

**FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 3, 2023

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes, Texas 78570**

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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor

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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/](http://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

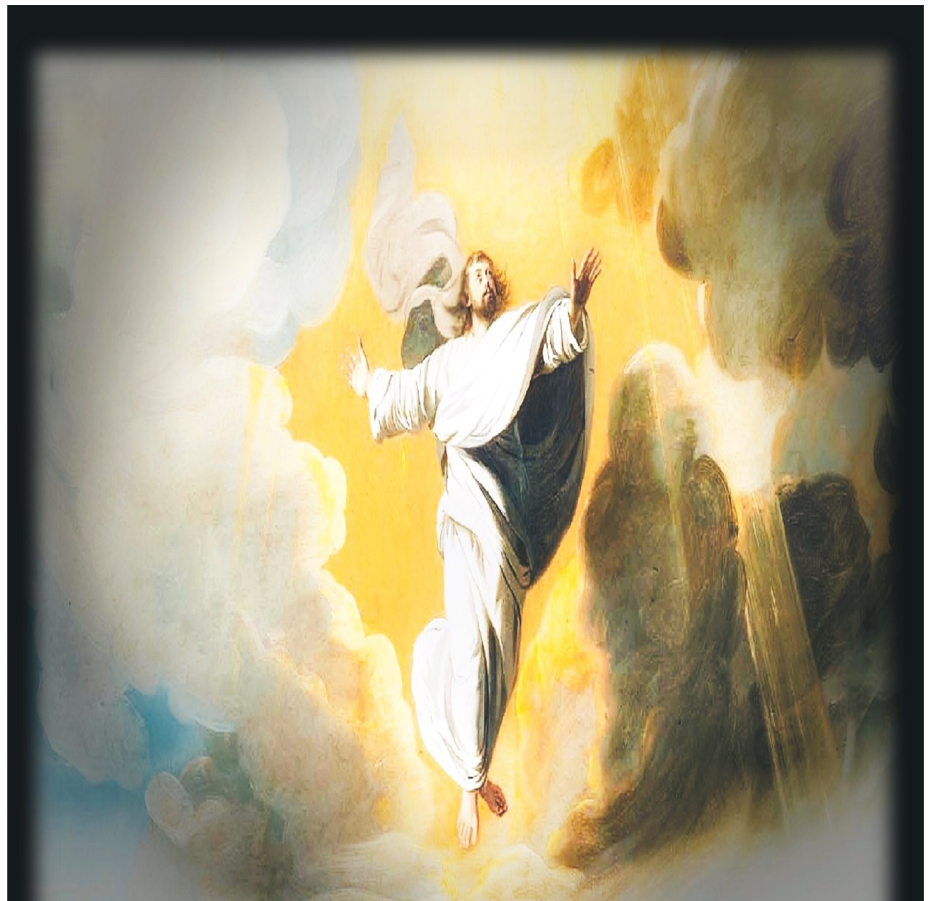
Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510



AND THEN THEY WILL SEE

THE SON OF MAN COMING

IN CLOUDS WITH GREAT

POWER AND GLORY.

Mark 13:26

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 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.

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.

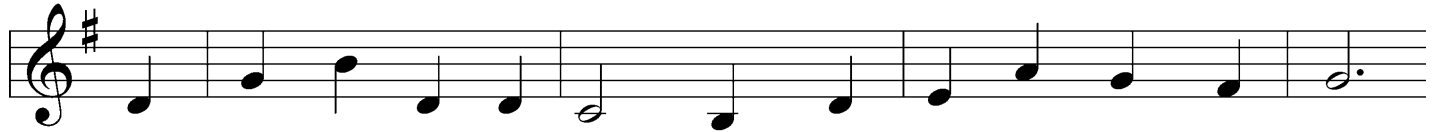
A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to me as I wait for Your revealing. Protect me by Your hand that I may be rescued from the guilt of my sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until the arrival of that glorious Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting that He has redeemed us by His cross and resurrection. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

WELCOME

PRELUDE *(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)*

OPENING HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* **LSB 515**



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text and tune: Public domain

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 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt*

P See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

C In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

P I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

C No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

P See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

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 to us as we wait for Your arrival. Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 64:1-9*

(“Behold, please look, we are all Your people.”)

