



BIBLE SONGS
of **CHRISTMAS**

Midweek Advent 1

The Song of Mary
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
December 3, 2025

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Children’s worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil. 

If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at elctempe.org/worship.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.



Connection card

*During the offering
we ask that you
complete an online
connection card.*

Midweek Advent 1 — December 3, 2025

Bible Songs of Christmas: The Song of Mary

When the Bible was translated into Latin, *Magnificat* was the first word of the song that the Virgin Mary sang when she was telling Elizabeth about being chosen to be the mother of Jesus. The “Song of Mary” beautifully reflects key themes of God’s grace, mercy, and the reversal of worldly power. Mary begins by glorifying God for choosing her, a humble servant, to bear the Savior, a sign of God’s gracious action toward the lowly. This is a picture of how God works, not through the proud or powerful, but through the humble and weak.

Mary praises God’s faithfulness to his promises, especially the covenant made with Abraham and his descendants. God has an unchanging commitment to his people and to the fulfillment of his promises through Christ.

Martin Luther emphasized that the *Magnificat* is not about Mary’s greatness, but about God’s action through her. It’s a confession of faith in God’s grace alone. Mary trusts God’s Word and rejoices in his mercy, an admirable response to the gospel.

Service of Evening Prayer

Pre-Service Christmas singalong

330 Peace Came to Earth
344 What Child Is This?



Pre-Service music

Opening Hymn

303 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice

Please stand.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Psalm

Praise the LORD! Praise, you servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.
Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from now to eternity.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

High above all the nations is the LORD.
His glory towers above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God?

He is seated on high. He bends down to look at the heavens and at the earth.

He raises the poor from the dust. He lifts the needy from the garbage pile to
seat them with nobles, with the nobles of his people.

**He is the one who settles the barren woman in her home as a joyful mother
of children. Praise the LORD!**

Psalm 113

Our evening Advent services use a simplified order of worship that includes singing, a psalm, Scripture lessons, and a devotional message. Our goal this evening is to escape the hurried frenzy of the world around us and to retreat into a sanctuary where we find peace and rest with God.

*During our services, the congregation speaks the responses in **bold**.*

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Anthem (3:30 p.m.)

Of the Father's Love
Junior Choir

*Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore.*

*Oh, that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face
evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unending praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore.*

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰ She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

On a visit to her relative Elizabeth, the Virgin Mary praises God with a joyful song.

⁴⁶ Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

326 O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

Please stand.

Song of Mary

Magnificat

Refrain

Pro - claim the great-ness of God; re - jice in God, my
Sav-ior! Re - jice in God my Sav-ior!

Verses

Females— For he has fa-vored his low - ly one, and
Males— He fa - vors those who fear his name, in
All— He has cast the might - y from their thrones, and
All— He has helped his ser - vant Is - ra - el, re -

all — shall call — me bless - ed. The al -
ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion. He has
lift - ed up — the low - ly. He has
mem - ber - ing — his mer - cy. He

might - y has done — great things — for me — and
shown — the might and strength of his arm, — and
filled — the hun - gry with all — good gifts, — and
prom - ised his mer - cy to A - bra - ham and his

ho - ly is his name.
scat - tered the proud of heart. *to refrain*
sent — the rich a - way.
chil - dren for ev - er - more.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering

Away in a Manger
Lynette Maynard

Evening Prayer

Luther's Small Catechism

In the name of God the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Closing hymn

795 The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended
Stanzas 1, 4

The day you gave us, Lord, is ended, the darkness falls at your request;
to you our morning hymns ascended, your praise shall sanctify our rest.

So be it, Lord! Your throne shall never, like earth's proud empires, pass away;
your kingdom stands and grows forever until there dawns your glorious day.

Post-Service Music

Behold, a Branch Is Growing

Brad Jacobsen

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Valerie Floeter

Serving at Worship

Minister

Piano

Choir

Video streamer and slides

Video captions

Sound

Pastor Jon Buchholz

Erin Hahnke

Junior Choir

Chris Wempner

Chris Wempner

Wes Wightman

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Seth Meyer – Recovering in Colorado from a car accident.
- Alexis Naumann – Hospitalized at John C. Lincoln.
- Kaylee – Diagnosed with cancer.



Ushers

3:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Matt Heyn, Kevin Wenzel

Noah Gruman, Henry Krup

*Emmanuel usher
sign-up.*

This week at Emmanuel

Wednesday

Midweek Advent services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
Midweek Advent meal in the MEC	4:30-6:30 p.m.
Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	

Friday

ELS Chapel	8:30 a.m.
ELS early release	1:50 p.m.

Saturday

Invitation handout (<i>meet in the MEC</i>)	9:00 a.m.
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Sunday, December 7

Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.

