

**SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT  
DECEMBER 7, 2025  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
Missouri Synod**



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

***Sunday*  
9:00 A.M.  
Worship Service**

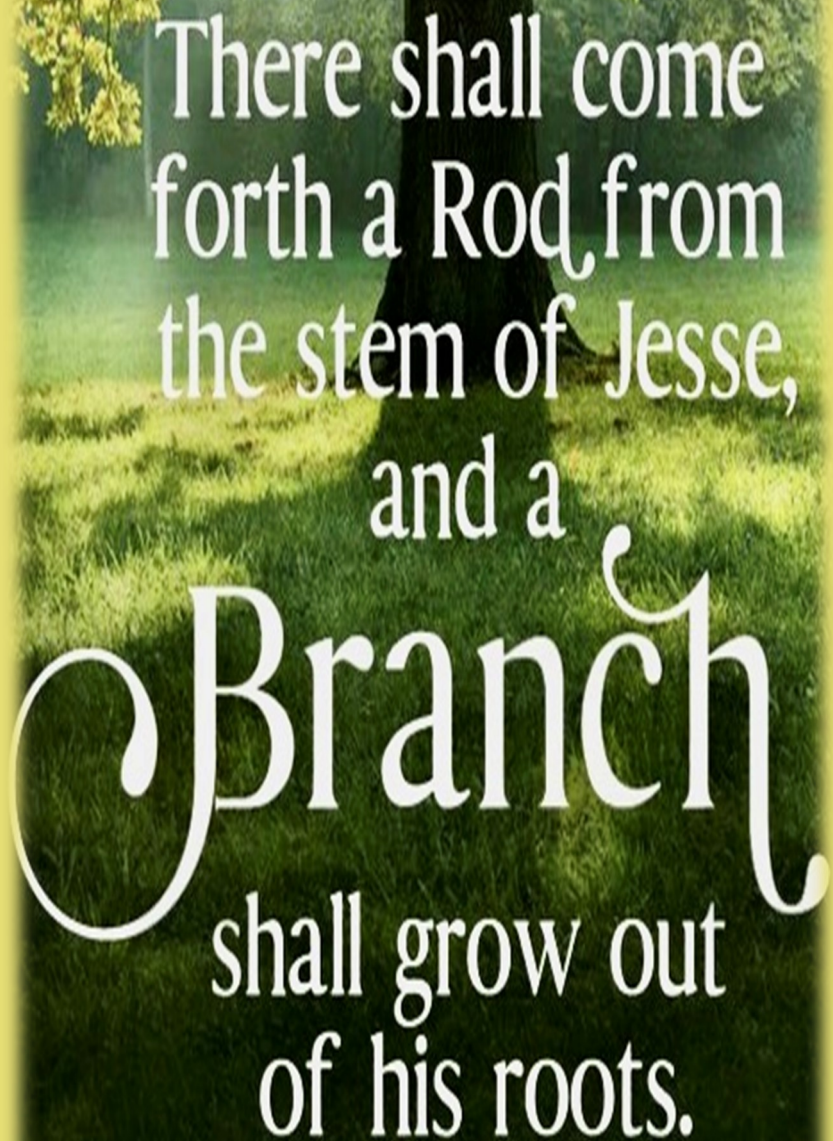
**10:30 A.M.  
Adult Bible Class/  
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:  
Every Sunday**

**www.facebook.com/  
lutheranmercedes/**

**Website:  
Misionemanuel.com**

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



There shall come  
forth a Rod from  
the stem of Jesse,  
and a  
**Branch**  
shall grow out  
of his roots.

**ISALAH 11:1**

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 7, 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 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** - O merciful Lord, grant to me the wisdom of Your Spirit and the blessing of faithful voices, that they may call me to prepare for the coming One and so that I who have heard Your Word and have been baptized into Christ may be preserved from evil, be counted worthy in Christ to be delivered into Your eternal kingdom, and be kept to the day of His coming at the end of all things; 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.

