



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

324 College Avenue, Modesto, California 95350

(209) 523-4531 ■ www.emanuellutheran.org

Staff

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Lyn Crase

Pianist

Barbara Vukich

Administrative Assistant

Paula Braxton

Day Care Director

Laura Marquez

Bookkeeper

Maria Ojeda

Council Officers

President

Dennis Strand

Vice President

Chris Paulsen

Treasurer

Bob Reuter

Secretary

Janice Watkins

This Week's Assistants

Assisting Minister:

Melissa Molina

Readers:

Matthew & Rebeca Owen

Ushers: Chris Schmidt

Dan Johnson

Welcome to Emanuel

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS!

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to worship with us. Please help us to know you by introducing yourself to those you encounter and please be sure to sign our guest book (located on the stand in the Narthex).

- ***LARGE PRINT BULLETINS* are available.** •

Children/Youth & Family/ELDC:

Council member – Brett Owen

Spiritual Life:

Council member – Chris Paulsen

Worship:

Council member – Martha Strand

Outreach:

Council member — Chris Paulsen

WELCA

Pat Smith

Resource:

Bob Reuter, Treasurer

Stewardship —

Property — Dennis Strand

Fellowship:

Council member—Janice Watkins

Social Media:

Council member – Brett Owen

Endowment Team

Bob Reuter, Chairman

Team members: Pastor Lyn, Dennis Strand,
Chris Paulsen, Janice Watkins

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday - 8 am to 3 pm

Friday - 8 am to 2 pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Lyn Crase

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Candle of Joy)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v. 1, 2 & 3

Page 17

OPENING HYMN

People Look East

Page 18

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

P: Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen

P: Hear these words of assurance:

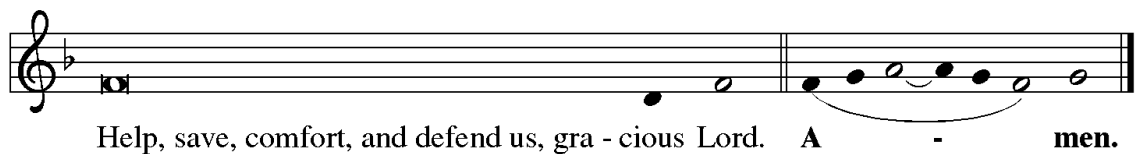
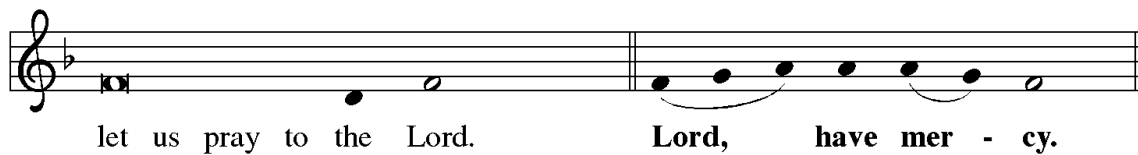
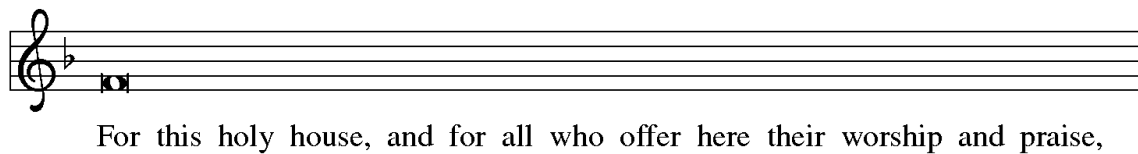
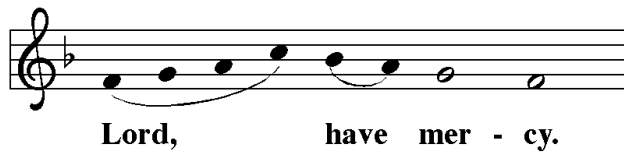
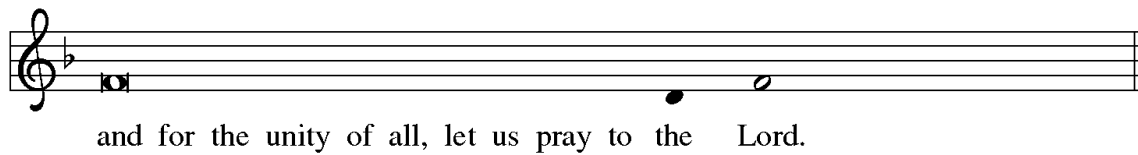
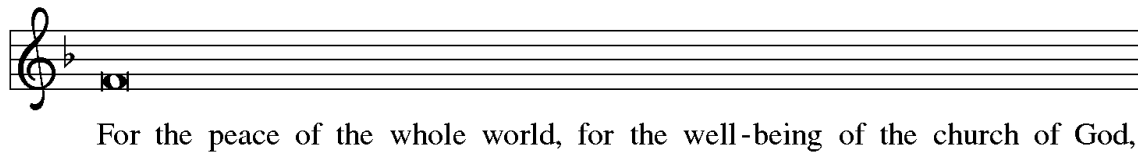
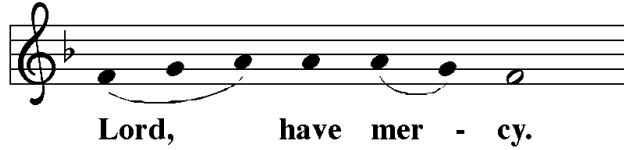
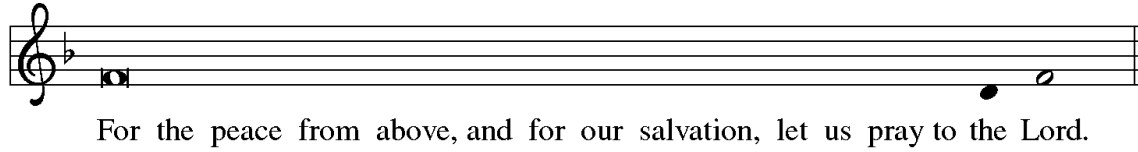
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ✙ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen

KYRIE—everyone sings



THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

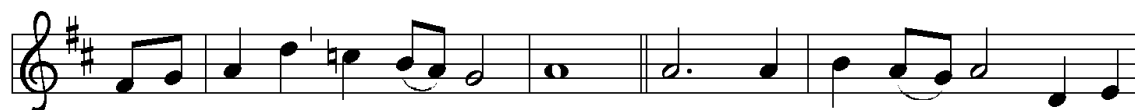
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Continued on next page ———>

THIS IS THE FEAST (continued)



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



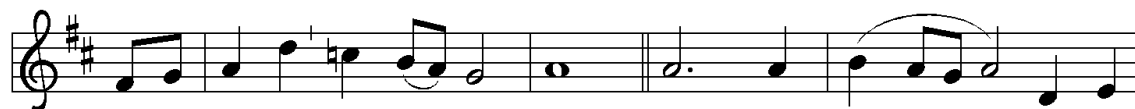
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together....

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

SECOND READING: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

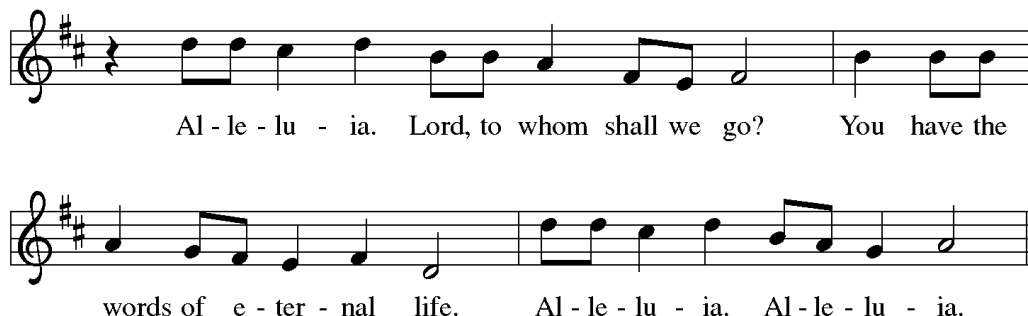
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

THIRD READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Gospel according to John, Chapter 1.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (REPEATED) *Please be seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Lyn

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

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APOSTLE'S CREED

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.....congregation responds with “receive our prayer.”

A: Please sit or kneel as comfortable.

SHARING THE PEACE

The sharing of peace is an individual and communal act of forgiveness.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY

The offering is our response to God’s grace and mercy.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

A: In recognition of God’s forgiveness, mercy and grace let us continue with the Great Thanksgiving.

