FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 10, 2025
12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

LIGHTS

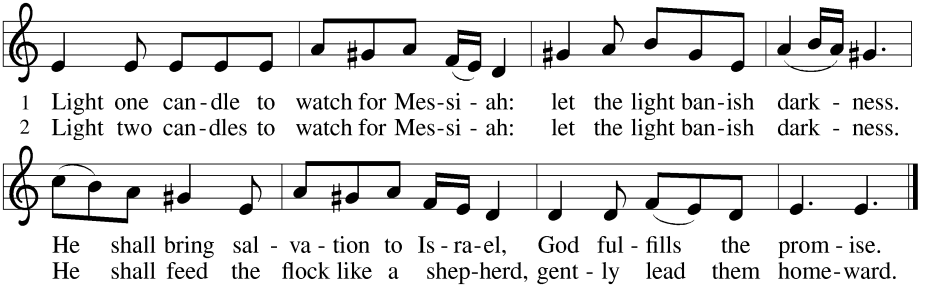
"Prepare!" is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn't mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Zechariah sang, "In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace" (*LSB*, Benedictus, Morning Prayer). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

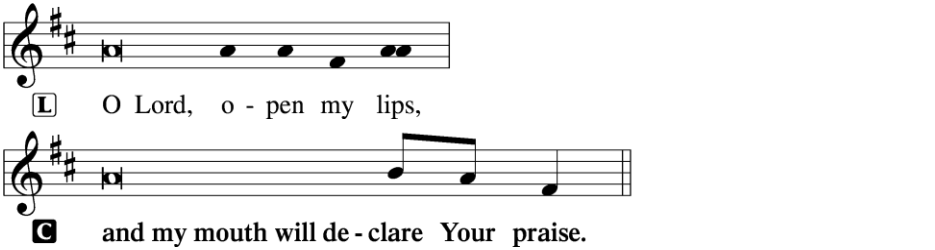
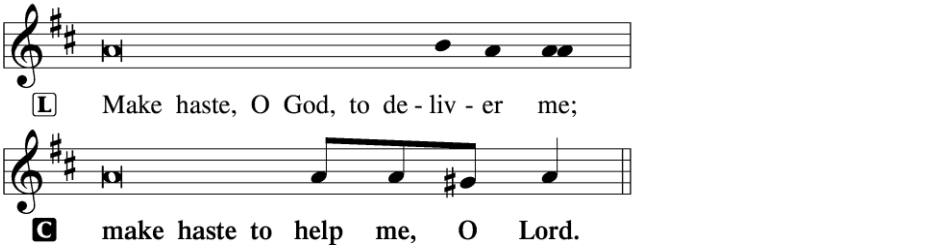
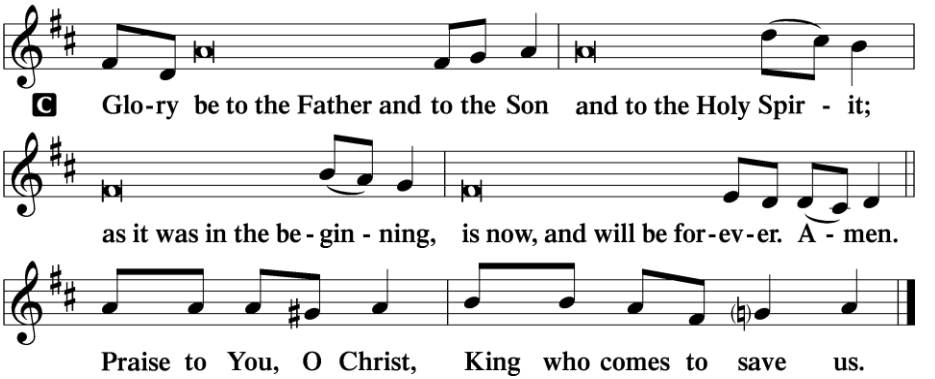
Rev. Eric J. Edwards ✢ ***Rev. Liwei Sui*** ✢ *Dr. Priscilla Gabriel, Director of Parish Music*
2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN ✢ 812-332-1668 ✢ office@faithbtown.org

CANDLELIGHTING – Light One Candle

The congregation sings both verses.