1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—2 As fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil—to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence! 3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, the mountains shook at Your presence. 4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. 5 You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed angry, for we have sinned—in these ways we continue; and we need to be saved. 6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE 5

us away. 7 And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us, and have consumed us because of our iniquities. 8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand. 9 Do not be furious, O Lord, nor remember iniquity forever; indeed, please look—we all are Your people!

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; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

C Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!

P Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up Your strength, and come and save us!

C Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

P O Lord God of hosts, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people?

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

P You have made us a strife to our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

(We wait for Jesus, who sustains us and takes our guilt away.)

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of

Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

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

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

28 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! 30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

32 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE ⁷

sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

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

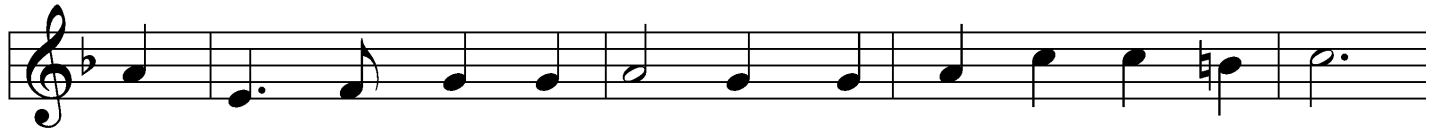
HYMN OF THE DAY *If God Himself Be for Me* LSB 724; vs 1-2,4-6, 10



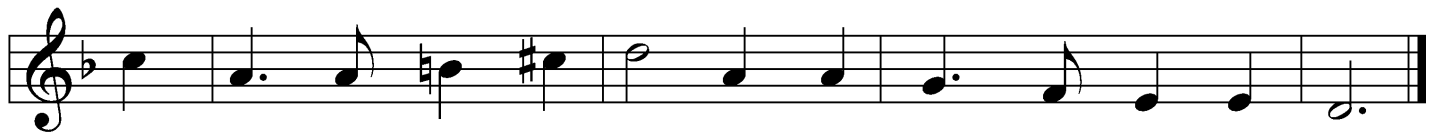
1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood
4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, De - liv - ered me from death;
5 For no one can con - demn me Or set my hope a - side;



For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.
A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.
He is the Lord who cleans - es My soul from sin through faith.
Now hell no more can claim me: Its fu - ry I de - ride.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,
With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;
In Him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;
No sen - tence now re - proves me, No guilt de - stroys my peace;



What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?
The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.
In Him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.
For Christ, my Sav - ior, loves me And shields me with His grace.

6 Who clings with resolution

To Him whom Satan hates
Must look for persecution;
For him the burden waits
Of mock'ry, shame, and losses
Heaped on his blameless head;
A thousand plagues and crosses
Will be his daily bread.

10 My heart with joy is springing;

I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing;
Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit
Makes me rejoice and sing.

SERMON *"Jesus' faithful work to confirm you blameless to the end!"*

(1 Corinthians 1:8)

