

**This Page Is
Intentionally Left
Blank**

Immanuel, Our Light of the World

December 13, 2023



Third Midweek
of Advent

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

ORDER OF SERVICE: EVENING PRAYER (SERVICE OF THE LIGHT) – C.W. PG. 54

ADVENT SEASON –With Advent, the colors turn purple for the royalty, representing the hope and anticipation of our King who comes through the manger. Jesus came to accomplish our redemption. He comes today in the means of grace to distribute that redemption; He will come again on the last day of our resurrection. The candle lighting focuses our attention on Jesus, our brother, and the light of the world.

The wreath is in a circular garland to represent life in eternity. Each of the four candles represents a thousand years from the promise to the fulfillment of the prophecy. This evening we light the third candle: the “Shepherds Candle.” This pink candle reminds us of the shepherd’s joy as they heard the world’s Savior had been born in Bethlehem and placed in a manger; only their perfect lambs without blemish would have been given that honor.

OPENING HYMN:

JESUS, YOUR CHURCH WITH LONGING EYES ***Please Stand during Final Verse***



1 Je - sus, your Church with long - ing eyes For your ex -
 2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall And win - try
 3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new, Our sins for -
 4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land; Let Sa - tan
 5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer To wait for



pect - ed com - ing waits. When will the prom - ised
 clouds o'er - cast the sky, Your words with plea - sure
 give, our foes sup - press, Our root - ed en - mi -
 from his throne be hurled. Let na - tions bow to
 your ap - point - ed hour, And fit us by your



light a - rise And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
 we re - call And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
 ty sub - due, And crown your gos - pel with suc - cess.
 your com - mand; Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
 grace to share The tri - umphs of your con - qu'ring pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796-1877, abr., alt.

Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



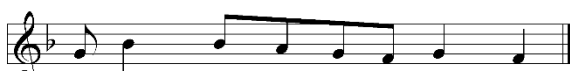
M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



M: The Lord be with you.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



C: And al - so with you.

Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word and receive our hymns

of thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

EVENING PSALM:

PSALM 141

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. 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.

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Please be Seated

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 119c

Refrain
Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm tone *

Refrain

Oh, how I love your law!*
I meditate on it all day long.
I have more insight than all my teachers,*
for I meditate on your statutes.
I have more understanding than the elders,*
for I obey your precepts.

Refrain

I have kept my feet from every evil path*
so that I might obey your Word.
I have not departed from your laws,*
for you yourself have taught me.
How sweet are your words to my taste,*
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 9: 1 – 7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian.

Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 8:12 – 20

When Jesus spoke to them again, he said, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

So the Pharisees said to him, "You testify about yourself. Your testimony is not valid."

"Even if I testify about myself," Jesus replied, "my testimony is valid, because I know where I came from and where I am going. But you do not know where I came from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh. I am not judging anyone. But even if I were to judge, my judgment would be true, because I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent me. Even in your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is valid. I am one who testifies about myself, and the Father who sent me testifies about me."

Then they asked him, "Where is your Father?"

"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew me, you would also know my Father."

He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the offering box. But no one arrested him, because his time had not arrived yet.

SEASONAL RESPONSE

Alleluia! Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies: for they have been from of old. Alleluia!

SERMON HYMN:

#22

O SAVIOR, REND THE HEAVENS WIDE

1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come
2 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - dant Dawn, When will we
3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim death looms
4 There shall we all our prais - es bring And sing to

down with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the doors break
sing your morn - ing song? Come, Son of God! With - out your
fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
you, our Sav - ior - King; There shall we laud you and a -



down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
light We grope in dread and gloom of night.
hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635, abr.; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF (LM) *Rheinpfälzisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666.

SERMON:

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD OVERCAME SIN'S DARKNESS

SERMON TEXT

ISAIAH 9: 1 – 7

SONG OF MARY

MAGNIFICAT



C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor



on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions



will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great



things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on



those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the

proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y
 from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.
 He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
 he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

OFFERING – *The offering plate will be passed at this time. For our guests and visitors, this service is our gift to you, please do not feel obligated to have to give, the collection plate is for our members to take care of our church expenses.*

EVENING RESPONSIVE PRAYER

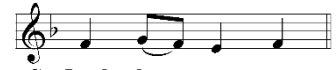
In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:

C: Christ, have mer - cy.

