

Hidden Christmas



Advent 1 December 3, 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 "Savior of the Nations, Come"
(Please rise on the last verse)

LSB 332

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 splen - dor thrills and glad - dens
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,

With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,

Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944

Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904

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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: Galatians 4:1-6

¹I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-56 (Please rise for the Gospel)

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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
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



bless - ing, 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 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

LSB 357

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE