

REFORMATION DAY

(observed)

October 25, 2026

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



Missouri Synod

703 W. Third St.
Mercedes, TX 78570
956-565-1518

Immanuelmercedes
@gmail.com

Rev. Ed Weber,
eweber10@aol.com
956-463-1305

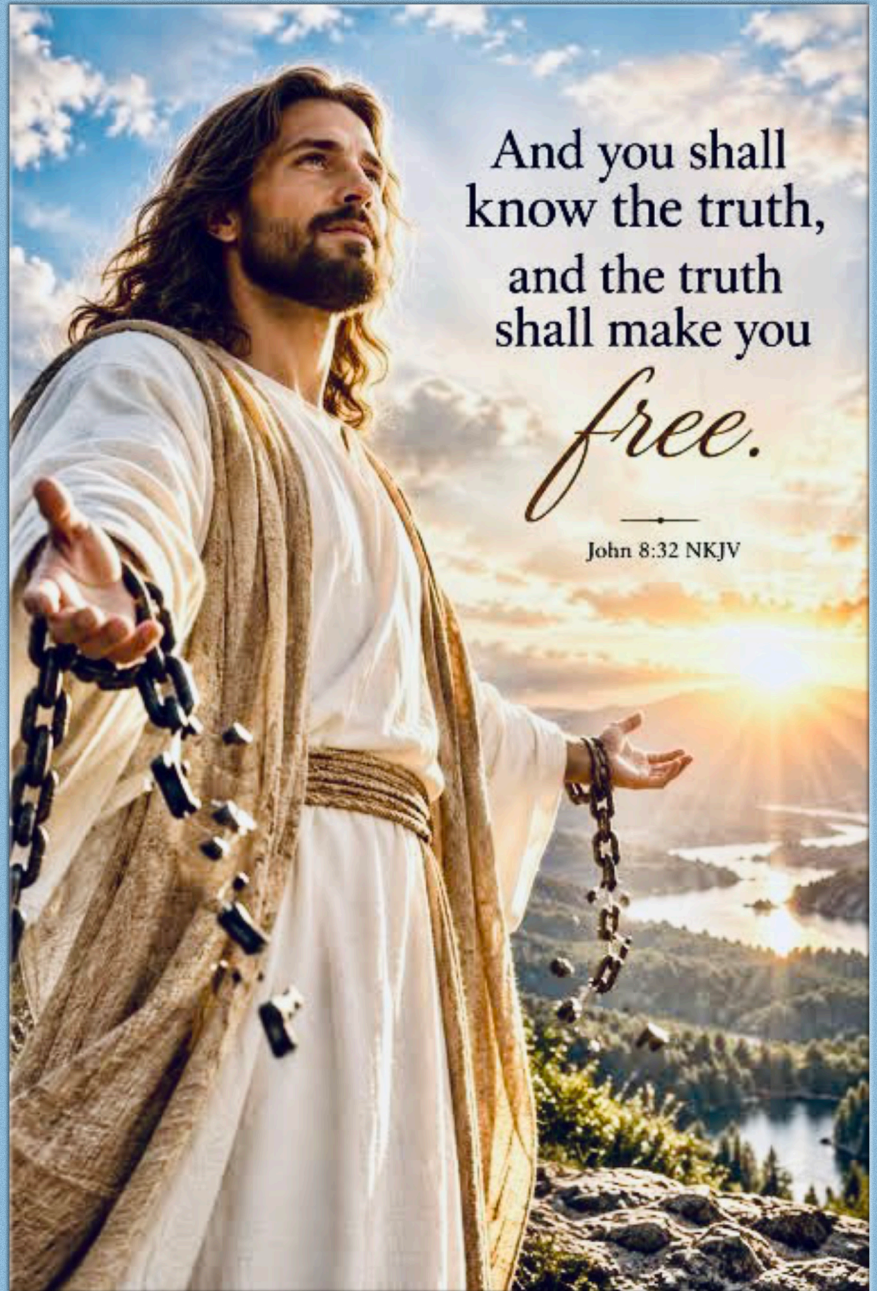
Sunday 9:00 AM
Worship Service

10:30 am
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School

Holy Communion:
Every Sunday

Website:
lutheranmercedes.com

Office Hrs, M-F
8am to noon



And you shall
know the truth,
and the truth
shall make you

free.

