

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 5, 2021

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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Mercedes
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**Immanuelmercedes
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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

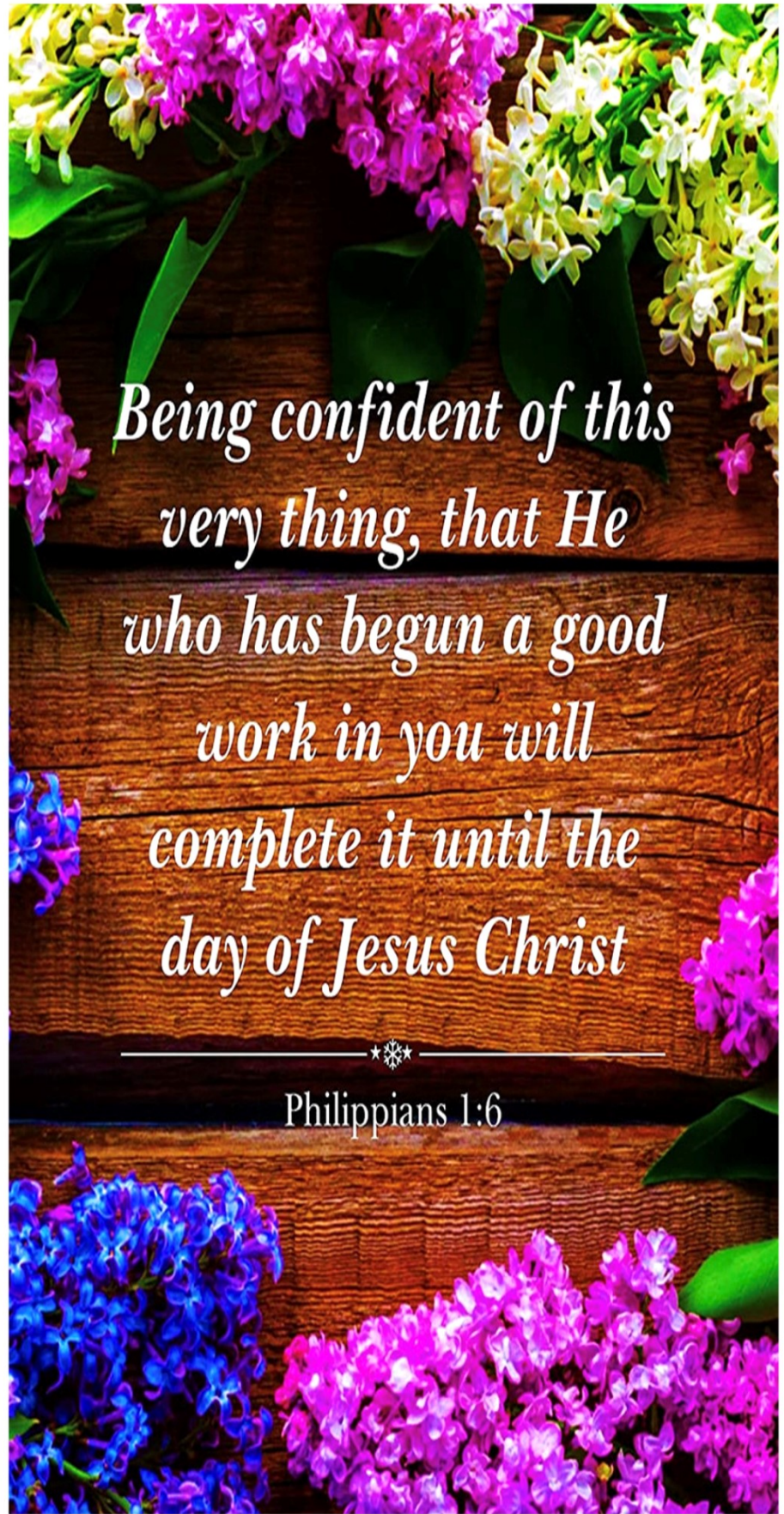
10:30 a.m.

**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**



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 5, 2021

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 - You are in our midst, mighty to save. You rejoice over me as our loving Father. When I wonder if Jesus is truly the One, You come to me in Your Word and refresh my soul. When I wander from You, You remain strong and never give up on me, coming to me again and again in Word and Sacrament. Fill me with joy in You, that my life radiates Your goodness to all the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Preparing for Christmas, we buy presents, attend social gatherings, decorate, make plans to gather with family, and some will brace for the pain of grief that can be so difficult this time of year. In the middle of all our

preparing, today the voice of John the Baptist rings out, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Undergirding all the preparing we are doing is preparing for the Lord. John calls us to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” In worship, we do just that. We repent. We turn again to God, seeking His mercy, receiving His forgiveness, partaking of His grace. This leads to bearing the fruit of the Spirit. John highlights the fruit of generosity and contentment. What fruit is God calling you to bear as you prepare for Christmas?

