

MID-WEEK 2
ADVENT SERVICE
DECEMBER 9, 2020

IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor
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Sunday

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 am

Adult Bible Class

Sunday School

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

Website:

lutheranmercedes.com

FACEBOOK:

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

Office Hrs, M-F
8:00 am to 12:00 pm
CCLI # 2585510



**"Jesus said to them,
"Most assuredly,
I say to you,
before Abraham was,
I AM."
John 8:58**

**Mid-Week 2 Advent Service
December 9, 2020**

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors here today. 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.

AS WE GATHER As we continue to consider Matthew's genealogical history of Jesus, we focus today on His ancestor Abraham. When He called Abraham, at first it seemed that God was promising only the physical Promised Land. But then the Lord said that Abraham would be the father of many nations, all who would share his faith. And their inheritance is a better land, the heavenly promised land itself. By the grace of God, that gracious promise is ours through our Baptism into Christ, who leads us to that better country. Come quickly, Son of Abraham.

OPENING HYMN *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord* **LSB 352**



1	Let	the	earth	now	praise	the	Lord,	Who	has	tru	-	ly				
2	What	the	Fa	-	thers	most	de	-	sired,	What	the	proph	-	ets'		
3	A	-	bram's	prom	-	ised	great	re	-	ward,	Zi	-	on's	help	-	er,
4	As	Your	com	-	ing	was	in	peace,	Qui	-	et,	full	of			



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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+ VESPERS +

P The Lord promised Abram, "I will bless those who bless you,
C and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

P Paul reminds us that Abraham's faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

C "It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus."

P Jesus said, "Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day.

C He saw it and was glad."

PSALM

Psalm 105:1–11, 42–45; antiphon: v. 42

P This psalm rejoices that God kept His promise to give Abraham the land—and that He remembers His everlasting covenants.

He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant. Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

C Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!

P Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

C Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

P Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

C O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

P He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

C He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,

P the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac,

C which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

P saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

C For He remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.

P So He brought His people out with joy, His chosen ones with singing.

C And He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,

P that they might keep His statutes and observe His laws.

C Praise the LORD!

P He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the hearts of
3 O A - bram's son, the na - tions' King, To Thee the faith - ful

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di - vi - sions cease,
trib - ute bring. Our sins for - giv'n e - ter - nal - ly,

Refrain
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And be Thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!
A bet - ter land in heav'n we see.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-7

P The Lord promises then-Abram that through him all the nations of the world will be blessed. A reading from Genesis, chapter 12.

1 Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:8-16

P People who share the faith of Abraham are only exiles on the earth; we seek a better country. A reading from Hebrews, chapter 11.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the

place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING *John 8:48–59*

P Faithful Abraham rejoiced to see the day when his promised son appeared in human history. A reading from John, chapter 8.

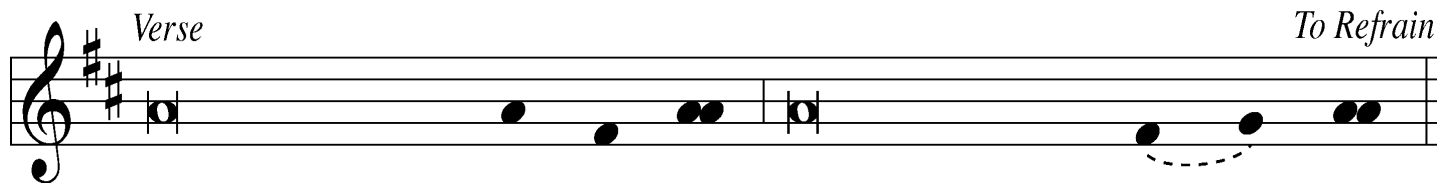
48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” 49 Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 And I do not seek My own glory; there

is One who seeks and judges. 51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” 52 Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ 53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” 54 Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. 55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” 57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” 59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

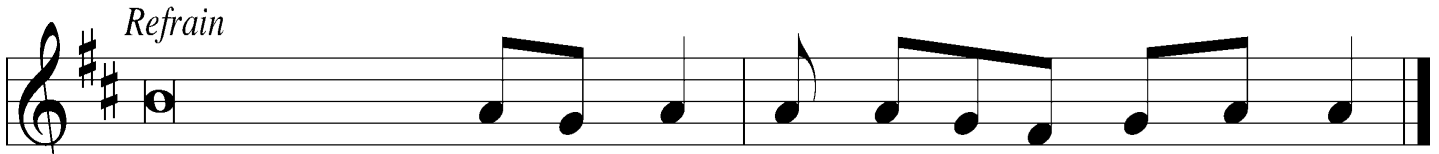
P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY *Based on Jeremiah 23:5–6; Acts 2:36; Luke 1:32–33*



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.





1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

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SERMON

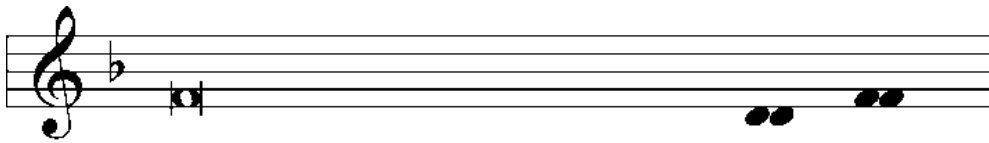
“Rejoice that You also see Jesus’ Day!”