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord

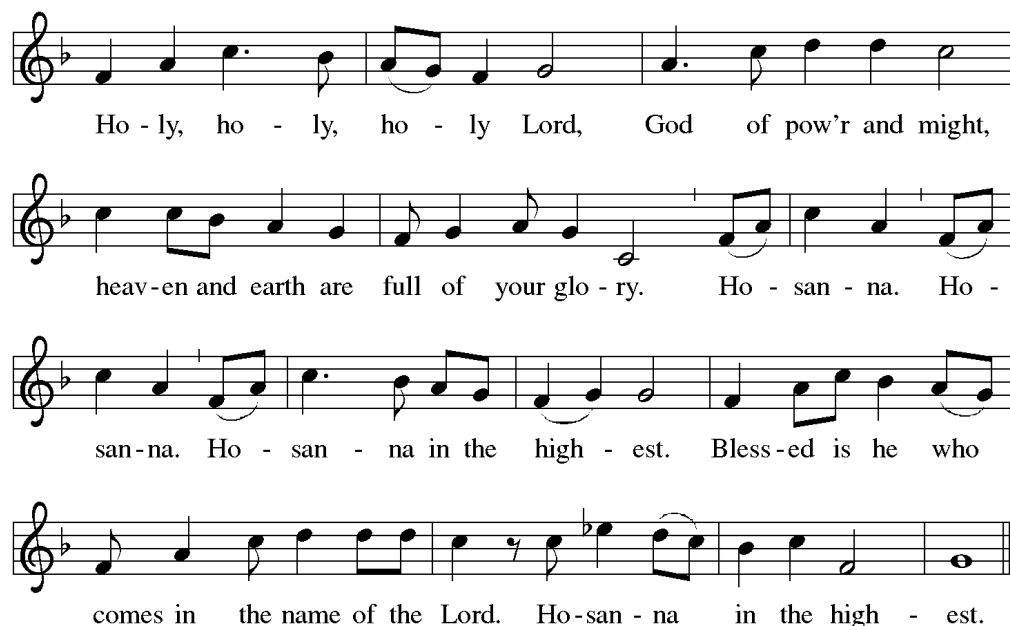
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church,
now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

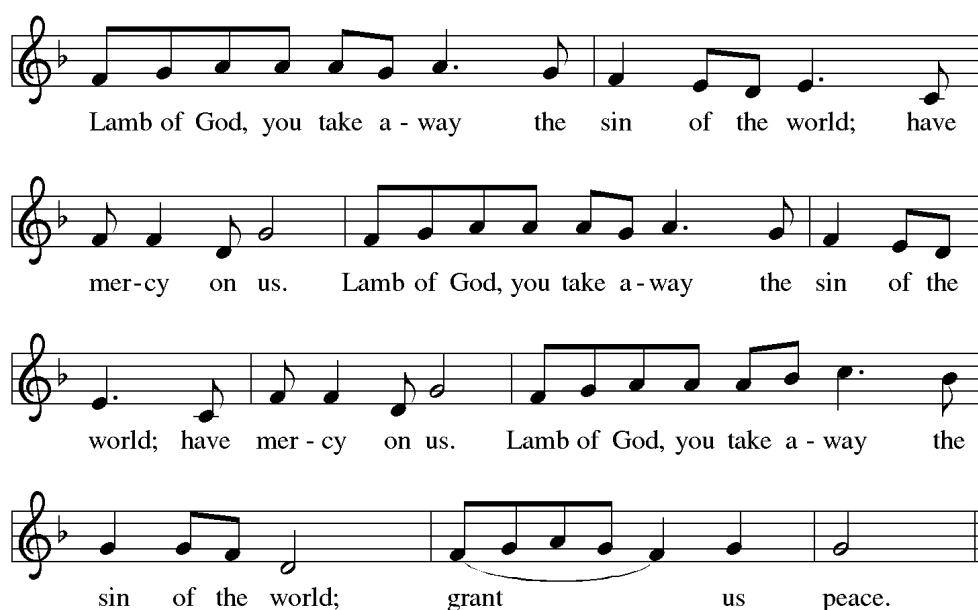
as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
 Come, take your place at the table.

We practice continuous communion. All are welcome. White grape juice is available for those who prefer that instead of wine. Gluten free wafers available.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS

Christ, Be Our Light

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Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Page 21

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
 Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Generous God,
 in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
 for all people to see together.
 Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
 your good news of liberation and release,
 brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

BIRTHDAY BLESSING

P: Let us pray:

God of all creation, we offer you grateful praise for the Gift of Life, and especially the gift of the lives of our sisters and brothers who stand before us this day and who recall this month the day of their birth. They rejoice in your gifts of life and love, family and friends.

