



Immanuel  
Lutheran  
of Evanston

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 2017**

**10:30 A.M.**

616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201 • 847-864-4464 • [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://www.immanuelevanston.org)  
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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 ...*

*John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

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

### Pre-Service Music

*Variations on "Comfort Ye Now My People" Bohm, et al.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*As the candle is lit, the Assembly sings v.2 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 - ges' call    As the Good News and pla - nets whirled.  
 Peace on Earth for great and small    God's Good News to us 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 let us 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.  
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way,  
for the kingdom of heaven is near.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,  
that we may be a light shining in the darkness  
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,  
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

# "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" Hymnal 255

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



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -  
3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their king.  
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like  
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of  
lamb so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

## 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.]

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

### Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**A Amen.**

*The Assembly is seated.*

### Welcome and Announcements

**Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

R A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

R Word of God, word of life.

**A Thanks be to God!**

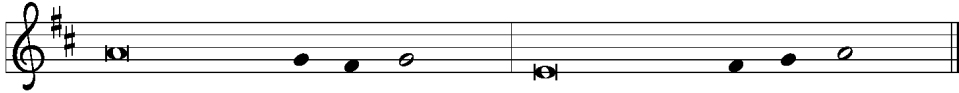


**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

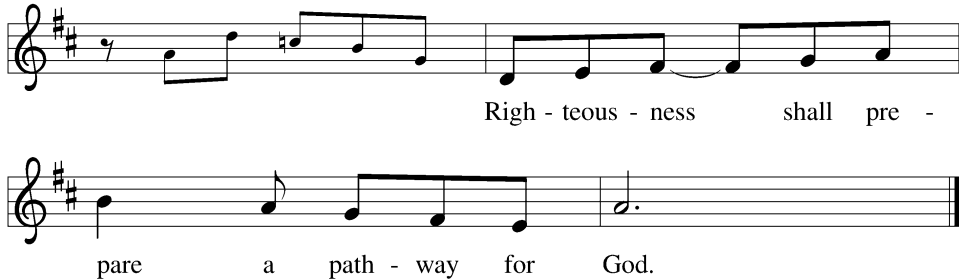
**Psalm Tone 6**

*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>You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people  
and blotted out | all their sins.**
- <sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.
- <sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.
- <sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**
- <sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

R A reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

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

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

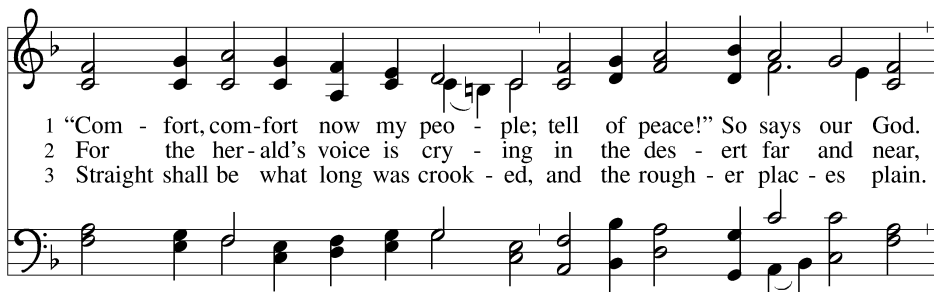
*The Alleluia of the Gospel Acclamation is sung once again.*

*The Assembly is then seated.*

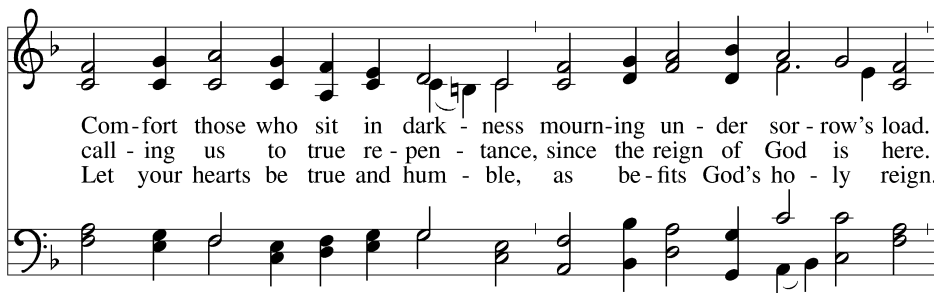
## Sermon

*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.*



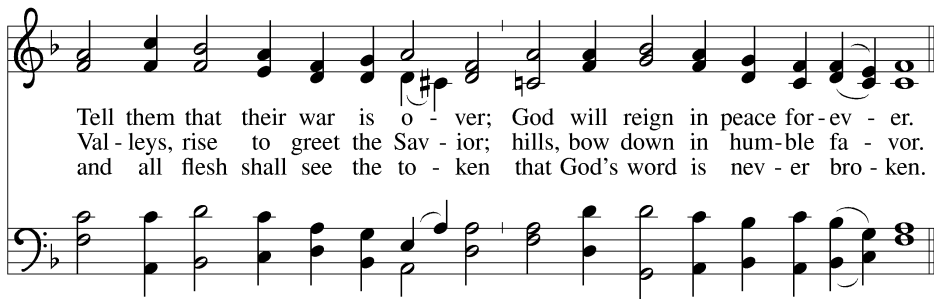
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## 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.**

## Affirmation of Baptism and Reception of New Member

*Today we welcome into official membership Jim Rakowsky.*

P In baptism...