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

PAGE 203

WELCOME

PRELUDE

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

OPENING HYMN

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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Please stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Two Advent candles are lit.

P Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Malachi 3:1–7b*

(Malachi declares the coming of a messenger, which would be fulfilled in John the Baptist.)

1 “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.

2 “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness. 4 “Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years. 5 And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien—because they do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts. 6 “For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. 7 Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.

“But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 66:1–12; antiphon: v. 12b*

P You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

C Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

P sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

C Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.

P All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

C Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

P He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

C There did we rejoice in Him, who rules by His might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations— let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

P Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

C who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

P For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.

C You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

P You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy

Continued on next page 7

Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:2–11*

(Paul encourages that the Church be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.)

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

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)*

(John the Baptist urges everyone to repent, and he points to Jesus.)

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

C Glory to You , O Lord.

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10 So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then?” 11 He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” 12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”

14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

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

How Can I Thank You, Lord

LSB 703



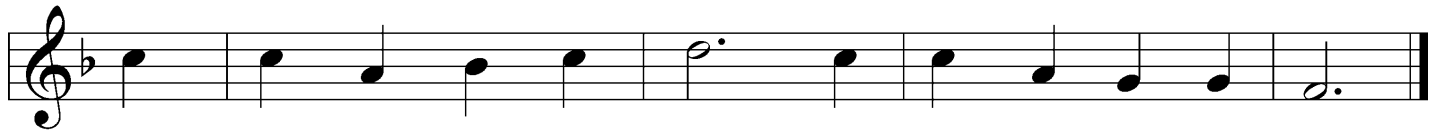
1 How can I thank You, Lord, For all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
2 It is Your work a - lone That I am now con - vert - ed;
3 Lord, You have raised me up To joy and ex - ul - ta - tion
4 Grant that Your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways giv - en



That You have pa - tient - ly Borne with me in my blind - ness!
 O'er Sa - tan's work in me You have Your pow'r as - sert - ed.
 And clear - ly shown the way That leads me to sal - va - tion.
 Lest I should fall a - gain And lose the way to heav - en.



When dead in man - y sins And tres - pass - es I lay,
 Your mer - cy and Your grace That rise a - fresh each morn
 My sins are washed a - way; For this I thank You, Lord.
 Grant that He give me strength In my in - fir - mi - ty;



I kin - dled, ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.
 Have turned my ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.
 Now with my heart and soul All e - vil I ab - hor.
 May He re - new my heart To serve You will - ing - ly.



O Father, God of love,
 Now hear my supplication;
 O Savior, Son of God,
 Accept my adoration;
 O Holy Spirit, be
 My ever faithful guide
 That I may serve You here
 And there with You abide.

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SERMON *“Thanking God for your fellowship in the Gospel of Jesus”*
 (Philippians 1:5)

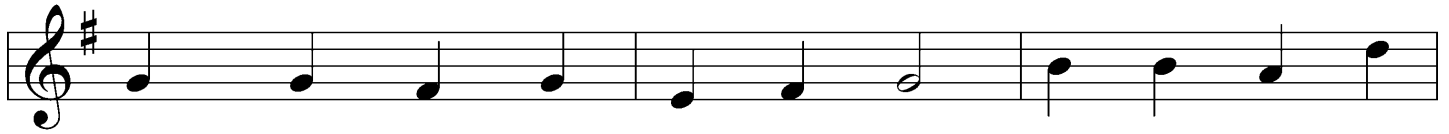
OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

"Peace be with you"

(John 20:21)

[using ASL (American Sign Language)]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming,
we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

P O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the
world to repent—to turn each day to You, confessing our

sins and being restored by You to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to bear fruits in keeping with repentance. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who

travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Lord of might, empower us to hear the words of John the Baptist afresh today. Lead us to repent of those things that hinder our trust in You and fill us by the Holy Spirit to bear much fruit. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C hear us, coming Lord.

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

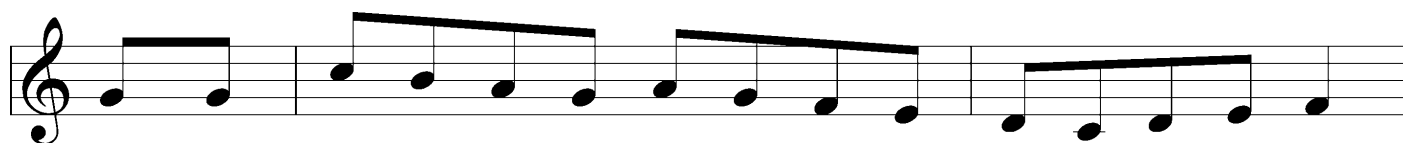
SANCTUS



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;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Thank You, Lord of all creation, for this gift of our Lord's Supper, by which You prepare us to journey through those wilderness times of our life assured of Your presence and promise. We thank You. We praise You. We adore You. 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.**

