

**FIRST SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

DECEMBER 1, 2024

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Missouri Synod



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

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lutheranmercedes.com

Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor

956.463.1305

eweber10@aol.com

Sunday

9:00 A.M.

Worship Service

10:30 A.M.

**Adult Bible Class/
Sunday School**

Holy Communion:

Every Sunday

**[www.facebook.com/
lutheranmercedes/](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/)**

Website:

Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs., M-F

8 am to 12 pm

CCLI # 2585510

And may the **LORD** *make you*
increase and abound
IN LOVE *to one another*
and to all,
just as we do to you, *so that He may*
establish your hearts
BLAMELESS in holiness
before our God & Father
at the coming
of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**
with all His saints. **1 Thessalonians**
THREE:12-13

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 1, 2024

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 - From everlasting to everlasting You are my God, and You come to me. In Your Word and in the flesh of Your only-begotten Son, You come that I may know forgiveness, righteousness, and redemption. Prepare me to receive You in this season and always, that my heart may be made blameless and filled with holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives

and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Though a full month remains before we turn our calendars to 2025, today we can wish a “happy new year” in the life of the church. The Advent season begins a new church year and is a time of preparation, as the Latin “Adventus” means an arrival or coming of someone. More than preparing for the coming of just anyone, here we prepare for our Savior. As we get hearts and minds ready for the Christmas crescendo to come celebrating Christ’s humble birth, we also remain prepared in this season and always as He promises to come again.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

PAGE 184

PRELUDE (A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

LSB 814



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

- 5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.
- 6 His wondrous works and ways

(Continue on next page) 3

He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His beloved Son.

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

John 1:5, 9; Genesis 3:15; Psalm 33:20–22

P Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who came to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophecy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming in-to the world.**

P Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist:
“Our soul waits for the LORD;

C **He is our help and our shield.**

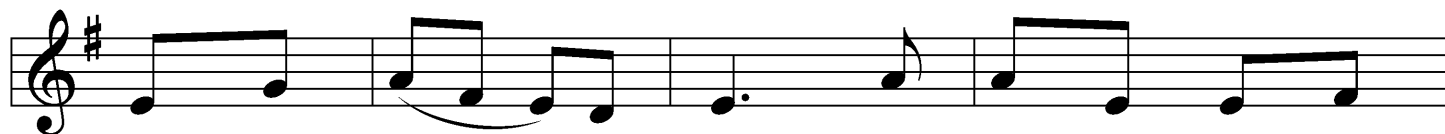
P For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

C **Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.”**

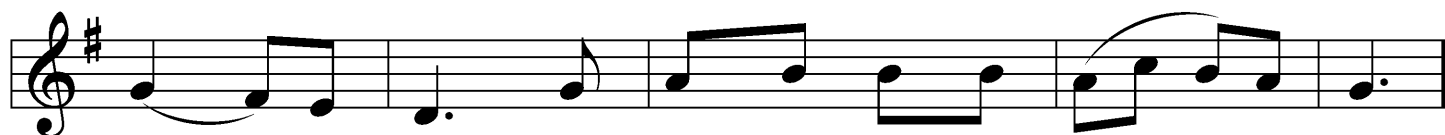
The first Advent candle is lit.



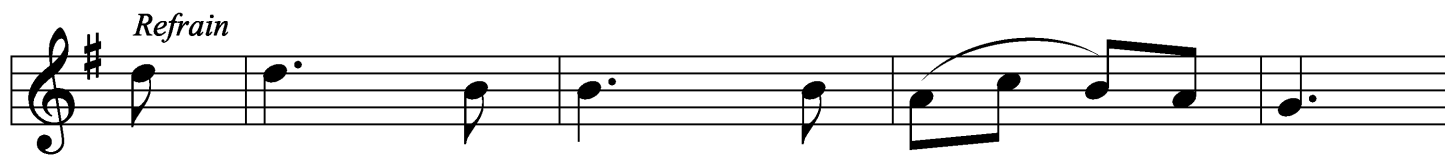
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in the lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.



Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

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**

(Continue on next page) ⁵

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 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b*

P Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation,

C **For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord?**

P Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.

