

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 23, 2025 Epiphany 7

Do not be overcome by evil,

*but overcome evil
with good.*

Romans 12:21



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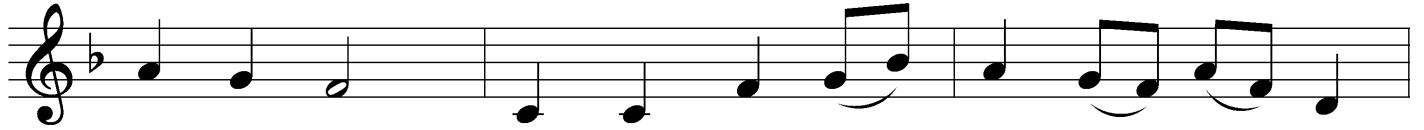
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OPENING HYMN #729 STS.1-3

"SON OF GOD, ETERNAL SAVIOR"



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
 2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's
 3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
 sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
 sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
 free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your
 sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
 sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
 crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.

*Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt. Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Please stand.

INVOCATION + CONFESSION + ABSOLUTION

M: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: We are reminded by God in the First Commandment: "You shall have no other gods." What does this mean to us?

C: We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

M: Let us take a moment to reflect privately on our priorities in life and whether or not we actually fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

(Silence for meditation and reflection.)

M: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, there are so many things in life that compete for our attention. We confess that you have not always been our first priority. We have sinned against you by not loving other people as you desire. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

M: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives all your sins. As a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

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



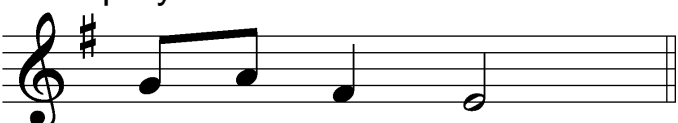
C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: 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.



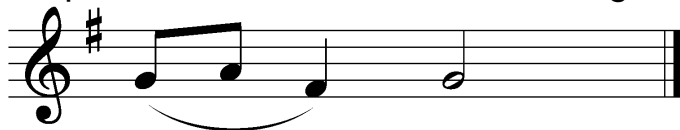
C: Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

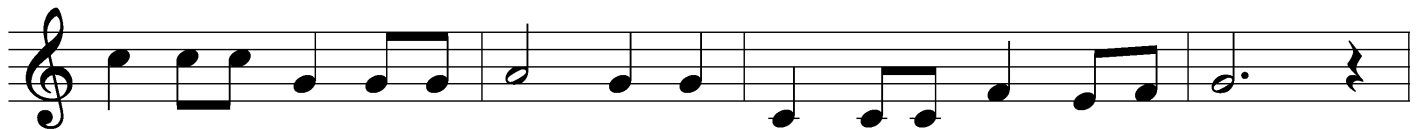
M: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C: A - - men.

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GLORY BE TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



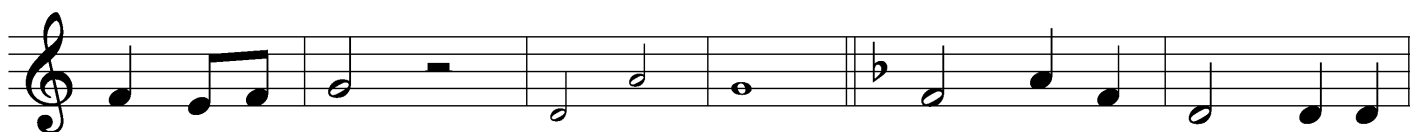
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



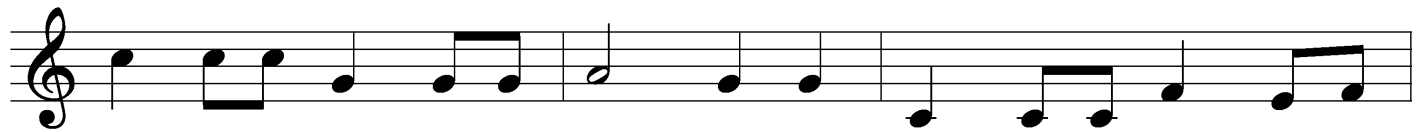
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



