FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



703 W 3RD Street Mercedes, TX 78570 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com

Website: lutheranmercedes.com

Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor 956.463.1305 eweber10@aol.com

> Sunday 9:00 A.M. Worship Service

> > 10:30 A.M.

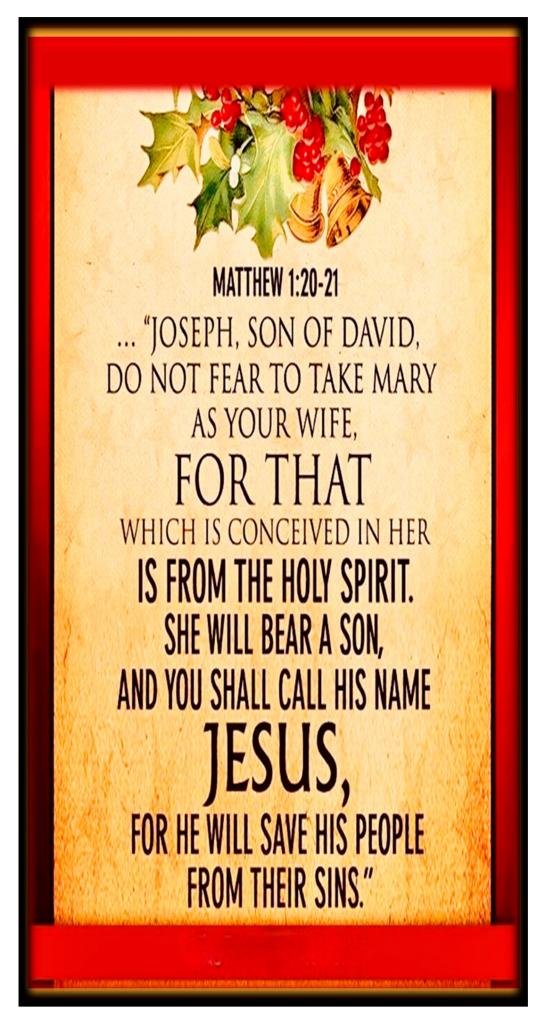
Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School

Holy Communion: Every Sunday

www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website: Misionemanuel.com

> Office Hrs., M-F 8 am to 12 pm CCLI # 2585510



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 21, 2025

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

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Almighty God, I commend my life and all my plans to You. Grant me a hopeful heart, that knowing You have kept Your Word and delivered up Your only Son to be my Savior, I may live in peace and confidence, assured that You will bring all things to their perfect end in Christ; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of the ages. Amen.

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

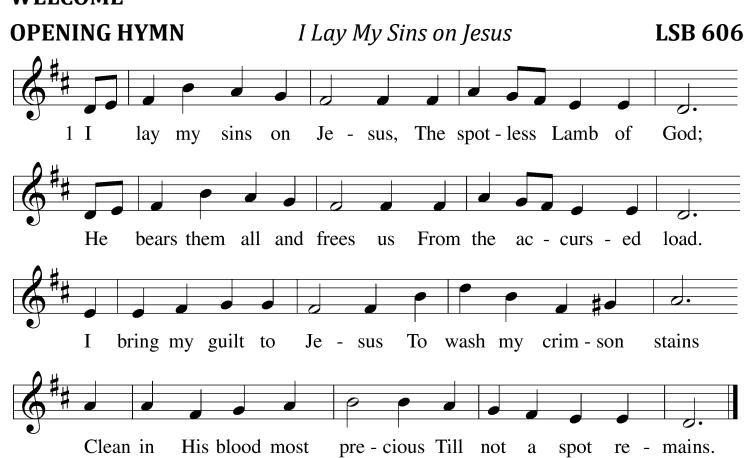
22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17-34.