**AS WE GATHER** - The problem with good works is not that we should do them but why. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God's mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

## **DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE**

**PAGE 184**

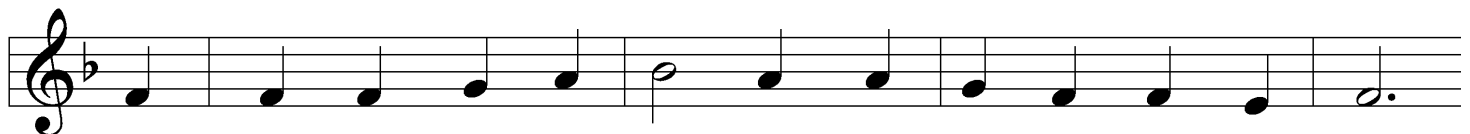
**PRELUDE** *(a quiet time for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship)*

## **WELCOME**

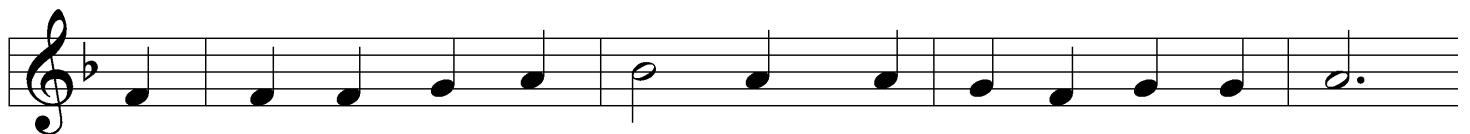
### **OPENING HYMN**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

**LSB 398**



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,



To take a - way trans-gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.

**(Continue on next page)**

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**C who made heaven and earth.**

4

*(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 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b*

P Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C **Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!**

P Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

C **O seed of Abraham His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

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

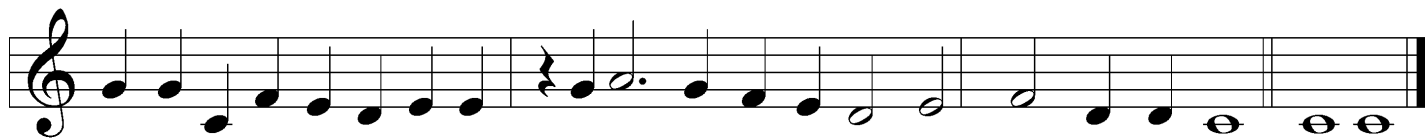
C **He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,**

P Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

### **GLORIA PATRI**

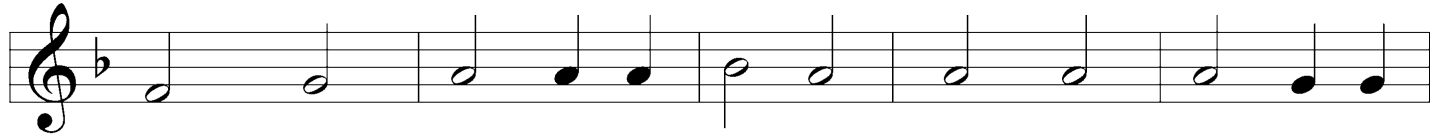


☐ Glo - ry   be to the Fa - ther      and to the Son      and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

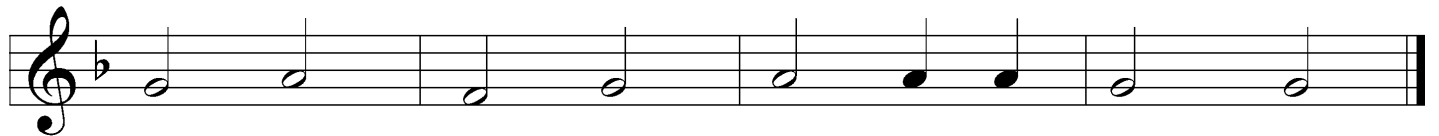


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## KYRIE

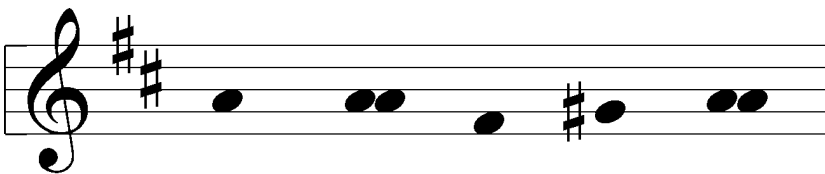


**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

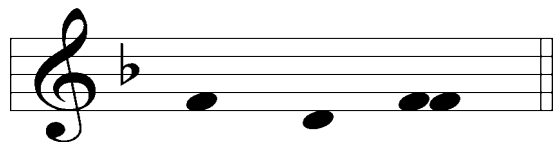
## SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Please sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Isaiah 11:1–10*

(“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.”)

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

6 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

10 “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”

**P**    This is the Word of the Lord.

**C**    **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**      *Psalm 72:1–7; antiphon: v. 18*

**P**    Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things!

**C**    **Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to**  
(Continue on next page) 7

**the king's Son.**

P He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice.