John 8:32 NKJV

REFORMATION DAY

October 25, 2026

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.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10; 1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you... this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32).

Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17–34.

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH - Eternal Son of the Father, You deliver slaves to sin into the kingdom of Your righteousness. Defeat my spiritual enemies and declare Your victory that I might walk in faith and freedom as one justified by grace; in Your name, O Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AS WE GATHER - Have you ever wondered what Lutherans are all about? Today is a great day to remind ourselves that the heart of our faith is simply the heart of Christianity itself— that our salvation from sin, death, and Satan is the work of Christ alone. He frees us from evil to love the Lord who loved us first and loves us still. The hallmarks of our faith came back into focus in the era of the reformers, when faithful leaders like Martin Luther put the truth of Holy Scripture back into the hands, minds, and mouths of God's church. Christ comes to free the sinner from slavery to darkness. Join Him in the freedom of His light— free to sing, free to confess, and free to share the eternal Gospel of Christ crucified and risen again!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

LSB 656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,

Continued on next page

dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none.
child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.
dom ours re - main - eth.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

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 34:1– 2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

P I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

C I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

P My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.

C Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

P The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

C I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

GLORIA PATRI



☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

KYRIE

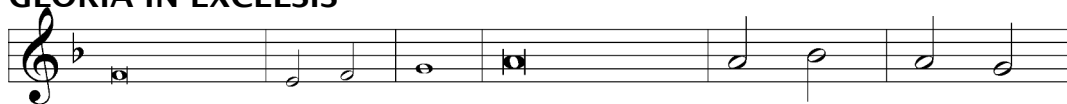


☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

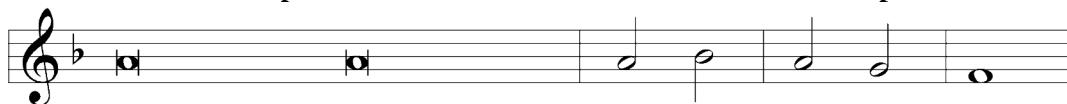
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



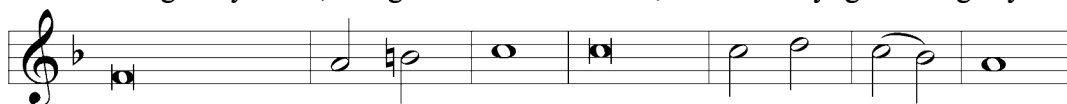
P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



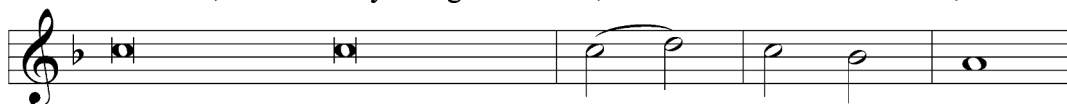
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



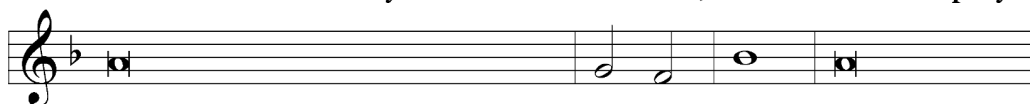
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

P Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

please sit

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-7

(John shares his vision of an everlasting, all-encompassing Gospel.)

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—
7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46; antiphon: v. 7

P The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

C God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

P Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

C Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.

P There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

C God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

P The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

C Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has made desolations in the earth.

P He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.

C Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

P The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19-28

(Paul declares the sinner is justified by grace through faith.)

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through

faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

please stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

(Christ announces Himself as the Son who gives freedom to sin's slaves.)

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eighth chapter,



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Before the Throne of God Above

LSB 574



1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2 My name is grav - en on His hands, My name is
3 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair, And tells me
4 Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, My sin - ful



strong, a per - fect plea: A great High Priest, whose name is
writ - ten on His heart; I know that while in heav'n He
of the guilt with - in, Up - ward I look, and see Him
soul is count - ed free; For God, the just, is sat - is -



Love, Who ev - er lives and pleads for me.
stands No tongue can bid me thence de - part.
there Who made an end of all my sin.
fied To look on Him and par - don me.

5 Behold Him there! The risen Lamb! My perfect, spotless righteousness,
The great unchangeable I AM, The King of glory and of grace!