(John 8:56)

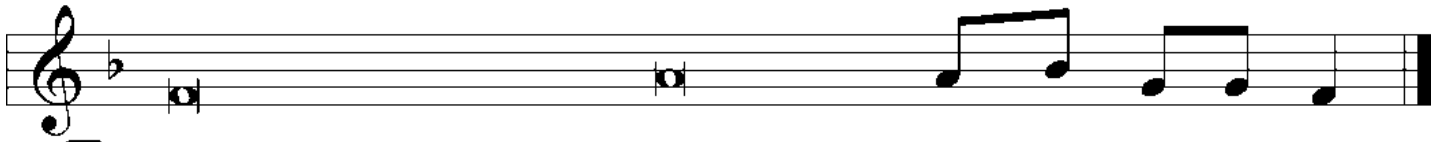
OFFERING

(Please place in offering plate as you leave)

CANTICLE

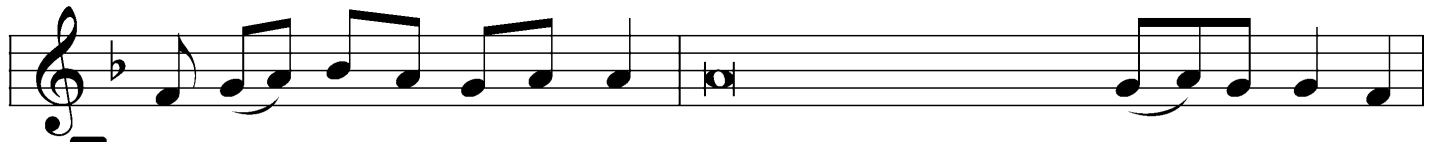


L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

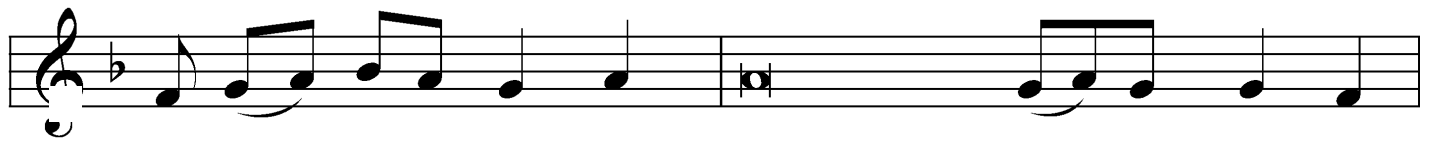


C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

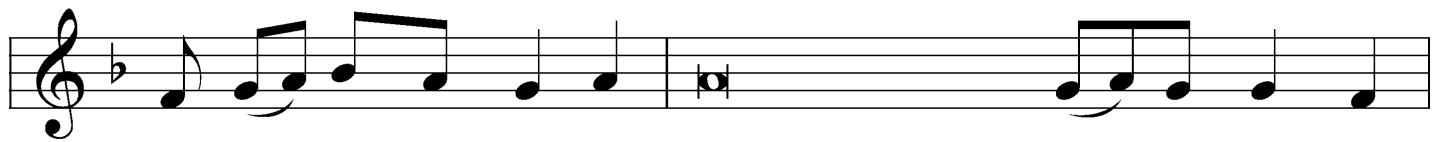
Magnificat



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



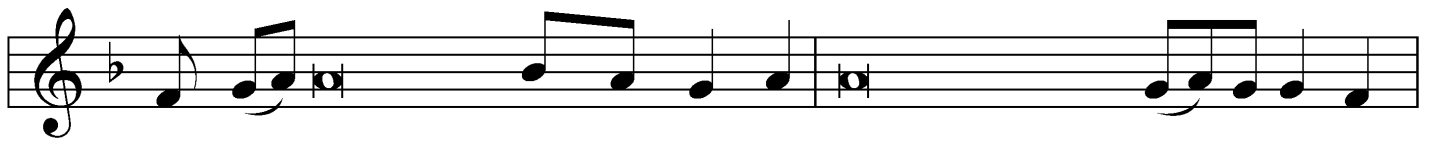
for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



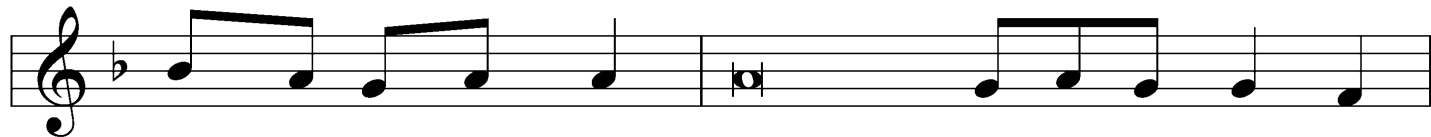
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