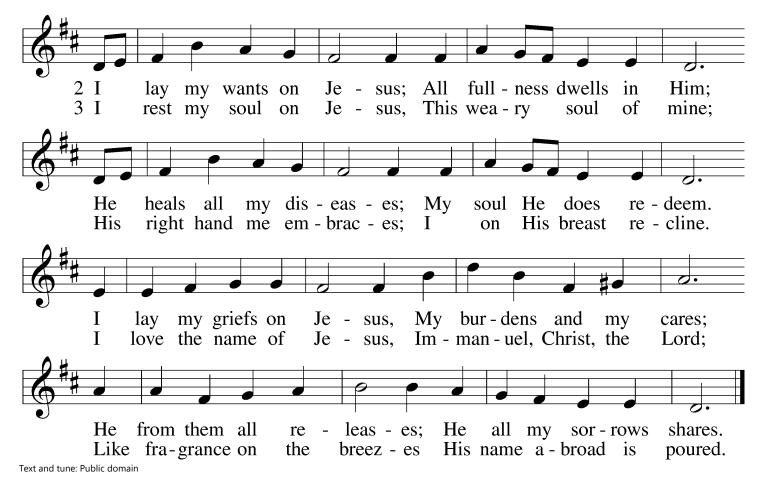
AS WE GATHER - It is still Advent, but today we hear an account of the Christmas story early so that we may know what to look for later this week. The Son of Mary by the Holy Spirit is Jesus, who saves us from our sins and who fulfills the promise of Immanuel: God is with us. Perhaps the richness of the details of Luke's account sometimes distracts us from the message. The Lord has come to keep His Word, to save us from our sins, and to keep us in His hand so that we may be His eternally. None of this was obvious to either Mary or faithful Joseph, and yet the Lord was at work through it all to deliver to us His Son to be our Savior. We will still worry when things do not go as we plan, and we will still struggle with doubts and fears, but the angel of God's presence is no mere messenger sent in His place. No, the angel of God's presence is His only-begotten Son, whose name is Jesus and whose work is our salvation.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE

PAGE 184

PRELUDE (a quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship) **WELCOME**





Please stand

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,
- 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.

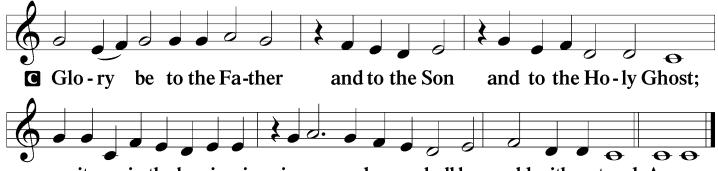
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

- P Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—
- C I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.
- P My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.
- C O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.
- P And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
- C Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence—

GLORIA PATRI



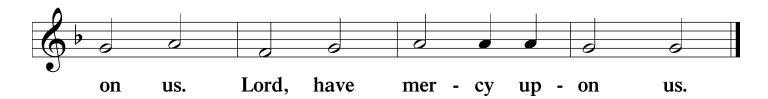
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

KYRE



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

(Continue on next page)



SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 7:10–17

("The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.")

- 10 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above."
- 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"
- 13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you

to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. 15 Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. 17 The Lord will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God. C

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7 **PSALM**

- P Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.
- The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those \mathbf{C} who dwell therein.
- P For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.
- C Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in
- His holy place?
 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.
 He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from P
- C the God of his salvation.
- This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your P
- Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting C doors! And the King of glory shall come in.
- Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord P mighty in battle.
- Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! \mathbf{C} And the King of glory shall come in.
- Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. P
- Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting \mathbf{C} doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

EPISTLE Romans 1:1–7

(Long promised by God, the Savior, Jesus Christ, has come.)

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:

7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

("The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.")

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

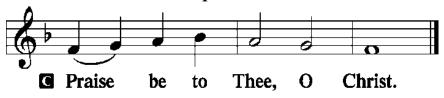


18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven

and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

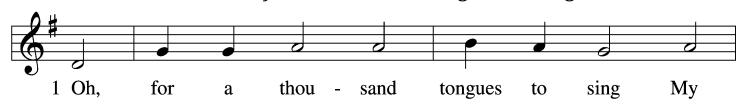
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven 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 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing LSB 528 vs. 1-5





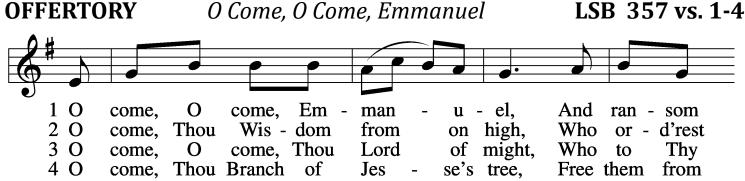
SERMON

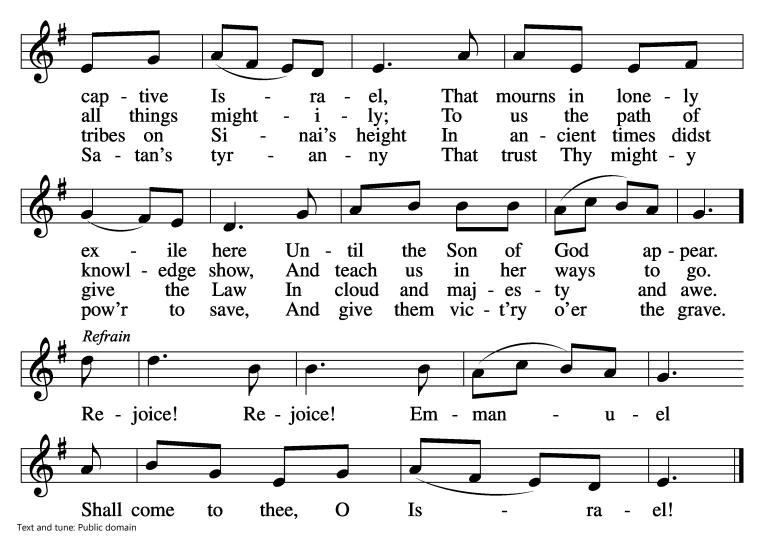
"The Sweetest of Dreams"

Matthew 1:18-21

OFFERING

Please stand





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

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith to rejoice in the promise of the Father kept in Christ, for an end to worries and fears, and for peace to rule our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the courage in the face of danger and confidence in the face of doubt, knowing that God will keep us as His own possession, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this congregation and the church across many nations, called by the Spirit and sustained by the means of grace, that we may not fail to tell the story of our Savior's birth nor the promise of His name, let us (Continue on next page) 11

pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peoples and leaders of all the nations, that in every place they may know justice and be free to worship the Lord without fear, and for an end to violence and war, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those who protect us in this and every place, for the emergency workers and disaster relief personnel, and for those who watch on our behalf in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For generous hearts that those in poverty and need may be supplied from the abundance the Lord has granted to us, and for our tithes and offerings to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For families and homes, especially those alone in this holy season of our Savior's birth, that we may love and serve them, extending Christ's compassion to all those around us, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For God's mercy to the sick, His relief to those who suffer, His presence with the grieving and dying, and His peace to those troubled in mind or spirit, [especially . . .], let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith to discern and believe Christ's presence in this Holy Communion and for repentance that we may receive His body and blood for our good, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those who travel and those whose celebrations may be missing loved ones, that the Lord may at last bring us together in His presence on high, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Come to the aid of Your people, O Lord, and defend us against all our enemies of body and soul, that at the day You have appointed, we may rejoice in Your presence together with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest in peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Spirit You are one God, one Lord,

now and to the end of the ages.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

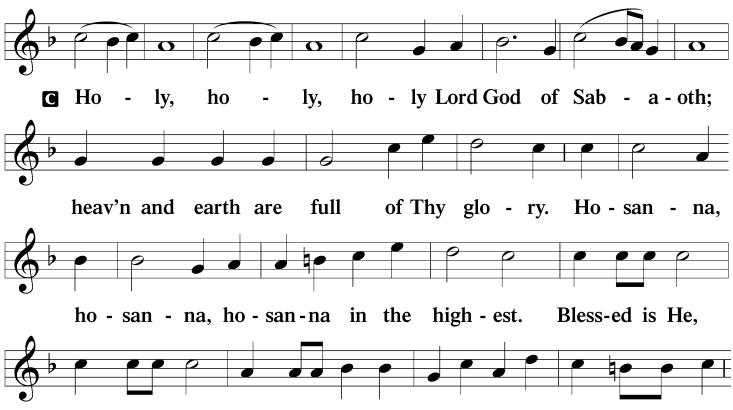


It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in P all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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 (Continue on next page)

13

and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh 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.

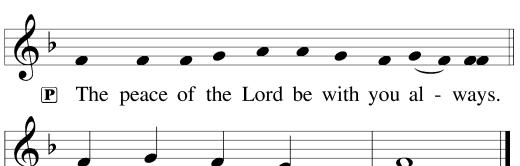




THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- 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



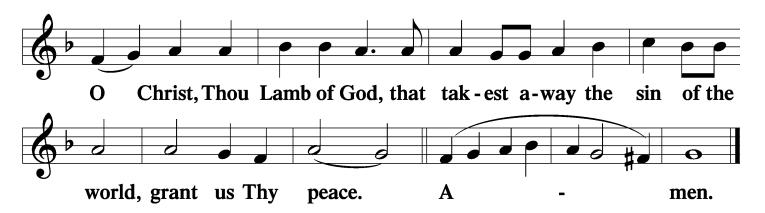
C A - men.

AGNUS DEI



tak-est a-way the sin of the world,

have mer - cy up - on us. (Continue on next page)



Please sit

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

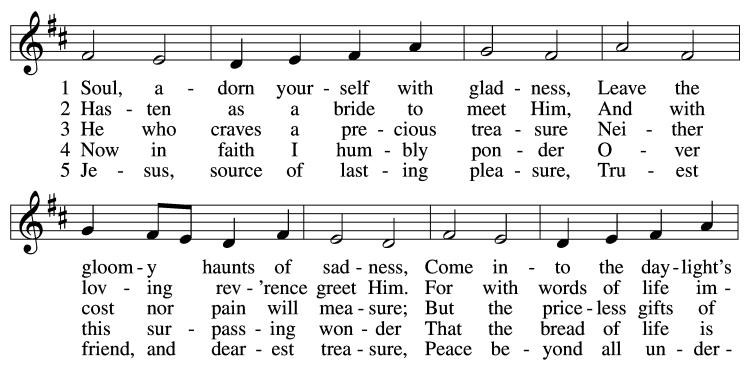
SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

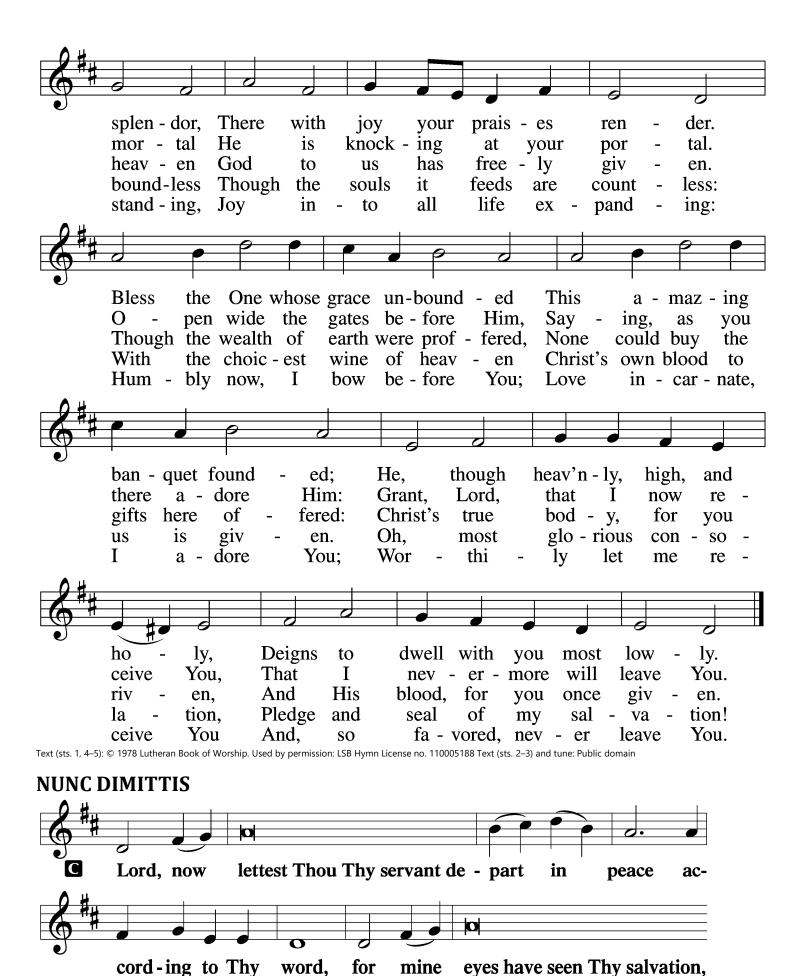
Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal 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