**C The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.**

P He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor.

**C They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.**

P He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth.

**C In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more.**

P Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things!

**EPISTLE**      *Romans 15:4–13*

("May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.")

4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:

"For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name."

10 And again he says:

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"

11 And again:

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"



12 And again, Isaiah says:

“There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope.”

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

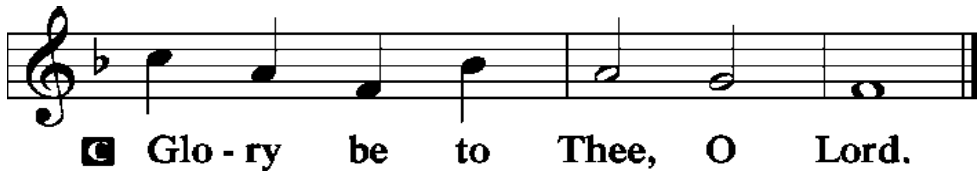
## ALLELUIA



## HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1-12*

(“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’”)

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



1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.’ ”

4 Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these

(Continue on next page) 9

stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

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.*

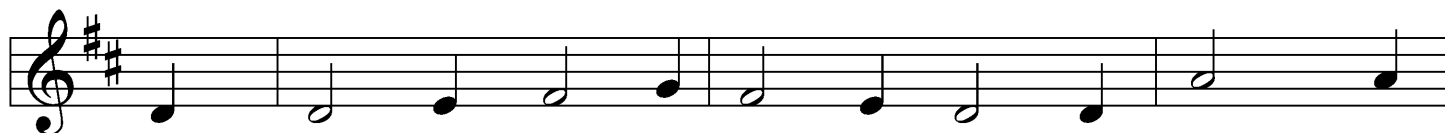
*And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission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

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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## SERMON

*"The Impossible Becomes Possible"*

Isaiah 11:1-10

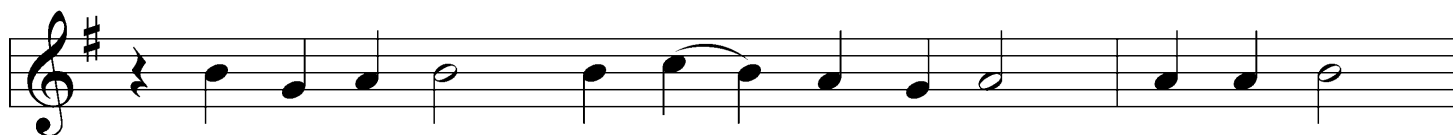
## OFFERING

*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

(Continue on next page) 11



Text and tune: Public domain

## 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 grace to acknowledge the Lord, who made all things for Himself, and for faith to trust in His mercy incarnate in Jesus Christ, His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the church established by Christ and sustained by Him through the means of grace, for boldness to call a world to repentance, and for faithfulness to proclaim His Gospel without fear, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all the nations and peoples of the earth and for those who lead them, but especially for this nation, our president, governor, legislators, and magistrates, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For grateful hearts to receive the good fruits of the earth with thanksgiving and for wisdom that we might bear the good fruit of repentance in our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all godly and noble vocations, for marriages and children, for the

single and the retired, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For an end to poverty and need and for compassion that we may manifest charity for all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick, the suffering, the dying, and those who attend to them, [especially . . .], let us pray to the Lord:

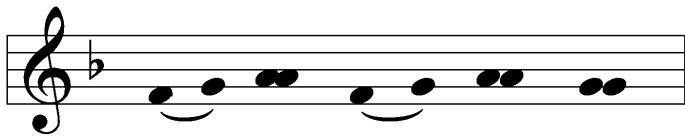
**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For all needs of body and soul, and for courage that we may not depart the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

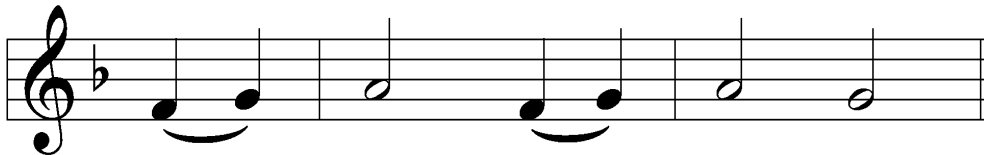
**C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

