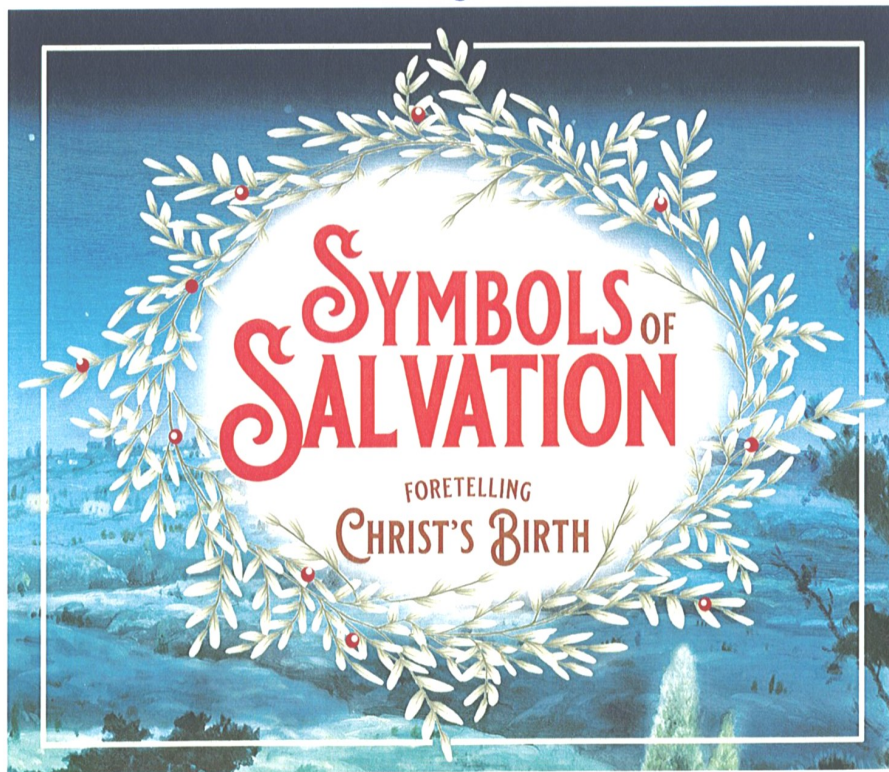


# **Lamb Of God Lutheran Church**

December 15, 2021



*Mid-Week  
Advent Service # 3*



## **Lamb of God Lutheran Church**

*Empowered by Christ's Sacraments to be His witness in  
Friendship/Fellowship/and Faith.*

2051 West Maple Ave.  
Flint, MI 48507  
810 234 2423

Pastor Mark Pretznaw  
248 736 8639



## **Mid Week Advent Service**

**Vespers**

*December 15, 2021*

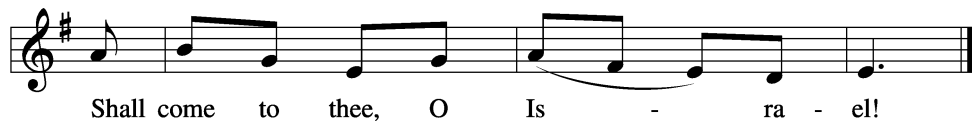
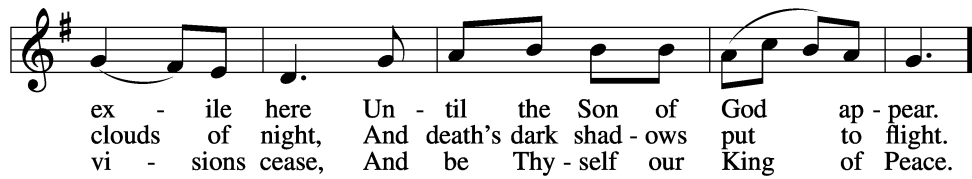
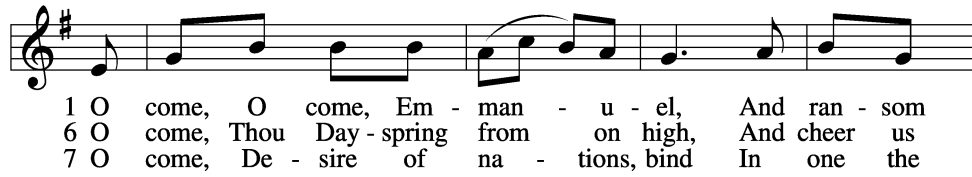
*Pre-Service Music*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Salutation**