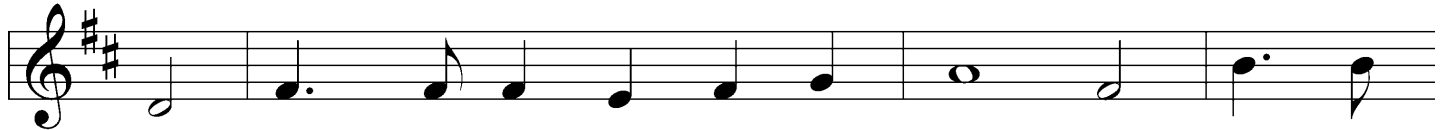
OFFERING

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OFFERTORY

May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

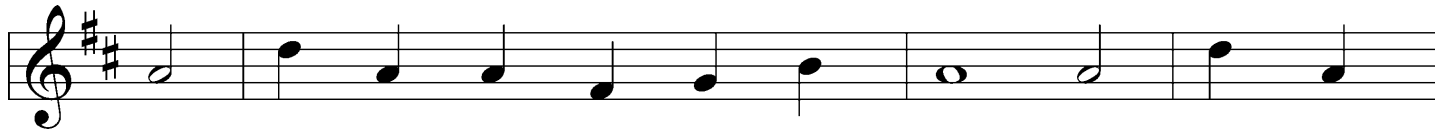
LSB 698



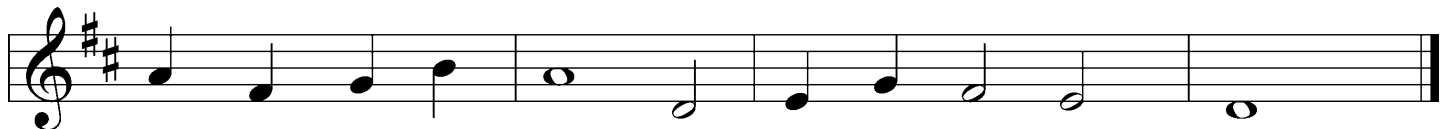
1 May we Thy pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill And do on
2 So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace a -
3 Spir - it of life, of love and peace, U - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will As an - gels do a - bove;
dore, Thy pow'r con - fess, From sin and strife to flee.
hearts, our joy in - crease, Thy gra - cious help sup - ply.



Still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, With all Thy
One is our call - ing, one our name, The end of
To each of us the bless - ing give In Chris - tian



chil - dren and o - bey The law of Chris - tian love.
all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.
fel - low - ship to live, In joy - ful hope to die.

and tune: Public domain

Text

SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

(Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we wait in hope for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His Advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your goodness and mercy that follow us all the days of our lives. You are our God;

we are Your people. You have purchased and won us from sin and death by the sacrifice of Your Son upon the cross and by His rising from the grave. As He now sits at Your right hand, exalted over all things, we wait expectantly for the Day of His revealing. We wait in hope for the Lord!

C He is our help and our shield.

P Mighty King and loving Savior, we thank You for the authority You have over all things in heaven and on earth. To a world in disarray and for a people filled with despair, You alone offer hope, peace, and certainty that all things are in Your hands. Help us to trust in You, Lord Jesus, even as we wait for the redemption You will provide on the Day You come again to judge the living and the dead. Bless the land in which we live and all those who serve for the benefit of us all. Be present in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces that Your provision be known to all. We wait in hope for the Lord!

C He is our help and our shield.

P Healer of the broken and sustainer of the weary, grant the comfort of Your Holy Spirit to all who are suffering in heart, body, mind, and spirit. Remind those who are downtrodden that they are never alone, and use us as Your people to reach out in care and compassion to those in our family, our community, and within this congregation who need Your healing mercies, [especially . . .]. We wait in hope for the Lord!

C He is our help and our shield.

P Lord Jesus, we are Your waiting, expectant, hope-filled people. We anticipate the Day of Your revealing when Your saving work will be fully complete and when You renew and restore all things in heaven and on earth. Until that glorious Day, help us to rely upon Your grace alone, which declares us guiltless in Your sight through faith in Your promises. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, "We wait in hope for the Lord!"

C He is our help and our shield.

P Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into Your merciful hands, for You, O Father, live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

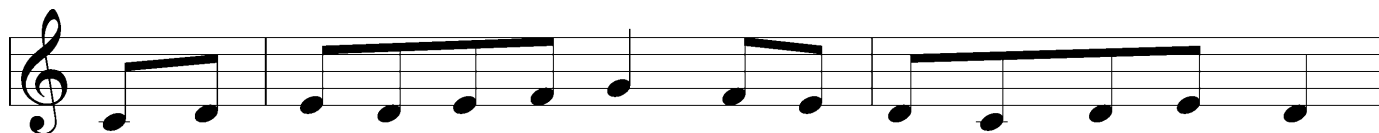
C We lift them to the Lord.