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Jim in his life in Christ?

**A We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

L Let us welcome this brother in Christ to full participation in this community of faith.

**A We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## 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.*



- L We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Wayne, our pastor, Keith, our president, Kevin, for our council, and for all the baptized. Give us a vision of your highway through the wilderness. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

- L We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

- L We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. O Lord, hear our prayer!

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

- L We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for Serena Bernstein, Mid Carlson, Margaret Carlson, Lynn Carson, Barb Engelsen, Bob Fried, Jennifer Grethe, Dick Heisler, Judy Hokenson, Arda Hovnanian, the family of 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 We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. 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.*

*Today, we will be making our commitments for giving to the mission of the church in the coming year.*

*Those making commitments are invited to bring them forward and place them in the basket in front of the altar.*

## Offering Music

"Veni Emmanuel"

Zoltan Kodaly

Veni, veni, Emmanuel  
captivum solve Israel,  
qui gemit in exsilio,  
privatus Dei Filio.

**R:** Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,  
nascetur pro te Israel!

Veni, O Jesse virgula,  
ex hostis tuos ungula,  
de specu tuos tartari  
educ et antro barathri. **R**

Veni, veni O Oriens,  
solare nos adveniens,  
noctis depelle nebulas,  
dirasque mortis tenebras. **R**

Veni, Clavis Davidica,  
regna reclude caelica,  
fac iter tutum superum,  
et claude vias inferum. **R**

Veni, veni, Adonai,  
qui populo in Sinai  
legem dedisti vertice  
in maiestate gloriae. **R.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**R:** Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel,  
to thee shall come Emmanuel!

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from ev'ry foe deliver them  
that trust Thy mighty power to save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **R**

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. **R**

O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home,  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
that we no more have cause to sigh. **R**

O come, o come, Thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law,  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **R**