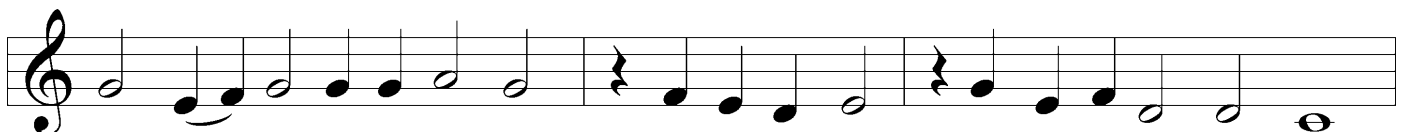
C **Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.**

P In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted.

C **For our shield belongs to the Lord, and our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

P Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation,

GLORIA PATRI



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

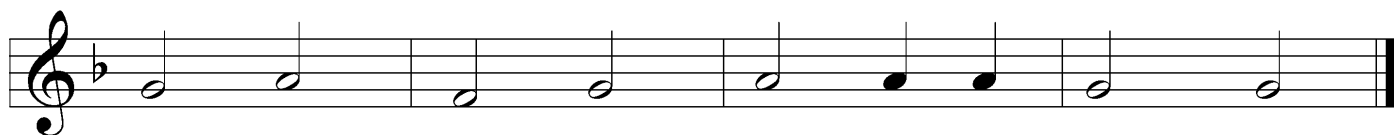


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRIE

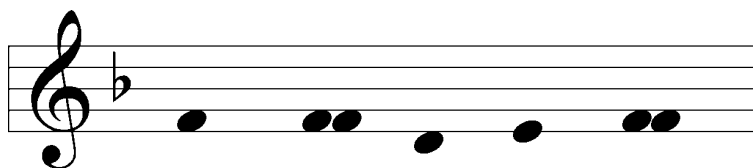


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

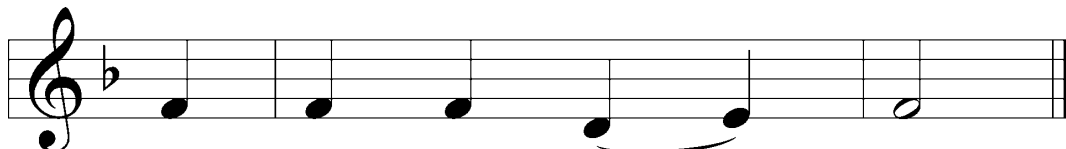


on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14–16

(The Lord's eternal covenant)

14 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah:

15 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called:

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 25:1–10; antiphon: v. 6

P Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old.

C **To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

P O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.

C **Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.**

P Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.

C **Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.**

P Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old.

C **Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.**

P Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

C **The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches**

His way.

P All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

C **Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindnesses, for they are from of old.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

(Lives of the faithful made ready for Jesus' return)

9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.

12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:25-36*

(Ready and watching for the Son of Man)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and
(Continue on next page) ⁹

on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



P Praise be to Thee, 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.

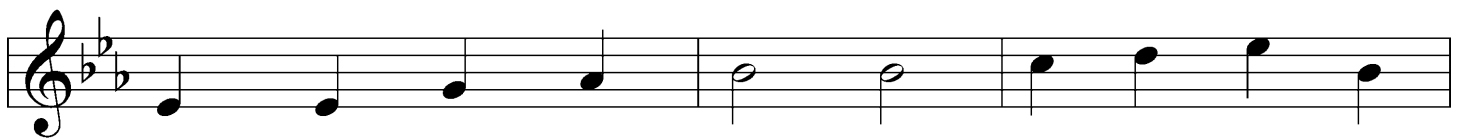
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please sit

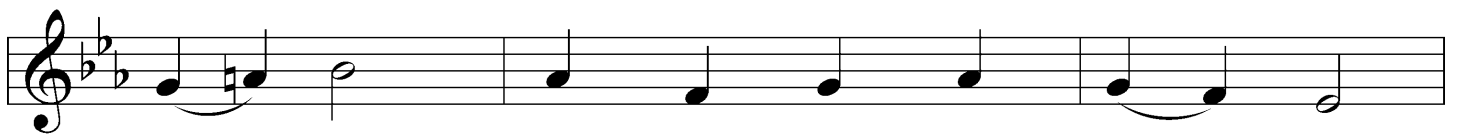
HYMN OF THE DAY

Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.

3 Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor

(Continue on next page)

And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.

- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

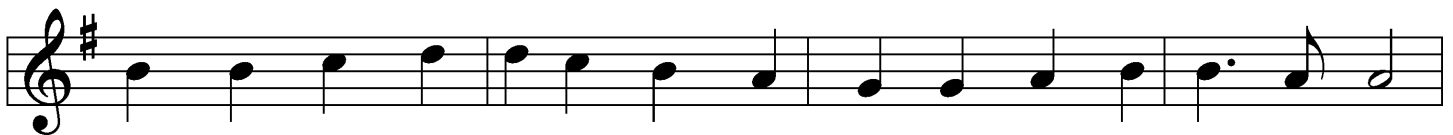
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SERMON ***“Strengthened by God for Jesus’ Final Coming”***
1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

OFFERING

Please stand

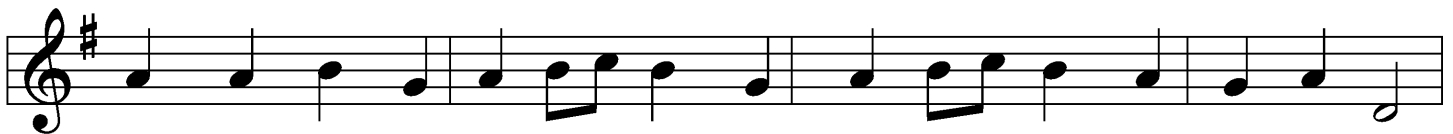
OFFERTORY *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* **LSB 803**



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE *"Peace be with you"* [American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Holy Lord, You sent Your Son into this world to be our Savior from sin and death, that through Him our hearts may be established holy and blameless before You, as He will come again in glory to redeem all His people. Be with us this Advent season and always as we wait upon Him and raise our heads, awaiting the redemption to come at the second advent. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgiving Lord, as You have granted us the forgiveness of sins, give us the same heart to forgive those who sin against us, that our love may abound for all people. Bless all our relationships in our families, friendships, homes, vocations, and communities, that they would reflect the love You have first shown to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate Lord, as You come to Your people in need, grant Your continued presence with those who face trials of mind, body, and spirit. Give comfort to all facing affliction and pain, providing healing according to Your will. We lift up those who have asked us as one people to bring prayers before You, [including . . .]. As they wait upon You, give a sure and certain confidence of faith in Your promises made and fulfilled. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, as we wait upon the redemption of the world at Christ's second coming, we do so not alone but with Your

(Continue on next page) 13

continued presence until that day. We thank You for the nourishment You provide through Your means of grace, and especially the forgiveness assured through Christ's body and blood given and shed for us. Be with us as we prepare to receive You in the fellowship of the altar as You come to us still. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

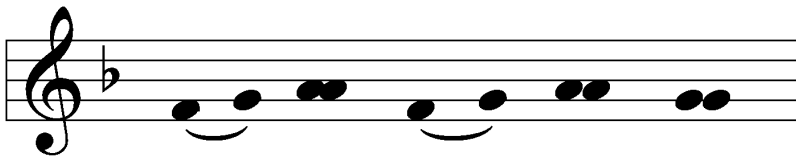
Additional petitions may follow.

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

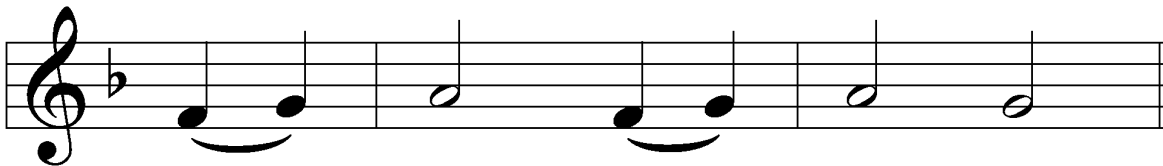
C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

