



# **Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**Midweek Advent Service 3**  
**Evening Prayer – Service of Light**

**December 20, 2017**  
*LSB 243*

**A Light with a Special Purpose!****As We Gather**

As Christmas approaches, it can be difficult to stay focused on our identity and purpose as God's people. It's easy to get swept up in the numerous worldly expectations around us. We often try to make everything perfect. We try to find the perfect tree, buy the perfect gifts, and cook the perfect meals. Yet we know that perfection exists only in Jesus. In a few days we will celebrate perfection being born in a manger. God calls us, His people, away from imperfection and into His perfection. He sets His own light within us and sets us apart to shine in this dark world. In these final few days of Advent, remember that you are set apart for a purpose: to shine the light of Christ.

**PREPARATION****331 The Advent of Our King**

LSB 331



- 1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

- 5 Before the dawning day  
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
 The sinful self be put away,  
 The new self now put on.



- 6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one  
 Through all eternity.

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

**P** Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

**C** We await His return and look for His coming.

**P** Without the light of Christ, we are only darkness.

**C** We would be enslaved to sin and death forever.

**P** But by His resurrection, Christ has called us out of darkness

**C** and into His marvelous light.

**P** Now, by Baptism, God has set us apart

**C** to shine with the light of Christ.

**P** Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

**C** We await His return and look for His coming.

## Phos Hilaron

LSB 244



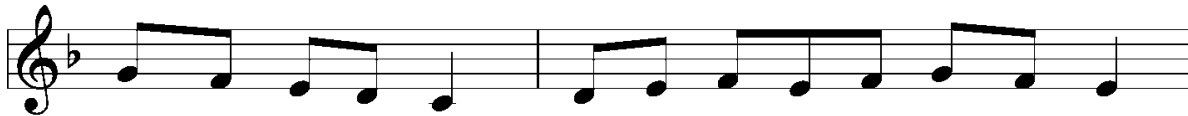
**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:

You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -  
 ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:  
 the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,  
 who led Your people Israel by 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 mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion  
 and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.  
**C** A - men.



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



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



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



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



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



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

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to enlighten the darkness of our world. Set us apart to reflect His light to our community, so that all people may come to know Him as Lord and Savior, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10–17