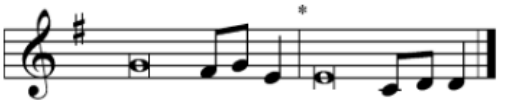


ADVENT VERSICLES



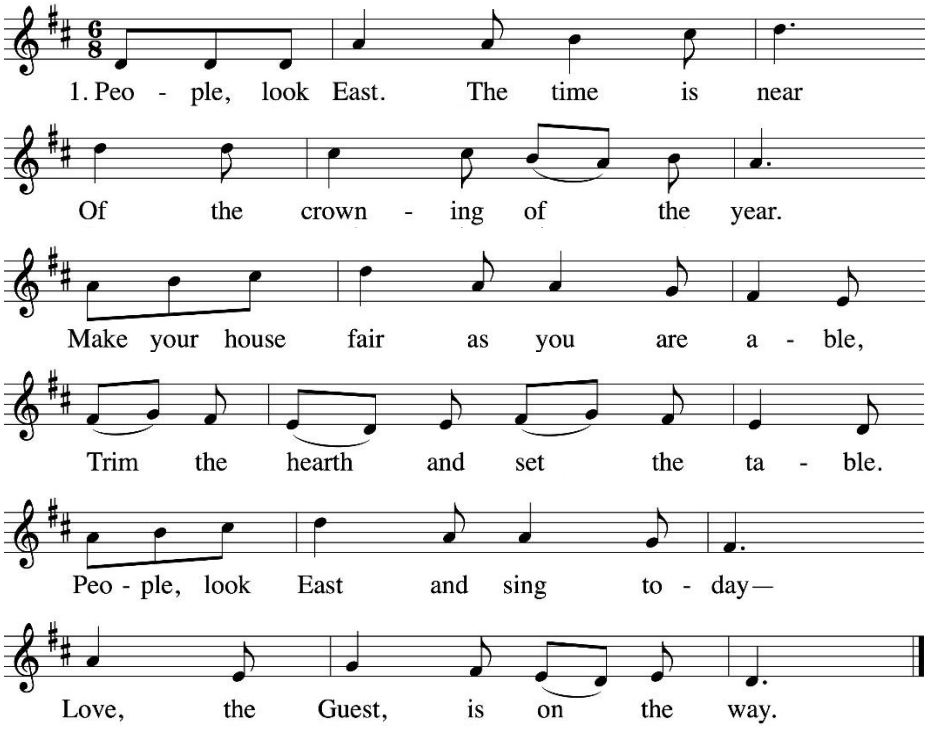
✢ ✢ PSALMODY ✢ ✢ ✢

PSALM – Psalm 118:15-29; antiphon: v. 27
The congregation sings all.

The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!
Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the | righteous:*
"The right hand of the LORD does | valiantly,
the right hand of the | LORD exalts,*
the right hand of the LORD does | valiantly!"
I shall not die, but | I shall live,*
and recount the deeds | of the LORD.
The LORD has disciplined me se- | verely,*
but He has not given me o- | ver to death.

Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*
that I may enter through them and give thanks | to the LORD.
This is the gate | of the LORD;*
the righteous shall enter | through it.
I thank You that You have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.
The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.
This is the LORD's | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.
This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.
Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*
O LORD, we pray, give | us success!
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*
We bless you from the house | of the LORD.
The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!
You are my God, and I will give | thanks to You;*
You are my God; I will ex- | tol You.
Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good;*
for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!
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.
The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

HYMN – People, Look East (v. 1)



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Tune: BESANÇON, 87 98 87; French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

✢ ✢ ✢ READINGS ✢ ✢ ✢

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7*

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

[1]But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

[2]The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined. . . .

[6]For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

[7]Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING – *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

P A reading from Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

[3]And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. [4]In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. [5]For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. [6]For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING – *John 1:1-9*

P A reading from John, the first chapter.