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, for whose arrival we expectantly wait. With the crowds who cry, "Hosanna!" we humble ourselves before Him as the King who comes to save us from sin and redeem our lives for eternity. 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;



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for the mercy You show us in Jesus Christ, Your Son and our King. As we remember His death and resurrection and await His final coming, prepare our hearts to receive the redemption He provides through His body that is given and His blood that is shed for the forgiveness of sins. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Hear us as we pray in His holy name and in the timeless words He has taught us

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.**

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."

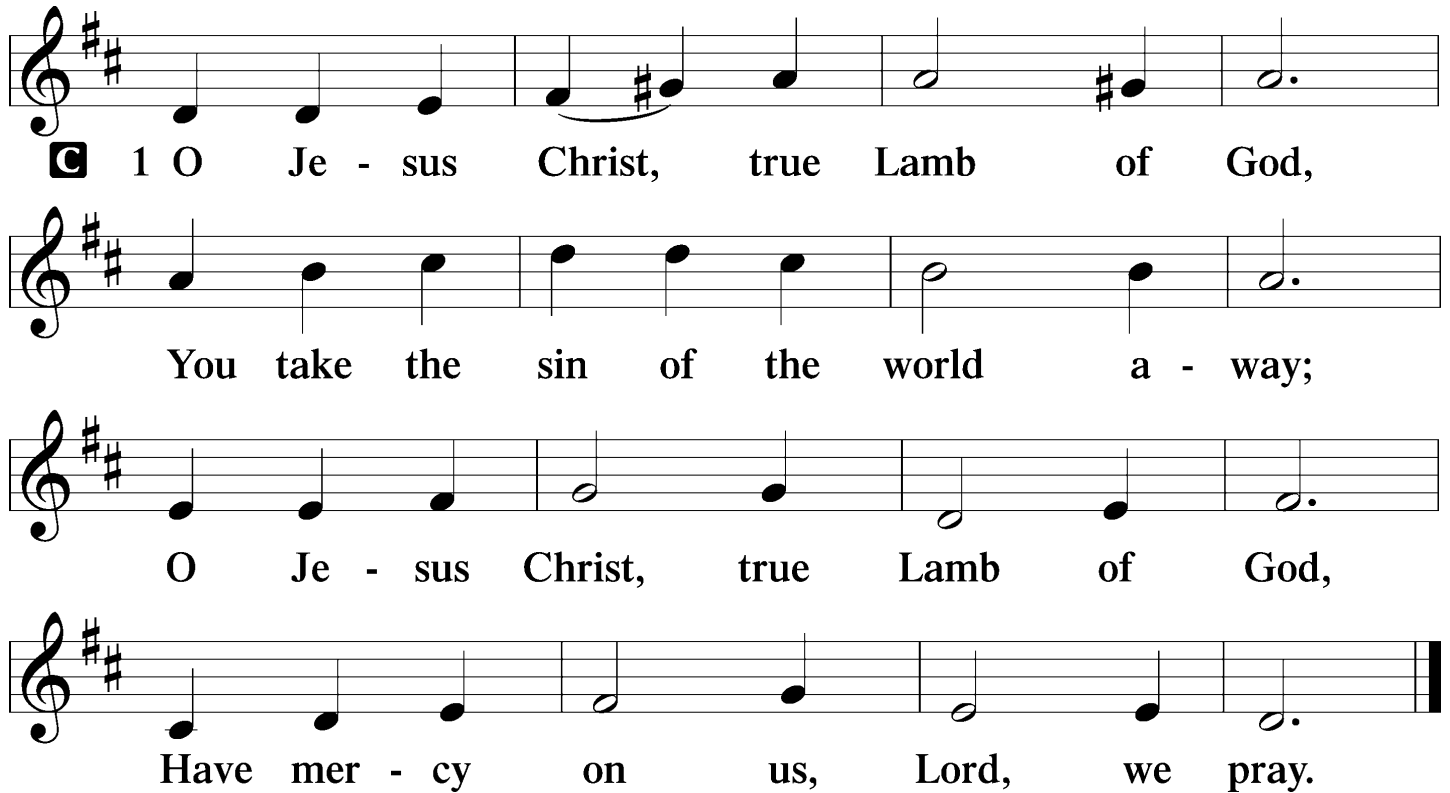
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
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.