Looking ahead

December 9	School Board meeting	6:30 p.m.
December 10	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
	<i>Pastoral Epistles Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Christmas service: Preschool-Grade 2	3:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal in the MEC	4:30-6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent service	6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.
December 11	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
	<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>	
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>	
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
	<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>	

December 12	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
December 13	ELS soccer tournament at Arizona Lutheran Academy	TBA
December 14	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
	Christmas service: Grades 3-8	4:00 p.m.
December 16	Joy Fellowship at Barleen's	11:00 a.m.
	Church Council meeting	6:00 p.m.
December 17	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Midweek Advent services	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal in the MEC	4:30-6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir in the MEC	7:30 p.m.
December 18	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	ELS Winter music recital	1:00-2:30 p.m.
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
December 19	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	12:00 p.m.
	Arizona Lutheran Academy Christmas concert	7:00 p.m.
December 21	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
December 22 – January 2	ELS Christmas Break	No school

Notes and News



Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to elctempe.org/connect, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Connection card

During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Special voters' call meeting on December 2, 2025

On Tuesday, December 2, the congregation called **Pastor James Backus** of Watertown, Wisconsin, to serve as Emmanuel's associate pastor in the area of youth and family ministry. Please pray for Pastor Backus and his family, as he deliberates this call to serve the Lord in Tempe.

At the same voters' meeting the congregation resolved to discontinue Monday evening worship services, effective immediately. The decision was made due to consistently low attendance and a concern for using limited resources (pastors and musicians) in the most faithful way. The pastors will seek to minister to the faithful worshipers who regularly attended on Monday evenings in different ways, so they are still served by Word and Sacrament. The congregation will continue to evaluate the need for a Monday service and will restart Monday worship when warranted.

Midweek Advent services and meals

Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' birth. To prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus, we continue to gather for midweek Advent worship services on Wednesdays, December 10 and 17, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Our midweek Advent theme is *Bible Songs of Christmas*. Come early and join in the pre-service singalong of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. Escape the rush and hurry of the commercialized pre-Christmas season, and quiet your heart in repentance, contemplation, and worship of Jesus, the true Reason for the Season.

During the time between the afternoon and evening services we'll gather in the MEC for Advent suppers.

Wednesday, December 3, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

WOW (*Women of the Word*, Emmanuel's ladies' group) will be providing chili. If you are able to, please bring cornbread, crackers, or dessert to share.

Wednesday, December 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

WOW will be providing macaroni and cheese.

If you are able to, please bring bread rolls, fruit, veggies, or dessert to share.

Wednesday, December 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

To be determined

Invite our neighbors to Jesus' birthday | December 6

As the shepherds did so long ago, running through the streets telling everyone the good news of what they heard and saw, it is our time to do the same. This Saturday, December 6, we will meet in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m. to distribute maps and materials. We then will walk the neighborhoods with invitations inviting our neighbors to come join all the activities proclaiming the birth of our Savior. Please come walk with us! Any questions, contact Benjamin Ruppel at bruppel@elctempe.org.

Prayers and gift cards for Kaylee and family

Kaylee, a fifth-grader at our Emmanuel Lutheran School, has been diagnosed with cancer and begun chemotherapy treatments. We keep Kaylee and her family in our prayers.

Our Emmanuel family has an opportunity to assist and support Kaylee's family by giving a gift card to help with meals and groceries. Some of the family's preferred locations are Panera Bread, Salad-and-Go, Chick-fil-A, and Fry's. If you wish to give a gift card, you can drop it off in the church or school offices and it will be delivered to the family. An easy way to purchase gifts cards is by purchasing them from Emmanuel's RaiseRight coordinators, John and Jean Mueller, on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the MEC or visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiserright to learn more.

RaiseRight gift card program

Giving gift cards for Christmas this year? Purchase them from our RaiseRight program!

Our RaiseRight Coordinator, John Mueller, is excited to assist you in ordering gift cards. Purchasing RaiseRight gift cards raises funds for students' tuition accounts at our Arizona WELS schools, the Arizona Lutheran tuition assistance fund, and our congregations and schools. You can order your RaiseRight through the Arizona Lutheran office (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org) or order at any time through RaiseRight.com. You will need the Enrollment Code, which can be provided by contacting John Mueller (RaiseRight@ALAcoyotes.org), and then enroll to start earning. Orders are placed twice a month, with deadlines of 8:00 a.m. on the 15th and the last day of the month. Visit our webpage at elctempe.org/raiserright to learn more.

Please note, for physical cards, be sure to place your order before December 15 to receive cards before Christmas. You can always purchase and print e-cards from your computer or smartphone via the [RaiseRight mobile app](#).

A heartfelt thank-you

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season! Many gifts of toys and hygiene products were collected last month. These gifts were given to Mission to the Children in Tucson, Arizona, where they will be wrapped and presented to families in Mexico and southern Arizona.

Whether it's the miraculous account of Jesus' birth or the cherished time we spend with family and friends, this is truly a blessed time of year. It is only fitting we share those blessings with others. Thank you!