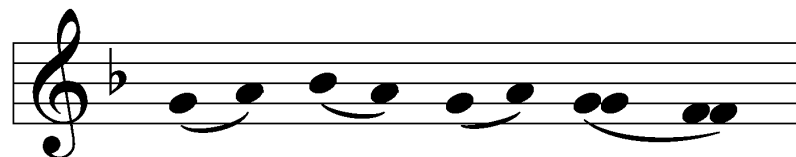
PREFACE



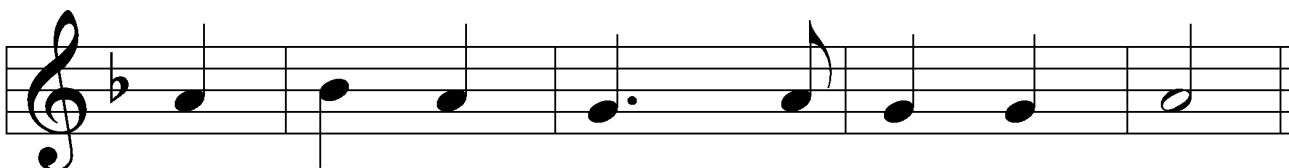
P The Lord be with you.



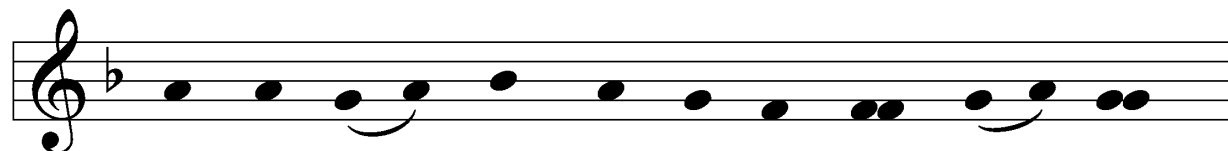
C And with thy spir - it.



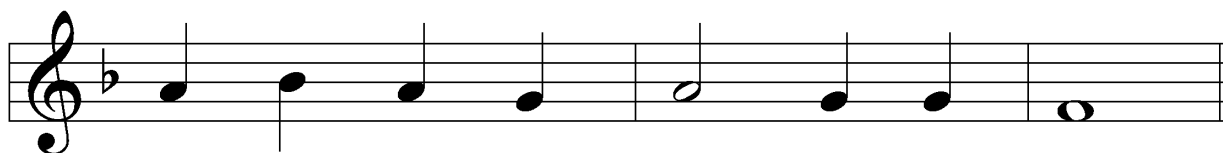
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

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



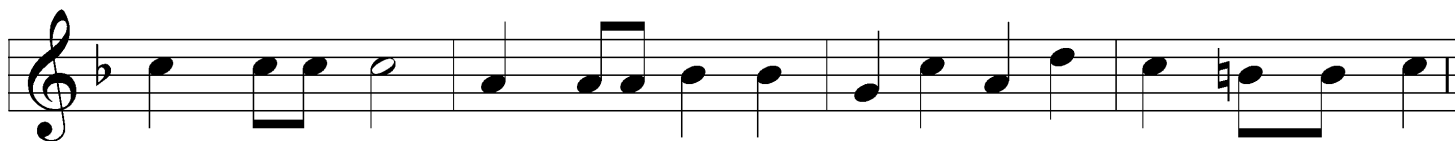
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



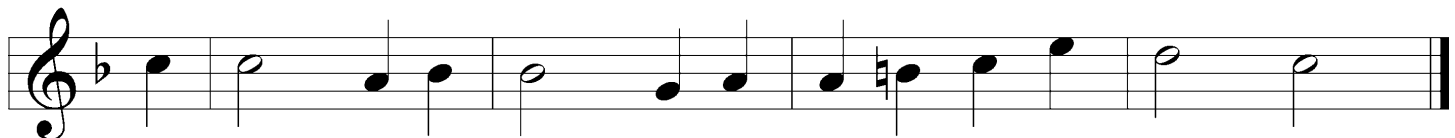
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