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. [4]In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

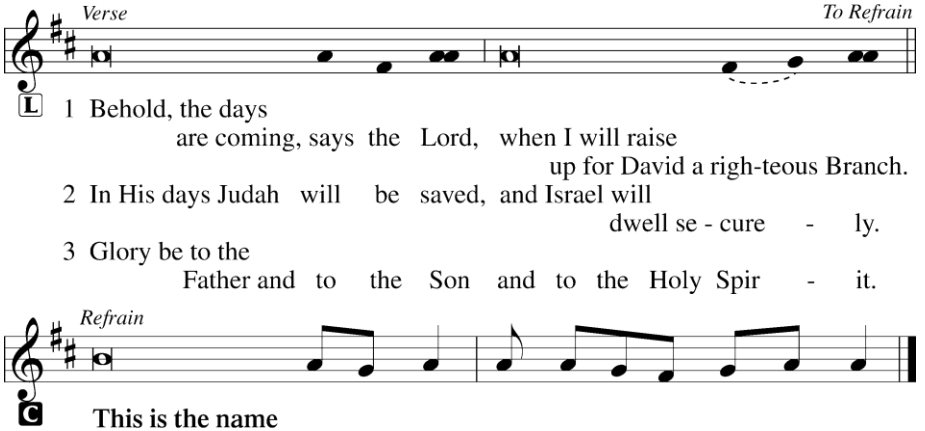
[6]There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. [8]He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

[9]The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

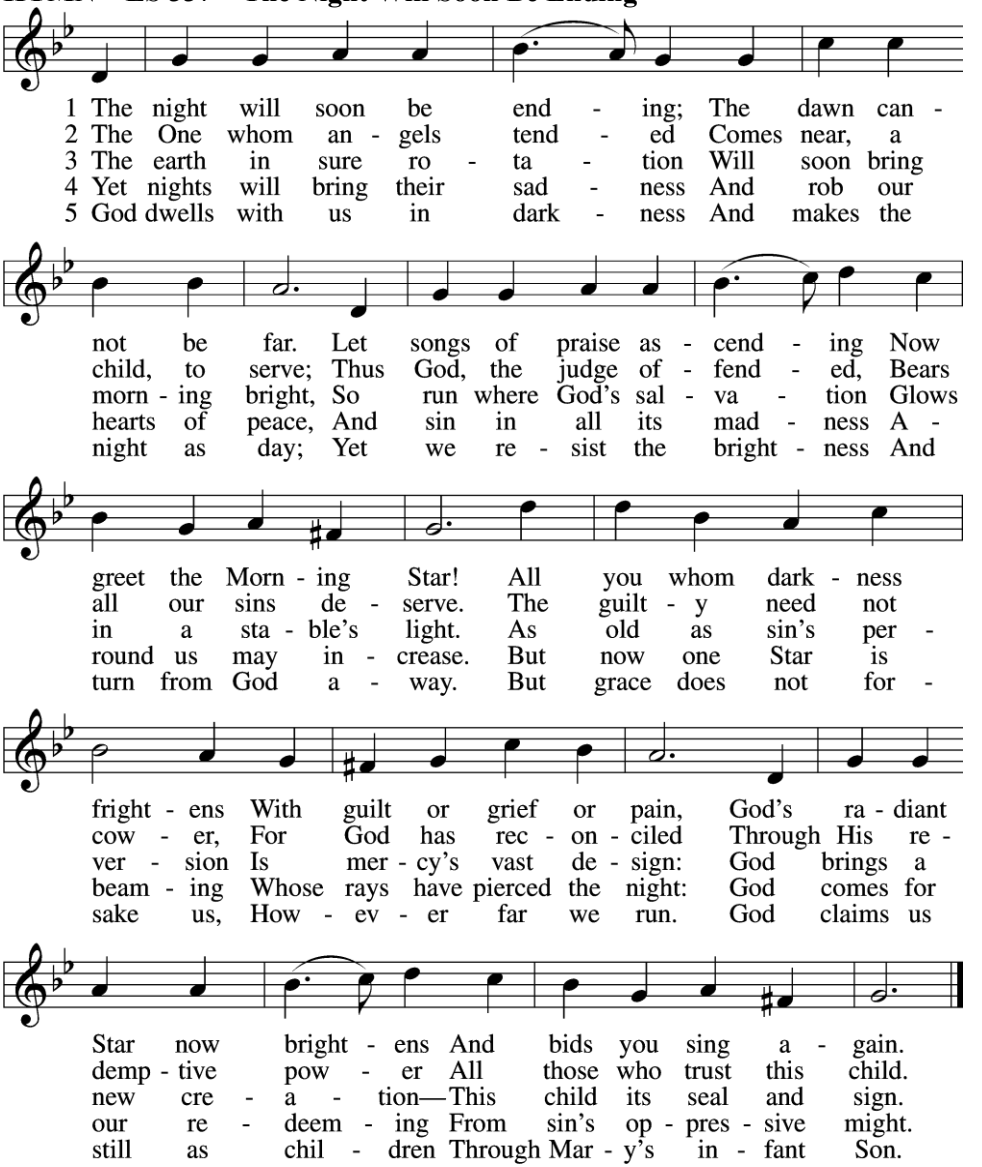
P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT



HYMN – LS 337 – The Night Will Soon Be Ending



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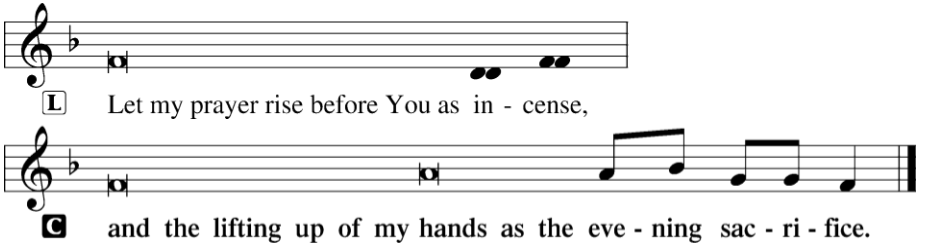
7:00 p.m. – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

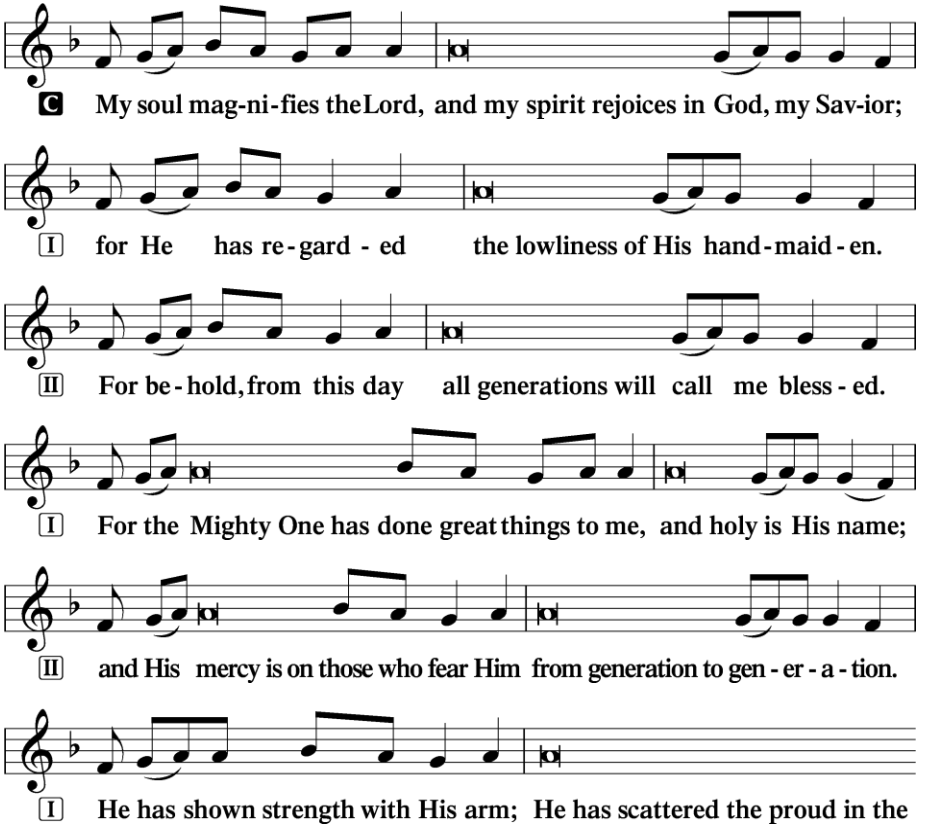
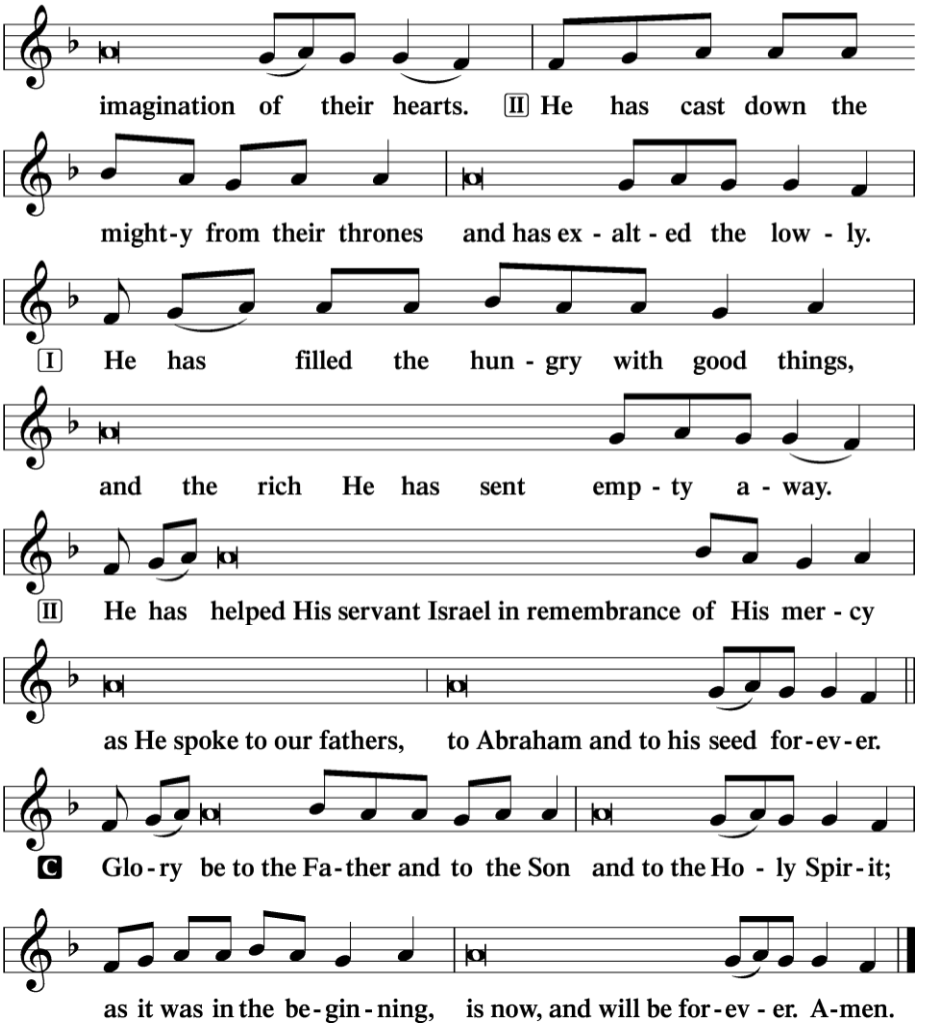
SERMON – *Lights*

✢ ✢ ✢ CANTICLE ✢ ✢ ✢

ANTIPHON

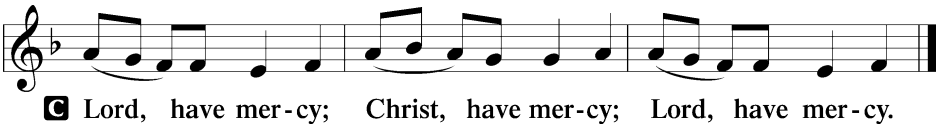


MAGNIFICAT – LSB 231

The congregation sings where marked **C**



OFFERING

✝ ✝ ✝ PRAYER ✝ ✝ ✝

KYRIE

Kyrie Eleison
LORD, HAVE MERCY

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.