Gift cards and monetary donations can be mailed to:

Mission to the Children
PO Box 42223
Tucson, Arizona 85733

Mission to the Children exists to make disciples for Christ and is solely supported by the thoughtful donations from individuals, congregations and church groups, and works in cooperation with approved mission activities of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You can learn more about Mission to the Children by visiting their website: missiontothechildren.org/.

All Things New devotions for Advent

Looking for a new devotion for the Advent season? *All Things New* is Martin Luther College's newest devotion book. As we gather around the manger this year, we'll ponder Jesus' words in Revelation 21:5, "I am making everything new!" In these devotions, we'll see that through the coming of Christ – his birth at Christmas, his presence in our hearts through faith, and his triumphant return at the end of the world – God indeed makes all things new.

Get your complimentary copy of *All Things New* today; copies are available in the church narthex and the MEC. If you'd prefer, you can request that Martin Luther College send the devotions to you as daily emails to your personal email December 1-25; sign up [here](#) by using the QR code.



*Daily devotions
email sign-up*

Lessons and Carols choir

For those who enjoy singing, you are again invited to be a part of this year's Lessons and Carols choir on December 24, 3:30 p.m. and repeated at 5:00 p.m. It is a highlight at Emmanuel! A special choir of 30-40 Emmanuel members and WELS friends of Emmanuel will sing the gospel truths of Christmas. Many steps have been taken to make this opportunity accessible to those who aren't a part of the adult choir but enjoy singing. If you would like to sing, contact Kevin Bode, kbode@elstempe.org, for more information in making this work for you. In December, we will rehearse after the 6:30 p.m. midweek Advent services (starting this evening, Wednesday, December 3).

Christmas cards

Women of the Word (WOW) have boxed and a few individual Christmas Cards for sale in the MEC. All money from the purchases will go to Our Savior's Lutheran School in Peridot, Arizona, for their teachers' "Wish List." Please give your donation (if a check payable to "Ladies Group") to either Karen Henriksen, Wendy Binger or Rachel Severeid.

Joy Fellowship | December 16

Our Joy Fellowship group is for those 55 years and older. On Tuesday, December 16, we have 30 seats reserved at Barleen's Dinner Show in Apache Junction (2275 E. Old West Hwy, Apache Junction, Arizona 85119) for the 11:00 a.m. show. *Home for the Holidays* is a seasonal mix of holiday classics. The cost is \$52 per person. Please pay Chet Jaehnig or Wendy Binger as soon as possible. A signup sheet is available in the Ministry and Education Center. Any questions, contact Wendy Binger at jbwendy97@gmail.com.

Christmas celebration at Emmanuel

You can find more information at elctempe.org/Christmas.

- Wednesday, Dec. 10, Children's Christmas service, at 3:30 p.m.
"From Heaven Above", Preschool to Grade 2
- Sunday, Dec. 14, Children's Christmas service, at 4:00 p.m.
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice", Grades 3 to 8
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Lessons and Carols, at 3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24, Candlelight services, at 6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship, at 9:00 a.m.

We will also give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our **New Year's Eve** worship with Holy Communion:

- Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Campus custodian

We are looking for a part-time custodian to assist Benjamin Ruppel with campus duties. The main focus will be working as School Custodian. The person hired will be working evenings and possibly weekends for approximately 20 hours per week. Any interested individuals please contact Benjamin Ruppel at (480) 967-3983 or bruppel@elctempe.org to go over details and scope of work. Resumes accepted until December 19, 2025.

Men of His Word Conference 2026 | January 31

Registration is open for the Men of His Word (MOHW) Conference, to be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Desert Willow Conference Center (48th Street and Broadway in Phoenix). Register and purchase your early bird ticket now for \$100; students \$50. The cost will increase to \$125 after the first of the year.

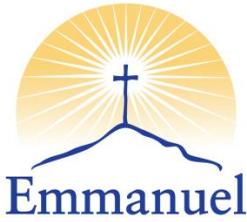
The Men of His Word Conference is a gathering for godly men to be encouraged by one another and to grow together in faith through worship and Bible study. This year's theme is "Courage Under Fire." Pastor Jeff Gunn will be the keynote speaker at the conference, and there are also many breakout groups for learning and discussion. Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments are included. Visit www.menofhisword.org for more information and to register.

Men of His Word Conference Scholarship

Through a generous donation, men from Emmanuel who sign up for the conference will receive a \$50 cash-back scholarship. Only 40 scholarships are available. Register now and pay the registration fee, and once you have attended the event in January, you will receive a \$50 reimbursement. (Students who register before December 31, and receive the scholarship, will end up attending for free!) Gentlemen, take advantage of this opportunity to attend this excellent conference with your brothers in Christ. Those interested in receiving a scholarship can sign up [here](#) or use the provided QR code.



*Men of His Word
scholarship sign-up*



About Us

Emmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl

gpufahl@elctempe.org

(262) 744-1619 (cell)

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz

jonbuchholz@msn.com

(602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz

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(480) 344-3783

School Secretary Erin Hahnke

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran

Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

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