

**SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 6, 2020

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



**703 W 3RD Street
Mercedes**

Texas 78570

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**Immanuelmercedes
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**Rev. Ed Weber,
Pastor**

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eweber10@aol.com

Website:

lutheranmercedes.com

Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

**Adult Bible Class
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

**www.facebook.com/
Lutheranmercedes/**

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs, M-F

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

CCLI # 2585510



**“John came baptizing in the
wilderness and preaching
a baptism of repentance
for the remission of sins.”**

(Mark 1:4)

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020**

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 my heart by Your mighty Word and Spirit, O Lord, that I may be prepared to receive Your gifts of life and salvation through the forgiveness of my sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - What was it that made not only a couple or a few but, as Mark says, "all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem" come out to be baptized by the Baptist and to confess their sins? Well, what is it that made you get up and come to church today? Notice that today not all do come. Though occasionally during wartime or some great catastrophe more tend to come, the catechism explains, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him." "But," it continues, "the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel." Some think believing is impossible for them. But believing is not on you; it is a gift from God, overflowing with forgiveness, life, and salvation. God was with John by the Jordan River. God is here with you by His Word and Sacraments.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

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WELCOME

PRELUDE

Puer Nobis

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

OPENING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
▲ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
2



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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▲ 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.**

▲ **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.

[Light two candles on the Advent wreath during the singing of the following stanza.]

▲ **HYMN**

We Light the Advent Candle

Sts. 1-2

We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

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+ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** +

▲ **INTROIT** *Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

P Restore us, O God; 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 You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
C And caused it to take deep root, and it filled the land.
P Restore us, O God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!
P Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

▲ **KYRIE**



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

▲ SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

▲ 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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

(Comfort for God's people)

1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 The voice said, "Cry out!" and he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." 9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 85; antiphon: v. 9

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C **Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.**

P You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin.

C **You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.**

P Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.

C Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

P Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

C Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

P I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

C Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

P Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.

C Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

P Yes, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase.

C Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.

P Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(Children remain seated)*

EPISTLE *2 Peter 3:8-14*

(The day of the Lord will come.)

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

▲ HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:1-8*

(John the Baptist prepares the way.)

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

C Glory to You , O Lord.

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way

before You.” 3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ” 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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.





1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
 Shines in glory through the night.
 Darkness there no more resides;
 In this light faith now abides.

▲ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

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SERMON *“The Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and it’s Great Beginning in You!”*

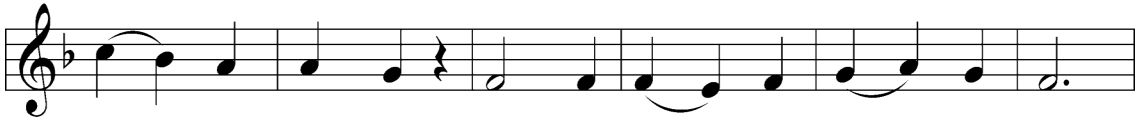
(Mark 1:1)

OFFERING (Please place your offering in the offering plate as you leave.)

OFFERTORY *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* **LSB 940**



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,



All in heav’n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav’n to faith.

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▲ **SHARING OF THE PEACE** *“Peace be with you”* (John 20:21)
 {Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language)}

▲ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, we give thanks this day for calling us and the whole world to repentance and faith by Your holy prophets, by Your servant John the Baptist, and by Your own Son, whose Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens everyone through His mighty Word and Sacraments. Grant that we and all who hear His voice remain faithful in the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Continue to give Your blessing, power, and grace to Your Church, especially all pastors and servants You have called and given to guard, feed, and teach Your flock. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give stability to our country, supplying all who make, administer, and judge our laws with wisdom and goodwill toward all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bless the schools of the Church and all centers of learning and research that those who teach would serve You honorably and that our common life be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P By Your Word and Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, [especially . . .]. Support all who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near, [especially . . .]. Give Your tender care to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remembering those who have loved and served You who now rest from their labors, we give You thanks. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our 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 from 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



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;



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

▲ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

▲ **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,
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.

THE DISTRIBUTION



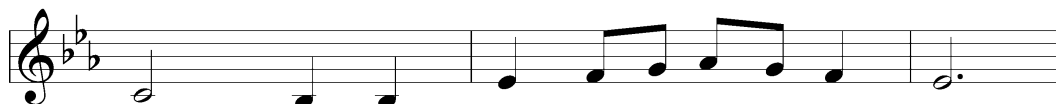
▲ NUNC DIMITTIS



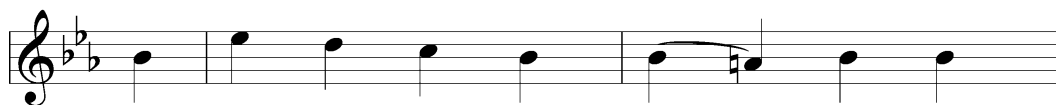
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



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. 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 pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; 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

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure. And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Advent, Christmas, & New Year Activities



Sunday	November 29th	1st Sunday in Advent Service	9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
Wednesday	December 2nd	Midweek 1 Advent Service	Soup Supper 5 p.m. Service 6 p.m.
*Sunday	December 6th	2nd Sunday in Advent Service	9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
*Wednesday	December 9th	Midweek 2 Advent Service	Soup Supper 5 p.m. Service 6 p.m.
*Sunday	December 13th	3rd Sunday in Advent Service	9:00 a.m.
*Wednesday	December 16th	Midweek 3 Advent Service	Soup Supper 5 p.m. Service 6 p.m.
*Sunday	December 20th	4th Sunday in Advent Service	9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
*Thursday	December 24th	Christmas Eve Service	6:00 p.m.
*Thursday	December 31st	New Year's Eve Service	6:00 p.m.



Memory Verse Challenge

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

This week's memory verse: Isaiah 30:15

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."

You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Coming of the Lord

“The gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1) begins when John the Baptist appears and comes “proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Mark 1:4). As the prophet Isaiah had written, John is the messenger of the Lord, sent before His face to prepare His way. To this day, the ministry of the forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By these ways and means, “the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Is. 40:5), and the Good Shepherd “will gather the lambs in his arms” (Is. 40:11). He speaks “tenderly to Jerusalem,” and He comforts His people by pardoning their iniquity (Is. 40:1-2). What is more, He promises “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Repent, therefore, and humble yourself as you wait for His coming in peace (2 Peter 3:14), because He “is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

11/29/2020		<p><i>Third Sunday in Advent</i></p> <p><i>Readings:</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</i></p> <p><i>Psalms 126</i></p> <p><i>I Thessalonians 5:16-24</i></p> <p><i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i></p>
Sunday Worship	25	
Plate:	\$ 85.00	
Envelopes:	\$ 1,013.00	
Donation:		
Total:	\$ 1,098.00	
Bible Class:	18 \$ 13.00	

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