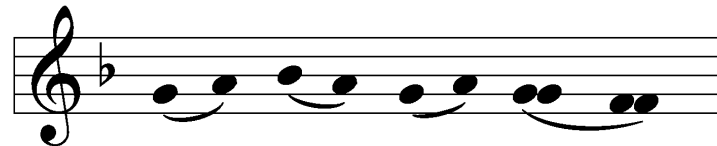
### PREFACE



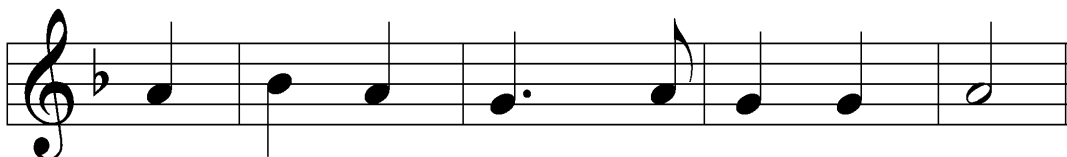
**P** The Lord be with you.



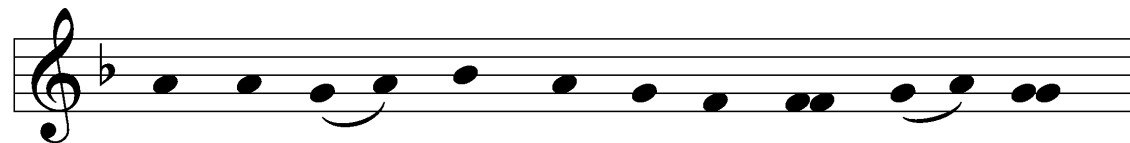
**C** And with thy spir - it.



**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.

(Continue on next page)



**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.




**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.  
**C** 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

*Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*

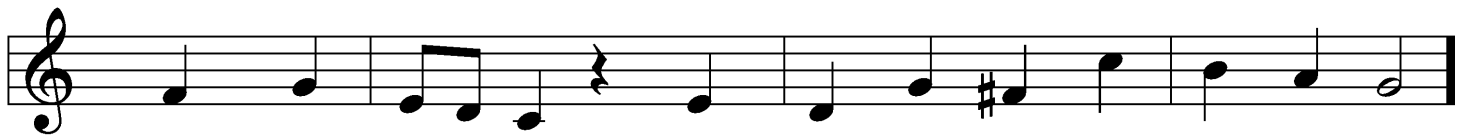
LSB 619



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in  
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is  
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not  
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my  
 nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and  
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

## *Refrain*

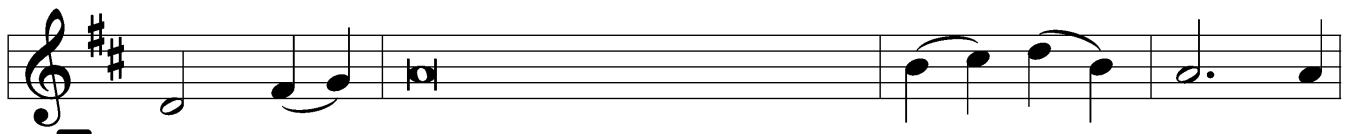


Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

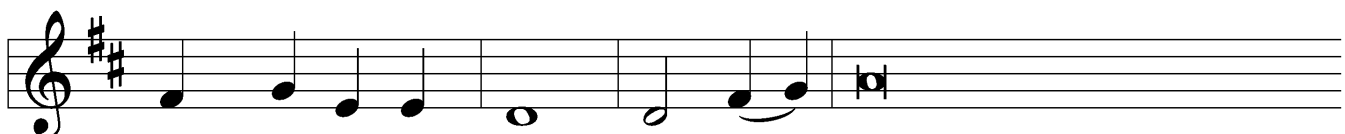
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*Please stand*

## 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

Psalm 107:1

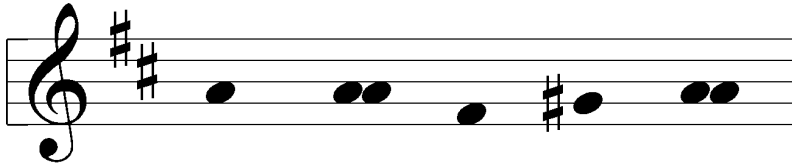
**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