Bless them with your presence and surround them with your love that they may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to you. We ask this grace and blessing for each one of them through Christ our Lord. Amen

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen

SENDING HYMN

He Came Down

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Announcements: Week of December 17, 2023

Bible Readings for December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



Emanuel Lutheran Church
Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th at 5 pm



Drew Shank is working on his Eagle Scout Project. His project benefits Emanuel Lutheran Church's property. If you'd like to donate, please indicate "Eagle Scout Project" in the memo line of your check. *Thank you.*



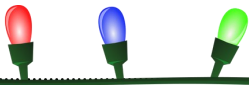
**Scan
QR code
for easy giving**





In Appreciation

*Be sure to join us after the worship service TODAY as we celebrate **Barbara Vukich** and acknowledge her gift of music to Emanuel during the past 35 plus years.*



From Dave Henke: The Christmas light show is ready for viewing! Lights, singing characters, and special song, "Oh What a Glorious Night" by the Sidewalk Prophets. 2521 Piazza Ct. in Modesto.



Adult Senior Day Care

Emanuel Lutheran Church continues its search for a volunteer program coordinator. For more information, contact the Pastor.

Ongoing Announcements

Food For Faith (FIGS) now has a location to accept donations of non-perishable food. We will collect food for them every 1st Sunday.

Text Study: Every Tuesday, year-round, in Luther Hall at noon. We discuss the lessons for the next Sunday. Come anytime you are available, leave early if you need to, bring your lunch. Generally, this lasts about an hour and 15 minutes....give or take.

The Men's Bible Study Group meets at 7 am on Wednesday mornings at The Secret Garden Restaurant, 2401 Orangeburg Ave.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study — 1:30 pm in Luther Hall. Join anytime.

Hosts are needed for Coffee Hour. Please see the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall.

We are asking for donations to help support the Coffee Hour. A donation container will be available on a table in Luther Hall.

Coin Jar -- Your spare change makes a difference! Proceeds go to Outreach.

Quilting Bee -- meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 10:00 am. All are welcome & all skill levels as well. If you can use scissors and/or tie a knot, there will be a job for you!

Lydia Circle — usually meets the 2nd Monday of each month, at the home of Marsha Waggoner - 916 Kenilworth Ct. at 1:00 pm. Please be sure to check the weekly calendar in the bulletin for any updates! We use the GATHER magazine as our Bible Study. All women of Emanuel are invited to join us.

Leah Circle meets on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm at The Park Independent Senior Living Community in Modesto.

Rebecca Circle meets every 3rd Thursday at 1:30 pm in member's homes. All are welcome!

Miriam Circle meets every 4th Monday at member's homes. See Melissa Molina for more information.

The Shower Shuttle and Laundry Shuttle are actively taking care of our homeless communities, and the needs remain the same: personal hygiene items, etc. *Thank you all for your contributions to this Ministry, Marilyn and Chuck Rowland*

Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief directed donations go directly to the people most in need.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Week of December 18 - 22 — 10 am to 2 pm

December 25 — CLOSED Christmas Day

December 26 — CLOSED Christmas

December 27 - 29 — 8 am to 12 pm

January 1, 2024 — CLOSED New Year's Day

Paula's holiday schedule:

Out of the office December 18th-26th

Back in the office - December 27th-29th

OFFICE CLOSED January 1, 2024

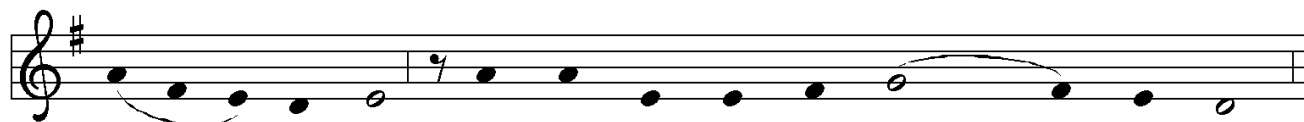
Office re-opens regular hours January 2nd

