuelmercedes
@gmail.com**

**[https://www.facebook.com/
LutheranMercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMercedes/)**

**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
956.463.1305
eweber10@aol.com**

Website:

lutheranmercedes.com

Sunday

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

**Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School**

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

Website:

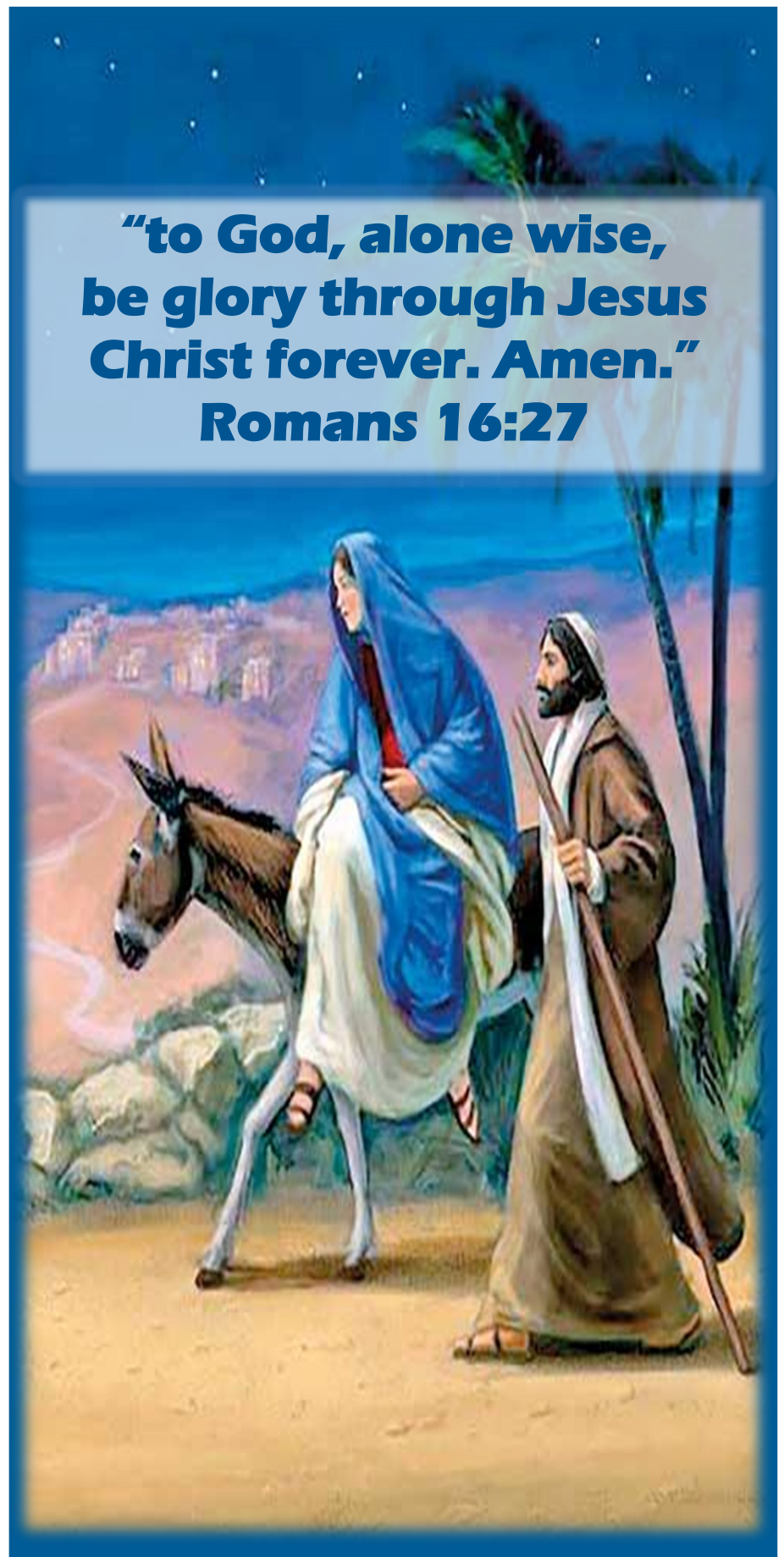
Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510

***“to God, alone wise,
be glory through Jesus
Christ forever. Amen.”
Romans 16:27***



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 2023

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.

