

Hidden Christmas



Advent 3 December 17, 2025 Emanuel Lutheran Church Milbank, South Dakota

Welcome to Emanuel

We warmly welcome all who join us in worship today, especially our visitors. We invite you to join us again and encourage you to sign our guest book and the friendship records in the pews.

Emanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of God the Father, by proclaiming the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, showing love for all people, lending a helping hand to those in need, and equipping God's people for ministry.

OPENING HYMN *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”*
(Please rise on the last verse)

LSB 358 (Vs. 1-8)

THE ORDER OF EVENING PRAYER

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All those who wait His appearance pray:

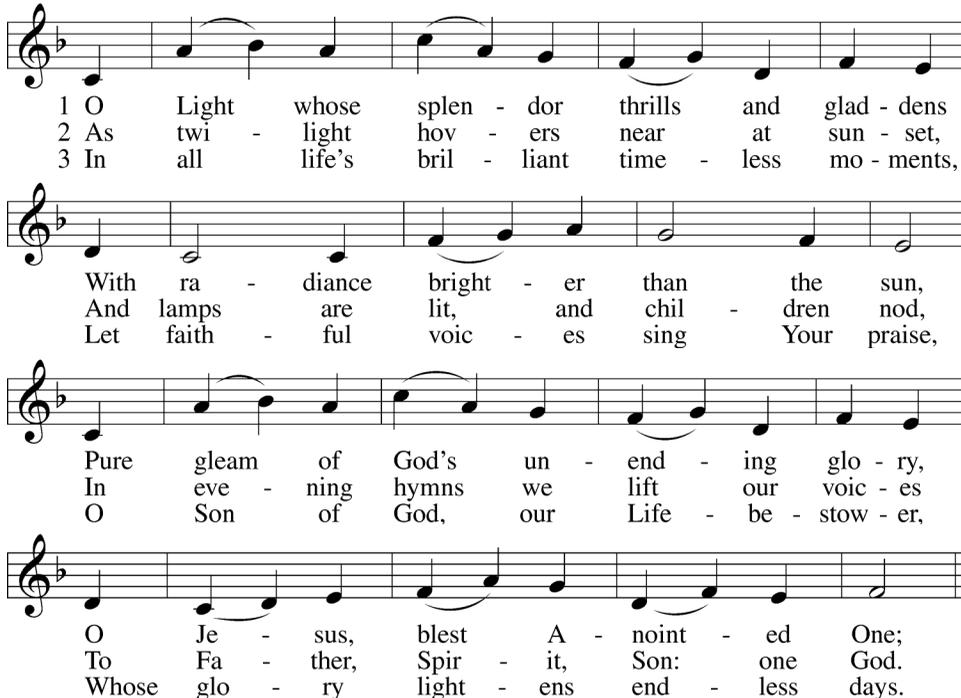
C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The whole creation pleads:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

HYMN OF LIGHT

LSB 891



1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
With radiance brighter than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and children nod,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
In evening hymns we lift our voices
O Son of God, our Lifebestower,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
Whose glory lightens endless days.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944

Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904

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Tune: Public domain

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: Let us pray. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, 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 merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE EVENING PSALM (*from Psalm 141*)

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly.

Hear my voice when I cry to You.

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord;
and guard the door of my lips.**

**Let not my heart incline to any evil thing,
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge.

Strip me not of my life.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.**

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

(Please be seated.)

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: *Isaiah 9:1-7*

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. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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.

Epistle: *Romans 7:7-8:1*

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. ⁹I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. ¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: *Luke 2:22-35* (Please rise for the Gospel)

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice

according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”
²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ^{32a}light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

P: 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.

SERMON HYMN “*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*” **LSB 358 (Vs. 9-15)**

**SERMON
 OFFERING
 MAGNIFICAT**

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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THE LITANY PRAYERS *(Please rise)*

The Litany will be sung according to the following musical form. The congregation's response will begin just as the Pastor's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both the Pastor and the congregation. (Note: on the last congregational response the congregation follows the same pattern but sings "Thanks be to God").

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, [petitions included here], let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silence for meditation – when the Liturgy continues it is spoken)

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C: To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

THE BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN *“Joy to the World”*

LSB 387