Advent Candle Lighting, sing verse 1, 2 & 3

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Entrance

People, Look East



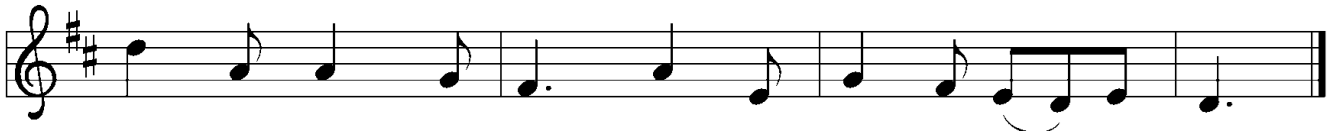
1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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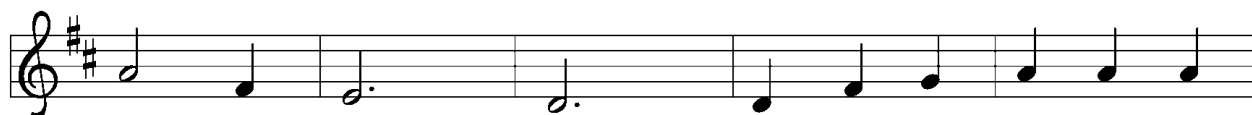
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Hymn of the Day

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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Communion Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Communion Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Sending Hymn

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

Prayer Requests: December 17, 2023

Philippians 4:19-20 ...God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen

On-going Prayers:

1. Richard Clark—recovery & healing (Strand)
2. Kyle Ollenborger—health & well-being (Strand)
3. John Smith— healing (Smith)
4. Nancy Leo—health, healing & strength (Petersen/Ferreira)
5. Laura Marquez—health & well-being
6. Salonen family—prayers for the gift of a healthy granddaughter
7. Kyra Loretelli—peace of mind & well-being (Marquez)
8. Michelle Meyers—recovery from a broken arm (Schmidt)
9. James Nelson—health & healing
10. Lisa Poston—healing & well-being
11. Jennifer Turner—health & well-being (Dieterich)
12. Eliot Furlan—healing & well-being (Dieterich)
13. Terry Martinez—comfort & healing (Crawford)
14. Peace & comfort for the family of Barbara Bauman
15. Lena Shirley & family—well-being; daughter Jennifer—successful relocation
16. Alexandria—a good outcome/surgery (Watkins)
17. Aaron Strait—employment
18. Infant Calvin Clark Simon—complete healing and well-being (Simon)
19. Ray Simon—strength & healing
20. Cara Lee—recovery & healing (Crawford)
21. Tom & Barbara Norquist—well-being
22. Rose Epting—healing
23. Pat Smith—healing, peace & a sense of God's presence
24. Sue Allen—healing & well-being
25. Darcy Moreno—physical recovery (Ashlock)
26. Stephanie Detmer—healing/cancer treatments (Kraft)
27. Stephanie—healing/cancer treatments (Obermeyer)
28. Vicki—health issues (Wilke)
29. Dee Corrin—health (Nelson)
30. Brendon—health, well-being & friendship (Mckenzie/Schmidt)
31. Clarice Soares, Debora Bauer, & Diane McCoy—healing & health (Tchmola)

CALENDAR | DECEMBER 18 - 24

Monday, December 18

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 1 pm | Leah Circle: Meets off-site |
| 6 pm | Sergio cleans the Sanctuary |

Tuesday, December 19

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 10 am | Organ Practice: Sanctuary |
| 12 pm | Text Study: Luther Hall |

Wednesday, December 20

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 7 am | ELC Men's Bible Study group meets at The Secret Garden Restaurant, 2401 E. Orangeburg Ave. in Modesto |
| 1:30 pm | Bible Study: Luther Hall |

Thursday, December 21

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 10 am | Organ Practice: Sanctuary |
| 1:30 pm | Rebecca Circle: Meets off-site |
| 6 pm | Radiant Youth Meeting |

Friday, December 22

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 6 pm | Sergio cleans the Sanctuary |
|------|-----------------------------|

Saturday, December 23

(No events are scheduled)

Sunday, December 24

- | | |
|----------|--|
| | CHRISTMAS EVE |
| 9:30 am | ELC Worship Service |
| 10:45 am | ELC Sunday School |
| 2 pm | Radiant Christmas Eve Service |
| 5 pm | ELC Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service |



Our Mission

To share Christ's unconditional love with everyone.

Our Vision

Emanuel's vision is to be loving, supportive, and welcoming, as we reach out in service and in witness to our neighborhood and the city beyond.

We share a passion to nurture people in all stages and circumstances of life.

We, as disciples of Christ, minister to our changing community in challenging cultural times.