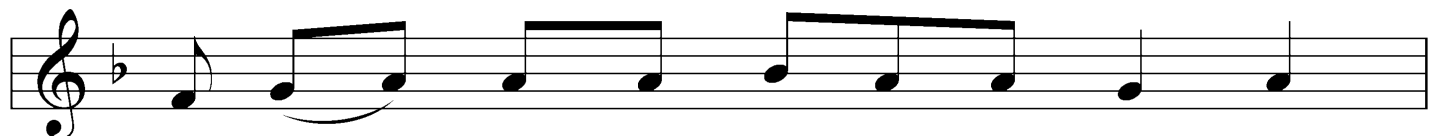
He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



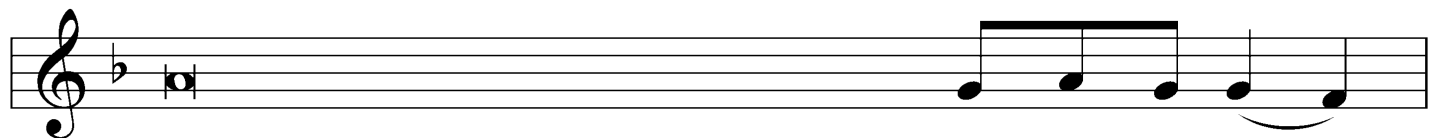
imagination of their hearts. [He has cast down the



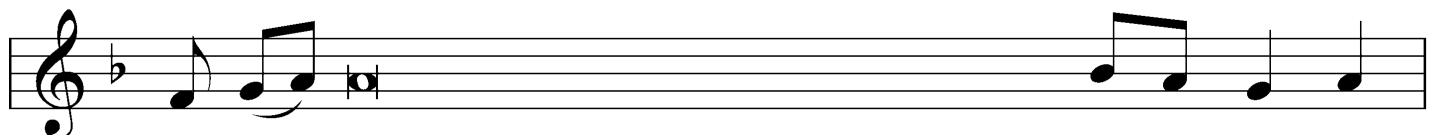
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



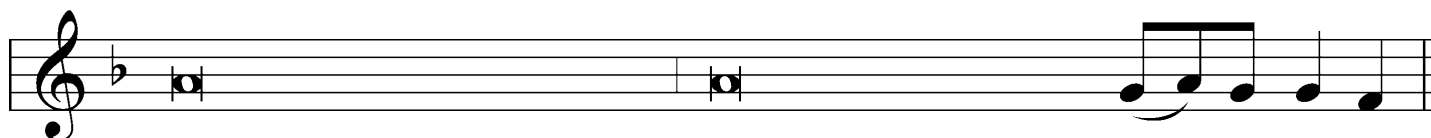
[He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



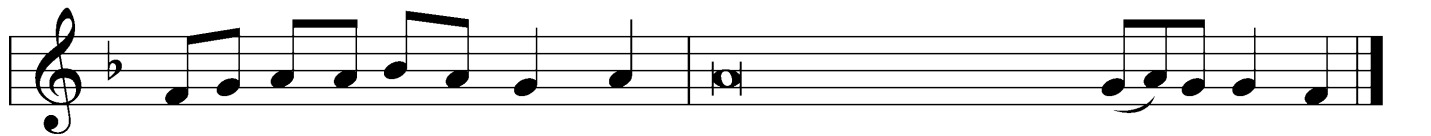
[He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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.**

COLLECTS

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

C hear our prayer.

P Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

C hear our prayer.

P Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught,

and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, You promised Your ancestor Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

C Strengthen the faith we share with him in Your gracious promises. Grant that during our sojourn on this earth we ever look toward the better country You have prepared for us.

P Son of Abraham,

C hear our prayer.

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

C that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

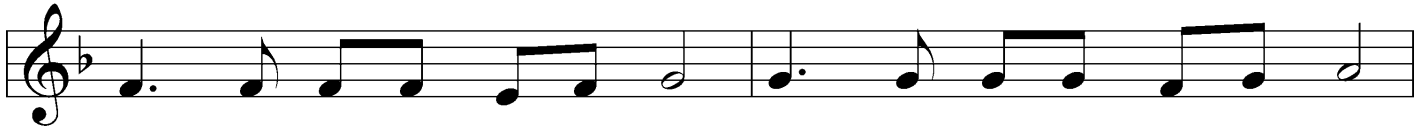
P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

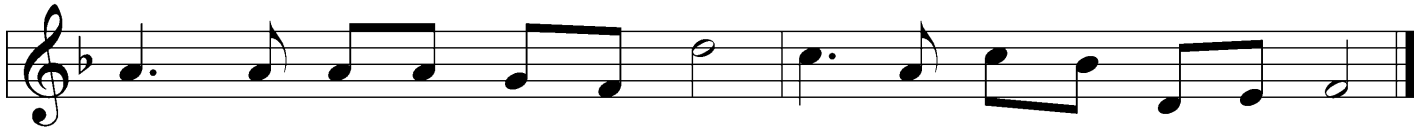
BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN*Now the Light Has Gone Away***LSB 887**

1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

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