- P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,  
**C for His steadfast love endures forever.**  
P Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth

the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



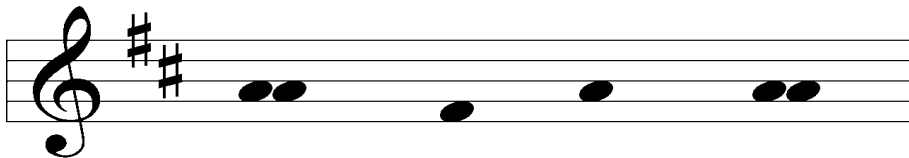
## BENEDICAMUS



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

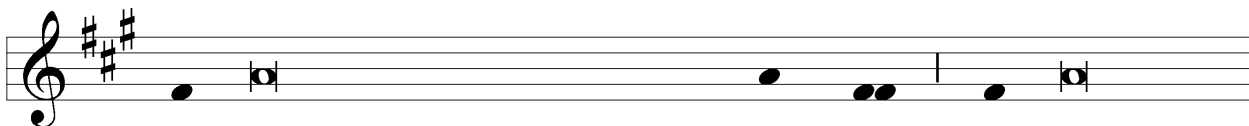


**A** Bless we the Lord.

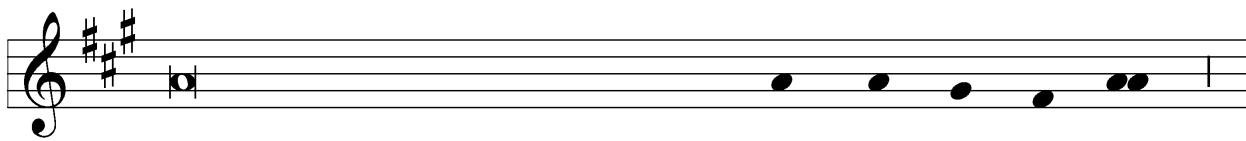


**C** Thanks be to God.

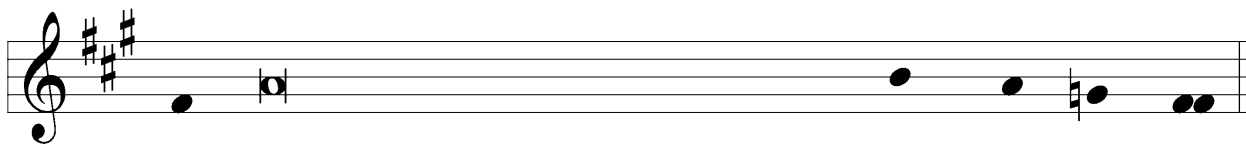
## BENEDICTION



**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

*What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*

**LSB 342**



- 1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
- 3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
- 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

### **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**

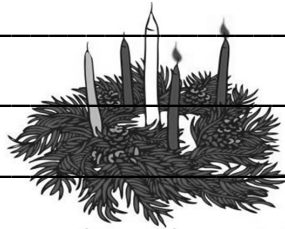
Wednesday, December 31st at 6:00 p.m.

## 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 caps are no longer being collected.
- > Family Confirmation Class - Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.
- > Adult Confirmation Class - Fridays at 12 noon.
- > The Weber Family is in Florida attending Pastor Weber's uncle funeral.
- > A heartfelt Thank you to Pastor Goetz for serving; while the Weber Family is in Florida.
- > Immanuel Lutheran School project: "Around the World " - Sat., Dec. 13th @ 5:30 p.m.
- > 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.

11/26/2025	
Thanksgiving Service	33
Plate:	\$ 111.00
Envelopes: Thanksgiving	\$ 272.00
Total:	\$ 383.00

## Sermon Notes



Second Sunday of Advent

**11/30/2025**

<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>62</b>	
Plate:		\$ 1,010.00
Envelopes:		\$ 1,062.00
Other Env:		
Donations:		
Tithely/On-Line		
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 2,072.00</b>
Bible Class:	<b>27</b>	<b>\$ 8.00</b>

## ***THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT***

Isaiah 35:1–10  
Psalm 146  
James 5:7–11  
Matthew 11:2–15

## By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord

“John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent’” (Matt. 3:1–2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John’s work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, “a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots” (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is “a signal for the peoples” (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. “With the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips” (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the “root of Jesse” comes to us, “even he who arises to rule the Gentiles” (Rom. 15:12), that “we might have hope” and be filled “with all joy and peace in believing” (Rom. 15:4, 13).

### Memory Verse Challenge:      **Genesis 3:15**

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.

	<b>Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule</b>	
	<b>December Sunday Servants:</b>	
Elder:	Ken Eilers	
Altar Guild:	L Machant/D Jackson/ I Aguilera	
Music:	Doris Pickering	
<b>This Week</b>	Second Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am
<b>Next Week</b>	Third Sunday in Advent	
Usher:	Ken Eilers	
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service	9:00 am
24	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	10:30 am