6 At one with Him, I cannot die, My soul is purchased by His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high, With Christ, my Savior and my God.

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SERMON
OFFERING

“True Freedom” (John 8:31-32)
(Bell music - "A Mighty Fortress")

please stand

OFFERTORY

Create In Me

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

“Peace be with you”

[through use of American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Psalm 119:89-90

P: Forever, O LORD , Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

C: Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

P: And so we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, our refuge and strength, teach Your church not to fear but to trust Your unshakable promises, that faithful to Your Word, she might remain a present help for troubled hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Ever-living Lord, You have sent an eternal Gospel to be proclaimed to every nation and tribe and language and people. Raise up from among us faithful pastors, teachers, and missionaries who will proclaim the crucified and risen Christ as the only hope of sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, our Comforter, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, protect all citizens of the world from danger and disaster and make Your holy people agents of peace who pursue the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, truth incarnate, You ask Your people to abide in Your Word. Make us crave the nourishment of Scripture and build in us healthy habits and disciplines that put Your Holy Word central in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Abiding Savior, You proclaim freedom from sin. Deliver Your servants also from illness, injury, and infirmity. We lift up the sick and suffering among us, [including . . .]. Grant them comfort in Your presence and confidence in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Faithful Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, patient in suffering, bold in confession, and joyful in hope, until that day when the everlasting Gospel is heard in its fullness and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

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 You are our refuge and strength, whose unshakable Word makes glad the city of God. For when every mouth was silenced and the whole world stood accountable before You, You revealed the righteousness of God apart from the Law, that we are justified by Your grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, His cross, and His resurrection. In mercy, You have indeed set us free to abide in Your Son and in His Word, that we might remain children within Your house forever. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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 al - ways.



G A - men.

AGNUS DEI



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Please sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Lord We Praise Thee

LSB 617



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see

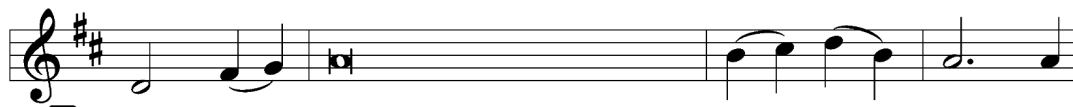


In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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Please stand

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

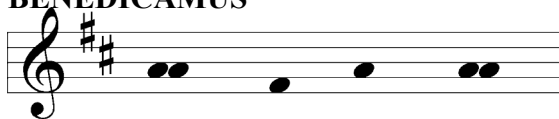
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P: Let us pray.

Most glorious Father, we thank You for feeding our faith through this Holy Supper, strengthening us to live as those who know and believe Your truth. Keep us in the true faith, that bound to Your truth we might joyfully declare the One who sets us free—namely, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

BENEDICAMUS

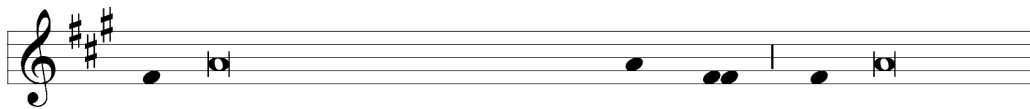


A Bless we the Lord.

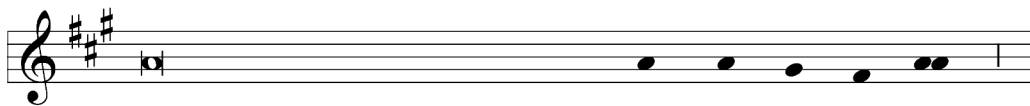


C Thanks be to God.