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.**

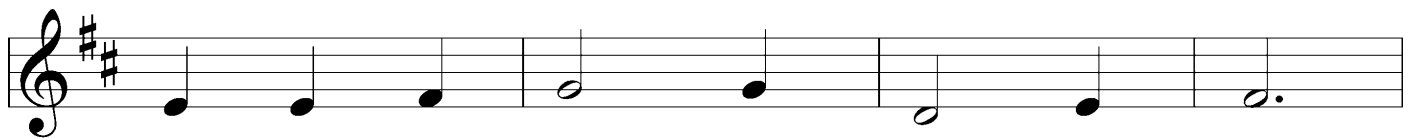
AGNUS DEI



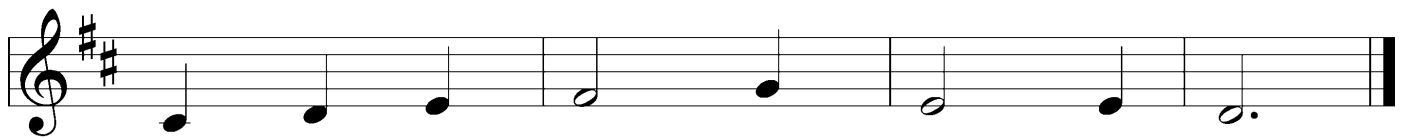
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
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.

THE DISTRIBUTION



Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Thank You, Lord, for this gift of Christ's body and blood. Prepare our hearts by this great gift to love You and to serve our neighbor; 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.

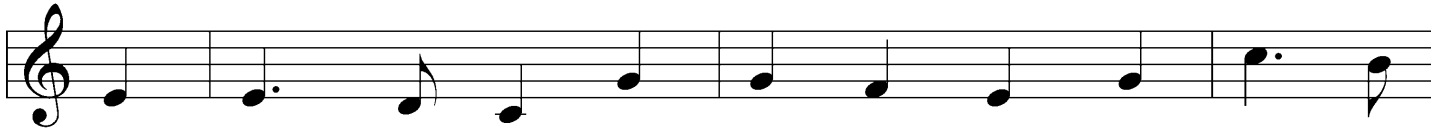
C Amen.

Please sit

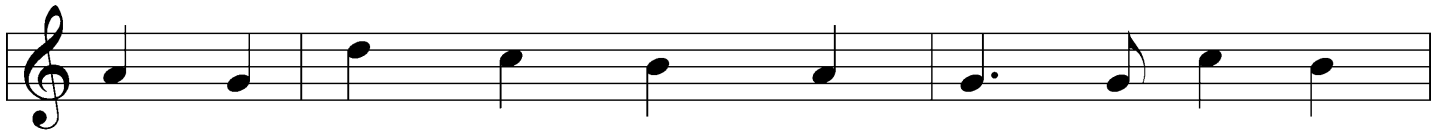
SENDING HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord.!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Advent Midweek Sermon Series:
“God’s People Prepare for Christmas”

5:00 p.m. Soup Supper

Please join us. We’d love to taste your favorite soup. Please sign up to share your soup!

6:00 p.m. Service

(Pastor Goetz will be preaching the first three Midweek Advent series sermons and Pastor Weber the fourth.)

- December 1st -“People of the Old Testament Prepare for Christmas”**
December 8th -“Elizabeth Prepares for Christmas”
December 15th -“Joseph Prepares for Christmas”
December 22nd -“Mary Prepares for Christmas”

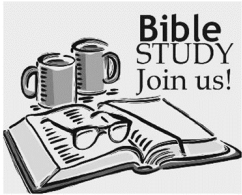
Christmas Eve Service
December 24th @ 6 p.m.

New Year’s Eve Service
December 31st @ 6:00 p.m.

From Pastor's Desk

Portals of Prayer

October to December 2021 are available in the Narthrex or office.



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

Rev. Goetz is leading the class.

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

This week's memory verse: *Isaiah 53:6*

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Welcome
BaCK!**

Winter Texans

11/24/2021

Mid-Week Advent 1

Worship

19

Plate:

\$ 20.00

Envelopes:

\$ 410.00

Total:

\$ 430.00

Reminder!!!

Dec. 7th, 2021

1. Elders' Meeting

9:00 a.m.

and

**2. Special Church Council
Budget/Nominating Meeting**

7:30 p.m.

The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of the Lord

The preaching and Baptism “of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3) prepare us for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The historic work of John the Baptist was completed with the first advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, but the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of Law and Gospel and in Holy Baptism. Through His messengers, the Lord calls people of all nations to “see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:6). Our haughtiness is removed and our mountains of pride are brought low, but the Lord humbles us in order to exalt us in His mercy. As the Lord has begun this good work of repentance in us, so also does He perfect it by His Word and Holy Spirit, and He “will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). He purifies us to be His priestly people, precious in His sight and abounding in faith and love, so that we offer our very lives in righteousness to the Lord (Mal. 3:3–4).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule	
	December Sunday Servants	
Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	Donna Jackson & Lori Marchant	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This Week	<i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
Next Week	<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am