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

LSB 636 vs. 1-5







- P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,
- C for His steadfast love endures forever.

and His mercy endureth for

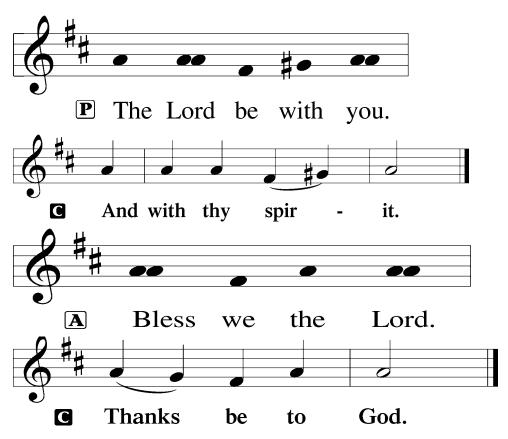
P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus

er.

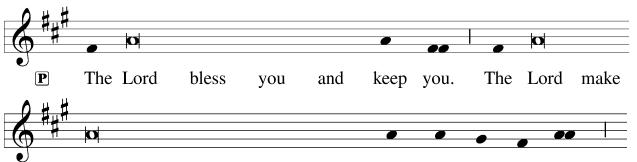
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



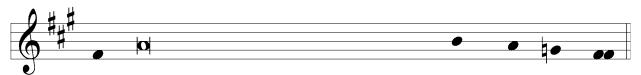
BENEDICAMUS



BENEDICTION



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



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



Please sit



cept

the

praise

Ι

bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought! But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

my

way,

end,

Ac

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath; And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

DECEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- >Portals of Prayer for October to December 2025 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.
- > Plastic bottle caps and can tabs ARE still being collected.
- > Family Confirmation Class Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.
- > Adult Confirmation Class Fridays at 12 noon.
- > Men's Steak Night/Bible Study set for Tues., Dec. 30th from 6-8 p.m.
- > Don't forget to check December calendar for Christmas and New Year activities.

Sermon Notes		
	• • • •	
	4th Sunday Advent	
	- Juniary & Latertite	

12/10/2025		
Advent Mid-Week 2 Service 40		
Plate:	\$	155.00
Envelopes: Advent	\$	198.00

12/10/2025

Total: \$ 353.00



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Services will begin at 6:00 p.m. Soup Suppers will begin at 5:00 p.m.

1st Mid-Week Service: Wed. Dec. 3rd 2nd Mid-Week Service: Wed. Dec. 10th 3rd Mid-Week Service: Wed. Dec. 17th

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24th 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Thursday, December 25th 9:00 a.m. (Holy Communion)

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 31st at 6:00 p.m.

12/14/2025

Sunday Worship 72

Plate: \$ 890.00

Envelopes: \$ 1,591.00

Other Env:

Donations:

On-Line/Tithely \$ 300/-

Total: \$ 2,781.00

Bible Class: **29** \$ 42.00

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 63:7–14 Psalm 111

Galatians 4:4–7

Matthew 2:13-23

God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus "descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called "Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

Memory Verse Challenge: John 1:4

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule			
	December Sunday Servants:	January Sunday Servants:	
Elder:	Ken Eilers	Don Vogel	
Altar Guild:	L Machant/D Jackson/ I Aguilera	Pam Terral/Maggie Weber	
Music:	Doris Pickering		
This Week	Fourth Sunday in Advent		
Usher:	Don Vogel		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	e 9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	y 10:30 am	
Next Week	First Sunday after Christmas		
Usher:	Byron Terral		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	e 9:00 am	
24	Sunday School & Adult Bible Stud	y 10:30 am	