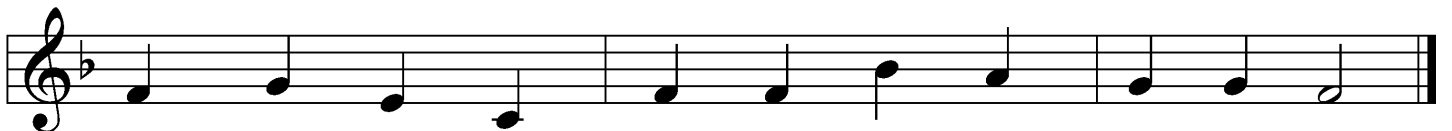
1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror,

Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005188 Tune: Public domain

Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of waiting that, on the Day of His arrival, we may rejoice forever as those You have redeemed; 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

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

LSB 919



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun-teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

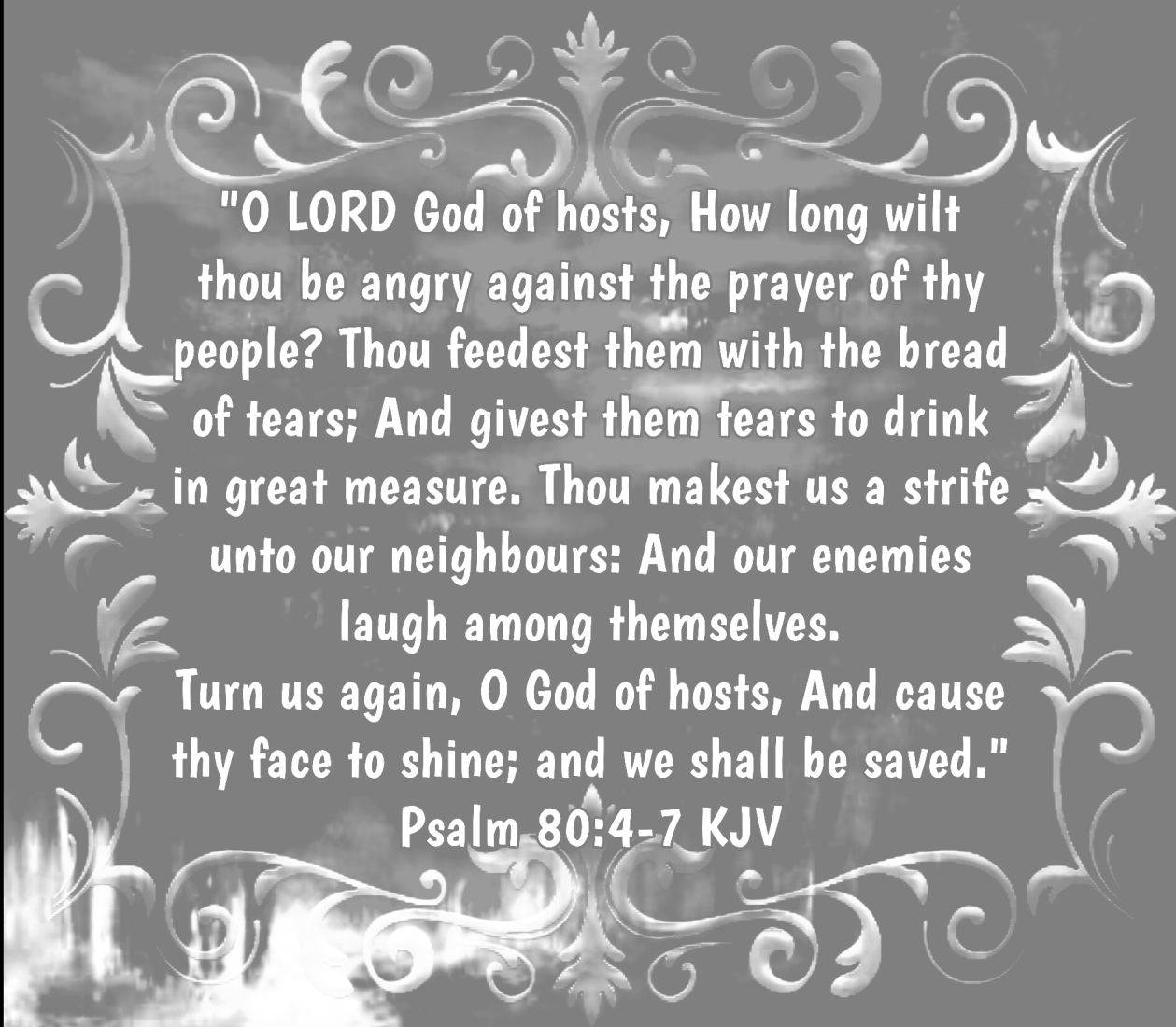
Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