- P** The Peace of the Lord be with you always
- C** **And also with you.**

# 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [stanzas 1, ref, 6-7]



Tune and text: Public domain

## Service of the Word

*Please stand as you are able*

### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Advent Versicles

**P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the World  
**C** The light no darkness can overcome

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out  
**C** Come Lord Jesus

**P** All those who await His appearance pray  
**C** Come Lord Jesus

**P** The whole creation pleads  
**C** Come Lord Jesus

**C** 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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

## Psalmody

### Responsive Reading of Psalm 42

**P** <sup>1</sup> As a deer pants for flowing streams,  
**C** so pants my soul for you, O God.

- P** <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.
- C** **When shall I come and appear before God?**
- P** <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night,
- C** **while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”**
- P** <sup>4</sup> These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:
- C** **how I would go with the throng  
and lead them in procession to the house  
of God**
- P** with glad shouts and songs of praise,
- C** **a multitude keeping festival.**
- P** <sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?
- C** **Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation <sup>6</sup> and my God.**
- P** My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember you
- C** **from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.**
- P** <sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep  
at the roar of your waterfalls;
- C** **all your breakers and your waves  
have gone over me.**

- [P]** <sup>8</sup> By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
- [C]** **and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.**
- [P]** <sup>9</sup> I say to God, my rock:  
“Why have you forgotten me?”
- [C]** **Why do I go mourning  
because of the oppression of the enemy?”**
- [P]** <sup>10</sup> As with a deadly wound in my bones,  
my adversaries taunt me,
- [C]** **while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”**
- [P]** <sup>11</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?
- [C]** **Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation and my God.**
- [C]** **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.**

*Please be Seated*

## Scripture Readings

### First Lesson:

### Judges 6:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. <sup>2</sup>And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that

are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. <sup>3</sup>For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. <sup>4</sup>They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey. <sup>5</sup>For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in. <sup>6</sup>And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites, <sup>8</sup>the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage. <sup>9</sup>And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. <sup>10</sup>And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.”

### Reading Response

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### Second Lesson:

### Judges 6:11-24

<sup>11</sup>Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” <sup>13</sup>And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why

then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

<sup>14</sup>And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.”

<sup>16</sup>And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” <sup>17</sup>And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me. <sup>18</sup>Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”

<sup>19</sup>So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. <sup>20</sup>And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. <sup>21</sup>Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. <sup>22</sup>Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” <sup>23</sup>But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” <sup>24</sup>Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.



## Reading Response

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### 666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

[stanzas 1-2]

1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly  
2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who  
seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.  
can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.  
And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing  
Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon  
tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.  
shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Third Lesson:

### Judges 7:1-22

<sup>1</sup>Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' <sup>3</sup>Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount

Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

<sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ shall not go.” <sup>5</sup>So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, “Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink.” <sup>6</sup>And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Gideon, “With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home.” <sup>8</sup>So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

<sup>9</sup>That same night the LORD said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand. <sup>10</sup>But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant. <sup>11</sup>And you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outposts of the armed men who were in the camp. <sup>12</sup>And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance. <sup>13</sup>When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, “Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley

bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.” <sup>14</sup>And his comrade answered, “This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp.”

<sup>15</sup>As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, “Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand.” <sup>16</sup>And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “Look at me, and do likewise. When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. <sup>18</sup>When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’”

<sup>19</sup>So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. <sup>20</sup>Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” <sup>21</sup>Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled. <sup>22</sup>When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man’s sword against his comrade and against all the army. And the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

### Reading Response

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able*

**Gospel Reading:**

**Luke 1:68-75**

**P** The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 1st  
Chapter

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord**

**Gospel Reading**

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has visited and redeemed his people  
<sup>69</sup>and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup>as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we should be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us;  
<sup>72</sup>to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
<sup>74</sup>that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

**Gospel Reading Response**

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Responsory (Advent)**

*LSB 230*

**P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I  
will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**G** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell  
securely.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

*Please be seated*

# 666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe [stanzas 3-4]

3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor  
4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,  
hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.  
now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!  
Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with  
So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y  
us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.  
cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Sermon: Judges 6:14-16

# Catechism

## The Third Article

### *Sanctification*

**C** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**P** *What does this mean?*

**C** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

# Canticle

*Please stand as you are able*

## Antiphon (Advent)

**P** Behold, the Lord comes to save us.

**C** **O come, let us worship Him.**

*In the Magnificat the designation "I" is a line for the men to read,  
and the designation of "II" is a line for the women to read.*

## Magnificat

*LSB 231*

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in  
God, my Savior;

**I** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

**II** For behold, from this day all generations will call me  
blessed.

**C** **For the Mighty One has done great things to  
me, and holy is His name;**

**P** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from  
generation to generation.

**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered  
the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**II** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has  
exalted the lowly.