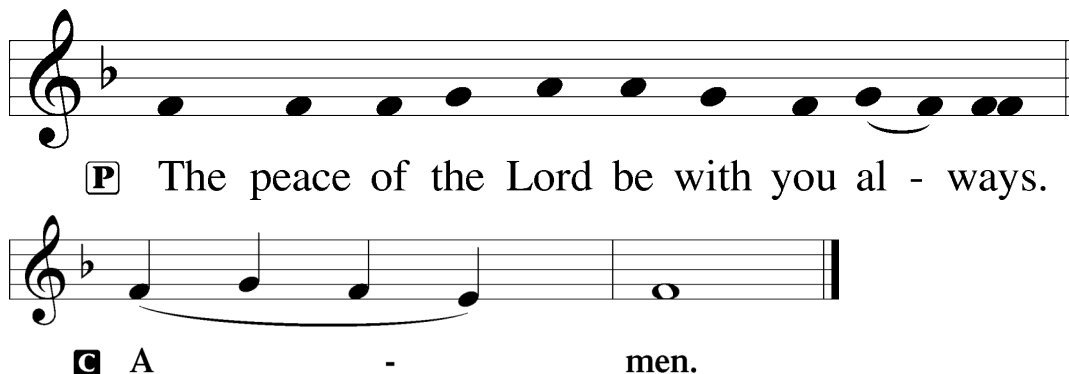


THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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



AGNUS DEI

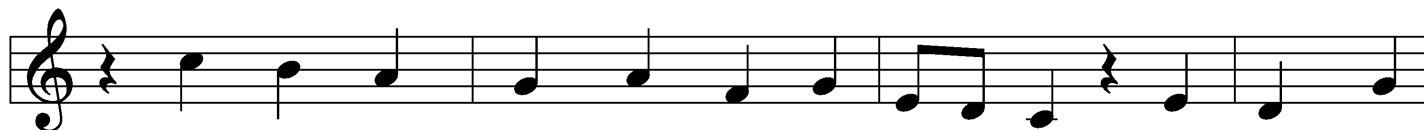
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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.



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



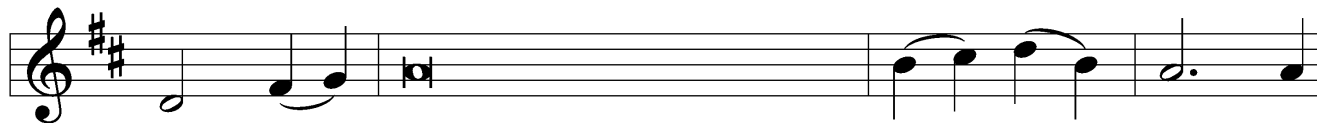
Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

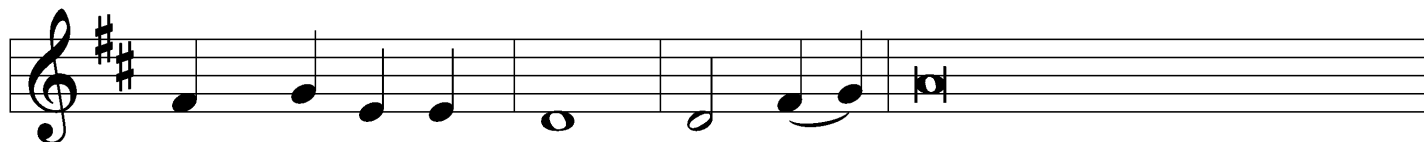
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005188 Tune: Public domain

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.