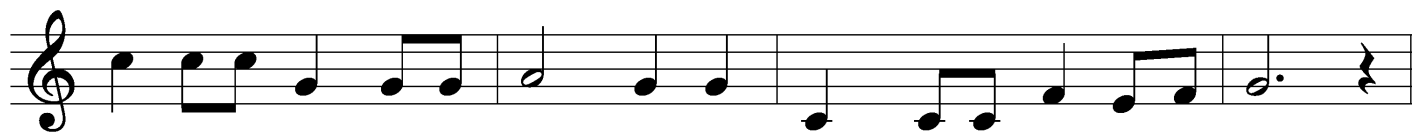
earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



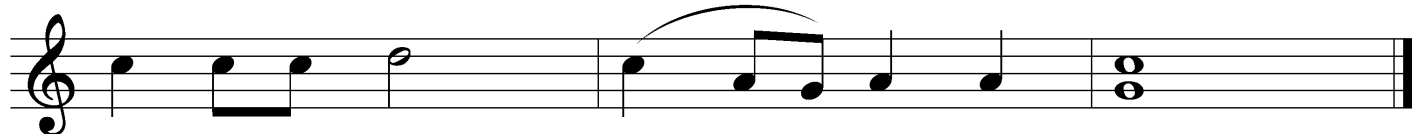
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 45:3-15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

¹²"You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

(NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #621 (early service)
SING FROM HYMNAL OR DISPLAY

"PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN"

TRINITY SCHOOL KIDS (Late service)

"AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME"

Based on John 13:34-35

By: Sarah Siegler

God loved the world with love so amazing.
He sent his Son to save all from sin.
Lord, you are love, and your Word is true.
As you have loved me first, I love you.

Jesus, God's Son, with love free and boundless:
He gave his life on Calvary's cross.
Lord, help me share the love of my Savior.
As you have loved me, help me love my neighbor.

As you have loved me, help me show your love.
Teach me to love my neighbor like you.
As you have served me, make me a servant.
In all I do, let your love shine through.

As you have loved me, give me a new life.
Teach me to live in service for you.
As your disciple, loving all people
In all I do, let your love shine through!

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12:14-21

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NIV)

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ST. MATTHEW 5:44,45



Refrain



C: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

M: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

C: Refrain

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HOLY GOSPEL

ST. LUKE 6:27-38

²⁷“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.

³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (NIV)

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN #732 (MINISTER WILL SING STANZA 1)

"IN UNITY AND PEACE"

Refrain



How good it is and how pleas-ant to live in u-ni-ty and peace.

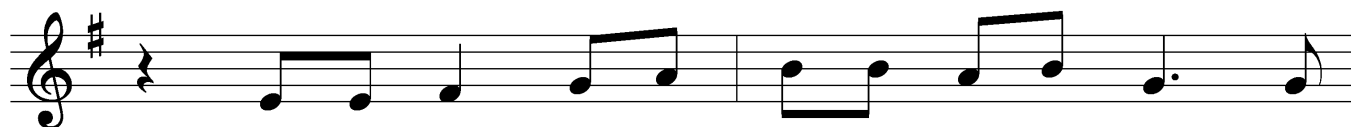


How good it is and how pleas-ant to live to-geth-er in one Lord.

(Last time only)



to live to - geth - er in one Lord.



1 In the name of our Lord — Je - sus Christ, a -
 2 Live a life that is wor - thy of your call, be
 3 Share the love that has joined — us as one, u -



gree in ev - 'ry-thing you say. — May there — be no di-
 hum - ble, gen - tle, and pa-tient. Bear with each oth - er in
 nite in spir - it and i - deals. — Nev - er be ri - vals, do



vi - sions a - mong you, but be u - nit - ed in one mind.
 ways that are lov - ing, pre - serve the u - ni - ty of faith.
 not be con - ceit - ed, but look to oth - ers in their need.