Next 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 and help me by Your might, that I may know Your plan of salvation and trust that nothing is impossible with You; 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! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke

1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can give.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

OPENING HYMN

All Glory Be to God Alone

LSB 948



1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, For - ev - er - more the
2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And wor - ship You in
3 Lord God, our King on heav - en's throne, Our Fa - ther, the Al -
4 You take the whole world's sin a - way; Have mer - cy on us,
5 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One And o - ver all are



high - est one, Who did our sin - ful race be - friend And
hum - ble - ness; From day to day we glo - ri - fy The
might - y One. O Lord, the sole - be - got - ten One, Lord
Lord, we pray. You take the whole world's sin a - way; O
Lord a - lone. O Je - sus Christ, we glo - ri - fy You



grace and peace to us ex - tend. A - mong us may His
ev - er - last - ing God on high. Of Your great glo - ry
Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's Son, True God from all e -
Lord, re - ceive our prayer this day. From God's right hand Your
and the Spir - it, Lord Most High; With Him You ev - er -



gra - cious will All hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.
do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.
ter - ni - ty, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.
mer - cy send, To all the world Your grace ex - tend.
more shall be One in the Fa - ther's maj - es - ty.

Please stand

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

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

C **let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.**

P The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

C **In them He has set a tent for the sun,**

P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
C and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
P Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end
of them,
C and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
**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 Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down
righteousness;
**C let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear
fruit.**

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by
Your might, that we may experience the peace of knowing all
things are possible with You; for You live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Please sit

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

(“Your throne shall be established forever.”)

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

Continue on next page 5

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; 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.

EPISTLE *Romans 16:25–27*

("To the only wise God be glory forevermore.")

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.

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38*

(God reveals His eternal plan of salvation to the virgin Mary.)

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

Continue on next page 7

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.**

Apostles’ Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

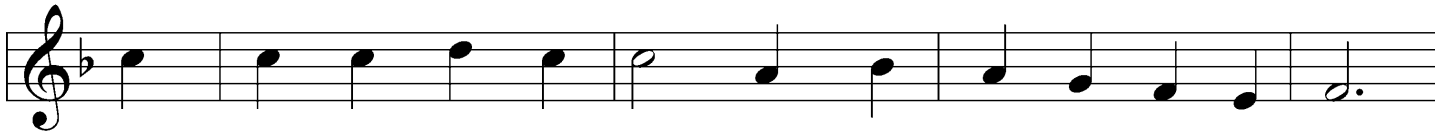
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please sit

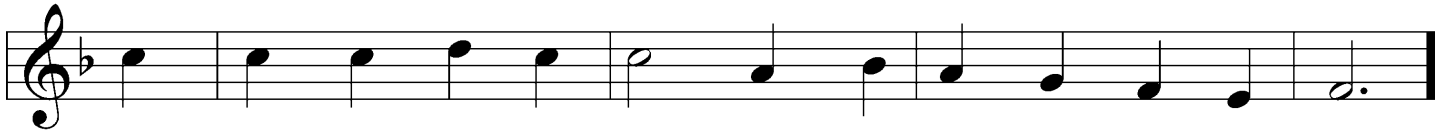
HYMN OF THE DAY

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"All glory to God for the greatest proclamation on earth - the Gospel of Jesus Christ!"