#### The Sign of Immanuel

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

*Silence for reflection on God's Word.*

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Epistle: Romans 1:1–7**

### **Greeting**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word.*

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18–25**

### **The Birth of Jesus Christ**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he

considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word.*

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

### 392 God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392

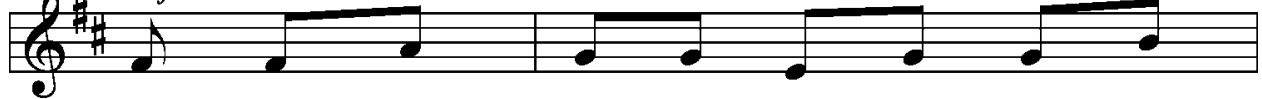


1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

*Refrain*



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



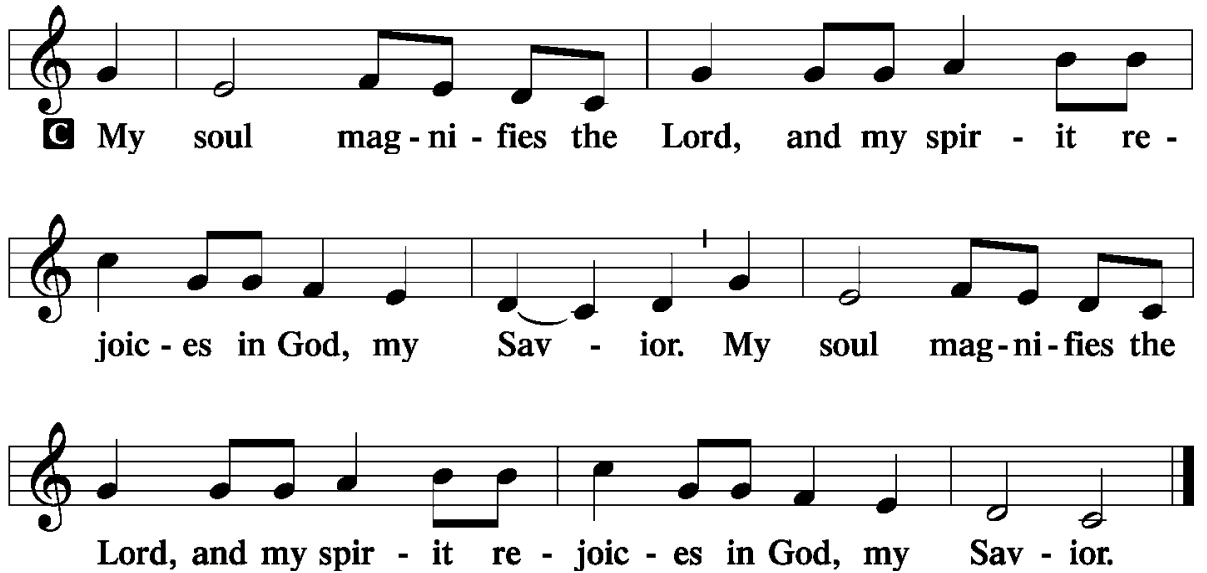
dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.



