

# *Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*December 3, 2025  
Advent Service*



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**Office hours:** 9 AM – 1 PM  
**Minister:** Rev. Robert J. Krueger

Please stand.

## Opening Sentences

CW 215

M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
C: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
C: **and the day is almost over.**

M: Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
C: **and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

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## Hymn #301

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the  
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the  
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -  
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
Spir - it of our God was the Word of  
vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the  
cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing  
God the Son, our King, praise to God the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

*Text: Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.;  
tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.*

*Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyln, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain*

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

**Psalm 141**

CW 217



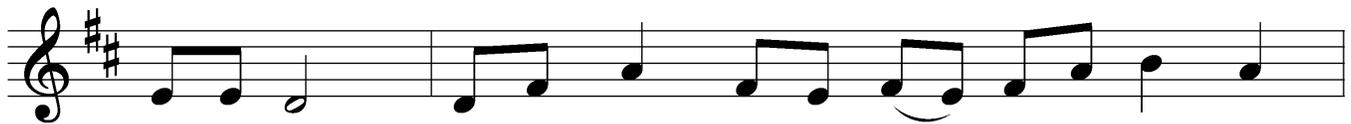
Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up



of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I



call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I



cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*Tune: David Schack*

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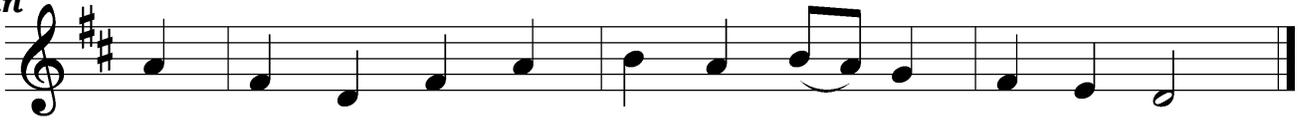
M: Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Psalm 18C** (Sing as indicated.)

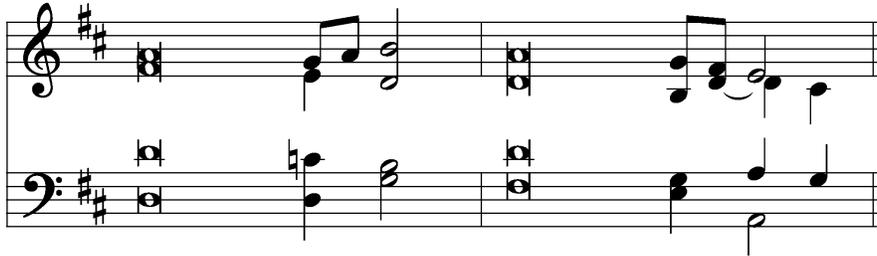
*“The LORD My God Will Turn”*

**Refrain**



**C:** The LORD my God will turn my dark-ness in - to light.

**Psalm  
Tone**



**M:** The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my de- / liverer;  
my God is my rock, in whom I take / refuge.

**C:** In my distress I called / to the LORD;  
I cried to my / God for help.  
From his temple he / heard my voice;  
my cry came before him, in- / to his ears. *Refrain*

**C:** He reached down from on high and took / hold of me;  
he drew me out of deep / waters.  
He rescued me from my powerful / enemy,  
from my foes, who were too / strong for me.  
They confronted me in the day of my dis- / aster,  
but the LORD was / my support.  
He brought me out into a / spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted / in me. *Refrain*

**C:** You, LORD, keep my lamp / burning;  
my God turns my darkness / into light.  
With your help I can advance a- / gainst a troop;  
with my God I can / scale a wall.  
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

*Tune: Richard Peers    Tune: © Richard Peers. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702769  
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**Psalm Prayer**

**M:** Lord, when the pressures of life overwhelm us and the devil seems to have won the victory, come down once more and save us. As you came down once from heaven in the flesh and defeated Satan through your perfect life and triumphant death on the cross, so come to us now in Word and sacrament, and give us the strength to overcome, for you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Reading

*Malachi 4*

<sup>1</sup>“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. <sup>3</sup>Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>4</sup>“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.” (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir Anthem

*“In Silence We Wait”*

*Words by John Parker Music by Lloyd Larson Copyright © 2000 by HAL LEONARD CORPORATION*

In silence we wait for the day of God’s mercy.  
In silence we wait for the Emmanuel to come.  
In silence we wait for the gift of God’s promise.  
In silence we wait and pray.  
Lord, hear our prayer: “Deliver your people.  
Send us a Savior to show us the way!  
Guide us in mercy, shepherd us in love.”  
In silence we wait and pray.  
In darkness we wait for the light of the Christ-child.  
In darkness we wait for the Day Star to shine.  
In darkness we wait for the glory of morning.  
In darkness we wait and pray.  
Lord, hear our prayer: “Deliver your people.  
Send us a Savior to show us the way!  
Guide us in mercy, shepherd us in love.”  
In silence we wait and pray. In silence we wait.  
In silence we pray. Lord, send your Christ today. Amen.