Refrain



For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.
 For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.
 For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

Text: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956 Tune: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956
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SERMON TEXT

ROMANS 12:14-21

SERMON

"OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD"

Please stand.

NICENE CREED

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

FRIENDSHIP CARD is available by the entrances. If you are watching on-line please go to the description link and sign in.

FREEWILL OFFERING The offering plate is located by the back entrance.

You may also give electronically via our website: immanuelfindlay.org or the App: GivePlus.

Please stand.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors: please see communion statement on page 20 of the bulletin.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might.



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written on ten staves of music. The lyrics are: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men. A - men. The score includes a 't page.' annotation on the right side of the fourth staff.

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Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

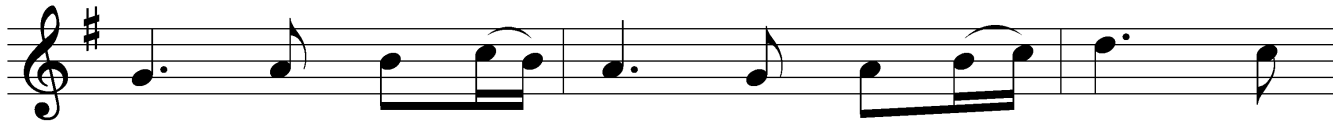
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ARE PRINTED ON THE NEXT 2 PAGES.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #768

"LORD OF ALL NATIONS, GRANT ME GRACE"



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
 2 Break down the wall that would di - vide your chil - dren,
 3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
 4 Give me your cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
 5 With your own love may I be filled and by your



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son
 Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bors' good let
 act and thought - less word. Make me to see the
 strong op - press the weak; and should I be a
 Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, what -

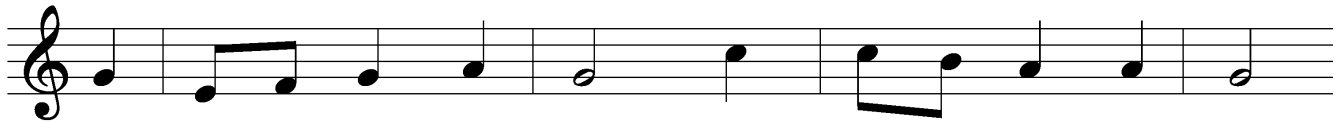


help me view my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by you.
 me pur - sue; bind them to me and all to you.
 wrong I do will hurt my neigh - bor, Lord, and you.
 vic - tim, too, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring you.
 e'er I do, may be di - vine - ly touched by you.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916–2018, alt. Tune: English Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.
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DISTRIBUTION HYMN #730

"BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"



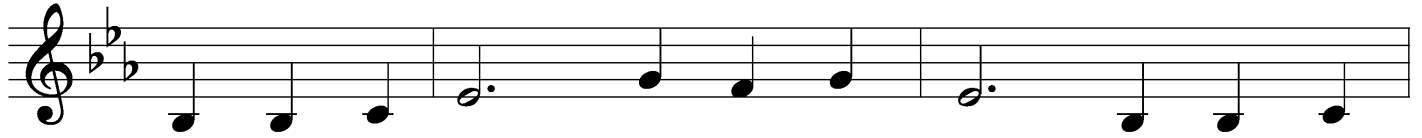
1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 When here our path - ways part, we suf - fer bit - ter pain;
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we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