For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



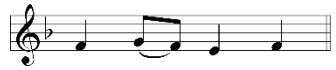
C: Lord, have mer - cy.

For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.

In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



C: A - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

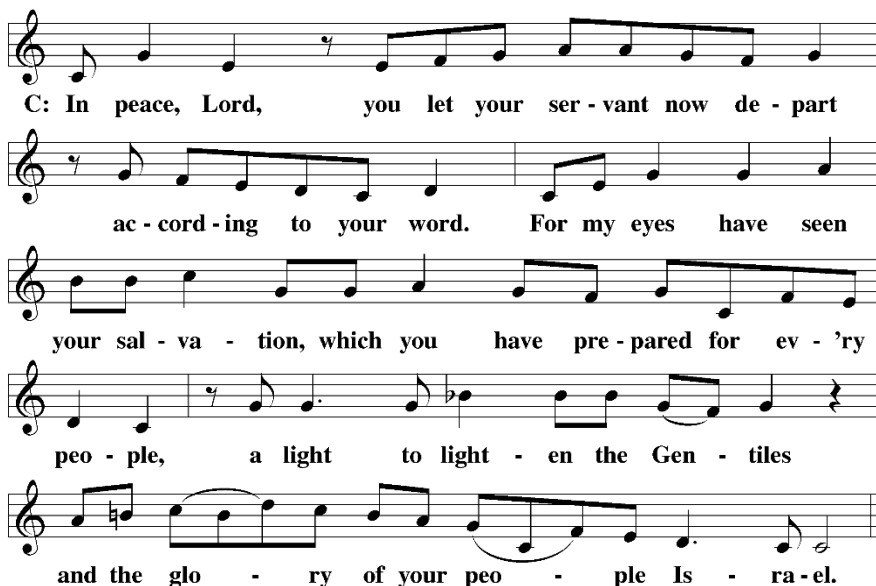
PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part
ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen
your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry
peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holly Spirit be with you all.



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN:

#10

THE BRIDEGROOM SOON WILL CALL US



1 The Bride-groom soon will call us; Shake off your drow-sy sleep!
2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re-deem-cr's face;
3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,
4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu-sic's voice;
Lest care - less-ness be - fall us, A watch - ful vig - il keep!
The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:
From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,
With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,

May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more
The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;
From sick - ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,
While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least

That we, with him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!
A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.
And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.
A might - y hymn for prais - ing The giv - er of the feast.

Text: Johann Walter, 1496–1570, abr.; tr. composite, 1989.
Tune: ACH GOTT VOM HIMMELREICHE (76 76 D) *Musae Sioniae*, VII, Wolfenbüttel, 1609.

What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.

The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

*The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project.
All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org*

Refrain Tune: Joyce Schubkegal. © 1993 Joyce Schubkegal (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

All rights Lectionary listings from Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Service Schedule – We will have our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm. Our Christmas day service will be 10:30 am with no Bible study or Sunday School on Christmas day.

Christmas Eve – Jeremiah 23 “Our shepherd leads us”

Christmas Day (10:30) – John 1 “The Word has come”

Adopt a Seminarian – Please keep our adopted Seminarian, Peter Estrem, in your prayers; You can also mail him cards and letters of encouragement to 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. We hope to connect this student with our congregation.

Council Members needed – In May you have an opportunity to serve our congregation. We will be holding elections for the Vice-president and Treasurer. These are 3-year terms currently held by Mike Hanson and Greg Port (respectively.) Mike is eligible to serve one more term and Greg has asked to step down from his position. Please consider serving, your church needs you.

Sunday Morning Bible Study –For the Month of December we are going to return our attention to where we left off in the book of Acts. Email any questions or topics to Pastor Emmons. Please feel free to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary. We will have Sunday School on Christmas and New Year’s Eve.

Pastor: Roger Emmons

Email: Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com

Web Site: <https://graceredmond.com>

Church Phone: 541-844-7100

Cell Phone: 541-699-7643

Address: 945 SW Glacier Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

Mailing Address: P.O Box 2396
Redmond, OR 97756