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C **And let my cry come to You.**

L …let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.

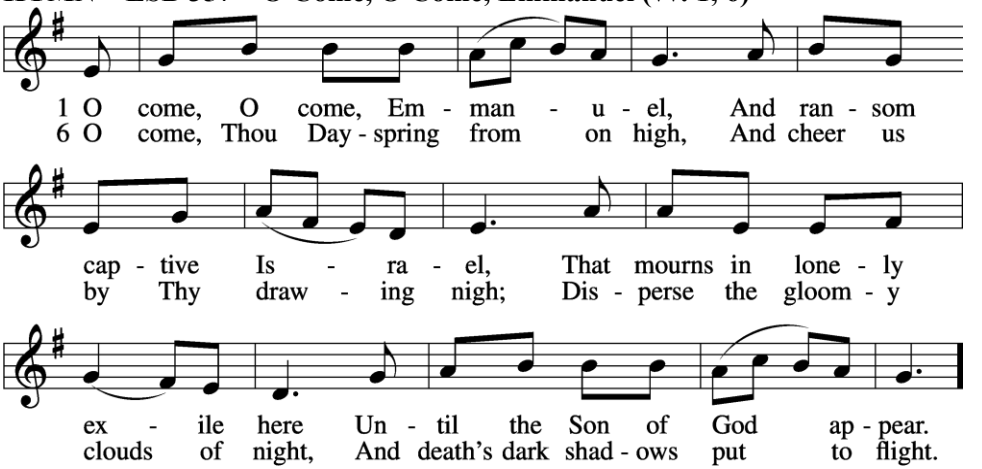
C **Thanks be to God.**

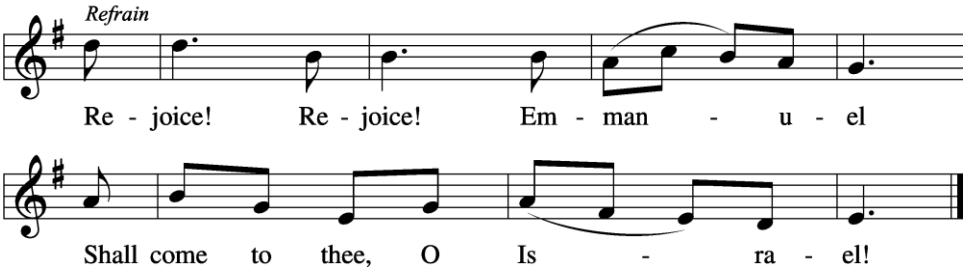
BENEDICTION

L The grace of our Lord ✢ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

HYMN – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1, 6)





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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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Advent & Christmas 2025

Wednesdays –December 3, 10, 17
Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship:
12 Noon **Worship** · 12:30pm Meal
5:45pm Meal · 6:45pm Carols · 7pm* **Worship**

Sunday, December 7 – 4:00pm ***at ULu***
Lessons & Carols *led by Faith/ULu choirs*

Wednesday, December 10 – 11:45am
Preschool Christmas Program *Preview*

Thursday, December 11 – 11:30am
Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21 – 10:30am*
Lessons & Carols *led by Sunday School children & FLY*

Christmas Eve – 5pm* & 7pm
Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day – 10am*
Worship *with Holy Communion*

New Year's Eve – 5pm*
Worship *with Holy Communion*

* Service will also be **livestreamed** on Facebook and YouTube (FaithBtownLCMS)
Follow the bulletin available on our website.

Any changes or updates to this schedule
will be available at www.faithbtown.org as they occur.