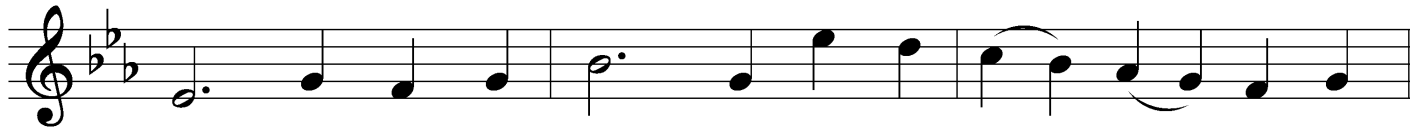
the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet a - gain.
 and per - fect love and friend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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #728

"THIS IS MY WILL"



1 This is my will, my one com - mand, that love should
2 No great - er love can be than this: to choose to
3 I call you now no long - er slaves; no slave knows
4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should
5 All that you ask my Fa - ther dear for my name's



dwell a - mong you all. This is my will, that you should
 die to save one's friends. You are my friends if you o -
 all his mas - ter does. I call you friends, for all I
 go and bear much fruit. I chose you out that you in
 sake you shall re - ceive. This is my will, my one com -



love as I have shown that I love you.
 bey what I com - mand that you should do.
 hear my Fa - ther say you hear from me.
 me should bear much fruit that will a - bide.
 mand, that love should dwell in each, in all.

M: The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.

C: Amen.

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

M: Gracious Lord, we thank and praise you for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having received this holy Sacrament, we may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #731 STS.1-2

"OH, HOW GOOD IT IS"



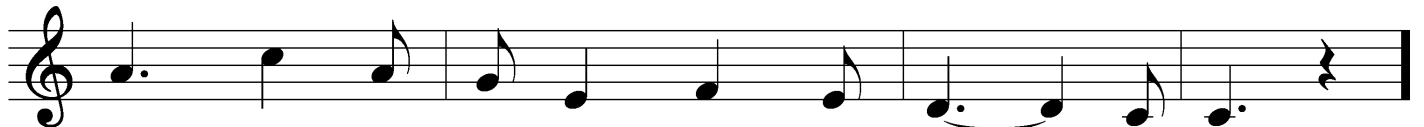
1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty. Where the
joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the



bonds of peace, of ac - cept - ance and love are the
weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace when we



fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
of - fer the bless - ing of be - long - ing.

Refrain



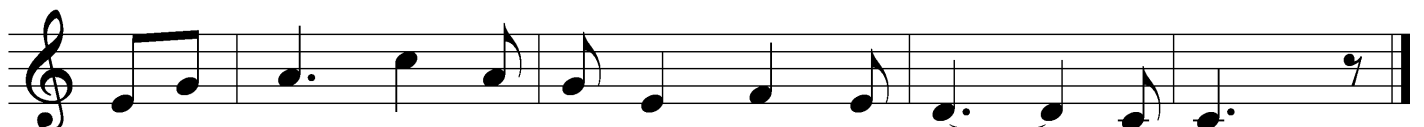
So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,



and with one heart we'll live out his word,



till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come,



for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, Stuart Townend
Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Ross Holmes, b. 1984; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980
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WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE CHOIRS will sing on March 9 at our 10:30 AM service. We will not have an early service that morning.

VOTERS' MEETING the Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be at 11:45 AM (after the late service) today. The packet will be in the mailbox of members.

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT Sign up in the narthex to attend this years Euchre Tournament. It is being held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jenera on March 15 at 6 PM. Bring a snack to share if you want to, otherwise just come and have fun with fellow church members.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS is not meeting until after Easter.

LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION OF OHIO (LSGOO)

To date, we have been able to provide \$9,420 in scholarships from this program to preschool families needing additional assistance in the preschool year 2024-2025. If you are not taking advantage of this excellent opportunity to **redirect** a portion of your Ohio tax liability to our school's ministry, please check out www.lsgoohio.org or talk with Elden Betts, Don Lucas or Howard Wilch. Up to \$750/individual or \$1500 filing jointly can be directed to this program with a one-time or recurring payment (It's a State of Ohio tax credit not a deduction). So far this tax year we have donor collections of \$11,000 toward the Board of Education goal of \$30,000. Thank you - donors - with additional donors, we can meet this goal for the preschool year 2025-2026 or even exceed that goal! What a great program, and it **costs you nothing** and you are helping in our preschool's ministry to share the Word of God not only with these young children but in some cases with the parents as well.