*Please stand.*

## **Holy Gospel**

*St. Luke 1:5–25*

<sup>5</sup>In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. <sup>7</sup>But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

<sup>8</sup>Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. <sup>14</sup>He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup>He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

<sup>19</sup>The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup>When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

<sup>23</sup>When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup>After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup>"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." (NIV)

**M:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please stand.*

# Hymn #325

# “My Soul in Stillness Waits”



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
- 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
- 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
- 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the  
our thirst - y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us  
and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -  
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.  
whole, be com-fort to our hearts.  
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
us the path-way of your peace.

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950    Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950*  
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## Sermon Text

*St. Luke 1:5-25*

## Sermon

*“Open Your Eyes to God's Advent”*

*Please stand.*

# Hymn #973

*“Now Bless the God of Israel”*

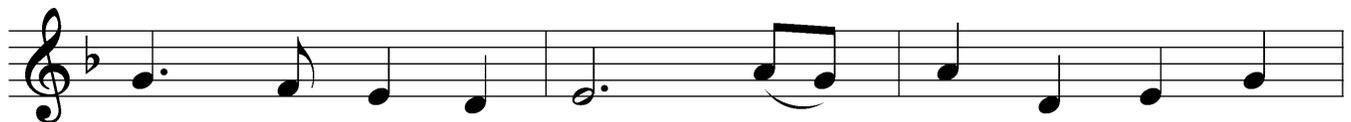
*(The Minister will sing stanza 1)*



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and  
2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from  
3 In ten - der mer - cy God will send the Day - spring from on



pow'r, who rais - es from the roy - al house de -  
fear, that we might serve in ho - li - ness and  
high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets  
peace from year to year; and you, my child, shall  
those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn to free us from a - larm, to  
go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy, that  
way to peace, that death shall reign no more. Sing



save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.  
all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God Most High.  
prais - es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

*Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947    Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950*

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*Be seated.*

**Friendship Register** is available by the entrances. If you are watching on-line please go to the description link and sign in.

**Freewill Offering** The offering plate is located by the back entrance. You may also give electronically via our website: [immanuelfindlay.org](http://immanuelfindlay.org) or the App: GivePlus.

## **Prayer**

M: Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**C: Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**

M: Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

**C: Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**

M: Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**C: Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

M: As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**C: Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

M: Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**C: Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

M: Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless...] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

**C: May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**M:** Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

**C:** Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

### **Benedicamus**

**M:** Let us praise the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

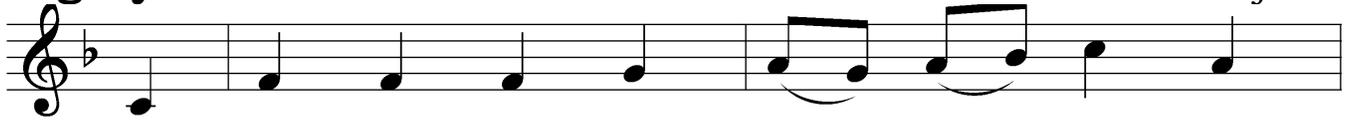
### **Blessing**

**M:** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

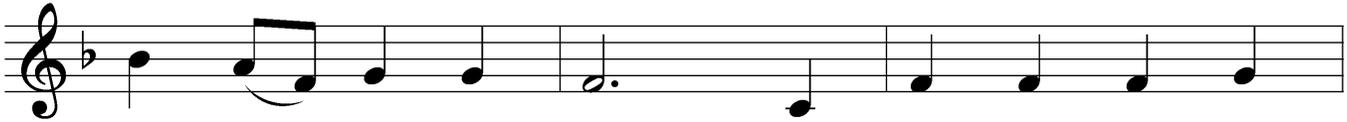
**C:** Amen.

# Closing Hymn #954

## *“Blessed Be the God of Israel”*



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you



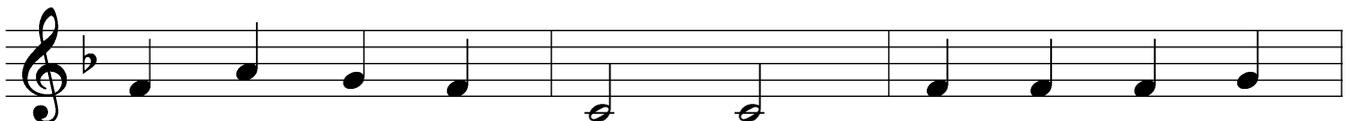
comes to set us free and rais - es up new  
cov - e - nant re - call, the oath once sworn to  
will pre - pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple



hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,  
they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine



with a might - y arm God would turn back our  
of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and  
forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the



en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944    Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958, alt.  
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## ***Celebrate Christmas with us!***

### **Children's Christmas Service**

Sunday, December 21 at 10:00 AM  
*Only one service that day, no Sunday School*

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM

### **Christmas Day Festival Service**

Thursday, December 25 at 10:00 AM