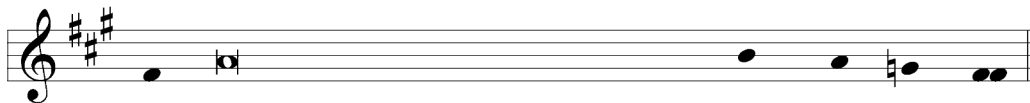
BENEDICTION



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

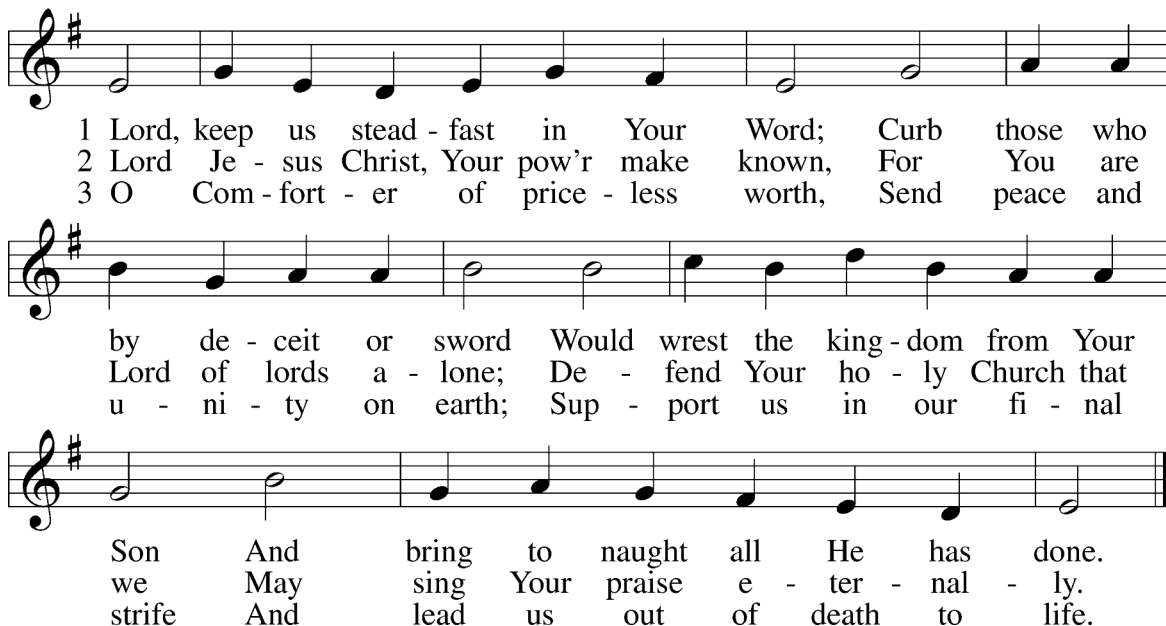


The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Please sit

SENDING HYMN*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word***LSB 655**

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

DISMISSAL**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!**C** Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE**

OCTOBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- > Portals of Prayer for October to December 2026 are available in the Narthex or office.
- > Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Weber is leading the class.
- > Plastic bottle caps and can tabs are still being collected.
- > Confirmation Class – Thursdays, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- > Third Quarter Voter's Meeting Sunday, Oct. 25th, right after the Service in the Fellowship Hall; with a luncheon to follow.
- > Men's Steak Night – Tuesday, Oct. 27th @ 6:00 p.m.
- > Immanuel School Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 31st from 5:00 p.m. to ???.
Christ Corner Baseball Field (corner of Washington Ave. and 3rd Street).
Thank you for your support to the school.
- > LWML Fall Rally: Saturday November 7, 2026 El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church – 1929 Pecan Blvd. Mcallen TX Registration: 10:30am Meeting begins 11:00am

SERMON NOTES

October 18, 2026		Budgeted need YTD:	\$192,657
Sunday Worship:	37		
Plate:	\$670.00	Actual Giving YTD:	\$135,199
Envelopes:	\$958.00		
Online/Tithely:		Overall/(shortfall):YTD	(\$57,458)
Other: (school)	\$200.00		
Memorial:		Budgeted Need Weekly:	\$4,480
Other: Bible Class: 18	\$9.00	For church balances see treasurers report	
Total	\$1837.00		

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace

“Wisdom is justified by her deeds” (Matt. 11:19), and the true wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, in order that we may eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and *“remain in the house forever”* (John 8:35). He is *“a friend of tax collectors and sinners”* (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel *“to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people”* (Rev. 14:6), *“the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law”* (Rom. 3:21), *“that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, *“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith”* (Rom. 3:25), *“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:31–32).

Bible Memory Verse Challenge

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

All Saints' Day

November 1, 2026

Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17

Psalm 149

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

Biweekly Church Activity Schedule

	October Sunday Servants	November Sunday Servants
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	Maggie Weber	Laurie Brown/ Maggie Weber
Music:	Doris Pickering	
This week:	Reformation Day (observed)	
Usher:	Jerry Frese	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30am
Next week:	All Saints' Day	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30am