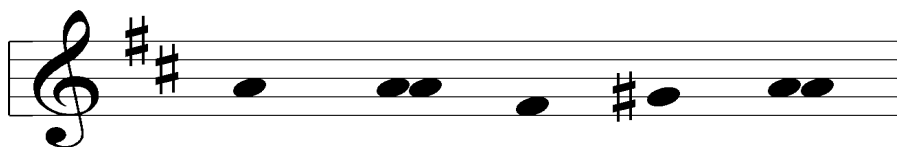
THANKSGIVING

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

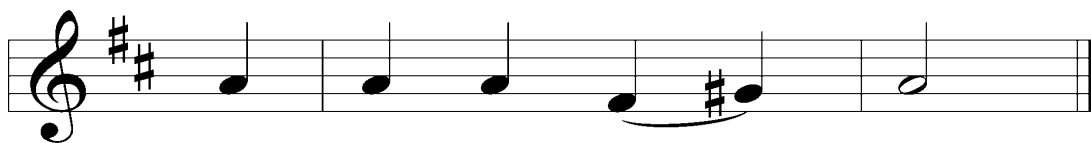
P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



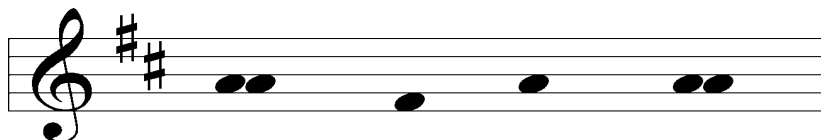
BENEDICAMUS



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

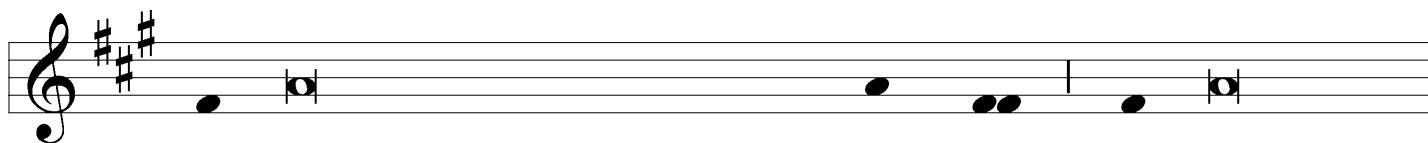


A Bless we the Lord.

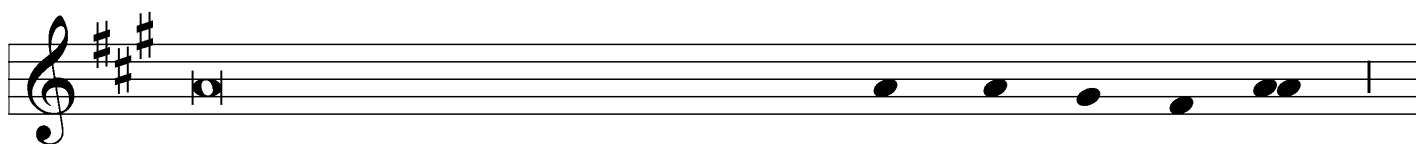


C Thanks be to God.

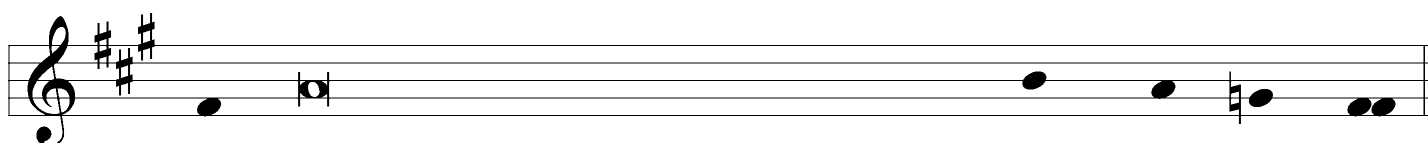
BENEDICTION



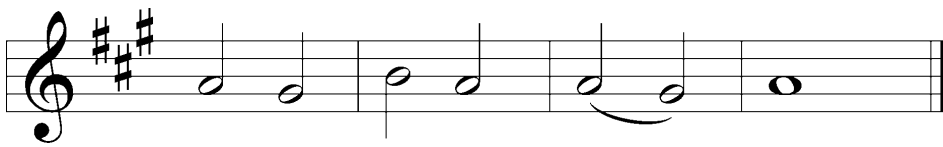
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



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

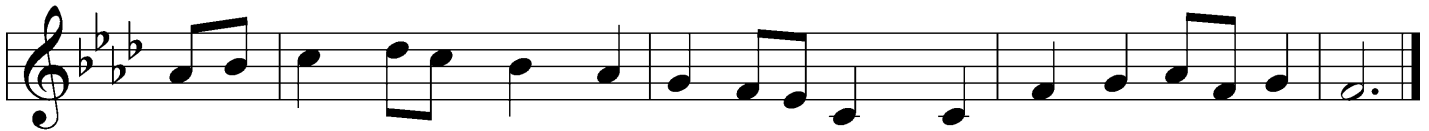
SENDING HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portals of Prayer for October to December 2024 are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Goetz is leading the class.

December Activities

Family Confirmation Class on Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

City of Mercedes Christmas Parade
Friday, December 6th downtown (Texas Ave.)
from 6 to 8 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran School will be participating in the parade.

Men's Steak Night Bible Study Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheet is posted on church door. (free will offering)



Welcome back! You have been missed!

January 2025 Women's Retreat

Chosen : A Study of Esther

Friday, January 24th - 6-9 p.m. and
Saturday, January 25th - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

@ St. Paul Lutheran Church; 602 Morgan Blvd.; Harlingen, TX

Registration is \$50.00 Includes : Retreat materials, snacks, coffee and tea, & Friday night - catered dinner; Saturday - breakfast crumpets and catered lunch. For more info go to: splch.breezechms.com/form/2025retreat



2024 Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday and Midweek Advent Services

Dec. 1	First Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.
Dec. 4	Midweek 1 Advent with Soup Supper at 5 p.m.	6 p.m.
Dec. 8	Second Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.
Dec. 11	Midweek 2 Advent with Soup Supper at 5 p.m.	6 p.m.
Dec. 15	Third Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.
Dec. 18	Midweek 3 Advent with Soup Supper at 5 p.m.	6 p.m.
Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday in Advent	9 a.m.

Christmas and New Year's Services

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service	6 p.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service	9 a.m.
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Service	6 p.m.





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DONNA SNOW

Memory Verse Challenge:

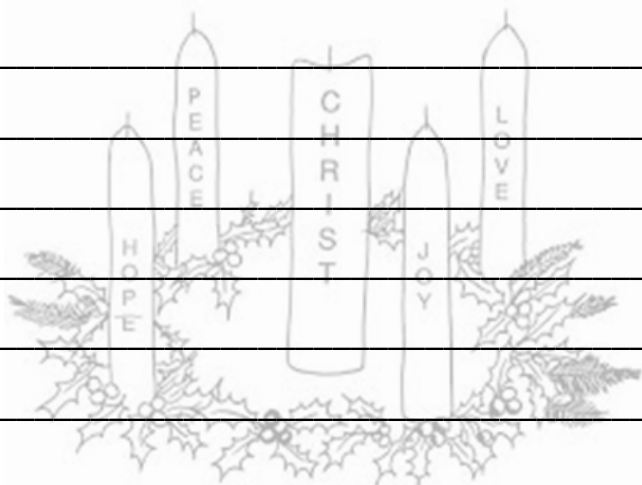
This week's:



All the paths of the LORD are
loving-kindness and truth to
those who keep His covenant
and His testimonies Psalm 25:10



Sermon Notes



11/24/2024

Sunday Worship 60

Plate: \$ 258.00

Envelopes: \$ 968.00

Envelopes-Other:

On Line

Donation:

Roof \$ 650.00

Memorial:

Total: \$ 1,876.00

Bible Class: **32** \$ 25.00

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Malachi 3:1-7b

Psalm 66:1-12

Philippians 1:2-11

Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. The Son of God came long ago to be our Savior, “a righteous Branch” descended from David (Jer. 33:15). As He then came into Jerusalem, riding on a lowly donkey to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world (Luke 19:28–40), so does He come to His Church today in the humility of Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of His Passion: the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He absolves us and establishes our hearts “blameless in holiness before our God and Father” (1 Thess. 3:13). The same Lord Jesus, who came to Jerusalem then and who comes to us now in peace, will come again with power and great glory on the Last Day. Then there will be “distress of nations in perplexity,” with “people fainting with fear.” Yet, as we anticipate that great and terrible day, He bids us to rest securely in Him: “Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:25, 26, 28).

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