**P** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich  
He has sent empty away.

**C** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

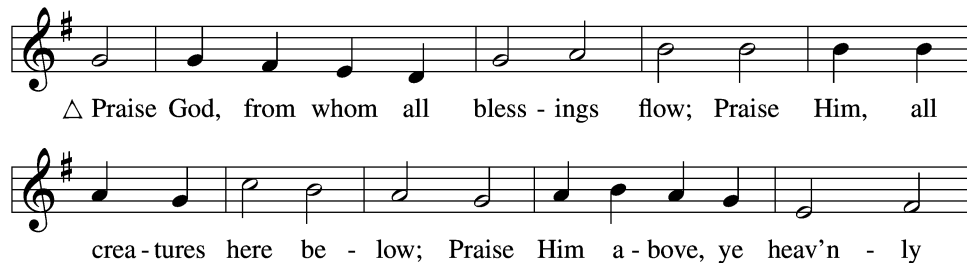
**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Offering

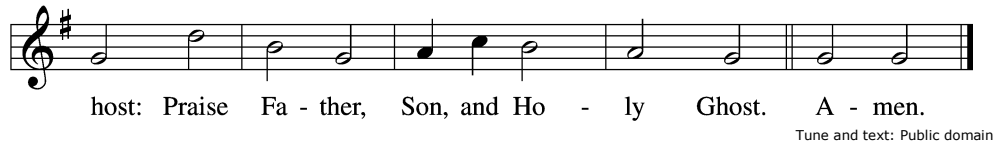
### Offering:

**P** Please fulfill your obligation as a member to support the ministry that we have been given by the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. You can drop your offering envelope off in the Offering Box in the Narthex as you leave today, mail us your envelope, give on-line at our website, or drop it off in the offering box in the lobby across from the Church Office Monday – Friday 9 AM-1 PM.

### 805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow A Lamb of God Favorite







*Please be seated*

## Prayer

*Prayers of the Church are collected from the assembled congregation*

### Kyrie

*LSB 233*

- P** Lord, have mercy;  
**C** Christ, have mercy;  
 Lord, have mercy.

### Introduction to Collects

*LSB 233*

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**C** And let my cry come to You.

### Collect of the Day

**P**



threatening      Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the perils of our sins and saved by Your

mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **Prayers Collected from the Congregation**

### **Collect for Advent**

**P** Mighty and eternal God, apart from You, we are weak and fearful, but You have not left us alone or without strength and power. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may daily acknowledge Christ's presence and reject the temptation to fear. Help us to rejoice in His mighty acts, by which we have been saved, and to remember His steadfast love and power when we would be tempted to despair, so that in Christ we may endure all trials and be found faithful when He comes again; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Collect for the Pandemic**

**P** Almighty God, You have been our help in ages past and you are our hope in the years to come. Be with our nation as we continue to deal with the ongoing

COVID-19 Pandemic. Be with our leaders and grant them godly wisdom to make good decisions on behalf of all. Be with all who gather here for worship in this Sanctuary as your assembled Church. As we do your will protect us from infection and sickness. Be with all those who worship with us through the blessing of social media. Grant to us all faith that replaces fear. Use this time of uncertainty and worry in our society as an opportunity for us to shine the light of your love and your mercy. Move us to confess with our mouths and our lives that you are the Rock to whom we cling, even though the earth gives way. Grant us continued grace to stand in faith toward you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### **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.

**C Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*

#### **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 241*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

## Close of Service

### 331 The Advent of Our King [stanzas 1-2,4-6] A Lamb of God Favorite



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,		
4	As	judge,	on	clouds	of	light,	He	soon	will	come a - gain
5	Be - fore	the	dawn - ing	day	Let	sin's	dark	deeds	be	gone,
△ 6	All	glo - ry	to	the	Son,	Who	comes	to	set	us free,



Tune and text: Public domain

## Closing Blessing

**P** Let us pray:  
O LORD, our God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your Holy Spirit is leading us, and Your hand is supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with you all

**C Amen**

## Closing Peace

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Acknowledgments**  
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## *Notes*

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**FRIDAY,**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



## *Poinsettia orders!*

Time to sign up for the Poinsettia plants  
that decorate our Altar for Christmas.

Cost is \$10.00 per plant (red only) and  
can be taken home for your enjoyment  
following the 10:00 pm service on  
Christmas Eve.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Put money in **Poinsettia envelope** (that is  
on the table in the hallway) and then put  
in the offering plate.



**Gideon**