LENTEN SERVICES start Wednesday, March 2, at 7:00 PM. We will have a meal before each service at 5:30 PM. Please sign up in back if you can attend the meal. All sign-up sheets for the Lenten season are on the clip board.

FEBRUARY GREETERS

	East Doors	North Doors
2/23	8:00 Bob H.	Volunteer
	10:30 Pam W.	Jan S.

FEBRUARY USHERS 8:00 Don L., Nate W. 10:30 Kris G., Joe B.

MARCH GREETERS

	East Door	North Door
3/2	8:00 Volunteer	Volunteer
	10:30 Diane L.	Deana H.
3/9	8:00 Howard & Nancy	Volunteer
	10:30 Kay M.	Becky F.
3/16	8:00 Bob H.	Volunteer
	10:30 Brad & Sarah S.	Bill & Helen R.
3/23	8:00 Karl & Lynn F.	Volunteer
	10:30 Marjorie H.	Jim & Jamie T.
3/30	8:00 Volunteer	Volunteer
	10:30 Denny & Sharon P.	Laura & Mike B.

MARCH USHERS 8:00 Brad S., Nate W. 10:30 Sam P., Matt M.

ACCOMPANIST

Connie Krueger

CALENDAR	Sunday	<i>Worship & Holy Communion, 8:00AM & 10:30AM</i> Adult & Youth Sunday School, 9:15AM Voters' Meeting, 11:45 AM
	Wednesday	Adult Bible Class, 10:00 AM Choir Practice, 7:00 PM
	Thursday	Zoom Bible Class, 7:00 PM
	Friday	
	Saturday	
	Sunday	<i>Worship, 8:00AM & 10:30AM</i> Adult & Youth Sunday School, 9:15AM Confirmation, 6:30PM

BIBLE STUDY	<i>Sunday</i>	Adult Bible Study	Today's Readings 9:15AM
	<i>Wednesday</i>	Adult Bible Study	Joshua 10:00AM
	<i>Thursday</i>	Not meeting until after Easter	

Welcome! We join together here to thank God for a new week of promise and possibilities. Let us welcome the opportunity of worship. Let us greet one another joyfully and lovingly! If you are searching for a church home, please feel free to talk to the pastor after the service.

Large print bulletins are available at the back of the fellowship hall.

There are visitor welcome packets available in the narthex.

There are children's books, coloring pages, pencils, and crayons available at the back of the fellowship hall. Please return the books, clipboards, pencils and crayons.

Silence is golden. Please silence cell phones before worship.

Bulletin Board: If you would like items displayed, please contact the office.

When receiving communion, it's very helpful when you extend your hand to receive the wafer of bread. If there is anyone who would prefer to receive the wine mixed with water, please contact the pastor. We also have low-gluten wafers available; please speak with the pastor or an elder.

Celebrating Communion in Love—In love, Jesus gives his body and blood in Holy Communion. In love, Jesus tells us we are prepared for his meal when 1) we recognize our sins and need for forgiveness; 2) we confess Jesus as the only true God and Savior, without whom we would be lost for eternity; 3) we have been instructed in the Biblical truths of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; 4) we believe that in the Supper Jesus gives us his real body and blood in the bread and wine; 5) we publicly confess our oneness of faith and full agreement of belief with those whom we receive the Supper. In love, Jesus cautions us that if we are not properly prepared, then we are rejecting his love and would receive his Supper to our harm. Therefore, in love for all, we at Immanuel follow the ancient, Biblical practice of Close Communion, offering the Supper only to those who have professed their agreement with our Wisconsin Synod fellowship. If you are interested in receiving the Supper with us, we invite you to speak with our pastor about the important necessary pre-Communion instruction.