## 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.**

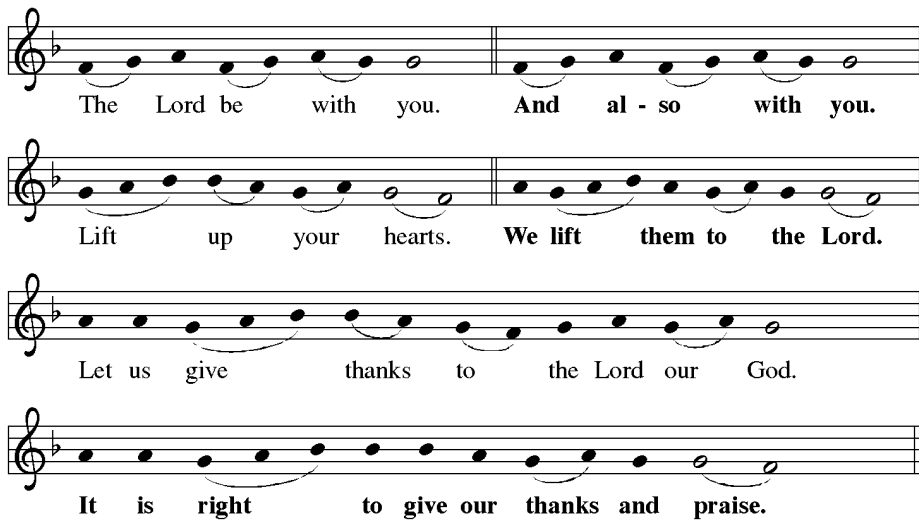
**Make your home here in us.**

**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

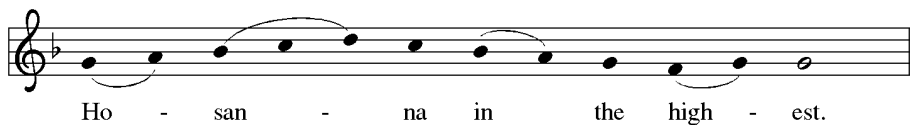
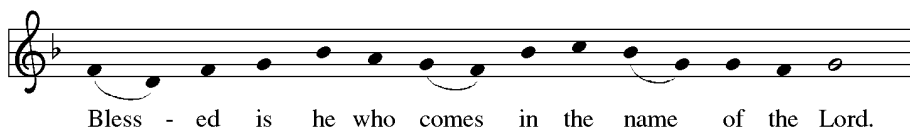
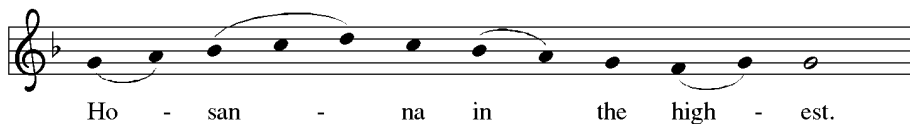
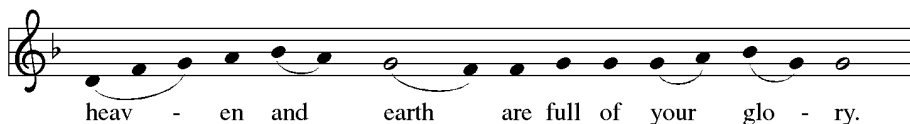
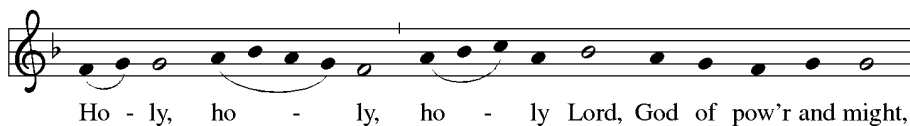
P It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for in you, salvation is drawing near, the day when love and fidelity will embrace, and peace and justice kiss. The heavens, the earth, and all that is in them came into being, and will pass away, at your say so. You spoke to your people through the prophets, calling them to prepare the way for your justice, and promising to hold them tenderly like lambs to your breast.

Through the preaching of John the Baptizer, you prepared the way for your coming Messiah,—your child, Jesus—who was baptized into death but whom you raised to new life. Through him you baptize your people with your Holy Spirit, and so now, in hope and gratitude, we wait for the day when you will establish new heavens and a new earth where righteousness will be at home.

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 Lucy and John of the Cross, with our brother Bob Larson, 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



## 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

"Prepare the Royal Highway" Hymnal 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

*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”

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of Justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.

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** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" *(printed on next page)* **Hymnal 249**

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

**Blessing**

P Go now. Wait and work for the coming of the day of God. In the wild places prepare a straight path for the Lord. Lead lives of holiness and godliness, strive to be found at peace, and speak freely of the Lord's comfort and promise.

And may God our shepherd gather you in loving arms;  
May + Christ Jesus reconcile justice and peace within you;  
And may the Holy Spirit baptize you into the life of God.

**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 by the Ross family.*

*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 .....	Kathryn Skelton
Acolyte .....	Tyler Knohl
Lector.....	Linda Edlund
Communion Minister.....	Anne Heider
Advent Wreath Lighter .....	Jim Rakowsky
Organist .....	Greg Hummel
Table Preparation.....	Joanne Shearer
Communion Bread.....	Audrey Moy
Ushers .....	TBA



## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## **This Week's Commemorations**

### **Lucy, martyr, d. 304**

#### **Wednesday, December 13, 2017**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

### **John of the Cross, renewer of the church, d. 1591**

#### **Thursday, December 14, 2017**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

### **Las Posadas**

#### **Saturday, December 16, 2017**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.



## Wayfinding

When discouragement is so thick that we can't see a way forward, what helps us to move once again? What can rekindle our hope? God led the Israelites out of Egypt the long way around. When we can't see ahead, we may need a voice that creatively pulls us outward, or backward.

The earliest generations of Christians, like their enslaved and exiled ancestors, were surrounded by self-congratulatory nonsense. The Roman world was awash in announcements of the "good news" of imperial victories, favors, and festivals. One widely copied text celebrated the birthday of "our God" Caesar as "the beginning of good news for the world because of him." Gospel writers reached outward to take up the Roman empire's language and bend it. The title of Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," took something familiar and made it startlingly new.

God led the Israelites out of Egypt through the sea. Centuries later, the prophet Isaiah reached back to that story to proclaim a new exodus, out of Babylon through the desert. And centuries later, John the Baptist reached back to Isaiah's fulfilled promises to say a new thing. "All" the people of Jerusalem and people from the "whole" countryside responded. That's a lot of people! Whatever their numbers, they could act knowing that they were not alone. Community provided comfort and strength. Those who broke routine to trek out to the desert, confess their sins, and be plunged into the River Jordan were retracing the routes of their ancestors by going back to the waters and symbolically crossing again—together.

In Advent, our countercultural season, we also reach out and reach back. Together we begin our church year by returning to the beginning of our life in faith: holy baptism. In Isaiah and Mark we hear voices speaking comfort, crying out, heralding good tidings. And then, even in wilderness, we begin to find and make a way.

## Upcoming Events at Immanuel

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. 17: Spiritual Growth Class 9:00 AM; Advent 3 Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday, Dec. 20: Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 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!**