



**First Sunday of Advent**

**December 3, 2017**

**10:30 A.M.**

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# Welcome!

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.**

**We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.**

**We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.**

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card from the pew, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

## Facilities

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays, see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. On Sundays, additional parking is available across the street at the Holiday Inn or in Lot 6 on Lake St. across from the Police and Fire Headquarters. Parking meters are free on Sunday!
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near the elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by the elevator.
- We love having children in worship! There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome". Please use the Internet responsibly!

## About Our Worship

Our Sunday worship is organized around the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It has a familiar form each week, but the content changes for each service according to a calendar shared with many other Christians. Our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is organized so that page numbers for the liturgy are in the front part of the book, while hymn numbers are in the second part. The liturgy and hymns are printed in this bulletin, but page numbers are provided for those who wish to follow along in the hymnal.

## Receiving Holy Communion

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal, because Christ himself invites you! At the direction of the usher, come forward and kneel at the altar rail, if you are able, beginning at the ends of the rail closest to the front wall, filling in toward the center. (If you cannot kneel, standing is fine!) Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. You may eat it immediately, then take the silver chalice and drink from it or, if you prefer, hold the bread and dip it in the ceramic chalice and then eat the moistened bread. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please indicate to the pastor if you need that. Return to your place via the side aisles after you have communed. If you need to have Communion brought to you, please sit on the aisle, and let either the pastor or an usher know before the service that you would like to commune at your seat. If you desire a blessing but not the sacrament, you are invited to come forward with everyone else and fold your arms over your chest to indicate this.

## Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...*

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for a seemingly distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

**P:** Presiding Minister    **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister    **R:** Reader    **A:** Assembly  
 + All may make the sign of the cross.

### Pre-Service Music

*"O Savior of the Nations Come" by Bach et al.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*As the candle is lit, the Assembly sings v.1 of "Light A Candle."*

1. Light a can - dle bright and tall    For the Hope with - in our world.  
 2. Light a can - dle bright and tall    For the Peace we wish to know.  
 3. Light a can - dle bright and tall    For the Joy this sea - son brings.  
 4. Light a can - dle bright and tall    For a Love which knows no end.  
 5. Light a can - dle bright and tall    For the Christ we greet to - day.

5  
 Hope that heard the a - gea' call    As the stars and pla - nets whirled.  
 Peace on Earth for great and small    God's Good News and un - be - stows.  
 Joy like foun - tains brim - ming full.    Through our world now let it ring!  
 Love that comes to one and all.    Fear and ha - tred to up - end.  
 Christ has come, our all in all.    With the an - gels, let us say:

9  
 Shine with - in our hearts to - day    Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.  
 Shine with - in our hearts to - day    Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.  
 Shine with - in our hearts to - day    Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.  
 Shine with - in our hearts to - day    Come, O Love, to us, we pray.  
 Shine with - in our hearts to - day    Come, O Christ, to us, we pray.

## Prayer

- L Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
You call all nations to walk in your light  
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,  
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.  
Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes  
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,  
for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**A Amen.**

*The Assembly stands and faces the font.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.

**A Amen.**

- P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all time,

- A we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
Grant us wisdom to welcome your light  
and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

- P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven  
and all things are made new.  
Rejoice in this good news!

**A Amen.**

## Gathering Song

“Fling Wide the Door” **Hymnal 259**

*Please turn to face the doors. You may reverence the cross as it passes you.*

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen

**[cont.]**

comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -

Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly

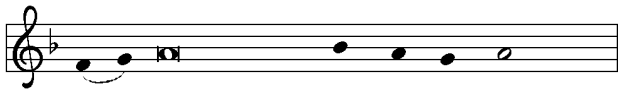
to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

**Greeting**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A** **And also with you!**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

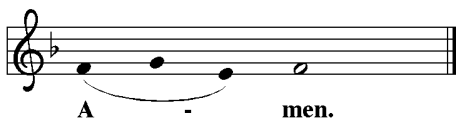
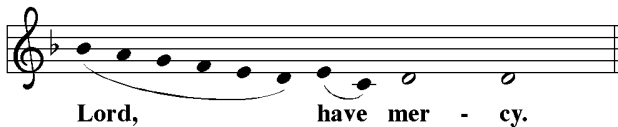


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

[cont.]



### Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

*The Assembly is seated.*

### Welcome and Announcements

**Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**

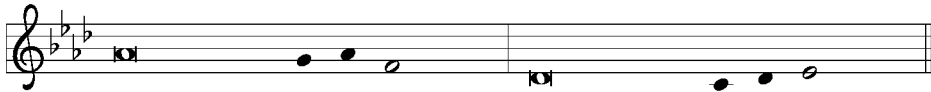


**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

**ELW Psalm Tone 3**

*The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through.  
The right side of the Assembly sings lightface verses to the tone, and the left sings boldfaced verses.  
All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."*

**Tone:**



**Refrain:**



- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**  
**stir up your strength and | come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup>Restore | us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup>**O LORD | God of hosts,**  
**how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R**
- <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the | bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**  
**and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**  
**the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**
- <sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn a- | way from you;  
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- <sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**  
**let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R**

## Reading from the New Testament

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

R A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

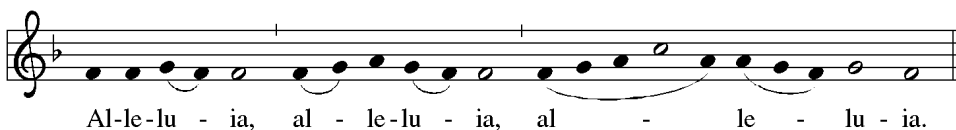
R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**

*The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Hymnal, p. 160



*Repeat alleluia*



## Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

P This is the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**A Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**A Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The Alleluia of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again.*

*The Assembly is then seated.*

## **Sermon**

*A bell will chime to begin a time of silence for reflection.*

*When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word.*

Hymn of the Day

"Lost in the Night" Hymnal 243

1 Lost in the night do the peo - ple yet lan - guish,  
 2 Must we be vain - ly a - wait - ing the mor - row?  
 3 Sor - row - ing wan - d'ers, in dark - ness yet dwell - ing,  
 4 Light o'er the land of the need - y is beam - ing;

long - ing for morn - ing the dark - ness to van - quish,  
 Shall those who have light no light let us bor - row,  
 dawned has the day of a ra - diance ex - cel - ling,  
 riv - ers of life through its des - erts are stream - ing,

plain - tive - ly sigh - ing with hearts full of an - guish.  
 giv - ing no heed to our bur - den of sor - row?  
 death's deep - est shad - ows for - ev - er dis - pel - ling.  
 bring - ing all peo - ples a Sav - ior re - deem - ing.

Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?  
 Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?  
 Christ is com - ing soon! Christ is com - ing soon!  
 Come and save us soon! Come and save us soon!

## The Apostles' Creed

L Let us profess the faith of the Church.

**A I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
+ the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

L Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

*The Assembly sings this response now and after each petition. "Maranatha" means "Come, O Lord!" in Aramaic.*



O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Mar - a -  
na - tha! Mar-a - na - tha! O come, Lord Je - sus, come.

L Give light to your people, Lord. As the darkness grows and we await the return of daylight, give new life to your church. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Kevin, for our council, and for all the baptized. Shape our communities to be faithful vessels of the gospel for the sake of the world. O Lord, hear our prayer!

**A "O Lord, hear our prayer..."**

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Mar - a -  
na - tha! Mar-a - na - tha! O come, Lord Je - sus, come.

L Restore your creation, Lord. You give the earth opportunities for both sleep and awakening. Thank you for the gift of restful seasons so new life may grow according to your appointed time. O Lord, hear our prayer!

**A** ***"O Lord, hear our prayer..."***

L Bring peace to the nations, Lord. Keep us alert to injustice and oppression, give us courage to cry out for what is right, and guide world leaders toward fairness and peace for all. O Lord, hear our prayer!

**A** ***"O Lord, hear our prayer..."***

L Stir up compassion in us for all who wait for you. Be near to those whose lives are shaken, those who are experiencing loss, those who long for healing and wholeness, those who live with HIV, and those who are in any kind of need. We pray especially for Serena Bernstein, Mid Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Barb Engelsen, Bob Fried, Jennifer Grethe, Dick Heisler, Judy Hokenson, Arda Hovnanian, Bob Larson, Ron Laudert, Carol Rakowsky, George Shiff, Joe Skelton, John and Doris Strom, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. Bring relief to caregivers and surround those who are lonely with your powerful presence. O Lord, hear our prayer!

**A** ***"O Lord, hear our prayer..."***

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

*The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.*

L O Lord, hear our prayer!

**A** ***"O Lord, hear our prayer..."***

L From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light, remembering especially Frances Xavier, John of Damascus, Nicholas, and Ambrose. O Lord, hear our prayer!

**A** ***"O Lord, hear our prayer..."***

P We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A** **Amen.**

## Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words. If you prefer not to shake hands, you might raise your hand in a gesture of blessing as you speak peace to your neighbors. After the Peace, all return to their seats.*

**Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...**

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**Offering** An offering is gathered for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.

## Offering Music

"Wake, Awake!" ("Wachet auf") J. S. Bach

## Presentation of the Gifts

"We Are Awaiting the Coming of Jesus"



1 We are a - wait - ing the com - ing of Je - sus,  
2 We are the vine you have plant - ed and tend - ed;  
3 We bring these signs of our lives whol - ly giv - en;



yearn - ing in dark - ness for light and for peace,  
we are the wheat you have wa - tered and sown.  
let them for us be Christ's wine and Christ's bread



long - ing at last to re - jice on that  
Take our first - fruits, take our bowed heads of  
poured out in love for the heal - ing of



day when all peo - ple join in this feast.  
grain, in - crease them and make them your own.  
all and bro - ken that all may be fed.

## Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

**A Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith might shine ever new, and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right** to give our thanks and praise.

### Preface

P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for even when heaven and earth pass away, your words will never pass away. Like a potter you created the earth, and we are all the work of your hands. At your presence even the mountains quake, and yet to your people who wait for you, you are the light, revealing our salvation.

In your child, Jesus, you have come among us, teaching us to live in readiness for your reign. Though he was killed, you raised him to life, restoring to us the light of your presence, and enriching us in every way so that we are not lacking in your gifts as we await the day when he comes on the clouds in glory and gathers his faithful ones from the ends of the earth—all who do right and remember you in their ways.

Therefore, with hearts full of gratitude, we sing joyfully, giving thanks to you, our Father, at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We join our voices with Frances Xavier, John of Damascus, Nicholas, and Ambrose, and with all your holy ones of all times and places. With earth and all its creatures, with sun, moon, and stars, with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your Name, and join their unending hymn:



## Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal, p. 162

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en 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 - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en 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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

- P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.
- In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a-gain.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**A Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**A Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

## The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

L Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
Share in the feast of salvation.

**A Thanks be to God!**

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*The Assembly is seated. Please come forward as the ushers direct, and as you are able.  
Please kneel around the altar rail, as you are able, beginning at the wall and coming toward the center.  
See the inside front cover for instructions concerning Holy Communion.*

Communion Song

"Lamb of God" Hymnal p. 164

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## Communion Hymn

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace" Hymnal 247

*O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm*  
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.*  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

*The Assembly stands when directed by the Presiding Minister.*

## Blessing after Communion

P The body and blood of our + Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**A Amen.**

## Post-Communion Song

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymnal 257 v. 2

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh;  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

## Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A Amen.**

**Sending:** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world ...*

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**Sending of Communion**

P Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A Amen.**

**Sending Song** "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" *(printed on pp. 24-25)* **Hymnal 435**

*Please turn as the cross passes you to face the doors through which you will be sent out in mission.*

**Blessing**

P Go now, strengthened by the testimony of Christ. Keep alert and wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus. Continue to do right and remember God in your ways.

And may God enrich you in speech and knowledge of every kind;

May + Christ Jesus strengthen you to the end;

And may the Holy Spirit guide you in faithful living until he comes.

**A Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**A Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

*Please stay for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.*

*Refreshments today are provided in celebration of Ron Laudert's birthday.*

*Come enjoy one another's company, and hear about all the opportunities for service and community!*

**Serving in worship today...**

Presiding Minister .....	Pr. Keith Fry
Assisting Minister .....	Linda Edlund
Acolyte .....	Caroline Nakic
Lector.....	Steve Warner
Communion Minister.....	Kit McCarthy
Advent Wreath Lighters .....	Jim and Kathryn Skelton
Organist .....	Greg Hummel
Table Preparation.....	Joanne Shearer
Communion Bread.....	Linda Edlund
Ushers .....	TBA

## **This Week's Commemorations**

**Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, d. 1552**

**Sunday, December 3, 2017**

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

**John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, d. ca. 749**

**Monday, December 4, 2017**

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.

**Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, d. ca. 342**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, d. 397**

**Thursday, December 7, 2017**

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

## Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

[cont.]



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

**T**



## ender Branch, Hidden Life

Advent begins with urgent cries for help. From Isaiah: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down” (*Isa. 64:1*). And from the prayer of the day: “Stir up your power”—stir up your strength—and come to help us.

Our gospel today refers to suffering that will darken sun and moon and cast stars into freefall. The psalmist and Isaiah cry that God’s people have drunk bowls of tears and feel as frail as dead, wind-tossed leaves. God’s face is hidden. The desperation of a cry for help reflects the intensity of a trauma. So do the calls to God for action: Tear open! Stir up! Strike as forcefully as earthquake or fire! But any cry for help is also a sign of hope: we expect someone to hear and to respond.

In the gospel Jesus tells of his future coming with power and glory. But then, surprisingly, he shifts his focus from the clouds of heaven to a single fig tree whose branch will become tender so it can put forth new leaves. Even if everything in our world is shaken and falls, in God’s time there is promise of new life and a future season. Power exists not only in one hundred billion galaxies, but in tough bark that softens to allow fresh growth.

In October 2001 workers at Ground Zero uncovered a charred, twisted, pear tree. Astonishingly, the tree was still alive. It has been nurtured and given a place of honor at the 9/11 Memorial as “The Survivor Tree.” Its seedlings are sent as encouragement to communities that have experienced tragedy.

When God seems absent or silent, Jesus awakens us to the hidden life that courses through us as through the branches of a tree. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”—and here we are, two thousand years later, gathered around those very words (*Mark 13:31*). Jesus alerts us to God’s nearness in ordinary leaves, in words, in responses to our cries.

## Upcoming Events at Immanuel

Wednesday, Dec. 6: Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 10: Spiritual Growth Class 9:00 AM; Advent 2 Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday, Dec. 13: Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 PM

Saturday, Dec. 16: Evanston Community Indoor Farmers’ Market at Immanuel 9:00 AM–1:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 24: Advent 4 Worship 10:30 AM; Christmas Eve Worship 9:00 PM

## Immanuel’s Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Keith Fry.....	Pastor
Kevin McDaniel.....	Congregation Council President
James Morehead.....	Music Director
Greg Hummel.....	Organist
Laurie Stivers.....	Associate Organist
Kristen Wood.....	Parish Administrator

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod.  
We’ve been worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**