

**THE NATIVITY OF
OUR LORD
DECEMBER 25, 2022
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**



**"And the Word
became
flesh and dwelt
among us."**

John 1:14

***and we beheld His glory,
the glory as of
the only begotten
of the Father,
full of grace and truth.***

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2022

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 - O God, You make me glad with the celebration of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Help me and all people to the ends of the earth to see the salvation You have delivered to the world through this holy child. Grant that as I joyfully receive Him as my Redeemer, I may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be my Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “The LORD has

bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God" (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah's day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, "The LORD has bared His holy arm" (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

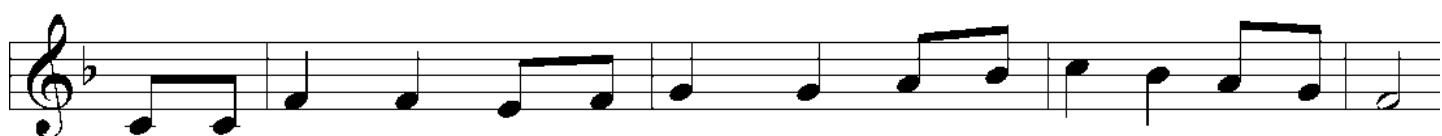
OPENING HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Please stand

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Psalm 100

P On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

C **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

P Come into His presence with singing!

C **Know that the LORD, He is God!**

P It is He who made us, and we are His;

C **we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C **and His faithfulness to all generations.**

The candles are lit.

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.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1–4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6

P For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C **Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.**

P The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.

C **He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

KYRIE



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;

You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

(The Lord's coming salvation)

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord brings back Zion.

9 Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 2; antiphon v. 7

P "I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

Continue on next page 7

C Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?
P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,
C “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”
P He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.
C Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:
P “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”
C “I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.
P Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.
C You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”
P Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.
C Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
P Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.
“I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1–12

(The supremacy of God’s Son)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent

name than they.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son, today I have begotten You”?

And again:

“I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son”?

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

7 And of the angels He says:

“Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.”

8 But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

10 And:

“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. 11 They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

(The Word became flesh.)

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

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

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Continue on next page 9

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES CREED

All 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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

SERMON

"What a Christmas Gift for you – God Himself!"

(Hebrews 1:1-3)

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

O Word of God Incarnate

LSB 523



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Public domain

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS by PROFESSION OF FAITH

David and Amelia Peach

SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using American Sign Language]