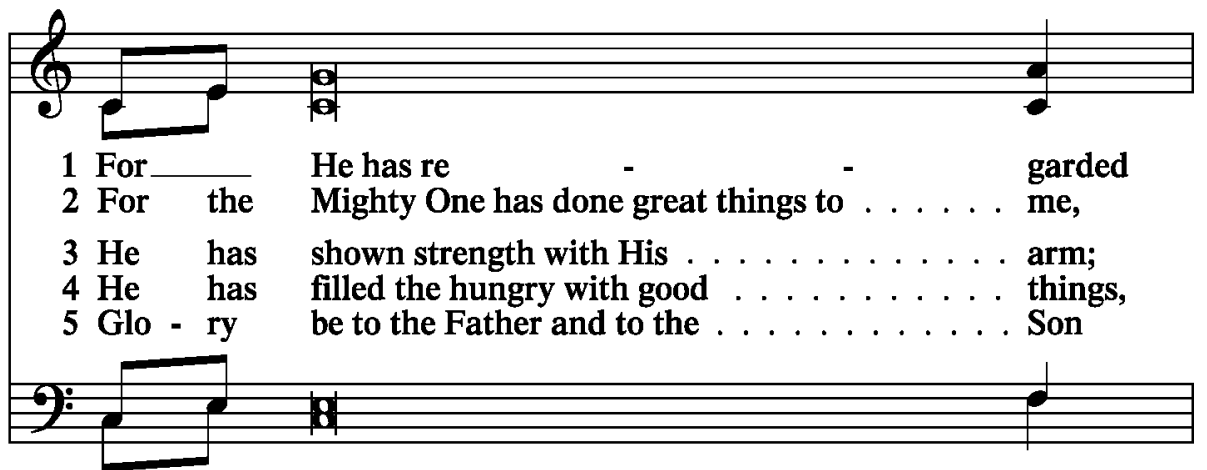
Sermon

Magnificat

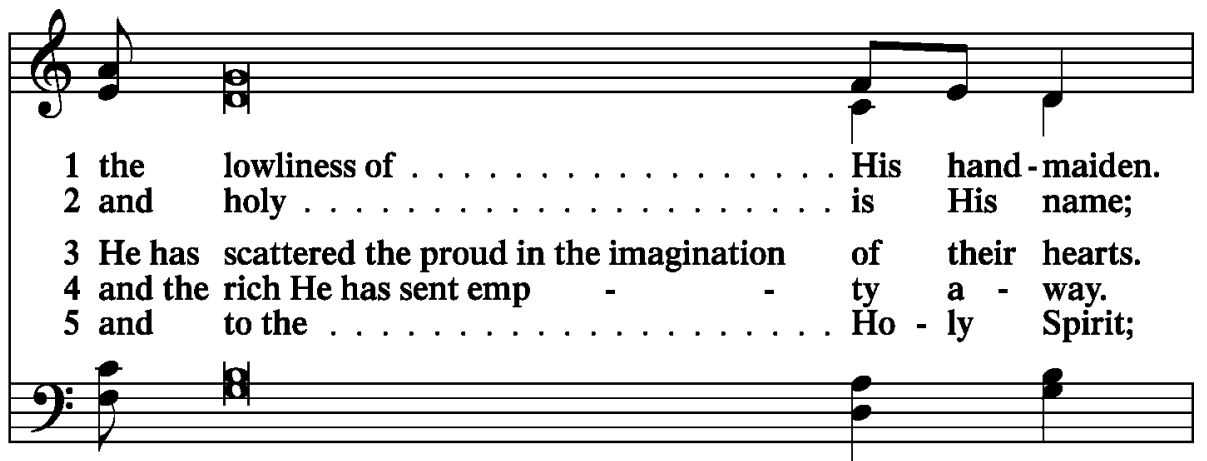
LSB 248



My soul mag - ni - fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -  
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag - ni - fies the  
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



1 For \_\_\_\_\_ He has re - - - - - garded  
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to . . . . . me,  
3 He has shown strength with His . . . . . arm;  
4 He has filled the hungry with good . . . . . things,  
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the . . . . . Son



1 the lowliness of . . . . . His hand - maiden.  
2 and holy . . . . . is His name;  
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.  
5 and to the . . . . . Ho - ly Spirit;

1 For be - hold, from this . . . . . day  
 2 and His mercy is on those who . . . . . fear Him  
 3 He has cast down the mighty from their . . . . . thrones  
 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy  
 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,

1 all generations will . . . . . call me blessèd.  
 2 from generation to . . . . . gen - er - ation. *Refrain*  
 3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.  
 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.  
 5 is now, and will be forever. . . . . A - men. *Refrain*

**Litany**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, set us apart  
**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Send Your peace and salvation to the darkness of this world. Lord Jesus Christ,  
 set us apart  
**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Unite all people to live in harmony and show each other mercy. Lord Jesus  
 Christ, set us apart  
**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Turn those who persecute You and Your Church to confess You as Lord and  
 Savior. Lord Jesus Christ, set us apart  
**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Embolden us all to share the love that has been lavished on us in Your death  
 and resurrection. Lord Jesus Christ, set us apart  
**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Grant favorable weather for the nourishment of Your creation. Lord Jesus Christ, set us apart

**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Keep all those who suffer oppression and persecution strong in the faith. Lord Jesus Christ, set us apart

**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

**P** Send healing and care to all those who suffer illness and grief, [*especially . . .*]. Lord Jesus Christ, set us apart

**C** to shine with Your Gospel.

### Collect for Peace

**P** O God, without You, we are only darkness, but You have baptized us into the light of Christ. Set us apart to shine Your Gospel light to the world and to be people of peace in this world of division, despair, and darkness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**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.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

### Benedicamus

LSB 252



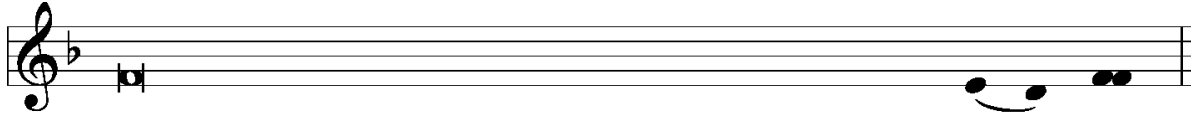
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 252



**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.



**C** A - men.

## 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

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