(Romans 16:25-27)

OFFERING

Continue on next page

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Almighty Father, Bless the Word* **LSB 923; vs. 1,3**



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
heav' n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Romans 5:1-2; Philippians 4:7; John 14:27; Luke 2:14

P In the peace of Christ, our coming King, let us bring our prayers before our gracious God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.**

P For God's amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord's instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

C will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P For the outpouring of the Spirit of peace upon the Church of Christ Jesus, that all who wait for His appearing would be strengthened in their faith and renewed in their boldness to confess His saving name before all the world; for all those who doubt God's plan for their lives, that like the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit would make His Word come alive in them, transforming them from the inside out; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

C Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

P For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering, [including . . .]; for Christ's peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P With hearts of gratitude and praise, we join with the hosts of heaven and say:

C "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

P Into Your hands, O gracious God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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.**

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

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go

LSB 920



1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
2 King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
3 Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
4 Christ's are our lips, His Word we speak;
5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;
King - ship with Him His ser - vants gain;
This world of time to con - se - crate,
Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim
That in His Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
With Christ the Ser - vant - Lord of all,
This world of sin - by grace to heal,
Christ's truth in love that we may be
Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world's true king.
Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
True peace, true love to all man - kind.

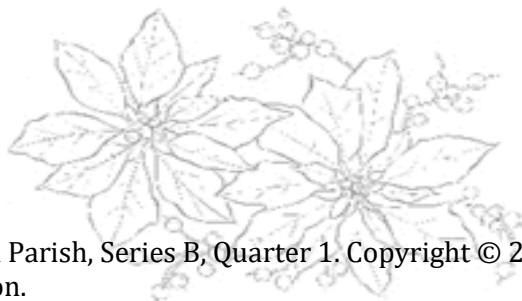
Text: © 1969, 1987 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005188 Tune: Public domain

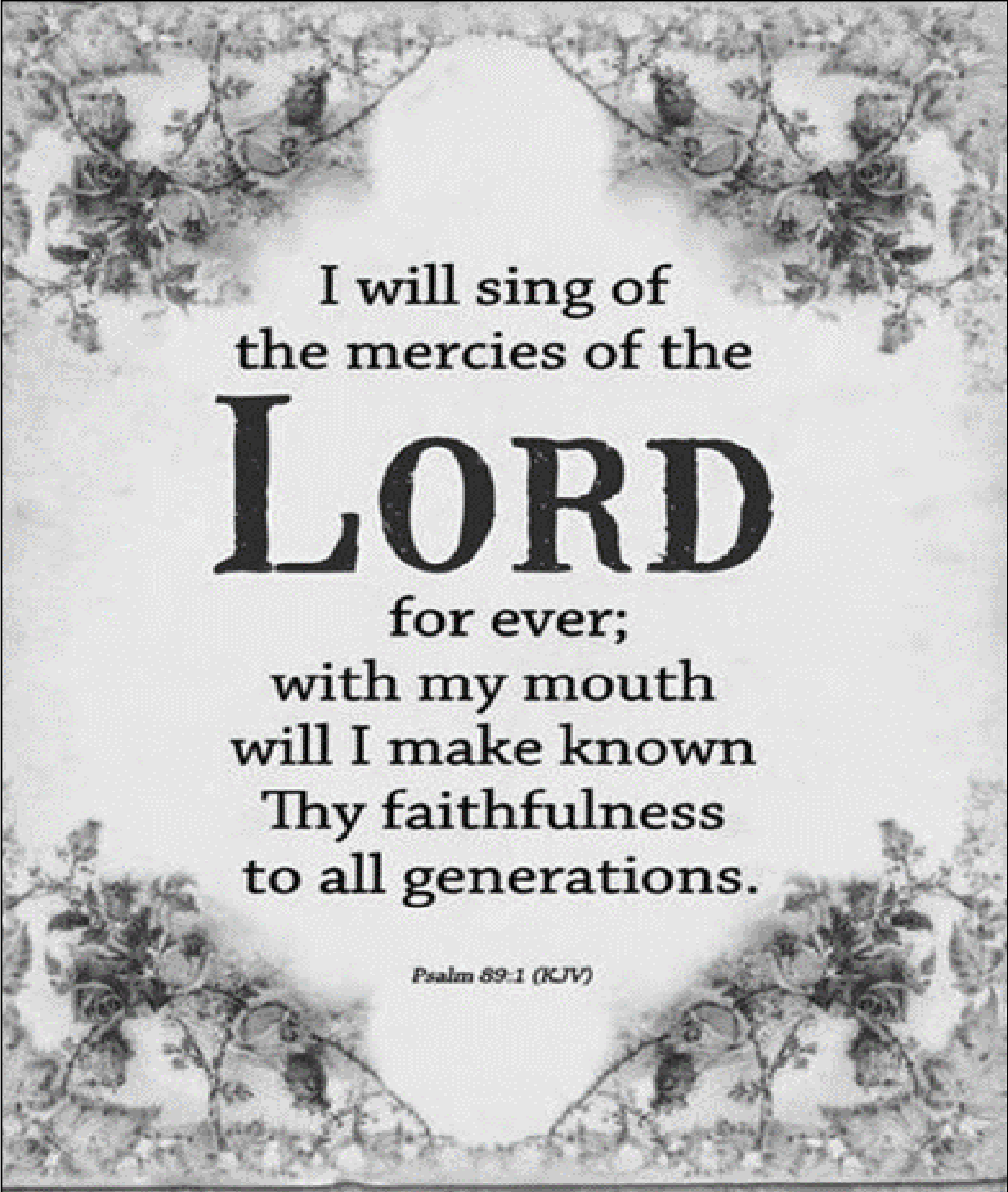
DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE





I will sing of
the mercies of the
LORD
for ever;
with my mouth
will I make known
Thy faithfulness
to all generations.

Psalm 89:1 (KJV)



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: January to March 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.
Rev. Weber will be leading the class.*

January Events

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

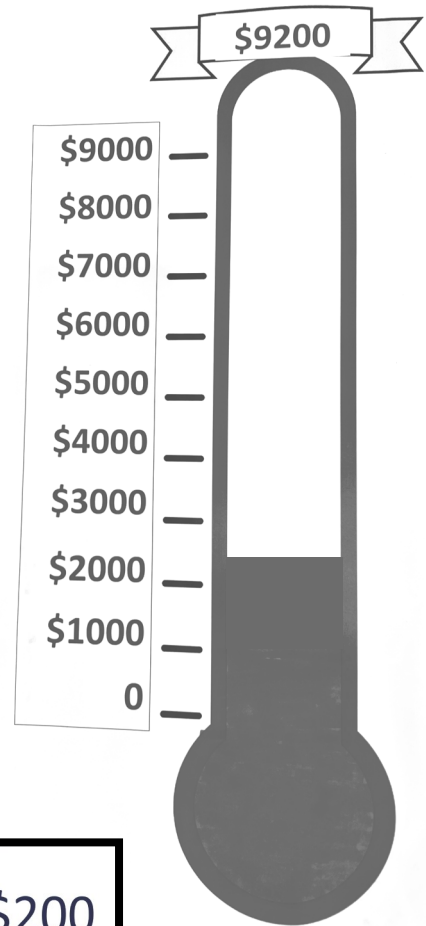
*LWML Women's Retreat
January 26-27, 2024
Harlingen Convention Center*

*See flyer (posted on church door) 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.*

Bunk Bed Fundraiser



1 Bunk bed - \$200
2 Twin Mattresses \$190
2 Mattress protectors - \$70
Total- \$460

20 bunk beds x \$460 = \$9200

Please consider a donation to help outfit our new dorm rooms with bunkbeds for coming servant groups. Thank you!

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

This week's memory verse: *Galatians 4:4-5*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.



12/13/2023

Mid Week Advent 2 Worship	42
Plate:	\$ 265.00
Envelopes:	\$ 345.00
Total:	\$ 610.00

12/17/2023

Sunday Worship	66
Plate:	\$ 265.00
Envelopes:	\$ 1,365.00
On-line	
Donation: IRS	\$ 4.25
Bunkbeds	\$1,000.00
Total:	\$ 2,634.25
Bible Class:	17
	\$ 21.00

***FIRST SUNDAY after
CHRISTMAS
READINGS:***

*Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 111
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40*

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).

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	December Sunday Servants	January Sunday Servants
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	D. Jackson/L. Marchant	BJ Neuhaus/M. Perez
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	First Sunday after Christmas	
Usher:	Don Vogel	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am