A decorative border of white scrollwork and floral patterns frames the text. The background is a dark, atmospheric image of a cloudy sky with a bright light source breaking through the clouds at the bottom.

"O LORD God of hosts, How long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people? Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; And givest them tears to drink in great measure. Thou makest us a strife unto our neighbours: And our enemies laugh among themselves.

Turn us again, O God of hosts, And cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved."

Psalm 80:4-7 KJV

Memory Verse Challenge

*This week's memory verse: **Jeremiah 23:5-6***

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch... In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for October to December 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

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

December Activities

Sign-up Sheet for Advent Soup Supper is on the kitchen island.

See page 17 for Advent and Christmas/New Year's Services

Mercedes Christmas Parade
with our school float (Super Heroes)
Friday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m., down town

Christmas Around the World (School Project)
Saturday, December 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
followed by Chalupa games. (\$15 for 3 cards)

LWML Women's Retreat
Meant for Good: A Study of Joseph
January 26-27, 2024 at the Harlingen Convention Center.
January 26th from 6-9 pm & January 27th from 9 am - 6 pm
for complete information see flyer in the
Narthex, Social Hall or go by the office.
Cost: \$90.00 (includes Saturday's lunch)
Last day to register is December 30, 2023





Advent and Christmas Events

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.

The Lord Jesus Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us

Although we pray that God “would rend the heavens and come down” (Is. 64:1), that He would take vengeance against our enemies, we ourselves “have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment” (Is. 64:6). We have continued in our sins for “a long time, and shall we be saved?” (Is. 64:5). Yet, the Lord does not punish us in anger. He comes in voluntary meekness and humility to save us by His grace. Just as He once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4–8), He still comes to His Church with the fruits of His Passion. By His ministry of the Gospel, we are “enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge,” and so He will “sustain you to the end” (1 Cor. 1:5, 8). Although “heaven and earth will pass away,” His words “will not pass away” (Mark 13:31). As He sends disciples to call us to Himself in the fellowship of His Church, so will He “send out the angels” to gather us and all of His elect “from the ends of the earth” to Himself in heaven forever (Mark 13:27).

<p style="text-align: center;">11/26/2023</p> <p>Sunday Worship 53</p> <p>Plate: \$.00</p> <p>Envelopes: \$.00</p> <p>On-line Donation:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block; margin: 10px auto;"> Available Later </div> <p style="text-align: right;">Total: \$.00</p> <p>Bible Class: 18 \$ 12.00</p>	<p><i>Second Sunday in Advent</i></p> <p><i>Readings:</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i></p> <p><i>Psalm 85</i></p> <p><i>2 Peter 3:8-14</i></p> <p><i>Mark 1:1-8</i></p>
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Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
December Sunday Servants:		
Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson/Lorri Marchant	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	First Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	Second Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
24	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am