

**ADVENT  
MIDWEEK  
SERIES**

***“BEHOLD THE  
LIGHT”***

**DECEMBER 13, 2017**

***“MANY LIGHTS ARE  
BRIGHTER... TOGETHER!”***

**7:00 PM**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



***Welcome to Immanuel***

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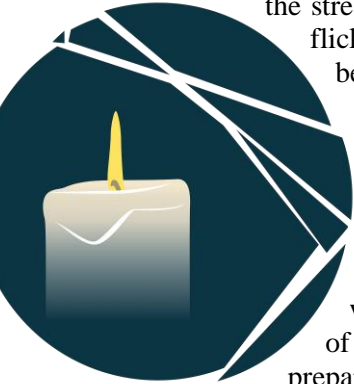
School: 217.442-5036

# Midweek Advent Series: "Behold the Light!"



**December 13, 2017 – 7 pm**  
**"Many Lights are Brighter... Together!"**

## AS WE GATHER

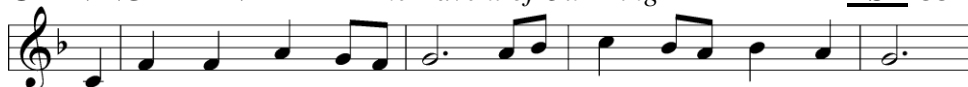


As Christmas approaches, you may feel like you are doing everything alone, that the stress and struggle of the season will overwhelm your flickering, fading energy and endurance. Or you may be dreading the potential conflict that will come when you gather with family and friends for Christmas celebrations in only a few short days. The apostle Paul writes that our God is the God of endurance and encouragement. You may be tired. You may be discouraged. But Christ has visited His people, and He gathers us all so that we may shine more brightly together in this world of darkness and discouragement. As you continue to prepare for Christmas, may you be encouraged by your brothers and sisters in Christ who shine alongside you.

## OPENING HYMN

*"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.

*Please stand ...*

## INVOCATION

**P** In the Name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**C** the light no darkness can overcome.

**P** Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**C** and the day is almost over.

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**C** and illumine Your Church.



## HYMN OF LIGHT

1 Joy - ous light of won - drous glo - ry: Je - sus, Lord of  
2 Blest are You, O Lord and Mas - ter, King of all the  
time and space. From e - ter - ni - ty our sto - ry  
u - ni - verse. You led Is - rael through dis - as - ter,  
Has been au - thored by Your grace. As the eve - ning  
By both cloud and fire trav - ersed. Now en - light - en  
shad - ows length - en We shout prais - es to Your throne.  
our dark path - ways With the ra - diance of Your Son.  
Son of God, our lives are strength - ened  
May His Word blaze in us al - ways,  
By Your song of love now known.  
Caus - ing us to shine as one.

## SENTENCES

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

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

**P** The God of endurance and encouragement is our hope.

**C** We look to the Scriptures for His instruction.

**P** God calls us to live in harmony with one another

**C** and glorify God with one voice.

**P** As Christ has welcomed you,

**C** so we will welcome one another.

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

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



## THE COLLECT PRAYER

**P** Lord God, Creator of the universe, You have given us the Holy Scriptures for our encouragement. Unite and reconcile Your people together, that bound together, we may reflect the light of Christ into the darkness of this world, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

**C** Amen.



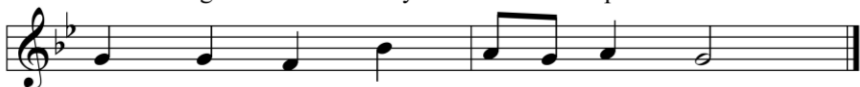
## SONG OF EVENING PRAYER



1 Let my prayer rise up to You, Lord, as in - cense,  
2 Come, O Lord, and hear my voice, If I cry or  
3 Turn my heart a - way from sin. Turn my mind from  
4 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther shout! Glo - ry to the



sweet and true. And these hands which now a - rise—  
I re - joice. Guard my lips from e - vil speech.  
wick - ed whims. Turn my eyes to You, O Lord.  
Son sing out! Glo - ry to the Spir - it raise!



Count them, Lord, as sac - ri - fice.  
Set a watch that can't be breached.  
Be my ref - uge, shield, and sword.  
Three in One, Your name we praise.

*Please be seated*

## SCRIPTURE READING

## Isaiah 1:1–11

- L** The Old Testament Reading for our Midweek Advent Service is from Isaiah, chapter one.