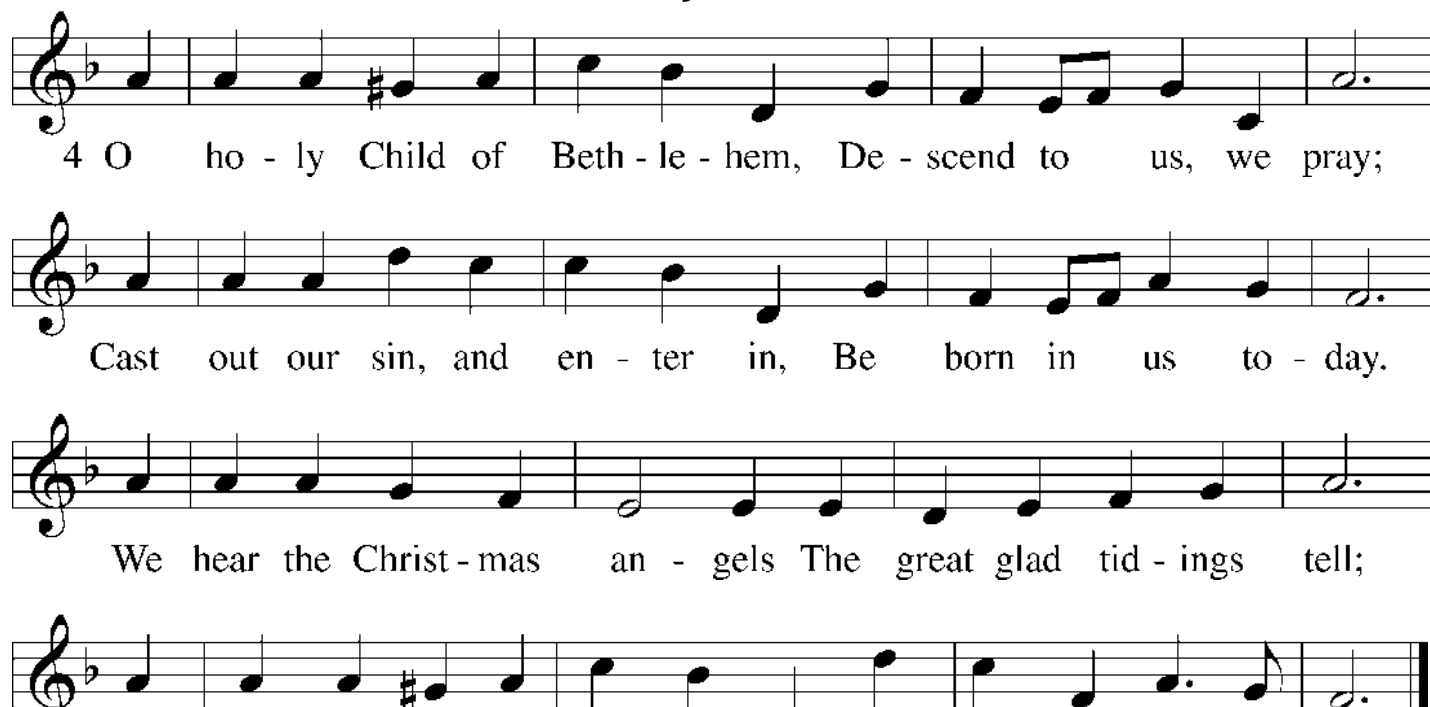
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God
and for all people according to their needs.

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361; v. 4



4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

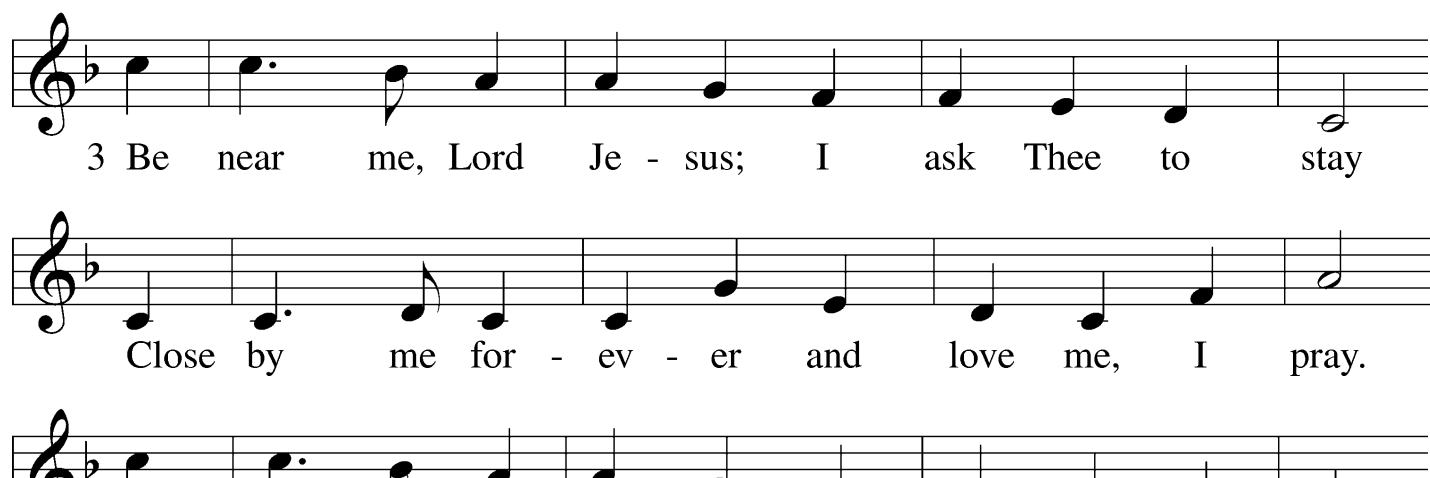
P Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending
Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to
forgive our sins.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

HYMN

Away in a Manger

LSB 364; v. 3



3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

Continue on next page 13



And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

P Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

HYMN

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358; v.13



13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

P Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

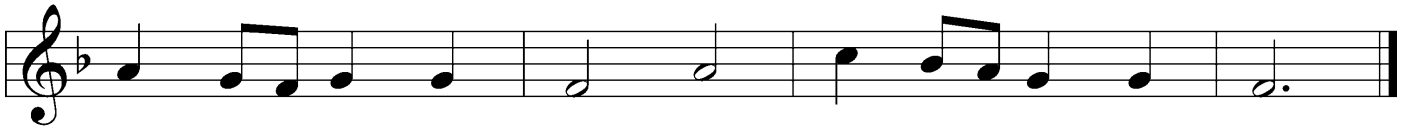
C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

P Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, [especially . . .]. Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

Additional petitions may follow.

P All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**



Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore;
We praise You evermore.

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

What Child Is This

LSB 370



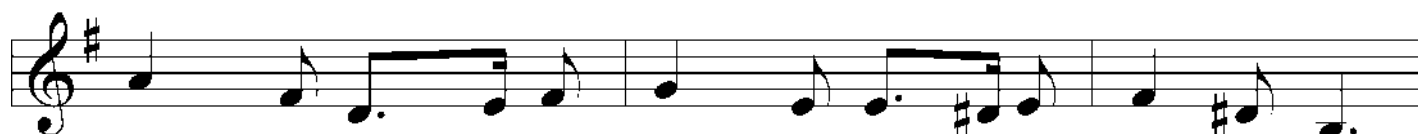
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

From Pastor's Desk

Portals of Prayer

January to March 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

*Adult Bible Class/Sunday School
at 10:30 a.m.*

Rev. Goetz will be leading the class.

*New Year's Service
January 1, 2023
9:00 a.m.*

*Elders' Meeting
Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023
9:00 a.m.*

*Epiphany Circuit Pastors' Party
Friday, January 6th, 2023 in McAllen*

*German Fest
Saturday, January 21st, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Social Hall*

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

This week's memory verse: ***Luke 2:10-11***

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

[illegible]



Offerings

12/7/2022	
Mid-Week 2 Advent	26
Plate:	\$ 64.00
Envelopes:	\$ 137.00
Total:	\$ 201.00

12/11/2022	
Sunday Worship	68
Plate	\$ 581.00
Envelopes	\$ 1,523.00
Online donation	\$ 500.00
Turkey Fund	\$ 260.00
Genesis Rental Funeral	\$ 200.00
Donation	\$1,000.00
Total:	\$ 4,064.00
Bible Class:	21
	\$ 15.00

12/14/2022	
Mid-Week 3 Advent	23
Plate:	\$ 65.00
Envelopes:	\$ 210.00
Total:	\$ 275.00

12/18/2022	
Sunday Worship	50
Plate	\$ 91.00
Envelopes	\$ 1,203.00
Turkey Fund	\$ 105.00
Total:	\$ 1,399.00
Bible Class:	23
	\$ 43.00

SERVE THE LORD WITH FEAR,
 AND REJOICE WITH TREMBLING.
 KISS THE SON,
 LEST HE BE ANGRY,
 AND YOU PERISH IN THE WAY,
 FOR HIS WRATH IS QUICKLY KINDLED.
 BLESSED ARE ALL
 WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.
 PSALM 2:11-12

New Year's Day Service (Circumcision and Name of Jesus)

Readings:

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 2:21

The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us in the Flesh

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples “of all the nations,” so that “all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.” The Lord has “bared his holy arm” in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:7, 10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only begotten Son of the Father, “whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world” (Heb. 1:2). As “all things were made through him” (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold “the radiance of the glory of God” (Heb. 1:3), “glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	December Sunday Servants:	January Servants:
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	D. Jackson & L. Marchant	BJ Neuhaus & M. Perez
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)	
Usher:	Dan Wehling	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Circumcision and Name of Jesus (New Year's Day)	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am