

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2025
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
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:

Every 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 # 2585

Then the angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid, for behold,
I bring you good tidings
of great joy which
will be to all people.
For there is born to you this
day in the city of David a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2025

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 It is at the darkest time of the year that we celebrate that “to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). Tonight we remember “God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” (Titus 2:11). Jesus came into the darkness of our world, as He was born of Mary, to redeem us. God shines a great light on all who live in this land of deep darkness tonight to increase our joy. He is called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). We celebrate the birth of the One who rules with justice and righteousness now and forever.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

P Luke records that the first angel who brought the good news of the birth of the Savior was suddenly joined by a multitude of the heavenly host who praised God together. What an amazing sight that must have been—and what amazing sounds for the shepherds to hear! The music must have resounded off the rocks on the fields there outside of Bethlehem in an unforgettable way! Through our singing, we echo that praise this day.

PRELUDE

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

(The Advent wreath is lit with the other candles as the hymn is sung.)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound-ing joy, Re - peat the sound-ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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.

OPENING SENTENCES**Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:8-9**

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

C **Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.**

Continue on next page

P And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 2:10, 14*

P Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

C we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.

P The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

C “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

P Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

C Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

C He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

P Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:

C **“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”**

P Alleluia. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for bringing salvation for all people. Train us as we wait for our blessed hope that will come when You appear again in glory at the end of the age; for You live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

Please be Seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

(“To us a child is born, to us a son is given.”)

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

3 You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

5 For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel [c]of fire.

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even

forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Away in a Manger

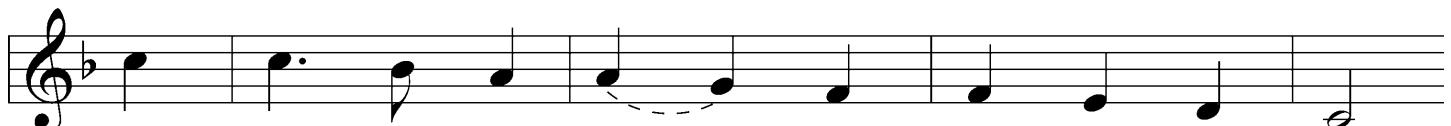
LSB 364



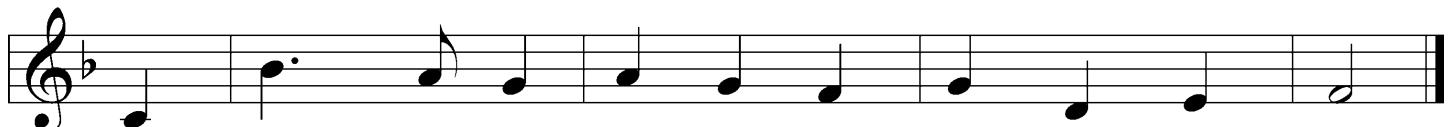
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text and tune: Public domain

PSALM *Psalm 96*

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

C **Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.**

P Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

C **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth!**

P Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

C **Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."**

P Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

C **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.**

P He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING *Titus 2:11-14*

(God's grace has appeared, bringing salvation.)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20* (The birth of the Christ Child)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first

took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
 And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be Seated

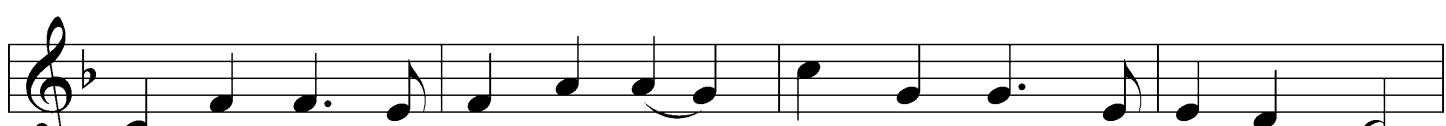
HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



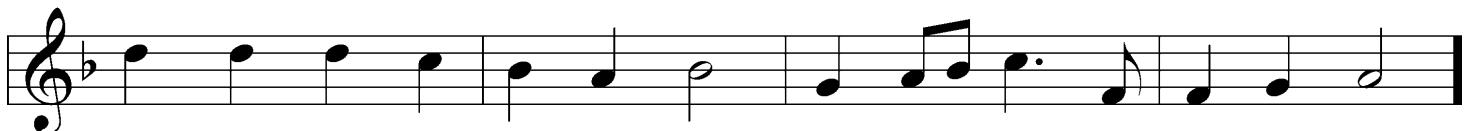
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;



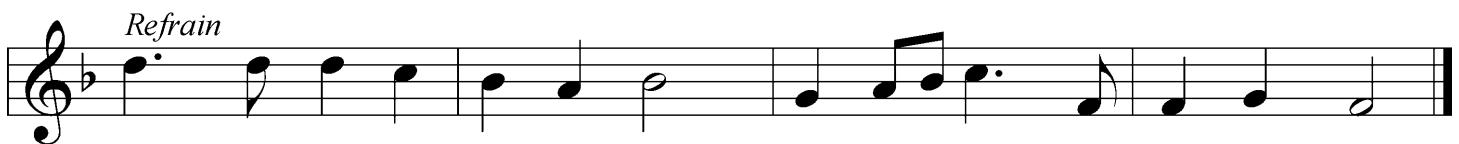
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"



2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



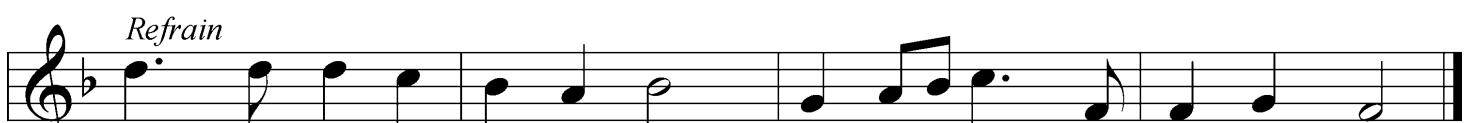
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Text and tune: Public domain

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE *"Good tidings of great joy to all people!"*

Luke 2:10

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY*Go Tell It on the Mountain***LSB 388***Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Refrain

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

C **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The glory of the Lord has come down to us in Christ. Alleluia!**

P O Wonderful Counselor,

C **hear our prayers and grant us Your peace and favor.**

P O Mighty God,

C **give us eyes to see Your glory, ears to hear Your grace, and mouths to voice Your praise.**

P O Everlasting Father,

C **You sent Your Son into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die, and be buried before rising to life again on the third day to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Yourself a people for Your own**

possession. We thank and praise You for making us Your people and making Your favor shine on us.

P O Prince of Peace,

C **we ask that You give us the peace that surpasses all understanding, that we trust that You have come into our imperfect world to bring the perfect gift of salvation, which You have freely given to us. Silence for personal prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayers and praise. We place ourselves and our loved ones into Your care, trusting in Your mercy and coming to You with confidence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.

C **Amen.**

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.

CANDLELIGHTING

(During the following hymn, the pastor takes the light from the Christ candle to the ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation.)

HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

(Dim lights)

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diantbeams from Thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text and tune: Public domain





MERRY

CHRISTMAS