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: *“Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”* Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil. Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence foreigners devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners. And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! *“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.”*

- L** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

## Romans 15:4–13

- L** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter fifteen.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, *“Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your Name.”* And again it is said, *“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.”* And again, *“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol Him.”* And again Isaiah says, *“The root of Jesse will come, even He who arises to rule the Gentiles; in Him will the Gentiles hope.”* May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

- L** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand...*

## HOLY GOSPEL

## st Matthew 3:1–12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to st Matthew, the third chapter.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”*

Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, *“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

**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.

*Silence for reflection on God’s Word ...*

*Please be seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*

**LSB 649**



1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 When here our path - ways part, We suf - fer bit - ter pain;  
5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet a - gain.  
And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**SERMON** “Behold the Light: *Many Lights are Brighter ... Together!*”

## SHARING THE PEACE

*(We greet one another in the Name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and unity of the Spirit.)*

*Please be seated as the music begins ...*

## OFFERING AND MUSICAL OFFERING

*(As the Offering is gathered, please sign the attendance folder near the center aisle and pass to the person sitting next to you.)*



*Please stand ...* **CANTICLE HYMN** "My Soul Now Magnifies" **LSB 934**

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y

leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -

gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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## LITANY OF PRAYER

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord **C** with one voice.

**P** For peace and salvation, for reconciliation and unity, let us pray to the Lord

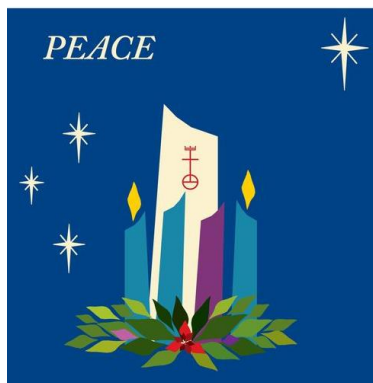
**C** with one voice.

**P** For endurance and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord **C** with one voice.

**P** For pastors, teachers, and all ministers and leaders in Your Church, let us pray to the Lord **C** with one voice.

**P** For those who labor in difficult or dangerous vocations, let us pray to the Lord

**C** with one voice.



**P** For favorable weather and the nourishment of Your creation, let us pray to the Lord

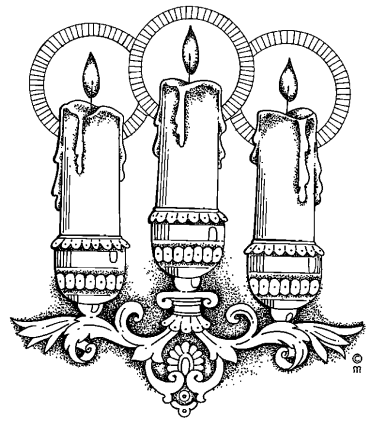
**C** **with one voice.**

**P** For those who have not known the light of Christ or have fallen away into the darkness of the world, let us pray to the Lord

**C** **with one voice.**

**P** For all those who suffer illness and grief, ... let us pray to the Lord

**C** **with one voice.**



### COLLECT FOR PEACE

**P** 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**

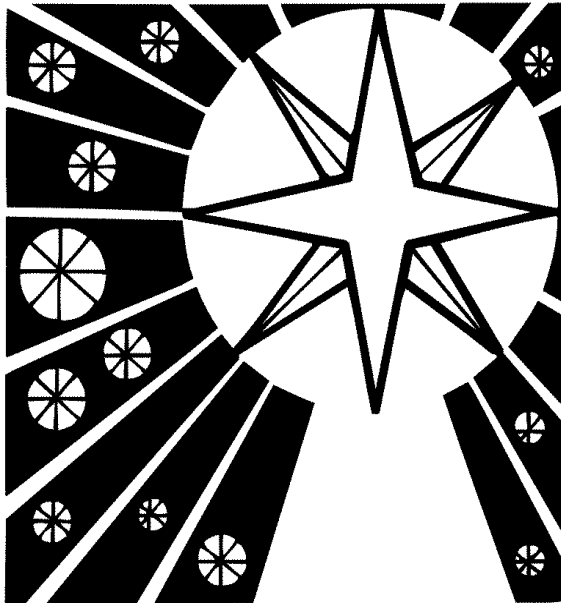
### BENEDICTION

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** **LSB 355** →  
“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

**POSTLUDE**

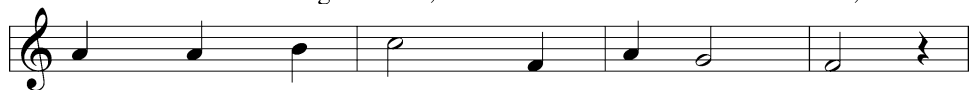




### 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



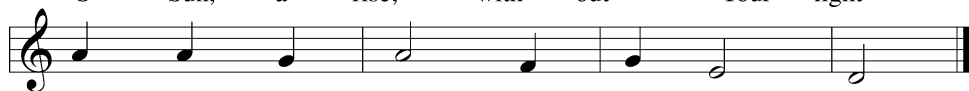
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?  
 5 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Sun,



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?  
 When will our hearts be - hold Your dawn?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring;  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare;  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;  
 O Sun, a - rise; with - out Your light



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
 O come, lead us with mighty hand  
 From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring  
 And sing to You, our Savior King;  
 There shall we laud You and adore  
 Forever and forevermore.

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### More “Behold the Light” ...

**Dec. 20: A Light with a Special Purpose!**

**Dec. 24 10 pm: The Brightest Light**

**Dec. 27 5 pm: The Life in the Light**

